

**NEWS RELEASE** SLB – PR0612 – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2006  
FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

## **South London Business Appoints New Chief Executive**

TODAY: Sir Bob Scott and the board of directors are pleased to announce the appointment of Peter Pledger, former Executive Director of the London West Learning & Skills Council, as chief executive designate of South London Business. Mr. Pledger will take up the role on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2007, following the retirement of current chief executive David Main.

Sir Bob Scott said "I am delighted to announce the selection of Peter Pledger to succeed David Main as chief executive of South London Business. David will certainly be a hard act to follow. However, Peter has an impressive record of achievement in economic development, regeneration and skills, and I am confident he will be a powerful ambassador for the South London business community".

Outgoing chief executive, David Main, said "I warmly congratulate Peter on his selection as my successor. Peter has an excellent reputation, and brings with him a depth of experience that will ensure South London Business continues to be the voice of business".

From 2000 – 2006 Peter Pledger was Executive Director of the London West Learning & Skills Council, managing a budget of £225 million, and a team of 80. Prior to the LSC, he was Deputy Director of the London TEC Council.

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(210 words)

**Notes to Editors:**

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**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.