

2005 guidance to RDAs on regional strategies

Extracts listed below on alignment and consistency...

"8. Regional Chambers, more commonly known as Regional Assemblies, have been designated under section 8 of the RDAs Act to provide regional accountability for the work of the RDAs. In developing and reviewing the RES the RDA should have regard to the views expressed by the Regional Assembly. This is especially important given the Assembly's role in ensuring alignment of the various regional strategies.

9. Regional priorities for sustainable development are set out in the Regional Sustainable Development Framework (RSDF) or its equivalent that underpins and thus helps join up all the other regional strategies. It is an important starting point for developing the RES to ensure that sustainable development is at its heart and it contributes to the UK sustainable development priorities.[2]. The RSDF can also have an important role in identifying and resolving any conflicts or tensions between the RES and other regional strategies.

10. The RES, the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), which includes the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), and the Regional Housing Strategy (RHS), are major regional strategies and each have implications for the economic development of the region. They should be mutually reinforcing. These strategies should take account of each other and other regional strategies so that, as far as possible, the evidence, objectives and priorities of each are consistent. The RSS and RHS should take account of the economic ambitions and needs of the region, and put in place spatial planning, transport and housing priorities that will support and enable the aspirations of the RES to be met. Similarly, the RES should take account of the spatial and transport priorities of the RSS and the housing objectives of the RHS. The three strategies (RES, RHS and RSS) will need to be aligned if they are to secure the management of change in a coherent and sustainable way.

11. Both the RES and the RSS are subject to European Directive 2001/42/EC on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) (transposed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004). For the RSS, the Directive's requirements are covered by mandatory Sustainability Appraisal under the Planning Act 2004. RDAs should refer to the ODPM consultation publications "A Draft Practical Guide to the SEA Directive" and "SA of RSSs and Local Development Frameworks: Consultation Paper" (www.odpm.gov.uk). The latter shows planning bodies how to assess the full range of social, environmental and economic effects of plans against criteria of sustainability."