

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

SCRUTINY PANEL

8 September 2004

Tourism Regional Strategic Review

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To obtain Members agreement on Terms of Reference for the Regional Strategic Review on Tourism and its associated timetable.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members consider the draft Terms of Reference at **Appendix 1** and agree the proposed timetable, actions and events for the Regional Strategic Review.

3. Latest Proposals

- 3.1 The draft Terms of Reference at Appendix 1 set out the proposed scope for the Regional Strategic Review on Tourism in the South West. They have been drawn up in consultation with SW RDA and highlight the key areas of the development of year round tourism and the delivery of the new Regional Tourism Strategy.

- 3.2 Following discussion with SW RDA tourism staff, it is proposed that research is commissioned on a joint basis to examine the deliverability of the new Regional Tourism Strategy, 'Towards 2015 – Shaping Tomorrow's Tourism'. The research would play an important part in informing the Regional Strategic Review and discussion at regional workshops. A draft specification for the research will be circulated to Members shortly.

- 3.3 The research will clearly play a key part in determining the timescale of the overall review process. Members also indicated some concern at a previous meeting over the tight timescale originally proposed for this Regional Strategic Review. Following discussion with SW RDA and other stakeholders, the timescale below is now proposed, though this will be subject to change (depending on the research timescale).

Key Stakeholder Meeting - 21 October 2004
Possible Panel Meeting - 15 November 2004
Main Regional Workshop - 30 November 2004
Bilateral Discussions - 20 January 2005

- 3.4 It is suggested that the Stakeholder Meeting planned for 21 October would be a smaller scale event with key stakeholders, and would help prepare for a full Regional Workshop on 30 November. Bilateral Discussions with SW RDA representatives could take place on 20

January 2005. If necessary, the timescale of the review will continue beyond January and dates will change to accommodate this. The scope of this review is larger than previous reviews and needs to be taken into account when considering the overall timescale.

- 3.5 Previous reviews have benefited from briefing sessions with individual stakeholders. These have proved helpful in highlighting key issues and areas for further exploration. If Members are content it is proposed to invite meetings with the following stakeholders (with dates for confirmed meetings circulated by email):

Malcolm Bell, South West Tourism
Iain Newton, Department of Culture, Media and Sport
Mary Burguieres, Local Government Association
National Trust or similar bodies
SEEP Tourism Sub Group

- 3.6 The Assembly's Social, Environmental and Economic Partners will be considering some of the key tourism issues for the Regional Strategic Review at their away day on 3 September 2004. Ian Munro, Howard Thomas, Martin Ross and Chris Irwin are participating and will be able to provide feedback on this.
- 3.7 In common with previous reviews, Sustainability South West have agreed to provide an assessment of the effects of tourism on sustainable development and also to participate in regional workshops. A list of key reading documents is also being compiled and will be distributed amongst Scrutiny Panel members.
- 3.8 Members will also have received a copy of a questionnaire, the responses from which will inform the Regional Strategic Review. It is also proposed to seek key facts and figures from SW RDA on their tourism project spend and related information.

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