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a clear vision
FOR THE SOUTH EAST

THE SOUTH EAST PLAN
Pre-submission
Consultation Statement

March 2006
Draft Plan for submission
to Government



Executive Summary

Extensive consultation has underpinned the preparation of the draft South East Plan submitted to Government on 31 March 2006.

Stretching over a period of more than two years, the consultation process has given stakeholders and public alike multiple opportunities to comment on – and genuinely influence – the development of the principles and policies in the current draft Plan.

The scale of the regional consultation exercise alone is noteworthy. It is believed to be the largest regional planning consultation ever conducted in the UK, and attracted feedback from more than 78,000 respondents. Added to this is wide-ranging consultation on local issues carried out by the South East's principal authorities on behalf of the Assembly that attracted a further 16,856 responses. Taken together, the regional and local programmes of pre-submission consultation form an impressive body of work that has provided genuine community involvement in the draft Plan.

At regional level, a series of stakeholder events and workshops in 2003-2004 preceded 12 weeks' non-statutory public consultation in early 2005. There have also been four opinion polls. Most recently, there was a further six weeks' local public consultation in autumn 2005. Effective use of resources ensured consultation provided good value for money – the budget for regional level consultation, excluding research, was £380,000 (around six pence per South East adult) and the Assembly provided a further £70,000 to support principal authorities in carrying out local consultation. The different stages of consultation are set out in detail later in this document.

Based on the evidence provided in this document, the Assembly believes it has significantly exceeded the pre-submission consultation requirements set out in Government guidance.

This is one of six documents presented to Government on 31 March 2006 as the draft South East Plan. The full set of documents comprises:

- South East Plan Executive Summary
- South East Plan Core Document – regional and sub-regional policies
- Implementation Plan
- Monitoring Framework
- Sustainability Appraisal Summary
- Pre-submission Consultation Statement

A full version of the Sustainability Appraisal and annexes to this Pre-submission Consultation Statement are available on the Assembly's website alongside technical papers explaining the research base for topics such as demography, water and economic and labour demand forecasts.
www.southeast-ra.gov.uk