

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 14 OCTOBER 2005

Present:

Members

Cllr Christine Field (Chairman)
Cllr Mary Ballin
Cllr Ian Beardsmore
Cllr Paul Clokie
Edward Dawson
Cllr Moira Gibson
Cllr Jonathan Glen
Cllr Paul Harvey
Robert Hamlin
Ian Hepburn
Douglas Horner
Jeremy Leggett
Tim Lockwood
Cllr Royce Longton
Cllr Alan Lovell
Cllr Barry Norton
Cllr Jerry Patterson
Cllr Tony Reid
Cllr Rodney Royston

Officers

Dawn Brown
Lesley van Dijk
Andy Mak
David Payne
John Pounder
Martin Tugwell

Nick Woolfenden

In Attendance

Sue Archer (RAISE)
John Devine (Brethrens Gospel Trusts)
Paul Geehan (SE District Councils)
Tim Greenwood (Terence O'Rourke)
Amy McLaughlan
R McSweeney
Eike Ndiweni-Muller (GOSE)
Natasha Styles

1. Apologies and Substitutions

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Linda Richards, Kevin Baylis, Sharon Hedges, Christina Howell, David Munro, Paul Hudson and Claire Prosser as substitute for Christina Howell. The following substitutions were declared:
Robert Hamlin for Kevin Baylis and Edward Dawson for Sharon Hedges.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 September 2005

The Minutes were AGREED with no amendments required.

3. Matters Arising Not Elsewhere on the Agenda

- 3.1 There were none.

4. Waste and Minerals – proposed changes to RPG9

- 4.1 Mr David Payne, Planning Manager gave a slide presentation to the Committee, putting forward 6 recommendations.

- 4.2 There was a long debate on the recommendations, the main points raised were:

Waste

- Concerns with the level of export of waste from London, in particular concerns were expressed about the implications for the region if London's targets were not achieved.
 - The apportionment of waste must reflect the fact that private contracts with waste companies have set periods. Where these are renewed they need to be reflected in the apportionment.
 - The need to husband resources available for dealing with waste needs to be reflected in the policies.
 - Page 7, Table I – the evidence underpinning the revised figures needs to be clearer.
 - The need to maintain a balance between landfill and recycling. Some recycling projects are proving of major benefit and could deliver higher benefits if supported financially. The lack of Government incentives is a serious concern.
 - Figures for recycling should be viewed as minima to be exceeded if possible, not as targets to be achieved.
- 4.3 The Planning Manager confirmed that the London Plan sets out challenging figures to reduce the export of waste. London was definitely moving in the right direction and that there were encouraging signs that the exports could be controlled from London. Officers continue to meet regularly to discuss inter-regional waste issues.
- 4.4 A meeting of the Inter-Regional Forum is scheduled for 28 October. This would present an opportunity to press London on the importance of waste management.
- 4.5 It was **AGREED** by the Committee that the recommended apportionment should be used for updating the policies but that further work was required on translating this into tonnages. Assembly officers would work with officers in the Waste Planning Authorities to refine the detail and to produce a revised version for consideration by the Committee.
- 4.6 Page 6, item 2.23 – some members expressed a concern regarding the wording on the Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Committee noted that the wording reflected that originally agreed by the Assembly and submitted to Government.

Minerals

- 4.7 David Payne advised that the sub-regional apportionment should be included within M2 and not M3 as drafted.

It was **NOTED** that policy M5 has safeguards in respect of ensuring that opportunities to use rail for transporting aggregates are promoted, however it is determined to a certain extent by contacts.

The following recommendations on Agenda item 4 were AGREED.

1. **Concern and disappointment is expressed over the time it has taken for the publication of the proposed changes;**
2. **The proposed changes are supported in principle subject to the following;**
 - i. **Policies W7 (Provision of Waste Management Capacity), W10 (Regionally Significant Facilities) and W15 (Hazardous Waste) being amended to incorporate updated information arising from the Assembly's recent research.**
 - ii. **Policy M3 being amended to include sub-regional apportionment of provision for secondary aggregates and recycled materials.**
3. **The proposed changes (including the amendments referred to above) are inserted into the Draft South East Plan;**
4. **In submitting the Draft South East Plan to Government attention is drawn to changes to the changes in policies W7, W10, W15 and M3 in order to ensure that they are considered by the Panel for testing as part of the Examination in Public;**
5. **Further liaison is undertaken with the Greater London Authority and East of England Regional Assembly to quantify and agree expected exports from London, in order that the apportionment methodology to distribute this sub-regionally by Waste Planning Authority area can be applied;**
6. **The Implementation Plan for Waste and Minerals is reviewed and updated as part of the development of the Implementation Plan for the South East Plan.**

5. Transport

Agenda Item 5a - Southampton Airport Master Plan

- 5.1 Mr Tim Lockwood declared an interest in relation to this item.
- 5.2 Members expressed their concern that existing transport routes already run at capacity in peak periods, in particular the M27 between Portsmouth and Southampton.

Access by rail is potentially very good, however this potential may require further investment to realise. There is a need to look at a higher use of public transport as part of the work on the Airport Surface Access Strategy.

The following recommendations on Agenda item 5a were AGREED.

- 1. Supports the expansion and enhancement of facilities at Southampton Airport in order to maintain its regional role;**
- 2. Emphasises the importance of working with the Regional Assembly to identify the surface access requirements, over and above existing commitments, necessary in order to enable the airport to fulfil its regional role.**
- 3. Encourages Southampton Airport and sub-regional groups to continue to work closely together in order to ensure the linkages with the sub-regional strategy for South Hampshire are fully developed.**

Agenda Item 5b - Airport Masterplans Overview

- 5.3 Mr Douglas Horner stated that the CBI had concerns that the paper was not balanced. The Chairman pointed out that this paper was a reference tool for Committee members showing the current position of the Assembly.

The Committee NOTED the contents of this report.

Agenda Item 5c – Crossrail Safeguarding Reading to Maidenhead

- 5.4 It was **NOTED** that the Committee supports Crossrail in principle and that its extension to Reading is an objective of the approved Regional Transport System.

The following recommendation on Agenda item 5c was AGREED.

The South East England Regional Assembly support the safeguarding of the route for Crossrail from Maidenhead to Reading and urge the Secretary of State to implement the safeguarding order.

6. London Sub-regional Development Frameworks

- 6.1 Mr Nick Woolfenden, Regional Planner gave a slide presentation to the Committee on the five sub-regional development frameworks. The Mayor has ownership of these documents. The consultation closes at the end of the month. There is a need to take into account the inter regional linkages, including more recent evidence available from the Assembly's research programme. It was noted that a consultation on the revised housing figures for London is expected shortly. This will be subject to further discussion at the December meeting.
- 6.2 It was **AGREED** that the response to the consultation should highlight that the economic linkages are two-way. The example of food logistics could be used to illustrate the point. In addition concern should be expressed at the suggestion that low economic value activity could be located in the South East England to serve London's needs.
- 6.3 It was **AGREED** that Page 10 item 5.2 would be amended to read:

"We also recognise the concept of the 'mega city region' that is set out in para 15. We would also welcome reference to recent research which explores the dynamics and relationships between London and the South East more fully, which highlights the **inter** dependence of parts of the region on the success of London, but also the growing independence of other parts of the region."

The following recommendations on Agenda item 6 were AGREED.

1. **That the Committee agree the response to the West, South and Central London SRDFs (contained in Annex 1) for submission to the Mayor of London.**
2. **That the Committee note the response made by Chair and Vice-Chair to the East London SRDF consultation document on behalf of this committee (contained in Annex 2).**

7. Items for Information

Agenda item 7a - Implementation Plan

- 7.1 Members were briefed on progress with the Implementation Plan and in particular the need to develop the linkages between planned growth and infrastructure investment. Further work will be undertaken in advance of the Examination in Public. This was intended to be a dynamic document, having linkage with monitoring work to measure its level of success.
- 7.2 It was **AGREED** that a paper on the contextual part of the Implementation Plan will be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

Agenda item 7b – East of England Examination in Public

- 7.3 It was **NOTED** that the Assembly is attending two sessions including the one on waste.

Agenda item 7C – Petitioning on the Crossrail Bill

- 7.4 Assembly officers were awaiting further advice on the next stage of The Hybrid Bill. Officers are continuing to work with Department of Transport officials on the Assembly's concerns regarding the Mayor's proposal for London Rail.

Agenda item 7d - Spatial Emphasis

- 7.5 Officers working with the sub-regional groups to rethink how the spatial emphasis in the plan should be presented in the context of sub regional work. The clear view is that it should be based on the existing sub regional geography. A substantive item on this will be prepared once the advice from the sub-regions has been received in December.

Agenda item 7e - Monitoring Working Group – verbal update

- 7.6 An initial meeting of the working group had been held and work was in hand to produce the 2005 monitoring report. Members would like to see more clarity in the action plan arising from the monitoring report.

Agenda item 7f – Superlink

- 7.7 The Chairman was in receipt of a letter from Superlink which corrected a number of factual errors contained within the report . In particular it was noted that a confidential briefing on the business case had been presented by Superlink to the Department of Transport. Copies of the letter are available from Dawn Brown on request.

8. Any other business notified beforehand to the Secretariat

8.1 Inter Regional Forum Nominations

Representatives from the five core groups should be notified to the Secretariat as possible as papers need to be sent out very shortly.

8.2 Planning Applications update

Mr John Pounder, Planning Manager reported that the process for dealing with a planning applications is working very well and thanks were passed to members within the sub group for their efforts. The current arrangements are scheduled to be reviewed after 6 months. This will take place in early 2006.

The Chairman gave her thanks to Mr John Pounder and members that have made contributions to date. The question was raised of whether persons within the sub group were adequately trained.

It was **NOTED** that the purpose of the sub committee was to policy proof applications against a checklist of regional policies. This was aided by a comprehensive consultants report. All responses can be viewed on the web site.

It was AGREED that the operational process would be circulated to all Committee members.

8.3 Regional Transport Board

This has recently been taken on by the Assembly and meetings are open to members of the public. The new Chairman was confirmed as Cllr Nick Skellett, who will in turn report to the Executive Committee.

9. Date of next meeting

- 9.1 Confirmed as 7 December commencing at 10.00 a.m. at the Institute of Materials, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.
- 9.2 The meeting closed at 12.35 p.m.