

## Proposed Amendment

### SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY ANNUAL MEETING

Date: 13 July 2005

Amendment proposed by: Ian Hepburn, SEFS

Agenda Item 5 (Section D1)

Policy No CC5 - Infrastructure and Implementation

#### Background

The aims of the proposed amendments to the policy and the additional supporting text are:

- To extend the policy to encompass the voluntary sector alongside public and private sector (and taking the 'private sector' to mean essentially the commercial/business sector) in the range of partnerships that are anticipated in order to deliver this policy. While the Plan clearly cannot oblige other than public authorities to align their investment programmes to help deliver the Plan, there is merit in encouraging all sectors to collaborate in delivering the infrastructure needed to maintain and enhance the quality of life in the region and progress towards sustainable development.
- To make clear reference to the 'hard' and 'soft' components of infrastructure, covering all sectors - economic, social and environmental. There is no agreed definition of the term 'infrastructure' in the context of Policy CC5 (or elsewhere in the Plan), and there is a risk that 'soft' infrastructure components - such as green infrastructure - could easily be marginalised or considered unimportant if there is no explicit reference to the spectrum of issues covered by the term both in the policy and in the supporting text.
- To refine the reference to the 'Implementation Plan' (which is a mandatory document to accompany the regional spatial strategy), and to ensure that the 'indicators and monitoring' section of the Plan incorporates the necessary measures to enable the regional bodies to have access to appropriate information to judge performance in infrastructure delivery, since the progress of much of the Plan is predicated upon meeting this challenge.
- And, finally, to suggest some minor adjustments to improve terminology of the policy.

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**Proposed new wording:** *(new text is in bold, underscored; deleted text is scored through)*

#### A. Amend Policy CC5, as follows:

The scale and pace of development will be dependent on there being sufficient capacity in existing infrastructure to meet the area's current needs and the provision of new infrastructure to meet the needs of new development. The funding for this infrastructure will require substantial **investment** ~~contributions~~ from central Government. In addition, partnerships between **public, private and voluntary sectors** ~~central Government, local government and the private sector~~ have the capacity to lever in additional **resources** ~~funding~~.

To help achieve this:

- the Assembly expects all the relevant infrastructure agencies and providers - **in public, private and voluntary sectors, concerned with both 'hard' and 'soft' infrastructure components** - to align their investment programmes to help deliver the proposals in the Plan;
- Local Development Documents should identify the necessary additional infrastructure and services required to serve the area and the development they propose together with the means, broad cast and timing of their provision related to the timing of development.
- Development shall not proceed until the relevant planning authorities are satisfied that the necessary infrastructure required to serve the development is available or will be provided in time.
- Contributions from development will also be required to help deliver the necessary infrastructure. To provide clarity for landowners and prospective developers, Local Authorities should include policies and prepare clear guidance in their Local Development Documents, in conjunction with other key agencies, on the role of development contributions towards infrastructure.

The Assembly therefore proposes to Government the need for a package of initiatives designed to improve infrastructure delivery and create greater confidence and assurance. This package is underpinned by a proposed Concordat between Government and the Assembly.

In order to further secure effective delivery of the Plan, and particularly the timely delivery of the necessary supporting infrastructure, ~~an~~ **the 'Implementation Plan' will be prepared, monitored and reviewed, which will set out the requirements, and obligations and opportunities** for public, ~~and~~ private **and voluntary** sector bodies at the national, regional and local levels. **The 'Indicators and Monitoring' section of the Plan will set out clearly the information needs, key sources and responsibilities for the development of indicators, data acquisition, management and timely reporting on infrastructure delivery.**

**B. Add the following new paragraph 1.12 to the Supporting Text:**

**1.12 In order to achieve the overarching goal of sustainable development, it is important that the term 'infrastructure' is understood clearly. In the context of this Plan, 'infrastructure' is taken to mean the spectrum of economic, social and environmental support and services that are essential to ensure that a high quality of life, as reflected in the IRF objectives, is achieved and maintained throughout the region. This includes, for example, 'hard infrastructure' such as transport services; utilities; health and educational services; and 'soft infrastructure', such as community services; green infrastructure - particularly open spaces, parks, allotment gardens, and wildlife habitats to support and enhance biodiversity; and measures to acquire and manage data to monitor effectively the region's progress and performance in delivering infrastructure.**