

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

Date: 19 March 2008

Subject: **Extension of Saved Oxfordshire Structure Plan Policies**

Report of: Director of Planning

Recommendation:

That the Committee agree the response set out in the Annex and its submission to Government Office as the formal advice of the Regional Planning Body.

Purpose of Report:

To present to members for consideration and agreement a statement of requests to the Secretary of State to extend the life of specified structure plan policies for Oxfordshire beyond the three year saved period provided for under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Key Issues:

In line with CLG's protocol for handling proposals to save adopted local and structure plan policies beyond the three year saved period, Assembly officers have undertaken a review of saved policies in the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016, which is due to expire in October this year, following consultation with Oxfordshire County Council. A list setting out the policies that the Secretary of State might wish to consider extending and those where a request is not made has been drawn up. The list also identifies those policies in the draft South East Plan that will replace the saved structure plan policies.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, provided for the saving of policies in adopted or approved local, structure and unitary development plans for a period of three years from the commencement date of the Act or, for policies in plans adopted since the commencement date, for three years from the date of adoption, unless the Secretary of State extended policies beyond that date. A CLG protocol (August 2006) gives responsibility to regional planning bodies (RPBs) to make requests to the Secretary of State to extend structure plan policies beyond the three year period, following discussions with the structure plan authorities.
- 1.2 In March last year, the Committee agreed a statement to be submitted to Government Office requesting the Secretary of State to extend the life of certain saved policies in the structure plans for Buckinghamshire, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, Hampshire, Surrey and West Sussex and in January this year agreed a similar statement in respect of the Berkshire Structure Plan policies. The Oxfordshire Structure Plan policies are due to expire in October 2008 and there is a need to apply now to the Secretary of State to request an extension to the life of these policies as it is not expected that the South East Plan will be adopted before their expiry.

2. Proposed Response to Government Office

- 2.1 In line with the protocol, Assembly officers have undertaken a review of saved policies in the Oxfordshire Structure Plan in consultation with Oxfordshire County Council. A statement presenting the authority's recommendations as to which policies the Secretary of state is requested to extend with reasons and the policies in the draft South East Plan that will replace them is set out in the attached Annex, using the same tabular format as previously.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree the response set out in the Annex as the Assembly's statement to the Secretary of State requesting the extension of saved policies in the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016 and its submission to Government Office as the formal advice of the RPB.

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3 March 2008

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