

The South East Regional Sustainability Framework

Towards a better quality of life



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1 Introduction

The Regional Sustainability Framework

1.1 The Regional Sustainability Framework (RSF) sets a common vision, 25 objectives and four priorities that will help guide sustainable development in the South East.

Sustainable Development

1.2 The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations¹.

Vision

1.3 The RSF sets out the following vision:

A socially and economically strong, healthy and just South East that respects the limits of the global environment. Achieving this will require the active involvement of all individuals to deliver a society where everyone, including the most deprived, benefits from and contributes to a better quality of life. At the same time the impact of current high levels of resource use will be reduced and the quality of the environment will be maintained and enhanced.

Objectives

1.4 By considering the specific issues facing the region, this Regional Sustainability Framework (RSF) establishes 25 objectives that will help guide the action required to achieve this vision. These objectives are further broken down into a number of indicators and targets which can be measured to check progress.

Priorities

1.5 The RSF has been produced by a working group of key regional partners guided by the newly formed Sustainable Futures Group (SFG). The SFG, a high level influential and impartial group, has measured performance against the RSF objectives to identify regional priorities. These priorities are areas where the South East is underperforming and where action is urgently required if we are to achieve our vision.

- 1.6 The resulting priorities are:
- Achieving sustainable levels of resource use
 - Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the region²
 - Ensuring that the South East is prepared for the inevitable impacts of climate change
 - Ensuring that the most deprived people also have an equal opportunity to benefit from and contribute to a better quality of life.

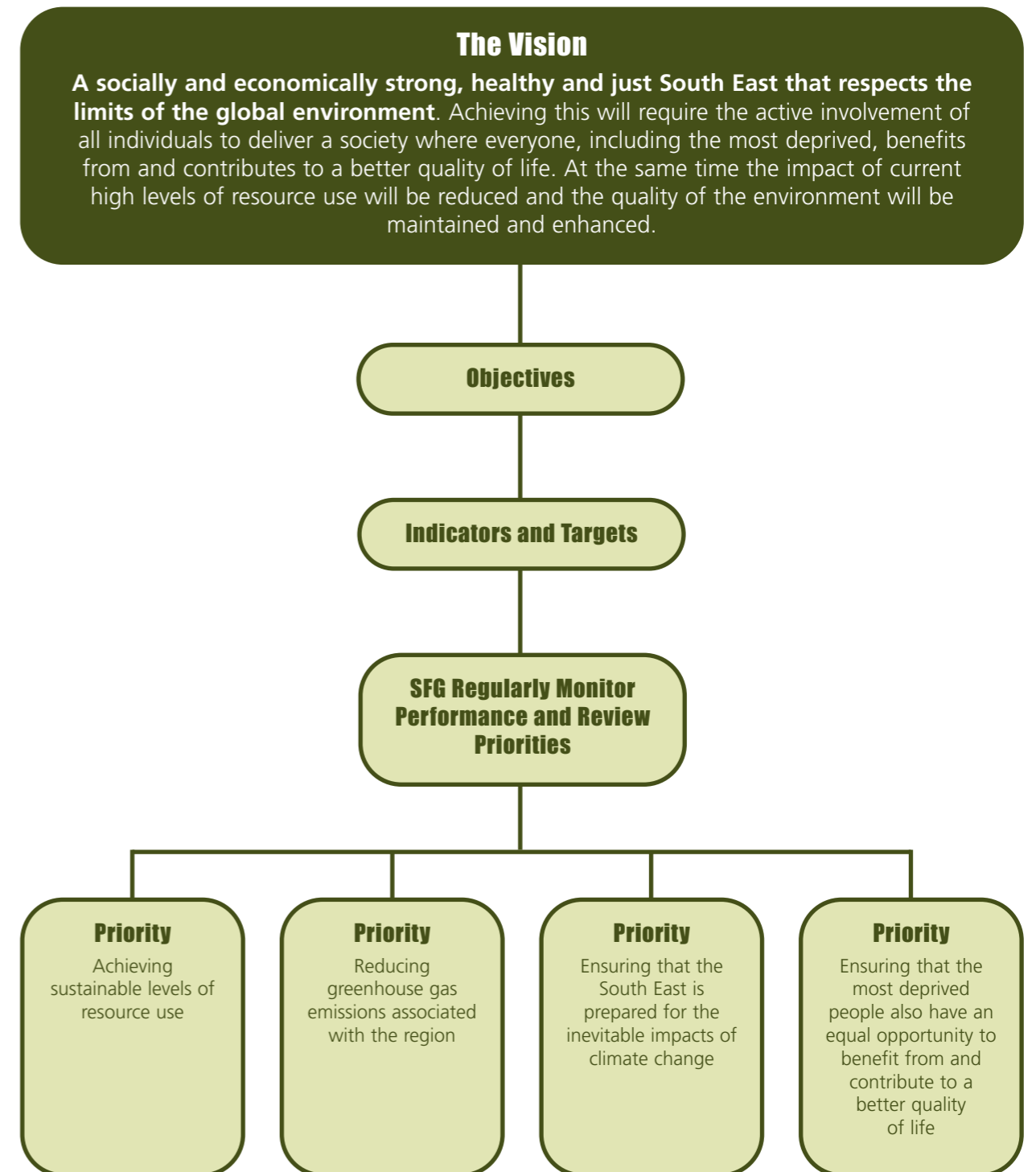
Monitoring and Review

1.7 This document is part of an ongoing process of development and refinement. The SFG will regularly monitor progress towards achieving sustainable development and establish new priorities where necessary. Figure 1 opposite sets out the elements of the RSF and how it is used by the SFG to establish priorities.

Stakeholder Involvement and Appraisal

1.8 The RSF has been revised in a collaborative way. SFG has steered the review process and the working group of key regional bodies, responsible for producing the RSF, has been expanded to ensure greater ownership. The review has been informed by a stakeholder consultation and a High Level Appraisal. The Assembly website (www.southeast-ra.gov.uk) details how the RSF has been influenced by the consultation and the High Level Appraisal.

Figure 1 – The RSF and Regional Priorities



FOOTNOTES

¹ Adapted from: DEFRA (2005) *Securing the Future – delivering UK sustainable development strategy*.
² This includes a consideration of GHG emissions that result from production within the region and the emissions from goods and services consumed within the South East wherever they come from. WWF (2006) *Ecological Budget UK – Counting consumption*.

2 The Regional Sustainability Framework for the South East

The Need for a Sustainability Framework

- 2.1 All regional bodies share the desire to deliver sustainable development and improve our overall quality of life. However research suggests³ that regional organisations cannot solve the sustainable development issues facing us by working alone. It is therefore vital that we work towards this goal in a joined up and transparent fashion. To help achieve this, the Regional Sustainability Framework (RSF) has been produced setting out a common framework for sustainable development within the region. The RSF updates and replaces the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) published in 2004. The framework includes the sustainable development objectives for the region and mechanisms to help embed these objectives in the decisions that we make. The framework also contains indicators which will enable us to monitor progress towards achieving sustainable development.
- 2.2 The RSF will help us resolve conflicts and make difficult decisions in the interests of improving quality of life. For example, as the Stern Review⁴ sets out, the cost of ignoring climate change could be equivalent to more than 20% of GDP per annum. However the housing and transportation which together are responsible for the most greenhouse gas emissions⁵ are also vital to the continued economic success that sets the South East apart. In turn this economic success has brought with it social advancement in terms of improved health and education within the region. Within the South East we must urgently act to overcome such conflicts if we are to achieve a better quality of life and our economy is to continue to grow. The case studies included within the RSF aim to demonstrate how this can be achieved.
- 2.3 Overcoming such issues will require commitment and a joint contribution from government, businesses, the third sector⁶ and individuals alike. To help achieve this, the Sustainable Futures Group (SFG) has been established within the region. The SFG has overseen the production of the RSF and is committed to using it to monitor the South East's sustainable development performance on a regular basis and identify

priority issues which will be publicly commended to the region. More generally the group will act as an advocate and champion for sustainability throughout the region.

How the RSF Works

- 2.4 There are three main ways in which the RSF works:
- The RSF sets a **common vision, four priorities and 25 objectives for sustainable development** all of which will help guide action in the region. It sets the overarching framework within which all regional strategies and policies should be formulated and implemented. In doing this, the RSF is ensuring compatibility across regional strategies by ensuring consistency of vision and direction of policy and action.
 - The RSF contains a **Sustainability Appraisal (SA) guide**. Regional and local organisations, businesses and community groups should review their own plans and strategies against the framework. This enables the sustainable development objectives to be integrated into the policy development process. The framework (within the IRF), has been used in the SA of the South East Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The framework has also been used as the basis for the objectives used in the SAs of the region's Local Development Frameworks. Currently the SA guide is the key method of achieving links with the sub-regions and the local level.
 - By regularly monitoring performance against the objectives and a series of indicators and targets, progress towards sustainable development can be measured. The SFG will regularly use this information to **identify priorities** where the South East is underperforming and action is urgently required. The indicators have been aligned with the new National Indicator Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships. As a result they provide a consistent **subset of indicators** to measure sustainable development.

Who Should Use the RSF?

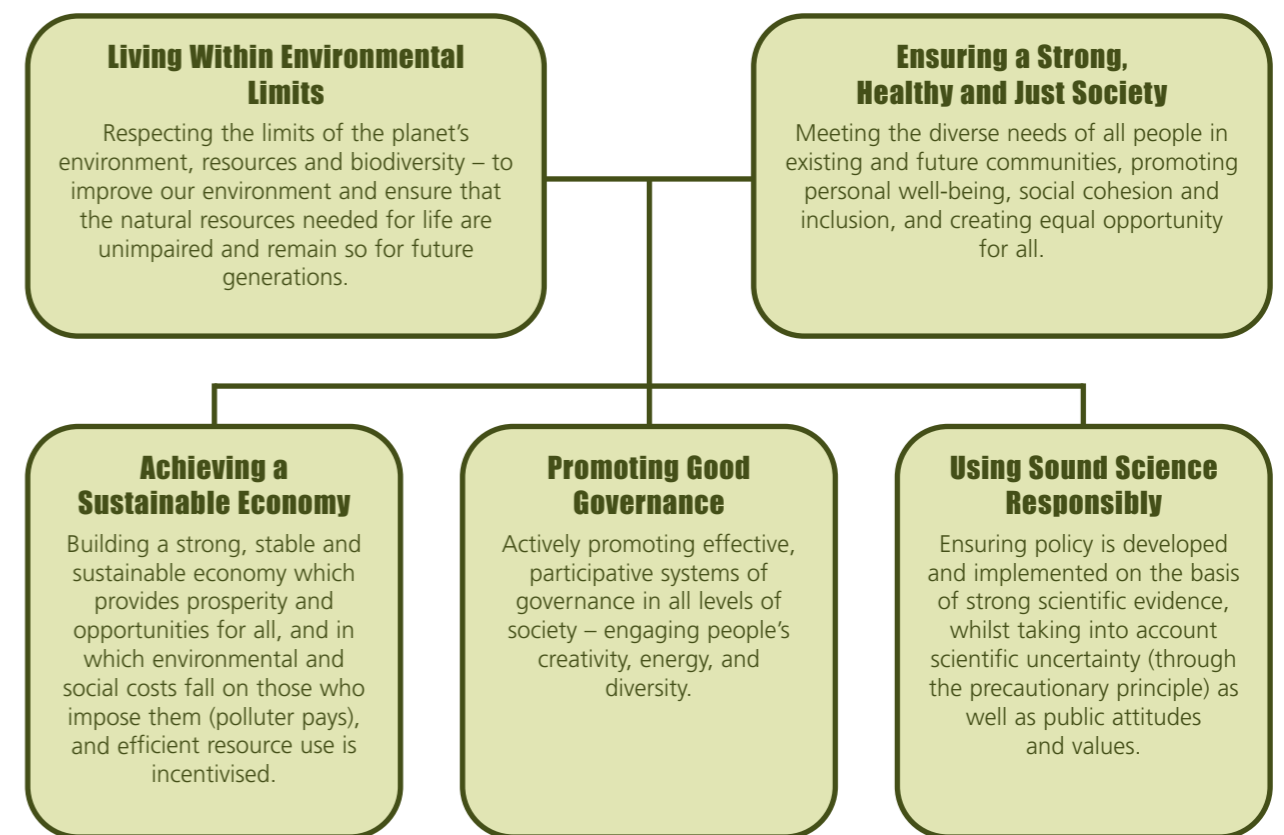
- 2.5 The framework is principally aimed at policy makers and those with responsibility for delivery. Essentially the RSF aims to 'influence the influencers' within the region. It provides the regional context by defining the sustainable development principles and priorities for the region. These should be used as a starting point for sub-regional and local initiatives including Sustainable Community Strategies, Local Development Frameworks, Local Area Agreements and Parish Plans. The aim is to make sure that, as much as possible, these activities are aligned and contribute towards a consistent vision of sustainable development.
- 2.6 It will also be relevant to a wide range of other organisations including the private sector and businesses and the third sector. At a time of change in terms of regional government the RSF provides business with a clear indication of the direction of policy. The SA guide and the objectives also help provide an appraisal process which can be used to incorporate sustainability into corporate strategies and the decision making process. The indicators may be useful for non-financial performance measures. Contributing to the achievement of these objectives will make good business sense leading to financial benefits, market advantage and readiness for change.

- 2.7 The regional priorities are relevant to everyone within the region, including leaders, policy makers, businesses and each one of us as private individuals. The RSF therefore sets out, for each priority, the relevant targets, the key strategies and organisations, the type of activities required and examples of success from within the region.

Sustainable Development: What Is It?

- 2.8 The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations⁷.
- 2.9 The UK Strategy for Sustainable Development, Securing the Future, sets out five guiding principles that will be used to achieve sustainable development. The first two principles **living within environmental limits** and **ensuring a strong, healthy and just society** represent goals for development achieved through the other three principles – **Achieving a Sustainable Economy**, **Promoting Good Governance** and **Using Sound Science Responsibly**. These five guiding principles are set out below.

Figure 2 – UK Sustainable Development Principles



FOOTNOTES

³ Joe Ravetz (2005) – *Reducing the Ecological Footprint in the South East*.
⁴ HM Treasury (2006) *Stern Review on the economics of climate change*.
⁵ South East England Regional Assembly (2006) *Regional Monitoring Report*.
⁶ The third sector refers to non-governmental organisations which are driven by their values and which principally reinvest their surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives. It includes voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutuals.

FOOTNOTES

⁷ Adapted from: DEFRA (2005) *Securing the Future – delivering UK sustainable development strategy*.

The Vision for Sustainable Development in the South East

2.10 Consideration of the overarching principles of sustainable development and the particular issues facing the South East has enabled the regional bodies to set out the following vision for Sustainable Development. **A socially and economically strong, healthy and just South East that respects the limits of the global environment.** Achieving this will require the active involvement of all individuals to deliver a society where everyone, including the most deprived, benefits from and contributes to a better quality of life. At the same time the impact of current high levels of resource use will be reduced and the quality of the environment will be maintained and enhanced.

A Strong, Healthy and Just Society Supported by a World Class Sustainable Economy

2.11 The national and regional economy has grown in recent years providing a higher standard of living for many – the South East has one of Europe's most successful economies. Whilst this economic success has brought with it much prosperity as well as social and environmental improvement, (not only for the South East but for the nation as a whole), evidence suggests that this increasing prosperity has not been shared by all and has not improved everyone's quality of life. Apart from London, the South East is the region with the widest range of social deprivation and economic disparities. The proportion claiming unemployment benefit from the most deprived areas is four times higher than the regional average⁸. Essentially this means that parts of the region's population continue to live in poverty and experience low quality housing, poor health, and have limited opportunity. Addressing such deprivation represents a key challenge.

2.12 The South East is also diverse, having the third largest proportion nationally of people belonging to an ethnic minority. A key requirement is to ensure that all individuals regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion/faith, or whether LGBT⁹, should feel empowered to participate within community life and the democratic process and have equal access to services and opportunities. This reflects the increasing evidence that if people have a sense of community and belonging in the area they live, as well as opportunities to make a positive difference, it helps create a better quality of life. This in turn can promote community cohesion, reduce anti-social behaviour and crime, create a healthier population both physically and mentally, and encourage social and economic regeneration.

2.13 To deliver a strong and healthy society will also require a world class 'One Planet Economy'¹⁰ – a resource efficient economic system of production and consumption, which respects environmental limits while being financially and socially sustainable. Delivering such an economy will require investment in the lower-impact knowledge-based, innovative and creative sectors. The South East is well placed to achieve this goal, with its strong research base and good representation of businesses in both product design and the environmental technology sectors. The 'environmental economy' in the region currently employs 230,000 people (5.5% of the total workforce) and accounts for 6% of the GVA in the South East¹¹.

2.14 For businesses to be attracted to and continue to operate over the long term within the South East, it is critical that the right level of skills is delivered and the number of economically active is increased. This will prevent the skills and labour shortages that currently exist in parts of the region and will bring about social improvement in other areas. Only by overcoming these skills shortages and providing the right kind of business and housing development in the right locations will we provide jobs locally and relieve the pressure on our transport infrastructure.

2.15 In the South East we have a high quality economy that is facing increasing pressures. Due to external challenges from emerging economic powerhouses as well as environmental pressures, in the form of diminishing natural resources and climate change, it is clear that development cannot continue as it has in the past.

2.16 Investing in the region's current strengths will leave the South East well placed to achieve a world class 'One Planet Economy' and the vision for sustainable development. The increased competitiveness that this will bring is critical in the face of the increasing global challenge from rapidly developing economies such as China and India.

2.17 It is vital that in the future the South East builds on its successes and develops a truly sustainable economy and an equitable system of government that supports the needs of all people in our communities, now and in the future, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, and creates equal opportunities for all.

A South East That Lives Within Environmental Limits

2.18 Achieving economic success and maintaining our current way of life in the South East means we are all responsible (government, business and individuals) for using increasing amounts of finite resources and producing more waste. There have been some recent successes, for instance water and energy use may now be stabilising. However existing rates still remain high and we are a long way off achieving renewable energy and waste reduction targets. In fact if everyone used as many of the Earth's resources as we do in the South East, it would require three and a half planets to support the world's consumption¹². This 'ecological footprint'¹³ is partly due to the affluence in the South East with consumers demanding high levels of personal appliances and holidays. High levels of carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂) are also associated with these levels of consumption and personal transport. This means that a region which is likely to experience significant climate change impacts¹⁴ is contributing more than others to the problem.

2.19 Along with the success of the economy the quality and variety of the natural and built environment is one of the South East's defining features. It is this quality of environment that makes the region an attractive place for businesses to locate and people to live. This quality is reflected in the large proportion of the South East that is recognised to be of international and national importance in terms of conservation and landscape. Whilst the extent of such sites remains impressive, the condition of some remains some way short of national targets. The recent Appropriate Assessment¹⁵ of the South East Plan demonstrates that our most valuable natural assets are facing increased pressures. In the future we must ensure the quality of the environment is maintained and enhanced for future generations while enabling continued sustainable growth and development.

2.20 The ecological footprint, carbon emissions and the results of the Appropriate Assessment of the South East Plan demonstrate that the South East is approaching, or in some cases is exceeding, environmental limits. The situation is both unsustainable and inequitable and such trends urgently need to be reversed.

Key Sustainability Issues in the South East

2.21 To understand what is required to achieve sustainable development and to translate these principles into a regionally specific framework the key issues facing the South East have to be considered.

2.22 Several organisations have undertaken further studies and assessments, including SAs of the RES and the South East Plan that have expanded our understanding of the situation within the region. Analysis of this information has enabled a number of key sustainability issues to be identified both at the regional and sub-regional level.

2.23 A key sustainability issue is identified as such when:

- The region is approaching or breaching agreed sustainability constraints and/or
- The region performs particularly badly in comparison to agreed targets, standards or comparators and/or
- There is common consensus amongst stakeholders that the issue is a critical sustainability issue for the region.

2.24 The following issues build on those detailed in the IRF:

- An ageing population and its implications – the need to ensure that contributions and needs of both present and future generations of older people are consciously taken into account
- Health issues in their widest sense – includes those issues caused by deprivation and environmental inequality
- Economic migration – ensuring that the economy and our communities recognise the needs and contributions of economic migrants
- Housing supply – a shortage of affordable supply which prevents, for example, 'key workers' and the low paid from living and working in many parts of the region
- Access and transport – the need to address problems of access without placing further pressure on the region's stressed infrastructure
- The region's high level of resource consumption – the need to achieve greater resource efficiency and a reduction in rates of consumption

FOOTNOTES

⁸ The South East England Regional Assembly (2007) – Annual Monitoring Report.

⁹ Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender.

¹⁰ DEFRA (2005) Securing the Future – delivering UK sustainable development strategy.

¹¹ The Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2016 – The Evidence Base.

FOOTNOTES

¹² WWF (2006) Ecological Budget UK – Counting consumption.

¹³ Ecological footprint is an indicator and communication tool that provides an estimate of how much 'bio-productive' land and water area is required to support our lifestyles – including consumption of resources and assimilating wastes and emissions such as carbon dioxide.

¹⁴ UKCIP (2002) Climate Change Scenarios for the United Kingdom – the UKCIP02 Briefing Report.

¹⁵ Scott Wilson - Levett Therivel (2006) The Appropriate Assessment of the South East Plan – A report carried out on behalf of the South East England Regional Assembly.

- Climate change and energy use – particularly achieving the national targets for greenhouse gas reductions and making sure that the South East is prepared for the inevitable impacts of climate change
- Achieving sustainable waste management – reducing the amount of waste we produce, reusing waste wherever possible, raising rates of recycling and recovery so that waste disposal is a last resort
- Enhancing biodiversity – reversing historic losses and fragmentation of habitats
- Achieving the sustainable management of water – ensuring that both the demand for water and high levels of waste water can be controlled and provided for
- The need to reduce exclusion and deprivation by ensuring greater levels of prosperity for all
- The need to achieve greater global competitiveness
- Achieving increased productivity, resource efficiency, high levels of innovation and an economy that respects environmental limits
- Management of the countryside and the historic environment
- Increasing the levels of participation in community life and the democratic process
- Ensuring that analytical capacity and capability is developed and maintained so that evidence is fully and appropriately used in decision making.

drawn from the relevant regional strategies and reflect specific issues within the region. Where appropriate the indicators are consistent with the New Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships.

Targets – provide a guide to the speed and direction in which the indicators should move to achieve the objectives.

2.26 Targets have been added where they exist. As more work is carried out to develop indicators, targets will be added or amended.

Data Gaps

2.27 At no time should the lack of information be used as an excuse for inappropriate action. Instead shortfalls in our understanding of the situation within the region will be identified so that action can be taken to fill these gaps. Where such gaps exist within the RSF the regional partners will work towards identifying suitable sources of data that improve our understanding of sustainable development.

Objectives, Indicators and Targets

2.25 By further considering these issues we are able to set a number of regionally specific objectives. The setting of objectives, targets and indicators helps to clarify the principles and meaning of sustainable development. Effectively the objectives set out the direction of travel if we are to achieve our vision. They provide a basis for integrated policy development where all policies are assessed against these sustainable development objectives, enabling benefits to be enhanced and conflicts to be identified and avoided. Ultimately the framework of objectives, targets and indicators enable the SFG to identify regional priorities.

Objectives – guide the content and direction of policy.

Indicators – enable ‘benchmarking’ of condition and performance, help to identify trends, and provide a basis for monitoring and review. Many of the indicators reflect those set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, particularly the headline indicators. This helps to show how the region will contribute to sustainable development at the national and international levels and enables comparison with other regions either within the UK or abroad. Other indicators are

Table 1 – RSF Objectives, Indicators and Targets

| A Strong, Healthy & Just Society Supported by a World Class Sustainable Economy | | | |
|--|--|---|----------------------|
| Objective | Indicator | Target | LAA Indicator |
| 1 To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home suitable to their need | a. Net additional dwellings for the current year | To fully meet the housing completion targets in the South East Plan | NI 154 |
| | b. Affordable housing completions | Regional target for affordable housing: 25% social rented 10% intermediate | NI 155 |
| | c. Ratio of lower quartile house price to lower quartile income by district | | |
| | d. Households on the Housing Register | To reduce the numbers of homeless households in priority need and the number of households in housing need on the housing register | |
| | e. Number of non-decent homes per 1,000 dwellings | To reduce the percentage of unfit/non-decent homes, with a specific target to eliminate them in the public sector by 2010 | NI 158 |
| | f. Percentage of new build and retrofit homes meeting EcoHomes Very Good standard or above or equivalent Code for Sustainable Homes | Proposed national target that all new homes be carbon neutral by 2016 | |
| 2 To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health | a. Early death rates for circulatory disease, cancer, accidents and suicide | To reduce the death rates in persons aged under 75 for circulatory disease and cancer by 40% and 20% respectively by 2010 (PSA targets baseline 1995-7) Improve other indicators of health and well-being To reduce the death rate for accidents by 20% by 2010 (our Healthier Nation target – baseline 1995-7) Substantially reduce inequalities in health between groups and areas across the region | NI 121, NI 122 |
| | b. Infant mortality rates | Reduce health inequalities by 10% by 2010 as measured by infant mortality (PSA target baseline 1995-7) | |
| | c. Under 18 conception rate | To reduce the under 18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 (PSA target – baseline 1998) | NI 112 |
| | d. Life expectancy | To increase life expectancy at birth to 78.6 years for men and 82.5 years for women (PSA target), and reduce health inequalities by 10% by 2010 (baseline 1995-7) as measured by life expectancy at birth | |
| | e. Alcohol related hospital stays | | NI 39 |
| | f. Progress in reducing health inequalities (Proposed draft Regional Health Strategy Indicator to be confirmed) | | |
| | g. The extent to which older people receive the support they need to live independently at home | | NI 139 |
| | h. Obesity among primary school age children in Yr 6 | | NI 56 |

A Strong, Healthy & Just Society Supported by a World Class Sustainable Economy (Continued)

| Objective | Indicator | Target | LAA Indicator |
|--|--|--|---------------|
| 3 To reduce poverty and social exclusion and, by improving their performance, close the gap between the most deprived areas in the South East and the rest of the region | a. Proportion of children in poverty | By 2010 to improve performance and halve the gap between the most disadvantaged communities and the average position of the region | NI 116 |
| | b. Percentage of population of working age who are claiming key benefits | | |
| | c. Percentage of households in fuel poverty | | |
| | d. Proportion of population who live in areas that rank within the most deprived 20% of areas in the country (Indices of multiple deprivation) | | |
| | e. Number of households experiencing financial exclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of households without a current account Number of households not able to access affordable personal credit | | |
| 4 To raise educational achievement levels across the region and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work | a. Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 | National Target – the Plan will take into consideration and seek to align itself with higher education and skills strategies (PPS11). Above the England average of 44.7% | NI 79 |
| | b. Proportion of adults with poor literacy and numeracy skills | To reduce the proportion of the population with basic skills needs National Target – improve the basic skill levels of 1.5 million adults between the launch of Skills for Life in 2001 and 2007, with a milestone of 750,000 by 2004 (DFES 10) (Education targets will be reviewed following the end of the consultation on the definition of the National Indicator set) | |
| | c. 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment | | NI 117 |
| 5 To reduce crime and perceptions of disorder | a. Level of serious violence and serious acquisitive crime | To reduce serious violent and acquisitive crime from the 2007-08 baseline to ensure that the South East remains one of the safest regions | NI 15, NI 16 |
| | b. Perceptions of anti-social behaviour | To reduce perceptions of anti-social behaviour from the 2007-08 baseline to ensure that the South East remains one of the safest regions | NI 17 |
| | c. Fear of crime | | |
| 6 To create and sustain vibrant communities which recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals | a. Percentage of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously | | |
| | b. Percentage of people who say they are satisfied with their local area as a place to live | | |
| | c. Participation in regular volunteering | | NI 6 |

A Strong, Healthy & Just Society Supported by a World Class Sustainable Economy (Continued)

| Objective | Indicator | Target | LAA Indicator |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| 7 To improve accessibility to all services and facilities including the countryside and the historic environment | a. Access to key services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling | | NI 175 |
| | b. Percentage of rural households at set distances from key services | | |
| | c. Access to natural greenspace | | |
| 8 To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East and promote sustainable tourism ¹⁶ | a. Participation in Cultural Activity | To increase participation in cultural and sporting activities and reduce the gap between participation in the population overall and participation among the priority groups identified by DCMS. A joint target with CLG which will look at community cohesion and will build on existing work in relation to PSA 3 will need to be developed | NI 8, NI 9, NI 10, NI 11 |
| 9 To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region | a. Overall employment rate | | NI 151 |
| | b. Change in the economic activity rate | Improve the productivity of the workforce and increase economic activity from 82% to 85% by bringing 110,000 net additional South East residents of working age into the labour market by 2016 (as a step towards bringing up to 250,000 residents into the labour market by 2026) | |
| | c. The business stock per 1,000 inhabitants businesses in the area | Increase the business stock by 35% from 35 businesses per 1,000 inhabitants in 2005 to 44 businesses per 1,000 inhabitants by 2016, including 10,000 new businesses run by women by 2010 | |
| | d. Change in the number of businesses run by women | | |
| 10 To sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region by focusing on the principles of smart growth: raising levels of enterprise, productivity and economic activity | a. Real GVA per capita growth | Achieve an average annual increase in GVA per capita of at least 3% Improve overall performance by narrowing the gap between GVA per capita between the best and worst performing parts of the region | |
| | b. Real productivity per employee (total) growth rate | Increase productivity per worker by an average 2.4% annually, from £39,000 in 2005 to at least £50,000 by 2016 (in constant prices) | |
| 11 To stimulate economic revival in deprived areas | a. Number of income support claimants in the 20% most deprived areas | | |

FOOTNOTES

¹⁶ Culture is defined as the arts, sport, tourism, libraries, museums, and galleries, archives, the built heritage, broadcasting and media as well as the creative industries – South East England Cultural Consortium (2001).

A Strong, Healthy & Just Society Supported by a World Class Sustainable Economy (Continued)

| Objective | Indicator | Target | LAA Indicator |
|---|---|--|---------------|
| 12 To develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities | a. The percentage of total South East business turnover attributable to new (new to market) and significantly improved products | Increase the percentage of total South East business turnover attributable to new products (new to market) from 12% in 2004 to 20% by 2016, and the percentage attributable to significantly improved products from 18% in 2004 to 25% by 2016 | |
| | b. Value of manufacturing exports per head | | |
| | c. The expenditure on R&D as the proportion of GVA | Increase expenditure on Research & Development (R&D) in the South East from 3.2% of Gross Value Added in 2003 to 4% by 2016, and increase the proportion of businesses in the South East reporting R&D links with universities from 11% in 2005 to 15% by 2016 | |
| 13 To develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region | a. Working age population qualified to at least Level 3 or higher | To significantly raise the number of Level 3 qualifications in the region To reduce the proportion of the population with basic skills needs | NI 164 |
| | b. Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher | Maximise the number of people ready for employment at all skill levels, and ensure they are continually equipped to progress in the labour market | NI 165 |
| | a. The proportion of employers reporting skills gaps and shortages | | |
| | c. Proportion of the labour force receiving training | | |

A South East That Lives Within Environmental Limits

| Objective | Indicator | Target | LAA Indicator |
|--|---|---|---------------|
| 14 To improve efficiency in land use through the appropriate re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings – including re-use of materials from buildings – and encourage urban renaissance | a. Development on previously developed land | By 2008, to develop 60% of all forms of development (not just housing) on previously used land | |
| | b. Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than five years | | NI 170 |
| 15 To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment | a. Properties at risk from flooding | To prevent all inappropriate development in the flood plain | |
| | b. Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds | | |
| | c. New development with sustainable drainage installed | All new development applications to show that sustainable drainage has been considered and implemented if appropriate | |
| | d. Number of additional houses where flood risk has been reduced | By 2010, to increase the numbers of properties adequately protected by 15,000 | |

A South East That Lives Within Environmental Limits (Continued)

| Objective | Indicator | Target | LAA Indicator |
|---|--|---|---|
| 16 To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve | a. Days when air pollution is moderate or high | Local authorities to seek an improvement in air quality in their areas so that there is a significant reduction in the number of days of medium and high air quality pollution by 2026 To establish Air Quality Action Plans in areas which are unlikely to meet national air quality objectives (relevant local authorities in conjunction with partner agencies) | |
| | 17 To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases | a. Emissions of greenhouse gases by source b. Per capita CO ₂ emissions (These indicators will form the baseline for regional carbon trajectories which are currently under development at the Regional Assembly) | To reduce the region's carbon dioxide emissions by at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2010 and by at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2015 – South East Plan targets National Target – by 2050, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from activities within the region by 60% (The target will be reviewed in the light of new national targets that are likely to emerge) |
| 18 Ensure that the South East is prepared for the impacts of climate change | a. Population that are within water resource zones that are in deficit (The Regional Partners will investigate a suitable measure of resilience to climate change) | | |
| | 19 To conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity | a. Population of wild birds b. Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) c. Extent and condition of key habitats for which Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been established | By 2010, achieve a sustained increase in the regional wild bird population index (including to reverse the historical declines in the indices in the farmland and woodland species) To ensure that there is no further loss, damage or deterioration of SSSIs By 2010, to ensure that 95% of SSSIs are in favourable or recovering condition (target to directly reflect the national PSA target) To maintain the condition of all key regional habitats which are judged to be at a favourable status To restore and/or recreate key regional habitats so these reach a favourable conservation status Achieving the 2010 and 2026 Regional biodiversity targets set out in the South East Plan (Draft South East Plan targets will be revised to take account of changes to priority habitats and the new targets for England) |
| 20 To protect and enhance the region's countryside and historic environment | a. Number and area of sites damaged/destroyed by development b. Area of land covered by HLS and ELS environmental stewardship schemes c. Change in the character of the landscape d. Designated Heritage Assets | No loss of designated assets and a reduction of those at risk | |

| A South East That Lives Within Environmental Limits (continued) | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------------|
| Objective | Indicator | Target | LAA Indicator |
| 21 To improve the efficiency of transport networks by enhancing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel | a. Growth in road traffic volume | To reduce regional road traffic in the short to medium term, in line with the Government's national 10 Year Plan (that is, improving the ratio of traffic growth to GDP by 0.8:1 to 0.6:1 by 2010) To reduce 'private vehicle kilometres travelled' (Targets for reducing the proportion of travel by car need to be discussed with stakeholders to reach consensus with ownership, but a downward trend is clearly desirable) | |
| | b. Time taken to travel to work (average time taken per journey) | | |
| | c. Trips per person by mode | | |
| | d. Freight Transported by mode (tonnes lifted) (Rail freight data currently lacking at regional level. It is anticipated that this data will start to be gathered through other processes. In the interim, a national indicator of % per mode could be adopted for contextual analysis) | | |
| 22 To reduce the global social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably and ethically produced, local or low impact products | a. Regional Ecological Footprint | To stabilise the Ecological Footprint by 2016 and reduce it thereafter | |
| | b. Percentage of commercial buildings meeting BREEAM Very Good Standard or above or equivalent | | |
| 23 To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste | a. Total types of all waste arisings and method used for its management | To increase diversion of all waste from landfill in the region to 71% by 2010 and 86% by 2025 To increase recycling and composting of all waste in the region to 50% by 2010 and 65% by 2025. To reduce growth of all waste in the region 1% per annum by 2010, and 0.5% per annum by 2020 | NI 191, NI 192, NI 193 |
| | b. Inter-regional movement of waste | | |

| A South East That Lives Within Environmental Limits (Continued) | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------|
| Objective | Indicator | Target | LAA Indicator |
| 24 To maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers, ground waters and coasts, and to achieve sustainable water resources management | a. Rivers of Good or Fair chemical and biological water quality | By 2005, for 91% of river length to achieve compliance with Environment Agency River Quality Objectives (in line with national Public Sector Agreement target) (Target and indicator will be updated with Water Framework Directive compliant indicators by 2009) | |
| | b. Compliance with EC Bathing Waters Directive | To ensure that all waters in the region comply with the EC Bathing Waters Directive in all years | |
| | c. Nitrate status of groundwater / % of sites not meeting standard | | |
| | d. GQA nutrient status of freshwaters for Phosphate and Nitrate | | |
| | e. Per capita consumption (PCC) of water | To stabilise and then reduce the per capita consumption of water to 135 litres per day by 2016 | |
| 25 To increase energy efficiency, security and diversity of supply and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the region | a. Energy use per capita | | |
| | b. Installed capacity for energy production from renewable sources | By 2010, install 620MW of renewable energy (5.5% of generation capacity) By 2016, install 895MW of renewable energy (8% of generation capacity) By 2026, install 1,750MW of renewable energy (16% of generation capacity) Proposed European target to provide 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020 | |

3 Regional Priorities

3.1 By considering performance against the indicators within the RSF (Annex 3) the SFG has identified a number of objectives where the South East is underperforming and where action is urgently required. These objectives have been brought together in the form of four key regional priorities:

- Achieving sustainable levels of resource use
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the region¹⁷
- Ensuring that the South East is prepared for the inevitable impacts of climate change
- Ensuring that the most deprived people also have an equal opportunity to benefit from and contribute to a better quality of life.

3.2 Achieving progress against these priorities will require the delivery of a number of key objectives and targets set out within the RSF. In turn the delivery of these objectives will require significant change in the attitude and behaviour of our organisations, leaders and individuals and the timely provision of appropriate infrastructure, including environmental and green infrastructure.

3.3 These priorities will be kept under review by the SFG. This reflects the need for the region to be able to adapt to future pressures. For example we must ensure that the future growth and development of the region has a positive impact on the quality and condition of our natural, built and historic environment. Similarly we must ensure that our economy continues to adapt to the pressures of diminishing natural resources, rising commodity prices and an increasingly globalised competitive market. Recent international pressures such as the credit crunch demonstrate that we cannot afford to be complacent about the region's global competitiveness, which underpins its prosperity. Accordingly each of these potential impacts will be examined as part of such a review.

3.4 The following sections set out what these priorities may mean for the South East as well as key targets and case studies which illustrate what success could look like. Annex 2 sets out the main linkages to strategies and plans and the organisations that produce them. Section 4 sets out the broad type of activities that will be required to achieve our vision. Section 5 details an approach to SA which public organisations and businesses should use to ensure that the objectives are embedded in their activities.

Achieving Sustainable Levels of Resource Use

3.5 One of the key targets within this RSF is to stabilise the South East's ecological footprint by 2016, and reduce it thereafter. This reflects the fact that the South East has the highest per capita ecological footprint in the UK with a footprint measuring 6.07 global hectares per person – 17% higher than the national average. While there are a number of assumptions associated with the footprint methodology, the fact remains that this level of resource consumption is unsustainable in the long-term and action to reverse current trends is a priority.

3.6 Achieving sustainable resource use and management is about doing more with less. This involves reducing resources used in producing goods, bringing them to market and the impacts over their whole life cycle.

3.7 In the face of increasing global challenge from rapidly growing economies, developing such a resource efficient economy is a must. Essentially resource efficiency and the ability to develop appropriate technological solutions will be of key importance if we are to maintain competitiveness, jobs growth and wealth over the longer term. Such activity needs to be complemented by behavioural change, for example in terms of the quantity of water and energy we consume and the type and nature of goods we buy. This will prove vital if we are to move towards a resource efficient way of life which respects environmental limits while being financially and socially sustainable.

Key Targets

To stabilise the Ecological Footprint by 2016 and reduce it thereafter.

To stabilise and then reduce per capita consumption of water to 135 litres per day by 2016.

CASE STUDY

Compete, Create, Collaborate for a World Class Performance – South East England's Offer for the 2012 Games

On 6 July 2005, London was awarded the honour of hosting the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The South East backed the bid and is an active participant in the Nations and Regions Group (NRG) established to ensure the Games deliver UK-wide benefits. Each nation and region established its own regional coordinating group to capture the benefits of the Games. The South East Partnership for the 2012 Games has been developing its plans over the last year to ensure the region provides the maximum support and contribution to the Games and derives the maximum benefit.

One Planet Olympics

London 2012 is committed to being a 'One Planet Olympics', with a view to being the first sustainable Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. This reflects the International Olympic Committee's focus on the environment as a third pillar of the Olympic movement.

The 'One Planet Olympics' approach covers 10 principles including:

- Low Carbon Games – to reduce energy demand and meet it from zero / low carbon and renewable sources, and to showcase how the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games are adapting to a world increasingly affected by climate change
- Zero Waste Games – to avoid landfill by reducing waste at source, then re-using, recycling and recovering all remaining waste
- Conservation of Biodiversity – to conserve natural habitats and wildlife, improve the quality of urban green-space and to bring nature closer to people

- Sustainable Transport – to reduce the need for travel and provide sustainable alternatives to the private car
- Sustainable Legacy – to promote health and well-being through an integrated package of sporting, environmental and cultural initiatives.

The South East Offer actively incorporates these principles at the heart of its planning to ensure this investment contributes to a lasting and coordinated legacy for the region. Key elements of the South East Offer therefore include:

- Improvements to the South East's transport and infrastructure network to help deliver the 'public transport Games'
- Using the Games as a catalyst to address social exclusion and providing the inspiration towards greater community engagement and to build stronger communities
- Capitalising on the inspiration of the Games to improve sports participation, create a healthier region and increase productivity amongst the working population.

For more information on the South East Offer see:

www.seeda.co.uk/Publications/Strategy/docs/SEEDA2012GamesFramework.pdf

FOOTNOTES

¹⁷ This includes a consideration of GHG emissions that result from production within the region and the emissions from goods and services consumed within the South East wherever they come from. WWF (2006) Ecological Budget UK – Counting consumption.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with the Region

- 3.8 One of the most significant threats to our way of life, both globally and within the region, is climate change. This has been reflected in the Stern Review – which details the economic cost of inaction on climate change and the draft Climate Change Bill which proposes a mandatory target of a 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.
- 3.9 Accelerating climate change, and the disruption it is causing, is now overwhelmingly accepted to be caused by emissions of greenhouse gases, mainly CO₂ resulting from the burning of fossil fuels. A significant proportion of these carbon emissions are associated with unsustainable levels of consumption and personal transport. When all the CO₂ emissions associated with our consumption are counted the total figure for the region is 14% higher than the national average. The problem has a global dimension. Because of the high levels of imports to the South East many of the emissions, associated with the goods and services that we consume, occur outside the region. This means that by reducing the impact of our consumption in the South East we can contribute to emissions reduction worldwide.

- 3.10 Tackling climate change urgently requires a reduction in our emissions. Recent measures, such as the proposal to strengthen the Building Regulations requiring zero carbon homes by 2016, will help but much more is needed. This will include changes in the way we travel, the energy that we use and the way that we do business. As the Stern Review concluded, acting now is essential and will be much more cost effective than acting later. Failing to do so will result in significant damage to our economy and our quality of life.

Key Targets

By 2050, reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from activities within the region by 60%.

By 2010, install 620 MW of renewable capacity, by 2016 install 895 MW of renewable energy and by 2026 install 1,750 MW of renewable energy (16% of generation capacity).

(The GHG emissions reduction target will be reviewed in light of any likely change to the national targets).

CASE STUDY

Low Carbon and Affordable Homes for Villagers

Affordable, environmentally friendly homes have been built for 12 families in a small village near Guildford in Surrey. Constructed on the site of a former fruit farm, owned by Guildford Borough Council, the development has provided relief from a pressing shortage of affordable homes in the village of Normandy. The scheme was developed by Greenoak Housing Association. Although three-quarters of the new tenants work full-time, and all have strong local connections, none could afford to buy in the village, where even a two-bedroom flat can cost close to £200,000.

Sustainable Community

As well as providing homes for local people, vital infrastructure has also been put in place. Elsewhere on the 13 hectare site there is a new GP surgery, nursery and sport and community facilities.

High Standards

The houses all meet the EcoHomes Excellent standard, with super-insulated walls, triple-glazed windows and heat recovery ventilation systems removing the need for added heating or electric fans. Other features including, low energy lighting and non-toxic building materials and finishes. The homes also ensure low water consumption is achieved through use of water efficient showerheads and spray taps, low flush WCs and water butts that collect rainwater.

3 Regional Priorities

Ensuring That the South East Is Prepared for the Inevitable Impacts of Climate Change

- 3.11 Regardless of the level of emissions reduction achieved, because of past global emissions and the inertia of the climate system, some impacts are inevitable. Research suggests that the South East is likely to experience significant climate change impacts¹⁸ broadly in the form of:
- Warmer, wetter winters
 - Hotter, drier summers
 - Increased incidence of extreme events (including severe storms)
 - Sea level rise and storm surges.
- 3.12 These impacts will be far reaching affecting, for example, flood defence, health care, water supply, biodiversity, business, transport and food and farming. The nature of these impacts is uncertain but adaptation must be brought into all aspects of future development and the majority of decisions that we make if we are to reduce risks and be able to seize any opportunities.

Key Targets

To prevent all inappropriate development in the flood plain.

By 2010, to increase the numbers of properties adequately protected by 15,000.

(The Regional partners will investigate a suitable measure of resilience to climate change).

Achieve the 2010 and 2026 regional biodiversity targets set out in the draft South East Plan.

(Draft South East Plan targets will be revised to take account of changes to priority habitats and the new targets for England).

CASE STUDY

The South East Plan – Adapting to Climate Change by Managing Water Sustainability

Since 2003, the Assembly has worked closely with the Environment Agency and water companies to develop sustainable water policies in the South East Plan, the region's 20-year planning vision (Regional Spatial Strategy). As part of the technical work and evidence base of the South East Plan, a range of future scenarios mapped different levels of housing growth, water efficiency and development of new water resources, especially reservoirs. The modelling of the scenarios also took into account the impact of climate change and compliance with EU Directives to protect wildlife and fish. The research has helped to match available water resources with the scale and spatial distribution of housing outlined in the South East Plan. The work shows that planned growth can be achieved through using an approach of water demand and supply management.

The South East Plan's water policies (NRM2) promote increasing use of water efficient appliances and water meters as well as reducing leakage. The Plan also recommends planning ahead for sustainable water reservoirs and waste water treatment infrastructure, which need to be built in step with new development.

The findings of the modelling that informed the policies of the South East Plan and the identification of new water resource infrastructure can be viewed on the Assembly website:

www.southeast-ra.gov.uk

This approach, and the way in which the research has been used to formulate policy, has been shared with partners in the ESPACE Interreg IIIB project: 'European Spatial Planning: Adapting to Climate Events'. See www.espace-project.org for project information.

FOOTNOTES

¹⁸ UKCIP (2002) *Climate Change Scenarios for the United Kingdom – the UKCIP02 Briefing Report.*

Ensuring That the Most Deprived People Also Have an Equal Opportunity to Benefit from and Contribute to a Better Quality of Life

3.13 High economic activity rates and low unemployment mark the South East as one of the highest performing regions globally, but the region also has the largest number of excluded or deprived people within the UK¹⁹. As set out within this RSF, the South East still has significant issues with social deprivation and economic disparities and the number of unemployed in the most deprived areas is a cause for some concern. In particular, the coastal fringes of the region are performing significantly below regional and national average levels. There are over 400,000 deprived people living in the South East according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004. Of these 83% (338,000) live in coastal areas. Even this substantial figure fails to tell the whole story. There are approximately 800,000 people of working age who are economically inactive in the South East. This figure includes 160,000 people who are long-term sick or disabled²⁰.

3.14 This means that not everyone has benefited from the economic success of the region. It is therefore a priority that future development addresses these imbalances ensuring that everyone, including those in our most deprived areas, has the opportunity to benefit equally from the sustainable prosperity of the region.

Key Targets

By 2010 to improve performance and halve the gap between the most disadvantaged communities and the average position of the region.

To reduce health inequalities by 10% by 2010 (baseline 1995-97) as measured by life expectancy at birth.

CASE STUDY

Financial Inclusion Fund, Citizens Advice South East

The South East is the most prosperous region outside of London; however there are approximately 616,500 financially excluded people in the South East, who can not access mainstream financial products such as bank accounts and low cost loans.

To help people in the South East resolve their money, legal and related problems, Citizens Advice in the South East has obtained funding through the Financial Inclusion Fund. This has enabled them to recruit 12 new face-to-face debt advisers during the 2006-07 financial year. This has provided a fast-track debt service to clients through local partnerships

developed between Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and 11 local Advice Agencies. The provision of specialist money advice to some of the most vulnerable people living in the South East has helped to tackle issues that affect individuals, their families and the communities in which they live. The project is well placed to continue to grow as more RSLs join the partnership during the coming year. It is hoped that the existing funding is an initial investment and that funding will continue through to 2011.

FOOTNOTES

¹⁹ Draft Social Inclusion Statement (2007) – South East Social Inclusion Partnership.

²⁰ Deloitte for SEEDA (2005) – Sustaining Success in a Prosperous Region.

4 Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Implementation

- 4.1 Delivery against the priorities, and the framework more generally, will depend on regional and local bodies and businesses and individuals working together to ensure that the priorities are reflected in their behaviour, plans, decisions and actions. The information within the RSF demonstrates the key challenges in the region and some of the timescales within which progress has to be delivered. In the face of the proposed levels of development in the South East it is vital that organisations meet this challenge.
- 4.2 The independent review of regional and sub-regional strategies highlighted a number of key achievements and improvements since the IRF was produced in 2004²¹. The greatest of these is the increased degree of integration between key strategy documents – particularly the South East Plan and the RES. This is reflected in the commitment by the Regional Assembly and SEEDA to produce a single delivery plan for the region.
- 4.3 The review included a brief assessment of the contribution of strategies within the region to sustainable development. Generally the major sustainable development issues were found to be covered. However to achieve progress they must urgently be followed through into priority setting and action planning.
- 4.4 The review also concluded that the RSF should be used to set the context for all strategies within the region and that all strategies should use Sustainability Appraisal (SA), based on the RSF approach detailed in section 5, to inform their development.
- 4.5 Business also needs to be involved because of its impact and the part it plays in supplying the necessary products and services in the future. Initiatives such as the Business in the Community's Climate Change Summit and the Carbon Trust's carbon labelling scheme demonstrate that businesses are ready to respond and see the competitive advantage that this brings. Public sector organisations must engage with business and provide the necessary support to ensure that such activities are mainstreamed.

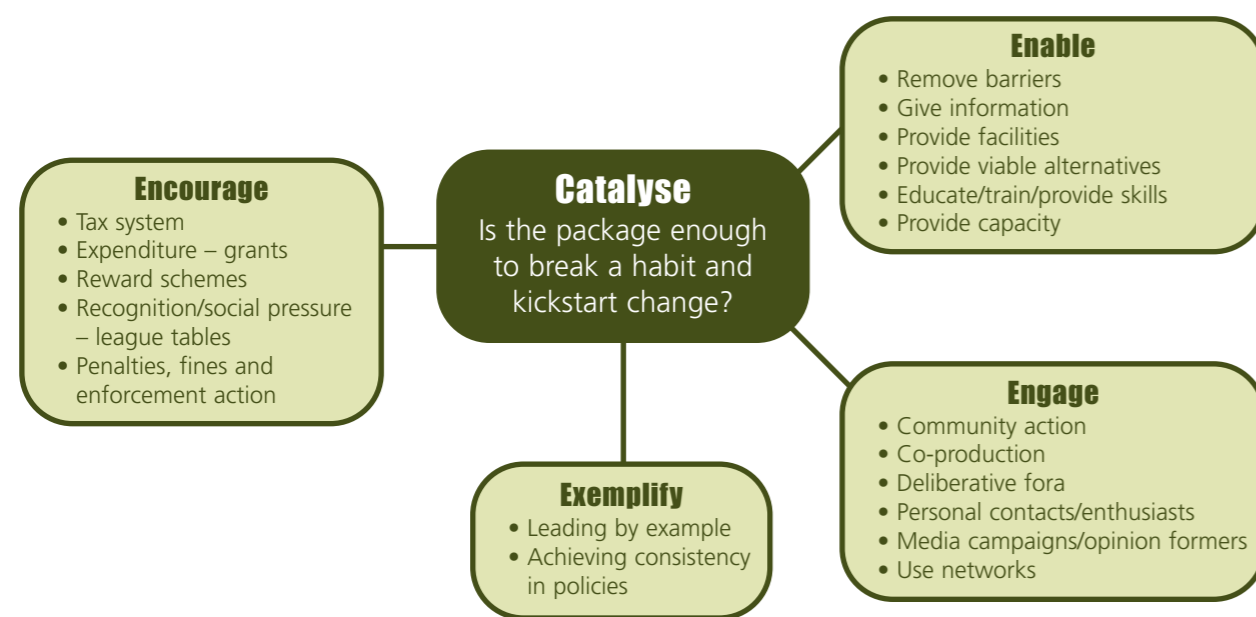
- 4.6 We recognise that some actions will place more emphasis on certain objectives and priorities than others. Ideally such actions should not negatively impact on other objectives, and should demonstrate overall improvement particularly in terms of the priorities. For example measures to influence behaviour and manage resource use must not negatively impact on the deprived. The SA guide should be used to identify any gaps, mitigate such impacts and enhance benefits. Using the SA guide any resulting trade-offs should be made in an explicit and transparent way.
- 4.7 As indicated in both the South East Plan and its SA report, delivery against the issues raised in this framework will require a significant change in attitude and behaviour of organisations, businesses and individuals. The RSF consultation exercise demonstrated just how important regional stakeholders feel behavioural change is to achieving the vision for sustainable development. Research suggests that the achievement of such behavioural change will require the collaboration of a number of actors. As the Government's own Sustainable Development Strategy states: 'regulation alone will not be able to deliver the [behavioural] changes that we want to see'. Recent studies also suggest that, although a critical mass of citizens and business are willing to change their behaviour and act on areas like sustainable consumption, they will first require reassurances that they will not be acting alone²².
- 4.8 The Government's strategy and the Sustainable Development Commission have therefore proposed a theoretical framework within which any action to achieve behavioural change (see figure 3 below) should take place. Delivery on behavioural change will require people, businesses and government to act on different elements of this framework at different key stages.

FOOTNOTES

²¹ Compendium of Regional Context (2008) – CAG Consultants.

²² IPPR (2006) I will if you will – A report for the Sustainable Development Commission.

Figure 3 – The Sustainability Behaviour Change Model



4.9 The Government uses the example of London's congestion charge to demonstrate how the model can work in practice. A combination of charging, combined with increased provision of buses was introduced with a huge amount of accompanying publicity. It has had effects that have been far greater than originally forecast. There has been a 30% reduction in congestion as people consider alternatives including public transport, with an increase of 29,000 bus passengers entering the zone in the morning peak. It is debatable whether this example can be replicated outside of London; however it does demonstrate the number of activities that have to be coordinated to achieve behavioural change.

4.10 Examples do exist within the South East. The Global Action Plan's Small Change Programme has engaged with and enabled members of communities in the South East to reduce their environmental impact in terms of waste, shopping, energy, water and transport. As a direct result participants, over the 23 month duration of the project, diverted 34.2 tonnes of waste from landfill. On average, they decreased the amount of waste they produce by 19% and increased the amount of recycling by 22%.

4.11 Both Brighton and Hove City and Woking Borough Council have enabled their residents to reduce their household carbon emissions and energy use. This has been achieved by exemplifying best practice through their own activities, encouraging change through planning policies and direct grant support and enabling change through the provision of appropriate

technologies such as solar heating and Combined Heat and Power. To date in Woking these projects have achieved an 81% reduction in CO₂ equivalent emissions across the Council's estate and 21% across the Borough (on 1990 levels). Brighton and Hove's Community Strategy sets a city wide target to reduce emissions by 3.5% year on year.

4.12 A key challenge for all regional and local organisations and businesses will be to replicate such activities and coordinate and deliver the necessary actions to catalyse the scale of behavioural change required. The RSF represents a first step in ensuring such a level of coordination.

4.13 While significant progress can be made through behavioural change, in the face of the planned levels of development, delivery will inevitably require a significant level of investment in infrastructure at the right time, to ensure that growth is sustainable. This includes environmental and green infrastructure. Recent research has estimated that supporting the housing and economic growth, proposed for the next 20 years in the draft South East Plan will need at least £89bn investment in infrastructure. The Assembly and Environment Agency have jointly estimated that we need at least £42bn for flood defences, water resources, waste water treatment, waste management and for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the countryside²³. This is on top of the £47bn that will be required for other infrastructure – such as health services, schools and transport.

Monitoring and Review

4.14 Monitoring of the objectives and indicators in the IRF has been carried out by the Regional Assembly, supported by the South East England Intelligence Network (SEE-iN), through their Regional Monitoring Reports which review the implementation of Regional Planning Guidance 9 (RPG9). These reports have provided clear linkages to the IRF objectives. Annex 3 contains a background report which summarises the information available in the Regional Monitoring Report 2006 and has been used by the SFG to identify regional priorities. In the future, as the Assembly moves towards monitoring of the South East Plan, it is envisaged that a separate more comprehensive monitoring report will be produced detailing performance against the RSF objectives. This state of the region type report will be used by the SFG to regularly review the sustainability priorities for the region.

FOOTNOTES

²³ Jacobs Babbie (2007) on behalf of the Regional Assembly and the Environment Agency – Strategy for provision of environmental infrastructure to meet the needs of the South East Plan.

5 The Sustainability Appraisal Guide

Background

5.1 In 2004 the regional partners committed to developing a stand-alone sustainability appraisal guide with a detailed methodology for sustainability appraisal (SA) and examples of implementation. Annex 1 sets out this methodology which was developed in 2006.

Why Carry Out a Sustainability Appraisal?

5.2 The SA process enables the sustainable development objectives of the region to be integrated into the policy development process. This process is derived from the IRF approach which has been used in the SA of the South East Plan and the RES with the objectives providing a basis for those used in the SAs of the region's Local Development Frameworks. The process sets out an integrated approach to SA which meets the requirements of the SEA directive, Sustainability Appraisal, Health Impact Assessments and types of proofing including Rural Proofing.

5.3 The SA process represents a key method for achieving links with the sub-regions and the local level. A pilot approach to SA of Sustainable Community Strategies is currently being developed in partnership with a number of local authorities across the region.

Who Should Use the Sustainability Appraisal Guide?

5.4 Where there is a statutory requirement to carry out an SA, the guide complements those approaches set out in the relevant national guidance. The guide sets out where the relevant guidance can be found, how this RSF can be utilised to support the process, and provides useful examples of where SA has been carried out within the region.

5.5 In other instances there may be no statutory requirement to carry out an SA. To reflect this, the SA checklist has been designed to be used by anyone, regardless of the type and size of organisation or plan. Where the resources and/or time do not exist to implement the full approach set out in the guide the framework should be used as a starting point to integrate sustainable development principles into the organisation's activities. By doing so we can identify the actions that each of our organisations can take to help deliver sustainable development within our region.

5.6 The guide sets out how the RSF can be used as a starting point to support this type of appraisal and provides useful examples of where innovative approaches have been developed within the region.



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