



Regional Development Agencies Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 45

PART I

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

Activities

4 Purposes

- (1) A regional development agency shall have the following purposes—
 - (a) to further the economic development and the regeneration of its area,
 - (b) to promote business efficiency, investment and competitiveness in its area,
 - (c) to promote employment in its area,
 - (d) to enhance the development and application of skills relevant to employment in its area, and
 - (e) to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom where it is relevant to its area to do so.
- (2) A regional development agency's purposes apply as much in relation to the rural parts of its area as in relation to the non-rural parts of its area.

5 Powers

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this Part, a regional development agency may do anything which it considers expedient for its purposes, or for purposes incidental thereto.
- (2) A regional development agency may only—
 - (a) give financial assistance,
 - (b) dispose of land for less than the best consideration which can reasonably be obtained, or
 - (c) form, or acquire an interest in, a body corporate,

if the Secretary of State consents.

- (3) A regional development agency may only provide housing by acquiring existing housing accommodation and making it available on a temporary basis for purposes incidental to its purposes.

6 Delegation of functions by Ministers

- (1) A Minister of the Crown may, to such extent and subject to such conditions as he thinks fit, delegate any eligible function of his to a regional development agency.
- (2) A function is eligible for the purposes of subsection (1) if—
- (a) it does not consist of a power to make regulations or other instruments of a legislative character or a power to fix fees or charges, and
 - (b) the Secretary of State considers that it can appropriately be exercised by the regional development agency concerned.
- (3) No delegation under subsection (1) may be made without the agreement of the regional development agency concerned, unless a corresponding delegation is made at the same time to all the other regional development agencies.
- (4) No variation of a delegation under subsection (1) may be made without the agreement of the regional development agency concerned, unless—
- (a) the delegation did not require the agency's agreement, and
 - (b) a corresponding variation of every corresponding delegation to another regional development agency is made at the same time.
- (5) A delegation under subsection (1) may be revoked at any time.
- (6) Schedule 3 (which makes provision for transfer schemes in connection with the delegation of a function, or the revocation of the delegation of a function, under this section) shall have effect.

7 Strategy

- (1) A regional development agency shall—
- (a) formulate, and keep under review, a strategy in relation to its purposes, and
 - (b) have regard to the strategy in exercising its functions.
- (2) The Secretary of State may give a regional development agency guidance and directions in relation to the exercise of its functions under subsection (1), in particular, with respect to—
- (a) the matters to be covered by the strategy,
 - (b) the issues to be taken into account in formulating the strategy,
 - (c) the strategy to be adopted in relation to any matter, and
 - (d) the updating of the strategy.
- (3) The issues mentioned in subsection (2)(b) include issues relating to any one or more of the following—
- (a) the agency's area,
 - (b) the area of any other regional development agency, and
 - (c) any part of the United Kingdom outside England.

8 Regional consultation

- (1) If the Secretary of State is of the opinion—
 - (a) that there is a body which is representative of those in a regional development agency's area with an interest in its work, and
 - (b) that the body is suitable to be given the role of regional chamber for the agency,he may by directions to the agency designate the body as the regional chamber for the agency.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by directions require a regional development agency for which there is a regional chamber under subsection (1)—
 - (a) to have regard, in the exercise of its functions under section 7(1)(a), to any views expressed by the chamber, and
 - (b) to consult the chamber in relation to the exercise of such of its functions as may be specified in the directions.
- (3) The Secretary of State may give a regional development agency for which there is no regional chamber under subsection (1) such guidance and directions as he thinks fit for the purpose of securing that it carries out appropriate consultation in relation to the exercise of its functions.