

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

Date: 23 May 2007

Subject: **Items for Information**

1. **Major Planning Applications - Statistics**
2. **LDD Conformity - Statistics**
3. **Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area**
4. **National Housing Planning Advice Unit  
(verbal update)**

Report of: See individual items

**Recommendation:**

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

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**I. Major Planning Applications - Statistics**

- I.1 In the period from 1 March to 30 April 2007, 14 consultation requests were received from local planning authorities on applications of regional significance. As of the end of April, 7 of these plus 3 applications received before 1 March 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 March 2007 plus one received before 1 March have either now been dealt with or are still within the statutory period for response.
- I.2 All of the responses were considered and agreed by the member sub-group. Observations were raised in relation to four applications received in the period from 1 March and 30 April concerning environmental, affordable housing, landfill and infrastructure issues.

**Martin Tugwell**  
**Director of Development**

1 May 2007

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## **2. LDD Conformity - Statistics**

- 2.1 Between 1 March and 30 April 2007, Assembly officers provided informal advice on the Preferred Options Core Strategies for Maidstone and Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste, as well as the Wycombe Site Allocations DPD, the Reading Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD and the Isle of Wight Island Plan Bay Area Action Plan DPD.
- 2.2 Formal representations, agreed by the member sub-group, have been made on the submitted draft Core Strategies for Reading and Adur. Both of these documents were considered to be in general conformity with RPG9 (as amended) and the draft South East Plan, but in each case some alignment issues were raised. Such issues included the definition of affordable housing, the definition of infrastructure and the clarification of which uses are appropriate for former employment sites.
- 2.3 As of 1 May 2007, there were outstanding requests for opinions of general conformity on the Hastings Shopfronts and Advertisements SPD, the Oxford Telecommunications SPD, the Tunbridge Wells Affordable Housing SPD and for comments on the Preferred Options for the Oxford Core Strategy.

**Catriona Riddell**  
**Director of Planning**

4 May 2007

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

- 3.1 The issues associated with the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area were examined by an independent assessor as part of the Examination in Public of the draft South East Plan. The Assessor's report was published in February 2007. While we await the Panel's report in respect of the potential implications for the South East Plan, a number of the recommendations set out in the Assessor's report provide a framework for ensuring that the current difficulties in delivering planned growth are addressed. Discussions are ongoing as to how these recommendations might be taken forward in the short term. An update on these discussions will be presented to the next meeting of this Committee.

**Martin Tugwell**  
**Director of Development**

10 May 2007

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