

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

**Tuesday 28 September 2004
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
David Carman	Hampshire County Council
Tony Stevens	Horsham District Council
John Pounder	South East England Regional Assembly
Chris Corrigan	RSPB
Douglas Horner	CBI
Rashid Bashir	SEEDA
Heather Bolton	South East England Regional Assembly

Apologies:

Leigh Herington	Kent County Council
Chris Swanwick	Wycombe District Council
Huw Williams	Hampshire County Council
John Glasson	Oxford Brookes
Roger Hargreaves	Surrey County Council

2. Minutes from Last Meeting

These were agreed and passed.

3. Public Participation

Heather Bolton, Head of Communications for the Assembly addressed Members of the Group, explaining what the aims of the programme outlined in the circulated paper were. The Group were asked for their thoughts as to how existing structures could assist the consultation process as the Assembly has both limited resources and staff. The Assembly aims to deliver the message to as wide an audience as possible and were looking for ideas on how to deliver.

Suggestions which came back from the Group were as follows:-

- Parish Councils were an important group to target.
- Planning Aid are interested and are looking at their resources to see how they can help.
- It was suggested that greater emphasis is given to the potential of District Councils to assist in the process, suggestion of them arranging seminars as Horsham and Basingstoke and Dean are already doing. It was also suggested that if the Assembly prepared a presentation and questionnaire,

this could be delivered by District Officers with no real need for an Assembly Officer to be present.

- The business sector would engage if it could be shown that the Plan could help with the problems already facing them.
- Door to door delivery – response could be poor but it does get the information into every household.
- Suggestion of a bank of computers at the road shows could prove extremely successful as people can fill in the questionnaire online at the time.
- Local Authority newsletters.

Action: Assembly secretariat to report views of Group to the next meeting of the StAG.

4. Spatial Options

John Pounder updated the Group that had taken into account the views expressed by the Group at the last meeting.

Action: Assembly to distribute to the Group an early draft of the written supporting the analysis.

5. Landscape Character Assessment

David Carman from Hampshire County Council gave a presentation to inform the Group about the methodology currently being tested. It proved extremely interesting and informative.

The Group decided that the timing was not good for the South East Plan but they would certainly support work being undertaken and suggested that David contact the Rural Advisory Group to arrange to show the presentation to them.

Action: Tony Curtis and Ray Bowers to report on this item to StAG.

6. Structure of the Plan

Martin Tugwell updated the Group on the proposed structure of the South East Plan. It was agreed that the targets and indicators must be indicative with the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF). The South East Plan policy framework will be tested against cross cutting themes previously identified.

The Group expressed some concerns over the length of the document and the number of policies it would contain. Martin assured the Group that the intention of the document is to be succinct.

Action: To note.

7. Vision

A debate on revising the draft vision was deferred to the next meeting of the Group.

Action: Deferred to next meeting.

8. Cultural Policies

Following a short discussion with John Pounder, the Group agreed that it sounded a good idea to incorporate social, sport, historical and other such topics under the umbrella of Culture although it was agreed that this was a difficult policy to undertake on a regional level.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business

Dates of Next Meeting(s)

Thursday 14.10.04 @ 14.00 – George Abbot Room, Guildford YMCA