



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
SOUTH EAST

CPRE South East eBulletin

16 July 2007

There was no eBulletin in June and now, in July, we seem to have a new government. Read on for a summary of news over the last two months and for what we know so far about Gordon Brown's government.

1. Regional Government

SEEDA. The South East Regional Economic Strategy published in October 2006 "establishes the Vision for the South East, to be a world class region achieving sustainable prosperity by 2016". SEEDA are now consulting on the implementation strategy for "14 Targets, with 75 associated Actions, and a further 8 Transformational Actions, that have particular potential to deliver the strategic goals." (SEEDA: <http://tinyurl.com/24wdd2>). Deadline 24th August 2007. Responses to Robert Nolan, Head of Policy, SEEDA, Cross Lanes, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1YA or to res@seeda.co.uk. SEEDA has appointed Oona Muirhead to lead the Agency's actions to reduce the region's ecological footprint (eGov: <http://tinyurl.com/33bdn5>).

SEERA to be abolished. It is widely expected that there will be announcement this week that the regional assemblies will be abolished, with a transfer of many powers to Regional Development Agencies. The plans are criticised by the Conservatives who claimed that they were undemocratic. Eric Pickles, the Shadow Communities Secretary, said that Labour was trying to remove the key tier of opposition to its plans to build hundreds of thousands of homes in the South and South East. Keith Mitchell, chairman of the South East England Regional Assembly, said: "The assembly gives elected local councillors the power to make decisions on housing, transport, the economy and the environment that are too big for a single local authority to make. Without the assembly these decisions would be made by quangos or remote civil servants" (Times: <http://tinyurl.com/2aeh78>).

South East Plan. The Inspector's report and recommendations on the South East Plan will be submitted to the government at the end of the month. Publication is expected in August. Timetable:

End of July: EiP inspectors report recommends any changes they think may be needed for the South East Plan.

21 September: The government publishes any proposed changes it wants to make to the South East Plan.

21 September to 14 December: Government consultation on any proposed changes to the South East Plan.

December to February 2008: Government considers consultation responses

29 February 2008: Final South East Plan is published by Government and becomes a legal document.

2. Planning in the South East

West Sussex. Brighton and Hove City Council has submitted its support for Albion's new stadium at Falmer to the Local Government Secretary (Argus: <http://tinyurl.com/2es2c2>). The ruling has been decision until 25 July (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/yq5eyr>). South East England Development Agency announced major investments of £23 million for redevelopment projects in Brighton and Hove (<http://tinyurl.com/2xxdxb>).

East Sussex. East Sussex County Council is confident that a public inquiry into the CPO for the controversial Newhaven incinerator will not deflect its plans (Argus: <http://tinyurl.com/2xlwpa>). East Sussex council has submitted detailed proposals for the Hastings to Bexhill link road for a six-week consultation. Transport 2000 and environmental groups have called on the scheme to be re-assessed (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/29r994>).

Glyndebourne. A 230ft wind turbine designed to supply energy to world-renowned Glyndebourne Opera House has gained planning consent in the face of opposition, including from CPRE. The application must now go before Communities Secretary Hazel Blears who will decide whether to hold a public inquiry before any work can start. The district council said: "It was decided by the councillors that the need for sustainability in the future was more important than the visual loss that the turbine would have on the landscape" (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/yq3314>). CPRE vowed to continue the fight (<http://tinyurl.com/2gjkyyw>).

Surrey. The Core Strategy for Epsom and Ewell has been approved. It will allow for housing development without the release of Green Belt land (icSurrey: <http://tinyurl.com/3af3cn>).

Thames Gateway slammed. Government attempts to regenerate the Thames Gateway, the biggest regeneration programme in western Europe, are being blighted by poor planning and rudderless leadership, according to the National Audit Office (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/2go2rr>; Kent News: <http://tinyurl.com/3x1w64>). "Britain's biggest planning fiasco" (Times: <http://tinyurl.com/3dutf8>). "The Thames Gateway is a place of rich history and eerie beauty. But 120,000 homes are being plonked down on it as if it were a cultureless wasteland." Tristram Hunt in the Guardian (<http://tinyurl.com/22vpht>). Gordon Brown has blamed the planning process for the delay in the massive house-building project at the Thames Gateway and denied claims that the lack of progress was as a result of his refusal to properly fund the project (Kent News: <http://tinyurl.com/2pdb25>).

Hampshire. CPRE Hart and Rushmoor District Group said Ruth Kelly relied on flawed evidence that played down the potential harm to the Thames Basin heaths from developments in Hartley Wintney in Hampshire (Southern Daily Echo: <http://tinyurl.com/2fubtb>). Developers are threatening the 17th-century home and studio of Mary Beale, Britain's first professional female painter (Observer: <http://tinyurl.com/ywqnh7>).

South Downs National Park. The government is re-opening the consultation into England's 10th National Park after more than two years of legal delays (Natural England: <http://tinyurl.com/2lawkl>). Campaigners have welcomed news the process is at finally back on track. Defra is also expected to publish the results of the public inquiry which ended in 2004 (Mid Sussex Today: <http://tinyurl.com/3a94np>). Emma Marrington for CPRE said: 'Now that the South Downs National Park designation process is back on track the Government needs to keep its promise: confirm the National Park, include all the land which merits national protection, and establish a National Park Authority with full planning powers.' (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/yudqkx>). The northern edge has moved south since the 2002 blueprint, leaving out Liss and Petersfield in Hampshire, and Midhurst and Petworth in West Sussex. A coach park for a new stadium at Falmer is now outside the boundary (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/ysnaby>). Actor Brian Blessed saw 100 walkers set off on a nine-mile hike to protest at the boundaries; they want the Low Weald reinstated into the proposed park (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/23cfbf>).

Berkshire. The green belt and housing was among the issues examined during the Examination in Public into Maidenhead's Local Development Framework (Advertiser: <http://tinyurl.com/yvrqra>). Reading topped the list of fastest-growing cities with Southampton also featuring in the top five, according to the IPPR's Centre for Cities (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/ypkhrx>).

Oxfordshire. Boris Johnson launched the CPRE Oxford Green Belt Way on Friday, while trying to duck media questions on his mayoral bid. The 50-mile way celebrates 50 years of Oxford's green belt and 75 years of Oxfordshire CPRE (<http://www.greenbeltway.org.uk/>). The Radley Lakes town green hearing has ended and a recommendation on town green status is expected in August (<http://tinyurl.com/yztntc>). CPRE Oxfordshire awarded the CPRE mark to the Friends of the Trap Grounds for a campaign that has enabled and inspired campaigns to save green spaces around the country (<http://tinyurl.com/2qno5a>). CPRE Oxfordshire clashed with Oxford City planners when it claimed that 177 acres of green space in the city could be lost to housing (MP3 recording: <http://tinyurl.com/2bshua>). The claim was in part based on a confidential list of sites obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (Oxford Times: <http://tinyurl.com/2aslg5>; <http://tinyurl.com/2f2xxf>).

3. Planning and Housing Nationwide

Planning. The Planning Inspectorate has published guidance from its early experience of examining Local Development Plan documents (<http://tinyurl.com/3a5646>) and on Core Strategies (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/2epmpz>). The Local Government Association published a pamphlet setting out the key messages in the changes proposed for Local Development Frameworks (<http://tinyurl.com/27hzm8>).

St Paul's to go up in flames. Again! An application to build an incinerator on the site of St Paul's Cathedral in London has been delivered to the Corporation of London's Planning Office. The application was made by the Planning Disaster Coalition whose members include CPRE to highlight how the proposals in the planning White Paper will remove the public's democratic right to challenge projects at public inquiries (Green Building: <http://tinyurl.com/ynmr98>).

Flooding. Only 46% of high risk flood protection systems, like those safeguarding urban areas, had met their target condition by March 2007, said the prescient National Audit Office (<http://tinyurl.com/2e5d8w>). A £500K scheme to improve flood resilience of homes was announced in the wake of the flooding (Defra: <http://tinyurl.com/yqpfbs>). Five times as many homes and businesses were flooded by overflowing drains and sewers as were affected by river flooding in the recent floods according to the Environment Agency. (EA: <http://tinyurl.com/2kpydt>).

Paved with gold. A report from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment says investment in good street design brings financial returns and improvements that people value (<http://tinyurl.com/24g9vc>).

BoKlok homes. Nine flat-packed "Ikea" villages could be built in Britain within a year (Times: <http://tinyurl.com/2hg3kw>).

4. Transport

Weymouth relief road. CPRE and Transport 2000 are asking for a judicial review of the decision to construct the Weymouth relief road say the route would cut through an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Shaun Spiers, chief executive of CPRE, said: "We would be failing in our role to protect the countryside if we did not take this important legal action." (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/29vryk>). The legal action is generating lively, and often uncomplimentary, comments on the Dorset Echo website (<http://tinyurl.com/yse6nz>).

Commuting spreads. Urban workers moving to the countryside have led to big changes in commuting within England and Wales. In just 10 years, a national commuting corridor running along the spine of England, from London to Liverpool, has widened towards the Welsh border in the west, and East Anglia and Lincolnshire in the east. It has also stretched from London down to the south coast (Independent: <http://tinyurl.com/27skwy>).

Local transport. The Department for Transport is consulting on the draft Local Transport Bill, which aims to cut congestion and improve public transport. Deadline: 7 September 2007 (<http://tinyurl.com/22rrqe>).

Air. Manchester, Birmingham International and Luton have now all dropped their plans to build new runways (Greenpeace: <http://tinyurl.com/2eper8>). Plans for a new terminal at **Coventry** have been rejected (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/ywjsrv>). A public inquiry has begun into a bid by the British Airport Authority to expand passengers at **Stansted** by 10 million a year. Hatfield Forest, described as a Stonehenge of the tree world, is threatened by pollution from the expansion (Independent: <http://tinyurl.com/2k2xxa>; Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/26dng6>). Noise from **Heathrow** is a 'significant' problem across the whole of London, with even people on the opposite side of the capital from the airport suffering distress (Observer: <http://tinyurl.com/26ljtd>). A new terminal, called Heathrow East, has been given planning permission to replace the existing Terminals 1 and 2 (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/3dzvxy>). Thousands of green campaigners are planning to cause massive disruption at Heathrow. "Eco-warriors" say they will set up a Greenham Common-style protest camp near the perimeter fence (Daily Mail: <http://tinyurl.com/2nhffq>). **British Airways** has been voted as the brand with the worst attitude towards the environment (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/2gfu5u>).

Rail. Ministers are close to approving a £3.5bn overhaul of the former Thameslink route through London. Gordon Brown is also understood to favour the £10bn Crossrail project (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/37gao6>). Airports are reporting fewer domestic travellers and trains becoming ever more full (Reuters: <http://tinyurl.com/2dqa9e>).

Canals. The Government is considering the privatisation of Britain's canal system, though Defra says that "privatisation of British Waterways is not government policy" (Daily Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/3yzs6a>).

SE projects at risk? The South East England Regional transport board wants the government to be more realistic about budgets and allow for actual inflation (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/29m6gb>).

5. Water

Upper Thames Reservoir. Thames Water ignored objections the many voiced during its consultation that the case for the Upper Thames Reservoir had not been adequately made, and rushed ahead with consultation on detailed design of the reservoir. But now Thames Water has been sent back to the beginning of the process by long-expected amendments to the Water Industry Act, which came into effect in April. The planning process is likely to be delayed by two years (CPRE: <http://tinyurl.com/2ch6y4>; Thames Water: <http://tinyurl.com/2bug52>; Environment Agency: <http://tinyurl.com/2vxx7q>).

Desalination. Ken Livingstone is considering a legal challenge to the Government's announcement that it is 'minded to approve' Thames Water's plans to build a £200m desalination plant at Beckton (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/2bwc5c>).

6. Energy

Biomass will take up nearly four counties. The Biomass Strategy is the government's response to the Biomass Task Force report last year. It assumes an increase in the amount of energy crops grown to meet the UK market, with the potential to use up to a further 350,000 ha of farmland across the UK by 2020. The report estimates the total land availability for biofuel and energy crops to be about 1million ha (2.47m acres), equivalent to 17% of the total UK arable land area or 3.8 times the area of Oxfordshire (Defra: <http://tinyurl.com/38ft3g>). The Royal Institution said that producing biofuels from food crops is at best a temporary measure to satisfy political demands to make consumers' energy consumption greener. In the long term it is unsustainable, as is much of modern, artificial fertiliser-based agriculture (Farmers Weekly: <http://tinyurl.com/282bx3>).

Nuclear matters. The government is consulting on geological disposal (i.e. deep burial) of nuclear waste. Deadline 2 November 2007 (Defra: <http://tinyurl.com/ynk2za>). The government announced it was selling a £2.2bn stake in nuclear power generator British Energy (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/2cwntw>). RWE npower has rejected the idea of a nuclear plant on its Didcot site, an option suggested in a DTI report. But report author Ian Jackson said: "Would it surprise me if a nuclear power station was built at Didcot? No, it wouldn't." (Herald: <http://tinyurl.com/2wk3qf>).

Coal. A decision is expected within weeks about whether Britain is to build the first coal-fired power station for more than 20 years at Kingsnorth in Kent (Observer: <http://tinyurl.com/2cn9jp>).

7. Environment and Heritage

Light pollution. Plans to light up the skies above Southampton with night time lasers have been abandoned (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/yrf14m>). CPRE opposed the scheme (<http://tinyurl.com/2dn8pj>). Isle of Wight CPRE has made it first Good Lighting Awards as part of its campaign for Dark Skies (<http://tinyurl.com/22r9yp>). Bat conservationists have joined the campaign against light pollution aiming to the dramatic declines in bat populations found in lit-up areas. The Thames Landscape Strategy, which has won a £500,000 grant to aid bats, is campaigning to stop a project to light up riverside gardens in Kingston and has proposed plans to reduce lighting along other areas of the riverbank (Observer: <http://tinyurl.com/25t2c8>).

Noise. The National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection says that 70% of us are troubled by noise in our localities while 45% say it has a significant impact on our lives (Edie: <http://tinyurl.com/39hj8a>).

Woodland. Defra's new *Strategy for England Trees, Woods and Forests* highlights the potential of natural resources to improve life for people and wildlife but climate change is the main theme. "Climate change is the biggest challenge—sustainable managed woodlands can help to cut carbon emissions, and we must plan and act now if our woodlands are to be adaptable to future conditions" (Defra: <http://tinyurl.com/2c5oq5>).

Chiltern boards complaint. CPRE and others have criticised new information boards which have been set up on Whiteleaf Cross, saying the are badly sited (Aylesbury Today: <http://tinyurl.com/yqbmnf>)

Birds. The latest UK survey of Dartford warblers shows that numbers have soared by 70% since the last count in 1994. But the bird remains vulnerable, and on the Thames Basin Heaths in Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey, where surrounding land is being targeted by house builders, numbers fell by 40% from 2005 to 2006. (RSPB: <http://tinyurl.com/2g24ax>). Woodlarks are returning to the countryside (Times: <http://tinyurl.com/3yj8ha>).

8. Rural Matters

Tracking Change in the English Landscape. A report produced by Natural England, English Heritage and Defra monitors changes landscape between 1998 and 2003. Of England's 159 Joint Character Areas, 10% have been enhanced, 51% have been maintained, 20 % are neglected and 19% are diverging (where new landscape characteristics are emerging). Some of the changes are due to agricultural changes such as fewer animals grazing pasture and new crops being planted. Others are due to development; for example, new business parks and housing (Natural England: <http://tinyurl.com/2bwsan>). Tom Oliver, CPRE's head of rural policy, said: "If 40% of our hospitals or schools were suffering from serious neglect or damaging change, people would rightly be alarmed and wanting answers" (Times: <http://tinyurl.com/2fb67y>). The fifth Countryside Survey will audit the environmental assets of the British countryside (Edie: <http://tinyurl.com/26nvem>).

Rural communities must be free to raise their own taxes, elect new leaders, and plan their own futures if they are not to fall into poverty and neglect, said a Carnegie trust commission (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/3285yn>; Carnegie: <http://tinyurl.com/yuvtwf>). One in five residents of rural England is living in poverty but many of their richer neighbours are unaware of the deprivation in their midst, according to the Liberal Democrats (<http://tinyurl.com/2xd5yl>). A Commission for Rural Communities report highlights the value of post office income to rural shops (<http://tinyurl.com/yos6c3>). The **Sustainable Communities Bill** passed through the House of Commons and will now proceed to the House of Lords (Local Works: <http://www.localworks.org/>).

State of the Countryside 2007. The rural population is both older and ageing faster than the urban population, says the Commission for Rural Communities in this annual report. The average rural house price, £240,222, was 22.1% higher than the average urban house price of £196,700. The number of migrant workers in rural England has grown by more than 200% in the last three years, from 309,080 to 579,050 and is putting a big strain on local services. (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/yu9g4u>; CRC: <http://tinyurl.com/ysoe3k>). The Telegraph says migrants are driving out younger people (<http://tinyurl.com/29wuhw>).

English coast. Defra is consulting on Natural England's recommendation for new legislation to create a coastal access corridor. Deadline 11 September 2007 (<http://tinyurl.com/ysmf62>).

Farming income. In 2005/06, 31% of farmers had an income that was 60% or less than the national average. Average farm incomes have fallen from nearly £28,000 in 1996 to less than £14,000 in 2006, while almost 80,000 people left the agricultural labour force (Farmers Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/2avuj6>). The NFU launched a campaign to encourage young people into farming (NFU: <http://tinyurl.com/253cso>).

Set-aside to be set aside? The EU is planning to scrap set-aside as part of the Common Agricultural Policy 'health check' in 2008. But the RSPB, CPRE and the Game Conservancy Trust say it has provided significant biodiversity benefits, particularly to farmland bird numbers (Farmers Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/2uf6ol>; politics: <http://tinyurl.com/24p5hd>).

9. Campaign to Protect Rural England

Hampshire. Two volunteers for the Campaign to Protect Rural England were presented with a countryside medal for outstanding efforts in protecting the countryside (This is Hants: <http://tinyurl.com/2bchn9>).

Bryson arrives chasing litter. New CPRE President Bill Bryson (billbryson@cpre.org.uk) is leading a panel of judges to pick Britain's best seaside town. The shortlist includes Brighton and Broadstairs (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/2nz2l8>). "Why are we turning lovely Britain into a giant rubbish tip?" asked Bill Bryson in the Daily Mail (<http://tinyurl.com/3a5bkp>). The Times reported that Bryson's "big thing is fines... He comes out with very unBryson-like statements, such as "one of the most effective ways of dealing with it is by punishing people" (<http://tinyurl.com/3666d8>). In his inaugural speech, Bill Bryson said: "the 0.0174069% of Earth we call home is glorious. The trick is keeping it that way... It is preposterous really to say that some parts of England are better or more important than others... It's all lovely... Why we don't make the whole of England a National Park. In what way are the Yorkshire Dales superior to the Durham Dales? Why is the New Forest worthy of exalted status but glorious Dorset unworthy?" (CPRE: <http://tinyurl.com/2qqohr>; summary in the Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/35m9ns>). The Economist, which seems to know the price of everything but the value of nothing, argued that "Mr Bryson's desire for a nationwide national park may be more appealing, but no more logical, than Mr Bush's tolerance of logging at any cost" (<http://tinyurl.com/274qsn>).

Gordon Brown's Government

10. Housing

Housing is at the centre of Gordon Brown's initial programme, outlined in his prelude to the "Queen's Speech" last week (full text: <http://tinyurl.com/yujfvq>). He made a commitment to build three million new homes by 2020. The housebuilding target for 2016 will be raised from 200,000 to 240,000 new homes in England a year. They will include "eco towns and villages" and houses made affordable by shared equity schemes.

Over 550 sites owned by central government are now being examined for housing development with the potential for up to 100,000 new homes. English Partnerships is negotiating with the Ministry of Defence to acquire at least six major redundant sites to build over 7000 new homes, and discussions are underway with the Department for Transport, Highways Agency and British Railways Board Residuary Body. The Department for Health is undertaking an urgent review of surplus land owned by NHS organisations and trusts to explore opportunities for its transfer and development to provide additional homes. Another 60,000 homes can be built on brownfield land currently owned by local authorities.

Brown told supporters that the Labour government in the 1920s and 1930s had decided to build "millions of houses". "Now again we are going to have to decide as a nation and win the argument with people who do not want that sort of development" (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/2kfbrf>). The Housing Green Paper is due to be published on Monday 23 July. It is expected to give local councils the major responsibility for drawing up housing plans. The green paper will also propose using the accelerated planning process introduced to build postwar new towns like Milton Keynes to speed construction of 'eco-towns' providing a total of up to 100,000 additional homes (Observer: <http://tinyurl.com/283ulq>; <http://tinyurl.com/2y54we>).

Implications for the South East

On a pro-rata basis, Brown's new housing target of 240,000 homes a year for England will mean a build rate of 34,680 a year in the South East, 5,780 a year above the current level in the South East Plan, an extra 115,600 over the Plan period.

The Green Belt

Despite Hazel Blears' refusal to give a commitment to protect the green belt a few days before, Brown pledged in his Queen's speech the Government "will continue to protect robustly the land designated as green belt". "The green belt is no place for homes and concreting over the countryside would repeat the mistakes of the 1930s, creating a new suburbia," Tristram Hunt said in the Observer (<http://tinyurl.com/2excbj>).

11. The Legislation

Brown announced several new Bills:

- ◆ **Housing.** To create an agency charged with bringing surplus public land into use for house building, deliver more social and affordable housing and support regeneration. It will promote new partnerships with local authorities, health authorities and the private and voluntary sectors to build more housing made affordable by shared equity schemes and more social housing responsive to individual needs. This is the earlier proposal for Communities England, partly made up by merging the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships.
- ◆ **Planning.** The Planning Bill will implement the Eddington and Barker reports to speed up the development of major infrastructure projects, and speed up planning generally.
- ◆ **Planning Gain Supplement.** Designed to ensure the public receives the benefit from the increased value of land as a result of planning permission, the Bill could be withdrawn if a "better alternative" to Planning Gain Supplement is found, and the Bill delayed to the next session.
- ◆ **Local Transport.** To tackle congestion and improve public transport. Published earlier this month (<http://tinyurl.com/22rrqe>).
- ◆ **Climate Change.** To make Britain the "first country in the world" to introduce a legal framework to cut carbon emissions. This is the Bill published in March (<http://tinyurl.com/3cm4uh>).

- ◆ **Energy.** To provide greater incentives for renewable energy generation. Brown gave no details but this is expected to be closely modelled on the Energy White Paper (<http://tinyurl.com/ysw3ku>).

12. Reaction

Keith Mitchell slammed Brown's housing strategy as 'simplistic' (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/2h673n>) and said it would not solve the affordability crisis (Oxford Mail: <http://tinyurl.com/yqrsdr>).

Neil Sinden of CPRE said: "We welcome the Prime Minister's promise of robust protection for the Green Belt, following earlier worrying indications it might be weakened. We are also encouraged by Gordon Brown's emphasis on brownfield regeneration as the key to tackling the nation's housing needs." CPRE also said that Brown should not pre-empt the current consultation on the Planning White Paper (<http://tinyurl.com/ytywgb>).

The National Housing Federation called for 70,000 new homes per year for rent and low cost ownership and Shelter called for Brown to announce the building of 20,000 extra social rented homes a year. This and other reaction on housing at 24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/23ltle>.

Greenpeace said that "Brown's housing plans need to make zero-carbon houses the norm and not the exception" (<http://tinyurl.com/2hab3f>).

Government Departments & Ministers

Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

- ◆ Hazel Blears. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
- ◆ Yvette Cooper. Minister of State. Housing Minister and attends Cabinet.
- ◆ John Healey. Minister of State. Specific responsibilities not announced.
- ◆ Parmjit Dhanda. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. Specific responsibilities not announced.
- ◆ Iain Wright. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. Specific responsibilities not announced.
- ◆ Baroness Andrews. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. Specific responsibilities not announced.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

- ◆ Hilary Benn. Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- ◆ Lord Rooker. Minister of State. Food, farming, and animal health and welfare.
- ◆ Phil Woolas. Minister of State. Climate change, energy, sustainable development.
- ◆ Joan Ruddock. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. Climate change, waste and recycling, biodiversity.
- ◆ Jonathan Shaw. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for the South East. Marine and fisheries, rural affairs, landscape, local environment quality.

New Chief Scientific Adviser. Robert Watson, World Bank Chief Scientist and Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development has been appointed the next Chief Scientific Adviser for Defra from September.

Department for Transport (DfT)

- ◆ Ruth Kelly. Secretary of State for Transport.
- ◆ Rosie Winterton. Minister of State for Transport. Regional transport strategy, local public transport, walking, cycling and sustainable transport, local roads and traffic.
- ◆ Tom Harris. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport. Rail and light rail, British transport police, highways agency and the strategic roads network, major ports planning decisions.
- ◆ Jim Fitzpatrick. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. Aviation, environment, shipping, road safety.

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)

Brings together functions from DTI, including responsibilities for productivity, business relations, energy, competition and consumers, with the Better Regulation Executive, previously part of the Cabinet Office. It leads on making sustainable improvements in the economic performance of the regions. Minister: John Hutton.

13. 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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