

South East England Regional Assembly Economy Advisory Group

4 September 2006
SEEDA offices, Guildford

Present:

Alistair Robson	East Sussex County Council - CHAIR
Roger Kidd	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Ross McNally	South East Chambers of Commerce
Alan Cole	Hampshire County Council
Barry Deller	ACTVAR
Nigel Horton Baker	Surrey Economic Partnership
Peter Marsh	LSC
Mike Dunford	Sussex University
John Shapley	Buckinghamshire County Council
Eileen Armstrong	SEEDA
Steve Rankin	CBI
Ivan Perkovic	SEEDA
Nikki Nicholson	South East England Regional Assembly
Nick Woolfenden	South East England Regional Assembly
Angela Parkes	South East England Regional Assembly
Wout Janssen	South East England Regional Assembly

1. Introduction and Apologies

Apologies for absence:

Sunethra Mendis	GOSE
Tim Martin	Kent CC
Graham Tuck	Southampton City Council
Roger Lawes	Hampshire County Council
Sue Cooper	West Sussex County Council
Brenda Pollack	South East Forum for Sustainability
Jane Fletcher	South East Forum for Sustainability

2. Notes of the previous meeting

No amendments

3. Membership and Work Programme

- Steve Rankin and Peter Marsh were welcomed as new members.
- Nikki Nicholson explained how the EAG feeds in to members decisions at RPC, Executive and Plenary meetings.
- A query was raised in relation to the group's expertise to respond on European dimensions included in the Terms of Reference. Although a number of members have knowledge of European issues and some strong links it was noted that a

task group drawing in additional expertise should be set up if specific work is required.

4. IRF Review

- Nikki Nicholson explained the IRF: the context, the different parts of the IRF, the need to review it and the timeline of the review. The following questions were asked:
 - What do you think the IRF should do?
 - How can the IRF effectively engage with the business community?
 - Are the objectives/indicators right?
- The group agreed that the IRF is useful as a framework not as a strategy.
- The group agreed that the broad objectives should be timeless and that they should not be changed before progress can be made. 4 years is too short a period to see changes and therefore the review should be as limited as possible.
- It was felt that business could be engaged in some of the indicators, education and skills, but that it will not be possible for most of them. What businesses want to know is performance against the indicators – where we are trying to get to and where we are now.
- There had been limited engagement in the production of the IRF and the review should seek for wider involvement. The document should also be brief and easily understandable; the existing executive summary is helpful. It would also be helpful if the role that organisations/strategies play in delivering each of the objectives could be shown.
- A question was raised on pre 16 education and whose responsibility it was that children select and study the right subjects. Whilst it was acknowledged that this was an issue for DfES, LEAs and schools themselves the group concluded that there was a need to explore what could be done at a regional level.

5. Update on the South East Plan and draft list of matters for the EiP

- Nick Woolfenden updated the group on a number of research projects being carried out:
 - The Kate Barker review of land use planning - Alistair Robson added that there is now an opportunity to express your views to the review team;
 - The RTP Report on augmenting the evidence base for the South East Plan;
 - Experian's work for the Assembly regarding the factors that influence the relationship between where people choose to live and work;
 - The current and proposed designations on Regional Hubs, Diamonds for Growth, Growth Points.
- Nikki Nicholson provided an overview of the Examination in Public (EiP) timetable and draft list of matters. If you want to be a participant in the EiP or have any comments on the matters and participants you should let the panel know by 28 September.

- The group discussed sub-matters IG and 5A. In conclusion the point was raised that there was a need to be focused and succinct in providing statements and at the EiP itself

6. RES Review

- The final version will go to the Executive Committee on 13 September and will be launched at SEEDA's Annual Meeting on 28 October.
- A question was asked about the RES/RSS joint implementation plan. Eileen Armstrong explained that timing was the biggest constraint to achieve this. The implementation plans will be aligned and as they are taken forward it was hoped jointly produced.

7 Employment Land Task Group's work to date

- Alan Cole provided an overview of the DTZ audit of ELR and work programme for the next few months.
- The Assembly needs to improve co-ordination of ELRs and promote joint production by one or more LAs where appropriate. At a recent meeting in Hampshire LAs understood the need for joint up working but commented on the difficulties of achieving this.
- It was felt that it would be useful to obtain a property market perspective on this work e.g. one off event to which all property market agents are invited

8 Any other Business

No other business

9 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 25 October 2006 at the MWB Business exchange.