

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 6 MARCH 2001

Present:

Committee Members

Cllr Nick Skellett (Chair)

Mr John Barker

Cllr Mrs Mary Ballin

Cllr Bill Chapple

Cllr Harold Hall

Cllr Paul Clokie

(for Cllr Hohler)

Cllr Dr Royce Longton

Cllr Leo Madden

Cllr Norman Miles

Mr Robert Page

Cllr Harry Rees

Cllr Gordon Seekings

Cllr Dr L Silverman

Cllr Mike Simpson

Cllr Mike Skinner

Mr Doug Thorogood

(for Mr Lockwood)

Ms Deirdre Wells

Mr Bob Young

Officers

Mr Paul Bevan (Chief Executive)

Mr Mike Gwilliam (Director of
Planning and Transport)

Mr Martin Tugwell

Ms Lindsay Gardner

In Attendance

C Kenneford (Bucks CC)

P Hudson (SEEDA)

R Lawes (Hants CC)

I Walker (Oxon CC)

E Miller (GOSE)

S Dalgarno (GOSE)

G Hanson (GOSE)

J Kilford (W Sussex CC)

1. Apologies for absence and declaration of substitutes

Apologies were received from Mr David Wilson and his substitute Mr Clive Faine and from Cllr Keep. Cllr Clokie attended for Cllr Hohler, and Mr Thorogood attended for Mr Lockwood.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2001

The Minutes were **APPROVED**.

3. Pan Regional Forum

Mr Gwilliam reported on the first real meeting of the Forum on 2 March 2001, at which the atmosphere had been very constructive. The main items had been:

- a. The draft work programme of issues of relevance to all 3 regions as a basis for consideration subject to issues arising as needed.
- b. London will publish the first stage of their Spatial Strategy by the end of April. They offered advance copies, and a Forum workshop is planned on 8 June 2001.

- c. Thames Gateway is a common concern, as the largest potential growth area in the South East, impinging on all 3 regions. A review of RPG9a for the area should be low key as focus now needs to be on implementation. Minutes of the meeting would be circulated to the Committee.

4. **Regional Transport Strategy**

Mr Tugwell outlined progress as a result of meetings and seminars with major stakeholders. Headline areas of work included strategic networks, sustainable distribution, airports, ports, managing travel demand and targets & monitoring. Although SERAS and a White Paper (probably soon after the election) were anticipated, RTS should still progress. Officers proposed a seminar in July to discuss the emerging strategy. The contents of the report were **NOTED**, and it was **AGREED** that a member seminar would be held.

5. **London Mayor's Transport Strategy**

Mr Tugwell summarised the aspects of this document which have implications for this region, including major transport projects, car parking standards and trans boundary bus routes. Initial contacts had indicated that London officials were open to dialogue. This would be pursued, particularly with regard to the joint benefits of effective cross London links, nationally as well as regionally. The Committee **AGREED** the suggested response, which would then be transmitted to the GLA, and used as the basis for officer discussions.

6. **The Future of Aviation**

Mr Gwilliam and Mr Tugwell both commented on this item, and discussion of the proposed Regional Assembly response was wideranging and rigorous. Members wished to see the response reflect their wish for London to continue to be a major hub, while expressing their concern about unsustainable development in the South East. There was a need to add value from the regional point of view, and to be regionally distinctive, and thereby not simply duplicate the response of individual local authorities. This was difficult to achieve when the views and needs of specific authorities were so varied, particularly those which covered or bordered on airports. The response should be informed by the SASIG report, and more emphasis placed on sustainable development. The Committee **AGREED** the response to the document, with the alterations as discussed and on the basis that the response would be vetted by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

7. Flooding

Mr Gwilliam explained the significance of new draft planning guidance for future development in the region, and outlined a number of concerns. Some members wished to see the involvement of MAFF in flooding issues terminated or reduced, but there was also concern about the technical competence of the Environment Agency. There should be more proactive research into engineering solutions, and studies should look at the length of a river, not just individual problem sites, and deliberate use of flood plains. There was a danger in PPG25 of the funding for the South East going largely to London, because there could be no question of managed retreat.

The Committee strongly **endorsed** the recommended response, with the addition of a strengthened statement on resources, and request to widen the research proposed to whole catchment areas.

8. Monitoring and Review Arrangements

Mr Gwilliam outlined progress. There was a need for acute use of data, an annual monitoring report which was as "punchy" as possible, workshops on regional targets and best practice, and progress on the further reviews and studies set out in RPG.

The Committee accepted the timetable and arrangements set out in the report.

9. Workshops and Seminars

Mr Gwilliam suggested that a workshop on Regional Planning Guidance for Committee members should be held in June and this was **agreed**.

Four workshops for local authorities would be run in conjunction with GOSE in late summer/early autumn on implementing RPG.

10. Milton Keynes and South Midlands Study

The Committee **agreed** a £10,000 contribution from the Regional Assembly towards the cost of the study.

Cllr Miles (nominated by Cllr Dr Silverman) and Cllr Chapple (nominated by Cllr Hall) would represent the South East on the Members' Reference Group.

11. Any Other Business

Mr Tugwell reported on a meeting with Richard Caborne, Minister at DTI, about Central Railways' proposal for a Liverpool/Lille route. 10% of the route would be new build (100% of which would be in this region); there was a proposal for a terminal in the M25/M4/M40 area, with obvious implications. A report of the meeting would be circulated. It was **agreed** that the officers would undertake further investigation and report back in due course.

12. The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for **23 May 2001**.

