

**LDF Advisory Group Briefing Note:**  
**Regional Strategy: Evidence Gathering**

The South East England Partnership Board (SEEPB) is responsible producing a new Regional Strategy which will combine work previously known as the South East Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy.

Having produced a project plan, which sets out the process and timetable for production, along with a community engagement strategy, the Partnership Board are currently in the process of gathering evidence to feed into the development of the strategy. As part of this, the Partnership Board is carrying out an exercise to gather evidence from local authorities to build a 'bottom up' evidence base to inform the development of the new Regional Strategy.

The Partnership Board have therefore asked local authorities across the region to submit details of any completed, draft or emerging work in their areas under the topics of; spatial strategies, sustainability, climate change and carbon reduction, housing, the economy, environmental constraints, infrastructure and joint and cross boundary working.

Currently, this is only an initial request for information, with the submission of evidence being a purely technical exercise which does not allow for comment. Milton Keynes Council has chosen to provide advice as a group of one, as we have done previously with the South East Plan, however we will liaise with neighbouring authorities/advice groups where appropriate. The deadline for submitting information is the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010. There will be opportunities to feed new evidence into the strategy development at later stages.

The information provided will be used by SEEPB as part of the wider evidence base to:

- help explore and present some strategic options for how the South East should develop over the next 20-25 years, and
- develop Area Profiles, which will be used as part of the appraisal framework for testing spatial and policy options.

Further information on the Regional Strategy can be found online at:

<http://www.se-partnershipboard.org.uk/page/5/view/73/regional-strategy>