

Committee	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date	<b>15 July 2005</b>
Report By	<b>Director of Transport and Environment</b>
Title of Report	<b>South East Plan consultations on district housing provision</b>
Purpose of Report	<b>To seek delegated authority for agreeing consultation proposals regarding future levels of housing provision in the districts of East Sussex.</b>

---

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Cabinet is recommended to agree to delegate to the Lead Members for Corporate Resources and for Transport and Environment the authority to approve for public consultation draft proposals on future levels of housing provision in each of the county's districts.**

---

---

### **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 Detailed proposals for the forthcoming public consultation programme on future housing provision in East Sussex have yet to be agreed with partners. However, the costs of this will be met from the additional resources made available in this year's budget to the Transport and Environment Department for work on the South East Plan. The South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) will also be contributing a modest amount towards the Council's overall consultation costs.

### **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 On the 13 July, SEERA's Plenary meeting will be taking key decisions on future housing requirements for the South East and how these should be distributed across the region at county and sub-regional level. Ultimately, the South East Plan – the new Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026 – will need to include such guidance figures for every district and unitary authority in the region.

2.2 County councils have played a very active role throughout the South East Plan process, particularly in respect of the preparation of strategy proposals for important sub-regions such as the Sussex Coast. They have also led earlier consultations to help ensure that local stakeholders are aware of the Plan's importance and able to engage with it.

2.3 As principal authorities leading on sub-regional aspects of the South East Plan, SEERA is looking to county and unitary authorities to advise it further on the distribution of future housing provision across the region. The Briefs for this work are available on request.

2.4 In accordance with the briefs, we will lead the further development of proposals for our coastal towns by continuing to work very closely with all the local planning authorities and other key partners under the auspices of the Members Steering Group for the Sussex Coast sub-region. Similar joint member/officer structures will also be established for taking forward technical work and developing equivalent proposals for the county's heartland.

2.5 It is a key principle of the new planning system that local communities should be able to influence important policy proposals as they are being developed. County Councils have

therefore agreed that they will organise public consultations on local housing targets, before submitting their strategic planning advice on district provisions to SEERA by 9 December.

2.6 The consultations will be carried out over a six-week period in September and October and co-ordinated with similar programmes for Brighton & Hove, West Sussex and the Gatwick Area sub-region.

2.7 The district-level housing proposals should sum to the control figures for both the county and (our parts of) the Sussex Coast sub-region that will be set by the Assembly on 13 July. The Assembly's Regional Planning Committee (RPC) is recommending that the South East as a whole should plan to provide 28,900 new homes per year to 2026. For East Sussex (including Brighton & Hove) it is recommending that provision should be made for 1,900 dwellings per year from 2006. This compares with a current requirement for 2,290 dwellings per year as set out in existing Regional Planning Guidance (RPG9) for the South East.

2.8 The RPC's proposal of 1,900 dwellings for this area is sub-divided to give overall target figures of 1,600 dwellings per year for the East Sussex coast (including Brighton & Hove) and 300 dwellings per year for the rest of the county. Final draft proposals for the district consultation figures will be considered by the Members' Steering Groups for the Sussex Coast and the rest of East Sussex in August.

2.9 In order to ensure Member agreement of the consultation proposals and as there is no further Cabinet meeting before the consultation period will have to start (in mid-September at the latest), delegated authority is being sought for Councillor Reid (as the Council's representative on SEERA and Lead Member for the Sussex Coast sub-region) and Councillor Lock (as Lead Member for Transport and Environment) to formally approve the draft district figures for consultation. The results of consultation and recommendations on the distribution to districts will be brought back to Members in due course.

### **3 Environmental Issues**

3.1 A wide-ranging assessment of the economic, social and environmental implications of different strategy options will be undertaken to help inform the housing consultation proposals in line with SEERA's requirements for sustainability appraisal.

### **4 Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

4.1 County councils have a statutory duty to advise SEERA on sub-regional aspects of the South East Plan and have agreed to conduct public consultations to inform their advice to the Assembly on district housing figures. As there is no further Cabinet before these consultations will need to start, delegated authority is needed for the Council to be able to lend its formal approval to the draft consultation proposals.

BOB WILKINS  
Director of Transport and Environment  
7 July 2005  
C15July-SEPlan-Consultations

Contact Officer: Paul Treadgold Tel. No. 01273 481804  
Local members: All