

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Date: 16 June 2006

Subject: **Review of the Assembly's Constitution**

Report of: Chief Executive

Recommendations:

1. To recommend to the Assembly amendments to the constitution tracked as changes in the appended documentation in order to clarify the following:
 - (i) The role of alternates as opposed to substitutes (para 6.3)
 - (ii) The procedure if a local government member loses their council seat (par 6.5)
 - (iii) The term of office for the Chairman (para 8.1)
 - (iv) The terminology of 'Leadership Group' (para 8.5)
 - (v) The effective date for calculating unitary councils' population (para 10.2)
 - (vi) Reference to the greater South East (i.e. the South East, London and East of England), rather than 'ROSE' (para 12.4)
 - (vii) The application of a template for the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) as already provided for in the Rules of Procedure (para 12.3)
 - (viii) The status of partnership boards such as those for housing and transport (new section 13)

2. To agree changes to the Rules of Procedure, as tracked in the attached documentation, in respect of the following:
 - (i) Reducing the lead time for resolutions from ten days to five to reflect the fact that members do not receive papers until ten days before a meeting (para 4.4), and strengthening the presumption against late resolutions (para 4.5).
 - (ii) The requirement on members both to register interests and also to declare potential conflicts verbally at a meeting (para 5.1)
 - (iii) Freeing small party groups from the requirement to nominate an Executive Committee member to the Regional Planning Committee (para 8.2)

- (iv) Clarifying the substitution arrangements for non-Assembly members of the RPC (para 8.4)
- (v) The arrangements for RPC sub-groups, e.g. to steer specific pieces of policy work or responses to consultations (para 8.6)
- (vi) The Regional Housing Board (new section 9) and
- (vii) The Regional Transport Board (new section 10)

Purpose of this Report:

This report proposes tidying up the constitution and rules of procedure on issues where questions of interpretation have emerged since the last revision in July 2003, and makes constitutional provision for partnership boards, specifically the Regional Housing Board (RHB) and the Regional Transport Board (RTB).

Summary:

1. The proposal is to make general provision for partnership boards in the constitution itself, and to delegate to the Executive Committee, through its control over the Rules of Procedure, the powers to agree the creation and remit of such boards.
2. The Rules of Procedure are amended to accommodate the RHB and RTB on the terms of reference already established, now they have been formally transferred to the Assembly's auspices. Any further such boards, such as the proposed Sustainable Development Board, could be incorporated by further amendments to the Rules of Procedure agreed by the Executive Committee.

Paul Bevan
Chief Executive

2 June 2006