

To: Nominated officer contacts for local authority groupings

Thursday 4 February 2010

Dear Colleague,

**LOCAL AUTHORITY EVIDENCE TO INFORM DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH EAST ENGLAND STRATEGY**

I am writing to confirm further details about the exercise to collect and collate evidence from local authorities to inform the development of a new regional strategy for the South East, as referred to in Cllr Moira Gibson's letter of 4 November 2009.

The South East England Partnership Board will be considering a final draft project plan for the new South East England Strategy on 9 February, and it is anticipated that this will form the basis of our formal notification to Government of our intention to start work on the new strategy.

In the meantime, we are keen to continue to build up both the 'top down', and importantly, the 'bottom up' evidence base to ensure that the Partnership Board is in a strong position to develop a new strategic framework for the South East.

Geographies for provision of information and advice

Firstly, can I thank you for your responses to Cllr Gibson's November letter. I am pleased to enclose a map showing the final groupings of authorities which will be used as the basis for the collection of evidence to inform the regional strategy.

Our initial request for information

Also enclosed with this letter is a document setting out details of our initial request for information from you in the form of a number of tables to be completed. The information we request will be used:

- To help us explore and present some strategic options for how the South East should develop over the next 20 -25 years.
- To develop Area Profiles, which we will use as part of the appraisal framework for testing spatial and policy options.

cont./.....

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the following important points:

1. The deadline for submission of the information set out in the attached schedules is **30 April 2010**.
2. We anticipate the submission of evidence to be a technical exercise which will not require sign-off by elected members.
3. The Partnership Board already holds a considerable amount of information in relation to some aspects of the 'bottom up' evidence base (for example collected for the Regional Monitoring Report, our Housing Market and Land Availability Study and our Employment Land Review Supplementary Guidance). We do not therefore require submission of this information again, unless new or updated information is available.
4. We would be very grateful for details of any draft or emerging work that you are able to share with us at this stage. We recognise that some important pieces of work (such as Local Economic Assessments) may be in the early stages of production, so would like to reassure you that, as well as this initial evidence gathering phase, there will be the chance to feed new 'bottom up' evidence into the strategy development at later stages.
5. We would ask that you complete the schedule provided as fully as possible, providing full source references, although we realise that you may not be able to answer all the questions set out in the attached document. We also recognise that it may not always be possible to properly reflect information or analysis in tabular format, and therefore will be happy to receive some aspects of your response in a report format if you consider this to be more appropriate.
6. As set out in Cllr Gibson's earlier letter, evidence relating to sub-regions identified within the South East Plan or Regional Economic Strategy (where it is gathered on this basis) will be collected separately from the lead contacts for sub-regional groups or partnerships as part of a separate exercise to review sub-regional policies for the regional strategy. However, please do cross reference such information where relevant in completing the attached schedule.

We would be happy to attend existing planning officer network meetings to discuss your progress on collating the information we are requesting and answer any questions or concerns you may have. Alternatively, if you would like to meet separately to talk about any aspect of the attached document with us, please contact Cath Rose on 01483 555235 or [catherinerose@se-partnershipboard.org.uk](mailto:catherinerose@se-partnershipboard.org.uk).

Yours Sincerely,



**Catriona Riddell**  
**Director of Planning**  
**South East England Partnership Board**

*Enclosures:*

1. *Map of authority groupings*
2. *Evidence tables*