

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

Date: 18 July 2007

Subject: **Items for Information**

1. **Major Planning Applications - Statistics**
2. **LDD Conformity - Statistics**
3. **London EiP**

Report of: See individual items

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report.

1. Major Planning Applications - Statistics

- 1.1 In the period from 1 May to 30 June 2007, 19 consultation requests were received from local planning authorities on applications of regional significance. As of the end of June, 12 of these plus 7 applications received before 1 May were responded to within 21 days or an alternative deadline agreed in writing between the Assembly and the relevant local planning authority. The 7 consultations outstanding as of 1 June 2007 have either now been dealt with or are still within the statutory period for response.
- 1.2 All of the responses were considered and agreed by the member sub-group. Observations were raised in relation to five applications received in the period from 1 May and 30 June concerning environmental, transport, green belt and green field land issues.

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2 July 2007

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2. LDD Conformity - Statistics

- 2.1 Between 1 May and 30 June 2007, Assembly officers provided informal advice on the Preferred Options Core Strategy for Oxford and for the Issues and Options for South Hampshire Strategic Employment Zone SPD. Opinions of general conformity were issued for five SPDs.
- 2.2 As of 1 July 2007, there were outstanding requests for an opinion of general conformity and formal comments on the Spelthorne Core Strategy DPD, the Spelthorne Site Allocations DPD, the Oxford West End Area Action Plan DPD and the North East Bexhill Masterplan SPD. There was also an outstanding request for comments on the Preferred Options for the Buckinghamshire Waste DPD.

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3. London Plan Further Alterations - Examination in Public

- 3.1 The Mayor of London published his Further Alterations to the London Plan (FALP) in Autumn 2006. The Regional Planning Committee agreed representations to the FALP at its meeting in November 2006. Concerns were raised in relation to two main issues:
 - i. the Mayor's stance on aviation, in particular in relation to expansion at Heathrow; and
 - ii. the Wandle Valley Corridor – identified as a 'growth corridor' running from London to Croydon, and through the South East England region to Gatwick and Brighton.
- 3.2 In late June and early July, Assembly officers attended the Examination in Public (EiP) for the Further Alterations in relation to Matter 3 'Consistency with adjacent Regional Spatial Strategies' and Matter 7a 'Aviation'.

Consistency with adjacent Regional Spatial Strategies

- 3.3 A key part of the discussion at the EiP focused on how best to achieve co-ordinated cross-regional policy and working arrangements. The joint research proposed by the Inter-regional Forum (IRF) to look at the strategic implications of sub-regional strategies in the three regions' and the implications for future planning and infrastructure provision in and around London was widely supported as a positive step.

- 3.4 In relation to the Wandle Valley Corridor, the debate was positive. The Mayor's officers accepted that the London-Croydon-Gatwick-Brighton corridor should be revised to extend only as far as Gatwick, and that the definition of the corridor as a 'growth corridor' was inappropriate. They recommended to the Panel that the policy reference to this 'growth corridor' should be removed and replaced with a commitment to support 'strategic coordination' along the corridor.

Aviation

- 3.5 The Assembly has previously raised concerns the Mayor's stance on further development at Heathrow. At the IRF meeting following the submission of representations on the FALP, the Mayor of London clarified his position in relation to the Air Transport White Paper, and made it clear that he did not support any further increases in runway capacity in the wider South East, including at Heathrow. This stance has also subsequently been supported by the London Assembly.
- 3.6 The debate at the Examination focused on whether the Mayor's position - as set out in the FALP and his subsequent statements - was consistent with the Air Transport White Paper (2003) and the 2006 White Paper Progress Report.
- 3.7 Assembly officers fully supported the Mayor's revised stance on aviation, and highlighted the conclusions of the Assembly's research that the White Paper is inconsistent with the Government's Sustainable Development Strategy and that the Progress Report has produced no new substantive evidence to suggest that the environmental impact of further growth at Heathrow can be overcome.
- 3.8 The Panel is expected to report on the Further Alterations later this year, and their adoption and publication is scheduled for early 2008.

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