

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

Date: 5 September 2005

Subject: **Report for Information  
Update on the South West Regional Spatial Strategy**

Report of: Regional Planning Manager

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**1. Introduction**

1.1 The South West Regional Assembly (SWRA) is following a broadly similar overall timetable to the South East for the preparation of their Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The SWRA intends to submit the RSS to Government at the end of March 2006.

**2. Key Issues**

2.1 Over the summer, SWRA carried out a number of stakeholder consultation events on a draft strategy document. An officer from the South East England Regional Assembly attended one of the consultation events in Swindon.

2.2 The strategy document was not a draft RSS but, rather, set out a number of draft strategic development polices and initial indications of growth. Headline proposals included:

- total housing development of between 23,000 and 27,000 dwellings per annum (dpa) , compared to a RPG10 figure of just over 20,000 dpa. It suggested 70% of this should in strategically significant towns and cities;
- Swindon was highlighted as a strategically significant centre for growth in economic activity and housing provision;
- Bournemouth/Poole was identified as making a significant contribution to regional economic growth and housing provision.

2.3 The document set out possible levels of growth for 3 sub-areas, which together cover the whole region:

- North, including Swindon, Bristol, Cheltenham/Gloucester (10,200-12,400 dpa);
- South East, focused on Bournemouth/Poole (3,900 to 4,600 dpa);
- The Peninsula (8,600 to 10,100 dpa).

2.4 Work is currently ongoing by Joint Study Areas in the South West (effectively sub-regional working groups) to identify local authority level housing distribution and detailed sub-regional policy.

### **3. Next steps**

- 3.1 The outcomes of stakeholder consultation, along with technical work undertaken by SWRA and the Joint Study Areas will feed into the production of a draft RSS to be agreed at the SWRA meeting on 21 October 2005. Following this there will be a further round of consultation on the draft RSS in late 2005. The Assembly will have the opportunity to comment on this initial draft RSS, and a paper will be presented to RPC members on 9 December.
- 3.2 The SWRA intend to agree a final submission draft RSS on 10 March 2006 for submission to Government by 31 March 2006.

### **4. Inter-regional liaison**

- 4.1 Officers from the Assembly have been involved in working groups for the production of interim statements by the Swindon and South East Dorset Joint Study Areas. Further meetings are planned between officers from principal authorities in the South East and South West, and the two Assemblies, to discuss ongoing work at regional and sub-regional levels and consider the issues arising from proposed growth levels for sub-regional / joint study areas.
- 4.2 In addition, it is proposed that a member meeting is held following production of the draft RSS by SWRA. This will provide members with the opportunity to discuss the content of both Regional Spatial Strategies and consider options for future inter-regional liaison and joint working. It is anticipated that this meeting will be held in early November. The RPC Chairman and 5 members, representative of the political parties and other groups, will represent the Assembly. Nominations are requested for attendance at this meeting.

Contact: Cath Rose, Assistant Regional Planner  
Tel: 01484 555235  
Email: [catherinerose@southeast-ra.gov.uk](mailto:catherinerose@southeast-ra.gov.uk)