

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

Date: 27 July 2005

Subject: **Inter-regional Forum**

Report of: Director of Planning and Transport

Recommendation:

That the Committee note the report of the most recent Inter-regional Forum, and the ongoing work between South East, London and East of England Regional Planning Bodies to further develop understanding of the inter-relationship between the regions.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Forum met on 4 July 2005. Key agenda items are recorded below for Members' information.

2. Main Items Discussed

Regional Spatial Strategy Updates

2.1 East of England Regional Assembly have requested a postponement of the start of their Examination in Public due to the recent serious ill-health of their Director of Planning. Members and officers from EERA also expressed their support for the South East's request that the EiP Panel should hold a discussion on inter-regional linkages in the early stages of the Examination. Agenda item 5b contains further information.

2.2 London outlined the timetable for the publication of their Sub Regional Development Frameworks (see agenda item 5c for more information). They also discussed forthcoming publication of proposed alterations to the London Plan on housing, waste and minerals. This Committee will consider these issues at a future meeting.

2.3 The Chairman of this Committee updated the meeting on progress with the South East Plan.

Rail Issues

- 2.4 Members reiterated their concerns, made at previous meetings of the Forum, in respect to proposals on the future of London's railways. Subsequent to the Inter-Regional Forum, the Assembly has been invited to join the Steering Group that will consider this issue further. The first meeting of this Group will be held on 3 August.
- 2.5 The Forum also discussed the Crossrail Bill, Agenda Item 7a contains further information.

Commuting

- 2.6 A presentation was made to the Forum on the findings of the 'London and wider South East Commuting Study', final report to be published during July. The work has been funded and steered by a consortium of organisations from South East, London and East regions, led by the Corporation of London, and early findings were used in producing the South East Plan.

Other Matters Covered

- 2.7 The Forum also discussed a number of other matters, including the South East's work on infrastructure provision (which is of mutual concern to EERA) and aviation, inter-regional political engagement in the Thames Gateway, and work by London on migration patterns.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 Discussions at the Forum, together with findings from recent research such as that undertaken for this Assembly on the inter-relationships with London¹, the work of the Polynet Consortium, and the inter-regional commuting study, point to the need for ongoing and closer joint working on key spatial planning issues between the three regions.
- 3.2 The Forum Members are committed to continued political engagement, and officers will maintain and develop working arrangements on a range of issues to further our understanding of the inter-relationships between the three regions.

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14 July 2005

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¹ http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/publications/research/symbiosis_or_sibling_rivalry-future_links_between_london_and_se.pdf