



SOUTH EAST PLAN - EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

FACTSHEET 3: THE PROCESS

Events leading up to the Examination in Public (EiP)

1. The South East England Regional Assembly **submitted the draft South East Plan** to Government on March 31 2006. The Plan is a 20-year vision for the South East covering jobs, homes and the environment. It was produced following three years of research and public involvement.
2. An independent panel of **three inspectors**, appointed by the Secretary of State, held 12 weeks consultation on the submitted South East Plan from 31 March - 23 June 2006. The inspectors also have a small administrative team, who published summaries of all consultation responses on the EiP website (www.eipsoutheast.co.uk).
3. The inspectors toured selected sites in the region in May and October 2006 to familiarise themselves with some of the region's key areas and issues.
4. On 31 August 2006 the inspectors published their **proposals for topics** they wished to discuss at the EiP and the **organisations they planned to invite** (known as the draft list of matters and participants). These proposals were open for consultation for 28 days.
5. On 7 September 2006, the inspectors held a **Preliminary Meeting in Reading** asking organisations taking part in the EiP to consider whether there were any issues which could be resolved at side meetings before the EiP. The meeting also helped organisations gain a common understanding of information sources.
6. The **final list of matters and participants** was published on 12 October. To make efficient use of time allocated to each hearing, the inspectors have asked groups with similar views to join forces to make their points to the Panel. Inspectors have sent 'Notes to Participants' to all organisations taking part. These notes are also on the EiP website (www.eipsoutheast.co.uk).
7. A **Second Preliminary Meeting** was held in Reading on 17 October 2006 to explain how the examination is to be handled and to raise awareness of any new data or information made available to the inspectors.
8. **Written evidence statements** from the Assembly and other organisations, sent to the inspectors by 30 October, are available on the EiP website (www.eipsoutheast.co.uk).

The Examination in Public (EiP)

9. The EiP provides an opportunity for the discussion and testing, in public and before an independent Panel, of **selected issues** included in the South East Plan. The inspectors have selected the issues to be discussed and consulted on these (see 4 above). It is not an examination of the whole South East Plan, nor is it a hearing of all views submitted to the inspectors.

10. The EiP runs from **28 November 2006 to 30 March 2007**. The opening sessions are in Woking, followed by sessions in Chichester, Maidstone and Reading. The sessions will take the form of a round table debate, with questioning led by the inspectors. Each session is dedicated to a topic identified by the inspectors.

11. After the EiP, the inspectors will draft a report on the issues discussed at the examination. It is expected that the report will be available by the end of July 2007. The report will be sent to the Government Office for the South East who will publish it as soon as possible. The report will provide the main basis on which the Secretary of State can decide whether any changes need to be made to the draft Plan before it is issued in its final form.