

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

Date: 8 November 2004

Subject: **Monitoring the South East Plan**

Report of: Head of Spatial Planning

**Recommendation:**

That the committee note proposals for monitoring the South East Plan.

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**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Regular and effective monitoring of how the Plan is being implemented is essential to evaluate performance and to assess whether the objectives of the Plan are being achieved. The analysis of indicators on an annual basis will also chart progress towards the achievement of wider regional objectives contained in the Integrated Regional Framework and the sustainability appraisal. Monitoring is also intended to inform decisions regarding any steps that may be required to review policies and implementation measures.
- 1.2 The Government attaches considerable importance to the monitoring of regional spatial strategies. Through PPS11 the Regional Assembly is required by regulation to submit an annual monitoring report to the Secretary of State no later than the end of February of the following year to which it applies. Data should be included that applies to the year ending the previous March. Data applying to longer time periods is also required to enable discernable trends to be identified. The Assembly has established a monitoring framework related to existing regional planning guidance (RPG9) and, more recently, the Integrated Regional Framework. The framework has been modified to take account of objectives and policies set out in the South East Plan.

**2. Targets**

- 2.1 Where applicable specific, realistic, time related and measurable targets have been set for regional and sub-regional policy objectives. For a number of policies it has not been possible to include targets at this stage, in some cases because of the lack of baseline data. It is intended to fill some of these gaps following consultation. In addition, a number of aspirational targets have been identified to highlight the general direction of change.

### **3. Indicators**

- 3.1 The Annex lists a number of draft indicators to track progress against identified targets, long-term outcomes and the achievement of objectives in the Integrated Regional Framework. The indicators are divided into three broad categories – output, contextual and process indicators. Output indicators relate to the measurement of the direct effects of policy and provide the benchmark for evaluating the progress of the Plan towards its stated objectives. Contextual indicators provide a description of the wider social, economic, environmental and demographic background to the Plan, helping to evaluate progress towards sustainable development objectives. Process indicators measure the extent to which policies set out in the Plan are being taken up at the local level in Local Development Frameworks.
- 3.2 A number of headline indicators are highlighted in the Annex - these are to be monitored annually. This will enable the key elements of change to be easily identified and understood and will help inform decision makers as to whether the Plan is broadly on course or whether all or parts of the Plan require review. The headline indicators take account of the national core indicators that are promoted by the Government to facilitate a consistent approach to monitoring key national objectives at the regional level.
- 3.3 The indicators listed in the Annex will be monitored alongside indicators set out in Proposed Alterations to RPG and the Integrated Regional Framework.

### **4. Data collection**

- 4.1 The Annex sets out the sources of data required and existing information gaps. It is important to keep data collection to the minimum - where possible readily available published sources will be used such as the Environment Agency's Annual State of the Environment Report and nationally sourced statistics such as those published by the Office of National Statistics. Where required these will need to be supplemented by local surveys, including the established annual housing and non-residential development surveys undertaken by the Regional Assembly in association with local authorities in the region.
- 4.2 In finalising the monitoring framework the Assembly will liaise with local authorities to identify areas of overlap with local monitoring of LDF's and to develop a co-ordinated system that avoids duplication. Arrangements will also be put in place with the strategic planning authorities and other relevant organisations for the supply and interpretation of data.
- 4.3 Extensive use will be made of the South East England Intelligence Network (SEE-iN) which provides a forum for the exchange of data and information between a number of regional partners. This will strengthen joined-up working and reduce duplication of effort and promote the use of similar data to monitor and review other regional plans and strategies such as the Regional Economic Strategy and the sustainability appraisal of the South East Plan.

## **5. Reporting**

- 5.1 The Regional Monitoring Report of the South East Plan and the Integrated Regional Framework will be submitted to the Secretary of State no later than the end of February each year. At the same point the report will be made available on the Assembly website and a hardcopy document published for distribution to local authorities and regional partners.

**Ray Bowers**  
**Head of Spatial Planning**  
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Contact: Kate Aulman, Regional Analyst  
T: 01483-555233 E: [kateaulman@southeast-ra.gov.uk](mailto:kateaulman@southeast-ra.gov.uk)

Annex: Table of Proposed Indicators