

East of England Plan Update

13th December 2004



East of England Regional Assembly suspends its endorsement of the Plan due to lack of central government funding

At the Regional Assembly meeting 5th November the Assembly voted to submit the Draft East of England Plan to the Deputy Prime Minister. The letter accompanying the submission stated that the Assembly did not believe it would be possible to deliver increased growth rates without significant investment in infrastructure.

Following an invitation by Lord Rooker the Assembly had previously submitted an infrastructure bid to Government in May 2004 to request infrastructure funding for the region through the Government's spending review 2005-2008.

The Government announced funding allocations relating to parts of that bid early in December 2004, and at its meeting on 10th December the Regional Assembly passed the following resolution on a 43/30 vote:

"The East of England Regional Assembly deplores the Government's grossly inadequate funding of the transport infrastructure costs associated with the additional 478,000 houses planned for this region between 2001-2021.

Bearing in mind that the Assembly's acceptance of this massive growth was conditional upon adequate government provision of the necessary infrastructure; and mindful of Lord Rooker's repeated written assurances that growth will not be imposed without the associated infrastructure, this Assembly wishes to make clear that it now regards its endorsement of the draft East of England Plan as suspended, pending a re-examination of the Government's willingness to support its own aspirations adequately in financial terms."

The Assembly requires this resolution to be distributed with all further copies of the draft East of England Plan, prominently displayed on the Assembly's website, conveyed to appropriate Government Ministers and submitted to the independent panel examining the Plan at the end of the Public Consultation period.

The Assembly reiterated its commitment to the public consultation on the draft East of England Plan in order to gauge response and gather comments on the development proposals.

Further Information:

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