

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Date: 14 December 2007

Subject: **Regional Planning Committee – 28 November 2007**

Report of: Chairman of the Regional Planning Committee

**Recommendation:**

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

**Purpose of Report:**

To update the Executive Committee on the meeting of the Regional Planning Committee held on 28 November 2007.

- 1. Member Workshop: Partial Reviews on Gypsies, Travellers & Travelling Showpeople and Primary Aggregates Apportionment**
  - 1.1 Members of the Regional Planning Committee and the Regional Housing Board were invited to a workshop before the committee formally proceeded. This allowed them an opportunity to have a presentation and an informal discussion on the key issues and options arising from the technical work on both partial reviews. A steer from Members was given as to the preferred options and this will be reported to RPC when we formally consider the options for consultation at our meeting on the 30 January 2008. The Assembly will then be asked to agree these at the plenary meeting in March. Consultation on the options is due to start in May (after the local elections).
- 2. Sub-National Review: Proposals for a Single Regional Strategy**
  - 2.1 A key plank of the SNR is the proposal to combine both the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies into one Regional Strategy. Government officials have been holding various workshops and meetings with Assembly, RDA and GO officials over the last two months to help them formulate their proposals for the consultation (now expected early 2008). Assembly officers have been involved in these discussions on the agreement that they are there in a technical capacity and this must not prejudice any formal views by Members on the SNR, particularly around governance.
  - 2.2 The Director of Planning outlined some of the issues that have arisen so far in these discussions, particularly around the process for preparation of any future strategy. Key questions being asked/points being made include:
    - The parameters of the Regional Strategy will be set nationally (by government) by three regional targets around housing provision, economic growth and climate change, all of which will be subject to 'testing' through the process ;
    - The aspiration is to have a much quicker preparation process, on similar lines to the current RES process. The most significant issues related to this are whether the RS will continue to form part of the 'development plan' and therefore be subject to the legislative framework that governs this, including the testing regime (e.g. Sustainability Appraisal, Examination in Public); and whether district level housing allocations will be included in the RS (current thinking seems to imply that they will). Both will have major implications for the Government's aspirations.
  - 2.3 Members were asked to note the report. We agreed that it would be useful to have this as a standing item on all future RPC agendas to ensure that Members are fully briefed on the proposals as they are developed both leading up to and throughout the government's consultation. This would also ensure that these discussions are informed by Members' views.

### **3 Partial Review on Gypsies, Travellers & Travelling Showpeople: Consultation Arrangements**

- 3.1 The Director of Communications outlined the proposals for the consultation which is due to start in May 2008 and run for 12 weeks. This included a proposal to ask the local authorities to help by arranging local meetings/ exhibitions (budget to be supplied by the Assembly).
- 3.2 Before discussion started on this specific item, Members were keen to express their views on the options informally discussed at the morning's workshop. However, on advice from officers, I advised Members that as this was not an item for the formal RPC meeting (the agenda item only dealt with the consultation process) and no papers were available to the public, they would not be able to table any motions related to this. They would, however, have an opportunity to formally express their views at the RPC meeting in January, where the steer given by Members at the workshop would be reported by officers.
- 3.3 On the substantive item, Members agreed the proposals set out in the report.

**Cllr Moira Gibson**  
**Chairman of the Regional Planning Committee**

30 November 2007