

CPRE SE eBulletin: July 2009

South East Plan Challenges

Legal challenges to the green belt reviews proposed in the SE Plan have been launched by Guildford Borough Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and CPRE Oxfordshire.

Oxford. CPRE Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire District Council are opposing a review of land south of Oxford for at least 4,000 new homes. Helena Whall, Campaign Manager for CPRE said: "We are asking the judge to quash the Secretary of State's decision that 4,000 houses must be built on Green Belt land South of Oxford. The Government is being completely inconsistent - since the Green Belt it supports was created specifically to contain Oxford's expansion, and yet at the same time the Government is now proposing that Oxford's wish to continue expanding is a reason to start dismantling it" (CPRE Oxfordshire: <http://tinyurl.com/kor9nn>). South Oxfordshire leader Ann Ducker said: "We've fought these Government plans since the day they were first announced. Oxford East MP Andrew Smith branded the court action an attempt to "strangle the social and economic potential of the city" (Oxford Times: <http://tinyurl.com/lzydho>; Oxford Mail: <http://tinyurl.com/kwehet>).

Guildford. Head of planning services Carol Humphrey said: "We are concerned that the process of identifying this area for a significant amount of development was not informed by the full environmental appraisal required by law, which should include consideration of alternatives to green belt development at Guildford" (Get Surrey: <http://tinyurl.com/nend58>).

Petition. Test Valley MP Sandra Gidley launched a No 10 petition calling on Gordon Brown to suspend the South East Plan and to empower local councils to set their own targets based on local, sustainable housing needs assessments and consultation with local communities (Politics: <http://tinyurl.com/ng6tsg>; Romsey Advertiser: <http://tinyurl.com/mbdnd4>; Petition: <http://tinyurl.com/n2bbat>; Deadline 29 August). A similar petition is underway in the South West calling for the RSS to be abandoned and the green belt to be protected (<http://tinyurl.com/mg9hk2>).

Other RSS. Ministers have been forced to postpone approving the South West Regional Spatial Strategy after a High Court judgement found that the published regional spatial strategy for the east of England failed to meet EU requirements (Western Morning News: <http://tinyurl.com/lg5v67>; cf Save Our Green Spaces: <http://tinyurl.com/nyqtv8>).

Eco Towns

Shortlist. The eco-town shortlist is likely to be signed off by the Housing Minister John Healey before the Parliamentary Recess on 21 July (CPRE Oxfordshire: <http://tinyurl.com/kor9nn>).

Who killed the eco-town? "You will never get a development of 10,000-plus homes anywhere in England and drop it out of the sky without a consultation process... Ironically it is the flawed 'principle' of the eco-town that has led to its demise or damnation. According to the tenets of sustainability, eco-towns never really existed as a viable or truly green proposition in the first place... There is no such thing as an eco-town in a field in the middle of rural England" (Architects Journal: <http://tinyurl.com/mrohqa>).

New legal challenge. Arun District Council has lodged a legal challenge to the SE Plan's policy that councils should "facilitate" proposals agreed for growth points and eco-towns. An earlier draft had said they should merely "test" eco-town proposals, but this was changed in the final version of the plan. The Government Office for the South East (GOSE) has admitted the change was an error but said it cannot be altered now that the plan has been formally approved. Arun DC's chief executive told Planning: "It runs counter to all government statements that eco-towns will not usurp local planning. It may also fundamentally affect our local development framework" (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/nmn47f>).

Planning

Brownfield. A study published by CPRE shows that an excess of greenfield land with planning permission can render brownfield development unviable. Drawing on data on planning consents, housebuilding and construction costs, researchers created a model of development viability. This was used to explore how the availability of greenfield land with planning permission affects the economics of brownfield development in nine local authority areas. The research finds that brownfield viability is worst affected in areas which have significantly more greenfield than brownfield land supply (CPRE: <http://tinyurl.com/ngdqgw>; 24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/kpm6z3>).

CPRE Wiltshire has lost a High Court bid to force Swindon Council to deliver improvements for public transport, cyclists and pedestrians before new housing is occupied. CPRE must pay costs (Swindon Advertiser: <http://tinyurl.com/nelnz>; Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/mc89nk>).

Planning applications. The Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) has been deluged with applications for major projects three months before it begins work. It has received 50 applications compared to the 45 annual applications it expected (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/m75jho>). Meanwhile, applications to local authorities are down 30% (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/m49p5t>; CLG: <http://tinyurl.com/npjzre>).

Planning committees. Shadow planning minister Bob Neill confirmed the Conservatives will scrap the pre-determination rule that bars politicians who have spoken out on planning applications from sitting on related committees. Neill also said the Conservatives would make pre-application discussions a weighty material consideration in planning (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/p2apqu>).

Planning permissions extended. CLG is proposing to allow developers to extend planning permission beyond 3 years after October (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/laqclc>).

Thames Basin Heaths homes rejected. Communities secretary John Denham refused permission on appeal for 975 homes near Crowthorne in Berkshire, mainly because of the impact on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/n7xhg3>).

Enterprise zones. British Chambers of Commerce is calling on the government to bring back Enterprise Zones, with their lighter planning regime (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/mcnang>).

Waterways. The TCPA has called on planners to use waterways as attractive settings for development and the focus for regeneration. It also wants tourism policy to be included in PPS4 (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/o4oc2k0>).

Town and Country Manifesto. The TCPA looked back to its founder Ebenezer Howard for inspiration for its manifesto "Towns and countryside for a new age of challenge". Greening cities remains central to the manifesto. "Plans for a more sustainable countryside must focus equally on how best to revitalise existing villages and small towns, and on opportunities to create new highly sustainable villages, towns or town extensions – including exemplar communities... Clusters of urban and rural communities, linked by convenient public transport, are a key to sustainable living in the 21st century". The TCPA advocates devolving planning powers to local communities but addressing climate change at a national level (TCPA: <http://tinyurl.com/nhode3>).

Satisfaction survey. A CLG survey showed that 80% of people are satisfied with their local area as a place to live (83% in the SE), 59% felt that they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood (58% SE). Just 45% were satisfied with the way their local council runs things (47% SE) and only 29% felt they could influence decisions in their local area (28% SE) (CLG: <http://tinyurl.com/ltq5fq>).

Heritage. One in 7 conservation areas in England are at risk of neglect, decay or damaging change and many more give cause for concern, according to a survey by English Heritage. The top threats are plastic windows and doors (83% of conservation areas affected); poorly maintained roads and pavements (60%); and street clutter (45%). Around 140 areas in the South East are at risk. EH is launching a Conservation Areas at Risk campaign to get residents, local groups and councils to work together and is urging local planning authorities to make much greater use of Article 4 Directions (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/pwjbbc>; EH: <http://tinyurl.com/phv7jj>).

Green Belts. Plans to build two environmentally friendly houses in the green belt near Sheffield are opposed by residents but supported by CPRE which says that the benefits brought by the application, with the removal of the "unsightly derelict garden centre" outweigh policy concerns over building on the green belt (Yorkshire Post: <http://tinyurl.com/lv66s2>). Extracting gravel on green belt in Egham will lead to piecemeal destruction of the community, say residents (Staines News: <http://tinyurl.com/lojve9>). A fiercely opposed hotel which extends into the green belt at Egham gained planning permission (Get Surrey: <http://tinyurl.com/lso8t8>).

Advertising. CLG has published "Outdoor advertisements and signs: a guide for advertisers" (<http://tinyurl.com/qch4j8>).

Housing

Parish councils could provide the key to saving their small communities from mass redevelopment and expansion if they are empowered to decide their own needs and rate of growth, the Norfolk Planning Conference organised by CPRE Norfolk concluded (EDP 24: <http://tinyurl.com/nvukd9>).

Perverse incentives. The £68 million-a-year Planning Delivery Grant which aims to speed up planning decisions on major housing developments in England has created perverse incentives, the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee warned. It said that local authorities lose interest in applications once the deadline has passed and the proportion of major residential applications which are rejected within the 13-week period has increased since the scheme began. But the RTPI said that plans to cut the grant sends a dispiriting message to councils trying to deliver homes (24dash: <http://tinyurl.com/lpkh56>; Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/lgb7of>).

House building. The Prime Minister announced an extra £1.5 billion over the next two years to build an additional 20,000 affordable homes to rent or buy (Regen: <http://tinyurl.com/laqjpp>). Housing Minister John Healey announced new freedoms for councils to keep housing cash and use it to meet local need (CLG: <http://tinyurl.com/ntp6ah>; Inside Housing: <http://tinyurl.com/ntqt7s>). The East Midlands has exceeded its 2008/9 Regional Investment Plan target for the delivery of 2,345 new affordable homes by 46% (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/nkut79>).

Town cramming failure. Higher densities barely cut car use and carbon emissions and "town cramming" policies are leading to higher housing costs, shrinking space standards and crowded living, a university report says. The authors call for suburbs that combine homes and jobs, and are located close to rail stations, on good bus routes and well designed for walking and cycling (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/mgs7ev>).

Energy efficient housing. DECC announced £3.5 billion funding for energy efficiency and 'whole house' green makeovers for British homes (DECC: <http://tinyurl.com/l3x7t2>). But the government simultaneously abandoned plans for building regulations that would ensure home extensions meet higher energy efficiency standards (Energy Efficiency: <http://tinyurl.com/nvqzsw>). George Monbiot lambasted a "government is so paralysed by the fear of middle class reaction that it won't implement even the simplest measures to help us improve our own lives" (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/luruke>).

Environment and Ecology

Flooding. The Environment Agency has warned that the annual cost of damage to residential and commercial property from flooding in England, as well as the cost of further disruption, damage to infrastructure and loss of business, could rise from £2.5bn to £4bn by 2035 unless funding for defences is increased. One in six homes in England is currently at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, or surface water from overflowing drains. Windsor and Maidenhead is among the top ten most at risk areas with 11,477 properties at risk (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/qwgbxy>). CLG has blasted most councils' failure to adopt development plan documents (DPDs) consistent with flood risk planning policy. Too few authorities are using PPS25 and some are approving developments against Environment Agency advice (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/nacbq4>).

Light pollution. Surrey CPRE has backed Surrey County Council's plans to replace 70,000 street lights, the vast majority more than 25 years old and which do not meet modern lighting or safety standards. Tim Harrold, vice-president of the CPRE in Surrey, said: "We are very much in favour. We appreciate the white light that will be used and that the new lights will reduce light pollution as they are downward directed" (Surrey Comet: <http://tinyurl.com/mkmqr9>; Elmbridge Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/mmfgsn>). Street lighting is to be removed from a rural area in the peak district after protests by campaigners including CPRE (Sheffield Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/nbhfxs>).

Thames. The Port of London Authority and the RSPB have joined forces to protect wildlife in the Thames (RSPB: <http://tinyurl.com/lxoer8>).

Waste. The EiP into Berkshire minerals and waste core strategy has been adjourned after concerns about accuracy of the data (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/nt3ra2>).

Energy and Climate Change

Climate change 2080. New UK climate projections show that by the 2080s South East England could face an increase in average summer temperatures of between 2 and 6 degrees Celsius, and a 22% decrease in average summer rainfall (UKCP: <http://tinyurl.com/ouyp33>; Edie: <http://tinyurl.com/mj97p4>; Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/mzrxv8>). The government advised planning officers that "publication of the new projections in themselves should not require regional and local plan-making to be slowed down or decisions on planning applications to be deferred" (CLG: <http://tinyurl.com/p24wnx>). Helen Phillips, Natural England's Chief Executive said: "The latest government forecasts should serve as a wake-up call. We are looking at a life-changing alteration in our climate that has no parallel in recent human history. Protecting the natural environment is essential if society is to successfully adapt to these changes." The stark climate predictions are a "call to arms" said the Wildlife Trusts (Land Gazette: <http://tinyurl.com/lm2kc8>). NFU president Peter Kendall said farmers are up to the challenge of tackling climate change following the stark predictions. "The capacity of the agricultural sector to produce renewable energy means we have an important role to play in reducing the country's greenhouse gas emissions... Agricultural buildings and land are also well-suited for the capture of solar energy, wind power and ground source heat" (Farmers Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/lg2zch>).

Efficiency. At least 70,000 jobs could be created if councils slashed climate-changing emissions by insulating homes and businesses and fitting green energy to buildings, according to Friends of the Earth (FoE: <http://tinyurl.com/ox5uya>).

Wind. The costs of constructing offshore wind farms could drop by as much as 20% by 2014 (NEF: <http://tinyurl.com/qoypzo>). Offshore wind has potential to meet more than a quarter of the UK's electricity needs, the government said. A strong planning regime is needed for offshore wind farms and that the IPC will play a major role (DECC: <http://tinyurl.com/mubdqg>; <http://tinyurl.com/p85aw6>). Friends of the Earth said: "At last the Government is starting to recognise the enormous potential of the UK's offshore wind power and its crucial role in slashing emissions and securing a national energy system... Ministers must now get the best out of this resource by rapidly developing a new offshore super grid to harness offshore wind, wave and tidal power and stabilise supply and demand by connecting us to a bigger European energy network" (FoE: <http://tinyurl.com/lvq6g2>). The world's first floating wind turbine has been launched (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/n4bjob>). Even at an annual level wind generation output varies by 13% in the UK. The study also found that drivers for new thermal plant are not encouraging (New Energy Focus: <http://tinyurl.com/mhc98q>).

Wave. The UK could be "natural owner" of wave power market, the Carbon Trust said. The UK could generate up to £70 billion and create around 250,000 jobs if it takes a bold approach to the commercialisation of offshore wind and wave power (Energy Efficiency: <http://tinyurl.com/lccrsq>).

Why waste heat? The UK could meet 5% of its heat requirements and save some 10 million tonnes of CO₂ by fitting heat capture technology to just a few of the country's biggest power stations such

as Kingsnorth and Drax, the Institute of Civil Engineers said (New Energy Focus: <http://tinyurl.com/n63t2v>; Energy Efficiency: <http://tinyurl.com/qznurq>).

Networks. New network technology could play a strong role in managing renewable energy variability from wind farms instead of back-up generation, a report from the National Grid suggests (Energy Efficiency: <http://tinyurl.com/r979ek>). The government has launched a web portal with regulatory and some environmental information on energy infrastructure (DECC: <http://tinyurl.com/obxr2m>). The government has also released statistical data and maps on local energy consumption. They reveal considerable differences in per capita and household energy consumption across the SE and UK (BIS: <http://tinyurl.com/mtburv>). Europe's electricity grid needs a complete overhaul to be able to handle the region's target of 20% renewable energy by 2020 (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/md97fw>; Energy Efficiency: <http://tinyurl.com/n32p9x>).

Wirescapes. More than two miles of overhead power lines, near the River Adur in the South Downs National Park are being removed (Shoreham Herald: <http://tinyurl.com/krqeel>).

Coal. The government published details of its plans for developing clean coal, including carbon capture and storage (CCS) for all new power stations, but only for part of current stations' generating capacity until the technology is proven (DECC: <http://tinyurl.com/mr5zz4>; Energy Efficiency: <http://tinyurl.com/ladjk7>). Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband said: "By driving the development of CCS in this country, we are also, as a country, playing an essential role in the battle against climate change" (Eddie: <http://tinyurl.com/lype8h>). Miliband is also proposing to force companies to fit CCS in a dozen existing coal plants, probably forcing them to close. E.ON has entered Kingsnorth into the government's competition to build a CCS power station and will not build it if it loses the bid (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/lwgnc2>). Thousands of campaigners linked arms to form a "Mili-Band" around Kingsnorth Power Station (Times: <http://tinyurl.com/lazbx2>; Kent Online: <http://tinyurl.com/l2q5mz>; CPRE Kent: <http://tinyurl.com/kqr9ft>).

Nuclear. Construction of a European Pressurised Reactor in Finland may be halted amid safety fears. The model is due to be adopted in the UK (Ecologist: <http://tinyurl.com/rydzqy>). The UK government issued a timetable for consultations into new nuclear provision (BIS: <http://tinyurl.com/mtyzzu>) and announced a new nuclear regulator (DECC: <http://tinyurl.com/mmhce7>). A nuclear leak at Sizewell, which could have caused a major disaster, "was only averted by a chance decision to wash some dirty clothes" (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/m7ldt6>). Central experiments for the multibillion-dollar International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) probably won't get underway until 2026 (Scientific American: <http://tinyurl.com/ma7uzb>).

Transport

Budgets. Major transport schemes could be delayed or cut as the DfT faces up to a £30 billion shortfall. Local schemes are also threatened (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/l6b4t7>; <http://tinyurl.com/mgofmp>). The Highways Agency's road building programme could be billions of pounds over budget, according to the Campaign for Better Transport (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/qwy8b8>). Officials denied that High Speed 2 may be threatened by the budget cuts and insisted that the inquiry into the line will only look at how the line will be built, not whether it is needed (Birmingham Post: <http://tinyurl.com/m6nksr>).

Clutter. The government's new Road Safety Strategy could see a million new speed limit signs in the countryside. CPRE says, after deciding against a blanket 50 mph national speed limit, the government wants to encourage local authorities to consider introducing lower speed limits locally, which require repeater signs about every 300 yards. Ralph Smyth for CPRE said: "Its piecemeal plans could require a million repeater speed limit signs that would deface the countryside and distract drivers while costing £300 million." The CPRE instead calls for transport budgets to be spent on filling potholes and improving conditions for walking, riding and cycling by lower speed zones (CPRE: <http://tinyurl.com/l69rlz>; Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/ndukvh>).

Roads. Transport Minister, Lord Adonis said: "We will definitely not proceed with a national road-user charging scheme in the next parliament" (Regen: <http://tinyurl.com/oo2pfs>). The latest transport statistics show that around one-fifth of drivers experience congestion for most of their journeys (DfT: <http://tinyurl.com/l4lrdrw>). A German town has become car-free (Independent: <http://tinyurl.com/neo324>).

Freight hubs. The backers of the Kent International Gateway are planning to scale down the project and submit new environmental data. Richard Knox-Johnson of Protect Kent said: "It is just unfair to submit new information... The applicants are changing what they are doing all the time, we wouldn't be allowed to submit any new information at this point, it is just the question when will they stop?" (Kent News: <http://tinyurl.com/nnuyju>). Protect Kent is also concerned that the Borough Green freight hub will be decided by the IPC and resident's views will be ignored (This is Kent: <http://tinyurl.com/nwaffv>).

Rail. The rail industry laid out plans to overhaul the UK rail network so that it can handle a projected doubling in demand of freight and passengers. The key goal is an increase in the number of electrified lines, which currently stands at around 40% of the total network (Energy Efficiency: <http://tinyurl.com/pj8z3d>). Ralph Smyth, transport campaigner at CPRE said: "The report's focus on small schemes that can be delivered quickly to benefit the maximum number of people is long overdue and very welcome. Politicians have been happy to make promises on high speed rail, with the comfort of knowing that spending decisions are in the distant future. Let's see if they are willing to support rural rail now when hard choices need to be made on funding" (Telegraph: <http://tinyurl.com/lwmm7m>; CPRE: <http://tinyurl.com/l4nml3>). The Prime Minister said Transport Secretary Andrew Adonis will set out detailed plans for railway electrification within the next few weeks (Transport Briefing: <http://tinyurl.com/nonbgt>). Proposals for 14 new rail lines and up to 40 new stations have been identified by the Association of Train Operating Companies. The lines include Cranleigh in Surrey and Bordon, Hythe and Ringwood in Hampshire. Wantage in Oxfordshire could gain a park and ride station (Planning Portal: <http://tinyurl.com/ma5ee9>). The government is to take the East Coast main line back into public ownership (Independent: <http://tinyurl.com/m3vk99>); Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/l6b4t7>). A US study suggests getting the train may emit more greenhouse gas emissions than travelling the same distance in a jumbo jet (New Scientist: <http://tinyurl.com/oyjf4t>).

Aviation. A decision on expansion of Lydd Airport in Kent has been delayed after the intervention of the airport's lawyers (RSPB: <http://tinyurl.com/m56dqm>). Hilary Newport, Director of Protect Kent said: "It has been apparent from the start that expansion of Lydd Airport just won't work and will be incredibly damaging for local residents' quality of life and for the environment" (CPRE Kent: <http://tinyurl.com/kpajjy>). Reading Borough Council has joined the 2M Group which campaigns against Heathrow expansion. The 2M Group now represents 24 authorities with a combined population of more than 5 million people (eGov: <http://tinyurl.com/mud47a>). A decision on a date for the public inquiry into a second runway at Stansted will not be made until the future ownership position of the airport is clearer (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/nfq2e6>). An attempt by Stop Stansted Expansion to overturn government approval of an increase in passenger numbers has been refused by the Court of Appeal (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/nhjk78>). Southampton and Stansted Airports are consulting on Noise Action Plans (BAA: <http://tinyurl.com/mquslv>; <http://tinyurl.com/mukmvg>). The air industry committed to carbon-neutral growth by 2020 and improving fuel efficiency 1.5% every year. Some airlines are calling for tougher standards (Energy Efficiency: <http://tinyurl.com/pau8gt>).

Rural Affairs

Rural retail hit by housing shortage. Up to 650 country pubs and 400 village shops will close over the next 12 months as traditional village life in Britain is plunged into terminal decline by a chronic shortage of affordable housing, according to the National Housing Federation, British Beer and Pub Association and the Rural Shops Alliance (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/r4tztb>; NHF: <http://tinyurl.com/oetr2m>).

Digital inclusion. The Commission for Rural Communities said that the digital divide has been reduced in many rural areas but there is still a long way to go before equality is achieved. Internet use and the demand for acceptable bandwidth continues to increase in rural areas faster than in urban areas. It asks how can the government's recently announced Universal Service Commitment of 2 Megabytes per second be achieved for rural consumers, both domestic and business based? Amongst several recommendations it says that the digital champion role must be rural proofed to ensure a clear remit to tackle the rural digital divide (CRC: <http://tinyurl.com/ox482x>).

Right to Roam. Despite opening up a million hectares of land in England and Wales a day out in the countryside is a less popular option now than it was a decade ago. "Lobbying organisations such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England [sic] already have ideas that might encourage more people to put down their pints and put on their walking boots" (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/mmt9ft>).

Campaigning

Civic Trust. The annual award scheme is to continue (Planning: <http://tinyurl.com/lhwg35>).

Whatever Happened to People Power? Panorama on 6 July will feature the police surveillance unit NETCU and the Radley Lakes injunction. It will follow the story of how Lakes protestor Peter Harbour came to be listed alongside terrorists and animal rights extremists on a police watch list created to combat domestic extremism. **BBC One, Monday, 6 July at 8.30pm.** (BBC: <http://tinyurl.com/l9auxo>).

Drax protesters convicted. Hoping for a repeat of the "Kingsnorth Six" judgment last September, 22 defendants who ambushed a coal train claimed they acted to prevent "deadly and urgent threat" caused by burning coal at Drax power station. But the judge said these motives were irrelevant and the jury convicted the protesters (Guardian: <http://tinyurl.com/l87nq9>).

Reshuffle

Communities

John Denham, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

John Healey, Minister for Housing, attending Cabinet: Housing, including the Homes and Communities Agency; Planning, including the IPC; Climate change and sustainable development.

Rosie Winterton, Minister of State, attending Cabinet: Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber; Local Government policy; The BIS portfolio: RDAs, strengthening regional economies, business support simplification; GOs/Regions, city regions, regeneration and worklessness; Regional resilience. The appointment is joint with Business, Innovation and Skills where Winterton will have responsibility for the RDAs and sub-national review.

Shahid Malik, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State: Fire; Cohesion, race and migration; Prevent; Thames Gateway and Olympics legacy.

Ian Austin, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State: Minister for the West Midlands; Housing and regeneration; Planning; Climate change and sustainable development; Ordnance Survey.

Lord Bill McKenzie of Luton, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State: Local Government policy. (CLG: <http://tinyurl.com/mqlm5u>).

Energy and Climate Change

Secretary of State, Ed Miliband

Minister of State, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: Energy security, long-term energy projections and strategy; Markets, prices and regulatory framework; Low carbon energy supply including barrages, wind, smart grids and nuclear.

Minister of State, Joan Ruddock: Domestic energy savings strategy and delivery, including Carbon Emissions Reduction Target; EU Emissions trading and global carbon markets.

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, David Kidney: includes Fuel Poverty Strategy; Energy innovation and emerging technologies.

(DECC: <http://tinyurl.com/mryeeg>).

Defra

Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Jim Fitzpatrick, Minister of State for Food, Farming and Environment

Huw Irranca-Davies, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Marine and Natural Environment

Dan Norris, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Environment

Lord (Bryan) Davies of Oldham Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Lords

(Defra: <http://tinyurl.com/2sbfmc>).

Transport

Lord Andrew Adonis, Secretary of State for Transport

Sadiq Khan, Minister of State for Transport. City and Regional networks, including London and Crossrail; Environment and climate change; Europe.

Paul Clark, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport. International Networks; Road safety; Motoring and Freight Services Agencies.

Chris Mole MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport. National Networks; Corporate.

(DfT: <http://tinyurl.com/kksab5>).

English Heritage. Baroness Kay Andrews, has moved from communities and local government to become the first female chair of English Heritage.

Business, Innovation and Skills positions (<http://tinyurl.com/kwhsan>).