

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

Date: 23 June 2005

Subject: **Proposed sub-regional strategies**

Report of: Director of Planning and Transport

Recommendation:

That the Committee agree the statements of strategy for the sub-regions as set out in this report for inclusion in the first stage submission of the South East Plan.

1. Background

1.1 To agree a set of sub-regional strategy statements to complement the overall regional strategy and policies, and to provide a context for further work on outstanding sub-regional issues.

2. Sub-Regional Strategies

2.1 Set out below is a brief description of the focus for each sub-regional strategy. In all cases it is taken as given that:

- there must be the timely provision of appropriate infrastructure to support growth and address past shortfalls;
- account needs to taken of the quality of the built and natural environments and opportunities for their improvement;
- the provision of affordable housing must be a clear and positive part of the strategy and proposals;
- statements of sub-regional policy should be sub-regionally focused and consistent with guidance.

Sub Region

Purpose of Strategy

Milton Keynes/
Aylesbury Vale

To provide for substantial development in this Government approved Growth Area to 2026, in line with agreed levels to 2021 as set out in the Strategy approved by Government in March 2005. The focus is on development in the urban areas of Milton Keynes and Aylesbury as part of the wider Inter Regional Strategy. Particular attention should be given to pockets of deprivation in Milton Keynes. The sub-region should consider means of assisting

implementation of the principles of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

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| Western Corridor and Blackwater Valley | To reflect the existing and long-term sustainable economic and other needs of this large and economically very important sub region, building on its current strengths. In particular to address the imbalance of jobs in the area and the size/skills of the resident workforce, the need for more housing, especially affordable housing, and urban deprivation in parts of Reading and Slough. Further consideration also needs to be given to the longer- term potential of the Aldershot / Camberley / Farnborough area of the Blackwater Valley. |
| Central Oxfordshire | To capitalise on the unique potential of this world class university city, the sub region's dynamic economy, which is seen as part of the Oxford - Cambridge Arc, while taking account of the constraints to development posed by the Oxford Green Belt, the need to improve housing availability and affordability and the need to address pockets of deprivation in Oxford. |
| London Fringe | To support sustainable economic growth and meet as far as possible the pressing housing needs of the sub region, taking into account considerable Metropolitan Green Belt and the area's critical relationship to London. |
| South Hampshire | To foster and encourage increased levels of development over the Plan period in order to try to realise the potential of the sub region to improve its economic performance, and to address the needs of significant areas of social deprivation, particularly in Southampton and Portsmouth. |
| Sussex Coast | To improve the overall economic performance of the sub region giving particular priority to achieving high levels of sustainable economic development in the eastern part, closely linked to a parallel programme for East Kent. The intention is to bring performance up closer to the regional average and reduce deprivation and social exclusion. The strategy should also foster recent success in the Brighton area in realising economic potential and addressing deprivation. |
| Gatwick area | To capitalise on the sub region's location in relation to Gatwick Airport, London and Brighton, positively related to the Gatwick Diamond concept and focussing |

on diversifying the economy to reduce direct reliance on the Airport.

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| East Kent/Ashford | To give particular priority to the regeneration of the coastal towns and the continuing development of the Ashford. Growth Area. A positive and mutually beneficial relationship between Ashford and the coastal towns will be required in order to realise potentials, enhance economic performance and address priority social problems. There must also be close working with adjoining areas of East Sussex which have similar needs. The intention would be to create a positive new image for the two areas, which might be termed the 'Ozone'. |
| Kent Thames Gateway | To provide for substantial growth over the Plan period, reflecting the area's designation as a Government approved Growth Area. The sub-regional strategy will need to build on the principles related to economic and social regeneration of the area contained in the Sustainable Communities Plan and the Inter-regional Planning Statement. The Growth Area's relationship to the adjoining Zone of Influence should also be given close attention. |
| Isle of Wight Special Policy Area | To seek a substantial improvement in the Isle of Wight's economic performance and to give priority to the regeneration of the Island in order to address its concentrations of social and economic deprivation. |

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The proposed sub-regional strategies will provide a clear focus and framework for continuing detailed work at the sub-regional level.

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