



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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# **PLANNING DELAYS AT FALMER STADIUM HIGHLIGHTED IN NATIONAL REPORT**

## **Falmer Stadium used as case study in British Chambers of Commerce report into planning**

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) released this week (Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June) its report into how delays in the planning process are holding up business growth and stifling economic prosperity. The Planning for Recovery report uses Falmer Stadium as an example of how extreme the planning process can be. Planning permission for the stadium was granted in 2002 but work didn't begin until the end of 2008 and the project isn't expected to be finished until 2011 following a series of consultations and delays.

The Planning for Recovery report was compiled by the BCC and looks into the shortcomings of the current planning system in the UK, the impact on businesses and recommendations for improvements. The report concludes that businesses believe the current planning process results in too much uncertainty, risk and delay which has a negative impact on development.

Sussex Enterprise, the chamber of commerce for Sussex was asked to put forward its views and experiences of the planning process in the county. Mark Froud, Chief Executive at Sussex Enterprise said, "Local businesses have been telling us for years that slow planning regulations and unnecessary bureaucracy is having a negative impact on business growth. We decided to put forward Falmer Stadium as an example of bad planning as it's a large project that's been swamped by problems from the start.



“The proposed multi-purpose stadium at Falmer in Brighton was granted formal planning permission by Brighton and Hove City Council in June 2002 but was only finally agreed in July 2007, despite clear local economic benefits and broad support from the public in the area. Decisions were constantly delayed for several years at a national level through a drawn-out public inquiry process.”

The BCC’s Planning for Recovery report makes a series of recommendations on how to improve the system, these include:

- The abolition of unnecessary regional planning processes. All Local Authorities should have complete local planning frameworks in place.
- Strong and clear National Policy Statements and an Infrastructure Planning Commission which will speed up decision-making.
- A target set on limiting the extent of national planning guidance with parliamentary scrutiny of the progress.
- More joined-up infrastructure funding and a simplification of the planning obligations system to ensure they cannot be layered on top of each other. How and where they are spent should be made public.
- The creation of Enterprise Zones to encourage development in specific areas through a simplified planning and tax regime.

The report will now be used by the BCC to inform decision makers at the highest level of government and feed into current reforms for the planning system.

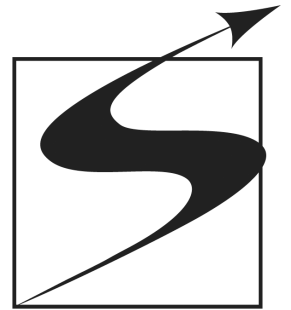
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**Notes to Editors:**

1. **Sussex Enterprise** is the largest organisation that supports and represents businesses in Sussex. Owned by and accountable to the business community, it exists to help Sussex business prosper and develop by providing expert business help and advice. Part of the British Chamber of Commerce movement, Sussex Enterprise is one of the leading new style chambers of commerce in the country. [www.sussexenterprise.co.uk](http://www.sussexenterprise.co.uk) Sussex Enterprise currently has over 2,000 member businesses from across the county.
2. The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) is the national voice of local business.



**sussex**  
**enterprise**

The BCC sits at the heart of a powerful nationwide network of Accredited Chambers of Commerce, serving over **100,000 businesses** across the UK, which **employ over five million people**. For more information visit: [www.britishchambers.org.uk](http://www.britishchambers.org.uk)