

The South East Regional Sustainability Framework - 'Towards a Better Quality of Life'

Draft

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I. Introduction

The Regional Sustainability Framework

- I.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

- I.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 generations.¹

Vision

- I.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

- I.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

- I.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.

- I.6 The resulting priorities are:

- Achieving sustainable levels of resource use.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the region.²
- 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.

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

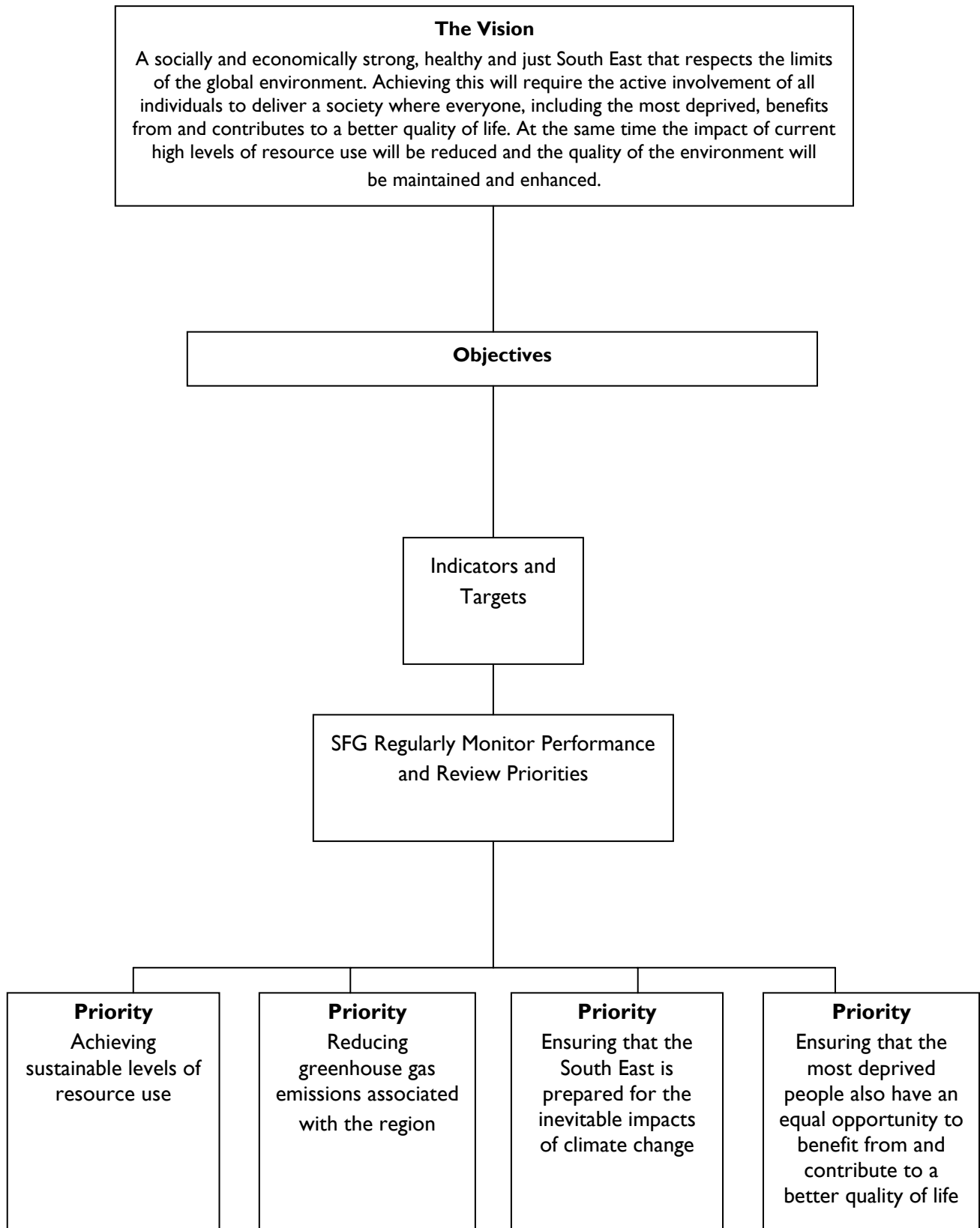
Monitoring and Review

- 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 overleaf 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 Framework 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. Annex 7 details how the RSF has been influenced by the consultation and the High Level Appraisal.

Figure I - The RSF and Regional Priorities



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 which sets 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 the 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.

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.

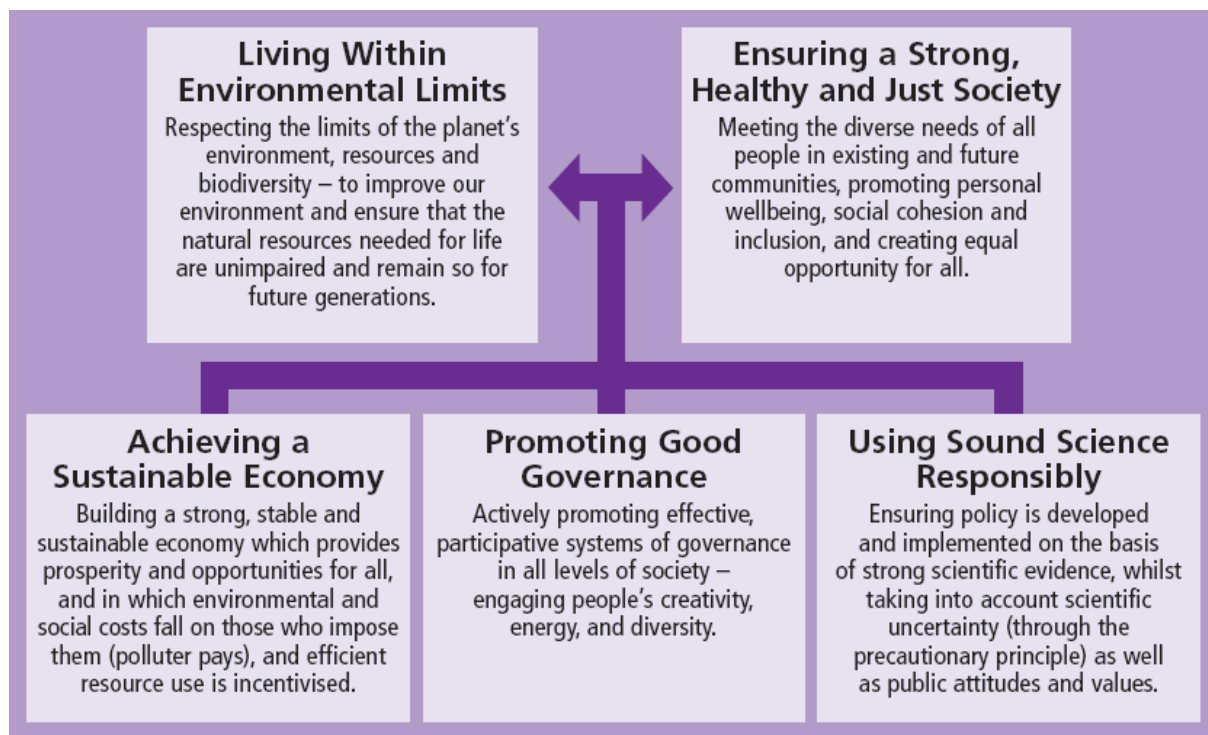
- The RSF contains a **Sustainability Appraisal (SA) guide**. Regional and local organisations, businesses and community groups should review their own plans and strategies against the framework. This enables the sustainable development objectives to be integrated into the policy development process. The framework (within the IRF), has been used in the SA of the South East Plan and the 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 generations.⁷
- 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 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.



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.

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

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. A defining feature of the South East is that it 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' - a resource efficient economic system of production and consumption, which respects environmental limits whilst 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 East¹⁰.
- 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 are 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 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.

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

⁹ Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender

¹⁰ The Regional Economic Strategy 2006 - 2016 - The Evidence Base

- 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 wellbeing, 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 consumption¹¹. This 'ecological footprint'¹² 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 impacts¹³ 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 the 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 Assessment¹⁴ 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.

¹¹ WWF (2006) Ecological Budget UK - Counting consumption

¹² 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

¹³ UKCIP (2002) Climate Change Scenarios for the United Kingdom - the UKCIP02 Briefing Report

¹⁴ Scott Wilson - Levett Therival (2006) - The Appropriate Assessment of the South East Plan - A report carried out on behalf of the South East England Regional Assembly

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 regions stressed infrastructure.
- The region's high level of resource consumption - the need to achieve greater resource efficiency and a reduction in rates of consumption.
- 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.

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 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 & 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

- 2.28 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.

Table I - 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	<i>To fully meet the housing completion targets in the South East Plan.</i>	NI 154
	b. Affordable housing completions	<i>Regional target for affordable housing: 25% social rented 10% intermediate</i>	NI 155
	c. Ratio of lower quartile house price to lower quartile income by district		
	d. Households on the Housing Register	<i>To reduce the numbers of homeless households in priority need and the number of households in housing need on the housing register.</i>	
	e. Number of non-decent homes per 1,000 dwellings	<i>To reduce the percentage of unfit/non-decent homes, with a specific target to eliminate them in the public sector by 2010.</i>	NI 158
	f. Percentage of new build and retrofit homes meeting EcoHomes Very Good standard or above or equivalent Code for Sustainable Homes	<i>Proposed national target that all new homes be carbon neutral by 2016.</i>	
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	<i>To reduce the death rates in persons aged under 75 for circulatory disease and cancer by 40% and 20% respectively by 2010 (PSA targets). Improve other indicators of health and well-being. To reduce the death rate for accidents by 20% by 2010 (Our Healthier Nation target). Substantially reduce inequalities in health between groups and areas across the region.</i>	NI 121, NI 122
	b. Infant mortality rates	<i>Reduce health inequalities by 10% by 2010 as measured by infant mortality (PSA target)</i>	
	c. Under 18 conception rate	<i>To reduce the under 18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 (PSA target)</i>	NI 112
	d. Life expectancy	<i>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 as measured by life expectancy at birth</i>	
	e. Alcohol related hospital stays		NI 39

Objective	Indicator	Target	LAA Indicator
	f. Progress in reducing health inequalities (<i>Proposed draft Regional Health Strategy Indicator</i>)	<i>Raise the life expectancy of the most socially disadvantaged in the South East by 18 months - by when?</i>	
	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
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	<i>By 2010 to improve performance and halve the gap between the most disadvantaged communities and the average position of the region</i>	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	<i>National Target: The Plan will take into consideration and seek to align itself with higher education and skills strategies (PPS1 1). Above the England average of 44.7%</i>	NI 79
	b. Proportion of adults with poor literacy and numeracy skills	<i>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)</i> <i>(education targets will be reviewed following the end of the consultation on the definition of the National Indicator set)</i>	
	c. 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment		NI 117

Objective	Indicator	Target	LAA Indicator
5. To reduce crime and the fear of crime	a. Level of domestic burglaries, violent offences and vehicle crime	<i>To reduce British Crime Survey comparator crime by 16.5% by 2007/8 from the 2004/5 baseline</i>	
	b. Fear of crime	<i>To reduce fear of crime by at least 3% by 2007/8 from the 2004/5 baseline. (national targets will be reviewed following the end of the consultation on the definition of the National Indicator set)</i>	
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
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 ¹⁵	a. Participation in Cultural Activity	<i>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</i>	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	<i>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)</i>	

¹⁵ 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)

Objective	Indicator	Target	LAA Indicator
	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 focussing 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		
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.	NI 164
	b. Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher	To reduce the proportion of the population with basic skills needs. 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	<i>By 2008, to develop 60% of all forms of development (not just housing) on previously used land</i>	
	b. Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 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	<i>To prevent all inappropriate development in the flood plain</i>	
	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	<i>All new development applications to show that sustainable drainage has been considered and implemented if appropriate</i>	
	d. Number of additional houses where flood risk has been reduced	<i>By 2010, to increase the numbers of properties adequately protected by 15,000</i>	
16. To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve	a. Days when air pollution is moderate or high	<i>Local authorities to seek an improvement in air quality in their areas so that 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).</i>	
17. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases	a. Emissions of greenhouse gases by source	<i>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.</i>	
	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	<i>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.</i>	NI 186
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		

Objective	Indicator	Target	LAA Indicator
19. To conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity	a. Population of wild birds	<i>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)</i>	
	b. Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	<i>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).</i>	
	c. Extent and condition of key habitats for which BAPS have been established	<i>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)</i>	
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	<i>No loss of designated assets and a reduction of those at risk</i>	
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	<i>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]</i>	
	b. Time taken to travel to work (average time taken per journey)		
	c. Trips per person by mode		

Objective	Indicator	Target	LAA Indicator
	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	<i>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</i>	NI 191, NI 192, NI 193
	b. Inter-regional movement of waste		
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	<i>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</i>	
	b. Compliance with EC Bathing Waters Directive	<i>To ensure that all waters in the region comply with the EC Bathing Waters Directive in all years</i>	
	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	<i>To stabilise and then reduce the per capita consumption of water to 135 litres per day by 2016</i>	
25. To increase energy	a. Energy use per capita		

Objective	Indicator	Target	LAA Indicator
<p>efficiency, security and diversity of supply and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the region</p>	<p>b. Installed capacity for energy production from renewable sources</p>	<p><i>By 2010, install 620MW of renewable energy (5.5% of generation capacity)</i> <i>By 2016, install 895MW of renewable energy (8% of generation capacity)</i> <i>By 2026, install 1,750MW of renewable energy (16% of generation capacity)</i></p> <p><i>Proposed European target to provide 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020</i></p>	

3. Regional Priorities

3.1 By considering performance against the indicators within the RSF (Annex 1) 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 region¹⁶.
- 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.

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 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 represents 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.

¹⁶ 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

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 whilst 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 wellbeing 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 & 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:

<http://www.seeda.co.uk/Publications/Strategy/docs/SEEDA2012GamesFramework.pdf>

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with the Region

- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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 much 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.
- 3.9 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.

Ensuring that the South East is Prepared for the Inevitable Impacts of Climate Change

3.10 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 impacts¹⁷ 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.

¹⁷ UKCIP (2002) Climate Change Scenarios for the United Kingdom - the UKCIP02 Briefing Report

3.11 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 Sustainably

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 -

http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/meetings/advisory/nat_res/water_resources-may06.pdf.

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

Ensuring that the Most Deprived People also have an Equal Opportunity to Benefit from and Contribute to a Better Quality of Life

- 3.12 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 UK¹⁸. 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 disabled¹⁹.
- 3.13 This means that not everyone has benefited from the economic success of the region. It is therefore a priority that in the 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

Raise the life expectancy of the most socially disadvantaged in the South East by 18 months

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 2006-2007 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.

¹⁸ Draft Social Inclusion Statement (2007) - South East Social Inclusion Partnership

¹⁹ Deloitte for SEEDA (2005) Sustaining Success in a Prosperous Region

4. Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Implementation

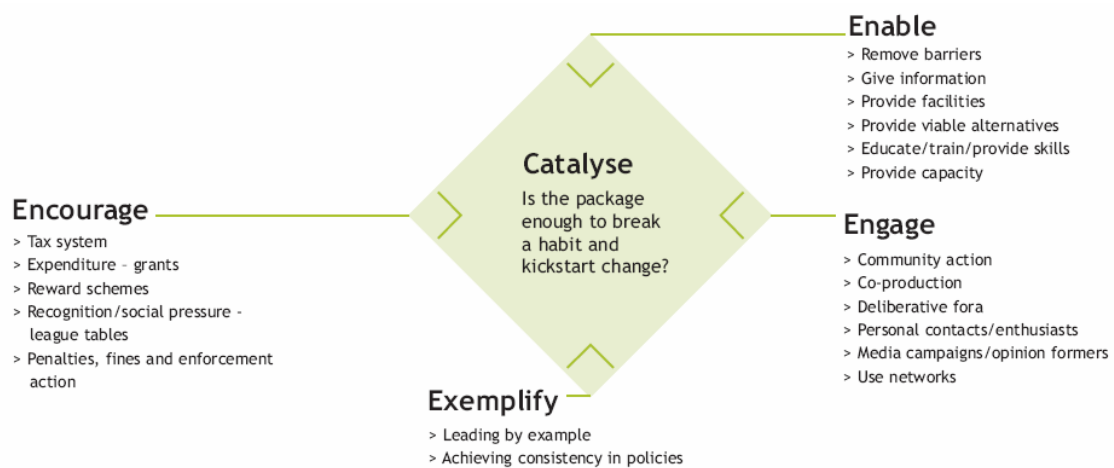
- 4.1 Delivery against the priorities and the framework more generally will depend on regional and local bodies and businesses and individuals working together to ensure that they are reflected in their behaviour, plans, decisions and actions. The information within the RSF demonstrates the key challenges in the region and some of the timescale 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 2004²⁰. 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 also 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 SA, based on the RSF approach detailed in section 5, to inform their development.
- 4.5 Business also needs to be involved because of the impact they have and the part they have to play 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.

²⁰ Compendium of Regional Context' (2008) - CAG Consultants

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 alone²¹.

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 2 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.

Figure 2 - 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 per cent 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 that 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%.

²¹ IPPR (2006) - I will if you will - A report for the Sustainable Development Commission

- 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, including environmental and green infrastructure at the right time, to ensure that growth is sustainable. 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 countryside²². 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 (SEIN), 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 I contains a monitoring 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.

²² Jacobs Bابتie (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 3 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. As discussed 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.

Regional Sustainability Framework

Annex I: Regional Sustainable Development Monitoring Report

I. Introduction to Monitoring

Context for Monitoring

- I.1 The monitoring report provides information for each of the indicators in the Regional Sustainability Framework (RSF - May 2007 draft). This enabled regional progress towards sustainable development to be measured. It has been retained as Annex I to the RSF to provide a record of the information used by the Sustainable Futures Group (SFG) to derive the regional priorities at their meeting in May 2007.

Structure of the Report

- I.2 The report summarises the information available in the RMR 2006 for those RSF objectives and indicators that have remained unchanged. It also provides information for the new indicators that have been included as part of the review of the framework.
- I.3 Section 4 of this report sets out all the goals, objectives, indicators and targets, the latest data, a summary of regional performance and progress against each indicator. In keeping with the RMR 2005 and 2006 a traffic light system is used to summarise the progress of each indicator as follows:
- Green - targets and objectives have either been met or data indicates progression towards them.
 - Amber - this can be for a number of reasons:
 - Significant regional disparities exist
 - There has been some progress but regional performance still remains a cause of concern
 - There is a lack of data available to fully assess performance
 - There is no detail to explain the trends in data
 - Further research is required
 - Red - the data indicates failure to progress against targets and objectives set out regionally or nationally.
- I.4 Section 2 summarise the key messages that can be drawn from this report. The priority issues, identified by SFG, are set out in Section 3.

Data within the Report

- I.5 Many of the indicators reflect those set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy *Securing the Future*, particularly the headline indicators. This helps to show how the region will contribute to sustainable development at the national and international levels. Other indicators are drawn from the relevant regional strategies and are specific to the region.

- 1.6 Targets have been added where they exist. As more work is carried out to develop indicators, targets will be added or amended. As new data becomes available the indicators will be revised to provide as meaningful a picture of sustainability as possible. Accordingly the indicators and targets will be reviewed in the light of any new information emerging from CSR07.

2. Key Messages

- 2.1 The following sections summarise regional performance in terms of the progress of each indicator using a traffic light system.

Key Regional Targets

- Between 1994 and 2004 the Index of Sustainable Economic Well Being (ISEW)¹ increased by over £3,500 while Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita increased by around £4,500 per capita over the same period. Furthermore, the gap between the ISEW per capita and GVA per capita increased by around 12 percent over the period. Despite having a higher rate of increase than the national ISEW the region is currently not on target to close the gap between the ISEW and GVA.
- At 6.09 global hectares per capita the ecological footprint² in the region is the highest in the UK, 17% higher than the national average (5.36 global hectares per capita) and equates to over 25 times the actual land area. Research shows that the ecological footprint is growing by as much as 1.1% per year. This is reflected in the level of imports required to support the lifestyles within the region - the South East is the largest material importer from other UK regions with 68.6m tonnes and the second largest from the rest of the world.

Regional Under-Performance

- Data on housing need is complex with different indicators painting a slightly different picture. Nevertheless the South East is one of the most expensive regions in which to buy or rent a home. The cost of housing is a potential barrier to economic growth and has potentially serious social implications.
- The percentage of people from the most deprived areas claiming unemployment benefits is approximately four times higher than the regional average (0.20%) and has increased above last year's figure of 0.57% to 0.88%.
- When looking at those carbon dioxide emissions that are emitted within the South East, the region has the highest overall level of emissions in the UK although per capita performance is lower than some other regions.

¹ The ISEW is an index which includes substantial economic, social and environmental adjustments which are incorporated in the recent UK Measure of Domestic Progress.

² 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. Ecological footprint is expressed in terms of "global hectares" (gha) and "global hectares per person" (gha/cap).

- When looking at the yearly figures for those emissions that are associated with consumption within the South East, the figure of 13.4 tonnes per person is 14% higher than the national average. The emissions associated with domestic sources and road transport is of particular concern.
- Woodland birds have declined by 12% in the South East since 1994. This is compared to 3% across England. Reasons for the decline are not well understood but could include lack of woodland management and / or the impacts of climate change.
- Motor vehicle flow in the South East remains comparatively high. However whereas the longer term trend shows increasing numbers of trips per day and total numbers of kilometres travelled they are increasing at a lower rate than other regions. The number of trips per person has increased slightly since 2004 with the most significant increase being in trips by car. During the same period the number of trips made by public transport and on foot has decreased.
- The higher proportion of freight transported by road in relation to that which travels by rail is also a cause for concern

Regional Under Performance
Average house price compared against average earnings
Households on the Housing Register
Proportion of people, in the most deprived areas, claiming unemployment benefits who have been out of work for more than one year.
Regional Ecological Footprint
Climate Change - emissions of greenhouse gases from energy consumption, transport and land use and waste management.
Population of wild birds
Motor vehicle traffic by road class
Trips per person by mode
Freight Transported by road
Regional material inputs and consumption - the level of imports required to support the lifestyles in the South East

Mixed or Unclear Regional Performance

- Despite a welcome increase in grant-funding affordable housing provision, it still remains well below that required to meet need and the affordable housing targets set out in the draft South East Plan and the RSF - 25% social rented houses and 10% intermediate housing.
- While the South East is one of the healthiest parts of England, significant inequalities in health are found across the region - for example, there is a 5.2 year gap in life expectancy between Thanet (75 years) and Hart (80.2 years), and significant differences are also found in early death rates from circulatory disease and cancer, as well as for a range of health risk factors such as smoking, binge drinking and teenage pregnancy.

- The South East has the third lowest death rate for accidents in England (15.2 per 100,000 persons compared to 16 for England), but is currently unlikely to meet the target of a 20% reduction by 2010.
- The South East has the second lowest under 18 conception rate in England (34.2 per 1,000 females aged 15-17 compared to 41.1 for England), but is currently unlikely to meet the PSA target of a 50% reduction by 2010.
- The figure for alcohol related hospital stays has remained relatively static since 1999, although there has been an increase since 2003/04 which is a cause for concern.
- Regional averages in terms of economic performance, skills and education are high. However significant sub regional disparities exist. For example the South East's inner and central districts tend to have significantly higher skills profiles than coastal areas. This is reflected in higher economic activity and employment rates, higher earnings and higher productivity. Coastal areas tend to have relatively low skill levels. This is not just in relation to the South East but also in relation to the national average. Almost a third of all districts in the South East (22 districts) have a lower proportion of working age population educated to NVQ level 4 (or equivalents) than the national average.
- Performance in terms of access to key services in rural areas is mixed. Whilst rural accessibility to a bank or building society has decreased access to cash points has increased. Access to primary and secondary schools has remained largely unchanged.
- Female self-employment accounts for around 30 percent of total self-employment which alongside London is the highest proportion in the country. However business start-up rates amongst women are significantly below the rate for men which is reflected in the low proportion of women-owned businesses / proportion of self-employment.
- Unlike UK manufacturing export per head, which has risen overall from 2001 to 2005, South East manufacturing export per head has declined.
- Whilst there are increased levels of recovery and recycling the general long term trend continues to be one of increasing waste generation within the region. This reflects the national trend and is a cause for concern as regional and national policies aim to reduce the overall amount of all types of waste generated.
- Although water consumption in the South East appears to be stabilising, it is still the highest regional average rate for both metered and unmeasured households.
- The remaining indicators under this heading are classified as such due to a lack of comparison data and / or specific issues with the data itself which make performance mixed or unclear.

Mixed or Unclear Regional Performance
Index of Sustainable Economic Wellbeing
Affordable housing completions
Health inequalities
Death rates for accidents
Teenage Pregnancy
Alcohol related hospital stays
Proportion of children under 16 who live in low-income households
Percentage of population of working age who are claiming key benefits
Proportion of population who live in areas that rank within the most deprived 20% of areas in the country (Indices of multiple deprivation)
Number of households experiencing financial exclusion
Proportion of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications (5 GCSEs A*-C or NVQ equivalent)
Proportion of adults with poor literacy and numeracy skills
Percentage of rural households at set distances from key services
Access to and use of the countryside
Participation in Cultural Activity
Proportion of people of working age in employment
Change in the economic activity rate
Change in the number of businesses run by women
Real productivity per employee (total) growth rate
The value of manufacturing exports per head
The expenditure on R&D as the proportion of GVA
Percentage of population of working age qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent
Percentage of population of working age qualified to NVQ Level 4+
The proportion of employers reporting skills gaps and shortages
Properties at risk from flooding
Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency
Extent and condition of key habitats for which BAPS have been established
Extent of ancient woodlands
Time taken to travel to work (average time taken per journey)
Satisfaction with public service provision (% of users satisfied with service)
Total types of all waste arisings and method used for its management
Inter-regional movement of waste
Per capita consumption (PCC) of water
Energy use per capita

Clear Progress towards Achieving Regional Targets and Objectives

- In terms of housing provision the overall picture is an encouraging one, with a sustained increase in housing delivery at the regional level. The vast majority of dwellings in the South East provide satisfactory living conditions with the number of unfit homes decreasing year on year since 2002. However meeting the regional objectives is not just about the overall level of housing provision. They also require that the right mix is required in terms of size, type and tenure. Evidence suggests that the output of larger dwellings has fallen in percentage terms which could have significant implications in terms of meeting housing need for families.

- Early death rates for the major killers - circulatory disease and cancer - are the second and third lowest respectively in England, but while the region is likely to achieve the PSA targets, the significant inequalities in death rates that exist across the region remain a cause for concern.
- The infant mortality rate in the South East is the lowest in England and over 20% better than the national average.
- The proportion of households living in fuel poverty has improved significantly between 2001 and 2003 and the South East continues to be the least affected region in the country. However with 5% of households still affected, a significant problem still remains.
- The South East remains one of the safest regions in the UK. However, whilst crime levels in the region have stabilised in recent years, there is still a need to focus on interventions to begin to lower these levels. There is also a need to tackle the levels of worry about crime particularly in those parts of the region where the rates are above the national average.
- Overall nearly nine out of 10 (88%) of residents report that they are satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- Local authorities are embracing on-line service delivery. On average, 96% of services that can be delivered on-line are operational.
- The number of businesses per 1,000 residents has steadily increased since 2000 and is now second only to London.
- Over the past few years, in spite of the global slowdown, the South East economy has performed well in comparison to other UK regions. Internationally the South East currently ranks 16th in the EU competitiveness index (out of 69) behind London which ranks 9th.
- The South East is behind London in terms of the percentage of total business turnover attributable to new (new to market) products and is ahead of London in terms of turnover attributable to significantly improved products. Globally the South East ranks 55th on the World Knowledge Competitiveness Index (London ranks 56th).
- In terms of work-based training the South East is one of the best performing regions in the country.
- 79% of homes were completed on previously developed land in 2005/06, considerably exceeding the regional target at 60%. For the second year running there has been a drop in the amount of derelict land available and a reduction in the amount of empty properties.

- The number of additional properties protected from flood risk has risen from 2,000 in 2003/4 to 11,300 in 2005/6.
- In 2006 79.6% of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the South East were in a favourable or unfavourable recovering condition. This is an increase of 12.2% since October 2004.
- Air quality at urban sites within the region has improved since 2004 and the majority of monitoring sites recorded lower levels of pollution than 2003. However given the number of sites monitored (just four) comparisons with previous years should be treated with some caution and no overall trend is obvious at rural sites where ozone is the main cause of moderate or high pollution levels. The decrease in levels of ozone between 2003 and 2005 largely reflects the summer weather conditions, with higher levels recorded in periods of hot still weather.
- The number of buildings at risk entries in the South East has fallen from 138 to 116 (16%) since 1999.
- Water quality including groundwater has improved since the 1990's. Major pollution incidents have decreased and bathing water quality has improved meaning no beaches in the South East consistently fails the imperative standards.
- The provision of renewable energy within the region continues to increase, albeit slowly.

Clear Progress Towards Achieving Regional Targets and Objectives
Net additional dwellings for the current year
Number of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings
Early death rates for circulatory disease and cancer
Infant mortality
Percentage of households in fuel poverty
Level of domestic burglaries, violent offences and vehicle crimes
Fear of crime
Percentage of people who say they are satisfied with their local area as a place to live
% of local services offered online
The business stock per 1,000 inhabitants in the area
Real GVA per capita growth
The percentage of total South East business turnover attributable to new (new to market) and significantly improved products
The proportion of labour force receiving training
Development on previously developed land
Amount of derelict land and empty properties
Number of additional houses where flood risk has been reduced
Number of days when air pollution is moderate or high
Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
Buildings of Grade I and II* at risk of decay
Rivers of Good or Fair chemical and biological water quality
Compliance with EC Bathing Waters Directive

Clear Progress Towards Achieving Regional Targets and Objectives

Nitrate status of groundwater / % of sites not meeting standard

Incidents of major and significant water pollution

Installed capacity for energy production from renewable sources

Significant Data Gaps

- Currently there is only one indicator available at the regional level which allows us to measure progress towards achieving the sustainable and vibrant communities' objectives. Indicators are available at the local level and national level but are not collected at the regional level. To measure progress towards this objective there is a clear requirement for more data to be collected.
- Local authorities are currently working to collect information regarding the percentage of new development within 30 minutes of a key service. However this data, as yet, is not compiled at the regional level.
- A number of data gaps exist with regard to climate change. For example we are currently unable to monitor the delivery of low carbon homes or the likely impact, in terms of carbon emissions, of new housing.
- As part of delivering the expected new requirements of the draft supplement to PPS1 the South East England Regional Assembly will investigate how to monitor such emissions by producing a regional carbon trajectory.
- Similarly regarding adaptation to climate change, data exists regarding flood defence, but gaps exist in terms of measuring the provision of sustainable drainage schemes and our ability to provide water during 'critical periods' without restrictions.
- A number of economic and social indicators highlight significant regional disparities within an average figure that is meeting regional or national targets. Currently national data exists for average annual percentage income growth. This indicator is currently not available at the regional level. The indicator could potentially quantify the wealth 'gap' within the region and indicate whether or not it is closing.
- The South East England Biodiversity Forum and its partners have been collating information on the extent and condition of key habitats for which Biodiversity Action Plans have been established within the region. However gaps exist for the habitat data. Irregularities also exist within the data that has been collected. Significant work is currently being carried out to address these issues. The regional biodiversity strategy is currently under review and will include regional targets for restoration and creation of priority habitats.

Significant Data Gaps
Percentage of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously
Percentage of people who have undertaken on average at least 2 hours of formal volunteering per week /Percentage of people who have undertaken formal or informal volunteering at least once a month
Percentage of new development within 30 minutes of key services
Percentage of new build and retrofit homes meeting EcoHomes Very Good standard or equivalent Code for Sustainable Homes
Regional carbon trajectories
Land covered by agri-environment schemes
Average annual percentage income growth - Bottom 20%, 2 nd quintile, 3 rd quintile, 4 th quintile, Top 20%
The provision of sustainable urban drainage and our ability to provide water during 'critical periods' without restrictions.
Extent and condition of key habitats for which BAPS have been established

3. Regional Priorities

3.1 Having used the information within this report to carry out an appraisal of the region's performance the following priorities were identified by SFG:

- Achieving sustainable levels of resource use.
- Reducing the region's carbon footprint.
- Ensuring that the South East is prepared for the inevitable impacts of climate change.
- Ensuring that everyone, including the most deprived people, has an equal opportunity to benefit from and contribute to the region's sustainable prosperity.

3.2 Achieving progress against these priorities will urgently require the timely provision of the right kind of infrastructure within the South East.

3.3 The group also recognised that addressing the data gap regarding the sustainable and vibrant communities' objective represents a priority.

4. Regional Performance

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
<p><i>Achieving a strong, healthy and just society supported by a world class sustainable economy</i></p>	<p>Index of Sustainable Economic Wellbeing</p>	<p>To close the gap between the ISEW and GVA whilst ensuring that the economy continues to grow</p>	<p>Between 1994 and 2004 the index rose steadily in the region, from £6,700 per capita in 1994 to £10,300 per capita in 2004. The growth was driven by strong growth in consumption and net capital investment, greater public expenditure on health and education and significant reductions in air pollution. Higher growth was held back by rising income inequality, a large trade deficit and energy-related costs of resource depletion and long-term environmental damage. Over this period the ISEW per capita increased by over 50 per cent, while GDP per capita increased by just over 30 per cent. When looking at the absolute increase (which is more realistic), the ISEW increased by over £3,500 while GVA per capita increased by around £4,500 per capita over the same period. Furthermore, the gap between the ISEW per capita and GVA per capita increased by around 12 per cent over the period.</p>	<p>In 1994 the ISEW per capita in the region was below the UK average (just 93 per cent of the UK average), notable progress in comparison to the UK has been made since the late 1990s.</p> <p>Over the past decade, the ISEW in the South East has risen considerably faster than the national ISEW (53 per cent in the region against 35 per cent nationally). The main factors behind this are strong growth in consumption in the region, lower per capita emissions of many air pollutants and the participating greenhouse gases (except in transport and non-industrial combustion sectors), and a net gain in natural habitats with only small losses in farmland.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
<p>I. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</p>	<p>a. Net additional dwellings for the current year</p>	<p><i>To fully meet the housing completion targets in the South East Plan.</i></p>	<p>Delivery increased in 2005/06 to 33,000 homes.</p>	<p>Delivery of houses fell short of planned provision in 2001/02 and 2002/03, but by 2003/04 completions had achieved the planned rate, with 28,400 additional homes delivered in the South East. That increase was followed by further progress in 2004/05, when 32,000 homes were delivered.</p>
	<p>b. Affordable housing completions</p>	<p><i>Regional target for affordable housing:</i></p> <p><i>25% social rented</i> <i>10% intermediate</i></p>	<p>In 2005/06 there were 7,000 additional grant-funded affordable homes provided in the South East through new build and conversions.</p>	<p>This represents a 4.4% increase over the number of grant-funded affordable homes provided in 2004/05 (6,700). Provision has increased substantially in recent years: 4,670 grant funded affordable homes were completed in the South East in 2002/03 and 5,430 in 2003/04. It still however remains well below that required to meet need and the affordable housing targets.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	c. Average house price compared against average earnings		In 2006 the average ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings in the South East was 8.6.	<p>There are no areas where lower quartile earnings alone are sufficient to allow the purchase of a house in the lower quartile price bracket based on standard mortgage income multiples.</p> <p>Affordability problems exist across the whole of the South East, but the problems are most acute in much of Oxfordshire and Surrey and in parts of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Kent, West Sussex and relatively less acute in the north and east of the region and in a number of the region's urban areas.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	d. Households on the Housing Register	<i>To reduce the numbers of homeless households in priority need and the number of households in housing need on the housing register.</i>	By April 2006, there were 195,700 households on local authority waiting lists in the South East. It is estimated that households on the housing register account for 5.8% of total households in the region.	<p>This represents an increase of 14,500 households (or 8%) since 2005 and 65,800 households (or 51%) since 2001.</p> <p>The South East had the fourth highest number of households on the housing register of any English regions, comprising 12% of the total for England. London, with 331,200 households on the register, makes up 20% of the England total.</p> <p>However data on housing need are complex with different indicators painting a different picture. Census data for the period 1991 - 2001, Survey of English Housing data for the period 2001 - 2005 and other official data on trends in sharing, overcrowding, concealed households and homelessness - suggest that the situation is complex with some indicators showing an improvement.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	e. Number of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings	<i>To reduce the percentage of unfit/non-decent homes, with a specific target to eliminate them in the public sector by 2010.</i>	In April 2006, there were 118,000 unfit homes. This was equivalent to 3.3% of the total dwelling stock in the South East.	<p>The number of unfit homes in the South East has been decreasing, year on year, since 2002. There were 12,950 (or 9.9%) fewer unfit homes in 2006 than in 2002.</p> <p>The South East had the third highest number of unfit dwellings of any English region in 2006, comprising 12% of the total for England. London, with 179,500, makes up 18.3% of the England total. The regional comparison is similar to that for households on the housing register.</p>
	f. Percentage of new build and retrofit homes meeting EcoHomes Very Good standard or equivalent Code for Sustainable Homes	<i>Proposed national target that all new homes be carbon neutral by 2016.</i>	Data Gap	

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
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	<p><i>To reduce the death rates in persons aged under 75 for circulatory disease and cancer by 40% and 20% respectively by 2010 (PSA targets). Improve other indicators of health and well-being. To reduce the death rate for accidents by 20% by 2010 (Our Healthier Nation target).</i></p> <p><i>Substantially reduce inequalities in health between groups and areas across the region.</i></p>	<p>The South East has the second lowest circulatory disease mortality rate for persons aged under 75 in England (75.9 per 100,000 persons compared to the national average of 90.5), and is likely to achieve the PSA target of a 40% reduction by 2010; there are an average of 6,720 early deaths under age 75 from circulatory disease in the region each year (ONS, 2003-5)</p> <p>The South East has the third lowest cancer mortality rate for persons aged under 75 in England (111.2 per 100,000 persons compared to the national average of 119.0), and is likely to achieve the PSA target of a 20% reduction by 2010; there are an average of 9,650 early deaths under age 75 from cancer in the region each year (ONS, 2003-5)</p> <p>Between 2000-2 and 2003-5 the suicide mortality rate for the South East fell by 4.6%, which is comparable to the fall in the England rate of 4.7%.</p>	<p>The mortality rate from all listed causes has fallen since 2001.</p> <p>The death rate for accidents in the South East is significantly lower than the national average, but the region is unlikely to achieve the national reduction target.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	b. Infant mortality rates	<i>Reduce health inequalities by 10% by 2010 as measured by infant mortality (PSA target).</i>	<p>The South East has the lowest infant mortality rate in England (4.0 per 1,000 live births compared to the national average of 5.1); there are an average of 380 deaths among children aged under 1 each year in the region (ONS, 2003-5)</p> <p>The infant mortality rate in the South East has fallen by 15.5% between 1997-9 and 2003-5.</p>	<p>The infant mortality rate for the South East is significantly lower than the national average, and is continuing to decline.</p>
	c. Under 18 conception rate	<i>To reduce the under 18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 (PSA target).</i>	<p>The South East has the second lowest under 18 conception rate in England (34.2 per 1,000 females aged 15-17 compared to 41.1 for England), but is currently unlikely to meet the PSA target of a 50% reduction by 2010; there are an average of 5,110 under 18 conceptions in the region each year (ONS, 2005)</p> <p>There are significant differences in the under 18 conception rate within the region - the rate in Hastings (56.1 per 1,000 for 2003-5) is over 4.5 times higher than in Chiltern (12.8 per 1,000)</p> <p>There are also differences in performance against the PSA target - Epsom & Ewell has achieved a 40% reduction in the rate over the period 1997-9 to 2003-5, while nearby Tandridge has experienced a 22% increase.</p>	<p>The teenage pregnancy rate in the South East is significantly lower than the national average, but the region is currently unlikely to achieve the PSA reduction target.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	d. Life expectancy	<i>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 as measured by life expectancy at birth.</i>	The South East has the highest life expectancy at birth for men in England (78.1 years compared to 76.9 for England), and the second highest life expectancy for women (82 years compared to 81.1 for England) (ONS, 2003-5) But there are significant inequalities in life expectancy across the region - for example, there is a 5.2 year gap in life expectancy between Thanet (75 years) and Hart (80.2 years) (ONS, 2003-5)	Life expectancy for men and women in the South East is significantly better than the national averages, but there are significant inequalities across the region.
	e. Alcohol related hospital stays		There were 684 hospital related stays per 100,000 males in 2004/05 There were 406 hospital related stays per 100,000 women in 2004/05.	The figure has remained relatively static since 1999, although the sharp increase since 2003/04 is a cause for concern.
3. 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	a. Proportion of children under 16 who live in low-income households	<i>By 2010, to halve the gap between the most disadvantaged communities and the average position of the region.</i>	In 2004 14% of children under 16 live in low-income households (average of SOAs in the South East).	The figure hides considerable region disparities with the figure ranging from 0.3% in some areas to 76.9% in others.
	b. Percentage of population of working age who are claiming key benefits		The average claimant count for the South East in July 2005 was 1.4%.	This is the same as the proceeding year and significantly lower than the rate for England (2.3%). However again the regional average disguises significant intra regional disparities, with the western and central areas of the South East having the lowest count rates and some of the coastal areas having the highest.

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	c. Percentage of households in fuel poverty		In 2003 only 5.1% of households in the South East were living in fuel poverty.	The percentage of households living in fuel poverty in the South East has reduced by 3% between 2001 and 2003 and is significantly lower than the average for England.
	d. Proportion of population who live in areas that rank within the most deprived 20% of areas in the country (Indices of multiple deprivation)		Small parts of the region fall into the UK's top 20% most deprived SOAs.	Not updated since 2004. 2001 data indicates that 5.4% of the region's population live in the most deprived 20% of the county.
	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 		The latest data shows that 616,500 households are financially excluded. Of those 146,380 did not have access to a current account and 207,159 did not have access to affordable credit.	Although the figures may compare favourably with other regions in the UK the fact remains that financial exclusion is a problem for a small but significant minority of residents in the South East.
	f. Proportion of population who do not have access to digital resources	Data Gap		
	g. Average annual percentage income growth - Bottom 20%, 2 nd quintile, 3 rd quintile, 4 th quintile, Top 20%	Data Gap		

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
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. Proportion of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications (5 GCSEs A*-C or NVQ equivalent)	<i>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%.</i>	In 2005, the proportion of 19 year olds in the South East with level 2 qualifications and above is approximately 5% higher than the national average at 79.3%.	The South East continue to possess high levels of skills overall, comparing well with national trends. However there was a marginal drop in the proportion of 19 year olds with level 2 qualifications between 2004 and 2005.
	b. Proportion of adults with poor literacy and numeracy skills	<i>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).</i>	In 2002 - 2003, 51% of adults had literacy level 2 and 32% of adults had numeracy level 2.	Literary skills within the South East compare very favourably with the rest of England. In 2003 the South East had the highest rate in literacy skills at level 2(51%) compared to the England average of 44%. Conversely, the South East has the lowest rate in literacy skills at Entry Level. A similar pattern is shown by the data on numeracy skills. The South East has the highest proportion of numeracy skills (32%) at Level 2 compared to the England average of 25%. The South East has the lowest rate in numeracy skills at the entry level.
5. To reduce crime and fear of crime	a. Level of domestic burglaries, violent offences and vehicle crime	<i>To reduce British Crime Survey comparator crime by 6.5% by 2007/8 from the 2004/5 baseline.</i>	The number of crimes recorded remains relatively stable with 9,000 offences per 100,000 population recorded in 2005/06.	The South East has one of the lowest rates of total recorded crime of all the English regions. Crime rates have stayed stable since 2004/05, apart from burglary which decreased

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	b. Fear of crime	<i>To reduce fear of crime by at least 3% by 2007/8 from the 2004/5 baseline.</i>	Fear of crime is low in the South East and below the national average, although rates do vary between the highest in Kent, where rates are at or above the national average, and the lowest in Surrey.	Fear of crime is low in the South East and below the national average, although rates do vary.
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	Data Gap		
	b. Percentage of people who say they are satisfied with their local area as a place to live		Overall nearly nine out of 10 (88%) of residents report that they are satisfied with their local area, with just under half (45%) saying that they are very satisfied.	The figures for 2006 remain broadly similar to 2004. There has been a slight decrease in the number of people that are very satisfied with their local area; there is also an improvement in the number that is fairly satisfied.
	c. Percentage of people who have undertaken on average at least 2 hours of formal volunteering per week /Percentage of people who have undertaken formal or informal volunteering at least once a month	Data Gap		

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
7. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities including the countryside and the historic environment	a. Percentage of rural households at set distances from key services		<p>The percentage of residents within four kilometres of a bank or building society has fallen from around 60% to 50% between 2000 and 2005. The proportion of households with access to doctor's surgeries, primary schools and secondary schools within four kilometres in 2005 were 82%, 100% and 60% respectively, having had virtually no change since 2000.</p> <p>Over 90% of residents live within four kilometres of a cashpoint.</p>	<p>Over the period between 2000 and 2005 there has been a slight increase in the proportion of residents within four kilometres of a cashpoint, however there has been relatively no change in the proportion of households that can access doctor's surgeries, primary schools and secondary schools.</p>
	b. % of new development within 30 minutes of key services	<p>Data Gap</p>		
	c. % of local authority services offered online	<p><i>Government Programme officially closed in April 2006; however the assumption to provided 100% e-delivery is still maintained.</i></p>	<p>Local authorities are embracing on-line service delivery. On average, 96% of services that can be delivered on-line are operational. All types of Authorities perform strong, reporting at least 95% (districts). However county councils almost provide 100% e-enablement (99.6%), however this is perhaps reflected of lower service provision.</p>	<p>E-enablement of local authority services have changed dramatically since last year. In 2004-05, 75.66% of services that could be offered on-line were operational; compared with 96% this year.</p> <p>Of particular note is the increased performance of unitary authorities, who offered 70.59% of service on-line in 2004-05; in 2005-06 the level has risen to 97.22%</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	d. Access to and the use of the countryside		<p>20% of all households in the region have access to a site of at least two hectares within 300 metres</p> <p>66% of all households in the region have access to a site of at least 20 hectares within 2 kilometres</p> <p>77% of all households in the region have access to a site of at least 100 hectares within 5 kilometres</p> <p>46% of all households in the region have access to a site of at least 500 hectares within 10 kilometres</p> <p>10% of all households in the region do not have access to accessible natural green-space within the definitions of the ANGSt model</p>	<p>No national data for comparison.</p> <p>No previous regional data for trend analysis.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
8. To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East	a. Participation in Cultural Activity	<i>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.</i>	For the South East region the following levels of activity participation are achieved 73% for the arts; 56% for sports, 76% for heritage, 68% for museums libraries and archives, and 59% for cinema.	<p>There is no time series data with which to compare 2006's results. Overall the South East has relatively high levels of participation in cultural activity.</p> <p>Approx10% more women engage in arts activities than men. 15% more men engage in sports activities than women.</p> <p>Educational level appears to directly affect the take up of cultural activities, with very high participation among people with the highest levels of qualifications.</p> <p>Engagement in cinema activities is very low among people with no qualifications.</p> <p>There is only a slightly lower take up of arts activities among disabled people; however significantly fewer disabled people participate in sports, heritage museums, libraries and archives and cinema activities.</p> <p>People from black and ethnic backgrounds participate in arts activities less often the people of white ethnicity; conversely this group participates in museum, libraries and archive activity significantly more often. Each group participate equally in sport and cinema activity.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
<p>9. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region</p>	<p>a. Proportion of people of working age in employment</p>		<p>In 2006 the employment rate was 79%.</p>	<p>Since 1998 the employment rate has been stable at or around 78%. 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. Sub regional disparities are marked.</p>
	<p>b. Change in the economic activity rate</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>One factor underpinning the strong performance of the South East economy over the past decade has been relatively strong growth in economic activity and employment rates (for both males and females). Over the past two years there has been a small decline in both economic activity and employment rates.</p>	<p>In the most recent period for which the data is available, the working age employment rate in the South East stood at 78.8 per cent, compared with 74.9 per cent nationally. Alongside the South West this was the second highest employment rate in the country, marginally below that of East of England's, 78.9 per cent. There is significant sub regional variation. Some of the most deprived parts of the region such as Thanet and Hastings tend to have low economic activity rates and the converse is true in the wealthier areas such as West Oxfordshire and Worthing.</p>
	<p>c. The business stock per 1,000 inhabitants in the area</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>The number of businesses per 1000 residents in the South East in 2005 was 35.74.</p>	<p>The figure has increased from 34.41 in 2000 and is second only to London.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	d. Change in the number of businesses run by women		In the South East around 50,000 businesses are owned by women.	<p>Female self-employment accounts for around 30 per cent of total self-employment, alongside London the highest proportion in the country.</p> <p>Business start-up rates amongst women are significantly below the rate for men, the fact which is reflected in the proportion of women-owned businesses / proportion of self-employment. Women are half as likely as men to start a business within the next three years, one-quarter less likely to see good opportunities for starting a business, two-thirds as likely to think they have the skills to start a business, and significantly more likely to fear failure. This represents a vast source of untapped potential. If women started businesses at the same rate as men we would have 150,000 extra start-ups in the UK.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
<p>10. To sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region</p>	<p>a. Real GVA per capita growth</p>	<p><i>Achieve an average annual increase in GVA per capita of at least 3%. To narrow the gap between GVA per capita between the best and worst performing parts of the region.</i></p>	<p>Despite strong growth in population over recent years - which can limit growth in GVA per head if the equivalent rise in output is slower - between 1997 and 2003 GVA per head in the South East rose faster than any other UK region/country. Over this period, workplace based GVA per head expanded by 38.4 per cent (Figure 4.4). Over the same period, residence based GVA per head expanded by 35.3 per cent also faster than in any other UK region.</p>	<p>Over the past few years, in spite of the global slowdown, the South East economy has performed well in comparison to other UK regions. Between 1997 and 2003 real workplace based GVA expanded by 3.4 per cent on average per annum, faster than in any other region/country in the UK. The South East ranks 16th in the EU competitiveness index. London ranks 9th.</p>
	<p>b. Real productivity per employee (total) growth rate</p>	<p><i>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).</i></p>	<p>In 2003 the rate of growth over the period was 1.2 per cent p.a.</p>	<p>Whilst SE labour productivity is low in comparison to US regions, it has performed well in comparison to UK regions (2nd only to London) and EU regions (a top 10 region in growth terms over the last decade). In 1996, output per hour worked in the South East was marginally below the national average. By 2003, output per hour worked had increased to 6.5 per cent above the national average. Significant sub regional variations exist.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
11. To stimulate economic revival in deprived areas	a. Number of income support claimants in the most deprived areas (271 SOAs falling within the most deprived 20% nationally)		Data is currently not available for this indicator, although it is being collected and will be available during the current review of the RSF. In the absence of this data the existing indicator is used for 2006. In 2006, 0.88% of the population in the 20% of most deprived areas had been claiming benefits for more than 12 months.	The percentage of people from the most deprived areas claiming unemployment benefits is approximately four times higher than the regional average (0.20%) and has increased above last year's figure of 0.57% to 0.88%, which suggests that spatial inequalities in the region are not being addressed.
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 products (new to market) and significantly improved products	<i>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.</i>	The South East records the percentage of turnover attributable to new products as 12% from products new to market and 18% from significantly improved products in 2004.	The South East is behind London in terms of percentage of turnover attributable to new products and leads London in terms of turnover attributable to significantly improved products. Globally the South East ranks 55 th on the World Knowledge Competitiveness Index, London ranks 56 th .
	b. Value of manufacturing exports per head		The manufacturing export per head in the South East declined from £195 to £187 (4%) from 2001 to 2005 but did peak at £207 in 2004. The decrease of £20 per head between 2004 and 2005 represents a decline of 10%.	Unlike the UK manufacturing export per head, which has risen overall from 2001 to 2005, the South East manufacturing export per head has declined. Much of this decline has occurred between 2004 and 2005.

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	c. The expenditure on R&D as the proportion of GVA	<i>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.</i>	R&D expenditure by the business enterprise sector as a proportion of regional GDP is 2.1 per cent in the South East.	This is the second highest in the country, but remains significantly lower than the best performing region. Between 1997 and 2002, business enterprise R&D expenditure in the South East increased by just 0.3 per cent per annum, significantly below the best performing UK regions.
13. To develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region	a. Percentage of population of working age qualified to NVQ Level 3+ or equivalent	<i>To significantly raise the number of Level 3 qualifications in the region. To reduce the proportion of the population with basic skills needs. Maximise the number of people ready for employment at all skill levels, and ensure they are continually equipped to progress in the labour market.</i>	Nearly one half (48.6%) of the South East region working age population held qualifications at the level of NVQ level 3 or above.	The figure compares to the England average of 44.7%. The figure increased by nearly 7% between 2001/02 and 2004/05 compared to 2% in England. The region also has one of the highest proportions of working age population qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent or above. Sub regional variations are marked.
	b. Percentage of population of working age qualified to NVQ Level 4+ or equivalent		By early 2005 29.3 per cent of the working age population were qualified to NVQ Level 4+ or equivalent.	The figure has risen from 28.5% in 2003 and is the second highest in the country. The skills distribution is far from uniform across the region. The South East's inner and central districts tend to have significantly higher skills profiles than coastal areas. This is reflected in higher economic activity and employment rates, higher earnings and higher productivity.

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
				The coastal areas tend to have relatively substantial skills gaps. This is not just in relation to the South East but also in relation to the national average. Almost a third of all districts in the South East (22 districts) have a lower proportion of working age population with NVQ4 equivalents than the national average.
	c. The proportion of employers reporting skills gaps and shortages		In 2003 22 per cent employers in the South East and England reported their workforce as having internal skills gaps.	This equates to 10 per cent of the workforce in the South East compared to 11 per cent in England.
	d. Proportion of the labour force receiving training		24.2% of the workforce were reported to have received job related training in the last 13 weeks in 2005.	In terms of work-based training the South East is one of the best performing regions in the country (third overall). The figure is a marginal improvement on the previous year.
A South East that lives within Environmental Limits	Regional Ecological Footprint	To stabilise the Ecological Footprint by 2016 and reduce it thereafter	The Ecological Footprint is 6.3 global hectares per capita in 2006	In 2001 the ecological footprint in the region was 6.09 hectares per capita. The ecological footprint in the region is the highest in the UK, 17% higher than the national average. Although not directly comparable previous research shows that the ecological footprint is growing at 0.068 ghs/cap/year.

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
14. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing materials from buildings, and encourage urban renaissance	a. Development on previously developed land	<i>By 2008, to develop 60% of all forms of development (not just housing) on previously used land.</i>	Across the South East, 68% of commercial and leisure completions, 51% of employment completions (B1b, B1c, B2 and B8) and 79% of homes were on previously developed land.	The percentage of homes completed on previously developed land has increased from 68% to 79% from 2001/2 to 2005/6.
	b. Amount of derelict land and empty properties		In 2005, 3,630 hectares (1.74%) of the South East's developed land were derelict or vacant (based on 2001 estimates of developed land). Empty properties occupied 460 hectares in the South East. This is a drop of nearly 13% on the previous year and a decrease of 140 hectares since 2001. The decrease in vacant land has been seen across England as a whole.	The amount of derelict land is similar to the 2001 level but there has been a decrease of 337 hectares since 2004 (mainly because of a loss in previously developed vacant land). This decrease has been seen across the UK as a whole. Similarly to the indicator on derelict and vacant land, the South East has a high proportion of England's empty properties (in 2005 the region accounted for nearly 10%).
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 <i>(note new definition - data for 2005 was for a combined 1 in 200 year coastal event and 1 in 100 year fluvial event. For 2006 risk is based on a combined 1 in 1000 probability)</i>	<i>To prevent all inappropriate development in the flood plain.</i>	There were 310,000 properties* and businesses at risk from coastal or river flooding in the South East region in 2006. This has risen from 235,000 properties identified in last year's report.	The number of properties and businesses at risk has increased but 11,300 properties have benefited from new or improved flood defences during the last three years.
	b. Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds		In 2004/5, 24 permissions were granted against the Environment Agency advice.	As a new indicator there is no trend data available.

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	c. New development with sustainable drainage installed	<i>All new development applications to show that sustainable drainage has been considered and implemented if appropriate.</i>	Data Gap	
	d. Number of additional houses where flood risk has been reduced	<i>By 2010, to increase the numbers of properties adequately protected by 15,000.</i>	11,300 properties have benefited from new or improved flood defences in the last 3 years.	The number of additional properties protected has risen from 2000 in 2003/4 to 11,300 in 2005/6. Forecasts from the Environment Agency indicate this will rise above 12,000 in 2006/7.
16. To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve	a. Days when air pollution is moderate or high	<i>Local authorities to seek an improvement in air quality in their areas so that 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).</i>	In 2005 all sites recorded 137 days when air pollution was moderate or high. Each site recorded lower levels of pollution than in 2004 except Lullington Heath (near the East Sussex coast), which recorded a slight increase, and Reading New Town which failed the data capture criterion for sulphur dioxide (SO ₂), (i.e. for which data was not available).	Air quality at urban sites has improved over time The average number of moderate or high pollution days for the three rural sites decreased from 93 in 2003 to 44 in 2005. No overall trend is however obvious at the rural sites where ozone is the main cause of moderate or high pollution levels. The decrease in days with moderate or high pollution levels largely reflects the summer weather conditions, with higher levels recorded in periods of hot still, weather as in 2003.

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
<p>17. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the South East is prepared for its impacts</p>	<p>a. Emissions of greenhouse gases from energy consumption, transport and land use and waste management - Carbon dioxide emissions in the South East</p>	<p><i>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. By 2050, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from activities within the region by 60%.</i></p>	<p>In 2004, a total of 69,389 kilotonnes of Carbon dioxide emissions were produced in the South East. The principal source of CO₂ emissions are from the usage of fuel in industrial, domestic and road transport sectors each of which contributed more than 20,000 kilotonnes of CO₂ in 2004.</p>	<p>Data is not directly comparable with last year, however the emissions particularly from the domestic and road transport sources are of serious concern. The region has the highest overall level of emissions in the UK although per capita performance is lower than other regions. Other sources of emissions such as from aviation are not included due to difficulties in disaggregating them at the regional level. These figures are for those emissions generated within the South East. When including those emissions from the South East that results from consumption within the South East the figure of 13.4 tonnes per person is 14% higher than the national average. Additional research is required to provide robust indicators of GHG emissions.</p>
	<p>b. Regional carbon trajectories</p>	<p>Data Gap</p>		
	<p>c. Capacity during 'critical periods' to supply water without the need for restrictions</p>	<p>Data Gap</p>		

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
18. To conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity	a. Population of wild birds	<i>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).</i>	In 2004, the population index for farmland was 87.8 for both farmland and woodland species and 97.2 for all species.	Between 1994 and 2004, the population index of both farmland and woodland birds in the South East showed a decline of 12%. Detailed information on the long term population trends of wild birds is based on the Commons Birds Census, which shows that in the South East between 1970 and 1994, farmland populations fell by 31%, and woodland bird populations by about 20%.
	b. Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	<i>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).</i>	In 2006 of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the South East 79.6% were in a favourable and unfavourable recovering condition.	This is an increase of 12.2% since October 2004.

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	<p>c. Extent and condition of key habitats for which BAPS have been established</p>	<p><i>To maintain the condition of all key regional habitats which are judged to be at a favourable status.</i> <i>To restore and/or recreate key regional habitats so these reach a favourable conservation status.</i> <i>(New South East Plan target)</i> <i>Achieving the 2010 and 2026 Regional biodiversity targets set out in the South East Plan.</i></p>	<p>Currently information is not available for all habitats that have a Biodiversity Action Plan. This represents a data gap, although efforts are being made to provide the information that is available. The following data is for intertidal habitats only</p> <p>The South East England region holds about 5,000 ha of saltmarsh, comprising 11% of the UK resource of this habitat. A high proportion of the habitat is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and in turn, most of this holds international nature conservation designations. The South East England region holds about 18,000 ha of intertidal mud and sand flats, which is 6% of the UK resource of this habitat. As in the case of saltmarsh, the most extensive areas are in the Solent and south coast harbours, and in north Kent.</p>	<p>Current patterns of loss and accretion in differing locations are set to continue in the short term. However, predictions for sea level rise of up to 8mm per annum suggest that the balance will shift towards net loss in the longer term. While the condition of some saltmarsh sites is favourable, there is a trend towards colonisation of upper and middle saltmarsh by lower saltmarsh plants, linked to sea level rise; further, areas of major accretion especially in the Medway are species-poor (<i>Spartina</i>-dominated). Erosion of saltmarsh has resulted in conversion to mud flats in some locations, while in others accretion of (usually species-poor) saltmarsh has led to loss of unvegetated intertidal flats. Sea level rise and the fact that in some locations mudflats immediately abut hard sea defences suggest that overall extent will be subject to coastal squeeze in the short-medium term. Some factors leading to adverse condition may be soluble in the short term while others are more intractable. Diminution of area may also lead to a decline in the invertebrate holding capacity of that which remains, causing decline in overall condition.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	d. Extent of ancient woodlands		This data has not been updated since 2002 when the South East was recorded as having 131, 128 hectares of ancient woodland.	The South East has the largest extent of ancient woodland of any of the English Regions.
19. To protect and enhance the Region's countryside and historic environment	a. Land covered by environmental schemes	Data Gap		
	b. Buildings of Grade I and II* at risk of decay	<i>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 (South East will contribute to these English Heritage national targets).</i>	Regionally 2.1% of Grade I and II listed entries remain at risk.	Nationally 3.3% of Grade I and II listed entries remain at risk. The number of buildings at risk entries in the South East has fallen from 138 to 116 (16%) since 1999.
20. To improve the efficiency of transport networks by reducing congestion; and to enhance the proportion of travel by sustainable modes through facilitating modal shifts	a. Motor vehicle traffic by road class	<i>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'.</i>	Motor vehicle travel on all roads in the South East reached 86.4 Billion Vehicle Kilometres in 2005 (equating to 5,000 vehicle trips per day on every road).	Motor vehicle flow in the UK remains comparatively high. However whereas the longer term trend shows increasing numbers of trips per day and total numbers of kilometres travelled it is increasing at a lower rate than other regions.
	b. Time taken to travel to work (average time taken per journey)		The average time taken to travel to work in the south east is 25 minutes. The longest is travel by Rail (63 minutes), followed by bus (35 minutes) then by car 25 minutes).	Changes in time taken to travel to work have not changed significantly. In 2004 the average journey was 24 minutes, with mode shift similar to 2005 (rail: 62, bus: 34, car: 24).

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	c. Trips per person by mode	<i>[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].</i>	In 2005, 1,072 trips were made per person (per annum) in the South East. Trips by car were the most dominate mode (46.11%), followed by trips as a car passenger (23.61%), then walking (21.57%).	<p>Trips per person have increased slightly since 2004 (1,044). The most significant increase has been trips by car, which have increased by 2.02% (44.09% in 2004), public transport has dropped in share by approximately 0.5%; and walking has reduced in share by 2.23%.</p> <p>In terms of trends, the South East has seen an average decrease of walking of approximately 0.5% of modal share per annum, which is significantly more then the 0.38% average decrease (of all English Regions).</p> <p>Car usage has grown at a rate of 0.73% per annum, which is significantly higher then the English regional average of 0.39%. However the rate of growth is not significant when compared to growth rates recently seen in the North East and South West (1.49% and 1.22% respectively).</p> <p>Growth in the use of public transport in the south east since 2000 (0.58% per annum) is the highest outside London (1.58%); and is significantly higher than the English regional average of 0.29 % growth per annum.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	<p>d. Satisfaction with public service provision (% of users satisfied with service)</p>		<p>Overall 82% of passengers are satisfied with bus services in the south East. Highest approval is reported to be 'value for money' (71%) with reliability and bus stop information significantly lower (62% and 61 % respectively).</p> <p>The amount of complaints submitted to operators in the South East and London was 41 per 100,000 journeys.</p>	<p>Satisfaction with bus service has remained relatively stable since 2001. Satisfaction with reliability and bus stop information have both risen by 5%, however value for money has remained stagnant. Over the same period, complaints submitted to rail operators in the South East has dropped from 48 (per 100K) in 2001 however this is despite a much lower 38 recorded in 2004.</p>
	<p>e. Freight Transported by mode (tonnes lifted)*</p> <p>* 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</p>		<p>The movement of freight by road still dominates*, with 202 million tonnes (Mt) lifted in the South East, followed by shipping 88Mt. Freight lifted by air is reported to be 0.23Mt.</p> <p>*It has not been possible to gather information on rail freight movement in the South East. However, due to the prominence of the regions ports, and by observing national trends, it is presumed that rail freight will account for the third largest mode of freight movement.</p>	<p>The movement of freight by road has continued to increase from 2001, rising from 184Mt. Similarly, shipping has increased from 80Mt, with freight by air reducing significantly from 0.32mt. While it is not possible to monitor regional rail freight trend, the national perspective is that freight by rail is increasing but insignificantly when compared to the increase in road freight.</p>
21. To increase the level of resource efficiency within the region	a. GVA generated per tonne of material entering waste stream	<i>RES Target - to achieve a 30% increase over the 2003 baseline in GVA generated per tonne of material entering the waste stream by 2016.</i>	4,978 units of GVA per tonne of waste in 2003.	There is no data available to create a time series. However the South East ranks 2 nd behind London although the figure of GVA in London per tonne of waste is considerable higher at 9,363.

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	b. Regional material inputs and consumption		The total regional material input (RMI) is 18.59 t/cap. The Regional Material consumption is fourth lowest at 8.98 t/cap.	These figures are second smallest and fourth lowest respectively of all the regions within the South East. Both these figures are low because of the levels of imports into the Region. The South East is the largest material importer from other UK regions with 68.6m tonnes and the second largest from the rest of the world. Exports are comparatively low.
22. 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	<p><i>To increase recovery of all waste in the region to 71% by 2010.</i></p> <p><i>To increase recycling and composting of waste in the region to 50% by 2010.</i></p> <p><i>To reduce growth of all waste in the region 1% per annum by 2010, and 0.5% per annum by 2020.</i></p>	<p>Municipal waste landfilled has fallen by 440, 00 tonnes from the 2004/5 figure to the 2005/6 figure.</p> <p>Municipal waste arising has fallen slightly from the 2004/5 figure (4,631) to the 2005/6 figure (4,541).</p> <p>Recycling of municipal waste has increased from 28% to 30% in the year from the 2004/5 figure to 2005/6 figure.</p> <p>The Environment Agency Strategic Waste Management Assessment estimates figures of C&I waste and C&D waste for 1998/99 and 2002/03.</p> <p>This shows a slight decrease in the C&I arisings,</p> <p>The figures for C&D waste show an increase in arisings.</p> <p>Both show an increase in recycling.</p>	<p>Since 2001 the total municipal waste has been increasing year on year at an average rate of 58 thousand tonnes or 1.5% per annum.</p> <p>Between 2004/05 and 2005/06 municipal waste has decreased by 5%.</p> <p>The amount of municipal waste going to landfill has reduced since 2004/05 coupled with a slight reduction in municipal waste arising. Recycling of municipal waste has also increased since 2004.</p>

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	b. Inter-regional movement of waste		In 2005, the total exports of MSW and C&I waste from London to the South East was more than a million tonnes. Similarly, the total exports of C&D waste was nearly 1.1 million tonnes from London.	There is no trend data available. However the situation appears to be improving - a contract to landfill waste from London to West Sussex ended on 30 th September 2006 - no waste was due to be transported from London and landfilled in West Sussex after this date. Hampshire, East Sussex and the Isle of Wight confirmed zero waste imports of C&D waste from London to landfill in 2005/06.
23. To maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers and coasts, and to achieve sustainable water resources management	a. Rivers of Good or Fair chemical and biological water quality	<i>By 2005, for 91% of river length to achieve compliance with Environment Agency River Quality Objectives (in line with national Public Sector Agreement target) Need to check this target.</i>	River water quality is generally good with chemical water quality improving since 2004 and biological water quality staying at a consistent level.	Since the early 1990s, water quality has shown an underlying trend of improvement.
	b. Compliance with EC Bathing Waters Directive	<i>To ensure that all waters in the region comply with the EC Bathing Waters Directive in all years.</i>	All 79 bathing water sites complied with the Directive with 78% of bathing water passing the much stricter guideline standards.	Since 2005, there have been no beaches in the South East consistently failing the imperative standards.
	c. Nitrate status of groundwater / % of sites not meeting standard		6% of samples exceeded the drinking water standard for nitrate.	The percentage of levels has declined from 20% in 2001 to 6% in 2004.

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
	d. GQA nutrient status of freshwaters for Phosphate and Nitrate		<p>2005 Nitrate Status: Good - 15% Fair - 44% Poor - 26% Bad - 15%</p> <p>2005 Phosphate Status: Good - 22% Fair - 24% Poor - 41% Bad - 11%</p>	The phosphate levels in rivers in the South East have reduced since 1990 when monitoring began. This is a result of water companies installing phosphate stripping equipment at some sewage treatment works. Nitrate concentrations are partly due to naturally occurring conditions and have remained constant up to 2005.
	e. Per capita consumption (PCC) of water	<i>To stabilise and then reduce the per capita consumption of water to 135 litres per day by 2016.</i>	The daily water consumption in 2005/6 for unmeasured households was 166 litres per person per day while the measured consumption was 148 litres per person per day. In 2005/06 the weighted average consumption of water (measured and unmeasured consumption divided by the number of occupants in measured and unmeasured households) was 161 litres per person per day.	Of all the English regions, the South East has the highest regional average water consumption for both measured and unmeasured households. Although water consumption has increased over the last 10 years, it has been falling more recently. However, between 1994/95 and 2005/06, per capita consumption increased by 5.4 per cent for unmeasured households and 6.4 per cent for measured households.
	f. Incidents of major and significant water pollution	<i>By 2007, achieve a 12% reduction in Category 1 and 2 pollution incidents from all sectors.</i>	In 2005 there were 17 incidents of major water pollution (Category 1) and 64 of significant water pollution (Category 2).	Major incidents have increased slightly since 2004 (from 13 to 17). The long term trend shows that Category 1 incidents have decreased by 22% since 2002 and Category 2 incidents by 17%.

Objective	Indicator	Target	Key Findings	Summary of Regional Performance
24. To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the region	a. Energy use per capita		In 2004 the South East consumed 21,251.4 (ktoe).	Although the total figure for energy consumption is high the per capita consumption figures are relatively low.
	b. Installed capacity for energy production from renewable sources	<i>By 2010, install 620MW of renewable energy (5.5% of generation capacity)</i> <i>By 2016, install 895MW of renewable energy (8 % of generation capacity)</i> <i>By 2026, install 1750MW of renewable energy (16% of generation capacity)</i> <i>Proposed European target to provide 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.</i>	In June 2006, the total renewable capacity installed in the South East region was 334.40 MWe. A large proportion of the total renewable capacity installed capacity was from landfill gas (38.5%), offshore wind (27%), and co-firing (19.5%) while a very small proportion came from onshore wind, hydro, solar and bio/sewage gas.	Renewable energy provision continues to increase albeit slowly.

Regional Sustainability Framework

Annex 2: Links between the Regional Priorities and Key Strategies and Plans

I. Achieving Sustainable Levels of Resource Use.

Key Links with Regional Strategies and Plans¹	Lead Organisation
The South East Plan (The Regional Spatial Strategy)	South East England Regional Assembly
The Regional Housing Strategy	Regional Housing Board
The Regional Economic Strategy	SEEDA
The Competitiveness Operational Programme	SEEDA, GOSE
Water Resources for the Future Creating a better place	The Environment Agency (EA)
Natural England Strategic Direction 2006-2009	Natural England
Seeing the Wood for the Trees: Forestry Framework for the South East	Forestry and Woodlands Framework Steering Group
Action for Biodiversity in South East England	South East England Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF)
Farming and Food: Our Healthy Future	Commissioned by SEEDA and GOSE
South East Rural Delivery Framework	South East Rural Partnership
The Rural Development Plan for England - South East England Regional Implementation Plan	Rural Development Service, Natural England, SEEDA, Forestry Commission
Local Development Frameworks	Local Authorities
Sustainable Community Strategies	Local Authorities, Local Strategic Partnership
Local Area Agreements	Local Authorities, Local Strategic Partnership
Parish Plans	Parish Councils

¹ Compendium of Regional Strategic Context - CAG Consultants (2007)

2. Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with the Region.

Key Links with Regional Strategies and Plans	Lead Organisation
The South East Plan (The Regional Spatial Strategy)	South East England Regional Assembly
The Regional Housing Strategy	Regional Housing Board
The Regional Economic Strategy	SEEDA
The Competitiveness Operational Programme	SEEDA, GOSE
Water Resources for the Future Creating a better place	The Environment Agency (EA)
Natural England Strategic Direction 2006-2009	Natural England
Seeing the Wood for the Trees: Forestry Framework for the South East	Forestry and Woodlands Framework Steering Group
Action for Biodiversity in South East England	South East England Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF)
Farming and Food: Our Healthy Future	Commissioned by SEEDA and GOSE
South East Rural Delivery Framework	South East Rural Partnership
The Rural Development Plan for England - Regional Implementation Plan	Rural Development Service, Natural England, SEEDA, Forestry Commission
Local Development Frameworks	Local Authorities
Sustainable Community Strategies	Local Authorities, Local Strategic Partnership
Local Area Agreements	Local Authorities, Local Strategic Partnership
Parish Plans	Parish Councils

3. Ensuring that the South East is prepared for the Inevitable Impacts of Climate Change.

Key Links with Regional Strategies and Plans	Lead Organisation
The South East Plan (The Regional Spatial Strategy)	South East England Regional Assembly
The Regional Housing Strategy	Regional Housing Board
The Regional Economic Strategy	SEEDA
Water Resources for the Future Creating a better place	The Environment Agency (EA)
Natural England Strategic Direction 2006-2009	Natural England
Action for Biodiversity in South East England	South East England Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF)
South East Rural Delivery Framework	South East Rural Partnership
The Rural Development Plan for England - Regional Implementation Plan	Rural Development Service, Natural England, SEEDA, Forestry Commission
Local Development Frameworks	Local Authorities
Sustainable Community Strategies	Local Authorities, Local Strategic Partnership
Local Area Agreements	Local Authorities, Local Strategic Partnership
Parish Plans	Parish Councils

4. Ensuring that the most deprived people also have an equal opportunity to benefit from and contribute to a better quality of life.

Key Links with Regional Strategies and Plans	Lead Organisation
The South East Plan (The Regional Spatial Strategy)	South East England Regional Assembly
The Regional Housing Strategy	Regional Housing Board
The Regional Economic Strategy	SEEDA
The Competitiveness Operational Programme	SEEDA, GOSE
Financial Inclusion Strategy	SEEDA
The Social Inclusion Statement	SIPSE
Regional Health Strategy	South East Public Health Group, South Coast and South East Strategic Health Authorities
Community Safety Priorities for the South East	GOSE
Children and Young Learners Business Plan for the South East	Children and Learners Directorate, GOSE
South East Rural Delivery Framework	South East Rural Partnership
The Rural Development Plan for England - Regional Implementation Plan	Rural Development Service, Natural England, SEEDA, Forestry Commission
Local Development Frameworks	Local Authorities
Sustainable Community Strategies	Local Authorities, Local Strategic Partnership
Local Area Agreements	Local Authorities, Local Strategic Partnership
Parish Plans	Parish Councils

Regional Sustainability Framework

Annex 3: The Sustainability Appraisal Guide

In 2004 the regional partners committed to developing a stand-alone Sustainability Appraisal guide with a detailed methodology for Sustainability Appraisal and examples of implementation. This report sets out this methodology which was developed in 2006.

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Appraisal is a process that helps organisations to develop their plans, strategies or activities (they will be called 'plans' from now on) by assessing how sustainable they are. It can be carried out by using a straightforward checklist, shown in Figure 1 (Page 4-5).

A Sustainability Appraisal can help to:

- Evaluate and compare different plan options.
- Minimise negative impacts and maximise positive ones.
- Demonstrate the plan's overall contribution to sustainability.

The UK Government has defined five principles of sustainability¹:

1. Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity.
2. Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all.
3. Building a strong, stable and sustainable community which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them and efficient resource use is incentivised.
4. Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty as well as public attitudes and values.
5. Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society.

Who should use a Sustainability Appraisal checklist? Why should we want to?

We all have a role in making the world more sustainable, for instance by reducing our climate change impacts and supporting our local communities.

In some cases there is a statutory requirement to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal. This guide complements the approach set out in the relevant national guidance. The section entitled 'Sustainability Appraisal under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004' - sets out where the relevant guidance can be found, how this RSF can be utilised to support this process and provides useful examples of where Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out within the region.

¹ Defra (2005) *Securing the Future*, <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk>

In other instances there may be no statutory requirement to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal. To reflect this, the Sustainability Appraisal 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 guide the checklist should be used as a starting point to integrate sustainable development principles into the organisations activities. By doing so we can identify the actions that each of our organisations can take to help deliver a healthy, strong and just society that lives within environmental limits.

The section entitled - 'Non statutory Sustainability Appraisal' - sets out where the relevant guidance can be found, how this RSF can be used as a starting point to support this process and provides useful examples of where innovative appraisal approaches have been developed within the region.

The benefits of carrying out a Sustainability Appraisal include:

- For community and voluntary sector groups, and Local Strategic Partnerships:
 - it provides a structure for comparing different approaches to a problem
 - it helps to make sure that decisions are well balanced and take all important factors into account
 - it shows how the group's activities meet government priorities and goals
 - it provides a broader view of how the organisation can contribute to sustainable development
- For businesses:
 - it can help to identify opportunities for greater efficiency and lower costs, for instance opportunities to reduce waste, energy and water use, and the need to travel
 - it can improve relations with employees, clients, and the wider public
- For public sector organisations, e.g. health care trusts:
 - it can identify mutually beneficial links with other agencies or organisations
 - it can provide data to help inform and justify decisions
 - it can support other programmes, e.g. Investors in People
- For local/regional authorities with statutory Sustainability Appraisal functions:
 - it is legally required for Development Plan Documents, Regional Spatial Strategies, Supplementary Planning Documents, some Community Strategies
 - it helps plans to become more sustainable, transparent and easier to understand
 - it is a productive use of time and resources².

Many organisations are already carrying out partial Sustainability Appraisals using other tools, for instance quality assurance standards or Investors in People. Some of the information in this guide may help to achieve these other standards. The other standards can also be expanded to become a full Sustainability Appraisal, by using the checklist.

Where possible an integrated approach to Sustainability Appraisal is recommended. Such an approach would meet the requirements of the SEA directive, Sustainability Appraisal, Health Impact Assessments and types of proofing including Rural Proofing.

² Therivel, R. and F. Walsh (2005) 'The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive in the UK: One Year On', submitted to *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, available at www.levett-therivel.co.uk; Therivel, R. and Minas, P., 2002. 'Ensuring effective SEA in a Changing Context', *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* 29(2), pp. 81-91.

How do we use the checklist (Figure 1)?

Step 1 - Decide what you are appraising: Are you doing a quick check of a business or an idea or a plan? Are you comparing different ways of running your organisation? Are you fine-tuning the final version of a plan? You will need to put appropriate headings in the first row of the checklist.

Step 2 - Decide on the team: Who wants to be involved? Who makes the decisions? Who knows about your organisation's goals, ideas and plans? Who can give an independent view? Teams of 2-5 people are best.

Step 3 - Check the objectives in the first column of the checklist, which is based on the Regional Sustainability Appraisal for the South East. Do all the objectives apply to the plan in question? Should some be added, deleted or reworded? Fine-tune them as appropriate.

Step 4 - For each objective in the first column of the checklist, ask yourself "will my plan, option or plan sub-component have a positive or negative impact on the objective (in the first column in the table)?" Put the answer in the appropriate cell. The answer can be + or -; or more detailed if appropriate.

Step 5 - If the plan has negative impacts, consider ways of reducing or eliminating them, and list them in the "suggested changes" column. **If you are comparing options, identify the option that would have the most positive and least negative impacts.**

If that option is strongly positive, and if it promotes a good mix of social, economic and environmental issues, then it is your preferred option in terms of sustainability; put it in the "preferred option" column and explain why.

If the most positive option still has many negative aspects, or if it is unbalanced (for instance if it strongly supports economic growth but would clearly harm the environment), then you may want to ask whether one of the other options is more sustainable overall, or you could try to identify new options that are more sustainable.

Figure 1: Sustainability Appraisal Checklist

Step 1 - Decide what you are appraising.

Step 2 - Decide on the team. The checklist can be filled in by one person or by a group.

Step 3 - Fine-tune the sustainability objectives to fit the plan. More detailed questions are in the Integrated Regional Framework. More information on some topics is shown in this guide's section on 'taking Sustainability Appraisal further'.

Sustainability objectives from the Regional Sustainability Framework: 'Will my plan/option have a positive or negative impact on...'	plan option or section:			Suggested changes, preferred option
	A	B	C	
1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home suitable to their need?	++	-		
2. To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health?	0	++		
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?	-	+		
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?				
5. To reduce crime and the fear of crime?				
6. To create and sustain vibrant communities which recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals?				
7. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities including the countryside and the historic environment?				
8. To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East and promote sustainable tourism?				
9. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region?				
10. To sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region by focussing on the principles of smart growth: raising levels of enterprise, productivity and economic activity?				
11. To stimulate economic revival in deprived areas?				
12. To develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities?				
13. To develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region?				
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?		on previously developed land	on greenfield site	Use recycled materials for new construction where possible
15. To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment?				
16. To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve?		reduces car use	no change	Activity B is best; if Activity C is chosen, provide bike racks?
17. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse?				
18. Ensure that the South East is prepared for the impacts of Climate Change?				
19. To conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity?				
20. To protect and enhance and the region's countryside and historic environment?				
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?				
22. To reduce the global social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably and ethically produced, local or low impact products?				
23. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste?				
24. To maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers, ground waters and coasts, and to achieve sustainable water resources management?				
25. To increase energy efficiency, security and diversity of supply and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the region?				

Step 4 - The appraisal can be in the form of numbers or symbols, or (often better) a more detailed explanation.

Step 5 - This column helps to identify measures to make the activity more sustainable.

What can we learn from the checklist?

The checklist can answer the following questions:

What aspects of sustainability does my plan cover particularly well or badly?

	Plan section			Suggested changes
	A	B	C	
	-	+	0	
	+	++	+	
	--	0	--	
	-	+	-	
	--	++	0	

Annotations: "good! we'll keep this" points to the row with (+, ++, +). "bad! this needs to change" points to the row with (--, 0, --).

What impacts does my plan have and what should I be doing about them?

	Plan section			Suggested changes
	A	B	C	
	-	+	0	Section A should be changed to...
	+	++	+	
	--	0	--	
	-	+	-	
	--	++	0	

Annotations: "ideas listed here!" points to the row with (--, 0, --).

Which of several options is the most sustainable?

	Option			Preferred option
	A	B	C	
	-	+	0	B is preferred because...
	+	++	+	
	--	0	--	
	-	+	-	
	--	++	0	

Annotations: "this one!" points to the row with (--, ++, 0).

Taking Sustainability Appraisal further

There is much additional information on Sustainability Appraisal and related approaches. Below are some key documents to act as starting points. Most of these, in turn, include links to further information.

Further information on...	This information would be most useful for:				Name and web-link
	community & voluntary sector groups	businesses	public sector organisations	authorities with statutory appraisal functions	
Sustainable buildings	√	√	√	√	SustaiNE <i>Building-in Sustainability</i> http://www.buildingsustainability.co.uk
		√		√	DTI <i>Sustainable Construction</i> http://www.dti.gov.uk/construction/sustain
		√	√	√	Building Research Establishment <i>BREEAM</i> http://www.breeam.org
Sustainable resource use	√	√	√	√	Best Foot Forward <i>Sustainability Accounting</i> http://www.bestfootforward.com/sustacc.html
Sustainability for businesses		√			UK government gateway to social responsibility http://www.societyandbusiness.gov.uk The Sigma Project <i>Putting Sustainability into Practice</i> http://www.projectsigma.com Forum for the Future <i>Sustainability Pays</i> http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/publications/Sustainabilitypays_page712.aspx Midlothian Enterprise Trust <i>Success and Sustainability</i> http://www.che.ac.uk/publications/successandsustainability.pdf
Sustainability for higher education institutions			√		Forum for the Future <i>Reporting for Sustainability</i> http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/uploadstore/reporting.pdf
Sustainability for local planning authorities and other government agencies				√	ODPM <i>Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents</i> http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1161341 ODPM <i>A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive</i> http://www.odpm.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1143290
Assessing impacts on health			√	√	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence <i>Health Impact Assessment Gateway</i> http://www.publichealth.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=503066
Assessing impacts on rural communities			√	√	Countryside Agency <i>What is Rural Proofing?</i> http://www.countryside.gov.uk/EssentialServices/ruralProofing/index.asp
Eco-audit, environmental audit	√	√	√	√	Environmental Management and Audit Scheme http://www.emas.org.uk

Related Approaches

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) assesses the impacts of plans on the environment. It is legally required for certain plans and programmes under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Information on SEA is given in the ODPM's *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*.

Sustainability Appraisal is legally required for local authority development plan documents, supplementary planning documents and regional spatial strategies under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Information on joint SEA and Sustainability Appraisal is given in the ODPM's guide *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*.

Health impact assessment and **rural proofing** deal with impacts on particular groups of people (those with health problems, those in rural communities). The 'further information' list includes links to these types of appraisal, which are often integrated with Sustainability Appraisal.

Eco-audit or **environmental audit** tests an organisation's environmental impacts. It may lead to a certification, for instance Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) or ISO 14001.

SEA, SA Health impact assessment and proofing can all be combined in an integrated Sustainability Appraisal. Such an approach was adopted for the SA of the South East Plan and the RES.

Non Statutory Sustainability Appraisal

Development of an approach to Sustainability Appraisal for LSP's across the South East

In 2007, as part of the partnership improvement programme, a number of Local Strategic Partnerships came together to develop a pilot approach, using the RSF, to embed sustainable development into Sustainability Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements.

The training and workshops are ongoing but the partnerships are currently exploring ways of using the framework and available evidence to identify priority sustainable development objectives which can be used to test Sustainable Community Strategies.

Voluntary sector: Oxfam GB

Oxfam GB has a policy on operational sustainability. It covers employment conditions within Oxfam and its suppliers, use of energy on Oxfam premises, air and car travel, materials used to manufacture products, waste disposal and recycling, and relationship with local communities. Oxfam has set five performance indicators for these issues, each linked to a target. It will monitor whether these targets are being achieved.

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/about_us/suppliers/sustainability05.doc

Business: Abbott Laboratories Ltd.

Abbott Laboratories Ltd. is a health care company based in Queenborough (Kent). It appraised its waste and energy consumption, and set up a waste reduction and resource/energy efficiency initiative. It also provided training for its workers, and influenced its suppliers through its purchasing policy.

Due to these actions, it now recycles 50% of its waste, and in 2004 reduced its energy consumption by about 10%, saving £69,000. It also improved its overall operational efficiency, in some areas by 50%.

http://www.seeda.co.uk/Publications/Sustainable_Development/docs/Sustainable_Business_Awards/2004/Abbott-LaboratoriesLtd.pdf

Public Sector: University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh has had an environmental policy since 1993 and a sustainability policy since 2000. It has a dedicated office that checks whether environmental and sustainability legislation is complied with, and that appraises and monitors the university's activities. It has policies on energy efficiency, utilities, transport, and waste management.

As a result, since 1990, the university's energy costs have been cut by 5% despite a doubling in student numbers; waste management costs have gone down every year; the university recycles 21% of its waste; a burst underground water main was discovered because of the monitoring of water consumption; and a university travel plan has been put in place.

<http://www.eso.ed.ac.uk/PoliciesAndReports/>

Sustainability Appraisal under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

For those authorities that must carry out Sustainability Appraisal under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, South East-specific issues to consider when carrying out such appraisals are:

Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives (Task A1 in the ODPM guidance): See the ‘Compendium of Regional Context Part of the Regional Sustainability Framework 2006’.

Collecting baseline information (Task A2): Useful baseline data for the region can be found at:

- South East England Intelligence Network, <http://www.see-in.co.uk>
- South East England Regional Assembly monitoring reports: <http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/publications/monitoring.html>
- South East Public Health Observatory: <http://www.sepho.org.uk/>
- Regional Quality of Life Counts: <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk> (regularly updated)
- Audit Commission area profiles: <http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk>

Identifying sustainability issues and problems (Task A3): The following regional-level problems relating to the spatial development of the South East region were identified in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East, the ‘South East Plan’. They may set a context for, and may also affect more local plans:

At regional level	In some sub-regional or local areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing supply, particularly a shortage of affordable housing which prevents ‘key workers’ and the low paid from living/working in many parts of the region • Access and transport, addressing problems of access without placing further pressure on the region’s stressed transport infrastructure • Resource consumption and associated problems, particularly in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate change and energy use, achieving targets for greenhouse gas reductions ○ Waste management ○ Water usage and resources, ensuring that increasing demand for water can be controlled and provided for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding and flood zones • Poverty and social exclusion, and regeneration • Land use, providing new houses and employment land etc on derelict and vacant land in urban areas, rather than using green field sites • Biodiversity • Countryside and the historic environment

Developing the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) framework (Task A4): The Regional Sustainability Framework provides a useful basis for developing the SA framework.

Regional Authorities - Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft South East Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy

Since 2004 the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEA) has required an assessment of the environmental implications of plans and programmes within the UK. In the UK the requirements of the SEA directive have been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal process which assesses the performance of plans in sustainability terms. The IRF set out a Sustainability Appraisal process and framework which has been applied to both the South East Plan and the Regional Economic Strategies.

An integrated approach was adopted that met the requirements of the SEA directive, Sustainability Appraisal, Health Impact Assessments and types of proofing including Rural Proofing.

<http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/key/sustainability.html>

http://www.seeda.co.uk/Publications/Regional_Economic_Strategy/

Local Authorities

Since 2004 Sustainability Appraisal's have been carried out across the South East as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF process). A list of Sustainability Appraisal's including those that have been carried as part of the LDF process can be found at:

<http://www.levett-therivel.fsworld.co.uk/> - under recommended strategic environmental assessment / sustainability appraisal reports 2006

Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council

Basingstoke has had a Sustainability Appraisal system in place since 1998. This was updated in June 2003 at a workshop to test a draft Sustainability Appraisal tool, which reflected the themes of the community strategy and council priorities. An updated version was then tested with members against a draft procurement strategy. They also used it as a basis for a newly formed street care team and discussions with the voluntary sector.

The appraisal has acted as a powerful mechanism to re-focus thinking about a range of outcomes, balancing national and local priorities and has generated much discussion. It is also being used to inform strategies and officers have been using it to scope projects.

The tool is part of a larger toolkit to engage and embed corporate priorities. Work has begun on developing an electronic version which produces two graphs - one showing results against corporate priorities, and another results against the community strategy.

http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/our_work/planning/sus_dev/research_report-nov2004.pdf