

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

Date: 26 July 2006

Subject: **Gypsies and Travellers: Partial Review Project Plan**

Report of: Planning Strategy Director

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee:

- i) Endorse the proposed project plan for the partial review of the draft South East Plan in relation to the provision of caravan pitches for gypsy and traveller communities.
- ii) That the project plan is subject to a six week period of public consultation commencing on 4 September 2006.

Purpose of Report:

At its meeting on 24 May 2006, the Committee agreed that a draft project plan for a Partial Review of the draft South East Plan in relation to gypsies and travellers should be developed in light of the discussion with the Government Office for the South East and the Principal Authorities. In developing the proposed project plan, Assembly officers have subsequently consulted with local authority chief executives; and a newly established Officer Task Group, Member Steering Group and Gypsy and Traveller Reference Group.

The project plan sets out an ambitious but realistic timetable for the production of the Partial Review taking into account the need for any proposals to build upon the ongoing local authority led Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, the majority of which are ongoing. All authorities will need to be involved in enabling the Principal Authorities to provide advice to the Assembly on the proposed level and distribution of caravan pitches for each local authority area in the region by May 2007. This should enable the Assembly and its constituent authorities to undertake a full 12 week public consultation on a draft distribution of pitches between October 2007 and December 2007 with a view to submitting final proposals to GOSE in May 2008.

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 24 May 2006 the Committee agreed that a proposed project plan, incorporating a statement of public participation, for the partial review of the South East Plan in relation to the provision of accommodation for gypsies and travellers should be developed for its consideration following discussions with the Government Office for the South East and the Principal Authorities. It also agreed that three groups should be established to inform and oversee the Partial Review process: an Officer Task Group, a Member Steering Group; and a Gypsy and Traveller Reference Group. All have now been established and consulted in the preparation of the proposed project plan.

2. Development of the Project Plan

- 2.1 Following the RPC in May, the Gypsies and Travellers Partial Review was discussed at the Assembly's Local Authority Chief Executives Advisory Group (LACE) and Paul Bevan subsequently wrote to all local authority chief executives in the region to outline the proposed Partial Review process. This letter is attached at Annex 2. Responses to the letter will be reported to the Committee. It is proposed that local authority chief executives are given a further opportunity to provide feedback, in the light of the Committee's decision, prior to the publication of the draft project plan for public consultation in September.
- 2.2 The Gypsy and Traveller Officer Task Group met for the first time on 5 July to discuss an initial draft of the project plan. The group comprises representatives of GOSE, the Housing Advisory Group and gypsy and traveller liaison officers and housing and planning officers from each of the groupings of local authority conducting Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs). Its advice has been incorporated into the version attached at Annex 1.
- 2.3 Members of the Steering Group, comprised of RPC members, have also been consulted on the project plan and all emphasised the need to ensure that the process for providing advice from local authorities to the Assembly was clear and transparent and based on partnership working between Principal and district authorities.
- 2.4 During the review process Assembly officers will attend regular meetings facilitated by GOSE with gypsy and traveller community representatives. This recently established group will form the Gypsy and Traveller Reference Group referred to in the project plan. Officers attended a meeting of the group on 14 July in Brighton to provide a first opportunity for the Gypsy and Traveller community to engage in the review process. Verbal feedback from this meeting will be provided to the Committee.

PARTIAL REVIEW OF DRAFT SOUTH EAST PLAN: PROVISION FOR GYPSY AND TRAVELLER CARAVAN SITES

DRAFT PROJECT PLAN

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I. Introduction to the Project Plan

- I.1 The South East England Regional Assembly (The Assembly) as the Regional Planning Body (RPB) for the South East has a duty to prepare and keep under review the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and prepare draft revision to the strategy when necessary or directed to do so by the Secretary of State¹.
- I.2 The current RSS for the South East Region was published as Regional Planning Guidance (RPG9) in March 2001 and has been subsequently amended by a series of partial reviews, as follows:
- Regional Transport Strategy (July 2004)
 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (November 2004)
 - Tourism and Related Sport and Recreation (November 2004)
 - Ashford Growth Area (December 2004)
 - Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy (March 2005)
 - Waste (June 2006)
 - Minerals (June 2006)
- I.3 A full review of RSS (known as the 'South East Plan') was commenced in 2003 and included 12 weeks regional consultation (Jan to March 2005) and 6 weeks sub-regional consultation (Autumn 2005) before a draft revised RSS was submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2006. The draft will be subject to an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2006 and March 2007 to address matters raised in the 12 week public consultation between April and June 2006. Any amendments to the draft Plan emerging from the EiP process will be subject to further period of public consultation prior to the adoption of the Plan by the Secretary of State - anticipated in early 2008.
- I.4 ODPM Circular 1/2006 ('Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites') was published in its final form less than two months before the submission of the draft South East Plan. It states that RSSs should determine a strategic view of needs across the region and identify the number of pitches required for each local planning authority area. However, it also recognises that this would not be possible in advance of a local authority led assessment of needs. Consequently, in accordance with the Circular the Assembly included an interim statement on the provision for gypsies and travellers in the region and made a commitment to work closely with local authorities to take forward an early partial review of the South East Plan to address this new policy requirement. (The Interim Statement is attached as Annex A).
- I.5 The draft project plan is the first stage in producing a revision to the RSS, and sets out how the Assembly will approach the task. It has been prepared in accordance with guidance in Planning Policy Statement 11: Regional Spatial Strategies and covers only the period up to the submission of the draft RSS revision to the Secretary of State. Its publication will serve as the Assembly's intention (as RPB) to prepare the draft revision to the draft South East Plan.

¹ The South East region encompasses all the local authorities within the geographical areas of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex, Surrey, Oxfordshire and the Isle of Wight.

2. The Need for a Partial Review

- 2.1 The purpose of the Partial Review of the draft South East Plan in respect of the provision of caravan sites for gypsies and travellers is to bring the RSS into line with recent government policy as set out in ODPM Circular 1/2006 (February 2006). This requires that an RSS revision should identify the number of caravan pitches required (but not their location) for each local planning authority in the light of local authority Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAAs) - undertaken in accordance with the Housing Act 2004 - and a strategic view of needs across the region.
- 2.2 The new approach to planning for gypsies and travellers at the regional and local levels introduced by Circular 1/2006 is intended to address the shortfall in the delivery of adequate sites over the past 10 years, and reduce the number of unauthorised encampments and the conflict they cause.

3. Objectives of the Partial Review

- 3.1 The objectives of the partial review are focused on ensuring the delivery of the essential requirements for RSSs set out in Circular 1/2006.

Objective 1

To determine the appropriate provision for gypsy and traveller caravan pitches across the South East in accordance with identified needs.

The ongoing GTAAAs being undertaken by housing authorities across the region will provide an evidence base for the current level of accommodation needs amongst the gypsy and traveller community. It will be necessary to develop a robust and transparent basis for translating that need into pitch provision, particularly in relation to transit accommodation.

There is also a need to look forward and estimate future demand for caravan pitches based on forecast changes to the population. The Assembly will work with Government and other RPBs to estimate these longer term needs. However, it is not anticipated that it will be possible to identify district level pitch provision for the entire plan period to 2026. Provision for the second half of the plan period (post 2016) can only be indicative and will need to be revisited as an integral part of the first full review of the South East Plan.

It is proposed that the partial review has a base date of 2008 and that local authorities should make appropriate provision for gypsy and traveller caravan accommodation in the intervening period in accordance with guidance in ODPM Circular 1/2006, based on local needs assessments.

Objective 2

To identify appropriate local authority distribution of permanent and transit caravan pitches across the region.

It is envisaged that for the majority of the region the distribution of pitches will be allocated at the local authority level.

However, where local authorities agree to the preparation of joint development plan documents (DPDs) for the identification of Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites Circular 1/2006 allows for the RSS to identify distribution for small groupings of adjacent authorities. The Assembly will look to the advice of the relevant principal and local authorities to determine where this may be appropriate. It will be essential that the proposals for transit provision take full account of gypsy and traveller migratory patterns, including those which cross regional boundaries.

Objective 3

To ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement in the review process, including members of the gypsy and traveller communities.

Full and effective public and stakeholder participation is an integral part of the planning process and section 5 of the project plan sets out in how this will be undertaken.

Objective 4

To clearly explain the role of the Regional Spatial Strategy in providing for gypsy and traveller accommodation and identify any implications for other relevant regional strategies, including the Regional Housing Strategy.

The review will need to identify implications for reviews of related regional policies and, where appropriate, may lead to the Assembly advocating changes to relevant national policies.

Objective 5

To identify the most appropriate mechanisms for implementation and the associated resource implications.

The Implementation Plan is an integral part of the draft South East Plan. It identifies the key items of infrastructure required to deliver the Plan's objectives, as well as the responsibilities of the relevant delivery agencies and any associated resource implications. The partial review will need to address these issues to ensure it is capable of delivery.

Objective 6

To ensure the review is consistent with the overarching principles of the Integrated Regional Framework and the draft South East Plan

All regional strategies and policies should accord with the overarching sustainable development objectives as set out in the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF). One way of helping to ensure this is through conducting the statutory Sustainability Appraisal process which closely reflects the IRF objectives.

4. Alignment with Other Regional Strategies

- 4.1 The two most important Regional Strategies in relation to the provision of accommodation for gypsies and travellers are the draft South East Plan and the Regional Housing Strategy.

- 4.2 The partial review will need to be fully in accordance with the 21 regional objectives set out in the draft South East Plan.

The plan places considerable emphasis not only on the amount of new housing required in the region but also the type and size of accommodation provision. Policy H6 (Type and Size of New Housing) requires local authorities to identify the full range of existing and future housing needs, including those of gypsies and travellers and then to reflect this requirement in their Local Development Documents.

- 4.3 The current Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) was developed by the Regional Housing Board (RHB) and published in July 2005. This encourages authorities to undertake needs assessments, as part of the housing market assessment process, to inform the allocation of grants for caravan sites. Emphasis is placed on funding being conditional upon sustainability and the availability of adequate infrastructure, community services and management arrangements. The RHB will consider bids for site grant in autumn 2006 and spring and autumn 2007. Until GTAAs are available, the Board necessarily relies on sources of local information rather than a comprehensive and consistent understanding of the pattern of need throughout the region.

- 4.4 Although much of the RHS remains relevant, the RHB has approved initial work to develop advice on those areas where the RHS could say more than previously. The areas requiring further advice and the timetable for its preparation will be considered by the RHB on 6 October. It is likely that the Board will need to submit initial advice to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on spending allocations for 2008-11 in spring 2007. The Regional Assembly will ensure that there is a close relationship between the partial review of the South East Plan and the review of the Regional Housing Strategy. In advance of submission of advice on the partial review to GOSE, the RHB will wish to take account of the emerging GTAAs and advice from the Principal Authorities when it is making decisions about funding allocations.

5. Partnership Working, Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation

- 5.1 The Assembly is required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act to prepare, publish and keep under review a Statement of Public Participation setting out how public engagement in the review process (and the associated Sustainability Appraisal) will be achieved. This section of the project plan constitutes that Statement.

5.2 Partnership Working

- 5.2.1 The provision of gypsy and traveller caravan accommodation will require different provision for different parts of the region it is therefore subject to Section 5(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, which states that the detailed proposals must be made by a Section 4(4) (ie county or unitary)

authority unless that body and the RPB agree otherwise. However, it is clear that all local authorities have an important role in this process and this need for partnership working between the different tiers will be essential.

The majority of accommodation assessments are being undertaken by groupings of neighbouring local authorities and with the close involvement of county councils, who have considerable experience in working with gypsy and traveller communities. All authorities will therefore be appropriately involved in enabling the Principal Authorities to provide advice to the Assembly on the proposed level and distribution of caravan pitches for each local authority area in region.

- 5.2.2 The Assembly will issue an indicative brief to all local authorities setting out the scope of the advice requested (including any requirements in relation to the statutory SA/SEA process), the form it should take and the reporting deadlines. This brief would be issued in late 2006. Advice will be required by June 2007 following which the Assembly, in partnership with the local authorities, would consult on a proposed distribution of caravan pitches.

5.3 Stakeholder Engagement

- 5.3.1 To utilise and build upon local authority expertise the Assembly has established an officer task group comprising representatives from each of the existing groupings of county, unitary and district authorities currently undertaking GTAAs. Membership is drawn from the fields of planning, housing and gypsy liaison and there will be a direct link to the Regional Housing Board through the representation of the Assembly's Housing Advisory Group. The role of the group is to provide advice, support and technical expertise to the Assembly in undertaking the partial review.
- 5.3.2 A member steer will be provided by a steering group, comprised of RPC members, drawn equally from the Assembly's five main groupings: Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats, Economic Partners and Social and Environmental Partners. The Chair of the task group will provide direct feedback to the steering group and the Chair of the steering group will feedback to Regional Planning Committee.
- 5.3.3 It is essential that gypsy and traveller representatives are able to fully engage in and inform the review process. To this end the Assembly will work closely with Government Office South East which has established a Gypsy and Traveller Consultation Group. With the agreement of GOSE this group will be employed as a Reference Group to ensure the views of gypsy and traveller communities are fully accounted for at key stages in the review process. There is also a requirement on local authorities to engage gypsy and traveller communities in the GTAA process, which will provide a large part of the evidence base for the partial review.
- 5.3.4 In accordance with PPS11 the Assembly will establish mechanisms for effective liaison with neighbouring Regional Planning Bodies and the Mayor of London to ensure that the implications of inter-regional movements of gypsy and traveller communities for the provision of caravan accommodation are adequately taken account of in the partial review.

5.4 Public Consultation

5.4.1 The Partial Review process will incorporate three main opportunities for public participation and consultation as follows:

- A. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments. Targeted stakeholder consultation undertaken as part of the ongoing GTAAs, including active participation of gypsy and traveller communities.
- B. Draft Project Plan. The Assembly will publish the draft project plan and Sustainability Appraisal scoping report on its South East Plan website. They will also be sent direct to statutory and other key stakeholders identified in Table 5.1.
- C. Draft Provisions. It is proposed that the Assembly work in partnership with all local authorities to facilitate effective public consultation on the draft proposals in autumn 2007. This will encompass:
 - Publication of the draft proposals in printed, electronic and other media which facilitate engagement by the gypsy and traveller community;
 - Representative opinion polling of South East residents and gypsy and traveller communities;
 - Workshops with key stakeholders identified in Table 5.1 and others identified by local authorities.

5.4.2 At key stages in the review process, information will be disseminated through specialist media, including for example dedicated magazines, newspapers and websites targeted at the gypsy and traveller communities (eg Travellers' Times).

5.4.3 Members of the public will be able to observe all decision making processes through attendance at meetings of Regional Planning Committee and the Assembly Plenary.

Table 5.1 Stakeholder Groups to be consulted on the Draft Project Plan

All Assembly members	Commission for Racial Equality
South East MP and MEPs	Equal Opportunities Commission
All county, unitary and district authorities in the South East	Utilities Providers (electricity, telecoms, water and sewerage)
All county, unitary and district authorities that border the South East	Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts
Town and parish councils in and adjoining the South East	Rural interest groups and organisations
Regional Planning Bodies that border the South East	Countryside and Landowner groups

<i>RDA which border the South East</i>	Housing Associations
Local Strategic Partnerships in the South East	Gypsy and Travellers including representative groups and managers and landowners of caravan sites
South East Regional Organisations (e.g. GOSE, SEEDA, RAISE)	Government Agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies (<i>Environment Agency, English Nature, Countryside Agency, English Heritage, Highways Agency, Housing Corporation</i>)
Regional Housing Board	Fire and Police Authorities

Statutory Consultees in italics

6. Other Statutory Requirements

- 6.1 In carrying out a RSS review the Assembly is required to undertake a strategic environment assessment (SEA), which will be incorporated into a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process. The SA process will be undertaken as an integral part of the review process in accordance with government guidance. The timetable for the SA will need to dovetail with that of the Partial Review to ensure it informs decisions taken by the Assembly as Regional Planning Body.
- 6.2 It will be important to ensure that race relations and human rights implications are full considered during the preparation of the partial review.

7. Research Requirements

- 7.1 The Housing Act 2004 requires local housing authorities to include gypsies and travellers in their accommodation assessments and to take a strategic approach including drawing up a strategy demonstrating how the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers will be met, as part of their wider housing strategies. This has already commenced with a number of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAAs) underway across the South East. A schedule of ongoing and forthcoming GTAAAs is attached as Annex B. Circular 1/2006 and sets out the process by which the data collected through the GTAA process will inform the preparation of the Regional Spatial Strategy which should include pitch numbers for each local planning authority.
- 7.2 Whilst the GTAAAs will provide a valuable evidence base for estimating the need for additional pitches, it is unlikely that they will all be undertaken using identical methodologies or assumptions. The Assembly, possibly working in partnership with other Regional Planning Bodies, therefore intends to commission some research to develop a methodology for translating identified need into estimates of pitch provision (by type). This methodology would then be provided to local authorities as guidance in the preparation of their formal advice to the Assembly by May 2007. The advice submitted could

then be benchmarked by the Assembly to determine the extent to which the common methodology had been employed, and the impact of different approaches on the advice received.

- 7.3 There is also a need to undertake research to estimate longer term demand and changing nature and patterns of demand over the Plan period. The Assembly will work closely with Government on this issue and draw on ongoing research being undertaken by DCLG. As indicated in Section 2, it is likely that due to the uncertainty surrounding demographic and lifestyle changes in the gypsy and traveller communities, proposals for longer term pitch provision will only be indicative.

8. Timetable and Work Programme

- 8.1 A draft timetable for the review is included at Annex C. The key determinant of the timetable is the availability of the evidence emerging from the ongoing GTAAs - all of which are at different stages of completion. In the South East the GTAAs fall into two tranches: those scheduled for completion in autumn 2006 and those in spring 2007. A summary schedule of the groupings of authorities and indicative timetables is included in Annex B.
- 8.2 Assuming these timetables are adhered to it is proposed that formal advice is submitted to the Assembly by principal and district authorities in May 2007, followed by a 12 week period of public consultation between October and December 2007. Following any final amendments the Assembly's final advice would then be submitted to the Secretary of State in Spring 2008.

9. Resources

- 9.1 The overall and day to day management of the review process will be undertaken by the Assembly secretariat utilising the organisation's core regional planning resources.
- 9.2 Research identified in this project plan will be funded from the Assembly's research programme. For any additional research requirement subsequently identified, for example by the task group, the Assembly will seek contributions from appropriate national, regional and local partners.
- 9.3 The largest area of expenditure will be related to public and stakeholder consultation. The exact level of the resources required to undertake the level of targeted and inclusive consultation required by PPS1 I cannot be determined at this stage.

Annex A - Interim Statement from draft South East Plan

Provision for Gypsies and Travellers: Interim Statement

Circular 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites' sets out the policy and legislative framework for Government's aim of reducing tensions between gypsies and travellers and the settled community, through sustainable site provision and effective enforcement.

Circular 01/2006 requires Regional Spatial Strategies, on the basis of local authority Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, to determine a strategic view of needs across the region and identify the number of pitches required for each local planning authority. It also requires local authorities to allocate suitable sites within their Local Development Documents to meet the identified need set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Local authorities in the South East are at varying stages of undertaking their Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments in accordance with the Housing Act 2004². However, prior to the submission of the draft South East Plan to Government on 31 March 2006, only a minority of authorities had completed their assessments. The Accommodation Assessments will provide for the first time comprehensive, robust and credible data relating to the needs and requirements of gypsies and travellers. At the present point in time the ODPM bi-annual caravan count is the only source of data. The Caravan Count only identifies the number of caravans on authorised and unauthorised sites, and not issues such as caravan overcrowding and hidden need within 'bricks and mortar' housing. As such the Caravan Count data provides only a partial indication of gypsy and traveller accommodation needs.

The most recently published Caravan Count data (July 2005) indicates that there were 2,977 gypsy and traveller caravans in the South East of which 2,191 were on authorised sites and 786 caravans on unauthorised encampments. Within the South East the number of caravans on unauthorised sites has increased from 648 in July 1994 to 786 in July 2005, a 21% increase.

Caravan data for July 2005 (Table I), indicates that the counties of Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Surrey and Kent contain a significant proportion of the regions' caravans on unauthorised sites. However, Table I demonstrates that on the basis of numbers of caravans on unauthorised encampments there is identifiable unmet need throughout the region.

² The Housing Act 2004 requires local authorities to assess the need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in their areas when they assess the housing requirements of the rest of the population.

Table H1: Total Authorised and Unauthorised Caravans in South East

Local Authority	Total Caravans on Authorised Sites (Public and Private)	Total Caravans on Unauthorised Sites
Buckinghamshire (county of)	180	113
Milton Keynes UA	18	30
Oxfordshire (county of)	318	26
West Berkshire UA	21	2
Reading UA	0	7
Wokingham UA	78	11
Windsor & Maidenhead UA	50	4
Bracknell Forest UA	15	1
Slough UA	0	3
Hampshire (county of)	113	136
Isle of Wight UA	0	2
Southampton UA	15	0
Portsmouth UA	0	20
Surrey (county of)	549	94
East Sussex (county of)	41	32
West Sussex (county of)	153	38
Brighton and Hove UA	38	48
Kent (county of)	588	210
Medway Town UA	14	9
Total for South East	2,191	786

Source: Caravan Counts Survey (ODPM, July 2005)

Circular 01/2006 states that where there is a clear and immediate need, local planning authorities should bring forward DPDs containing site allocations in advance of regional consideration of pitch numbers, and completions of the Accommodation Assessments.

An early partial review of the South East Plan will be required in the light of local Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments to provide a strategic view of needs across the region and to identify the number of pitches required for each local planning authority. In order to facilitate an early partial review of the South East Plan it is imperative that local authorities undertake their Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments as soon as practicably possible.

Annex B - Schedule of Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessments (July 2006)

County/ Unitary Authority and Local Authorities	Lead Officer Contact	Anticipated Publication Date	Comment
East Sussex and Brighton	County Lead: Trudy McGuigan Trudy.mcguigan@eastsussex.gov.uk GTAA Lead: Sue Garner-Ford sue.garner-ford@brighton-hove.gov.uk	Summer 2006	Assessment being undertaken by David Couttie Associates
Hampshire, Southampton, and Portsmouth	County Lead: was George Summers GTAA Lead: Anthony Quail anthony.quail@portsmouthcc.gov.uk	October 2006	Assessment being undertaken by David Couttie Associates
Isle of Wight		October 2006	Assessment being undertaken by David Couttie Associates
Ashford, Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells	County Lead: Bill Forrester bill.forrester@kent.gov.uk GTAA Lead: Sue Whiteside SueWhiteside@maidstone.gov.uk	September 2006	Assessment being undertaken by David Couttie Associates. Has reached draft final report stage. However, further interviews are to be undertaken.
Sevenoaks, Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale	County Lead: Bill Forrester bill.forrester@kent.gov.uk GTAA Lead: Russell Drury russell.drury@medway.gov.uk	Spring 2007	David Coutie Associates have been appointed and work is due to start in August 2006.
Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Shepway	County Lead: Bill Forrester bill.forrester@kent.gov.uk GTAA Lead: Adrian Hammond adrian.hammond@shepway.gov.uk	Winter 2006/ Spring 2007	Initial options and tender process is currently being undertaken - tendering due to start in August / September 2006.
West Surrey: Guildford, Surrey Heath and Waverley	County Lead: Amanda Boyton amanda.boyton@surreycc.gov.uk GTAA Lead: Samantha Hutchinson Samantha.Hutchison@guildford.gov.uk	March 2007	Consultant to be appointed mid-July and work will be undertaken straight away.
North Surrey: Runnymede, Woking, Spelthorne and Elmbridge	County Lead: Amanda Boyton amanda.boyton@surreycc.gov.uk GTAA Lead: Jacqui Lansley Jacqui.lansley@runneymede.gov.uk	Summer 2006	Consultant has been appointed and Assessment is currently underway.
East Surrey: Reigate and Banstead, Mole Valley, Epsom and Ewell and Tandridge	County Lead: Amanda Boyton amanda.boyton@surreycc.gov.uk GTAA Lead: Alison Robinson Alison.Robinson@reigate-banstead.gov.uk	Late Summer	Anglia Ruskin University has been appointed and the Assessment is currently underway.

Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Bracknell Forest, Slough, Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham, Windsor and Maidenhead	County Lead: (ACTVAR) Barry Deller barry.deller@wycombe.gov.uk GTAA Lead: Carole Castle ccastle@chiltern.gov.uk	Summer 2006	ACTVAR Assessment is in progress. The Assessment is being undertaken by Tribal.
West Sussex	County Lead: Esther Quarm Esther.quarm@westsussex.gov.uk GTAA Lead: Esther Quarm Esther.quarm@westsussex.gov.uk	January 2007	David Couttie Associates have been appointed to undertake the assessments.