

“So what would we do if there’s no money?”

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The Evidence Base

- How well do you really know what the evidence is?
- Research/Labour market intelligence
- Statistics – national, regional, local – the facts
- Workforce development plans and priorities
- Is the evidence compelling?
- Is meeting Skills for Life needs still a priority?

Plans and Priorities

- Existing plans reflecting the evidence base
- Revisiting them - challenging them
- Joint planning processes – true partnerships
- What makes a sound business plan?

Priorities – too many, too broad, owned?

- Priority needs – clearly defined
- Priority decisions

Options and alternatives

- To work in different ways
- To think “outside the box”
- Innovate
- Rationalise
- Seek partners
- Assessing the risk
- Courage and conviction

Keep up with or embrace change?

- Important to understand the changes
- Consider the opportunities [and threats]
- Do you fit or do you think –

What changes?

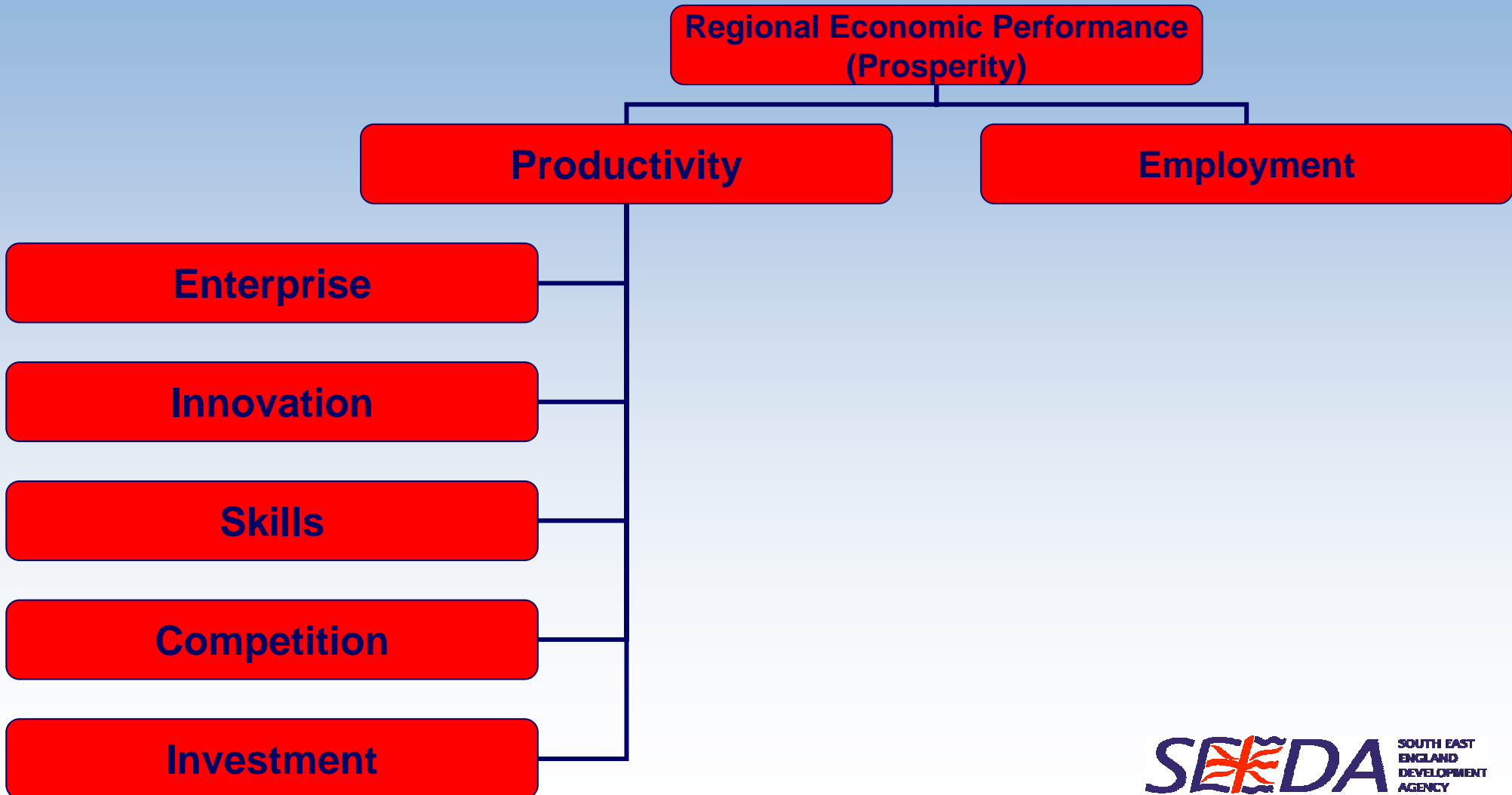
National Strategy Aims

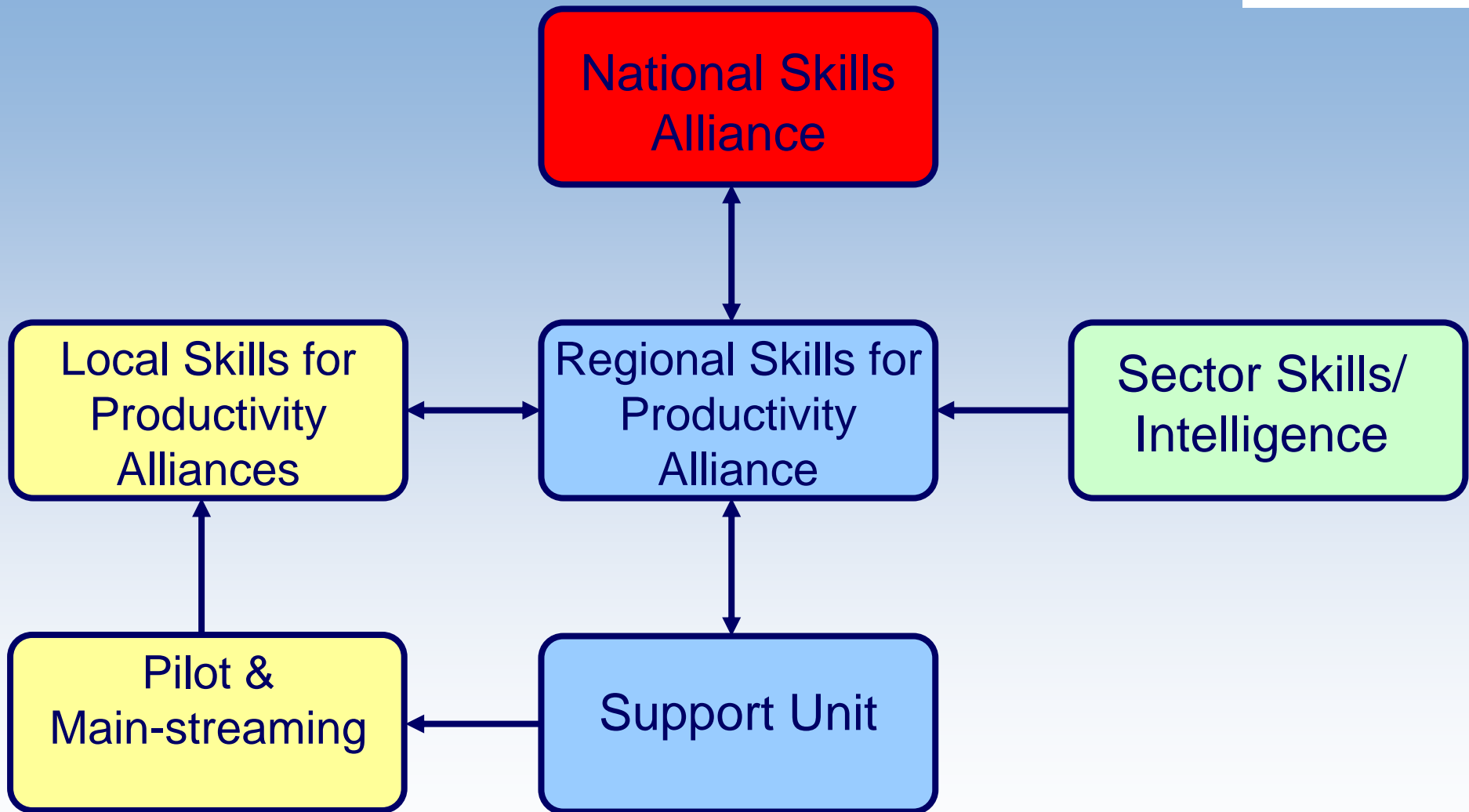
- For employers to have the right skills to support the success of their businesses
- For individuals to have the skills they need to be employable and personally fulfilled
- To improve connection between the skills needed to raise productivity and the allocation of funds

Some of the Changes

- A new Regional Economic Strategy
- The Regional Skills for Productivity Alliance
- Sector Skills Councils emergence
- Agenda for change – revitalised LSC
- Action for Business Colleges
- National Employer Training Pilot
- Joining Forces

Drivers of Regional Economic Strategy





Local Skills for Productivity Alliances: Common Themes

- Exploring alignment of skills, business support and employment services
- Sharing of LMI between Jobcentre Plus, LSC and Business Link
- Defining expectations about who pays for what types of training
- Selling benefits of training rather than 'overcoming barriers' to training

Action for Business Colleges

- New approach to reforming FE, not an initiative
- Mainstream LSC policy
- Partnerships are developed and essential
- Network of accredited providers

Action for Business Colleges - Impact

Reform to Further Education

- Responsiveness to Employers
- Matching demand to supply
- Partnership networks and not competitive limitation
- Review funding spend by FE to align to headline skills-led provision

Support for Further Education

- Flexible funding
- Capacity and Infrastructure
- Link to CoVEs, Plan-led funding and Capital investment
- Targeted funding for accredited colleges

The Benefits of being an Action for Business College

- Recognition and increased credibility
- Access to prioritized mainstream and discretionary funding
- Increased volume of work and income from enhanced engagement with business and brokers of business services
- Opportunity to review and enhance services and systems
- Providing an aid for staff development
- Achieving a consistent standard of service delivery

SKILLS ADVICE SERVICE

Access

The business contacts, or is contacted by, a skills broker.



Central Activity

The business will:

- discuss their needs with a broker (diagnostic);
- receive advice following the outcome of the diagnostic;
- be directed to a quality supplier(s).



Follow-up

The business is followed up by the broker to ensure that the process and support identified met their expectations and requirements.



Support

The business receives the agreed support.



Skills for Life needs are a critical underpinning need, voiced in every area of change, so the money is there.

Our approaches have to be different to embrace the change.