

10th December 2008

Our ref: R00073

## **Freedom of Information Request – Eastbourne-Hailsham Triangle**

- Please provide copies of all meeting minutes and all agenda papers which were before members of the Steering Group at those meetings, during its life, from the first meeting with GVA Grimley, after their appointment, until the signing-off meeting, which I understand was in September 2008.
- I also wish to see Reference Group meeting minutes including for the meeting attended by the South Downs Joint Committee and the Highways Agency during last summer.

### **Information requested**

Electronic copies of the following documents are attached:

#### **Project Board meeting 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007:**

- Agenda
- Agenda item 3: Notes of meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007
- Agenda item 4: Wealden & Eastbourne LDF process
- Agenda item 5: Eastbourne-Hailsham masterplan
- Agenda item 6: Governance arrangements

#### **Project Board meeting 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008:**

- Agenda
- Agenda item 2: Notes of meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007
- Agenda item 4: Progress since last meeting\*
- Agenda item 6: Programme for masterplan & key milestones
- Agenda item 9: Public relations
- Agenda item 10: Risk register (two documents)

#### **Project board meeting 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008:**

- Agenda
- Agenda item 2: Notes of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008
- Agenda item 4: Progress report
- Agenda item 5: PowerPoint presentation: Towards a Masterplan



- Agenda item 7: Next steps
- Draft notes on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008 meeting – please note that these have not yet been formally approved because there has not yet been a subsequent meeting of the Project Board

\*We have made two redactions from one document – the Progress report presented to the Board meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

We have applied the exemption under section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act – commercial interests. The information we have redacted in both cases concerns the price of the consultant's contract. The consultants have asked that this information should not be released because the pricing of their bids is commercially sensitive and should not be revealed to their competitors.

Although it is in the public interest to understand how public money is spent, it is not in the public interest to cause commercial damage to private firms that do business with public authorities. In addition, it is SEEDA's view that the uncontrolled disclosure of pricing information will be against the public interest as it is anticompetitive and will support the formation of cartels.

You made a specific request for Reference Group meeting minutes including the meeting attended by the South Downs Joint Committee and the Highways Agency during last summer. We have checked with the consultants and East Sussex County Council and the only minutes we have of a Reference Group meeting are those for a meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 that are appended to the Progress report given to the Board meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and which are provided with this response.

GVA Grimley held a number of information gathering and discussion meetings, including one with transport operators, but these were not formally minuted. Instead, the findings from these meetings were fed into the consultant's main report.