

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
REGIONAL TRANSPORT BOARD**

Date: 13 July 2007

Subject: **Items for Information**

1. **NATA guidance refresh**
2. **Planning White Paper**

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board note the contents of this report.

I. NATA guidance refresh

- I.1 The 1998 Integrated Transport White Paper introduced the New Approach to Appraisal (NATA), a comprehensive method of assessment for major transport projects using cost benefit analysis and environmental impact assessment techniques. In May 2007, the Secretary of State approved a strategic refresh of the whole NATA guidance being carried out in anticipation of NATA's 10th anniversary in 2008. The refresh will form part of a wider remit in taking forward recommendations put forward in the Eddington and Stern reviews.
- I.2 Discussions with stakeholders are scheduled for between July and September 2007, with a paper explaining the reasons for and the main areas covered by the NATA refresh to be available in autumn 2007. The refresh of NATA guidance will not affect how the Board prioritise transport schemes across the region, but may impact on the information provided by promoters. Any changes to NATA arising from the review will be addressed through the Board's 2008 Refresh of the Regional Transport Programme.

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2. Planning White Paper

- 2.1 The Government has published a White Paper; 'Planning for a Sustainable Future' – which proposed changes to the current planning system, particularly in relation to the handling of major infrastructure projects. A report to the June 2007 Regional Assembly Executive Committee proposed a response from the Assembly to the main aspects of the White Paper that will impact on regional planning and other functions. The Regional Assembly Planning Committee will be invited to consider any additional detailed aspects of the White Paper at its next meeting in July as a supplementary response, particularly in relation to developing an alternative approach to handling major infrastructure proposals within the current framework.
- 2.2 At the current time the implications of the White Paper are unlikely to fundamentally impact on the work of the Board.

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