

South East England Regional Assembly Economy Advisory Group

Notes of the meeting held on 8 October 2004

Present:

Alistair Robson

Roger Lawes

John Shapley

Rashid Bashir

Ray Bowers

Nikki Nicholson

Assembly

Nick Woolfenden

Catherine Rose

East Sussex County Council - CHAIR

Hampshire County Council

Buckinghamshire County Council

SEEDA

South East England Regional Assembly

South East England Regional

South East England Regional Assembly

South East England Regional Assembly

1. Introduction and Apologies

Apologies for absence

Barry Deller

Ephraige Rinomhota

Graham Tuck

Roger Kidd

Ross McNally

Tony Spruth

Jane Fletcher

Tim Martin

Mick Dunford

Nigel Horton Baker

ACTVAR

Skills Insight

Eastleigh Borough Council

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

South East Chambers of Commerce

Wycombe District Council

SEFS

Kent County Council

Sussex University

Surrey Economic Partnership

2. Notes of the Previous Meeting held on 20th September 2004

No outstanding actions noted.

3. Feedback from Advisory Group Workshop

Rashid, Barry and Roger attended the Advisory Group Workshop. A presentation was given on the work being carried out to develop spatial options. Papers were circulated on the structure of the South East Plan and draft list of policies. The policy under the economy section on people development should focus on training and skills. The policy on retail has been omitted from the list of economy policies.

Ray outlined the key dates for the drafting of the South East Plan. The Assembly Workshop will be held on 20 October. The morning Agenda for the workshop is on scales of change and infrastructure. The afternoon session will cover sub-regional discussions on the spatial options work. The draft policies will not be discussed. The

draft plan will be discussed by Regional Planning Committee on 8 November and then by the Assembly Plenary on 29 November.

ACTION: Changes to draft economy policies to be circulated to EAG for comments

4. Draft Economy Policies

RE1 – Sustainable economic development

- Part (b) of the policy should be deleted. (bi) is about implementation and should be covered in the implementation plan.
- Part (a) of the policy should be merged with policy RE5 to state firmly that 'LDFs should identify locations for new business start-ups, growing businesses and inward investors based on the following factors ...'. The criteria to identify the locations should be listed.
- The vision statements for the economy in both policies RE1 and RE5 should be moved to the supporting text.

RE2 – Meeting the needs of the land based economy

- Support for non-land based rural businesses should be covered by the generic policies – RE1
- Discussion around whether there is the need for a specific rural economy policy.
- Concluded with two options: if a policy is included in the economy section it should be moved to the policies on supporting sectors or the later policies on the spatial dimensions of economic growth. Alternatively a general rural policy should be included in the plan which would include reference to the needs of the land based economy.
- Clarification is needed on how rural policies are being dealt with in the South East Plan.

RE3 – Supporting sectors

- The policy should refer to the regionally significant sectors
- Policy should also state that LDFs need to be flexible to ensure that the needs of regionally significant sectors are met.

RE4 – Human Resource Development

- Paragraphs 'b' and 'c' should be retained as a policy particularly if we can be more specific on where higher and further educational establishments are required.
- 'b' should refer to regeneration areas as well as growth areas.
- Assembly should speak to Philip Craig, Head of Policy, to identify the locations where further and higher educational establishments are required.

RE5 – Supply of employment land

- Within RE5, there are several policies – it was discussed that these could be split out and the criteria developed.
- Need to be able to access whether LDF have achieved the policy.
- Needs to be more specific to the South East region, as it could relate to any region.

RE6 - PAERs

- ❑ Needs to be made more specific
- ❑ Need to pull together the common features from the sub-regional strategies containing PAERs

RE7 – Areas of Economic Success

- ❑ Difficulties in identifying the area covered by this policy and a specific policy statement
- ❑ Need to consider policies in sub-regional strategies and whether an additional policy is required
- ❑ Sites have been identified that would be good for business development but there are differences within the region and so different intervention is therefore required.
- ❑ A map showing the areas of success would be good but could prove difficult to produce
- ❑ The businesses that compete internationally are in areas of success and we need to find a way of treating these areas in order to keep the success going, as well as provide regeneration to the areas that need help. And this is where it would be difficult to show these areas on a map.

RE8 – Regional Growth Areas

- ❑ Not clear what the specific characteristics of these areas are.
- ❑ Also title not clear – should it be opportunity areas?

Monitoring and Targets

- ❑ Each indicator needs a target or at least an indication of the direction of change

Overall

- ❑ Findings of research studies should be included in boxes in the text

5. Any Other Business

Rashid is leaving SEEDA and Ephraidge is leaving Skills Insight at the end of October. Alistair on behalf of EAG thanked them both for their contributions to EAG and wished them good luck in the future.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14 December 2004. 10am – 12pm at Berkeley House