



ESPACE Extension

South East England Regional Assembly

Overcoming Barriers to the Delivery of Climate Change Adaptation in South East England



1. Overview

- 1.1 The South East England Regional Assembly had commissioned the development of a Climate Change Implementation Plan with support from ESPACE to reflect the importance of climate change. It sets out measures required to implement the cross-cutting climate change policy of the draft South East Plan.
- 1.2 However, there are still many barriers in the way of delivery including knowledge gaps, coordination, funding, conflicting priorities and resistance to change. The Assembly appointed the consultancy Collingwood Environmental Planning to determine key barriers to delivering successful adaptation and recommendations to overcome these barriers.
- 1.3 The consultancy used causal chain analyses which are more in-depth than a simple linear model of cause and effect taking account of relationships between barriers at different growth levels. The barriers and potential solutions were also tested through interviews, virtual dialogue, meetings and workshops with experts from local authorities, Government agencies and other organisations in the UK and the Netherlands.
- 1.4 The research will provide evidence to better integrate climate change adaptation into regional planning policy and its implementation. A summary of the findings will also be a useful tool for regional and local stakeholders who would like to understand how specific barriers can be overcome.

2. Overview of Results

- 2.1 The research is looking at the following actions for regional players to overcome the barriers. Actions under the following headings 1 – 6 relate to specific adaptation measures in the climate change policy of the South East Plan, actions under headings 7 - 10 are more generic and apply to a range of different adaptation measures:

1. Guide strategic development away from risk areas

- Developing tools to be used for existing assessments (such as Flood Risk Assessments and Sustainability Appraisals) ensuring better support for decision-making on climate change impacts and adaptation and fostering creative solutions.

2. Ensure the built environment is more resilient to climate change

- Promoting common standards improving the resilience of buildings.
- Encouraging national government and agencies to adopt higher standards and a national accreditation system for climate-resilient practices, equipment and fittings.

- Bringing together good practice with climate resilience in spatial planning policy and development control.
- 3. Incorporate high standards of water efficiency in developments**
 - Establishing water metering in all properties.
 - Agree levels of water efficiency in new development.
 - 4. Incorporate sustainable drainage measures in developments**
 - Encouraging local authorities to include sustainable drainage as a specific policy in local planning documents.
 - Developing regional guidance and best practice on maintenance and the long-term management of sustainable drainage.
 - 5. Avoid flood risk through integrated surface water management**
 - Creating and agreeing integrated surface water strategies.
 - 6. Ensure opportunities for the migration of habitats and species are not foreclosed**
 - Building robust evidence on the vulnerability of habitats and species to climate change and identifying what protection or management conditions are required to allow adaptation of habitats and species to a changing climate.
 - 7. Improve leadership**
 - Making the challenge of adaptation relevant to leaders from a range of sectors and organisations across the region by increasing their understanding of the benefits of adaptation actions.
 - Facilitating the testing of innovative approaches to adaptation, providing support through advice, incentives and monitoring.
 - 8. Ensure consistency of policy framework**
 - Ensuring that all policies are climate proofed through the use of common definitions/goals/indicators for applying policy in different and dynamic contexts.
 - 9. Improve partnership working**
 - Using existing networks and partnership initiatives to promote the delivery of adaptation measures.
 - 10. Improve knowledge and awareness**
 - Making existing information and advice more widely and easily accessible to decision makers and implementing organisations in different sectors and at all levels.

2.2 The final report of this study will be available in June 2008. For more information on the Assembly's work on climate change, please see http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/planning_climate.html or contact Jörn Peters at jornpeters@southeast-ra.gov.uk.