

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Date: 14 September 2007

Subject: **South East Plan EiP Panel Report**

Report of: Director of Planning

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that:

1. The Chairman of the Assembly writes to the Government Office (GOSE) with the Assembly's initial views on the Panel Report (Annex 1) and to provide an update on work that has progressed since the close of the EiP (Annex 2).
2. The Executive asks the Regional Planning Committee to advise the Assembly of any further issues that need to be raised at this point in the process, which can then be taken into account in the Assembly's formal response, to be considered at the Assembly Plenary meeting on the 14th November.

**Purpose of Report:**

Between November 2006 and March 2007, the Government held an Examination in Public (EiP) into the draft South East Plan. This report outlines the key recommendations from the independent EiP Panel of Inspectors which were published on the 29 August 2007. The Panel's recommendations will now be taken into account by GOSE in preparing the Government's Proposed Changes to the Plan, which will be subject to consultation in the New Year.

Although GOSE is not inviting responses to the Panel Report, given the role the Assembly has had in preparing the Plan and will continue to have in future, it is important that we use this opportunity to inform preparation of the Proposed Changes. An early, initial response from the Assembly therefore needs to be submitted as soon as possible, with a fuller response provided in November after the Assembly Plenary meeting. The proposed initial response is contained in Annex 1.

It is also important that GOSE takes account of work that has progressed since the close of the EiP. A summary of this work is included in Annex 2.

## **I. Background**

- 1.1 Between November 2006 and March 2007, an independent Panel of planning inspectors held an Examination in Public (EiP) into the draft South East Plan (the Plan). On the 29 August 2007, GOSE published the Panel Report which provides a detailed analysis of the rationale behind their conclusions and recommendations for changes to the Plan (the full report is available at <http://www.gos.gov.uk/gose/planning/regionalPlanning/southEastPlan/> and a summary of the report is available on the Assembly's site at [http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/inspectors\\_report.html](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/inspectors_report.html)). GOSE will now prepare the final changes to the Plan (Proposed Changes) for a 12 week consultation in the New Year, taking the Panel Report and other factors into account.
- 1.2 Meanwhile, the Assembly has been progressing work in a number of areas where the need for further work was highlighted before and during the EiP. This includes:
- Further development / refinement of the Implementation Plan and specific proposals related to infrastructure delivery (e.g. Regional Infrastructure Fund).
  - Mechanisms to manage work related to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBH SPA).
  - Work to develop policy on Freight.
  - Work in response to recent government consultations on climate change (draft PPS1) and housing (PPS3), both of which were published during the EiP.
- 1.3 An update is contained in Annex 2 of this report and highlights issues that should be taken into account by GOSE when preparing the Proposed Changes. A more detailed update will be included in the report to RPC in September.

## **2. Process for Responding to the Panel Report**

- 2.1 The Panel Report is effectively advice to GOSE to be taken into account in preparing the Proposed Changes to the Plan. It is therefore not subject to any formal consultation process. However, given the key role the Assembly has had in preparing the Plan and will continue to have in the Plan's implementation, monitoring and review, it is important that we use this opportunity to inform preparation of the Proposed Changes. As these are being prepared now with a view to publication early in the New Year, an early, initial response from the Executive Committee is advised, with a fuller response to be considered at the Assembly's November Plenary meeting. A proposed response is contained in Annex 1 of this report.
- 2.2 There will also be an opportunity for the Regional Planning Committee (RPC), Housing and Transport Boards to be briefed on the Panel Report at a joint workshop on the 26 September 2007. RPC will then consider any additional issues not already covered in this report at its formal meeting later that day, to inform the discussion at Plenary.

### **3. Panel Report: Key Conclusions and Recommendations**

#### The Overall Approach

- 3.1 The Panel has found the Plan generally sound on all aspects apart from the overall housing provision. However, they make it clear that if their recommendations on housing provision are taken on board in the final Plan, it will satisfy all the requirements of government policy (PPS11). The Panel supports the spatial strategy, praises the Assembly's innovative approach to climate change, water and infrastructure and supports the Plan on a number of key issues which run contrary to government advice, particularly around housing.

#### The Spatial Strategy

- 3.2 The Panel has fully endorsed the spatial strategy of the Plan and considers that, with some minor improvements this will provide a firm basis for planning in the South East for many years to come. In terms of the detail, the Panel:

- Supports the retention of all the sub-regions but has recommended that the Isle of Wight changes status from Special Policy Area to sub-region. In coming to their conclusions on the sub-regional framework, the Panel recognised the importance of the established joint working arrangements in each sub-region and did not want to disrupt this. They have, however, suggested some changes to strengthen and improve this in a number of cases, for example, through preparation of joint Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and the establishment of infrastructure delivery vehicles.
- Supports the 'sharper focus' concept and the role the regional hubs play in this but recommends that it should be made clearer that the hubs are expected to be a focus for growth.
- Agrees with the Assembly that the 'diamonds' proposed in the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) and the Government's New Growth Points (NGPs), which emerged after the Plan had been submitted to Government and were therefore not included, should be treated as tools for delivery and not policy mechanisms.

#### Overall level of housing growth

- 3.3 The Panel acknowledges that the level of growth was the single most controversial issue in the Plan and that the Assembly has had a challenging task in balancing all the different factors. However, they conclude that too much weight was given to the results of the consultation process and, although they make it clear that they do not subscribe to a 'predict and provide' approach, they feel that insufficient consideration was given to the demographic and economic needs of the region. They therefore recommend a 10% increase overall in housing provision from 28,900 to 32,000 dwellings per annum (dpa) which is equivalent to an increase from 578,000 to 640,000 over the plan period. This is significantly lower than alternative options put forward by SEEDA, developers and others, and although GOSE did not specify a preferred level of growth, this is clearly not the outcome the Government was hoping for.

- 3.4 The figure of 32,000 dpa is based on long-term (10 year) migration trends which the Panel feels is the most robust approach but they clearly see this as a 'guide' figure. They do not support the Government's argument that more housing overall will help to address (market) affordability, making it clear that this was not a driver behind the recommended housing provision.
- 3.5 In terms of housing distribution, the Panel recommends various increases throughout the region focusing on the regional hubs and reflecting proposals put forward during the EiP by the local authorities themselves. However, the main increases are to provide a clearer focus on the economically buoyant parts of the region, the areas described in the RES as the Inner South East. They recommend that approximately 47% of all new housing should be built in these parts of the region over the next 20 years, with significant increases in Central Oxfordshire (an additional 6,100), the London Fringe (an additional 8,760) and the Western Corridor/Blackwater Valley (an additional 18,080).
- 3.6 The Panel recognises the challenges local authorities will face in delivering this level of housing and therefore recommends that a significant proportion of the additional housing is provided through major developments post 2016. These would include:
- Six Strategic Development Areas (SDAs), each of which will be expected to accommodate a minimum of 4-5,000 new homes. Two of these are already proposed in the Plan as part of the South Hampshire Sub-Regional Strategy (Fareham and north / north east of Hedge End) and two are an endorsement of the MK2031 work in the Milton Keynes and Alesbury Vale Sub-Regional Strategy (south west and south east of Milton Keynes). However, two are new SDAs arising out of the EiP process (South Oxford and South Reading).
  - Several potential Green Belt releases. Although the Panel agrees with the Assembly that Green Belt policy should remain a central plank of the spatial strategy, they propose a "highly selective" review of the Green Belt in Oxfordshire (to accommodate the proposed SDA) and potential Green Belt reviews in Surrey, particularly around Guildford.
  - Major brownfield opportunities each providing around 2-3,000 new homes, for example in Whitehill-Bordon, Shoreham Harbour and Chertsey.

#### Housing type, size and tenure

- 3.7 The Panel makes it clear that getting the right type and size of housing is just as important as the numbers. They strongly support the Plan's emphasis on provision of affordable housing, recommending that this should be strengthened even further. They acknowledge that the only way to tackle genuine housing need is to substantially increase the level of investment in affordable housing, endorsing the Assembly and others' views that it is not simply a case of 'building your way out of this crisis' as advocated by the Government.

- 3.8 On housing type and size, the Panel acknowledges the concerns from local authorities that they need strong policy mechanisms to deliver the right type and size of housing, particularly in light of the recent research undertaken by the Assembly which showed a significant shift towards small flats. They therefore recommend that the policy framework be strengthened to help local authorities deliver the type of housing needed, as identified through the LDD process (informed by "Strategic Housing Market Area Assessments").

#### Infrastructure

- 3.9 The Panel congratulates the Assembly on its 'pioneering' work on infrastructure. They recognise the importance of the Implementation Plan, seeing it as a living document that is updated as planning at the local level progresses. However, they do not agree that housing levels can be made contingent upon the delivery of particular pieces of infrastructure. Instead, the Panel recommends that policy references reinforce the importance of 'timely delivered' infrastructure and encourages the Assembly to continue its work on influencing mainstream funding and to progress the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

#### Alignment

- 3.10 The Panel is content that the Regional Housing Strategy is sufficiently aligned with the Plan, particularly in terms of the approach to affordable housing investment. They are concerned, however, that despite obvious attempts by the Assembly to bring the Plan and the RES closer together (e.g. development of a single regional delivery plan), there remains significant differences. Of particular concern is the fact that, although the economic growth aspirations of the two documents are generally consistent, there is an internal inconsistency within the Plan between this and the housing numbers proposed. They therefore recommend an increase in the overall housing numbers to support the 3% GVA growth aspiration of the Plan, with most of the additional provision directed to the areas with the greatest economic potential (as outlined in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.6 of this report).
- 3.11 The Panel also feels that the alignment between the RES and the Plan will be even stronger once an immediate, partial review of the Plan has been undertaken to provide a strategic context on types of employment needed for different parts of the region, and strategic employment sites; a single regional delivery plan (joint Implementation Plan) has been developed; and future reviews of both the Plan and RES use a common evidence base (the last point has obviously been overtaken by the outcome of the Sub-National Review which proposes a single strategy encompassing both in future).

#### Scope and Timing of Subsequent Reviews

- 3.12 The Panel makes it clear that once the spatial strategy has been set, this should endure for the longer term to provide a period of policy stability, particularly for the new sub-regional strategies to take effect and for the Plan to cascade down through the local level. They therefore recommend that the next full review of key policies, including housing provision, should be in about five years. This review should not lead to major changes in the spatial strategy "unless unsurpassable problems were revealed from compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Water Frameworks Directive".

#### **4. Next Steps**

- 4.1 The Proposed Changes to the South East Plan are expected to be published by GOSE at the end of 2007 followed by a 12-week consultation period and final publication of the Plan in autumn 2008. The Assembly will consider its formal response to the Proposed Changes at its Plenary meeting on the 5 March 2008.

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## **ANNEX I**

### **THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY'S INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE PANEL REPORT**

#### **1. The Spatial Strategy**

- 1.1 The Panel's endorsement of the sub-regional framework is a clear testament to the close working relationship between the Assembly and Local Authorities in preparing the strategies. Assuming the Government accepts the retention of all sub-regions, we will now have to take forward our work with the Local Authorities to develop appropriate arrangements for implementation and monitoring in each sub-region. This will inevitably build on the existing arrangements and mechanisms, and suggestions from the Panel for improving these but we will also have to be mindful of proposals emerging from the Sub-National Review (see agenda item 8) in relation to the role of sub-regions. An initial discussion paper on how we take forward the sub-regional strategies will be considered by the Regional Planning Committee on the 26 September 2007.
- 1.2 In considering the response to the Panel's recommendations on the sub-regions, GOSE is asked not to restrict the arrangements for taking these forward by applying rigid proposals for each. This should be taken forward as part of the continuing development of the Implementation Plan (and the single regional delivery plan). This will allow flexibility to take on board the Panel's recommendations on mechanisms for delivery as well as any issues arising from the SNR (including LAAs and MAAs). While the Panel's recommendations may be welcomed, any detailed arrangements are best developed on a sub-region by sub-region basis, by the local authorities, in partnership with the Assembly, SEEDA and GOSE.

#### **2. Housing**

- 2.1 Life has moved on since the draft Plan was submitted to Government in March 2006. Housing delivery is up, with levels of completions reaching the Panel's recommended provision last year, and the Government is beginning to listen to our arguments about infrastructure, although we still have a long way to go. However, the Panel clearly recognises that building 28,900 new homes each year for the next 20 years in a sustainable way will be challenging and fully accepts that taking this up to 32,000 dpa will be even more difficult, although in their view, necessary. This is why they have recommended that most of the additional growth should be provided in the second half of the plan period (2016 - 2026).
- 2.2 This will clearly be the first challenge to the Government's view, outlined in the Housing Green Paper (see agenda item 7), that an increase from current levels of approximately 200,000 per annum to 240,000 per annum by 2016, is needed to address the 'housing crisis' in England. The mechanism for determining the allocation to each region is to be a 'mini-review' of the housing provision in all Regional Spatial Strategies. However, given that the Panel has concluded that the 32,000dpa is sufficient to meet the economic needs of the region and that simply building more houses will not address the affordability problems, an immediate review would seem unnecessary and counter-productive to the Government's emphasis on housing delivery.

2.3 GOSE will now have to come to a view as to whether they accept the Panel's recommended housing provision or not. In coming to this view, It is important that they take the following into account:

- Deliverability - the Panel recognises that to go above 28,900 will require reliance on major greenfield sites, none of which will be easy to develop; all will require significant investment in supporting infrastructure; and all will have to be provided in the latter half of the plan period and possibly beyond 2026. This is on top of the significant increase in the level of investment in infrastructure that will be needed to meet the Plan's proposed level of provision.
- Maintenance of the Green Belt - the Panel endorses the need to maintain the general extent of the Green Belt and the key role this will play in the long term Spatial Strategy. The Panel clearly states that once the reviews have been undertaken as part of this RSS process, the Green Belt should endure until at least 2030.
- Urban potential - although the Panel acknowledges that this will change over time, possibly upwards, and is subject to testing and monitoring at the local level, it is also important to recognise that other policies within the plan may have an impact on the amount of housing provided through the re-use of brownfield sites e.g. a more balanced approach to size and type of housing which could result in lower densities being achieved with an increase in the number of family homes being provided rather than flats; and a greater emphasis on meeting economic potential could result in the need to safeguard more employment land and not release this for housing. A 'plan, monitor, manage' approach will be essential to the long-term sustainability of the South East's urban areas.
- Other options for increasing the housing numbers - options beyond the currently proposed urban extensions are very limited. The Panel has used up any potential urban extensions in their recommendations and has effectively ruled out any new settlement options in the South East.
- Affordability - we are expecting to see the advice from the newly established National Housing and Planning Advisory Unit later this month. The NHPAU has been set up to advise Government and others on (market) affordability and will base its advice on an affordability model. Whilst PPS3 makes it clear that affordability is an issue that must be taken into account in determining overall housing levels, GOSE must also acknowledge the great wealth of evidence that shows that 'affordability' is a very complex issue and not one that can be resolved by increasing the number of houses built.

### **3. Housing Type and Size**

3.1 The Panel's strong support for the Assembly's approach to affordable housing is welcomed. They support the target of 35% but recognise that this will be difficult to deliver without a significant increase in investment. If the Government accepts the Panel's recommendation on housing levels, they will also have to reflect this increase in any decisions on the funding allocations already submitted for the South East.

- 3.2 The Panel's clear recognition that getting the type and size of housing right is just as important as getting the numbers right is also welcomed. The evidence presented by the Assembly at the EiP raised some serious concerns about the long term sustainability of delivering the current level of small dwellings, particularly in the affordable housing sector. The Panel supports strengthening the policy framework to help local authorities address this. It is not only important that GOSE support this in the Proposed Changes but they must support local planning authorities that are currently having difficulties in influencing type and size both through the LDDs and individual applications.

#### **4. Infrastructure**

- 4.1 Although it is disappointing that the Panel has not supported the need to provide infrastructure before or alongside development, they do accept that infrastructure must be provided in a 'timely' way and is the key to delivering sustainable communities in the region. Their support for significantly increasing investment in infrastructure to address the funding gap is therefore welcomed and must be taken on board by GOSE in the Proposed Changes. Not only will the funding generally have to increase, but the Panel has suggested significant increases in the level of housing in some of the most congested parts of the region. The investment needed to address the problems in these parts may therefore have to increase disproportionately.
- 4.2 The Panel's support for developing new mechanisms for delivery, such as the Regional Infrastructure Fund, is also welcomed and we will continue to work with the Government to develop this and other potential delivery mechanisms further.
- 4.3 The Panel's recognition of the importance of the Implementation Plan as an integral part of the regional planning framework is welcomed. A further iteration of the Implementation Plan will now be developed by the Assembly (alongside the single regional delivery plan) to take forward a number of key issues, particularly the sub-regional framework, as mentioned in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.2 above. This will be presented to the Assembly at its Plenary meeting in March 2008, when the formal response to the Government's Proposed Changes will be considered.

#### **5. Alignment**

- 5.1 The Panel's conclusions that, with the changes recommended by them and the creation of a single regional delivery plan, the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) will be in alignment with the South East Plan is a powerful argument against the proposals contained in the Sub-National Review. Although an issue GOSE will have to address in the Proposed Changes, it is also a message they should be relaying to Central Government as part of the SNR process.

#### **6. Scope and Timing of Subsequent Reviews**

- 6.1 A response to this is included in paragraph 1.4 above.

## ANNEX 2

### UPDATE ON WORK PROGRESSED BY THE ASSEMBLY SINCE THE CLOSE OF THE EIP

#### 1. Implementation Plan

- 1.1 As acknowledged by the EiP Panel, the South East Implementation Plan is a 'living document', particularly in terms of the evidence base. We have therefore continued to work with key stakeholders to update and improve the content of the implementation plan. The EiP highlighted a few areas that needed to be developed further, including Green Infrastructure, emergency services and behavioural change. In terms of emergency service provision, we are currently engaged with the emergency services to identify the cost of providing services, and key actions that could improve the operation of service. Green Infrastructure continues to be a priority, and it is our intention to build on the work undertaken by the Environment Agency (SMEISE). Further work on behavioural change has been undertaken as a priority in all work streams, and will be incorporated in the Implementation Plan.

#### 2. Housing

##### PPS3 (Housing)

- 2.1 This was published during the EiP. The Assembly, in partnership with GOSE and CLG, arranged two workshops in July to help local authorities address the issues raised by PPS3, particularly in the transition period between the old housing policy framework and the new. Work is now being progressed by the Assembly as a result of this, to; amongst other things, develop regionally specific advice on Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments.
- 2.2 The Assembly will shortly be commissioning work to review the study previously undertaken by DTZ to identify sub-regional housing markets in the region, taking into account learning from subsequent pilot Strategic Housing Market Assessments, to help develop a framework for SHMAs within the region.

##### Housing Type and Size

- 2.3 A number of actions are being taken forward from the report commissioned jointly by the Assembly and SEEDA on Housing Type and Size. A key issue is how to deliver larger homes at higher densities. The Assembly will shortly be updating the existing Councillor's Toolkit on housing density to provide advice on this.

##### Regional Housing Strategy

- 2.4 The Regional Housing Strategy has now been reviewed and, as agreed by the Panel, is in alignment with the South East Plan. However, this has been used to inform the Regional Housing Board's submission to the Government on funding allocations for 2008-2011 which will have to be amended to reflect any decision by the Government to increase the level of housing above 28,900 and any changes to the Plan's proposed housing distribution.

### **3. Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area**

- 3.1 Work continues to take forward the key recommendations made by Inspector's Report into delivering housing around Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA), which was produced by an independent Assessor as part of the EiP.

#### Interim Strategic Delivery Plan (ISDP)

- 3.2 The Assembly has commissioned a consultant to assist in the development of an ISDP, which will provide a strategic framework for the delivery of housing and mitigation within the area affected by the SPA designation. The document will build on the work that has been undertaken to date, and be developed in consultation with those parties who have a direct interest in the Thames Basin Heaths. Consultants have also been commissioned to undertake further work to look at the availability of alternative recreation land to act as mitigation.

#### Strategic Partnership

- 3.3 The assembly has agreed to support proposals for a Strategic Partnership between local authority elected members and key partners to coordinate policy for the management and protection of the SPA. At their last meeting, the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) considered and endorsed draft terms of reference for that group.
- 3.4 The first meeting of the Strategic Partnership will be held in the autumn, when the chairman and vice chairman will be elected, and the final terms of reference agreed. The Strategic Partnership will have no powers to exercise any of the functions of a local planning authority nor could it fetter any decisions made by such bodies, but will act as an advisory body to local authorities and stakeholders.

### **4. Climate Change and Natural Resources**

#### Climate Change

- 4.1 Work has been commissioned (as part of the ESPACE Interreg Project) to investigate how important barriers to the implementation of climate change policies can be overcome. Through this work we will update the Climate Change Implementation Plan and inform future reviews of the South East Plan. To be completed by March 2008.
- 4.2 The three regions Climate Change Partnerships have commissioned work on retrofitting existing buildings to adapt them to impacts of climate change. Results will be available in October.
- 4.3 The Assembly aims to commission work jointly with SEEDA and GOSE to support the house building sector through guidance, case studies and a compendium of low-carbon technologies to get prepared for the increasing standards set in the Code of Sustainable Homes. The work is due to be completed by March 08.
- 4.4 Work on the Ecological Footprint methodology has been completed. It will enable an improved assessment of the impacts of different policies.

## Water Resources and Quality

- 4.5 Work is underway on a shared water resource strategy for the South East to inform the development of the new Water Resource Plans and the establishment of an appropriate balance between resource development and demand management.
- 4.6 The Assembly will also work with the Water Resource Forum South East investigating effective demand management opportunities.
- 4.7 The work by the Environment Agency on constraints to growth in individual areas, likely implications of the Habitats and Water Framework Directive and potential solutions is ongoing. A report on the impact of alternative discharge on nutrient levels in the Solent for example is expected in Sept 2007. Several Water Cycle Studies are also under way

## Flood Risk

- 4.8 Only a few Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRAs) have been completed. Once the results of several more become available next year, we aim to get an overview of their results in order to analyse their implications on the growth distribution proposed in the South East Plan and on infrastructure costs.
- 4.9 Draft Guidance for PPS25 on Flood Risk will clarify the interpretation and delivery of the PPS. The Assembly has responded to the consultation draft and aims to update the Regional Flood Risk Appraisal in order to reflect the guidance in due course.
- 4.10 The Environment Agency is progressing the Thames Estuary 2100 initiative, which will inform planning policy in particular in the Kent Thames Gateway sub-region.

## Coast

- 4.11 Two second-generation Shoreline Management Plans have been completed, two have been published for consultation and the preparation of the remaining two started in November 2006.

## **5. Transport**

### Freight

- 5.1 Paragraph 1.33 of section D4 in the draft South East Plan highlights that the Assembly was engaged in developing freight policies immediately prior to the start of the EiP. The development of freight policies was severally disrupted during the EiP, and as such the additional work was presented as a technical note to inform the EiP. The technical work has highlighted the issues that require further attention, namely:
- Identifying key freight routes and potential bottlenecks on routes to and from the region's key gateways.
  - Identifying suitable locations for potential development as inter-modal terminals.
  - Investigate lorry parking provision in the region.

- 5.2 We consider the first two issues to be the most pressing concern, in terms of addressing a distinct policy deficit. As such we have concentrated our efforts on these areas, and will present an outline of a technical paper to RPC in September with a view to using this to inform our response to the Proposed Changes to the Plan. The final issue, while still a priority, is likely to be a longer-term objective.

#### Air Transport White Paper

- 5.3 The Government published a White Paper on “The Future of Air Transport” (ATWP) in December 2003. The ATWP contained a commitment to review progress against the plans outlined therein, which the Government fulfilled through the publication of “The Future of Air Transport Progress Report” in December 2006.
- 5.4 The Assembly appointed Steer Davies Gleave (SDG) to review the Government’s approach to future airport development in the light of the contents of the Progress Report and the Assembly’s existing position. The Assembly reviewed aviation policy in July 2007 at the Annual Meeting, resolving to maintain the current policy position.

#### Smarter Choices

- 5.5 Behavioural change is identified as one of the four key delivery mechanisms of the South East Plan. In support of this central plank of the Plan, Addison & Associates were commissioned by the Assembly to prepare a long term programme for delivering the changes in travel behaviour that are critical to deliver the South-East Plan. The Regional Transport Board will be receiving a detailed update on this work in October. This will set out the way in which we intend to develop the work over the short and medium term.

### **6. Audit of Employment Land Reviews in the South East**

- 6.1 DTZ undertook a comprehensive assessment of the number and quality of Employment Land Reviews (ELRs) and Studies undertaken in the region. The audit contributes towards: the Assembly’s role in co-ordinating ELRs; the development of an evidence base in employment land in the region; to an understanding of the barriers to development.

### **7. Waste**

- 7.1 An Inter Regional Waste Technical Forum, comprising representatives from GLA, South East England Regional Assembly, East of England Regional Assembly, DEFRA and waste planning authorities in East and South East England, has been established. This has met twice to agree its terms of reference and review the data on arisings, management and movements of waste between the three regions. The work of the Forum will help inform the South East Plan policy on apportionment of London’s waste following the recommendations of the EiP Panel.

## **8. Models for Sub-Regional Planning**

- 8.1 The ERN Planning Directors Group (chaired by the South East), in partnership with CLG and the Planning Officers Society, has commissioned a study to explore different models for sub-regional planning and to provide guidance on the most appropriate mechanisms and structures to support constructive sub-regional working. It will also consider the implications of the Sub National Review and Planning White Paper for sub-regional working. The final report is expected in November 2007.