

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 23 MAY 2001

Present:

Committee Members

Cllr N Skellett (Chair)
Cllr M Skinner (Vice Chair)
Mr J Barker
Cllr W Chapple
Cllr H Hall
Cllr S Halstead (for Cllr Keep)
Cllr S Hohler
Mr T Lockwood
Cllr L Madden
Cllr N Miles
Mr R Page
Cllr G Seekings
Cllr Dr L Silverman
Cllr M Simpson
Ms D Wells
Mr R Young
Mr D Wilson

Officers

M Gwilliam (Director of Planning
and Transport)
M Tugwell
T Bartholomew
A Bailey
L Gardner
D Payne
J Pounder

In Attendance

Dave Moore (IoW Council)
Edward Dawson (SEFS CPRE)
Alistair Robson (ESussex CC)
Charlotte Dixon (GOSE)
P Upton (Oxon CC)
Ed Young (CCB)
Callum Findlay (Surrey CC)
C Kenneford (Bucks CC)
Roger Lawes (Hants CC)
Howard Hughes (TLP Magazine)
John Kilford (WSussexCC/
SEERAWP)

Paul Hudson (SEEDA)

1. Apologies for absence and declaration of substitutes

Apologies were received from Cllr Ballin, Cllr Longton and Cllr Rees. Cllr Halstead attended for Cllr Keep.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 May 2001

The Minutes were **APPROVED**.

3. PPG13 – Transport

The Director presented an overview. Whilst welcoming the final guidance, he said that the Government had missed an opportunity to encourage development around transport nodes and interchanges. He undertook to take a number of concerns to the new Rural Advisory Group to consider, including the need for positive support of the rural economy.

Recommendations:

1. That the Committee welcome publication of the revised Guidance Note on Planning and Transport, PPG13, and note that it will now be used in the monitoring and review of Regional Guidance for the South East.
2. That the Committee register disappointment that the Guidance did not provide stronger encouragement for the evolution of Transport Development Areas as key locations to demonstrate the practical application of integrated transport and land use.

These were **AGREED**.

4. Regional Transport Strategy – Draft Objectives

The Head of Transport Planning reported on the way that the draft RTS objectives had been developed within the framework set by the 3 key regional documents: RPG9, the SDF and the Regional Economic Strategy. PPG11 provides guidance on the approach to be followed in developing the draft objectives. Consultations had been held with stakeholders, with helpful feedback. Discussion followed on the balance of priorities between the region in general and sub-regional areas specifically. The Workshop on 20 July would give an opportunity for members to participate in the development of detailed policies and proposals.

Recommendation:

That the objectives set out in Annex 1 are adopted as the draft objectives for the Regional Transport Strategy and are used as the basis for developing the detailed policies and proposals of the revised Regional Transport Strategy. This was **AGREED**.

5. The Mayor of London’s Transport Strategy

The Head of Transport Planning reported that publication date was likely to be the end of June. The views of the Assembly had been sent to the Mayor on 30 March. A meeting with officials from GLA had been held on 18 May, when a number of points were raised and acknowledged (see extra sheet attached, as distributed at the meeting) but several pan-regional issues would need further discussion.

6. The Mayor of London’s Spatial Development Strategy

The Director stressed that relations between the Region and London were very important, and that a positive dialogue needed to be established to achieve fuller recognition of what goes on outside London boundaries. He outlined particular areas of concern, and a copy of his presentation is attached. Members were concerned about the implications of the proposed Strategic Corridors and were particularly anxious to see the forthcoming Strategy Document on Waste due to be published by London in 6-8 weeks, as there had been no mention of this at all in the present document. The next step would be discussion at the Pan-Regional Forum (postponed to 15 June because of the Elections on 7 June), the Executive and then the Assembly Plenary on 11 July, in order to meet the submissions deadline of 31 July.

Recommendation:

That the Chair and Vice Chair be authorised to agree the Assembly's response to the initial consultation on the Mayor of London's Spatial Development Strategy following the meeting of the Pan-Regional Forum on 15 June. This was **AGREED**.

7. Strategic Rail Authority – “A Strategic Agenda”.

The Head of Transport Planning outlined the issues to be raised with the Strategic Rail Authority, arising from the publication of the Agenda. Members were concerned that the “value for money” requirement might mean investment channelled into existing main line routes, and less spent on exploring alternatives.

Recommendation:

That the publication of the Strategic Rail Authority's Strategic Agenda is noted and the Committee agree the following issues to be raised with the SRA in their development of their Strategic Plan:

- (i) The need for a strategic vision for rail at the earliest opportunity;
- (ii) The need to build the vision of the South East, from RPG9, into the development of future London orbital and radial rail services;
- (iii) The need for a clear programme of investment priorities for rail services;
- (iv) The need for the Strategic Rail Authority and the Regional Assembly to work together on developing the South East regional dimension of the rail freight strategy.

This was **AGREED**.

8. Central Railway

The Head of Transport Planning explained that the Meeting with Central Railway officials had been disappointing. There was still not enough detail available, the proposal was not well-defined and there was a lack of national context. The views of the Strategic Rail Authority would be fundamental, but they were examining only the Central Railway scheme, not the wider strategic need. Cllr Chapple pointed out that the Government stance was to agree to look at alternative routes only if others did the groundwork and came up with proposals. The Director suggested that the Committee now needed to take the initiative and press the Government to undertake an objective study of all the options for a new freight route around London.

Recommendations:

1. That the Government request the Strategic Rail Authority to examine as a matter of urgency and without precondition, the case for a strategic rail freight route to/from the Channel Tunnel that bypasses London.
2. That it should consider all route options, including potential routes to the east of London as part of a broader regeneration and intervention strategy for the Thames Gateway.
3. That no view should be taken on the merits of the Central Railway proposal until the Study has been completed.

These were **AGREED**.

9. Regional Waste Policy and SERTAB

The Director outlined the main points of SERTAB's report to the Committee and the importance of making early progress with the review of waste policies for the Region. There was a lot of work ahead for the South East Regional Technical Advisory Body, particularly as a result of RPG9, and a need for more resources to assist SERTAB was a high priority. Members agreed that this topic should be given high priority, especially in view of the imminent publication of London's Waste Strategy.

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive the report and note both the important role that the South East Regional Technical Advisory Body will play in assisting the Assembly's monitoring and review of waste management policy and the need to increase the resources available to SERTAB for this work.

This was **AGREED**.

At this point, Cllr Skinner took over the Chair.

10. Regional Minerals Planning

The Chair of the South East England Regional Aggregates Working Party (SEERAWP) was invited to summarise the joint report to the Committee. MPG6 had been delayed for some time, and would present more tasks for RAWPs nationally, and it was necessary to allow an early review of regional policy to proceed. Section 5 of the Report should have mentioned clay extraction, as there were a number of sites across the South East.

Recommendations:

1. That the Committee receive the report and note the important role of the Regional Aggregates Working Party in assisting the Assembly's monitoring and review of minerals policy.
2. That the Committee urge the DETR to bring forward the review of MPG6 and their research on other minerals as quickly as possible.

These were **AGREED**.

11. A27 Worthing-Lancing Study

As stated in the letter circulated to Members, GOSE anticipated a final report from consultants to be made available to the Assembly in June, thereby enabling consideration at the Plenary in July. Cllr Hall anticipated a report which would prevent further deterioration of traffic conditions in the short term, but would achieve little in the longer term. The cost of the measures proposed was likely to fall on West Sussex, but he expressed the hope that Government assistance would be forthcoming.

Recommendation:

That a report be prepared for the Assembly Plenary by the Officers in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

This was **AGREED**.

12. South-East Climate Change Partnership

The Director reported the approach by the South-East Climate Change Partnership seeking the Assembly's involvement. This would give the Assembly a useful advice resource for its work, but he suggested that a positive relationship, stopping short of full membership, would be appropriate given the Assembly's role as Regional Planning Body. There were also financial implications, which did not sit comfortably with the Assembly's budget. There was strong support for the Assembly's representation within the Partnership, both in terms of what could be gained and in terms of involvement as a positive message.

Recommendations:

1. That the Committee agree in principle to the Assembly becoming a member of the South-East Climate Change.
2. That the budgetary implications of membership of the South- East Climate Change Partnership should be put to the Assembly via the Executive Committee.

These were **AGREED**.

13. Energy Technology Good Practice – the Woking Example

The Director drew the Committee's attention to the achievements of Woking Borough Council, particularly relevant in view of earlier discussions on waste and the Assembly's forthcoming review of Renewable Energy. Cllr Skellett pointed out that this was the first time a commercial award had been given to a local authority.

Recommendations:

1. That the Chair of the Committee write to the Chair of Woking Borough Council to congratulate the Council on their achievement of the Queen's Award for Enterprise and their initiatives in developing sustainable community energy systems.
2. That the Woking example be incorporated in the Good Practice page on renewable and sustainable energy initiatives on the Assembly's website.

These were **AGREED**.

14. Dates: Workshops 2001 and Committee Meetings 2001

The proposed dates were **AGREED**.

- 15.** There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 16.30.
The **next meeting** of the Committee was scheduled for **10 October 2001**.