

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

Date: 8 December 2004

Subject: **Regional Housing Strategy Review**

Report of: Director of Planning and Transport

Recommendation:

That the Committee note the imminent publication of a consultation draft Regional Housing Strategy 2006-09 and consider a formal response at the February meeting.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the preparation and publication of a Regional Housing Strategy 2006-09 and its relationship to the South East Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 An initial Regional Housing Strategy, covering the period 2004-06, was published by the Regional Housing Board in 2003. It was however recognised that the Strategy had been produced quickly, and had its limitations. Earlier this year the Regional Housing Board, chaired by the Government Office, began work on a revised and extended version. The Board undertook an initial consultation on options in the early summer and has now compiled a consultation draft. The Strategy will formally cover the period 2006-09 in financial terms, but it will also put down markers for the longer term.
- 2.2 Consultation on the Strategy is intended to commence on 7 January 2005 for an 8-week period. The consultation will therefore coincide with the consultation on the South East Plan. Although the Strategy is concerned primarily with short-term housing priorities and delivery, and the Plan is long-term and covers a wide range of issues, there is obviously an area of common ground. Assembly members of the Regional Housing Board have therefore sought to ensure that the Strategy is drafted with that correlation in mind.

3. Comment

- 3.1 At this point in time, it would be inappropriate to comment in public on the working draft and its publication for consultation does not imply formal Assembly agreement to its contents. It is suggested however that the

Committee should consider the consultation draft at its February meeting and decide its advice to the Executive/Assembly on an Assembly response.

- 3.2 Following consultation, the Strategy will be appropriately revised. It needs to be submitted to ODPM by the end of May. This timetable creates some problems for the Assembly, given the planned local elections in early May. This issue is the subject of continuing discussions with the Government Office for the South East.

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22 November 2004

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