

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

Date: 27 July 2005

Subject: **Crossrail**

Report of: Head of Regional Transport Planning

Recommendation:

The Committee notes the current position with regards to the progress of the Hybrid Bill.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the current position with regards to the progress of the Hybrid Bill for the Crossrail.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Hybrid Bill that will enable the Crossrail project to be constructed is being considered by Parliament. With the passage of time it has become increasingly clear that the provisions within the Hybrid Bill could have significant implications for the delivery of the South East Plan within the western part of the region. The key concerns are that:
- a) The implications for future access to Heathrow Airport, and in particular Terminal 5 and how this may adversely affect delivery of the AirTrack proposal;
 - b) The implications for future utilisation of the Great Western mainline.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 17 June the Executive Committee resolved that if necessary the Regional Assembly would petition against the Hybrid Bill on the basis of these concerns.
- 2.3 The Second Reading for the Bill is expected to take place on 18 July, at which point in time the deadline for the submission of petitions against the Bill will be announced.

3. Inter-Regional Forum

- 3.1 The Assembly's concerns regarding the implications of the provisions of the Hybrid Bill were raised at the Inter-Regional Forum on 4 July. As a consequence of which it was clear that East of England Regional Assembly

have severe reservations about some aspects of the Hybrid Bill. The discussions at the Inter-Regional Forum emphasised the need to pursue with some vigour our concerns.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Work continues on the preparation of the petition covering the issues agreed by the Executive Committee. In parallel discussions are ongoing with DfT officials responsible for the managing the Bill with a view to seeing whether it is possible to resolve the Assembly's concerns prior to the Committee stage of the Bill.

Martin Tugwell
Head of Regional Transport Planning
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Contact: Martin Tugwell, Head of Regional Transport Planning
T: 01483-555232 E: martintugwell@southeast-ra.gov.uk