



# **DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT REQUIRED FOR PARTIAL REVIEW OF DRAFT SOUTH EAST PLAN:**

## **PROVISION FOR GYPSY AND TRAVELLER CARAVAN SITES**

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## I. Introduction

- I.1 The South East England Regional Assembly (the Assembly) as the Regional Planning Body (RPB) for the South East has a duty to prepare and keep under review the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and prepare draft revision to the strategy when necessary or directed to do so by the Secretary of State<sup>1</sup>.
- I.2 A full review of the RSS (known as the 'South East Plan') commenced in 2003 and included 12 weeks regional consultation (January to March 2005) and six weeks sub-regional consultation (Autumn 2005) before a draft revised RSS was submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2006. The draft will be subject to an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2006 and March 2007 to address matters raised in the 12 week public consultation between April and June 2006. Any amendments to the draft Plan emerging from the EiP process will be subject to a further period of public consultation prior to the adoption of the Plan by the Secretary of State - anticipated in early 2008.
- I.3 ODPM Circular 1/2006 ('Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites') was published in its final form less than two months before the submission of the draft South East Plan. It states that RSSs should determine a strategic view of needs across the region and identify the number of pitches required for each local planning authority area. The Assembly has committed to an early partial review of the South East Plan to address this new policy requirement.
- I.4 In carrying out an RSS review, the Assembly is required to undertake a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), which will be incorporated into a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process. It is proposed that the SA process utilises the SA framework and methodology detailed in the Scoping Report for the SA of the South East Plan (October 2004)<sup>2</sup>.
- I.5 The Scoping Report is the first stage of a five-stage sustainability appraisal process. This Scoping Report sets out the process for undertaking the sustainability appraisal of the Partial Review.
- I.6 Sections two to six of this report and technical Annex A correspond to the structure of the original SA Scoping Report for the draft South East Plan (hereafter referred to as the original Scoping Report). Consistent with the original scoping report these amendments are designed to provide a focus for consultation with relevant environmental, economic and social authorities in the South East, on the specific sustainability issues raised by the Partial Review and to gain feedback on the various elements that will frame the subsequent appraisal process.

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<sup>1</sup> The South East region encompasses all the local authorities within the geographical areas of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex, Surrey, Oxfordshire and the Isle of Wight.

<sup>2</sup> ERM (2004) *Sustainability Appraisal of the South East Plan: Scoping Report - Working Draft* (available at: [http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/key/scoping\\_report.html](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/key/scoping_report.html))

- 1.7 This Scoping Report is a consultation draft and will be revised and updated as work progresses and in the light of consultation feedback. The amendments will be finalised in November 2006 in the light of consultation responses received.

## **2. The Partial Review**

- 2.1 The purpose of the Partial Review of the draft South East Plan in respect of the provision of caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers is to bring the RSS into line with recent Government policy as set out in ODPM Circular 1/2006 (February 2006). This requires that an RSS revision should identify the number of Caravan pitches required (but not their location) for each local planning authority in the light of local authority Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAAs) - in accordance with the Housing Act 2004 - and a strategic view of needs across the region.
- 2.2 The new approach to planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites at the regional and local levels introduced by ODPM Circular 1/2006 is intended to address the shortfall in the delivery of adequate sites over the past 10 years, and reduce the number of unauthorised encampments and the conflict they cause.
- 2.3 A draft project plan has been produced as the first stage in reviewing the RSS, and sets out how the Assembly will approach the task. Its publication serves as the Assembly's intention (as RPB) to prepare the draft revision to the draft South East Plan. This Scoping Report is published alongside the draft project plan and both documents should be read together.

## **3. Sustainability Appraisal**

### Recent Development of the South East Plan Sustainability Appraisal

- 3.1 The original Scoping Report laid out the five-stage SA methodology which was subsequently applied during the development of the draft South East Plan. This process culminated in the publication of the *Final Sustainability Appraisal Report*<sup>3</sup> in March 2006. The report presents the process, findings and outcomes of the SA that has been carried out on the Regional Spatial Options, the Regional Policy Framework, the Sub-Regional Strategies and the Sub-Regional Policy Framework developed by the Assembly and the sub-regions.

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<sup>3</sup> ERM (2004) *Sustainability Appraisal of the South East Plan: SA Report Working Draft* (available at: [http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/key/scoping\\_report.html](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/key/scoping_report.html))

### The Sustainability Appraisal of the Partial Review

- 3.2 As detailed in the original Scoping Report SA aims to predict and assess the economic, social and environmental effects of plans and programmes. The appraisal process incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive (EU Directive 2001/42) which specifies a process for assessing and mitigating the negative environmental impacts of specific plans and programmes.
- 3.3 In addition, the appraisal integrates key aspects of Health Impact Assessment (HIA)<sup>4</sup>, Rural Proofing<sup>5</sup> and 'Future Proofing'<sup>6</sup>, and is informed by work on these processes that has been carried out in the South East.
- 3.4 The original Scoping Report details the five-stage approach to the methodology. In the interest of consistency the same SA methodology will be utilised for the Partial Review amended to take account of changes in the finalised ODPM guidance: *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development*<sup>7</sup> Frameworks. The original Scoping Report contains further background information regarding this methodology. The proposed five-stage methodology consists of:
- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
  - Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
  - Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
  - Stage D: Consulting on the draft RSS Partial Review and Sustainability Appraisal Report
  - Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the RSS revision
- 3.5 This report reviews and where appropriate updates and amends the findings of Tasks A1-A4 within the original Scoping Report. These tasks include:
- A1, identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
  - A2, a review of relevant baseline information
  - A3, a review of sustainability issues for the plan to address
  - A4, presentation of the draft Appraisal Framework.

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<sup>4</sup> HIA is a decision-making tool that takes account of the potential effects of a proposal on the health of its target population. It aims to improve the health of communities and individuals; reduce health inequalities; work towards sustainable development; promote fairness and equality for all; target disadvantaged and marginalized groups; and encourage participation of all affected.

<sup>5</sup> Rural Proofing is a commitment by the Government to ensure that all its domestic policies take account of rural circumstances and needs. This means that as policies are developed, policy makers should systematically consider whether their policy is likely to have a different impact in rural areas, because of rural circumstances and needs; assess the significant impacts; adjust the policy where necessary with solutions to meet rural needs and circumstances.

<sup>6</sup> Future Proofing is a process, which seeks to ensure that the policy development process has taken full account of potential longer-term change. It is designed to make plans more aware of opportunities, provide early notice of new challenges, help them manage change and manage risk.

<sup>7</sup> ODPM(2005) *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks* (available at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143247>)

Tasks A1 to A4 satisfy the scoping requirements of the SEA Directive detailed in table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1 SEA Directive Requirements

The SEA Directive states:

The environmental report should provide information on [inter alia]:

- The 'relationship [of the plan or programme] with other relevant plans and programmes' (Annex I (a))
- 'the environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European] or [national] level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way these objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation' (Annex I (e))
- 'relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme' and 'the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected' (Annex I (b), (c))
- 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC' (Annex I (d))

'...the authorities... which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes... shall be consulted when deciding the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report' (Article 5.4 and 6.3).

- 3.6 Subsequent stages of the SA will be undertaken by an independent body, consistent with the SA of the draft South East Plan, it is intended that the SA Sounding Board will assist with the process.

#### Appropriate Assessment

- 3.7 In October 2005, the European Court of Justice ruled that the UK had failed to correctly transpose the provisions of Articles 6(3) and (4) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora - the Habitats Directive - into national law. Specifically, the UK had failed to ensure that land use plans are subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) where they might have a significant effect on a *Natura 2000* site (Special Areas of Conservation, SACs, and Special Protection Areas, SPAs).

- 3.8 Following the European Court ruling, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has indicated that the regulations implementing the Habitats Directive in the UK will be amended to ensure that AA explicitly applies to land use plans<sup>8</sup>. The DCLG (formerly the ODPM) has also indicated that land use plans include Regional Spatial Strategies, of which the South East Plan is one.
- 3.9 In light of this, the Assembly has agreed that an AA should be carried out on the draft South East Plan prior to the Plan undergoing Examination in Public (EiP) (programmed for 27 November 2006 - 9 March 2007) and adoption (envisaged for Spring 2008).
- 3.10 The Partial Review will reflect the findings of the Appropriate Assessment of the draft South East Plan. The Assembly will also seek advice on whether there are any further implications for the Partial Review.

#### **4. Objectives, Links to other Plans, Baseline and Key Sustainability Issues**

##### Introduction

- 4.1 Consistent with the original Scoping Report, to establish a clear scope for the SA for the Partial Review and in compliance with statutory requirements, it is first necessary to review and develop an understanding of:
- Possible appraisal objectives
  - Other plans, policies and strategies of relevance to the Plan
  - Baseline information on environmental, social and economic conditions in the region
  - Key sustainability issues facing the region.

##### Appraisal Objectives

- 4.2 As detailed in the original Scoping Report the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) objectives for the South East provide the core objectives for the SA of the Partial Review. The IRF objectives are listed in table 4.1 below.

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<sup>8</sup> Draft amendments to the Habitats Directive are available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/nat-habitats-2006/index.htm>.

Table 4.1 Objectives of the Integrated Regional Framework

1	To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home
2	To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment
3	To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health
4	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas in the South East and the rest of the region
5	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
6	To reduce crime and the fear of crime
7	To create and sustain vibrant communities
8	To improve accessibility to all services and facilities
9	To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East
10	To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including re-use of materials from buildings, and encourage urban renaissance
11	To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve
12	To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the South East is prepared for its impacts
13	To conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity
14	To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the region's countryside and historic environment
15	To reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, and reducing the need for travel by car/lorry
16	To reduce the global social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably produced and local products
17	To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste
18	To maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers and coasts, and to achieve sustainable water resources management
19	To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the region
20	To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region
21	To sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region
22	To stimulate economic revival in priority regeneration areas
23	To develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities
24	To encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector
25	To develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region

### Testing of the Partial Review Objectives

- 4.3 The original Scoping Report contained an appraisal of the South East Plan objectives. As recommended in the finalised ODPM guidance: *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks* the testing of the Partial Review objectives will be carried out in Stage B of the SA process. The results of this appraisal will iteratively feed back into the development of the Partial Review.

Links to other Relevant Plans, Policies and Strategies

- 4.4 The original Scoping Report contained a review of a wide range of policies, plans and strategies at national and regional level which should inform / have a bearing on the development of the Plan. As part of the Partial Review this review has been revisited, so that:
- Those policies, plans and strategies within the original Scoping Report and relevant to the Partial Review are updated
  - New policies, plans and strategies that are relevant to the Partial Review are identified.
- 4.5 Full information on the update of plans, strategies and objectives is set out in Annex A available on the Assembly website ([http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/consultation/gt\\_update.html](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/consultation/gt_update.html)). The relevant plans and strategies and that have been reviewed are listed in table 4.2 below.
- 4.6 As detailed in the original Scoping Report not all national plans and policies have been included within the appraisal. It was assumed that the region plans listed in Table 4.3 below have been developed in line with relevant national strategies and plans. Given the limited scope of the Partial Review this report focuses on updating the relevant national and regional plans and strategies and identifying additional plans and strategies pertinent to the planning of Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites.

Table 4.2 - Updated List of National Plans

**Specific Relevance to Gypsies and Travellers**

- Draft Planning Policy Statement 3 for Housing (PPS3)
- Sustainable Communities: Homes for all
- The Housing Act (2004)
- ODPM Circular 01/06: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites
- ODPM Circular 22/91: Travelling Showpeople (December, 1991)
- ODPM Circular 06/03: Local Government Act 1972 general disposal consent (England) 2003 disposal of land for less than the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments: Draft Practice Guidance (ODPM 2006)
- Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant Guidance 2006-2008

**Planning Policy Guidance documents and Statements**

- PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)
- PPG2: Green belts (1995)
- PPG3: Housing (2000)
- PPG4: Industrial, commercial development and small firms (1992)
- PPS6: Town centres and retail development (1996)
- PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)
- PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005)
- PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste management (2005)
- PPS11: Regional Spatial Strategies (2004)
- PPG13: Transport (2001)
- PPG17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (2002)
- PPS22: Renewable Energy (2004)
- PPG25 (to be superseded by PPS25): Development and flood risk (2001)

**Other relevant national policies**

- 2002 Spending Review: Public Service Agreements 2003-2006<sup>9</sup>
- Our Towns and Cities: the Future (the Urban White Paper, 1999)
- Rural Strategy (2004)
- Quality and Choice: a decent home for all (the Housing Green Paper, 2003)
- Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005
- The Future of Transport (the Transport White Paper, 2004)
- Our Energy Future - creating a low carbon economy (the Energy White Paper, 2003)
- Waste Strategy 2000 (including amendments)
- Working with the grain of nature: a biodiversity strategy for England (2002)
- Government's Response to Barker Review of Housing Supply (2005)
- Code for Sustainable Homes (2006)

<sup>9</sup> Each Government Department develops and agrees PSAs with HM Treasury as part of the budget setting process. PSAs draw together the headline performance targets, and as such provide a reasonable summary of national policy objectives.

Table 4.3 - Updated List of Regional Plans

<p><b>Economic Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Regional Economic Strategy (SEEDA, 2006)</li> <li>• Regional Economic Strategy 2002-2012 (SEEDA , December 2002)</li> <li>• Integrated Regional Framework for the South East (Regional Assembly, 2004)</li> <li>• European Strategy for South East England 2001-2006 (Regional Assembly, February 2001)</li> <li>• South East Social Enterprise Strategy (SEEDA 2005)</li> <li>• Farming and Food: Our Healthy Future Delivery Plan for Sustainable Farming and Food Delivery Plan in the South East and London (GOSE, December 2003)</li> <li>• English Rural Development Programme 2000-2006: Appendix A7 South East Region (MAFF, October 2000)</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South East Regional Housing Strategy 2006 onwards (Regional Housing Board)</li> <li>• Regional Cultural Strategy: 'The Cultural Cornerstone'</li> <li>• The Arts in Urban Renaissance (Arts Council England, South East, May 2003)</li> <li>• South East Regional Social Inclusion Statement (Regional Assembly/GOSE/SEEDA/RAISE/The Housing Corporation/Social Services Inspectorate/Health Development Agency, June 2002)</li> </ul> <p><b>Environmental Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change (SEEDA/SECCP, July 2004)</li> <li>• Seeing the Wood for the Trees: Regional Forestry Framework (The Forestry Framework Steering Group/Partners from Regional Government and Woodland Sector/SEEDA, March 2004)</li> <li>• Adapting to Climate Change: A Checklist for development (SECCP 2005)</li> <li>• Water Resources for the Future, A Strategy for Southern Region/ A Strategy for Thames Region (EA, Southern Region/Thames Region, March 2001)</li> <li>• Action for Biodiversity in South East England (South East England Biodiversity Forum, 2001)</li> </ul> <p><b>Spatial Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9, 2001)</li> <li>• Draft South East Plan (Regional Assembly, 2006)</li> <li>• Regional Transport Strategy (Adopted Alterations to RPG9) (ODPM, 2004)</li> <li>• Regional Minerals Strategy (Adopted Alterations to RPG9) (ODPM, 2006)</li> <li>• Regional Waste Strategy (Adopted Alterations to RPG9) (ODPM, June 2006)</li> <li>• Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (Adopted Alterations to RPG9) (ODPM, November 2004)</li> <li>• Tourism and Related Sport and Recreation (Adopted Alterations to RPG9) (ODPM, November 2004)</li> <li>• Ashford Growth Area (Alterations to RPG9) (ODPM July 2004)</li> <li>• Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy (Adopted Alterations to RPG9) (ODPM, March 2005)</li> <li>• Sustainable Communities in the South East (GOSE/ODPM, February 2003)</li> </ul>
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### Key Issues

4.7 In addition to those issues identified in the original Scoping Report (the relevance of which will be tested through the appraisal process), a number of issues which are relevant to and could be influenced by the Partial Review have been identified at national level. It is important that the Partial Review bears these in mind and seeks to address them, they include:

- Failure to deliver adequate sites for Gypsies and Travellers (ODPM Circular 01/06)
- Gypsies and Travellers are believed to experience the worst health and education status of any disadvantaged communities in England (ODPM Circular 01/06)

- Requirement to create and sustain strong communities, for the benefit of all members of society including the Gypsy and Traveller community thereby avoiding the conflict and distress associated with unauthorised encampments etc (ODPM Circular 01/06).

#### Baseline Information

- 4.8 The original Scoping Report presented a summary of data obtained concerning environmental, social and economic conditions in the South East. As recommended in the Government guidance the majority of the original baseline indicators are updated annually as part of the monitoring of the IRF and the Regional Spatial Strategy (RPG9). As detailed in the final SA report, submitted with the draft South East to Government in March 2006, it is proposed that monitoring will be extended to incorporate the significant effects indicators identified through the SA process. The latest annual Regional Monitoring Report (RMR) is available at <http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/publications/monitoring.html>.
- 4.9 As part of the SA of the Partial Review the existing baseline data has been revisited and updated with data and trends relating to Gypsies and Travellers. Table 4.4 sets out the additional data relating to Gypsies and Travellers - DCLG Caravan Count Data for the South East July 2000 to January 2006. Table 4.5 provides an update review of the baseline data for the South East.
- 4.10 The review of this data provides an opportunity to look again at the problems, assets, strengths and weaknesses of the region relative to national/regional targets and to the UK as a whole and to other regions. This data will enable a review (detailed in section 4.6) of the key sustainability issues identified in the original Scoping Report.

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*Table 4.4 Additional baseline data relating to Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites*

Count	Authorised Socially Rented	Authorised Private	Unauthorised	Total
Jul 2000	1,040	676	999	2,715
Jan 2001	1,203	802	495	2,500
Jul 2001	1,193	770	827	2,790
Jan 2002	1,247	847	371	2,465
Jul 2002	1,156	816	752	2,724
Jan 2003	1,106	786	628	2,520
Jul 2003	1,185	737	962	2,884
Jan 2004	1,103	961	736	2,800
Jul 2004	1,081	957	764	2,802
Jan 2005	1,105	1,072	635	2,812
Jul 2005	1,194	1,120	778	3,092
Jan 2006	1,168	1,087	609	2,864

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Table 4.5 Changes to Regional Baseline Data

IRF Issue	Indicators	Changes in trends since 2004	Comparators/targets
1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	Net housing completions in the South East	The trend has reversed since 2001/02, from a slight fall to significant growth. In 2004/05 31,900 additional homes were built	The draft South East Plan provides for an additional 28,900 homes per annum
	Additional provision of affordable housing (as a proportion of total completions)	An overall increase in additional grant funded affordable homes in the South East to 6,700 in 2004/05	Regional Target: Draft South East Plan: 35% of all new housing should be affordable. 25% social rented accommodation and 10% other forms of affordable housing
	Average property price in the South East compared against average earnings	The RMR only looks at the lower quartile figures for 2003/04 and 2004/05. Recent DCLG data looks at the average. Both sources show there is no change in trend, with property prices remaining high	
	Households on the Housing Register	There has been a strong growth in households on the housing register in recent years. In April 2005, there were 181,196 households on the waiting list	
	Number of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings	This number has been decreasing since 2002/03	
	DCLG Caravan Count Data for the South East	The total number of caravans has remained around the same level. The proportion of authorised private caravans has grown. No targets are set, the RSS is required to identify the amount of pitches needed for each Local Authority	
2. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment	Properties at risk from flooding, as defined by the EA	There is no change in trend, a significant proportion of properties still remain at risk	
	New development with sustainable drainage installed	No data is currently available at a regional level	National Target: PPG25 - Ensure that new development is safe and not exposed to flooding by considering flood-risk on a catchment-wide basis.
3. To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health	Mortality rates from circulatory disease, cancer, accidents and suicide	There is no significant change in the trend data The standard mortality rate from circulatory diseases, cancer, accidents continue to fall. Suicide rates have been higher than England, but this trend appears to have reversed recently	All figures are now below the national average

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IRF Issue	Indicators	Changes in trends since 2004	Comparators/targets
	Infant mortality rates	The mortality rate has decreased gradually in the period 2002-2004	Infant mortality rate in the South East is lower than England by about 1 in 1,000 for the period 2002-2004
	Conceptions among girls under 18	Although fairly static the trend continues to remain downward	The conception rate amongst under 18s is significantly lower than the UK average, although this must be viewed in the context that the UK has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Western Europe
	Life expectancy by gender	Life expectancy is still increasing overall	The South East continues to have a higher life expectancy for both males and females than the rest of England
4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas in the South East and the rest of the region	Proportion of children under 16 who live in low-income households	Not updated since 2004	
	Claimant count rates (people of working age)	No change in trend but a significant speeding of the decline to 1.4% in 2004/05	
	Percentage and number of households in fuel poverty	Not updated since 2004	The average for England is 16.4% of households experiencing fuel poverty.
	Proportion of population who live in areas that rank within the most deprived 20% of areas in the country (Indices of multiple deprivation)	Not updated since 2004 2001 data indicates that 5.4% of the region's population live in the most deprived 20% of the county	Small parts of the region falling into the UK's top 20% most deprived SOAs
	Household income in rural areas	2004 showed a decline to £347	
5. 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	Proportion of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications (5 GCSEs A*- C or NVQ equivalent)	Shows a decrease but reflects an increase in those with Level 3 qualifications and above	By 2010, increase participation in Higher Education towards 50% of those aged 18 to 30 (DFES PSA 9). Regional and national levels have converged to the same point
	Percentage of population of working age qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent	Percentage continues to increase slightly and is at 48.6%	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%

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IRF Issue	Indicators	Changes in trends since 2004	Comparators/targets
	Proportion of adults with poor literacy and numeracy skills	The RMR shows the 2002/03 baseline but no trend as this is the only year available	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)
6. To reduce crime and the fear of crime	Recorded offences (domestic burglaries, violent offences and vehicle crimes) per 1,000 population	The South East still has one of the lowest rates of recorded crime	Still one of the lowest rates in the UK, perhaps because of this the South East recorded the lowest % change of any region (1%)
	Relative fear of crime, by sub-region, for burglary, car crime and violent crime, by Police authority area in the South East	The fear of crime remains low	Although fear of crime remains below the national average, there are areas within the region (eg Kent) where the figure matches the national average
7. To create and sustain vibrant communities	Percentage of people who say they are satisfied with their local area as a place to live	Data has not been updated since 2004. Nearly 90% of people are satisfied with their area as a place to live	National Objective: To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas through the promotion of thriving, inclusive and sustainable rural communities (PPS7)
	Percentage of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously	No data	
	Percentage of people who have carried out any of a specified list of actions, unpaid, for someone who is not a relative in the past 12 months	No data	
	Percentage of people who have received any of a specified list of actions, unpaid, by someone who is not a relative in the past 12 months	No data	

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<b>IRF Issue</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Changes in trends since 2004</b>	<b>Comparators/targets</b>
8. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities	Percentage of rural households at set distance from key services	Figures remain the same as for 2004 Difficult to quantify how access is improving key services. Future time series monitoring on this issue will be required	In 2004 the South East's rural access to services performance is the highest for any region. Regional targets: (RPG9) - The adopted RPG highlights the issue of accessibility to facilities PPS1, draft PPS3, PPG3 and PPG13 are also all relevant to this objective
9. To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East	Engagement in cultural activity by all target groups, for example young people, or by geographic area	No data is currently available at regional level	Regional Objective - Draft RES: Encourage the recognition of cultural diversity as a key driver for sustainable prosperity, through economic inclusion
10. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including re-use of materials from buildings, and encourage urban renaissance	Development on previously developed land Percentage of homes built on PDL	Has increased to 76%	Regional Objectives: Various priorities to encourage urban development on PDL, and discourage Greenfield development. Draft South East Plan contains the target 60% of new development on PDL
	Derelict land and buildings in the South East, and vacant buildings in the South East,	The RMR measures the hectares occupied by vacant buildings while the Scoping Report gave a number of empty homes. However both show a decreasing trend.	
11. To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve	Days when air pollution is moderate or high, from selected locations in the South East	The amount of days when air pollution is moderate or high fluctuates yearly. The numbers are higher in the last two years but it is too short to be able to identify a change in trend.	National Objectives: DfT 1.6, PPG4, PPG24, PPS11, Rural strategy 2004 and the Transport White Paper
12. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the South East is prepared for its impact	Emissions of greenhouse gases from energy consumption, transport and land use and waste management	The RMR reports on a slightly different indicator. In 2003, a total of 71,144 kilotonnes of CO2 were produced in the South East. No data is available prior to 2003 so this is the baseline.	National Objectives: PPS11, PPS22, PPG25, DEFRA 1.2, Energy White Paper Regional objective: The South East Plan contains a target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 20% below 1990 levels by 2010 and by at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2015

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<b>IRF Issue</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Changes in trends since 2004</b>	<b>Comparators/targets</b>
	Headroom and target headroom for water resource zones within the region.	Not updated since 2001	Broad Regional Targets in RPG9, draft South East Plan, Action for Biodiversity in South East England and A Regional Forestry Framework for the South East Region
13. To conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity	Population of wild birds	Not updated since 2003	Broad Regional Targets in RPG9, draft South East Plan Action for Biodiversity in South East England and A Regional Forestry Framework for the South East Region. The South East shows the highest decline in farmland birds of all the regions
	Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	Between 2003 and 2005, there is a trend for SSSIs in the 'unfavourable condition declining' category moving to the category of 'unfavourable condition recovering'. The other categories show no significant changes	Broad Regional Targets in RPG9, draft South East Plan, Action for Biodiversity in South East England and A Regional Forestry Framework for the South East Region
	Extent and condition of key habitats for which BAPS have been established	The RMR shows that the extent and condition of four selected key habitats is unfavourable but in most cases improving	Broad Regional Targets in RPG9, draft South East Plan. Action for Biodiversity in South East England and A Regional Forestry Framework for the South East Region
	Extent of ancient woodlands	Research has shown that the extent of ancient woodland is greater than thought. However, the trend shows stability	Broad Regional Targets in RPG9, draft South East plan Action for Biodiversity in South East England and A Regional Forestry Framework for the South East Region
14. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the region's countryside and historic environment	Coverage of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and CS schemes	Not updated since 2004	National Target: Many ESAs and CS schemes fall under the 'favourable condition' SSSI PSA target
	Condition of countryside paths	Not updated since 2004	

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IRF Issue	Indicators	Changes in trends since 2004	Comparators/targets
	Condition of buildings (Grade I, II*, II and not listed) at risk	The number of buildings at risk entries has fallen from 158 to 133 (16%) since 1999	National Target: To remove 32% of entries in the 1999 At Risk list by the 2004 list publication, 36% by the 2005 publication and 40% by the 2006 publication (EH). The percentage remains the lowest in the East of England and the South East
15. To reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, and reducing the need for travel by car/lorry	Average daily motor vehicle flows, by region	Traffic levels static between 2002/03 and 2003/04	The South East has the third highest daily motor vehicle flows in England
	Distance travelled (miles) in the South East, per person, by mode	Total distance travelled per person per year has a decreasing trend. The proportion of travel by car has stayed roughly the same in the last two years	Distance travelled per person is higher than that for England, however, there is evidence that the figures are converging
	Monetary investment in public transport, walking and cycling	Data not currently available	National Targets: To ensure sustained investment over the long-term; to deliver improvements in transport management; and to ensure there is forward planning (Transport White Paper)
16. To reduce the global social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably produced and local products	Percentage of new build and retrofit homes meeting EcoHomes Very Good standard	There is only a UK number available for 2005: 45	Regional Target: Draft South East Plan - The construction of all new buildings and the redevelopment and refurbishment of existing building stock will be expected to adopt and incorporate sustainable construction standards and techniques
	Percentage of commercial buildings meeting BREEAM Very Good standard	There is only a UK number available for 2005: 14	

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IRF Issue	Indicators	Changes in trends since 2004	Comparators/targets
	Ecological footprint for the South East	Ecological budget UK shows that ecological footprint for the South East is 6.29 gha/cap	Regional Target: Draft South East Plan - The plan will promote measures that seek to stabilise the South East's ecological footprint by 2016, and to reduce the ecological footprint during the second half of the Plan period. The South East region has the highest ecological footprint in the UK
17. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the Sustainable management of waste	Percentage of the total tonnage of all types of waste (municipal solid waste, construction and demolition and industrial) that has been recycled, composted, used to recover heat, power and other energy sources, and land filled	Recycling and composting have continued to increase however growth of municipal waste means the amount going to landfill is increasing. There is a recent increase in the amount of EfW in the South East	<p>National/EU wide Target: To reduce the BMW landfilled to 75% of that produced in 1995 by 2010; 50% by 2013; and 35% by 2020. (EU Landfill Directive)</p> <p>National Target: To reduce C&amp;I waste landfilled to 85% of 1998 levels by 2005; to recycle or compost at least 25% of household waste by 2005; 30% by 2010 and at least 33% by 2015 (National Waste Strategy)</p> <p>Proposed new Targets: Recycling and composting 40%, 45% and 50% by 2010, 2015 and 2020 Municipal waste recovery 53%, 67% and 75% by 2010, 2015 and 2020</p>
18. To maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers and coasts, and to achieve sustainable water resources management	Rivers of Good or Fair chemical and biological water quality	In 2005 bathing water achieved a 100% compliance with the imperative standards of the Directive	National Target: By 2005, for 91% of river length to comply with Environment Agency River Quality Objectives (in line with PSA targets)
	Compliance with EC Bathing Waters Directive (%)	These figures fluctuate, but show no obvious trend	National /EU Targets: Water Framework Directive
	Per capita consumption (PCC) of water	This trend has changed. 2003/04 and 2004/05 show a small decrease in consumption	National /EU Targets: Water Framework Directive

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IRF Issue	Indicators	Changes in trends since 2004	Comparators/targets
	Incidents of major and significant water pollution	In 2004 the number of most serious incidents decreased. Category 1 water pollution nearly halved 2003-2004 Significant (category 2) water pollution incidents showed a steady decrease between 2003 and 2004	National /EU Targets: Water Framework Directive
19. To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the region	Energy consumption by user group in England(Domestic, Services, Industry and Transport)	Gas consumption per 1,000 domestic costumers has increased slightly since 2002	
	Installed capacity for energy production from renewable sources in the South East	The renewable energy capacity installed per year has an increasing trend, from 60MW (0.53%) in 2001 to 295MW (2.6%) in 2005. This is still far off the national targets	Regional Target: Draft South East Plan - Proposes targets for electricity generation from renewable sources:  1,750 MW of installed capacity by 2026 providing 16.0% of electricity generation capacity by 2026
20. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region	Proportion of people of working age in employment	Slight increase since 2003	The South East employment rate for working age people is consistently higher than the rate for Great Britain and is the second highest, joint with the South West and behind the Eastern region  Regional Target: Draft RES - Improve the productivity of the workforce and increase economic activity from 82% to 85% by bringing 1 10,000 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)
	Proportion of people claiming unemployment benefits who have been out of work for more than a year	Further reductions in the number of claimants in 2005	The trend of decline in the number of long term unemployed is experienced in most of the regions

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IRF Issue	Indicators	Changes in trends since 2004	Comparators/targets
	Percentage increase or decrease in the total number of VAT registered businesses	There is a strong decrease in 2004, a speeding up of the existing trend	Regional Target: Draft RES - Increase the business stock by 35% from 35 businesses per 1,000 inhabitants in 2003 to 44 per 1,000 inhabitants by 2016, including 10,000 new businesses run by women by 2010  In 2004 the South East Region had the highest stock of VAT-registered enterprises after London
	Percentage change in workplace-based employment	The RMR only shows one year and therefore doesn't show a trend. However additional information shows an increasing trend since 1999	
21. To sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region	GVA per capita	No new figures since 2003	Regional Target: Draft RES - Achieve an average annual increase in GVA per capita of at least 3% In 2003 the South East, London and East of England were the only regions with a Gross Value Added per head above the UK average
	Labour productivity performance of the South East against other high performing regions in Europe and the world	Not updated since 2003	Regional target: Draft RES - 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)
22. To stimulate economic revival in priority regeneration areas	Proportion of people, in the most deprived areas, of working age in employment	Not updated since 2001	The IMD published in 2004 shows that the South East is characterised by a relatively wealthy core and a poorer periphery
	Proportion of people, in the most deprived areas, claiming unemployment benefit who have been out of work for more than a year	This figure has decreased from 1.8% in 2001 to 0.57% in 2005. However, this is higher than the regional figure	
	Proportion of people, in the most deprived areas, aged 16-74, that are in full time education or employment	Not updated since 2001	
	Percentage increase or decrease in workplace based employment in the most deprived areas	Data not currently available	

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IRF Issue	Indicators	Changes in trends since 2004	Comparators/targets
<p>23. To develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge -based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities</p>	<p>Annual percentage change in real GVA per employee in manufacturing and knowledge driven sector in the South East</p>	<p>There is no change in trend. The figure for manufacturing fluctuates but there is a broad decrease since 1983. The knowledge-sector shows an increase in employment</p>	<p>Regional Target: The Draft RES - Increase the proportion of businesses in the South East reporting R&amp;D links with universities from 11% in 2005 to 15% by 2016, and increase business expenditure on research and development in the South East from 3.1% of Gross Value Added in 2002 to 4% by 2016</p> <p>Increase the percentage of total South East business turnover attributable to new and improved products and services from 12% during 1998-2000 to 20% by 2016</p> <p>The South East has the 5th largest increase in employment in the knowledge-driven sectors between 1998 and 2003</p>
	<p>Export of manufactured goods, UK and the South East</p>	<p>There is a continued decline in manufacturing export per head</p>	<p>The figure for the South East is significantly below that of the UK</p>
<p>24. To encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector</p>	<p>Percentage of jobs in the tourism sector</p>	<p>Not updated since 2002</p>	
	<p>Number of visitors staying overnight and overnight spend</p>	<p>Between 2001 and 2004, both the number of visitors staying overnight and the overnight spend have decreased</p>	
<p>25. To develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region</p>	<p>Closely linked to indicators under Objective 5 on population qualifications</p>	<p>See data for Objective 5</p>	<p>Regional Target: Draft RES - Increase the percentage of the working age population with qualifications at NVQ Level 2 or higher from 66% in 2003 to at least 80% by 2016, and increase the percentage of the working age population with qualifications at NVQ Level 4 or higher from 28% in 2003 to at least 40% by 2016</p>

### Data Gaps

- 4.11 With the exception of caravan count data, no Gypsy and Traveller datasets are available at the regional level. These data gaps will make it difficult to assess the likely social, environmental and economic impact of the Partial review. The Assembly may therefore wish to develop indicators that enable the impact and performance of the Partial Review to be monitored and evaluated in the long term. The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, which will inform the Partial Review, offer an important opportunity to establish such a baseline dataset.

### Sustainability Issues

- 4.12 The original Scoping Report set out a summary of key environmental, social and economic issues that are relevant to the South East Plan. These issues were identified by the analysis of the baseline and extensive consultation. As part of the SA of the Partial Review, these issues have been revisited and updated so that:
- Existing sustainability issues are updated in the light of the review of relevant plans and strategies and the baseline
  - New issues relating to the Partial Review are identified.

Separating those issues relevant to the Partial Review from those which are relevant to the South East Plan is problematic. It is likely that most of the issues relevant to the South East Plan will continue to have some relevance to the Partial Review. Therefore all the sustainability issues for the South East Plan are identified and updated alongside those that are relevant to the Partial Review. The results are presented in table 4.6 overleaf.

Table 4.6 Review of Key Sustainability Issues

IRF Issue	Key Sustainability Issues in the South East	Implications for South East Plan
<p>1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</p>	<p>Poor quality housing is concentrated in the more deprived parts of the region. 29% of dwellings in the South East failed to meet the decent homes standard in 2001 (compared to a national average of 33%). Since 2002 in 2005 there were 8% fewer unfit homes in the South East. The region also suffers from a shortage of affordable housing. The draft South East Plan recommends that 35% of all new housing should be affordable. Between 1997 and 2003, the number of households in accommodation arranged by local authorities in the region doubled, to 12,970. The numbers of households on council house waiting lists is also rising, to 181,196 in 2005</p>	<p>The Plan can establish a spatial distribution and policy framework on housing to address the increasing demand for housing, particularly affordable housing, can ensure that housing developments provide different dwelling types, sizes and tenures, and can help to address problems with unfit housing that particularly affect deprived communities</p>
	<p><b>Additional Key Sustainability Issues relating to Gypsies &amp; Travellers</b>                      ODPM has issued circular 01/2006 because evidence showed that the advice set out in Circular 1/94 has failed to deliver adequate sites for Gypsies &amp; Travellers in many areas of England over the last 10 years. There have been more applications for private Gypsy and Traveller sites, but this has not resulted in the necessary increase in provision</p>	<p><b>Implications for the Gypsies &amp; Travellers Partial Review</b>                      The Partial review should enhance the provision of adequate sites for gypsies and travellers.</p>
<p>2. To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment</p>	<p>Over 235,000 properties are located in the indicative fluvial and tidal floodplain, and are at some risk from flooding (eg South Hampshire, North Kent and Thanet). Climate change is also likely to increase the incidence of coastal flooding and erosion in certain areas, with winters predicted to become up to 22% wetter and sea levels expected to rise</p>	<p>The Plan can also have a vital role in focusing development away from floodplain and in encouraging a net reduction in housing where re-development occurs, by ensuring that those areas that are at risk are protected (eg the Thames, Medway and Arun) and necessary development is 'Future Proofed'. The Plan can also promote the use of sustainable drainage systems for managing surface water run-off from development, and promote biodiversity gain through floodplain management</p>

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IRF Issue	Key Sustainability Issues in the South East	Implications for South East Plan
<p>3. To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health</p>	<p>The South East has relatively high levels of health, with death rates from cancer and circulatory disease and infant mortality rates below the national average. Life expectancy rates for women and men are increasing. However, there are wide disparities in health between affluent and more deprived communities, and the region has areas with large populations of older people. Furthermore, alcohol misuse and drug abuse are on the increase and a major concern for the region</p>	<p>By providing for better quality housing, by promoting better access to health facilities and recreation/leisure resources, by encouraging people to walk/cycle, by improving air quality (eg through more sustainable transport patterns), and by establishing development patterns that reduce deprivation more generally, the Plan can help to deliver health objectives across the region. Furthermore, the Plan can promote a reduction in health inequalities by focusing on deprived communities</p>
	<p><b>Additional Key Sustainability Issues relating to Gypsies &amp; Travellers</b></p>	<p><b>Implications for the Gypsies &amp; Travellers Partial Review</b></p>
	<p>Gypsies and Travellers are believed to experience the worst health status of any disadvantaged group in England. Research has consistently confirmed the link between the lack of good quality sites for Gypsies and Travellers and poor health</p>	<p>The Partial Review should also enhance the health status of Gypsies and Travellers</p>
<p>4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas in the South East and the rest of the region</p>	<p>Despite the economic success of the region as a whole, there are persistent pockets of significant deprivation and social exclusion within the South East. Based on 2001 Census figures 5.4% of the region's population live in wards ranked in the 20% most deprived in England as a whole. In particular, deprivation is focused on coastal towns and cities, with Hastings, Thanet, Brighton and Hove, Swale, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight identified as the most deprived districts in the region. Deprivation and social exclusion also exist in more 'hidden' forms in rural communities</p>	<p>The Plan can help to reverse development patterns which reinforce deprivation and social exclusion (whether that be housing, access, education, income etc deprivation), and to establish policies which promote the delivery of important social infrastructure in deprived communities (eg housing, healthcare facilities, education/training facilities etc)</p>
<p>5. 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</p>	<p>Qualification levels in the South East are relatively high compared to the UK average, with more people holding advanced qualifications. However, significant disparities in educational attainment exist within the region, with for example 64.4% of 16 year olds in Buckinghamshire achieving five or more GCSE grades A* to C, compared to 36.5% in Portsmouth. In addition, 22% of the population suffers from poor literacy, and 21% poor numeracy</p>	<p>The Plan can support educational attainment, particularly in deprived areas where education/skills may be lower, by encouraging the provision of accessible training/education opportunities</p>

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IRF Issue	Key Sustainability Issues in the South East	Implications for South East Plan
	<p><b>Additional Key Sustainability Issues relating to Gypsies &amp; Travellers</b></p> <p>Gypsies and Travellers are believed to experience the worst education status of any disadvantaged group in England. Research has consistently confirmed the link between the lack of good quality sites for Gypsies and Travellers and poor education</p>	<p><b>Implications for the Gypsies &amp; Travellers Partial Review</b></p> <p>The Partial Review should enhance the education status for the Gypsies and Travellers</p>
<p>6. To reduce crime and the fear of crime</p>	<p>The South East is one of the safest parts of the UK, with 9,000 recorded offences per 100,000 people in 2004/05</p>	<p>By dealing with the socio-economic causes of criminality in deprived communities (through the provision of jobs, housing, services, facilities and other opportunities), the Plan can help to ensure that the South East maintains its competitive advantage as the UK's safest region. The Plan can also promote the adoption of 'Secured-by-Design' principles in the development of housing and employment sites</p>
<p>7. To create and sustain vibrant communities</p>	<p>According to opinion polls, most people living in the region say that they are 'satisfied' with their area as a place to live</p>	<p>The Plan can promote the development of sustainable communities by encouraging the involvement of communities in the process of planning and development activities at local levels</p>
	<p><b>Additional Key Sustainability Issues relating to Gypsies &amp; Travellers</b></p> <p>Circular 01/2006 emphasises the need to create and sustain strong communities, for all the members of society including Gypsies and Travellers. A key sustainability issue is avoiding the conflict and distress associated with unauthorised encampments</p>	<p><b>Implications for the Gypsies &amp; Travellers Partial Review</b></p> <p>The Partial Review should contribute to the creation of strong and stable communities for all members of society thereby avoiding the conflict and distress associated with unauthorised encampments</p>
<p>8. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities</p>	<p>The creation of development patterns that are reliant on access to the private car contributes to social exclusion and disadvantage. In the South East, distance travelled by car is higher than the national average (but currently falling), although 20% of households do not own a car and a further 48% have access to only one car. Accessibility is a particularly key issue for rural communities, where the dispersed nature of the population combined with a broad reliance on use of the private car can lead to difficulties for service delivery</p>	<p>The Plan can address accessibility through the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure and by promoting accessible development patterns. More specifically, accessibility in rural areas can be improved by, for example, promoting the provision of more 'joined-up' community services and the development of improved public transport</p>

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IRF Issue	Key Sustainability Issues in the South East	Implications for South East Plan
9. To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East	The South East has high levels of participation in cultural activities and sport, and boasts rich and diverse cultural assets. However, there are groups and communities which are cut off from opportunities by poor provision of transport, educational deprivation, low income, geographical remoteness, and lack of adequate cultural infrastructure	The Plan can help to promote access to cultural and leisure opportunities among those groups/communities who are currently excluded, eg by encouraging the inclusion of facilities in developments, by promoting the provision of public transport etc
10. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including re-use of materials from buildings, and encourage urban renaissance	The South East has a high density of population across the region, with widespread, dispersed suburban housing and a diminishing area of open countryside. Although 76% of housing in the region as a whole is built on previously-developed land (in excess of government targets), there are still significant sub-regional variations	The Plan can establish clear policies to promote the redevelopment of previously developed land and the achievement of urban renaissance
11. To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve	Air quality in the region has improved in recent years, although there are local pockets of low air quality. Motor vehicles and aviation are the main source of pollutant emissions, although industrial/energy generation activities can cause pollution hotspots	The Plan can make a significant contribution to improving local air quality by promoting more sustainable transport patterns, in particular reducing the volume of road traffic and controlling the expansion of Gatwick
12. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the South East is prepared for its impacts	In 2003 a total of 71,144 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide were produced in the South East. The region is forecast to experience some of the most severe effects of a changing climate, with hotter and drier summers, warmer and wetter winters, and increased incidence of severe weather. The knock-on implications of climate change are also likely to be significant, in terms of flooding, water usage, tourism, health, biodiversity and economic development generally	The Plan can promote reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from transport (eg by promoting more sustainable transport patterns) housing/employment sites (eg by promoting energy efficiency in design) etc, and can establish a planning framework for increasing the deployment of renewables. The Plan can also have a vital role in focusing development away from areas at risk from climate change impacts (eg floodplain), and from ensuring that those areas that are at risk are protected and necessary development is 'future proofed'

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IRF Issue	Key Sustainability Issues in the South East	Implications for South East Plan
13. To conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity	The South East supports a rich biodiversity, with large areas identified as priority habitats under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. 6.9% of the region is designated as SSSI, and around half of this land is considered to be in a 'favourable' condition. However, many species are experiencing significant long-term decline, eg farmland birds	The Plan can help to protect the region's biodiversity resources by establishing a policy framework that identifies important areas for biodiversity, ensures that resources are protected and enhanced at local levels, and encourages the incorporation of biodiversity assets in new developments
14. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the region's countryside and historic environment	Approximately one-third of the region is covered by AONB designations. The region is the most wooded in England, covering 15% of the land area and containing 40% of England's ancient woodland. The region also has an extensive network of public rights of way and open land. However, much of the countryside is on the urban fringe (classified as 'near urban' or 'accessible rural'), which provides opportunities for access and recreation, but increases pressures on those resources resulting in a deterioration of quality and tranquillity. The South East also has over 75,000 listed buildings, over 2,500 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and 334 sites included in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens	The Plan can ensure that development pressures and increased demand for access/recreation in the region's countryside are carefully managed, and can protect landscapes and significant historic sites and their settings
15. To reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, and reducing the need for travel by car/lorry	The South East is the English region with the highest distance travelled per person, the highest road and private vehicle mileage, and highest level of car ownership. Nevertheless, most of the inhabitants live in urban areas (rather than being widely dispersed), and the region enjoys a relatively good climate and gentle topography - which should make the region well placed to promote public transport, walking and cycling. Recent trends show a decrease in the distance travelled per person	The Plan can contribute to the decoupling of economic development and the growth of car/lorry transport, by promoting modal shift through provision of public transport, the application of tighter parking standards, the facilitation of freight and sea transport etc
16. To reduce the global social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably produced and local products	The South East has the highest ecological footprint in the country and it is estimated that approximately 50% of the resources that drive the UK economy are extracted and processed elsewhere on the planet	The Plan can encourage the adoption of sustainable construction/design approaches for housing and employment sites, such as EcoHomes, BREEAM etc, to improve the resource efficiency of developments, to maximise the use of recycled materials etc

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IRF Issue	Key Sustainability Issues in the South East	Implications for South East Plan
17. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste	Waste generation is increasing annually, with the majority of the region's solid waste disposed of in landfills. Although municipal recycling rates have risen in recent years (and the region no has the highest rate of all English regions), achieving statutory targets on recycling and landfill will require the construction of a large number of new waste management facilities. New management facilities will also be required for the disposal of hazardous waste	The Plan can set up a planning framework for establishing new sustainable waste management facilities without causing negative social and environmental impacts at local levels. It can also promote the reuse of construction / demolition waste in new developments
18. To maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers and coasts, and to achieve sustainable water resources management	Water quality has improved significantly over the last decade, although some water courses are experiencing environmental damage owing to over-abstraction of water and from effluent discharges. Bathing water quality is the best it has been since records began. Water usage remains a key problem in the region. The region is one of the driest parts of the UK and yet experiences the highest levels of demand - in some parts of the region public water supplies are at critical levels with demand close to exceeding supply. Public water supply is also dependant on groundwater, with wells and boreholes covering 24% of the region	The Plan needs to maintain the water supply-demand balance. It can ensure that pressure on scarce water resources does not increase, as well as ensuring that the necessary water infrastructure is provided to meet demand. It is vital that the distribution of development does not put additional pressure on limited water resources, that development occurs in areas where new water infrastructure can be provided, and that the Plan promotes the efficient use of water (eg in the construction and operation of housing and employment sites) to reduce water usage across the region. Sustainable use of water resources will also help to safeguard the quality of water quality
19. To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the region	There is little data on energy use per capita within the region, although at a national level energy use per household has changed little since 1970. Although the region is a net importer of its energy needs, and has very few renewable energy installations, significant potential exists to expand the exploitation of renewable energy resources, particularly land-based and offshore wind, biomass and solar, generating both heat and electricity	The Plan can establish a policy framework that promotes the deployment of renewable energy technologies (so that capacity targets are delivered) in ways that are sensitive to the social and environmental needs of local 'host' communities. It can also promote energy efficient building design, for both housing and employment sites

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

IRF Issue	Key Sustainability Issues in the South East	Implications for South East Plan
20. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region	The South East has the second largest regional employment population in the UK. The employment rate is consistently higher than that for Great Britain and is the joint second highest region at 78.8%. Moreover, the region has a higher proportion of workers employed in typically high-skilled occupations than England as a whole	
21. To sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region	The South East has the second largest regional economy in the UK, marginally behind that of London and accounting for 16% of the UK total. However, disparities exist within the region, with some parts of the economy not reaching their full potential (eg Kent, East and West Sussex)	The Plan can play a vital role in delivering 'smart growth', by addressing barriers such as transport congestion, lack of affordable housing etc
22. To stimulate economic revival in priority regeneration areas	RPG9 identified a number of Priority Areas for Economic Regeneration (PAERs), covering most of the coastal area stretching from the Isle of Wight to North Kent - areas with higher than average unemployment, high social deprivation, low skill levels, dependence on declining industries, derelict urban fabric, geographical peripherality and insularity. Smaller pockets of deprivation also exist in both urban and rural areas elsewhere in the region	Through Sub-Regional Strategies, the Plan can establish area-specific policy frameworks to address the particular problems facing deprived areas, to assist in their regeneration
23. To develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge - based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities	The South East economy is characterised by its strong knowledge-based sectors, however the South East is no longer outperforming the other regions and now has only the fifth largest increase of all (1998-2003). The region accounted for 25.8% of UK business expenditure on R&D and 29.8% of Government R&D expenditure - the largest in the UK - and the region accounts for nearly 15% of all UK inward investment	The Plan can support the development of access to broadband internet infrastructure
24. To encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector	Tourism is distributed across the region, although focused on the south coast and towns such as Canterbury and Oxford. Although figures vary widely the sector has been identified as one of the most important economic sectors in the region, employment estimates range from 118,000 (DPA) to 225,000 (Tourism South East) a share in total regional employment of 3% to 6%	The Plan can promote sustainable tourism by protecting the environmental/heritage assets that attract visitors, providing a sustainable transport infrastructure that provides access for tourists to attractions etc

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<b>IRF Issue</b>	<b>Key Sustainability Issues in the South East</b>	<b>Implications for South East Plan</b>
25. To develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region	Qualification levels in the South East are relatively high compared to the UK average, with more people holding advanced qualifications. 28.5% of South East residents held NVQ Level 4 and 5 equivalent qualifications (compared to 24.6% for England as a whole)	The Plan can support the development of a skilled workforce, particularly in deprived areas where education/skills may be lower, by encouraging the provision of accessible training opportunities

## **5. The Appraisal Framework**

- 5.1 The original Scoping Report set out the purpose and structure of the Appraisal Framework for the SA of the South East Plan. In the interest of consistency the framework will largely remain the same for the appraisal of the Partial Review.
- 5.2 As in the original Scoping Report the IRF objectives will be used as 25 core appraisal questions which will be used to interrogate the Partial Review.
- 5.3 49 'second tier' appraisal questions were developed to supplement the core questions. Given the focused nature of the Partial Review many of these will not be relevant and therefore a number of additional 'second tier' questions have been developed. Table 5.1 lists the whole appraisal framework.
- 5.4 The Framework does not set out separate questions to cover HIA, rural proofing or future proofing issues. Instead, these issues are addressed under the 25 IRF objectives. Table 5.1 which presents the Appraisal Framework, illustrates how the questions within the Framework link to the different appraisal tools.

Table 5.1 Appraisal Framework

	Does the plan / option...	SEA	HIA	Rural Proofing	Future Proofing
<b>1</b>	<b>ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home?</b>				✓✓
1.1	increase the supply of affordable housing both in numbers and as a proportion of total housing stock?				
1.2	ensure the provision of housing for the homeless?				
1.3	reduce the percentage of unfit/non-decent homes, eliminating them in the public sector by 2010?				
1.4	ensure the provision of a range of housing in, or accessible to, rural areas?			✓✓	
1.5	promote the adoption of sustainable design and construction practices in housing (eg energy/water/land/materials efficiency, incorporation of biodiversity/natural assets etc)?				
1.6	ensure that the mix/type of new homes can reflect changes in population (size, demographics etc) and households?				
1.7	promote the development of mixed communities through a range of housing sizes, types, tenures and levels of affordability? (See also Question 10.1)				
1.8	deliver adequate sites for Gypsies and Travellers				
<b>2</b>	<b>reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment?</b>	✓✓			✓✓
2.1	prevent all inappropriate development in the flood plain?	✓✓			
2.2	require that all new development applications show that sustainable drainage has been considered and implemented wherever practicable?	✓✓			
2.3	ensure that development located in the floodplain is designed to be flood resilient?	✓✓			
2.4	ensure that development does not increase flood risk to others?	✓✓			
<b>3</b>	<b>improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health?</b>		✓✓		✓✓

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	Does the plan / option...	SEA	HIA	Rural Proofing	Future Proofing
3.1	substantially diminish inequalities in mortality, health and well-being across the region?		✓✓		
3.2	ensure the accessibility of healthcare services by non-car means, eg through the incorporation of services in new developments?		✓✓		
3.3	promote healthy, active lifestyles through the protection and provision of facilities and locations of sporting/recreational activities (eg playing fields, sports facilities, footpaths etc)?		✓✓		
3.4	promote informal recreation through access to the countryside? (Questions 11 and 15 also assess whether the Plan/options promote walking and cycling)		✓✓		
3.5	promote better health amongst Gypsies and Travellers		✓✓		
<b>4</b>	<b>reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas in the South East and the rest of the region?</b>		✓		✓✓
4.1	contribute towards halving the gap between the most disadvantaged communities and the average position of the region by 2010?				
4.2	ensure the provision of employment land and housing in, or accessible to, the most deprived areas of the South East? (See also Questions 5.1, 21.1, 22 and 23.1)				
<b>5</b>	<b>raise educational achievement levels across the region and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work?</b>		✓		✓✓
5.1	ensure the accessibility of educational/training opportunities by non-car means?				
5.2	ensure the accessibility of educational/training opportunities for the most deprived communities?				
5.3	ensure the accessibility of educational/training opportunities for rural communities?			✓✓	
5.4	promote better educational achievement amongst Gypsies and Travellers				

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	Does the plan / option...	SEA	HIA	Rural Proofing	Future Proofing
<b>6</b>	<b>reduce crime and the fear of crime?</b>		✓		
6.1	promote the incorporation of 'secured by design' principles as part of good urban design in housing and employment sites?				
<b>7</b>	<b>create and sustain vibrant communities?</b>		✓		
7.1	encourage the involvement of all members of the community (including Gypsies and Travellers) in the planning and management of their neighbourhoods?				
<b>8</b>	<b>improve accessibility to all services and facilities?</b>				✓✓
8.1	promote compact, mixed-use development with good accessibility to local facilities and services (eg employment, education, health services, shopping, leisure, green spaces, culture etc), that reduce the need to travel?				
8.2	ensure that facilities and services (eg employment, education, health services, shopping, leisure, green spaces, culture, outdoor recreation etc) are accessible to rural communities?			✓✓	
	(See also Questions 3.2, 5.1, 11.1, 14.3, 15 and 15.1)				
<b>9</b>	<b>encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East?</b>				
9.1	ensure that facilities and locations for cultural activities are protected and provided?				
<b>10</b>	<b>improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including re-use of materials from buildings, and encourage urban renaissance?</b>	✓✓			✓✓
10.1	ensure the provision of employment land and housing on previously-developed land, as opposed to greenfield sites (in line with the sequential approach) and through conversion of existing buildings, to ensure that 60% of all forms of development (not just housing) occurs on previously used land by 2008?	✓✓			
10.2	encourage the reuse of materials in construction?	✓✓			

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	Does the plan / option...	SEA	HIA	Rural Proofing	Future Proofing
10.3	promote the adoption of sustainable design and construction practices in non-housing developments (e.g. energy/water/land/materials efficiency, incorporation of biodiversity/natural assets etc)?	✓✓			
10.4	require good design to create attractive, high quality environments where people will choose to live?	✓✓			
10.5	ensure that the historic urban environment and the distinctiveness/character of urban areas is protected as part of urban renaissance?	✓✓			
<b>11</b>	<b>reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve?</b>	✓✓			✓✓
11.1	promote more sustainable transport patterns in all areas, particular those of low air quality (eg AQMAs), including public transport, walking and cycling (see also Objective 15)	✓✓			
11.2	ensure that national air quality strategy objectives are not breached?	✓✓			
11.3	address the air quality impacts arising from specific development activities (e.g. airports, energy generation etc)?	✓✓			
<b>12</b>	<b>address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the South East is prepared for its impacts?</b>	✓✓			✓✓
12.1	ensure a 20% reduction in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions by 2010 (from 1990 levels)?	✓✓			
12.2	require that development proposals are guided by 'climate proofing' principles? (See also Questions 1.6, 2, 3.2, 5.1, 8, 11.1, 14.3, 15, 15.1 and 19)	✓✓			
<b>13</b>	<b>conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity?</b>	✓✓			✓✓
13.1	protect, enhance and restore the region's (international, national and local) designated sites?	✓✓			
13.2	protect, enhance and restore the region's priority habitats and species (consistent with the requirement of the Habitats directive), and ensure the delivery of regional biodiversity targets?	✓✓			
13.3	encourage the development of new biodiversity assets within/alongside developments?	✓✓			
13.4	encourage the linkage of habitats and the provision of wildlife corridors?	✓✓			

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	Does the plan / option...	SEA	HIA	Rural Proofing	Future Proofing
13.5	protect, enhance and restore the region's soil				
<b>14</b>	<b>protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the region's countryside and historic environment?</b>	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓
14.1	protect, enhance and restore the region's natural environmental assets (eg the green belt, parks and green spaces, common land, woodland and forests, National Parks, AONBs, ESAs etc)	✓✓			
14.2	protect, enhance and restore the region's cultural and heritage assets (eg Heritage Coasts, World Heritage Sites, SAMs, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas, Registered Battlefields etc)?	✓✓			
14.3	promote the accessibility of the region's countryside and historic environment in sustainable and well-managed ways?	✓✓		✓✓	
<b>15</b>	<b>reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, and reduce the need for travel by car/lorry?</b>	✓✓			✓✓
15.1	promote more sustainable transport patterns in all areas, particularly those with high congestion?	✓✓			
15.2	promote public transport, walking and cycling?	✓✓			
15.3	promote more sustainable transport patterns in rural areas?	✓✓		✓✓	
	(See also Question 3.2, 5.1, 8, 11.1 and 14.3)				
<b>16</b>	<b>reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably produced and local products?</b>	✓✓			✓✓
16.1	promote the use of locally and sustainably-sourced, and recycled, materials in construction and renovation?	✓✓			
	(See also Question 1.6)				

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	Does the plan / option...	SEA	HIA	Rural Proofing	Future Proofing
<b>17</b>	<b>reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste?</b>	✓✓			✓✓
17.1	promote sustainable waste management practices in all sectors and at all levels through the provision of a range of appropriate waste management facilities?	✓✓			
17.2	promote waste minimisation?	✓✓			
<b>18</b>	<b>maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers and coasts, and achieve sustainable water resources management?</b>	✓✓			✓✓
18.1	promote compliance with river ecology standards needed to meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive?	✓✓			
18.2	promote compliance with guideline standards in the EC Bathing Waters Directive?	✓✓			
18.3	stabilise PCC of water at current levels?	✓✓			
18.4	ensure water supply and demand are in balance to maintain security of supply, where appropriate by providing new water resource infrastructure? (See also Question 1.6)	✓✓			
<b>19</b>	<b>increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the region?</b>	✓✓			✓✓
19.1	provide for the establishment of renewable energy developments at a regional level, to ensure that renewable energy targets are achieved (eg 16% of generation capacity by 2026)?	✓✓			
19.2	promote the incorporation of small-scale renewables in developments? (See also Question 1.6)	✓✓			
<b>20</b>	<b>ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region?</b>		✓		✓✓

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	Does the plan / option...	SEA	HIA	Rural Proofing	Future Proofing
<b>21</b>	<b>sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region?</b>				
21.1	narrow the gap in GVA per capita between the best and worst performing parts of the region?				
<b>22</b>	<b>stimulate economic revival in priority regeneration areas?</b>		✓		✓✓
	(See also Questions 4, 5.1, 21.1 and 23.1)				
<b>23</b>	<b>develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities?</b>				✓✓
23.1	support the development of access to broadband infrastructure, particularly in rural and deprived areas?			✓✓	
<b>24</b>	<b>encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector?</b>				
<b>25</b>	<b>develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region?</b>		✓		✓✓
	(See also Question 5)				

## **6. Next Steps**

6.1 This section sets out a very broad summary of the work that will be carried out on the appraisal throughout the Partial Review process. In broad terms the following activities will be undertaken:

- Following the 6 week consultation period the SA Scoping Report will be revised taking into account stakeholder feedback
- SA of Partial Review objectives and feedback of findings to plan authors and decision makers (October to November 2006)
- Integration of SA requirements as necessary into the briefs issued to local authorities (November to December 2006)
- SA of Partial Review options following receipt of advice from local authorities. Feedback of findings to plan authors and decision makers (June to November 2007).
- Consultation on draft options for provision of Caravan Sites and SA report (December 2007 to February 2008)
- Appraisal of preferred option. Feedback appraisal findings to authors and decision makers (March to July 2008)
- Submission of preferred option and draft policies to Government alongside final SA report (August 2008).