

# Regional Monitoring Report 2005



Regional Monitoring Report 2005

Published April 2006  
by the South East England  
Regional Assembly.

ISBN 1-904664-28-8

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# Regional Monitoring Report 2005

## Foreword

The Regional Monitoring Report 2005 (RMR 05) is the fourth annual monitoring report produced by the Regional Assembly. As with previous reports, the RMR 05 draws on key national, regional and local datasets to monitor policies set out in the current regional spatial strategy (RPG9) and objectives put forward in the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF).

01  
For further information about the South East Plan, visit our website at <http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/index.html>.

Annual monitoring continues to provide a foundation upon which to review RPG9 and further develop the regional spatial strategy for the South East, the South East Plan 01.

2005 was a busy year for the Assembly. January to April saw the public consultation on the initial draft of the South East Plan and continuing work on the sub-regional details. In the second half of the year the region's principal authorities consulted on the sub-regional details of the draft Plan, including housing allocations to district council areas. Throughout this process and using feedback received via the consultation process, the existing monitoring framework used to monitor RPG9 has been developed to propose a new framework for monitoring the Plan. The need for infrastructure provision to keep pace with new development is the single most critical issue that has emerged throughout the Plan's preparation. The legacy of past underinvestment in the region not only has an adverse impact on the economic performance of the region, but increases environmental impacts and reduces quality of life. Maintaining quality of life is a key economic driver and is vital to the success of the region. Future monitoring will include a focus on the delivery of the Plan's goals by measuring progress against the region's Implementation Plan. This will continue to evolve as part of the Plan and will come into effect once the South East Plan has been adopted. This year the RMR continues to concentrate on policies set out in RPG9.

Data availability continues to be a problem. While stakeholders and other regional organisations have been extremely helpful in providing data and advice on the commentary set out within the report, the provision of key local level data on development is somewhat patchy. The Assembly is working toward the development of online monitoring tools that aim to relieve some of the burden of data provision and streamline the data collection process. We will continue to work closely with data providers on this matter.

2005 saw the first full set of Local Development Framework annual monitoring reports (AMRs) published by local authorities following issue of Planning Policy Statements 11 and 12. Local AMRs monitor policies set out at the local level and provide an important source of data and information for regional monitoring. All local AMRs are available on individual local authority websites.

This year I would particularly like to thank those organisations and individuals who have taken the time to provide not only the vital data required to monitor regional policy but also the support and advice provided for both this report and the development of a framework to monitor the South East Plan. Central to this have been our Monitoring Advisory Groups and the Member Group for Monitoring, both of which were established in 2005.



**Cllr Christine Field**  
Chairman, Regional Planning Committee

# one

# Chapter One

## Introduction

### Context for Monitoring

**01**  
Chapter 9 The Regional Transport Strategy and chapters 10 and 14 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; Tourism and Related Sport and Recreation; Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy (March 2005). For more information on these documents, see <http://www.go-se.gov.uk/>. Work is still ongoing with regards to amending the RPG9 Waste & Minerals chapters.

**02**  
With the exception of the RPG9 alterations for Milton Keynes and South Midlands for which a separate monitoring report has been produced on behalf of the East Midlands Regional Assembly, East of England Regional Assembly and the South East England Regional Assembly.

Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9), approved by the Government in March 2001, became the Regional Spatial Strategy following the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Secretary of State has approved a suite of formal alterations to RPG9 in the past two years and all have incorporated additional or revised monitoring indicators <sup>01</sup>. This report monitors policies set out in RPG9 as amended, in as far as they relate to the current boundary of the South East <sup>02</sup>(see map 1).

The value and importance of an effective monitoring system for regional planning was originally set out in 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 11: Regional Planning' (PPG11). Recent Planning Policy Statements 11 and 12 (PPS11; PPS12) have further emphasised this. RPG9 contains a policy designed to ensure effective monitoring takes place:

#### Policy MON 1:

Regular and effective monitoring of regional circumstances should be undertaken, involving the use of targets and indicators to measure the effectiveness of policies.

The Regional Monitoring Report 2005 (RMR 05) also monitors objectives set out in the Integrated Regional Framework. These are within the topic areas alongside relevant RPG9 policies.

The monitoring report measures the extent to which the objectives and policies set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy (and the IRF) are being delivered, and identifies potential corrective actions that may be required as a result of any failure to meet stated policy objectives. The document will be used to advocate changes in policy and encourage other bodies to do the same.

#### Structure of the Report

This report follows the same basic structure as previous monitoring reports. However, there is one key difference – the introduction of traffic lights to illustrate the progress against policy objectives and relevant national and regional targets. The document is structured around chapters set out in RPG9. Within those chapters, each policy is presented along with any relevant IRF objectives, targets and other relevant regional policies. These are followed by the indicators used to monitor that policy, a list of key findings of the data for that indicator and finally a commentary which relates the key findings of the indicator to the policy and any implications for policy review or implementation. In some cases there will be more than one indicator used to monitor one policy. The commentary for each policy will be accompanied by a traffic light:



#### Green:

Targets and objectives set out regionally or nationally have either been met or data indicates progression towards targets/objectives.



#### Amber:

This can be for a number of reasons:

- There is more than one indicator for the policy and they are moving in different directions
- There is a lack of data available to fully assess performance
- There is no detail available to explain the trends in data
- Further research is required
- The policy needs close attention in the following monitoring year.



#### Red:

The data indicates under-performance against targets and objectives set out regionally or nationally.

Much data within the report has been obtained from secondary sources, such as the Environment Agency, Countryside Agency and the Office for National Statistics. However, the Assembly also collects data directly from local authorities via two main surveys – the Housing Supply Monitoring Survey and the Survey of Major Industrial, Commercial, Retail and Hotel Development – which together provide data on development, completions and land supply in the South East.

Where possible, for each indicator it is stated whether the data represents a baseline or illustrates an upward, downward or unchanged trend. Possible policy implications of the trend data are included at the end of each chapter:

**Data Availability**

The first Regional Monitoring Report (2002) provided a baseline from which future reports would be able to measure change. This will not always be possible with all indicators, as some data are not updated on a regular basis.

The new indicators in the IRF present some problems for monitoring; a number of them rely on the publication of data at a very low geographical level (Super Output Area) and it is unclear at present how often such data may be published. Others have no source of data identified.

**Annex I**

Identifies those indicators for which data or updates have not been sourced.

**Future Monitoring**

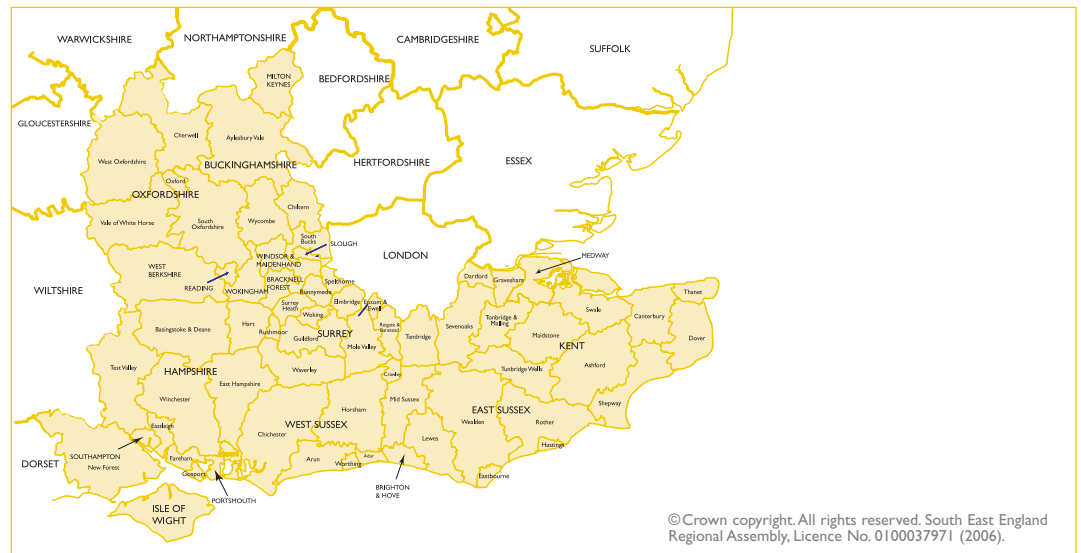
Monitoring will be constantly reviewed in light of good practice guidance issued from central government. Until the South East Plan has been adopted as the Regional Spatial Strategy (currently scheduled for 2008), the RMR will continue to monitor RPG9 (including forthcoming alterations in relation to waste and minerals). Following the adoption of the South East Plan, the monitoring report will take on the proposed structure set out within the Plan.

**03**  
See 'Regional Spatial Strategy Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide', available on the ODPM website: [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk).

In line with good practice guidance <sup>03</sup>, the Assembly will work closely with local authorities that are also required to produce an annual monitor. Indeed, this year all local authorities in the South East have produced monitoring reports – these can be found on individual authority websites. Both local authorities and regional planning bodies are also required to monitor a set of national core indicators drafted by ODPM. These will provide a consistent base for national monitoring and are highlighted in Annex I.

The Assembly will continue to review data collection procedures such as the two local authority based surveys. It will work with Government and local authorities to improve the provision of data while reducing pressure on resources of key data suppliers.

**The South East England Region**  
**Map 1: The South East Region**



The South East England region (see map 1) is approximately 19,090 km<sup>2</sup> in size and as such is one of the largest English regions. Its coastline stretches for some 1,628 km and there are approximately 4,400 km of rivers and streams (under Environment Agency management).

The region stretches from Kent in the east to the western boundary of Hampshire, south to the coast (including the Isle of Wight) and up to the northern borders of Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes. It has seven counties, 12 unitary authorities and 55 district and borough councils.

**04**  
Estimate for 2004 (Office for National Statistics).

The region has the largest population of any English region, at 8,122,200 in 2004 <sup>04</sup> (see Table 1). The population increased by an estimated 1.3% between 2001 and 2004 – slightly below the average for England.

**Table I: 2001 to 2004 population estimates and change**

Number in thousands	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
North East	2,518.8	2,513.3	2,539.4	2,535.4	0.7
North West	6,747.0	6,748.7	6,804.5	6,811.4	1.0
Yorkshire and Humber	4,970.6	4,982.5	5,009.3	5,022.3	1.0
East Midlands	4,182.8	4,215.5	4,252.3	4,274.8	2.2
West Midlands	5,282.8	5,304.1	5,319.9	5,330.3	0.9
East of England	5,401.3	5,420.4	5,462.9	5,498.6	1.8
London	7,307.9	7,355.4	7,387.9	7,431.0	1.7
South East	8,021.4	8,037.1	8,080.3	8,122.2	1.3
South West	4,937.0	4,959.6	4,999.3	5,031.1	1.9
England	49,369.5	49,536.6	49,855.7	50,057.0	1.4

**Source**  
Office for National  
Statistics, 2004

5.4% of the region's population live within areas that rank within the top 20% most deprived areas (according to the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation) in England. This masks the extreme disparities that exist within the region. The most deprived area in the region ranks 357 out of 32,482 <sup>05</sup> (where rank 1 is most deprived). Unemployment claimant count rates as a proportion of working age population in October 2005 were lower than any other region except the South West, at 1.4%. This is well below the 2.3% average for England <sup>06</sup>.

**05**  
Indices of Deprivation,  
2004; ODPM.

**06**  
ONS, 2005.

Life expectancy at birth for both males (77.2 years) and females (81.5 years) is higher in the South East than in England. Infant mortality rates are better in the South East (3.9 per 1,000 births in 2004 compared to 5.1 in England).

**07**  
Forestry Commission  
National Inventory of  
Woodland and Trees -  
The South East Region,  
2002.

Approximately 47.5% of the South East is covered by one or more of the following designations: Green Belt (16 % of the region), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (33.5% of the region) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (7% of the region). 2004 saw the designation of a new National Park – the New Forest – while a second remains proposed – the South Downs. The South East is the most heavily wooded region in England with 14.3% of the region covered by woodland <sup>07</sup>.

**08**  
Department for  
Transport, Maritime  
Statistics, 2004.

The South East is the UK's key international gateway, with major ports of Southampton, Portsmouth, Dover, the Channel Tunnel and the Medway Ports. Southampton is currently the third largest container port in the UK, handling 13.8% of the UK's container traffic in weight in 2004 <sup>08</sup>. The second largest UK airport, Gatwick, is in the region, handling 31.3 million passengers in 2004 <sup>09</sup>.

**09**  
Civil Aviation Authority,  
TSGB, 2004.