

NEWS RELEASE SLB – PR0610 – 6th June 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Sir Bob Scott speaks to businesses on the benefits of the 2012 Games

Sir Bob Scott, Chairman of South London Business, will encourage businesses across South London to start to prepare for the London 2012 Games today. Speaking at the Croydon Chamber of Commerce Executive Club lunch, to be held at the Selsdon Park Hotel, Sir Bob will share his experiences of how businesses and the community in Manchester benefited from the 2002 Commonwealth Games. Sir Bob has an intimate knowledge of the economic benefits associated with major sporting events, having led Manchester's successful efforts to bring the Commonwealth Games to the city in 2002, as well as being Chairman of the Manchester Olympic Bid committee in 1996 and 2000.

In his speech, Sir Bob will highlight the importance of understanding how the 2012 supply-chain will work, whilst making businesses aware that they will need to plan early if they are to capitalise on the investment in East London. "Businesses in Croydon, and indeed across South London, are ideally placed to take advantage of the construction, hosting and legacy of the London 2012 Games. However, to get the full economic benefit, businesses need to be aware of, and understand, how the Games will operate and how they can become part of the supply chain. It is not the case that companies can sit back and wait for the benefits to come to them - they must seek them out. Like the Games themselves, the tendering and procurement process will be extremely competitive".

----- End -----

(252 words)

Notes to Editors:

For further information, or to arrange an interview with Sir Bob Scott, please contact: Ross Feeney, Policy & Communications Manager - 020 8256 1281 or email ross.feeney@southlondonbusiness.co.uk

South London Business (SLB) is a business organisation that exists to represent and promote the South London economy. SLB provides strategic political support to companies by bridging the gap between the public and private sectors. South London Business:

- Can facilitate access to senior public figures and policy makers, including key figures within the 'Mayoral Family' and local and regional politicians.
- Co-ordinates an employer-led Skills Alliance for South London; working to influence the skills agenda to ensure school-leavers and graduates have the skills required by business.
- Supports and promotes sub-regional initiatives in the innovation and tourism sectors, and promotes business-led regeneration through two 'City Growth' projects.
- Lobbies on strategic issues such as:
 - Transport network improvements
 - Safeguarding commercial land from residential redevelopment, and
 - Solutions to issues such as planning, skills and 'crime and grime'.
- Provides access to markets, new contacts and new business opportunities

South London Business also supports smaller companies through 'Work Smarter' – which seeks to encourage greater investment in staff training and development.

Sir Bob Scott is also chairman of the Greenwich Peninsula Partnership, Trinity Laban and Greenwich Theatre. He also led Liverpool's successful bid to be European Capital of Culture in 2008.