



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England  
SOUTH EAST

## CPRE South East eBulletin

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*Over the last few days I have walked part of the Oxford Green Belt Way preparing for the July opening of this 50 mile route. It will be a timely statement of the importance of our green belts. But confidence is growing among those think tanks and lobbyists that wish green belt policy to be abolished or radically altered. Ruth Kelly's speech last week will add to that confidence. Despite her saying that the green belts are not under threat, she did leave the gateway open for major policy changes. We need to keep driving home the message that it is the **inner edges** of the green belts that are the most important, which is why they are the most under pressure. 2007 will go down in environmental history for last Friday's IPCC statement about the realities of climate change. Let us hope that our campaigning ensures that 2007 does not also go down as the year in which green belts were lost in all but name.*

### 1. South East Plan Examination in Public

The EiP is well underway, with near daily attendance by CPRE campaigners from around the South East.

**Sussex Coast.** At this session, CPRE questioned the logic of separating the coast from the rest of the county. There was general support, however, for using the southern edge of the AONB as a functional boundary. A major concern throughout was that subregional policies should address a specific policy deficit and not repeat, even undermine, regional policies. Environmental policy deficit was another issue; the subregional policies are being driven by economic considerations first and concern for environmental damage a poor second. There was a plea to use the high quality marine, environmental and heritage assets as a driver for economic regeneration, not as a constraint on development. Poor transport communications are seen as an inhibitor to growth. The Highways Agency is offering no major road-based solutions in the short-term and rail infrastructure was not even discussed. Developers, of course, argued for more housing and were unhappy with the environmental constraints. The affordable housing deficit of need against the planned levels is around 5,500 units a year. Problems of water supply and treatment were said to be unsolvable at subregional and regional level. *(From notes by Christine Drury.)*

**Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.** Environmental pressure in the SPA from housing and resultant recreational use is intense. "Mini-plans" are currently used to permit housing and define mitigation measures. A strategic approach for the entire SPA is needed. The Delivery Plan (<http://tinyurl.com/2j4rlv>) that sets out to do this has three main strategies:

- ◆ Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces (SANGS) to attract walkers away from the SAP (this is backed by Natural England but there is scepticism about the approach).
- ◆ Access management covering a range of issues from car parking to education.
- ◆ Habitat management.

The debate raised a lot of questions and gave few answers. It continues (<http://tinyurl.com/hyy6m>). *(From notes by Christine Drury and Edward Dawson.)*

**Buckinghamshire.** CPRE Bucks has published its EiP submissions online (Bucks: <http://tinyurl.com/2gn3oc>). The EiP is to allow extra time to discuss Milton Keynes in March (<http://tinyurl.com/2ug318>).

**Sussex.** CPRE has published its EiP submissions online (Sussex: <http://tinyurl.com/35ctcj>). Other CPRE submissions (<http://tinyurl.com/v9ey3>).

**Hampshire.** The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire, a body of local council leaders, warned government planners not to bulldoze over our countryside: "we have to show the government that it can't just bulldoze over Hampshire and concrete our green fields" (Portsmouth News: <http://tinyurl.com/2vmb95>; <http://tinyurl.com/ysb6r7>). Hampshire County Council is insisting that infrastructure is in place before housing goes ahead (This is Hampshire: <http://tinyurl.com/3ar35w>). But Eagle Star Insurance, part of the Zurich group, is using the EiP to once again put forward plans for a new town north of Winchester. Its current proposal is for 12,500 homes for 30,000 residents (This is Hampshire: <http://tinyurl.com/2ndhru>).

## 2. Planning in the South East

**Planning disaster.** A new campaign was launched at [www.planningdisaster.co.uk](http://www.planningdisaster.co.uk) in response to concerns that proposed changes to the planning system will reduce public involvement in decisions. The campaign, launched by a coalition of environmental and social organisations including CPRE, is calling on members of the public to email the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, to highlight their concerns (CPRE: <http://tinyurl.com/3asak9>).

**Infrastructure.** **Milton Keynes** Council wants a university, expansion of health care services, improved transport links, slower housing growth and more money to cope with the extra 48,000 houses the government wants to build over the next two decades (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/2rdxnf>). Paul Carter, leader of **Kent** County Council and a property developer, confronted the Housing and Planning Minister Yvette Cooper during a seminar this week at the House of Commons about the damage caused development without infrastructure funding (CIOB: <http://tinyurl.com/23g3ae>).

## 3. Planning Nationwide

**Green belts under attack (1).** "Britain's cities need to grow. It's time to start building on the green belt" is the view of Max Nathan of IPPR in a "web exclusive" published by the much respected social science magazine Prospect. Nathan says that "Britain needs more developed land... Green belts are valuable. But we cannot preserve them forever." (<http://tinyurl.com/2tkjkm>).

**Green belts under attack (2).** A report for the Policy Exchange said scrapping the 70-year-old rules would provide space to develop greener towns that were "safer, cleaner, more comfortable and... more environmentally friendly". "Confused, over-simplified and just plain wrong – a tissue of misinformation... it often contradicts itself" was how the Royal Town Planning Institute described the report (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/387c8a>). The Conservatives reacted angrily saying abandoning green belt rules would lead to environmental destruction on an "unprecedented" scale (The Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/367npg>).

**Green belts under attack (3).** The centre-right Policy Exchange claims has Britain's planning system has "fuelled spiralling house prices, the decline of manufacturing and a high cost of living and must be radically loosened". Their proposals include abandoning the centrally enforced green belt policy, financial incentives for councils to give projects the green light and national, not local, decisions on major projects. CPRE Chief Executive Shaun Spiers said "the Policy Exchange's radical attacks on planning are becoming increasingly tired and predictable, the kind of stuff which really does make economics sound like a dismal science." (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/yt49gl>; CPRE: <http://tinyurl.com/ys83kk>; Policy Exchange: <http://tinyurl.com/2c4sxx>).

**Green belts under attack (4).** CPRE said that since 1995 an average of 845 hectares of Green Belt land, more than three square miles, are being lost to development each year (<http://tinyurl.com/yur8ug>). There are 1,631,800 hectares of green belt in England, about 13% of the land area according to the latest data from DCLG (<http://tinyurl.com/29a8e5>).

**Green belts under attack (5).** "Move the green belts outwards." That is main message from Meg Munn, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at DCLG in response to the EiP into the East of England Plan (Goeast: <http://tinyurl.com/ytk8f7>). CPRE highlighted a damning report on the environmental impact of the Plan. Lawrence Wragg for CPRE's East of England was in Churchillian mood when he said: "Never in the field of environmental planning have so few attempted to hoodwink so many." (<http://tinyurl.com/22bqmh>)

**Green belts under attack (6).** Ruth Kelly says no "fundamental changes" are planned for green belt policy (see "White Paper" below).

**Green gardens under attack.** Chipping Barnet MP Theresa Villiers says that England faces losing many of its gardens to developers if planning regulations are not changed, and argues that the over-development of our suburbs has gone on for too long (Barnet & Potters Bar Times: <http://tinyurl.com/3dkdvw>).

**Munching.** Words shift their meanings. According to The Times, "munching is [now] the technical term for the deconstruction of buildings: digging machines gnaw away at the carcass of a building ripe for demolition until nothing is left standing. Pulling down buildings is, like, so yesterday" (<http://tinyurl.com/yp7cx3>).

**Checklist SE.** SEEDA has launched a new website to help developers improve the sustainability of their proposals (<http://tinyurl.com/32vlf8>; Checklist SE: <http://tinyurl.com/36gbwc>)

**Government land.** The TCPA has argued that more data on the estimated 4,500 hectares of surplus public land should be made available and that ministers should have more powers to stop Whitehall selling off land, estimated to be worth £10bn, to the highest bidder and from sitting on land to maximise its value. (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/yp7bfl>).

**DCLG rebuffed.** Councillors have won their battle to prevent Yvette Cooper taking planning control of Cambridgeshire's massive new town, Northstowe (Cambridge News: <http://tinyurl.com/2wu5bx>).

**Sustainable communities.** Why does the heart sink when the government issues a guide on "the shaping of sustainable, mixed communities"? But DCLG knows best and you can read about it at <http://tinyurl.com/ytl17y>.

**Gated Britain.** There are now more than a thousand gated communities in England, most of them built in the past five years (The Independent: <http://tinyurl.com/32k995>).

**Home Information Packs.** The Government strengthened its commitment to Energy Performance Certificates, saying they must be included in the property particulars (DCLG: <http://tinyurl.com/2yzarm>).

**Local plans.** Across the country, planning authorities are preparing, consulting and sometimes struggling with Local Development Frameworks, at the hub of which is the Core Strategy. But one of the first such Core Strategies has been rejected as unsound and an angry Ryedale District Council in Yorkshire plans to take the case to court (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/39858f>).

**Friends of the Earth** has launched a national environmental legal advice line. The free phone service has been set up by the organisation's Rights & Justice Centre, which aims to help people understand their rights and use the law to defend and improve their local environment (<http://tinyurl.com/yryxlu>).

**Planning Aid South.** Planning Aid offers free, independent and professional advice on planning issues to community groups and individuals who cannot afford to pay a planning consultant. Casework Helpline: help with planning advice on law, procedures and regulations on 0870 240 7552.

**Future Planners.** CPRE is among those launching a report today that argues that old-fashioned notions of private and public value have led to planners having to manage competing demands of economic progress and environmental sustainability. CPRE's Paul Miner said: "It's about time we had a serious debate about the role of land in society today. Far too often planners are seen as the cause of policy failures, a perception that is far from the truth. The fact is that skilled planners are needed if we're to face the challenges of sustaining economic growth, promoting social justice and improving environmental quality." (<http://tinyurl.com/247qqf>).

#### 4. "Moving Towards the Planning White Paper"

Ruth Kelly gave a speech to the Royal Town Planning Institute about the forthcoming White Paper, which will embrace the Barker and Eddington Reports (full text: <http://tinyurl.com/2olyam>):

- ◆ **Green belts "not under attack".** "Some are concerned that accepting Kate Barker's recommendations will lead to the end of green belts across the country. Nothing could be farther from truth. We don't buy the free market approach advocated by some of the think tanks [but] it is right that we look at our existing approach... we need to consider Kate's findings about commuters 'jumping' green belts because they

cannot live nearer to town centres... I have no intention of making fundamental change to green belt policy—just making sure it is fit for purpose in 21st century England."

- ◆ **Independent Planning Commission.** The regime for major infrastructure projects will have three stages:
  - ◆ strategic: led by Government, subject to wide-ranging consultation, and resulting in a statement of national policy for the particular infrastructure sector
  - ◆ scheme development: led by the promoter, with public consultation
  - ◆ decision stage: led by an Independent Planning commission, which would assess applications and include the inquiry phase.
- ◆ **Town Centres.** "Some are worried that if we remove the 'needs test' we will undermine our town centres... I want to be clear that we do not want to return to the free for all of the 1980s. Our policies will continue to be about creating great towns, not ghost towns."
- ◆ **Development Plan Documents,** which set the overall planning strategy for an area, are being delivered too slowly by planning authorities and half have not been up to scratch. Planning capacity must be improved.
- ◆ **Public Consultation.** "Some have said that our proposals will undermine local public involvement and consultation. Not so. Our challenge is not to reduce public engagement, but to make it more effective."

## 5. Housing

**Communities England** will merge the functions of English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation, and a range of work carried out by the DCLG, including delivery of decent homes, housing market renewal, housing PFI, housing growth and urban regeneration (DCLG: <http://tinyurl.com/yr2c6x>; 24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/yvy2ve>).

**Affordable housing is largely down to S106.** Of the 23,350 social rent houses built in England in 2005–06, 61% were as a result of Section 106 agreements; 51% of all affordable housing (including market housing) resulted from S106. In the South East the statistics were 84% and 67% (Hansard: <http://tinyurl.com/2bhvbk>).

**£60,000 house idea blown over.** A timber-framed crescent of modular housing units in the middle of Leeds is to be demolished after becoming unstable in high winds. The scheme was one of John Prescott's £60K housing schemes and was built in only 3 weeks (The Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/3eypdo>).

**Review of Housing Strategy.** The South East Regional Housing Board is consulting on £1.3 billion of investment in housing over the next three years. Its main priority remains affordable housing but rural housing is not to be given any more money. Instead, small towns will get some extra funding. There are no plans to increase funding for gypsy and traveller sites. The consultation runs until 27 April (<http://tinyurl.com/38pw39>).

## 6. Transport

**Stansted airport** will double in size and accommodate more passengers than the current Heathrow under a £2.3 billion plan announced by BAA. It will consume 486 hectares of Essex countryside, 73 homes and 18 listed buildings, and expose 3,900 people to "excessive" noise (The Times: <http://tinyurl.com/2xuy4b>; BAA: <http://tinyurl.com/ywqzhz>). The East of England Regional Assembly has restated its opposition to the second runway (EERA: <http://tinyurl.com/3ybfjv>).

**Heathrow.** Residents of West London are training in direct action to oppose the development of a third runway. "People are so fed up and angry... This will be the Twyford Down of the air." (The Independent: <http://tinyurl.com/2sweme>).

**Shoreham Airport.** Informal consultation has begun on proposals for redevelopment of the listed terminal building, and a new Aviation Square and operations centre (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/3ypxlu>).

**Lydd Airport.** A small-scale application has been submitted as a precursor plans for a huge expansion. CPRE Kent argues that any assessment of potential damage should be made against the developer's aspirations of two million and six million passengers per annum. "There are so many things which make Lydd a dreadfully inappropriate site for a major regional airport," said Jim Little, CPRE Kent's campaigns officer. "There is a nuclear power station a mile and a half away from the runway, the airport is hemmed in by two of the country's most sensitive military firing ranges and the nearest houses are just 1,100 metres from where the jets would be

touching down. CPRE Kent's submission to the council will energetically advocate a complete refusal of this misbegotten scheme." (CPRE Kent: <http://tinyurl.com/2axx4w>).

**Air pollution.** Growing up near a major road can damage the development of children's lungs, a Californian study in The Lancet suggests (The Times: <http://tinyurl.com/3djyln>).

**Air taxes.** BA, EasyJet and Virgin told MPs that they are serious about cutting emissions but Gordon Brown's air passenger duty did not create an incentive to invest in cleaner technology (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/3xn4e4>).

**Clutter.** Winchelsea in Sussex is claiming to have the most roadside clutter. There were once 220 signs in a town of 290 houses, 93 were taken down, but now 63 have been put up. Among those blamed is the cycling charity, Sustrans (Rye & Battle: <http://tinyurl.com/36m4cy>). CPRE Hampshire is campaigning is helping to get the A32 (Meon Valley Road) anti-clutter project extended to wider treatment of villages to improve safety, using ideas of shared space for vehicles and pedestrians. The project intends to develop guidelines for use across the county and countryside.

**Road pricing.** 450,000 people have signed an anti-road pricing petition (Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/yvwtb8>).

**Speeding.** New guidelines will allow speed cameras to be installed before there have been at least three crashes resulting in death or serious injury in the preceding three years (The Times: <http://tinyurl.com/3y4ydg>).

**Dartford Crossing.** Capacity on the M25 at Dartford could be increased by 33% if drivers paid tolls electronically and did not have to stop. CPRE Kent director Dr Hilary Newport insisted that a new Lower Thames Crossing would 'be hugely harmful to north Kent's dwindling green spaces... it would have a serious impact on north Kent's natural environment. A new road through the Cliffe marshes, for example, would destroy tranquillity, be immensely damaging to the area's wildlife and bring a rash of associated development to a profoundly rural area." (CPRE Kent: <http://tinyurl.com/2xbpoz>).

**Biofuels.** An Oxfordshire biotechnology company is set to develop a new low-cost 'next generation' biofuel; butanol is produced from the fermentation of sugars (GNN: <http://tinyurl.com/2bapww>).

**Transport Board.** The Dartford Crossing, the Eddington Review and the Olympics were among items discussed at the Regional Transport Board on 1 February (<http://tinyurl.com/3852cz>).

## 7. Water

**Water stressed areas.** The Environment Agency has published proposals to classify areas of England according to their relative level of water stress and is seeking views on its methods (<http://tinyurl.com/ywmx2n>; deadline 24 April 2007). The report proposes a three level water stress scale:

- ◆ **Serious:** Highest level of water efficiency activity; could include allowing compulsory metering
- ◆ **Moderate:** Enhanced levels of activity; could include providing water saving devices
- ◆ **Low:** Standard level of activity; could include increased communication with water users.

The whole of South East England is classified as "serious" (map: <http://tinyurl.com/2uds7w>). The Times says that this means that compulsory water metering is on the way for the South East (<http://tinyurl.com/335gvm>). "Compulsory water meters to return under Labour U-turn" (The Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/2moc7d>).

**Ofwat savaged.** The head of Ofwat hit back at claims of "flabby" management telling MPs that the water regulator had considered legal action against Thames Water every year since 2000 over its dismal record on water leakages. Despite persistently failing to meet Ofwat's targets, the company's former German owner RWE took £1 billion in dividends out of the company in five years (The Times: <http://tinyurl.com/36ems7>).

**Upper Thames Reservoir.** Countryfile on BBC1 on 28 January examined the arguments for and against the reservoir, with Andy Boddington speaking for CPRE. Thames Water is currently consulting on the detailed design of the reservoir despite widespread scepticism on the need for such a large resource (CPRE Oxfordshire: <http://tinyurl.com/ynjbxq>).

**Water is wealth.** "Rain has been a cornerstone to the developing wealth of the nation... Without this abundance of water over the years, the South East would not have become the most densely populated part of Europe." CPRE Kent's Jim Little writes on the South East's water problems in Kent Life (<http://tinyurl.com/ykndl6>).

## 8. Environment and Heritage

**Siege of Radley Lakes ends.** Power company npower will soon begin to dump ash into Thrupp Lake at Radley, Oxfordshire. A skull and crossbones flag has fluttered from the top of a makeshift scaffolding tower alongside the lake, and ecowarriors on the site planned to chain themselves to the top of a tower to foil bailiffs (Oxford Mail: <http://tinyurl.com/2rmboq>; <http://tinyurl.com/39s6yy>; CPRE Oxfordshire: <http://tinyurl.com/yztntc>). But early on 6 February, the ecowarriors were evicted (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/3bwcqk>).

**Quiet, please.** Andrew Martin rails about an ever more noisy Britain and looks forward to Defra's National Noise Strategy (The Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/2sn8pq>).

**Take a view**, the Landscape Photographer of the Year Award is open for entries (<http://tinyurl.com/yvtfme>).

**Tree gift.** CPRE has donated trees to a common at Cookham Common (Maidenhead Advertiser: <http://tinyurl.com/2oab5s>)

**Laser blasts.** CPRE Hampshire has joined a chorus of complaints about four 15 mile-long green laser beams that Southampton city council wishes to use to light the night sky. (Southern Echo: <http://tinyurl.com/23z4rq>; The News: <http://tinyurl.com/344duq>; CPRE Hampshire: <http://tinyurl.com/ysy864>). Roy Haycock, Sussex CPRE chairman, put the light pollution in context. "We are not asking people to turn all lights off. But we would ask Highway Authorities, supermarkets, and those responsible for sports grounds and car parks to ensure that lighting is directed downwards and properly sited and controlled. This message is now getting across to many, including local authorities. Sadly, Southampton's laser light proposal will, if it goes ahead, be seen as a gratuitous snub to all those who are working to minimise light pollution." Southampton City Council has now said it will conduct trials in the autumn (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/2qkrw5>; CPRE: <http://tinyurl.com/2u5lzs>). SEEDA is backing the project financially (Southampton City Council: <http://tinyurl.com/32qlum>).

**Dorset heathlands.** Local authorities, faced with an embargo on development to protect the heathlands, have agreed a framework of mitigation measures (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/2kop8y>).

**Nuclear waste.** Professor David Ball and Dr Keith Baverstock who resigned from the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) have alleged that chaotic organisation drove the committee to approve an option for deep storage of high-level nuclear waste (The Independent: <http://tinyurl.com/2cc6tj>).

**EA advisors.** The Environment Agency seeking applications and nominations for vacancies on its Regional Environment Protection Advisory Committees. Details from Chris Galvin on 0118 9535848.

## 9. Energy and Climate Change

**Wind power.** CPRE is backing a wind turbine in **Totley**, near Sheffield, saying "the turbine's environmental benefit outweighs the "unavoidable" visual impact." (Sheffield Star: <http://tinyurl.com/29gxc9>). **Glyndebourne** Opera has angered conservationists with plans for a 70-metre wind turbine on a hill in the South Downs area of outstanding natural beauty (The Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/29ezbq>; Seaford Today: <http://tinyurl.com/3deve5>). CPRE Sussex joined in the criticism. Roy Haycock, chairman, said that although the wind turbine "would not reduce annual emissions because when the turbine is operating at optimum efficiency between October and March the opera house is closed." **The Big Debate:** Are wind turbines a good thing for farming? In an online poll, 60% of readers of Farmers Weekly think wind-farms are good for farming. (Farmers Weekly: <http://tinyurl.com/3d4mzk>). BP has been given permission for six 80m (262ft) turbines at a disused fuel terminal on the Isle of Grain (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/yqsgjm>).

**Incineration.** The row over the Belvedere Energy from Waste Incinerator in Bexley continues, with local authorities warning that London could face gridlock as waste is sent to landfill sites via 100,000 truck journeys a year (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/3arz8e>). Surrey County Council has withdrawn two green belt sites for a potential incinerator after concerns were raised for wildlife (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/39p3lj>).

**Global warming** is caused by mankind, is here to stay and is getting worse, leading climate scientists have concluded. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report by more than 2,000 scientists, said that world temperatures could increase by 3C by 2100. It also projected that sea levels were most likely to rise by 28–43cm and said global warming was likely to influence the intensity of tropical storms. The panel concluded that it was at least 90% certain that human emissions of greenhouse gases rather than natural variations are

warming the planet's surface. (IPCC: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>; more on this report in the CPRE Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing today: <http://tinyurl.com/sgtlz>)

## 10. Rural Matters

The **Sustainable Communities Bill** has cleared the first stage of the House of Commons (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/3d8pq5>; The Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/2pqbk5>). More information on this Bill which aims to support local services and communities at [www.localworks.org](http://www.localworks.org).

**Farm incomes** rose by ten per cent last year, bolstered by higher prices for cereals, potatoes, cattle and beef, but dairy farms continued to do badly (The Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/23nngd>).

**The place of "rural" in government.** A somewhat bureaucratic report from the Commission for Rural Communities aims to help Defra and others with an interest in 'rural' to think about how this can be best managed, nationally regionally and locally, in the future. It calls for stronger "rural proofing" (the almost non-existent process through which all government policies should have regard for their rural impact) and more bodies like the Affordable Housing Commission (<http://tinyurl.com/38gk6r>).

The **Competition Commission** is to turn its attention to local markets as it continues its investigation into the market for supply of groceries. The CC's provisional view is that food manufacturers, processors and wholesalers are holding their own against the supermarket giants. The CC is concerned about farmers, especially those supplying pig meat and dairy products, but it says that farmers have not been forthcoming with examples of unfair treatment by the supermarkets (CC report: <http://tinyurl.com/ysaqvg>).

**Supermarket statistics.** Grocery sales have increased by 17% since 2000 to £123.5 billion while prices have fallen 7% in real terms. Supermarket sales are up 26%, convenience stores 19% but specialist grocery stores, such as butchers and greengrocers, are only up by 1%. There are 2% less supermarkets, 8% less convenience stores and 7% less specialist grocery stores. The big four supermarkets have more than doubled the number of their stores. (More statistics in The Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/338m93>).

## 11. Government in the South East

SEERA, "The Government should quit meddling and devolve." is the essence of the Assembly's response to the Lyons Review on local government funding (<http://tinyurl.com/2r4ndb>).

## 12. Abbreviations and Links

DCLG: [Department of Communities and Local Government](#). EiP: [Examination in Public](#). GOSE: [Government Office of the South East](#). SEEDA: [South East England Development Agency](#). SEERA: [South East England Regional Assembly](#). SPA: [Special Protection Area](#). TBHSPA: [Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area](#).

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