

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Date: 17 June 2005

Subject: **Regional Planning Committee - Chairman's Report of 13  
June 2005 Meeting**

Report of: Chairman of the Regional Planning Committee

**Recommendation:**

That the Executive receives the report.

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**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members of the Executive on business transacted at the Regional Planning Committee on 13 June 2005.

**2. Initial Comments**

2.1 This was a long day with a complicated agenda and close to 50 amendments tabled by members. Set out below is a short summary of the main decisions taken. The report is not complete and I need to caveat it by saying it is my best recollection of proceedings and before I have had the opportunity to study the draft minutes prepared by Assembly officers.

2.2 There was some initial debate on the earlier agenda papers but the key issues were in a number of papers under Agenda Item 7.

**3. Agenda Item 7b - Spatial Strategy**

3.1 Resolution on Process of Making Housing Allocations

3.1.1 There was considerable support from across groups and types of authority for the need to include county area allocations in the South East Plan. However, there was less consensus on removing sub-regional allocations altogether. In the event this motion was not pressed to a vote on the understanding that, at the next RPC on 23 June, Keith Mitchell would present a distribution with both sub-regional and county area allocations for recommendation to the Assembly plenary and inclusion in the South East Plan.

### 3.2 Resolution on Sub-regional Strategies, Policy Designations and Hubs

3.2.1 The Policy Designations and additional hubs were voted on separately and, in both cases, the resolution was successful. These will not therefore appear in the South East Plan presented to the July plenary and will be considered later in the light of the sub-regional work and district housing allocation process. Other papers and policies will be amended accordingly.

### 3.3 Resolution on Housing Numbers

3.3.1 28,900 p.a. was agreed as the annual average regional housing allocation with the addition of the following:

‘There is an expectation that the housing backlog will be met in the first ten years of the Plan and significant Government investment will be required to achieve this.’

### 3.4 Resolution on Phasing, Monitoring and Review

3.4.1 This resolution was amended and agreed as follows:

‘The Committee therefore resolves that:

- (i) the proposed regional housing allocation of 28,900 p.a. for the whole South East Plan period should ~~be taken to be an annual average figure~~ (recognising that this may fluctuate over time and between locations);
- (ii) the Annual Monitoring Report which the Regional Assembly is required to produce should include an assessment of progress on achieving adequate infrastructure investment to support the prevailing level of housing growth, **housing backlog, housing need** and the success or otherwise of bringing forward investment plans for major schemes;
- (iii) continued housing growth should be conditional upon adequate progress on the delivery of infrastructure **funding**;
- (iv) a full review of the South East Plan should be completed by 2012.’

It was made clear in this context that infrastructure includes affordable housing.

### 3.5 Resolution on Submission of the South East Plan

3.5.1 This resolution was agreed without amendment. The effect is to require submission to the Deputy Prime Minister with as much of the South East Plan as is available after the July plenary.

### 3.6 Other Detailed Amendments

3.6.1 There was detailed discussion of around 50 amendments to the Policies. It was agreed that Assembly officers would take any minor amendments to

wording which were forwarded to them. More substantively, Transport Policies T1, T2 and T4 were deferred until the next meeting to allow for more detailed consideration of the changes proposed by Assembly officers. A detailed amendment to Cross Cutting Policy CCI (Climate Change) was considered and also deferred to the next meeting.

#### **4. Agenda Item 8(a) Infrastructure**

4.1 Agenda Item 8a (Infrastructure) will also be taken at the meeting on 23 June.

We concluded the business of the Committee at 4.30 p.m.

**Cllr Keith R Mitchell**  
**Chairman of the Regional Planning Committee**

15 June 2005