

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD**

Date: 6 October 2006

Subject: **South East Plan Partial Review: Provision for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites**

Report of: Planning Strategy Director
South East England Regional Assembly

Recommendation:

That the Board note the contents of this report.

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the early partial review of the draft South East Plan in relation to the provision of caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers.

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 28 June 2006, the Regional Housing Board (RHB) noted that a draft Project Plan for taking forward an early partial review of the draft South East Plan in relation to the provision of accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers was being presented to the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) in July.

2. Project Plan

- 2.1 At its meeting on 26 July 2006, the Regional Planning Committee agreed the draft Project Plan for public consultation, subject to the amendment of the Project Plan to request advice on the distribution of caravan pitches be jointly provided by the county, unitary and district authorities. A copy of the Project Plan is included in Annex I.
- 2.2 The Project Plan alongside a related sustainability appraisal scoping report was published for a six week consultation period on 4 September 2006; the consultation period ends on 16 October 2006.

3. DCLG and Assemblies' Research

- 3.1 A jointly commissioned piece of work between DCLG and the East, South West and South East England Regional Assemblies is being undertaken to support the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategy reviews of accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. The study will develop a robust evidence base and methodology for comparing and benchmarking the outcome of local accommodation assessments into regional caravan pitch requirements and distribution at the local authority level. This will facilitate a consistent approach across the regions and reliable results at the national level. The research commenced September 2006 with the final report scheduled to be published in mid December 2006.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 A draft brief setting out the advice to be requested by the Assembly from local authorities will be presented to the Regional Planning Committee in November.
- 4.2 A further update on the work associated with the partial review will be presented to the next meeting of the board.

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30 August 2006

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