

Communications and Transport

- I.1. The Regional Transport Strategy as published by the Secretary of State in July 2004 will be used as the basis for the transport policies in the South East Plan.
- I.2. It is proposed that the scope of the transport chapter will be extended to reflect the potential for improvements in communication technology (for example through the widespread availability of broadband). Improvements in communication technology have the potential to increase access to services for rural communities and to support economic activity through improved access to services and international markets. It is proposed that this broadening of the policy framework is reflected by a change in the title of the chapter to Communications and Transport.
- I.3. It is proposed that a new policy be introduced as follows:

Relevant regional strategies, Local Development Documents and Local Transport Plans should ensure that they take full account of, and actively promote, the opportunities presented by communication technology to reduce the need to travel.
- I.4. In addition it is proposed that the policy framework of the RTS will be reviewed and amended as necessary to reflect the following:
 - i. recent research that highlights the potential of travel planning techniques to reduce the demand for travel by car will be referred to in the explanatory text supporting the policy on mobility management;
 - ii. reference will be made in the explanatory text supporting the policy on mobility management to the potential of information systems to encourage a modal shift;
 - iii. while the wording of the policy on charging will remain as in the agreed RTS the explanatory text will need to be amended to reflect the outcome of the national study (led by Government) into the potential of road user charging.