

## **SOUTH EAST DIVISION AGM AND PRESENTATION BY ADAM INGLEBY**

**23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2010**

### **OFFICES OF THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION**

Prior to the elections and appointments sections of the AGM, the meeting was brought to order by the Chairman, Philip Thompson, to hear two thought provoking presentations on environmental issues of particular significance to the South East.

The meeting welcomed Adam Ingleby of the Environment Agency who spoke on Planning, Environmental Protection and Air Quality Issues for the South East and Peter Fleming of TRL who spoke to the topic of Air Quality Monitoring and the available Methodologies. This note deals with the presentation and proceedings relating to Adam's talk; that provided by Peter Fleming will be addressed in a separate report of the meeting.

Adam noted that key aspects of concern to the EA for the region on which input and comment from Environmental Protection UK would be welcome include:

- Road Traffic Pollution with 50,000 km of road and 5.2 million vehicles in daily use;
- The PPC regime for the control of industrial emissions,
- Farming issues including agricultural wastes and special interests like poultry, dust and dry milling;
- Landfill nuisance and human health risks, where targeted reductions of 25% on 1990 methane emissions are now being called for;
- Environmental Risk Management in the wake of the Buncefield explosion and fires to cater for which the EA has set up Science and Technical Advice Cells (STACs);
- Support to the OPAL programme which is supported by National Lottery Funding and which is bringing environmental learning by doing to local communities;
- The establishment of state of the art GIS as part of the EA's Environmental Planning Tool incorporating validated and authoritative data layers on key environmental indices such as Water Quality, Water Resources, Biodiversity Rankings, Air Quality and other mapable data bases on environmental quality and performance;
- and lastly, Adam highlighted the need to include particular interests such as the Strategic Health Authorities, the Fit for Life Campaign and the need to embrace and improve Green Infrastructure.

The Chairman thanked Adam for a searching talk on key issues of environmental management and protection facing the Region where our own interests, focussed on Air Quality, Land, Noise and Sustainability, are relevant and invited questions from the floor. It was suggested that regulation of dust and noise from construction sites could place a greater emphasis on the use of environmental permitting schemes for each individual construction site rather than relying on the controls presently available to Local Authorities which are limited to generic control of mobile plant such as crushers rather than dealing with all expected impacts including movement of people, plant and materials to and from the site. While various Codes may be available to call upon, the view was expressed that a thought out scheme of regulation would improve matters. For those members with interests in key infrastructure nodes such as airports, the suggestion was made that much data on noise contours should also be available which could be added as data layers to the EA's GIS

Environmental Planning Tool. Similarly, members raised the possibility that data available from the set of AQMAs that have been introduced so far by Local Authorities across the region could be added as another data layer. The importance of linking up with existing partnerships was also noted with mention being made, *inter alia*, of the London Pollution Group (CIEH), the Central London AQ Cluster Group, Medway Group, Kent & Sussex Cluster and the Essex AQ Consortium. Members expressed their thanks in the usual way and confirmed willingness to assist Adam where possible if approached on the availability of validated data layers for the GIS planning system he described.

For further information, please consult the Division's web page or contact Dr Peter Kayes at [southeast@environmental-protection.org-uk](mailto:southeast@environmental-protection.org-uk)