

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

Date: 14 October 2005

Subject: **Items for information:**

- a) **Implementation Plan**
- b) **East of England Examination in Public**
- c) **Petitioning on the Crossrail Bill**
- d) **Spatial Emphasis**

Report of: See individual item

a) Progress Report on the Implementation Plan

At its last meeting, the Committee requested a standing item to report progress with the development of Implementation Plan to be submitted to Government in March 2006 as part of the Draft South East Plan. An initial draft of the Implementation Plan published alongside the consultation draft Plan in January 2005 is being taken forward as follows:

- The introductory text is being revised to better address the linkages between the policies of the South East Plan and their delivery through the Implementation Plan; this will reflect the changes to the *Draft South East Plan Part 1: Core Regional Policies*,
- The draft is also being updated to incorporate the key proposals agreed by RPC on 23 June in relation to infrastructure delivery. This draws on consultancy work undertaken for the Assembly (by Hewdon Consulting) and the South East Counties (by Roger Tym and Partners).
- Explanatory text will be added to the tabular section of the Implementation Plan. This will set out more clearly the role of key delivery agencies and other stakeholders in delivering the Plan.
- The linkages between the Implementation Plan and the monitoring framework will be reinforced in order to establish an effective framework for tracking the progress of infrastructure delivery.
- The inclusion of more sub-regional detail on infrastructure delivery will be completed following receipt of the information on infrastructure requirements by the sub-regions on 9 December.
- Strengthening of the links and cross-references with the work of the Regional Transport Board and the Regional Housing Board.

- Any implications of anticipated Government Policy statements in response to the Barker Report, for example on the so-called Planning Gain Supplement, may also need to be taken into account, where appropriate.

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b) East of England Plan Examination in Public

At its last meeting, the Committee asked to be kept informed of progress on the EiP and the technical research base. The Assembly is participating in debates on two matters: 1A The Overall Approach (including cross-border issues) and 6B Waste – Regional Self Sufficiency. Our written submission for Matter 1A highlights the need for further liaison between regions in future, particularly over the Thames Gateway and Lower Thames Crossing, and identifies specific concerns regarding assumptions about economic growth. We also press for East-West Rail to be given more prominence in the Plan. With regard to further technical evidence base, a recent report (by Roger Tym and Partners) has recently been published by EERA, EEDA and GO-East that analyses a number of different forecasts/projections relating to the balance of labour supply and demand over the East of England Plan period. It concludes that, if implemented effectively, the policy objectives in the draft Plan will help reduce the job deficit that currently exists in the region.

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c) Petitioning on the Crossrail Bill

Members were updated at the July meeting on progress in the preparation of the petition against the Crossrail Hybrid Bill over concerns over the future use of the Great Western Main Line and access to Terminal 5 at Heathrow. The petition has now been filed. A date has yet to be set for the committee examination of the issues raised by all petitioners. Officers will keep members informed of this process as it progresses.

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d) Spatial Emphasis

At its meeting on 13 June 2005 the Regional Planning Committee asked officers to undertake further work on the issue of spatial designations and requested that this should incorporate views from the sub-regions.

In taking the work forward over the summer officers have undertaken further analysis drawing on advice previously submitted by sub-regions. Advice has also been received from the Cross-Cutting Group on the overall objectives and purpose of such a policy approach. Discussions have also taken place with SEEDA with a view to facilitating broad alignment between the Regional Economic Strategy (currently under review) and the Draft South East Plan in this respect.

Emerging from this work is a clearer focus on the purpose and objectives of the proposed policy, namely to provide a regional and sub regional context for regeneration and economic interventions in order to reduce intra-regional disparities.

A draft paper setting out this proposed approach in more detail has been circulated to sub-regions and was discussed with lead officers on 13 October. The proposals will be finalised in light of feedback received and the advice from the sub-regions expected in December. A revised policy CC9 will be presented to the Committee for consideration at its meeting on 1 February 2006.

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