

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

Date: 27 July 2005

Subject: **East of England Plan**

Report of: Head of Spatial Planning

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Committee notes the proposed revised timetable for the East of England Plan Examination in Public and this Assembly's involvement in the Examination.

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#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To advise members of the arrangements for the Examination in Public (EIP) of the East of England Plan.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The draft East of England Plan, which covers the period to 2021, was submitted to the Deputy Prime Minister in November 2004. A 14-week consultation was undertaken ending on 2 February 2005. A summary of the key points of the Plan and the main issues for discussion were set out in a report to this Committee on 2 February 2005. The Committee agreed a thirteen-point response on behalf of the Assembly.

#### **3. Examination in Public**

- 3.1 The EIP was originally programmed to start on 13 September and last for at least ten weeks. Recently, the Panel appointed to conduct the EIP agreed to a request from the East of England Regional Assembly for a deferment of the Examination until 1 November.
- 3.2 A draft list of matters and participants for the EIP was published on 1 June for a 28-day consultation period. The Regional Assembly was invited to all 7 region-wide topic matters and to the debates on Thames Gateway South Essex and the western and eastern parts of the London Arc. In response we have suggested that key linkages with adjoining regions should be fully explored as a separate sub-issue on Matter 1 dealing with the overall strategy. This inter-regional debate would allow for a wide-ranging discussion covering housing, transport, infrastructure provision, natural resources, commuting, migration and economic development. It would also allow the

opportunities for joint working to address cross boundary issues to be fully explored. Unless, major new inter-regional issues subsequently arise which cannot be left to the sub regional debates there would then be no need to attend the remaining topic sessions of the EIP, apart from the technical debate on waste. The Greater London Authority supports the idea of a full inter- regional debate early in the EIP.

- 3.3 The EIP Panel are shortly to publish the final list of matters and participants and revised deadlines for the submission of short supplementary papers. If available in time further information will be presented at the Committee meeting.

**Ray Bowers**  
**Head of Spatial Planning**  
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Contact: Ray Bowers, Head of Spatial Planning  
T:+44 (0) 1483 555231 E: raybowers@southeast-ra.gov.uk