

**COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN
WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2009**



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE REVENUES SERVICES: CHOICE OF BRIEFINGS TOMORROW: FINAL REMINDER!

In response to feedback from the 2008 training and development survey, we will be staging 2-hour morning and early evening sessions introducing the work of the Council's Revenues Service on **Thursday 9 July 2009** at the Council Offices. Both sessions will take place in the Swansley Room, ground floor. **Please note that these are repeat sessions: you aren't required to attend both.**

The morning session will take place between 10am-12 noon, with refreshments from 9.45am, and the evening session between 6-8pm, with refreshments from 5.45pm.

If you have not already done so, please could you let me know which session you wish to attend as soon as possible, so that I can make the necessary logistical arrangements?

The session will cover the following topics, which have been agreed in consultation with Members who identified revenues as a high-priority training and development need:

- Responsibilities of the Council and those of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP);
- Brief introduction to each service area: Council Tax, housing rents and benefits, business rates, benefit fraud prevention and investigation;
- Scope and size of the service - financially, and in terms of annual enquiries;
- Specific areas for clarification, e.g., what is the Council Tax base and how does it relate to annual parish precepts?
- Dealing with common Member / resident enquiries: the recovery process, benefit availability and eligibility.

Lee Phanco, the Council's Head of Revenues, will lead the session, supported by officers from his service, using presentation slides and relevant case studies and examples of the work of the service, e.g., anonymised benefit fraud investigations and prosecutions, including some interesting anecdotes about the detective work of our investigators.

We hope that the sessions will be interesting, eye opening and useful to you when dealing with residents' enquiries in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact Richard May, Democratic Services Manager, 01954 713016, richard.may@scams.gov.uk if you require further information.

2. Meetings and events from 9 July 2009 to 24 July 2009

| Date | Time | Name | Venue | Contact |
|------------|-------|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Thu 9 Jul | 10 am | Member Training: SCDC Revenues Service | Swansley Room | Richard May |
| | 6 pm | Member Training: SCDC Revenues Service | Swansley Room | Richard May |
| Fri 10 Jul | 10 am | Member Training: Project ARGUS Counter – Terrorism Security Exercise | Council Chamber | David Rush |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Mon 13 Jul | 10 am | Licensing Committee | Swansley Room | Maggie Jennings |
| | 2 pm | South Cambridgeshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee | Shire Hall | Michelle Rowe |
| Tue 14 Jul | | | | |
| Wed 15 Jul | | | | |
| Thu 16 Jul | 5:30pm | Housing Portfolio Holder's meeting | Council Chamber | Guy Moody |
| | 7 pm | Council | Council Chamber | Richard May |
| Fri 17 Jul | 2pm | South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership Board | Swansley Room | Patrick Adams |
| Mon 20 Jul | | | | |
| Tue 21 Jul | | | | |
| Wed 22 Jul | | | | |
| Thu 23 Jul | 10 am | Sustainability, Procurement and Efficiency PFH meeting | Swansley Room | Holly Adams |
| Fri 24 Jul | | | | |

INFORMATION FOR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

3. Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Document Issues and Options 2 Consultation

GYPSY & TRAVELLER DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT ISSUES AND OPTIONS 2 CONSULTATION – ADDITIONAL EXHIBITIONS AND PLANNING PARISH FORUM

Consultation on the Gypsy and Traveller DPD Issues and Options 2 Site options and Policies begins on 10 July and runs to 9 October 2009.

There will be a variety of ways of finding out more and becoming involved in the process, including opportunities to discuss the issues with council officers at a series of exhibitions close to existing Gypsy / Traveller communities and where site options have been identified.

Exhibitions will be held between 1pm and 8pm at the following:

- Monday 20 July - The Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, Willingham
- Wednesday 22 July - Cottenham Village College Common Room, High Street, Cottenham
- Friday 24 July - The Limes Communal Room, High Street, Bassingbourn
- Friday 31 July - Milton Community Centre, Coles Road, Milton

In addition, two further exhibitions have been added:

- Monday 27th July - Fulbourn United Reformed Church Hall, Home End, Fulbourn
- Wednesday 29th July - Girton Glebe Primary School, Cambridge Road, Girton

There will also be a permanent exhibition displayed in the reception area of the Council's offices at Cambourne for the duration of the consultation.

In addition, a meeting of the Planning Parish Forum will take place on 30th July to provide further information on the consultation to invited parish council representatives.

Further information is available on the Gypsy and Traveller DPD webpage:

[http://www.scams.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/DistrictPlanning/LocalDevelopmentFramework/Gypsy_and_Traveller DPD.htm](http://www.scams.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/DistrictPlanning/LocalDevelopmentFramework/Gypsy_and_Traveller_DPD.htm)

4. EERA News

A copy of the July edition of the EERA newsletter is attached for information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

5. Rural Services Network Weekly Digest

The Rural Services Network is a group of over 250 service providers and local authorities working to establish best practice across the spectrum of rural service provision. The network has representation across the complete range of rural services. For general comments or enquiries, email: editor@ruralcity.co.uk

6. Weekly Planning List

To view the list of planning applications submitted in the past seven days, please visit the Council's on-line [Planning Application Search](#). Once the page has loaded, select the relevant parish from the drop-down list, set the date period to '7 days' and click the Search button **or** click the Advanced button, select a ward from the drop-down list, then set the date period to '7 days' and click the Search button.

The system will provide a range of information on current and decided applications since 1948, including a brief description of the development, reference number, decision and the date of decision. More recent applications show the name and telephone number of the council officer who is dealing with the application.

Search results are presented in a collection of pages, the number of which depends on the number of results your search produces. Each page displays 30 results and there are navigation tools to allow you to browse these results.

7. Together we can stop car litter

With nearly a quarter of people nationally admitting to dropping litter from their vehicle, Keep Britain Tidy is launching a campaign this week to reduce vehicle littering. We have signed up to support the campaign, and a supply of car stickers and posters are available in the Members' Lounge if Councillors would like to take any. Posters are also being distributed to Parish Councils for display. Extra copies can be sent out on request, please email communications@scams.gov.uk or call (01954) 713262.

Kelly Quigley
Communications Officer

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE 1 JULY 2009

In accordance with the [Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution](#), any executive decision shall be published normally within five days of being made.

That record will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in for review by the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or by any five other councillors.

A list of decisions currently within the call-in period is available [on the Council's website](#).

Cabinet decisions were published on 2 July 2009 and therefore the [Democratic Services Manager](#) must be notified of any call in by **5 pm on Friday 10 July 2009**. All Cabinet decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Monday 13 July 2009**. Unless otherwise specified, the Democratic Services Manager must receive notification of call in of any other executive decision by **Thursday 16 July 2009**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Friday 17 July 2009**.

Any member considering calling in a decision is requested to contact the [Democratic Services Section](#) to determine whether any relevant amendments have been incorporated.

The call in procedure is set out in full in [Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, 'Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules'](#).

8. Listed Buildings and Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

Cabinet **AGREED**

(a) to adopt the Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) relating to Biodiversity and Listed Buildings, and to proceed with their adoption in accordance with Regulations 18 and 19; and

(b) that no changes be made to the Sustainability Appraisals for each SPD and that these be published in their final form alongside the SPDs.

Other Options Considered: None considered.

Reason For Decision: Formal public consultation on both Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) had now concluded and, as a result of representations made, the draft SPDs had been amended and now required formal adoption to become part of the Local Development Framework. All preparatory work had been done in compliance with the legislative and regulatory framework

9. Community Engagement Strategy

Cabinet **AGREED** to adopt the Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan.

Other Options Considered: Rejected:

(a) To request amendments to the Community Engagement Strategy and / or Action Plan prior to adoption; or

(b) Not to adopt the Community Engagement Strategy and / or Action Plan and propose an alternative approach to ensure compliance with the Duty to Involve.

Reason For Decision: The Community Engagement Strategy had been published according to the white paper 'Communities in Control – real people, real power' and the introduction of the new Duty to Involve local people in decision-making, which came into effect in April 2009. Adoption of an engagement strategy, although not mandatory, will assist the authority in providing evidence of compliance with the Duty to Involve.

10. Appointments to Outside, Joint and Other Member Bodies

Cabinet **AGREED** the following appointments to Outside, Joint and other Member bodies:

| | |
|--|--|
| Cambridge City Centre Management Consultative Forum | New Communities Portfolio Holder |
| Cambridge Marriage Guidance Council (Relate) | Councillor Mrs VM Barrett |
| Cambridgeshire Councils' Association Waste and Environment Forum | Environmental Services Portfolio Holder |
| East of England Regional Assembly | Leader |
| Joint Cambridgeshire Regional Spatial Strategy Review Panel (CReSSP) | New Communities Portfolio Holder |
| Joint Transport and Planning Lead Members | New Communities Portfolio Holder |
| Joint Transport Forum | Planning Portfolio Holder |
| Local Government Association Rural Commission | Councillors Mrs SM Ellington and DC McCraith |
| South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership | Leader |
| South Cambridgeshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee | Conservative members: Councillors Dr DR Bard, RMA Manning and NIC Wright, with DH Morgan as substitute Liberal Democrat members: Councillor JD Batchelor Independent members: to be determined (no nominations received) |

Cambridgeshire Together (Local Area Agreement) Partnership Boards:

| | |
|--|---|
| Cambridgeshire Horizons Board | New Communities Portfolio Holder |
| Cambridgeshire Together (Local Area Agreement Board) | Leader |
| Children and Young People's Partnership / Children's Trust | Councillor Mrs BZD Smith |
| Community Wellbeing Partnership | Environmental Services Portfolio Holder |
| Environmental Sustainability Partnership | Sustainability, Procurement and Efficiency Portfolio Holder |
| Greater Cambridge Partnership | Councillor JA Hockney |
| RECAP (REcycling Cambridgeshire And Peterborough) Board | Environmental Services Portfolio Holder |
| Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership | Leader |

Cabinet **AGREED** not to make appointments to the Local Government Association Annual Conference and General Assembly and asked that appointments to these be reviewed during 2009/10.

Cabinet **NOTED** that the Joint Member Reference Groups for Cambridge East, Cambridge Southern Fringe and Northwest Cambridge had been disbanded and their duties assumed by the Cambridge City Fringes Joint Committee.

11. NI 179 (Formerly Annual Efficiency Statement)

Cabinet **AGREED** to delegate authority to the Leader and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Finance and Staffing and Sustainability, Procurement and Efficiency Portfolio Holders, for submitting the total net value of ongoing cash-releasing value for money gains achieved since the start of the 2008/09 financial year.

Other Options Considered: None considered.

Reason For Decision: Guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government is that the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) should certify and approve the NI 179 (value for money gains) calculation.

12. Cambridge Sports Lake Trust: Request for Capital Grant Aid

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that a revenue grant of £261,000 be awarded to Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust towards the cost of an extension and improvements to the Visitor Centre at Milton Country Park.

Other Options Considered: Recommendation to Council.

Reason For Decision: Recommendation to Council.

13. Food Safety Service Plan 2009-2010

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that the Food Safety Service Plan 2009-10 be approved.

Other Options Considered: Recommendation to Council.

Reason For Decision: Recommendation to Council.

14. Grants to Voluntary Organisations from 2010 - 2011

The Leader **AGREED:**

- A. Option 3 of the report: to maintain the existing grants scheme and the total funding available (minimum £156,130 plus inflationary increases where appropriate) but to redefine it, implementing all of the changes detailed in the report to ensure clarity, consistency and transparency.
- B. That all organisations seeking three-year grants be informed that the financial situation of the Council could make it impossible for the authority to commit to a grant payment over a three-year period.

15. Unspent Budget Rollovers from 2009-10 to 2010-11

The Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder **APPROVED** that the budget rollovers, as summarised in Appendix A, be carried forward into the 2009-10 financial year, subject to final confirmation by the Section 151 Officer being given on an individual basis at the appropriate time during the year.

The rollover requests total £72,820 on General Fund budget accounts, £170,760 on the Capital Programme and £40,000 on the Housing Revenue Account.

OTHER INFORMATION

16. Newly-Published Items on modern.gov

Agendas

- [Joint Development Control Committee, Cambridge Fringes: 8 July 2009](#)
- [Licensing Committee: 13 July 2009](#)
-

Reports

- [Concessionary Fares](#)

Decisions

- [Cabinet \(Decision Sheet\): 2 July 2009](#)
- [Leader's Meeting \(Decision Sheet\): 2 July 2009](#)
- [Planning Committee \(Decision Sheet\): 1 July 2009](#)
- [Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder's meeting \(Decision Sheet\): 7 July 2009](#)

Minutes

- [Council: 18 June 2009](#)
- Senior Management Team: 1 July 2009 (Intranet only)

Issues

- [Complaint Reference 30156](#)

Meetings

- [Housing Portfolio Holder's meeting: 16 July 2009](#)

17. Upcoming Training Sessions for Members

| Subject: | Date: | Trainer: | For: | Contact: |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Introduction to the Revenues Service (two sessions) | 9 July 2009 10 am – 12 noon or 6 pm – 8 pm | Internal | Elected Members | Richard May |
| Project ARGUS: National Counter-Terrorism Security Office Exercise | 10 July 2009 | External | Elected Members | Democratic Services |

18. SCDC Starters and Leavers**Starters**

Trevor Faulkner, Principal Planning Officer – Major Developments, will be starting on 13 July 2009.

Adrian Hill, Street Cleaning Operative, started on 22 June 2009.

Leaver

Barbara Crothers, Sheltered Housing Officer, will be leaving on 5 July 2009.

This page is left blank intentionally.

The region's strategic partnership

July 2009

KEEPING YOU CLOSER TO THE ISSUES

There is important business to conduct before the summer now that the local elections have concluded.

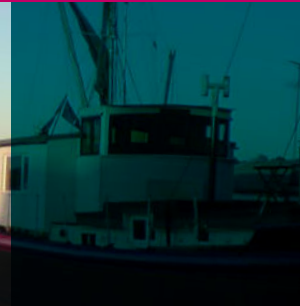
The Assembly's Annual General Meeting on 17th July 2009 will need to consider future regional arrangements for local government to replace EERA in March 2010. It will also need to reflect on the next stages of the review of the East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy).

My colleagues Cllr William Nunn, Chairman of the SNR Members Task Group, and Cllr Derrick Ashley, Chairman of the Regional Planning Panel, provide updates on the latest progress in these areas.

Nationally, we are talking with the Local Government Association and the emerging Leaders' Boards in each region about how we can best work together in future. There are opportunities for co-operation on a range of local government issues that we need to explore. We also need to influence the Government as the final legislation and guidance on the Single Regional Strategy and Leaders' Boards takes shape.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who contributed to EERA in 2008/9 and also welcome new members of EERA for its final year, particularly the new authorities of Central Bedfordshire and Bedford.

**Cllr John Reynolds,
Chairman, EERA**



SUB-NATIONAL REVIEW News emerging from the region

Thank you to all those who responded to the 'End of an EERA' consultation on the future of local government arrangements in the East of England. We received over 50 responses, most of which were thoughtful and constructive.

A key message from the consultation was better representation for district councils on the Leaders' Board. The proposal has therefore been revised so that the Leaders' Board comprises all 52 council leaders in the East of England. The Broads Authority will also be a member as required by the legislation.

The Task Group is also meeting with EEDA to discuss arrangements for working together on the Single Regional Strategy. A proposal is being developed for a Regional Strategy Board to undertake the detailed work on any new Strategy. It would comprise 10 council leaders (1 vote each), 5 EEDA Board members (2 votes each), non-voting representatives from the Homes and Communities Agency, Environment Agency, Natural England, Strategy Health Authority and the new Stakeholder Partnership.

I look forward to presenting the Task Group's final recommendations on 17th July at the EERA AGM meeting.

**Cllr William Nunn, Chairman of
the EERA Members' Task Group**



FURTHER INFORMATION

including the consultation document is available at:
www.eera.gov.uk/Who-we-are/future-of-eera

CONTENTS

Region building on success – more affordable housing completions in 2007/8 3

EEDA welcomes Assembly recommendations on Business Link delivery 4

Supporting Economic Development 5

Economic Summit Outcomes 5

East of England organisations urged to tap into £billions of European funding 6



£17 million of Funding for the Environment from the European Union 6

Innovations Day 7

2009 Ashridge Conference 8

Joint winners of the Equality Award 2009 9

Interactive:
Simply click on story to go to appropriate page.

PLANNING FOR THE REGION'S FUTURE

Cllr Derrick Ashley outlines the latest stage of the review of the East of England Plan.

The Regional Planning Panel meeting on 29th June gave Panel members an opportunity to discuss the latest position on the review of the East of England Plan and particularly a number of development scenarios for the Assembly to consider at the AGM in July.

The scenarios have been developed on the basis of information from Councils, the Government's National Housing Planning Advice Unit (NHPAU) and modelling commissioned by EERA and EEDA. It is proposed that the scenarios are thoroughly tested through the public consultation process in September-November this year before EERA considers a draft option to submit to Government in March 2010. The Assembly will have the opportunity to consider the scenarios on 17th July. The scenarios look at different housing and job growth possibilities.

In housing terms, the four broad scenarios that are recommended to the Assembly are:

1. RSS roll forward (based on existing spatial strategy) – 27,000 dwellings per annum for the period 2011-2031 based on the spatial strategy in the existing RSS;
2. NHPAU Low end of the scale (based on the Regional Scale Settlement Study) - RSS roll forward plus additional growth as per the Regional Scale Settlement Study in Bedfordshire, North and East Essex, Huntingdonshire and parts of Suffolk;
3. NHPAU Low scale based on a moderated economic forecast – RSS roll forward plus additional growth as per the Updated Economically Moderated Scenario (April 2009) in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, parts of Essex (different to those under Scenario 2), Hertfordshire and some parts of Norfolk and Suffolk;
4. 2006-based household projections – district-by-district disaggregation of the 2006 Household Projects which locates a majority of further development in Hertfordshire, Essex and particularly Norfolk and Suffolk.

Each of these will be tested against a 'baseline' position of past delivery, which was 22,000 dwellings per annum since 2001 and their environmental, social and economic implications.

The Regional Planning Panel recommended the four scenarios for consideration by the Assembly but with some additional resolutions (see in panel on right). The forthcoming public consultation is a crucial part of challenging the robustness of these scenarios.

Recommendations

In recommending the four scenarios to the Assembly, the Panel made clear that it accepted them as reasonable scenarios on the basis of the evidence before it, but had concerns that more robust evidence would be needed for the decision-making process. It also agreed on an approach to preparing and presenting supporting evidence to recommend to the Assembly, as well as a set of existing Plan policies to be reviewed. In addition, it reiterated EERA's long held stance that growth in the Region needs to be supported by the provision of infrastructure in its fullest sense, as well as addressing current infrastructure deficits.



*Cllr Derrick Ashley,
Chairman of the Regional Planning Panel*

PLANNING FOR THE REGION'S FUTURE

Region building on success – more affordable housing completions in 2007/8

The number of affordable houses completed in the East of England by April last year reached a seven-year high, EERA revealed this month in its Annual Monitoring Report of the East of England Plan. 5,208 new affordable homes were completed in 2007/8 compared with 4,411 during the previous year.

This will come as welcome news to many in the Region, however the figure still falls short of the regional need for new affordable homes. In a recent report commissioned by EERA, the Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research conclude that 11,600 affordable homes are required annually up to 2031 to meet regional needs.

The Annual Monitoring Report highlights the challenges that local authorities face in addressing the key issue of providing the large number of affordable homes that are needed. With an ageing population, migration into the region and smaller households, the need for housing in the Region continues to grow. At the same time, house prices are still high and mortgage lenders are increasingly cautious so the provision of affordable homes is vital in helping those priced out of the open market onto the property ladder.

Councillor Susan Barker, Chair of EERA's Housing and Sustainable Communities Panel, said: "The delivery of new, affordable housing is one of the region's top priorities. With the average house price in the East of England costing nearly £230,000, key workers and first time buyers are finding it impossible to get onto the housing ladder. The supply of housing is difficult to predict in the long-term. The 'credit crunch' has resulted in a sharp decrease in new construction projects.



*Affordable housing completions (new build) in 2007/8
% of all housing delivered and actual numbers completed*

| Sub-region | % | number of homes |
|-----------------------|----|-----------------|
| Bedfordshire | 16 | 438 |
| Cambridge | 19 | 1077 |
| Greater Norwich | 22 | 548 |
| Haven Gateway | 14 | 793 |
| London Commuter Belt | 25 | 1667 |
| Peterborough | 20 | 202 |
| Rural East Anglia | 12 | 279 |
| Thames Gateway | 13 | 157 |
| Yarmouth & Waveney | 7 | 47 |
| East of England total | 18 | 5208 |

FURTHER INFORMATION

EERA's Annual Monitoring Report 2007/8 can be found at: www.eera.gov.uk/publications-and-resources/annual-monitoring-reports. Affordable Housing figures appear on pages 73-79

A close-up photograph of a magnifying glass held over a financial document. The magnifying glass is centered over the number '1,617,804'. Other numbers visible in the document include '32,401', '75,055', '1,436,735', '412,801', and '(25,000,000)'. The document appears to be a ledger or account book with columns and rows of numbers, some in parentheses indicating negative values. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows, emphasizing the texture of the paper and the metallic rim of the magnifying glass.

SCRUTINY

EEDA welcomes Assembly recommendations on Business Link delivery

EEDA has welcomed the feedback and recommendations contained in the Assembly's recent review, reported in the previous issue of EERA News, of the way in which EEDA commissions Business Link services.

At the May meeting of the EERA/EEDA Liaison Panel (EELP), the Agency said it was pleased that executives from its Enterprise & Skills Directorate had been given the opportunity to work closely with EERA and Business Link East on the review.

The Agency's responses were generally very positive and the majority of the Assembly's recommendations are being acted upon. Assembly members were particularly pleased that EEDA acknowledged the need for an up-to-date Business Support Strategy for the East of England, which it is understood will be developed and consulted on in the

early autumn, and that a new performance framework would be introduced for Business Link since the current three key performance indicators are unhelpful and fail to drive the intensive assistance that businesses are seeking.

In addition to its detailed response to the Assembly review report, EEDA has agreed to invite members of the EERA Business Link review panel to join the EEDA task group dealing with the shaping of the future Business Link contract.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.eera.gov.uk/What-we-do/representing-the-region/scrutiny

SCRUTINY

Supporting Economic Development

120 local authority personnel attended the launch of an economic development capacity building project for local authorities, delivered by EERA in partnership with EEDA with support from Improvement East.

The aim of the two year project is to support and enhance the capacity and performance of Local Authorities in delivering economic development through a portfolio of training and development opportunities.

In addition to introducing Supporting Economic Development the event addressed the crucial issue of conducting Local Economic Assessments (LEAs) following the Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Richard Weaver on 01284 729446
or email: Richard.weaver@eera.gov.uk



Economic Summit Outcomes

Four Economic Summits were held in April to hold EEDA to account for its strategies, plans and actions. As well as allowing EEDA to demonstrate the work it had conducted over the previous year, the Summits allow sub-regional stakeholders the opportunity to understand EEDA's impact in their area.

Over 200 representatives of local authorities, public bodies, local businesses and voluntary organisations attended the four sub-regional Economic Summits this year. Representatives were also given the opportunity to influence the shape and structure of the East of England Implementation Plan (EEIP) during the second half of the event.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The outcomes can be viewed at www.eera.gov.uk/What-we-do/representing-the-region/scrutiny/economic-summits-2009

Two further Economic Summit events are taking place in September:

**Environmental Summit on 11th
Business Summit on 22nd.**

Contact Sue Houlder on 01284 729427 for more information.

EUROPE

East of England organisations urged to tap into £billions of European funding

The East of England Regional Assembly is encouraging organisations from across the Region to tap into billions of pounds of European Funding.

The Assembly's website now has a comprehensive outline of funding sources covering a broad range of activities. These include £38 million to support the restructuring of the fisheries sector; £700 million for a Youth in Action programme to help inspire a sense of active citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans; £7 billion for a Lifelong Learning programme; £1.5 billion for Culture, Media and Sport projects; £4 billion for a wide range of enterprise projects.



FURTHER INFORMATION

To find out how you can tap into these funds go to

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/What-we-do/representing-the-region/europe> or contact Lesley Rayner on 01284 729427 or email: Lesley.rayner@eera.gov.uk or Michelle Armstrong on 01284 729415 or email: michelle.armstrong@eera.gov.uk

£17 million of Funding for the Environment from the European Union

How do you get the maximum out of the European Union funding programmes for your environmental projects? Seventy delegates from a wide range of organisations across the Region attended a conference in Cambridge on 1st, organised by EERA, to find out how.

The conference 'Get a Life' informed delegates about the EU's LIFE+ programme for environmental projects which has allocated over £17 million to the UK in 2009. Delegates were informed about specific strands within the LIFE+ funding streams; they were offered first hand information on how to be successful in applying for funding; heard case studies from previous regional recipients of LIFE+ funding; and had an opportunity to raise questions with the national contact for the LIFE+ programme in the UK.

Delegates at the event included local authorities and other public bodies; private commercial organisations and non-commercial organisations including NGOs.

'Flourishing region'

Michael Allen, Chair of EERA's Environment and Resources Panel and Chair of the event said: "Anticipating and adapting to the challenges facing our environmental infrastructure is a key priority for all of us and we see the LIFE+ programme as a critical component in achieving sustainable economic growth that neither diminishes our well-being nor limits our potential growth in the future.

"This conference will have helped organisations in the region to apply for funding for environmental projects which will ultimately contribute to making the East of England a more flourishing region."

FURTHER INFORMATION

The event took place at the Cambridge Science Park. Papers and presentations are available at: <http://www.eera.gov.uk/meeting-and-events/regional-conferences/details/103>

CONFERENCES & NETWORKS



Innovations Day 21 October

Innovations Day 2009 has taken a pirate's theme! It will continue its interactive, hands on approach and once again there will be the chance to hear about innovative ideas from around the region. Local Authorities have submitted applications to win up to £50,000 for new innovative ideas so come along to vote for the winners of the Treasure Chest.

Get down to some serious conversation in the Galley Zone. You will have the opportunity to hear about the innovative work that is already taking place in the region. Here you will be able to attend roundtable discussions, ask the questions that you have always wanted to ask, and share your innovative ideas with potential partners.

Vote for new ideas that you think would be of most value in Treasure Island. Visit the Crows Nest for more informal conversations with one or two of your colleagues and the Exhibition Zone where you can browse throughout the day to learn more about projects and programmes that could be of interest to you and your authority.

FURTHER INFORMATION

To book your place, go to <http://www.eera.gov.uk/meeting-and-events/regional-networks/innovations-day-2009/>

A climate for change in the East of England 28 July

An event to inform and inspire local community action on climate change has been organised by the East of England Regional Assembly and Hertfordshire County Council.

This event brings together specialists from across the East of England, and organisations such as the Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire, who develop sustainable transport plans for the community, Big Barn, the virtual farmer's market, and Groundwork, who have developed practical solutions to climate change. These speakers and more will share their experiences in providing a local response to the global challenge of climate change.

Michael Allen, Chair of EERA's Environment and Resources Panel and Chair of the event said: "It is the actions of those within our local communities that will have the most profound effect in our fight against climate change. This event is part of an action plan to deliver the Regional Social Strategy which includes an objective to support the development of sustainable communities."



FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, contact Sue Houlder on 01284 729421 or email sue.houlder@eera.gov.uk



CONFERENCES & NETWORKS

NETWORKS

www.eera.gov.uk/meetings-and-events/regional-networks

Learning from each other is probably the most effective way of achieving improvements.

We facilitate a wide range of thriving networks, where people from across the region meet to share experiences and advice.

For further information, or if you are interested in joining one of the steering groups, contact our Networks Organiser, Amanda Ankin, on 01284 729403 or email Amanda.ankin@eera.gov.uk

CONFERENCES

www.eera.gov.uk/meetings-and-event/regional-conferences

We deliver quality conference for the region, in the region, at a price you can afford.

Our conference programme is designed together with our 'national' player partners. We also provide a conference administration service for organisations wishing to run their own event.

To find out more about forthcoming conferences, contact our Conference Organiser, Sue Houlder, on 01284 729421 or email sue.houlder@eera.gov.uk



2009 Ashridge Conference

13 and 14 November

A warm invitation to all HR colleagues in the Region. Our time is at a premium, and there is no way we can better add value in our organisations than taking time to think, reflect and plan. The 2009 Ashridge Conference will offer the opportunity to reflect on how we rise to the many challenges we face, to focus on today's key issues in people management, to share experiences and extend networks.

Speakers for 2009 include:

- Linda Moir, former Director of In Flight Services, Virgin Atlantic
- Stephen Taylor, Director, Taylor Haig
- Gillian Hibberd, President of PPMA and Corporate Director, Buckinghamshire County Council

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, go to: <http://www.eera.gov.uk/meeting-and-events/regional-conferences/details/77>

SHARED SERVICES

A joint Employer and Trade Union Event, 14 July

This event is organised jointly with the Trade Unions and is designed to build on the previous Shared Services Event held in 2008.

The aim of the day is to give delegates practical tools to help them to understand the process of moving towards a Shared Service arrangement, starting from making the political decision, through to dealing with a wide range of staffing, procurement and implementation issues, and looking at the methods of evaluation and monitoring.

Chief Executives, HR professionals, Trade Union Representatives, Elected Members and other officers with a particular interest in Shared Services will hear about authorities who have already been through the shared services process.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, go to: <http://www.eera.gov.uk/meeting-and-events/regional-conferences/details/102>

Getting to grips with the new Comprehensive Area Assessment

10 July, Newmarket Racecourse



Improvement East, together with the Member Development Network, is holding a regional event to support elected Members in engaging with their role in the new way of assessing performance in an area. Getting to the bottom of what CAA will really mean for Councillors.

By attending these events Members and relevant officers will be able to:

- Hear from the Audit Commission and elected Members
- Engage in group discussions
- Take part in a question & answer session
- Network with colleagues

FURTHER INFORMATION

To book, visit the events section of the Improvement East website; <http://www.improvementeast.gov.uk/events/> or contact Jayne Cole, 01284 729405 jayne.cole@eera.gov.uk.

WHAT'S NEW?

Joint winners of the Equality Award 2009

The winners of this year's Equality Award were announced at a ceremony at South Cambridgeshire District Council last week. This annual event celebrates and encourages creativity and innovation in promoting equality of opportunities within local authorities in the Region.

Hertfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service

The Herts Fire & Rescue submission relates to a Polish Forum and the Fire and Rescue Service working in partnership to provide space for the Polish community to meet on a regular basis, based at Hatfield Fire Station. During these meetings educational programmes and language classes are held as well as general information on education for children, health care, specific safety advice, accessing employment and many more topics.

St Albans District Council

The St Albans Tiffin Club is a pioneering project initiated by many partners within the community and relates to a unique Luncheon Club for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic women (BAME) with a special focus on the Bangladeshi, Pakistani, most disadvantaged and under represented women in all areas. The club is designed specifically for women, run by women and in a safe and accessible location.

A special thanks to all authorities who submitted projects including: Basildon District Council – Norfolk County Council – Thurrock Council.



Key Panel Meeting Diary Dates 2009

Executive Committee

Friday 18 September
Thursday 19 November

Employment and Skills Panel

Thursday 15 October

EERA/EEDA Liaison Panel

Thursday 3 September
Friday 4 December

Regional Assembly

Friday 17 July

Europe and International Affairs Panel

Friday 24 July
Tuesday 6 October

Housing and Sustainable Communities Panel

Thursday 22 October

Regional Improvement and Efficiency Panel

Wednesday 8 July

Regional Planning Panel

Tuesday 17 November

Social Inclusion Panel

Tuesday 14 July
Tuesday 13 October

Environment and Resources Panel

Monday 12 October

Local Government Employers Panel

Thursday 24 September

FURTHER INFORMATION

for more dates, agendas and papers go to:

www.eera.gov.uk/meetings-and-events

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE ASSEMBLY'S NEWS AND EVENTS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE, WWW.EERA.GOV.UK.

If you require further information on this document or in a different format or language, please contact:

Claire Sefton, Communications Officer, by email claire.sefton@eera.gov.uk or telephone 01284 729427.

This page is left blank intentionally.