

# **SUSTAINABLE FUTURES GROUP (SFG) SOUTH EAST TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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## **1. Aims**

- 1.1 The Sustainable Futures Group (SFG) for the South East is an independent body brought together to champion the delivery of sustainable development within the region. Members of SFG will be selected for their expertise and breadth of vision with their main roles being to:
- Appraise the region's performance.
  - Target key sustainable development priorities within the region and commend to the regional bodies.
  - Act as an advocate and champion for sustainability throughout the region.
  - Tackle key obstacles and barriers to sustainable development.

## **2. Principles**

- Independence.
- Inclusive (with wide cross-sectoral representation).
- Influential (as a result of its membership and actions).
- Capable of adding value to projects that exemplify sustainable development excellence.
- Well-networked (through partnerships within and beyond the region).

## **3. Membership**

- 3.1 Members of the SFG should be high profile individuals, capable of acting as advocates and champions with expertise in particular areas of sustainable development. Each member should have good links with organisations in the region that can contribute to sustainable development.
- 3.2 Chairmanship of the group should rest outside of the main regional bodies to enhance the independence of SFG. It should ideally be a high profile person capable of driving the agenda and raising the profile of the group's activities. The Chairman of SFG will be elected annually by the members of the group.
- 3.2 SFG should include representatives from GOSE, SEEDA and the Assembly with additional places filled by nominated individuals from stakeholders including statutory agencies, environmental and voluntary groups and the health and business sectors.
- 3.3 Membership must be a balance across the economic, social and environmental 'pillars' of sustainable development. Ideally the membership should have representation from across the region. SFG should have a total of no more than 15 members.

- 3.4 Individuals will be expected to draw on their personal knowledge and expertise rather than as representatives of particular organisations. Membership will not bind organisations to the SFG conclusions - it is up to each regional partner body to receive whatever the SFG publicly commends and decide whether it should change its policies or practices accordingly.
- 3.4 SFG provides the opportunity for improving co-ordination between the regional groups that deliver sustainable development in the region. It also provides a platform for regional groups and organisations to disseminate their message wider and contribute to the agenda. The relationship between these groups and SFG will need to be discussed on an individual basis. An annual event should be held to ensure the links with these wider groups are maintained and enhanced and reflected in the work of SFG.

#### **4. Ways of Working**

- 4.1 SFG will meet no more than four times a year, unless an extraordinary meeting is called. Meetings and papers will be public, and available via the Regional Assembly website.
- 4.2 The Assembly's Secretariat will provide the support function for the Board, and operate under the rules of procedure of the Regional Assembly. Papers will be sent out 10 days prior to the meeting.
- 4.3 The current Integrated Regional Framework working group (to be renamed) will meet in advance of the SFG meetings. The role of this group will be to support the activities of SFG and ensure that the administrative arrangements associated with SFG are carried out. These tasks will include (but are not limited to):
- Commissioning relevant research
  - Producing relevant reports as required
  - Organising events as required
  - Completing the review of the current Regional Sustainability Framework
- 4.4 The SFG will oversee and provide strategic direction and tasking to the work of the working group. The working group will then report back to the SFG for endorsement and steer.

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