

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
RSS Cross Cutting Group
Action Notes**

**Friday 14 January 2005
Berkeley House, Cross Lanes, Guildford**

Present:

Tony Curtis (Chair)	Basingstoke District Council
Martin Tugwell	South East England Regional Assembly
Ray Bowers	South East England Regional Assembly
David Howarth	Environment Agency
Tony Stevens	Horsham District Council
Lucy Young	SEFS
Roger Hargreaves	Surrey County Council

Apologies:

Chris Swanwick	Wycombe District Council
Leigh Herington	Kent County Council
Catherine Johnstone	RAISE
David Carman	Hampshire County Council
Chris Corrigan	RSPB
John Glasson	Oxford Brookes
Douglas Horner	CBI

2. Notes from Last Meeting

These were agreed and passed.

3. South East Plan

Plan Progress Update

The Group was informed that the launch will now take place on 24 January and the consultation document and supporting papers will be on the website from that date. It should be noted that requests for briefings are already being received but the Assembly are limited in the number of briefings they can attend personally.

Consultation Arrangements

It was requested that presentation slides and information packs were required sooner rather than later. The consultation period will run for 12 weeks ending on 15 April. Workshops will be taking place around the sub-regions, not to discuss the sub-regional strategies but to concentrate on the main document.

Sub-regional strategy update

The sub-regional briefs are currently being distributed with reports due back by Easter to enable Members to take a view on the next steps.

It was requested that a more detailed timetable be published to enable districts to be fully aware of each stage. The Group were informed that there is a debate on the timetable at Executive level on 21 January.

Action: it was suggested that the Group meet during the consultation period to look at the sub-regional work and check for consistency and to identify points to be taken forward.

4. Policy Framework

An active and interesting debate took place within the Group on each of the policies within the Cross Cutting Group. There is a question of whether these are policies or principles. It was also felt that the use of symbols would be useful for cross-referencing purposes.

It was agreed there were some common areas with should be addressed such as the language used within the document; for example the word **should** is used many times. It was agreed that further discussion on cross-cutting policies is required.

The Group were unanimous that it was important that certain policies should not be lost as they contained reference to some issues that were not in the main text, e.g. the subject of eco-homes.

Action: Paul Geehan is still trying to identify two local authority planning officers who can offer critical advice on added value of the draft policies, he has now asked the Chief Executives of local authorities to add weight to his request.

5. Sustainability Appraisal

The Group felt that overall this was a well-written and informative report and it was felt that the only real criticism was that Table I.I did not really do justice to the sub-regional requirements. The Group was informed that there were two meetings of the Sustainability Appraisal Sounding Board set to take place during the consultation period to help strengthen this document and work will be ongoing.

It was noted that this document already has identified the usage of language as a matter of importance in all documents.

6. The Chair asked if Lucy Young would like to join the Cross Cutting Group, she indicated that she was interested and would consult with Chris Corrigan.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 7th March @ 14.00 – 16.00 to be held at the Regional Assembly Office, Guildford