

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
25 JULY 2007**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARISING FROM THE PRESENTATION -
THAMES 2100 - BY THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

The Director of Development advised that the Regional Assembly was working closely with the Environment Agency which had resulted in a piece of research looking at environmental infrastructure focusing on water supply and treatment, waste, flood defences and bio-diversity. Investment in the regional infrastructure had been calculated as £40 billion which rose to £80-90 billion to include environmental infra-structure.

He suggested that the Committee might wish to arrange a further discussion with the Chairmen of the two Regional Future Flood Committees. Sarah Lavery, TE2100 Project Manager, accepted an invitation to attend this meeting.

Sarah Lavery undertook to forward a series of maps showing the areas affected by different water levels in order to inform planning decisions for the location of new homes.

The Planning Manager referred the Committee to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which was being undertaken in the PUSH area which considers the condition of the flood defences and, therefore, showed a realistic situation rather than a worst case scenario.

Questions were asked about how the EA's proposals for the Thames Estuary will be built into the Thames Water Framework Directive on River Basin Management. In addition questions were asked about the difficulties associated with rationalising the need for better flood plain management with an increase in the concrete footprint.

Sarah Lavery undertook to forward specific information about the Thames Water Framework Directive. She explained that PPS25 stated that all sites subject to tidal risk, now and in the future, must be considered against a standard of 1 in 200 on the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Extreme events were designated as 1 in 1000. She advised that multi criteria were used to justify levels of protection against flood risk. She reported that PPS25 clearly required that building on a flood plain needed to be justified and that the EA needed to balance the need of habitats and communities with the cost of flood protection.