



## **Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the partial review of the South East Plan: Provision for Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites**

The South East England Regional Assembly (the Assembly) is responsible for preparing the draft South East Plan, a 20-year planning framework for the region. It was submitted to Government in March 2006 following over three years of work. The Plan maps out the needs of the South East's eight million citizens to 2026, covering housing, jobs, transport and the environment. It will also set the framework for councils to prepare local development frameworks. The draft South East Plan was submitted to the Government just after the Government's Circular 1/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites' was published in final form. The Circular requires the Assembly to advise the Secretary of State on the number of caravan pitches required to meet needs for each local authority.

The Assembly is updating the draft South East Plan to ensure the current and future needs of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showmen are met within the South East. The Assembly is working with the region's local authorities who are identifying Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople needs. The Assembly prepared a Project Plan which explains the programme process in more detail eg objectives of the partial review, consultation and timetable (see web link below).

### **Sustainability Appraisal**

The Government requires the Assembly to look at the impacts of development as set out in the draft South East Plan on the environment, economy and communities. This is to ensure that the Plan improves everyone's quality of life now and in the future. This process is known as a Sustainability Appraisal.

The Sustainability Appraisal measures the performance of a number of environmental, economic and social objectives for the South East. It also looks at how the updated draft South East Plan for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople will affect and change the existing situation. The Sustainability Appraisal is due to be published with the updated draft South East Plan on for comments and views in December 2007.

### **Scoping Report**

The first step of the Sustainability Appraisal is to identify the environmental, economic and social issues that relate to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. This step is called the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The issues identified include: the lack of sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, health, education and conflict with settled communities.

The Scoping Report identified that the current technical information about Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the South East is minimal. The only comparable information available at a regional level is the Government caravan count data. The Assembly and local authorities are now in the process of gathering additional information to understand needs within the region.

The Assembly published the draft Project Plan and draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Reports for comments and views in September 2006. The Assembly considered the responses and made changes to both documents accordingly. Copies are available on the Assembly website – [www.southeast-ra.gov.uk](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk)

Link to Project Plan - [http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/consultation/g\\_and\\_t/draft\\_project\\_plan\\_dec06\\_version.pdf](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/consultation/g_and_t/draft_project_plan_dec06_version.pdf)

Link to Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report - [http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/consultation/g\\_and\\_t/gt\\_scoping\\_report.pdf](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/consultation/g_and_t/gt_scoping_report.pdf)