

**THE SOUTH EAST ENGLAND STRATEGY BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 26 NOVEMBER 2009**

**Present:** Paul Carter (SEELB); Chairman  
 Mike Appleyard (SEELB)  
 Louise Bloom (SEELB)  
 Elizabeth Cartwright (SEELB)  
 Pam Charlwood (SEEDA)  
 Moira Gibson (SEELB)  
 Keith Mitchell, CBE (SEEDA)  
 Tony Page (SEELB)  
 Alex Pratt, OBE (SEEDA)  
 David Robertson (SEELB)  
 Paul Watkins (SEELB)

**In Attendance:**

Delivery Partners: Harvey Bradshaw (Environment Agency)  
 David Edwards (Homes and Communities Agency)  
 Jon Griffiths (Highways Agency)

Stakeholder Liaison  
 Group:

Warren Finney (Social partner)  
 Alastair Reid (Economic partner)

Howard Ewing (GOSE)

Officers:

Chris Kenneford (Substitute for Chris Williams)  
 Paul Lovejoy (SEEDA)  
 Diana Pogson (Partnership Board Strategy Unit)  
 Catriona Riddell (Partnership Board Strategy Unit)  
 Martin Tugwell (SEEDA/Partnership Board Strategy Unit)  
 Tim Stansfeld (SEEDA)  
 Jill Wedge (Partnership Board Strategy Unit)  
 Louise Wilby (Partnership Board Strategy Unit)  
 Mark Williams (Partnership Board Strategy Unit)

**1. Apologies and Declaration of Substitutes**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Pam Alexander (SEEDA), Colin Byrne (GOSE), Les Dawson, OBE (SEEDA), Marinos Paphitis (LSC), Mark Pearson (Economic partner), Chris Williams (LACE Advisory Group) and Toby Willison (Environment Agency).
- 1.2 Substitutions declared were Harvey Bradshaw for Toby Willison, Howard Ewing for Colin Byrne, Chris Kenneford for Chris Williams and Alastair Reid for Mark Pearson.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting on 17 September 2009**

- 2.1 The Minutes were **agreed**.

### **3. Matters Arising Not Elsewhere on the Agenda**

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

### **4. South East Strategy**

- 4.1 Catriona Riddell gave a presentation on the Project Plan summarising the key issues. She advised that it will be submitted to the Partnership Board for approval on 9 February 2010 and invited the Board to comment.

#### Local Economic Assessments

- 4.2 Keith Mitchell, CBE suggested that two tier authorities' new Local Economic Assessments (LEAs) duty and associated evidence base should be included. Catriona Riddell advised that discussions were taking place with local authorities in relation to the evidence base and clear references to LEAs will be included in the final version.

#### Skills

- 4.3 Keith Mitchell, CBE asked that the skills issue also be included. Catriona Riddell explained that implicit references will be made explicit to take account of the new Skills Strategy. Decisions will need to be made about how much of this is covered in the Regional Skills Strategy and how much is included in the Regional Strategy.

#### Affordable Housing

- 4.4 Elizabeth Cartwright asked that the wording of the third key issue be amended on page 7, para 1.9. She expressed concern about negative equity and believed that 'Making Housing more Affordable' should be amended to "Making more affordable housing available."
- 4.5 Catriona Riddell advised that the title had been agreed as a Think Piece by the Partnership Board to reflect issues relating to funding and housing size and type.
- 4.6 The Chairman suggested that the Partnership Board be asked to reword this and that Technological Innovation and Economic Growth be reworded to include prosperity.

#### Governance Arrangements

- 4.7 Tony Page expressed concern about the wording of page 15, para 4.4 which he believed precluded significant member involvement and page 12, para 2.8 which suggested a passive approach in relation to the strategies of adjoining regions. He believed the Partnership Board should be more proactive and the wording strengthened.
- 4.8 Catriona Riddell explained that the document reflects the existing structures and the different timescales of the East of England (EoE) and London. EoE was about to submit its Regional Spatial Strategy. London has different governance arrangements and recently published its new Draft London Plan and Transport Strategy. Ordinarily these documents would have been discussed by the Strategy Board. However, due to timing issues the London Plan will be discussed by the Regional Transport Board (RTB) and Planning Panel prior to consideration by the Partnership Board on 9 February 2010.

#### Location of Infrastructure

- 4.9 Harvey Bradshaw emphasised the importance of ensuring that new homes and infrastructure are resilient to flood risk, and suggested that resilience to climatic change should be included within the scope of the regional strategy.
- 4.10 Catriona Riddell explained that this was currently being addressed through the Implementation Plan and will be reflected in the shared delivery plan being developed.

#### Engagement with Stakeholders

- 4.11 Warren Finney asked that the full range of relevant stakeholders be included in Annex 2.
- 4.12 Pam Charlwood noted the broad range of fora used by NHS Foundation Trusts to consult constituent members and suggested that engagement with stakeholders be as wide as possible.
- 4.13 Referring to page 39, para 5.1 she suggested that the words "early" and "statutory" replace 'informal' and 'formal' to better reflect the value of stakeholder and public contributions. She believed there was an urgent need to address the mechanism of stakeholder engagement once the Stakeholder Liaison Group (SLG) was established in early 2010.
- 4.14 Pam Charlwood referred to the North West region where local authorities, the regional development agency and the Strategic Health Authority are working effectively together as a single co-ordinated body. She emphasised the need for the South East to work similarly and urged the active engagement of the region's two strategic health authorities.
- 4.15 Alex Pratt asked for Southampton, Oxford and Oxford Brookes Universities to be included in Annex 2.
- 4.16 Catriona Riddell explained that the list reflected organisations which the Regional Assembly and SEEDA had engaged with and therefore will evolve over time. Paul Lovejoy is working with SLG to agree arrangements for engagement. She noted Pam Charlwood's suggested wording and advised that if stakeholder engagement was to be continuous it needed ongoing commitment and to be on a scale that was manageable and representative. The list at Annex 2 was broader than the core stakeholder group currently under discussion.

#### The Strategy Board:

- i) **Agreed** the process and timetable for preparation of the new regional strategy (South East Strategy) as set out in the draft **project plan** (Appendix A).
- ii) **Agreed** the **Sustainability Appraisal** methodology and draft key sustainability issues (Appendix B).
- iii) **Agreed** the approach to stakeholder and community engagement outlined in the draft document '**Shaping the South East Strategy: Engaging our communities and stakeholders**' (Appendix C), and

- iv) **Recommended** to the Partnership Board that it formally commissions work on the regional strategy and gives notice to the Secretary of State of its intention to do so.

## **5. Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople: South East Plan Partial Review**

- 5.1 Mark Williams provided the context for his report on the Regional Transit Study and invited comments.
- 5.2 Tony Page asked whether individual and groups of local authorities would be eligible for funding, or in competition with permanent sites, given the advisory status of the network approach.
- 5.3 Mark Williams advised that site funding is insufficient. The challenge will be delivery through part funding without grant whilst providing value for money and responding effectively to need.
- 5.4 Tony Page expressed concern about anecdotally high standards and sought clarification about whether minimum standards were applied.
- 5.5 Mark Williams referred to CLG guidance applicable to transit and residential sites. Gypsies and Travellers preferred consistent standards across the network however in reality transit provision was not equal to residential sites.
- 5.6 Elizabeth Cartwright voiced concern about inadequate funding and the legal requirement to provide transit sites to enable some Gypsies and Travellers living in houses to re-engage with travelling customs. She reported a minimum cost of £140,000 with one site costing £200,000.
- 5.7 David Edwards acknowledged that pitches were expensive. HCA was committed to developing a better understanding of the costs of an inherited programme. He reported a variation of standards with some very good sites and others being very poor. Affordable housing benefited from housing association funding and subsidy making comparison of the cost of affordable housing and accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers very difficult. He offered to present a report to the Board to facilitate a better, shared understanding of the comparative value for money and scope for more effective delivery.
- 5.8 Martin Tugwell reported that the Regional Housing and Regeneration Board (RHRB) would report on this to the Strategy Board in due course.
- 5.9 Catriona Riddell further advised that delivery issues related to the Policy Framework will be a critical part of discussions at the Examination in Public (EiP) during the first week in February 2010.
- 5.10 The Chairman suggested that the Board impose a caveat recording reservations about affordability and deliverability.
- 5.11 Catriona Riddell thought this approach was sensible. She reminded the Board that delivery relied on private sector investment, in addition to public sector funding and reported that some sites belonged to the Gypsy and Traveller Community.
- 5.12 Elizabeth Cartwright drew attention to the unsuitable locations of sites owned by the Gypsy and Traveller Community.

- 5.13 Martin Tugwell advised that the RHRB had included concerns about affordability and deliverability in its initial advice and therefore the Board simply needed to repeat the concern. It was agreed that this report will be included as an annex to the Partnership Board's EIP statements.
- 5.14 Responding to a question about monitoring Catriona Riddell confirmed the new Regional Strategy and Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) as the mechanisms for this.

The Board:

1. **Emphasised** the concerns of the RHRB, in its initial advice, about affordability and deliverability;
2. **Noted** the findings of the Regional Transit Study and
3. **Commended** the Regional Transit Study report and the 'network' approach it develops, as regional advice to inform local authority group-working on transit provision requirements.

## 6. Learning and Skills: Update

- 6.1 Alex Pratt responded to a question from the Chairman about how linkages would be made with the Economic and Skills Sub-regions and the skills identified through the Economic Assessments. He confirmed that the first meeting of the Economic Development and Skills Board (EDSB) had identified the need for close links with local authorities' responsibilities and the need to gather and simplify this information.

The Board **noted**:

- i) The requirement for the Regional Development Agency to prepare a Regional Skills Strategy and for that to be 'signed off' in partnership with the Leaders' Board;
- ii) That the Economic Development and Skills Board will act as the Sounding Board for the preparation of the Regional Skills Strategy.

## 7. East-West Rail

- 7.1 Martin Tugwell emphasised the key message that to ensure delivery the scheme needed to be supported as a critical piece of infrastructure with the potential to unlock 100,000 jobs and 100,000 homes over the next 20 years. Delivery required timely leadership at the highest level.

Points **noted** during the following discussion were:

- 7.2 Pam Charlwood envisaged a future scenario when the Board would be asked to commit funding to supplement investment from other sources. A climate of finite resources will accentuate the importance of accurate costing information to prioritise schemes against the big picture.
- 7.3 Martin Tugwell reported that the driver was the support in principle from the Secretary of State for Transport and indications of a contribution from the national budget. Delivery required broader ownership by the Strategy Board through the South East Strategy.
- 7.4 David Robertson referred to page 2, para 2.5 of the report of the RTB which offered reassurance on the funding options.

- 7.5 Responding to a question about how linkages will be made between different boards, Martin Tugwell explained this was the remit of the newly appointed RTB and RHRB Board Managers working with the Chairmen of the EDSB, RTB and RHRB.

The Board:

- a) **Noted** the Secretary of State for Transport's enthusiasm for the scheme and his commitment to work with the region's interests to help deliver it;
- b) **Expressed** the region's commitment to ensuring that the East-West Rail (Western Section) is delivered at the earliest possible opportunity due to its critical role as a piece of enabling infrastructure;
- c) **Instructed** the Partnership Board secretariat to work with Local Planning Authorities to ensure that mechanisms are put in place to enable a contribution towards the cost of the scheme to be secured through the planning system;
- d) **Requested** the Regional Transport Board consider and advise of the implications for the rest of the regional investment programme as a result of funds being identified to support delivery of East-West Rail (Western Section);
- e) **Requested** the Regional Transport Board to secure the commitment of partners in the East of England to support delivery of the scheme;
- f) **Instructed** the Partnership Board secretariat to continue to work with the East-West Rail Consortium in the preparation of the scheme business case and in the development of a funding package to enable its delivery.

## **8. Items for Information:**

### **8a. Regional Delivery Plan: Update**

The report was **noted**.

### **8b. Report from the Regional Transport Board Report, 23 October 2009**

- 8b.1 David Robertson reported that he had recently received the study on the Assessment of Surface Access Requirements at Airports in the Greater South East.
- 8b.2 The Chairman emphasised that this was a significant piece of work for the region. He asked Members to work together to deliver the best solution and ensure investment for a potential third Thames crossing.
- 8b.3 David Robertson encouraged all regional transport bodies to be engaged in the work of the RTB.

The report was **noted**.

**8c. Report from the Regional Economic Development and Skills Board, 17 November 2009**

The report was **noted**.

**8d. Report from the Planning Panel, 15 October 2009**

8d.1 Howard Ewing confirmed that the EiP report on the Aggregates Review will be published week beginning 30 November 2009.

8d.2 Moira Gibson reported that the Panel had expressed concern about the Community Infrastructure Levy in particular the timetable, dovetailing with core strategies and LDFs, authorities' ability to access the fund and the impact on access management of the Thames Basin Heaths.

8d.3 Howard Ewing reported that GOSE had made very strong representations on the matter to CLG.

The report was **noted**.

**8e. Regional Infrastructure Fund: Update**

8e.1 Keith Mitchell, CBE asked for regular reports to be made available on the Partnership Board and SEEDA websites, to ensure transparency. Martin Tugwell confirmed these arrangements.

The report was **noted**.

**8f. Partnership Board Financial results to 30 September 2009**

8f.1 Diana Pogson advised that the budget was tight this year as transitional funding from CLG had not been forthcoming.

The report was **noted**.

**9. Any Other Business**

9.1 There was none.

9.2 There being no further business the meeting closed at 15 19.

**10. Date of Next Meeting: 30 March 2010 at 10.30 at the Institute of Materials, London.**