

**At Executive Committee on 14 September some minor amendments were made to the proposed response. These will be circulated to the RPC prior to the meeting.**

## **Agenda Item 4**

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

Date: 26 September 2007

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

Report of: Director of Planning

#### **Recommendations:**

That the Committee:

1. Notes the Executive Committee's initial response to the Panel Report.
2. Commends to the Assembly any additional points which should be taken into account by GOSE at this stage in the process.

#### **Purpose of the Report:**

To provide the Committee with an opportunity to consider any additional points in response to the Panel Report which should be taken into account when the Assembly considers its response at the Plenary meeting in November 2007.

#### **Key Issues:**

On the 29 August 2007, the Government Office (GOSE) published the conclusions and recommendations of the Panel of Inspectors (the Panel) who resided over the Examination in Public (EiP) into the draft South East Plan. Although the Assembly is not expected to respond the Panel Report at this stage in the process, it is important that we inform GOSE of any key points and provide an update on any work that has been progressed since the end of the EiP.

On the 14 September, the Executive Committee agreed an initial response (Annex 1 of this report) and asked RPC to consider any further detailed points that should be taken into account when the formal response is considered at the Plenary meeting in November.

**At Executive Committee on 14 September some minor amendments were made to the proposed response. These will be circulated to the RPC prior to the meeting.**

1. Between the end of November 2006 and the end of March 2007, the draft South East Plan was subject to independent testing by a panel of Inspectors. The Panel's conclusions and recommendations were published by GOSE on 29 August 2007. The next formal stage in the process is publication of the Government's response to the Panel Report (the Proposed Changes) for a 12-week consultation period. This is due to take place during the first part of 2008.
2. We are not expected to make any formal representations on the Panel Report and government advice (PPSI 1) explicitly advises against this. However, as we will continue to have a major role in implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Plan it is important that we take every opportunity to ensure that GOSE is fully aware of our views and can take on board the most up to date information in preparing the Proposed Changes. As such, the Executive Committee considered an initial response (Annex 1) on the 14 September which included an update on work that has progressed since the end of the EiP.
3. A final response will be prepared following a wider discussion at the Assembly Plenary meeting in November. The Executive has asked that this be informed by any further issues raised by RPC. In coming to a view on this, Members are advised to consider whether it is essential that the issues raised are included in response to the Panel Report or whether it would be more appropriate to include these in the Assembly's formal response to the Government's Proposed Changes.

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11 September 2007

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