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Foreword

Social inclusion matters in this region. These are the opening words of this draft Regional Social Inclusion Statement. It is because we hold them to be true that regional bodies:

- The Assembly
- The Government Office
- The Housing Corporation
- The National Health Service
- RAISE
- The Social Care Region, and
- The South East England Development Agency

have come together to prepare this draft Statement for consultation within the region.

It is not our intention to provide a rigid framework within which we want to argue that all social inclusion activity must be set. Local circumstances demand local solutions and we are aware of good work that is being done throughout the region.

Equally, we could not ignore the view, articulated in a partner satisfaction study carried out for GOSE, that there needed to be more leadership and integration in the region on the social inclusion agenda.

This Statement is in part a response to that view. At the heart of the Statement is a handful of simple propositions:

Social inclusion in the region will not be improved unless there is better joint working. These are easy words. But that is why the Statement makes a number of commitments about the way in which we, as regional bodies, want to work together, and others should expect us to work together, to deliver this agenda. It is also why the Statement

recognises the key role of Local Strategic Partnerships in joining up action at the local level. As regional agencies, we will all do what we can to ensure that Local Strategic Partnerships work well throughout the South East and particularly in areas of deprivation.

Local communities must be involved. These words are easy to write. They need to be followed through. That is why RAISE, the regional voluntary/community sector network, has been an equal partner in the preparation of the Statement. That is why the Statement contains over 15 commitments about the involvement of the sectors in social inclusion. And that is why we will adhere to the requirements of the voluntary sector compact with Government when consulting on this draft. We want to ensure that lack of time does not inhibit unnecessarily opportunities to comment.

The issues are complex and inter-related. The Statement identifies a number of issues related to housing, transport, crime, education and skills, enterprise, and health. Many of us may be very knowledgeable about one or more of these issues. But few of us are experts on all of them. We hope that the Statement will provide an overview of the issues to new agencies such as the Small Business Service or Local Learning and Skills Councils, and emerging bodies, such as Local Strategic Partnerships or Connexions Partnerships – as well as a signpost for further information.

We will need to focus attention and support on areas where social exclusion is most concentrated. These are generally, but not exclusively, in coastal areas and in the region's largest towns and cities. At the same time, we need to do more to support the involvement of young people, older people, people from black and ethnic minority

communities and people with disabilities.
Nor must the needs of the excluded in rural areas be overlooked

The Statement will not count for anything unless we measure progress.

We want to share good practice. This is why we have included a couple of examples of good practice within the region. As part of the consultation, we are looking for short summaries of further examples and contact names, so that the Statement can help us learn from each other.

This draft is not the last word. We believe that this Regional Statement is the first of its kind in England. We will not have got everything right first time. This is why we have prepared a consultation draft. And, over time, our knowledge and understanding of social inclusion issues will continue to evolve. Subject to your views on this Statement, we would anticipate producing the final version towards the end of the year and an updated version in, say, 2 years time.

We look forward to receiving your comments by **2 November 2001**.

Please send them to:

- Angela Hammond
Government Office for the South East
1st Floor, Bridge House,
1 Walnut Tree Close,
Guildford, GU1 4GA

or e-mail: ahammond.gose@go-regions.gov.uk

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Purpose of the consultation:

- Seek views from all deliverers and beneficiaries on the document.
- Build ownership for the document amongst groups and people in the South East.
- Raise profile of regionalisation.

Timetable:

- The Statement will be available at the beginning of August and will be sent out via mail or e-mail. Copy will also be placed on the website of each regional body who has helped to prepare the draft.
- 12 week consultation process ends on 2 November 2001.
- Sub regional events and community of interest events will take place during the consultation period.
- Feedback from the consultation exercise and final version available early in December.

Consultation Responses:

We would welcome views on the document. A number of questions are posed at the end of each chapter.

At this stage we are not in a position to include new regional partners but we would welcome the opportunity to widen the ownership of the document to other regional partners over time.

A response sheet is available with the draft Statement to help structure replies. A proforma is also provided for completion of examples of good practice. Please remove these from the document and return to us. Where necessary the draft Statement can be

made available in large print, audio format and languages other than English. Please contact Angela Hammond at the Government Office for the South East (01483 882346)

Consultation Outcomes:

- We will acknowledge everyone who responds to the consultation by sending out a summary of comments made indicating how the views have helped to shape the final document.

Social Inclusion Statement

Consultation Response Sheet

<i>Question</i>	<i>Response</i>
<p>THE AIM</p> <p>Do you agree with the medium term target as stated?</p> <p>If not, what alternative approach can you offer?</p>	
<p>LEADERSHIP AND JOINT WORKING</p> <p>Are our proposed commitments relevant and realistic?</p> <p>Do any need changing in any way?</p>	
<p>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</p> <p>Have we identified the appropriate commitments to ensure community involvement is meaningful?</p> <p>How realistic are our plans for action?</p>	
<p>REVIVING LOCAL ECONOMIES AND SERVICES</p> <p>Do you agree with the main infrastructure issues as detailed in this chapter?</p> <p>Anything major that you feel has been omitted please detail.</p>	

<p>Do you feel that the commitments being undertaken by the organisations will help address the issues as stated?</p> <p>What scope is there for further commitment?</p>	
<p>BRINGING IT TOGETHER</p> <p>Do you concur with the principles that the partners have agreed should be at the fore of any regeneration partnership (as detailed at the beginning of the chapter)?</p> <p>Has sufficient detail been captured about Communities of Interest?</p> <p>Are the Action Examples as detailed throughout the document helpful and interesting?</p>	
<p>MONITORING PROGRESS</p> <p>Are the indicators proposed the most appropriate to be using?</p> <p>Will they act as the correct measure in determining our effectiveness in reducing social exclusion?</p> <p>What information do you hold that could help with setting the baselines?</p> <p>Please offer views on where you feel the target for indicators should be set.</p>	

<p>ENDPIECE</p> <p>How useful do you find the document?</p> <p>How convinced are you that the Statement will make a difference?</p> <p>Should we seek to prepare a successor version in, say, two years time?</p>	
<p>THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM</p> <p>Do you have any comments on the accuracy in the detail of the analysis of the situation in the South East?</p>	

Name:

Position:

Organisation
and Address:

Thank you

Draft Template

South East Social Inclusion Statement Good Practice Examples

Please complete the following short description to contribute examples of your projects. It will be useful for others to learn from your experiences.

(please photocopy for each project as necessary)

Name of Organisation	
Name of Project	
Name of contact person	
Address	
Telephone number	
e-mail address	
Website	
What does the project aim to do?	
Which aspects of the project have been most successful?	
Which aspects of the project have been most difficult?	
Other comments	

Please remove from document and return

SUMMARY

This draft Statement does seven things. It:

- Sets out how important tackling social exclusion is to the region.
- Commits various regional organisations and agencies to making social inclusion a priority.
- Sets out clear standards as to the way in which these organisations and agencies will work together to reduce deprivation and bring about social inclusion.
- Makes commitments about the way these organisations will work with the voluntary and community sectors at local level.
- Identifies priorities for regional action over the next 12-18 months on key issues such as crime reduction, education, health, enterprise, housing and transport.
- Sets out indicators through which we can measure whether social inclusion in the region is getting better.
- Acts as an introductory guide to the subject and a signpost for further information.

It starts from the belief that there is a clear role for regional (and sub-regional) organisations to help reinforce the clear framework set by the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and the good work that is taking place throughout the region at local level. It is by making these links that we are most likely to be able to put the infrastructure in place, from affordable housing to accessible transport, from care to crime reduction, that will give us a realistic chance of achieving this draft Statement's aim:

To reduce the gap between the 29 most deprived wards and the rest of the region by 30% by 2010.

These occur in the districts of Hastings, Thanet, Ashford, Havant, Brighton & Hove, Southampton and Portsmouth. Money will be important in reducing the gap. Several of these areas have received and continue to receive significant national, European and regional funding. The framework set out by this draft Statement makes it clear that these areas will continue to receive the main share of regional funding.

But while national and regional funding is obviously important in tackling deprivation, and reducing the gap between deprived areas and the rest, it cannot be enough in itself. This draft Statement emphasises the crucial role of Local Strategic Partnerships in bringing people and organisations together to set common priorities and targets and use the mainstream funding power of the public sector in particular to tackle agreed priorities.

It also sets out key principles which we would expect Local Strategic Partnerships (and other regeneration partnerships) to follow:

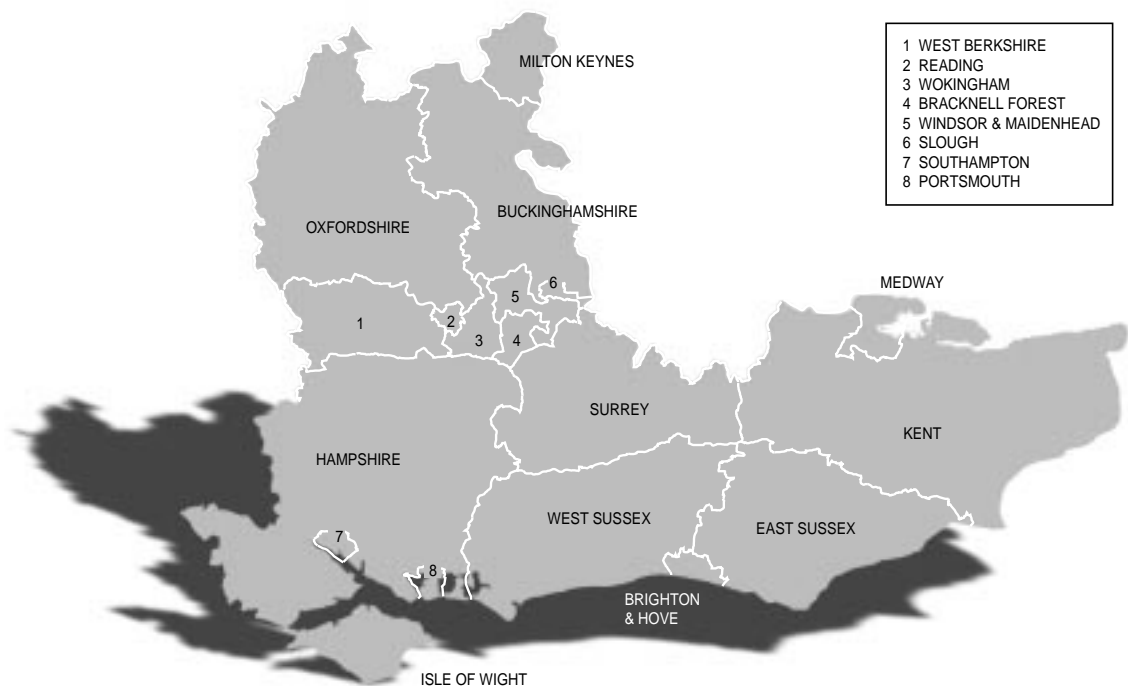
- Strong community involvement - as decision makers.
- Effective private sector involvement.
- A clear vision for the future.
- Clear objectives.
- A commitment to working in partnership.

And encourages them not to overlook the interests of groups who are more likely to be vulnerable to exclusion, notably:

- The young.
- The older people.
- Black and ethnic minorities, and
- People with disabilities.

We believe that this Regional Statement is the first of its kind in England. This is one reason why we have prepared this consultation draft. We look forward to receiving your comments on the draft by 2 November 2001. Further copies can be downloaded from the GOSE website:
www.go-se.gov.uk

1 Introduction



1.1 Social inclusion matters in this region. It matters to individuals and affects their communities if they are unable to share in the prosperity of the South East, which many take for granted. It matters to local authorities seeking to raise the quality of life for people living and working in their areas. It matters, too, to regional bodies. In the words of the Regional Economic Strategy:

“Economic disadvantage and social exclusion are characteristics found in both rural and urban areas, and their eradication presents one of the greatest challenges to the region as a whole.”¹

1.2 As the Regional Assembly has identified, there are 4 main reasons to be concerned about social exclusion, in the South East just as much as any other region:

- It is economically inefficient – it represents an under-use of human resources where labour is in short supply.
- Those who are socially excluded are prevented from enjoying a fulfilling life, often suffering from low self-esteem with subsequent effects on personal aspirations. This can affect their health and realisation of potential, as well as the life chances of the next generation.
- It generates unnecessary costs for us all in welfare and health services and benefits.
- It has social impacts (e.g. crime, drugs) which can affect all society and are self-aggravating – i.e: there is a ‘vicious circle’ effect.²

¹ Regional Economic Strategy (SEEDA), p33

² Report of the Social Inclusion Select Committee (the Assembly), p5

1.3 In short, not only does social exclusion deprive the economy of workers, customers, entrepreneurs and taxpayers, and costs society dear in terms of higher unemployment, poor health and high crime rates, the extent of deprivation in urban neighbourhoods also contributes to the outflow from cities to the edge of town and the countryside.

1.4 It need not be like this. In February the Assembly agreed:

“The South East could and should be a region in which we achieve social progress which recognises the need of everyone with strong communities free from high levels of crime and discrimination; with ready access to jobs, education, homes, services and amenities; diverse opportunities for everyone to live fulfilled and healthy lives and to realise their full potential.”

1.5 There is much excellent work already happening in the region. This statement seeks to capture just a few examples. As they demonstrate, in many cases local solutions can be found to local problems.

1.6 And yet, people doing excellent work at a local level tackling social exclusion can feel unsupported. This Statement aims to change that. Moreover, a regional framework for local action has been missing – as identified in a GOSE customer perception survey.

1.7 The regional bodies³ have therefore come together to produce this statement. It seeks to begin the process of setting a regional framework which:

- Commits each of the regional bodies to making social inclusion an integral part of their functions.
- Will, over time, set a common framework at the regional level, for policy, funding and other purposes.
- Responds to the commitment in the Regeneration and Communities Action Plan within SEEDA’s Regional Economic Strategy.
- Sets out clear standards as to the ways in which regional bodies, and others, need to work if the framework is to deliver positive results.
- Identifies priorities for regional action over the next 12–18 months.
- Develops a regional response.
- Sets out indicators through which we can measure whether social inclusion in the region is getting better.
- Identifies some existing examples of action within the region.

Definitions

1.8 Before going further, we need to attempt a definition. In this document, we mean by social exclusion:

“an inability (of individuals) to participate effectively in economic, social and political and cultural life, alienation and distance from mainstream society.”⁴

1.9 The important thing to grasp is that social exclusion is not the same as poverty. It is often caused by poverty. But there are people living above the

³ They are: the Government Office for the South East (GOSE); the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA); the South East England Regional Assembly (the Assembly); Regional Action and Involvement in the South East (RAISE - the regional voluntary sector network); the NHS South East Regional Office (SERO); the Social Care Regional Office; and the Housing Corporation South East.

⁴ Duffy, K (1995) ‘Social Inclusion and Human Dignity in Europe,’ Report for the Steering Committee on Social Policy, Council of Europe.

poverty line who can be socially excluded, for example frail older people. The term social exclusion seeks to capture the less tangible aspects that we associate with being poor, such as low morale, isolation from social or spiritual networks or cultural resources.

- 1.10 The term social inclusion aspires to the tackling of the exclusion of individuals, neighbourhoods, of districts and of communities of interest.

2 The Aim

2.1 The long term aim is the eradication of social exclusion in the region. Where social inclusion is successfully achieved, spill-over effects and financial costs will be reduced, leading to a better quality of life for all.

2.2 The gap between the deprived parts of the region and the rest has widened. It will take time to turn this trend around. But, even in a relatively prosperous region such as ours, there has been no narrowing of the gap over the past 10 years.

2.3 For this reason we have set the medium term targets of:

- Reducing the numbers of people within the region facing deprivation, in rural and urban areas alike, and
- By 2010, the gap between the 29 most deprived wards and the regional average will have narrowed by 30% as measured by the Index of Local Deprivation.⁵

2.4 If this aim is to be met, we must not restrict attention solely to the existing most deprived neighbourhoods. We all need to look out for early interventions which would give us the chance to stem – earlier and perhaps more easily – decline elsewhere. We need to be aware of local crime rates, education achievement trends and other indicators to alert us to those neighbourhoods where concerted effort could turn things round before they become a problem.

2.5 And we must not overlook the fact that there will be socially excluded communities elsewhere, for example in otherwise prosperous surroundings and that there are communities of interest which span neighbourhood boundaries.



Do you agree with the medium term target as stated?

If not, what alternative approach can you offer?

⁵ See Annex F for maps of the 29 wards in the South East among the 10% most deprived in England, under the multiple index of deprivation. See Annex B for more details on Local Strategic Partnerships.

3 The National Policy Framework

3.1 A clear framework has been set by:

- The New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal; National Strategy Action Plan, published by Government in January and by
- Guidance on Local Strategic Partnerships, published in March.

3.2 The Plan sets out 2 long term goals:

- In all the poorest neighbourhoods, common goals of lower worklessness and crime, and better health, skills, housing and physical environment.
- To narrow the gap on these measures between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country.

3.3 The Action Plan describes how new policies, funding and targets; better co-ordination and community empowerment; and national and regional support can make the vision a reality. The barriers which have in the past prevented regeneration from achieving a step change were identified as:

- Failure to address the problems of local economies.
- Failure to promote safe and stable communities.
- Poor core public services, such as health and education.
- Lack of leadership and joint working.

Key national targets are reproduced at Annex A.

3.4 This statement follows-up the agenda set by the national strategy. But it is also about working in partnership. In particular, Government guidance (see Annex B on Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)) sets out the opportunities they present to:

- Bring together the public, private, community and voluntary sectors in effective partnership.
- Join up partners' activities across a range of issues, enabling each of them to meet their own targets and goals and tackle cross-cutting issues more effectively.
- Involve at this strategic level the communities they serve.
- Promote equity and inclusion – particularly of faith, black and minority ethnic communities.

3.5 To achieve this, LSPs will need to:

- Develop a variety of means to work with and consult local people.
- Build common purpose and shared commitment.
- Develop and publicise common aims and priorities.
- Value the contribution of all partners, avoiding domination by particular members or organisations.
- Share local information and good practice.
- Identify, encourage and support effective local initiatives.
- Develop a common performance management system.

- Provide a forum for debate, discussion and common decision-making.⁶

3.6 We will, therefore, encourage the formation of LSPs throughout the region, in areas of deprivation and relative prosperity alike. We hope that the rest of this Statement, which sets out how we intend to work together and with LSPs, and the issues which have been highlighted to us as priorities for the region, will help provide a framework for enabling regional and national support for LSPs to eradicate social exclusion in the South East.

⁶ See Annex B for more details on *Local Strategic Partnerships*.

4 Leadership and Joint Working

“A joined up response is vital. This means having the right mechanisms in place at several levels.”⁷

4.1 We all know now that it is not enough to regenerate areas just by focusing on capital investment. The compartmentalised approach to regeneration, based on separate themes of economic regeneration, crime, skills, health is flawed. We also know that making the right links is not always simple or straightforward. They depend most of all upon effective partnerships, in which there is mutual trust, identification and the real participation of the community, voluntary, private and public sectors. This ‘horizontal’ integration is essential to social inclusion in this, or any other, region. The National Strategy and other documents have emphasised, rightly, the crucial role of Local Strategic Partnerships in joining up at the local level.

4.2 But we think that this local commitment needs to be matched by a similar commitment from the regional bodies to work ever more closely together on social inclusion policy and practice.

4.3 A start has been made. SEEDA is financing, through the Single Regeneration Budget, the development of Area Investment Frameworks in North Kent, North East Kent, Southampton, Hastings, the Isle of Wight and East Sussex to enable a better understanding of current investment in these areas and provide

intelligence on which to prioritise and plan long term. A Regional Housing Forum has been set up. So too has a Regional Funders’ Forum, and a Black and Minority Ethnic Funders’ Forum, to help share awareness of key regional priorities and actions.

4.4 And, of course, this statement is an example. Through it, we make the following commitments:

- GOSE, SEEDA and the Assembly will define their respective roles and responsibilities on social inclusion. these are under preparation and will be included in the final version of the Statement at Annex C.
- As the representative forum for the region, the Assembly will strive to improve the coherence of regional policy making by identifying consistent regional priorities to the various regional agencies; the Sustainable Development Framework is an important tool for achieving joined up governance for the region.
- The Assembly will make social inclusion a core objective of its regional planning and transport strategies.
- Both GOSE and SEEDA will prioritise support to LSPs formed in each of the areas where there are wards among the most deprived 10% nationally: (see Annex D for a description of the scale of the problem in the South East and Annex F for details of the most deprived wards in the South East) and to other LSPs wherever possible.
- GOSE will encourage local authorities, working within LSPs, to

⁷ National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal: a framework for consultation (Social Exclusion Unit).

prepare Local Public Service Agreements with Central Government which contain measures to tackle social exclusion, e.g. Milton Keynes' target to create 30 jobs a year till 2004 for people with learning disabilities, and will involve the other regional bodies in the negotiation on this issue.

- We, the Regional Partners, will work closely with other organisations at the sub-regional level, such as:
 - Health Authorities
 - Primary Care Trusts
 - Learning and Skills Councils
 - Lifelong Learning Partnerships
 - Connexions Partnerships
 - Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships
 - Economic Partnerships and
 - The Small Business Service
 - Specialist Voluntary Agencies

in pursuit of the agenda set out in this statement. We will encourage all to have the eradication of social exclusion at the core of their work.

- GOSE will arrange meetings 3 times a year on a particular theme linked to social exclusion, to which people from business and the voluntary and community sectors will be invited. The aim of the meetings will be to share good practice within the region and identify obstacles to progress in reducing deprivation in the region.
- GOSE will encourage the further development of the Regional Funders' Forum, to ensure that funding streams complement each other and simplify applications and that lessons are learnt from the Code of Practice on Funding.

- Through funding streams and through discussion with Local Strategic Partnerships, GOSE and SEEDA will encourage the setting up and networking of local voluntary and community groups, with each other and with the regional bodies, directly and via RAISE and the South East Race Equality Network (SEREN).
- We will all seek out examples of good practice from our own and other regions and advertise them, through our websites and other means. To start this process, please complete the proforma on page 9.
- We will all improve our evidence base and knowledge of the issues by sharing data and analysis between ourselves and with others in the region, e.g. the Public Health Observatory in Oxford and the Health Development Agency for the South East.
- We will all strive to engage with black and minority ethnic communities in the region by, for example, inviting SEREN to contribute to the future development of this Statement.
- GOSE will do more to work with other regional bodies which can impact upon social exclusion, such as the Arts and Sports Councils.
- GOSE and NHS SERO will agree and implement a Business Plan leading towards setting up a Single Regional Integrated Public Health Group.



Are our proposed commitments relevant and realistic?

Do any need changing in any way?

5 Community Involvement

5.1 The National Strategy recognises the importance of involving communities in sustainable regeneration. So, too, have the regional bodies.

For example; The Regional Economic Strategy includes an objective to:

- Encourage and enable local communities and the voluntary sector by promoting the establishment of a network of independent local Community Foundations and Development Trusts and to ensure the participation of the private and voluntary sectors in all regeneration programmes.

5.2 The Assembly found that:

- Socially excluded people are often also politically excluded – we need to look beyond established community ‘gatekeepers’ to engage with communities.
- Start young on active citizenship – local partnerships should aim to engage young people in discussion, planning and the implementation of outcomes that they have identified as solutions to their problems.
- The faith communities could play a powerful role in promoting social inclusion.

5.3 There have been many projects in the past to increase the skills and confidence of local communities. What is new is the central role that local residents and groups are now being asked to play in LSPs. A particular effort needs to be made to involve the excluded and hard to reach

communities and communities of interest. This will not be easy, for the community and voluntary sectors, or for public sector agencies. There can be clashes of culture and misunderstandings.

5.4 But we are in no doubt that overcoming such barriers is essential. While issues of social inclusion make themselves felt most obviously at a local level and local actions always have a key part to play in any solution, they are not always enough in themselves. The separate development of policy and practice at local, regional and national levels runs with it the risk of disconnection and a lack of understanding of the perceived realities at other levels. We want to reduce the often considerable gap between local residents and ‘the suits’ at local and regional level, for example. We think the following steps will help:

- Time and resources need to be made available in any LSP (or project) to increase community involvement. Information needs to be accessible, crisp, clear, understandable and well publicised in appropriate places.
- Community development training for all policy makers and practitioners involved in initiatives and projects needs to be budgeted for, planned and delivered before commencement.
- Ensuring that partnerships are among equals and practise participation and involvement rather than consultation. The Rowntree Foundation found, for example, that partnerships should

“clearly articulate the role expected of the community – both the wider community and representatives – with a review and amendment of that role as community confidence increases.”⁸

- Setting up effective arrangements for involvement of local people and local user groups and ensuring effective feedback.
- Partnerships being prepared to change strategic objectives where they do not reflect the views of the wider community.

5.5 The Community Development Foundation has argued⁹ that improving community involvement means:

- Involving the most organised part of the community from the start.
- Stimulating new or better activity amongst the majority.
- Providing special assistance to particularly excluded people and to organisations active among them.
- Widening consultation and involvement by stages as the community becomes more active.

⁸ M Carley and others.

⁹ G Chanan, C Garratt and A West ‘The New Community Strategies - How to Involve Local People,’ p21.

¹⁰ More details are on the RAISE website at: www.raise-networks.org.uk

¹¹ The 12 benchmarks are that: the community is recognised and valued as an equal partner; there is meaningful community representation on all decision making bodies from initiation; all community members have the opportunity to participate; communities have access to and control over resources; evaluation of regeneration partnerships incorporates a community agenda; the diversity of local communities and interests are reflected at all levels of the regeneration process; equal opportunities policies are in place and implemented; unpaid workers/volunteer activists are in place and valued; a two-way information strategy is developed and implemented; programme and project procedures are clear and accessible; communities are resourced to participate; and understanding, knowledge and skills are developed to support partnership working. The full report is available at [HYPERLINK http://www.yorkshire-forward.com](http://www.yorkshire-forward.com)

5.6 In the Yorkshire and the Humber Region, the Regional Development Agency has identified 12 benchmarks for community participation.¹⁰ They will help communities and public agencies to assess the extent to which community participation is taking place. The benchmarks¹¹ cover similar issues to those which have been raised in the South East during the preparation of this Statement.

5.7 We, the Regional Partners, are now at the stage where we can make commitments and implement them:

- We will all help develop best practice and links across the region (and sometimes from outside it) in supporting and mentoring potential local community leaders.
- We will all seek to increase awareness among local communities of our role, for example through this statement, events organised by RAISE and SEREN and by developing closer links with voluntary/community sector bodies at the county and local level.
- GOSE will not accredit LSPs unless the voluntary and community sectors are full partners. GOSE will work with RAISE and SEREN to develop tools for measuring and monitoring the sectors’ involvement.
- GOSE and SEEDA will encourage and enable local communities and the voluntary sector to establish a network of independent local Community Foundations and Development Trusts.
- GOSE will encourage LSPs to give communities in priority neighbourhoods easy access to small-scale, quickly available funding and establish devolved budgets so that local neighbourhoods have a real stake in

service planning and quality assessment. These funds should be available on a long term basis, rather than through annual bidding rounds.

- RAISE will encourage LSPs to map existing voluntary/community capacity building activity and funding sources and make funding available for the induction, training and support for community and voluntary sector representatives.
- GOSE and SEEDA will work to ensure the participation of the private and voluntary sectors in all regeneration programmes.
- SEEDA will encourage businesses in the region to develop and enhance their social responsibility by investing in the region's communities and environment.
- GOSE and SEEDA will encourage LSPs to measure growth in social capital in areas they select for local neighbourhood renewal strategies.
- We will all develop, introduce and support shared training for our own staff and local community leaders or groups to break down barriers and promote effective partnership working.
- We will all do more to develop our links with the faith communities in the region.
- We will all consider whether a regional compact between the voluntary and community sectors and the regional bodies would add value.
- We will all aim to increase the numbers of people seconded between the regional bodies and the voluntary and community sectors.
- GOSE will ensure that voluntary and community sectors are

effectively represented on Connexions and Children's Fund Partnerships.

- GOSE will ensure that Connexions and Children's Fund Partnerships share good practice particularly in involving young people directly in the development of services.
- Through the associated Health Action Zones, NHS SERO with Local Communities will be involved in plans for improving local services, particularly those which reduce health inequalities.



Have we identified the appropriate commitments to ensure community involvement is meaningful?

How realistic are our plans for action?

6 Reviving Local Economies and Services

- 6.1 The previous sections emphasised the need to involve local communities in regeneration. This section highlights the main infrastructure issues facing the South East which need to be addressed if we are to get the benefit from good work on community involvement.
- 6.2 Local economies, just like regional or national ones, depend upon a sound infrastructure being in place. This means affordable housing, accessible transport, adequate care (including childcare) and opportunities to access learning all need to be in place. Strategies of individual towns and cities should link into, and be supported at the regional or sub-regional level, so that the location of new industry, transport, housing, retailing are co-ordinated to good purpose. Unless this happens, there is too much chance of wasting scarce resources, including inward investment.
- 6.3 A regional planning framework has been established.¹² This states that:
- Urban areas should be the prime focus for new development and for redevelopment and become more attractive places in which to live, work and spend leisure time.
 - Health, education and other social considerations and infrastructure requirements need to be taken into account fully in development planning throughout the region.
- The quality and character of the rural environment should be maintained and enhanced.
 - A more equitable and locally based provision of services (including education and health, recreation, leisure, transport and cultural facilities) should also be achieved in rural areas.
 - Human resource development should be recognised as a central component in harnessing and promoting future economic success in the region. Access to job opportunities should be improved for those currently disadvantaged in the labour market.
 - A range of dwelling types and sizes should be provided, including alternative forms of tenure, in order to meet the needs of all sectors of the community and to plan for balanced communities. Affordable housing should be provided to meet locally assessed need.
- 6.4 Particular concentrations of deprivation will be found in urban areas and should be addressed through local neighbourhood renewal strategies developed by LSPs. It will be important that regeneration in one area of a city does not just push problems elsewhere, but complements activity elsewhere in the town or city.
- 6.5 The neighbourhood renewal strategies should therefore be complemented by wider community strategies that, in urban areas:

¹² *Regional Planning Guidance (GOSE)*.

- a) express a clear and shared view of the current relative performance of the towns and cities in the area;
- b) show how that came about;
- c) explain the pressure for change in the future; and,
- d) crucially, how new physical investment related to services will be well planned, designed and integrated into its surroundings.

6.6 Focusing development predominantly in urban areas will help protect a regional asset – the quality of the countryside. Yet that quality can disguise that in rural areas isolation is a major factor, incomes can be low and opportunities more limited. It is for these reasons that the Regional Economic Strategy and Rural Development Plans have as priorities supporting business formation and growth in small market towns which offer local employment opportunities for people who live in rural areas; making better use of underused rural buildings; and improved provision of and accessibility of essential services. And unless housing is affordable in rural areas, many people will be forced to leave the area in which they grew up, making the economies of their villages ever more unbalanced and vulnerable.

6.7 During the first phase of consultation on the preparation of this Statement, a handful of issues have come up time and time again as of key importance. These are housing, transport, crime reduction, education and skills, enterprise, and health.

Housing

“Lack of decent, affordable housing is a key issue at the heart of social inclusion.”¹³

6.8 The Regional Housing Statement¹⁴ identifies the key housing issues for the South East as:

- Affordable housing, without which the region will suffer economically and socially.
- The importance of new development and refurbishment being of high quality and design, including energy efficiency and measures to design out crime.
- The need to minimise the numbers of unfit, unpopular and empty homes within the region and to improve private sector stock.

6.9 Regional Planning Guidance sets a provisional indicator of 18,000 to 19,000 new affordable homes a year in the wider South East (which includes London and Essex). The Assembly will monitor provision against this indicator. Of itself, however, the mere provision of additional houses is unlikely to represent a solution. Of equal importance will be, particularly in areas of housing growth, that issues of design are fully taken into account and that social housing is integrated with market-based housing.

6.10 And as well as new homes, the South East has 119,033 existing homes which are not up to a decent standard. It has 13,344 people accepted as homeless, some of whom sleep rough. Shelter is a pre-requisite for health, so there are

¹³ Assembly Select Committee Report.

¹⁴ This document is produced by the Government Office and the Housing Corporation. It can be downloaded from: www.gose.gov.uk

obvious links between lack of housing and poor health. But even for those with homes, dampness is associated with asthma and other lung diseases. Badly insulated housing can cause fuel poverty and hypothermia, particularly for the elderly and young children.

6.11 Improving the existing housing stock and planning to get new housing of the right quality for future needs are, therefore, the key issues. Much of this needs to be done at local level, through local assessments of current and future needs, taking account of any differences between urban and rural areas and the needs of particular groups; ensuring that new affordable housing is integrated into surrounding communities; and that there are sound business plans for the renovation of existing stock, particularly in the social sector. New, particularly affordable, housing is needed to provide homes for the region's existing people. Without them, the region's economy will be unsustainable.

6.12 The regional bodies will support this agenda by:

- Placing particular emphasis when assessing the quality of local housing strategies and housing business plans against the following issues:
 - Awareness of and action to tackle housing need in rural and urban areas alike and across different groups.
 - Action to tackle fuel poverty.
 - Measures to tackle homelessness.
 - The extent to which local authorities have supported the provision of affordable housing through the planning system.¹⁵

- The rate at which unfit housing is being brought up to a decent standard and empty properties brought back into use.
- The provision of supported accommodation, for vulnerable young people and older people, people with disability and mental health problems.

6.13 In line with the priorities identified in the Regional Housing Strategy, the Housing Corporation has been funding Registered Social Landlords that address the key areas of:

- Regeneration – as long as the proposals involve residents and make effective links to other policies and agencies, and bring forward brownfield sites for housing.
- Rural areas – schemes in villages (up to 3,000) and in larger communities (up to 12,000) where the bid will help the sustainability of the local market town.
- Employment or key worker initiatives, so that labour shortages in essential services can be addressed.
- Areas experiencing current or future major household growth, to ensure future balanced communities.
- Schemes allowing vulnerable people to remain in their own homes.
- Schemes to improve the effectiveness of difficult to let social housing.

In all our normal funding we will wish to achieve high quality, well designed housing that meets people's needs now and in the future. We will also explore opportunities for special funding for exemplary design proposals, particularly in areas of multiple deprivation or where housing conditions are particularly poor.

¹⁵ The Housing Corporation has recently published guidance on [this].

Action Example

Homelink Home Improvement Agency in Woking

is a non-profit making organisation set up to help vulnerable people adapt, repair or improve their homes. As well as organising the work, the agency secures the necessary finances for the client, which often takes the form of grant assistance or charitable donations.

For more information contact Sally Meynen on 01483 743668 or e-mail: sallyme@woking.gov.uk

Transport

“Physical exclusion is a significant dimension of social exclusion: adequate and affordable public transport is a high priority.”

Assembly Select Committee Report

6.14 There is a clear connection between social exclusion and transport, which is:

- Particularly marked among the unemployed, families with young children, young people, older people and all those on low incomes, people with disabilities and mental health problems.
- An important component part of all services including employment, health and social services, education and leisure.
- Especially important to many people who live in rural areas, small towns or on the outskirts of larger towns.

6.15 For example, young and old alike can be denied access to jobs, training, clubs by expensive, unreliable,

infrequent transport that finishes too early in the day and older people can often be frightened to use or wait for public transport. Up to 60% of the poorest 20% of households have no car.

6.16 Planning has a key role in helping to ensure that jobs and facilities are accessible by public transport, walking and cycling; that services and major travel generators are located in town, city and district centres and near major public transport interchanges; and that urban environments make walking, cycling and public transport attractive options.

6.17 In the short term, GOSE would wish to:

- Encourage all Local Strategic Partnerships, through their community strategies, to map existing public transport provision and consider the role it can play in tackling social exclusion.

6.18 In particular, consideration should be given as to how public transport can be more:

- Affordable – which might mean providing community transport to meet the needs of disadvantaged people or introducing vouchers or concessionary fare schemes.
- Accessible – which means better frequency and reliability. The Government’s 10 year transport plan makes a commitment to improve access in rural areas with a one third increase in the proportion of rural households living within a 10 minute walk of an hourly (or better) bus service. Again, ensuring that public transport is accessible to disabled people is important.
- Available – might mean more support for organisations running community minibuses; and

- Acceptable – which means making public transport feel safer, for example through increased staffing, lighting, safe waiting areas, computerised call points, and updated information at bus stops.

6.19 In addition, GOSE will:

- Encourage highway authorities to include in their Local Transport Plans measures which address social exclusion and will disseminate good practice from around the country.
- The Assembly will include in the Regional Transport Strategy an objective to overcome transport exclusion for those on the urban periphery as well as rural areas.
- GOSE will encourage, through the planning system, a decrease in the need to travel by encouraging more development in town centres.
- GOSE will encourage local transport plans to take into account the positive and negative impacts upon the health of the community.

problems facing deprived wards are likely to include:

- Unacceptable levels of disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- Neighbour disputes and anti-social behaviour by adults.
- A small number of people who are repeatedly victimised.
- A small number of offenders who are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime.

6.22 A substantial part of the answer lies in good policing. But local authorities, which have been taking ever greater account of community safety issues in all of their work, also have a vital role to play. Education departments can work with persistent truants and excluded pupils. Youth offender teams work with persistent young offenders. Housing services can put in place sensitive allocations policies to avoid concentrations of disadvantaged or vulnerable people and enforce tenancy conditions to tackle neighbour nuisance or racial harassment. They can provide sensitive policies and services for women who have experienced domestic violence.

Crime Reduction

6.20 Of all the issues which affect the immediate health of a neighbourhood, none is as important as crime and the fear of crime. In general, crime and fear of crime is lower in the south than in the north of the country. Low crime helps maintain the attractiveness, and economic strength of the region. Yet, perversely, a side effect of prosperity has been an increase in crime across most of the South East.

6.21 Throughout the region, Community Safety Partnerships have audited crime in their areas and prepared crime reduction strategies. In general,

6.23 Together with planning departments, they can improve the security and design of new buildings. Authorities can help put in place media strategies to challenge damaging public images of high crime neighbourhoods. They can work with local businesses to reduce their costs from crime and improve safety for staff and customers and work with transport providers to improve public safety. There are other examples, such as community based neighbourhood watch schemes.

6.24 Community Strategies and LSPs offer a chance to build on the work that has been done. We will look to LSPs to

provide effective joint working, improved information sharing between agencies and to plan and manage community safety activity across their areas and in local neighbourhood renewal areas in particular.

6.25 For our part, where there are effective Crime Reduction Partnerships or LSPs GOSE will:

- Integrate Crime Reduction Programme funding with other regional and national funding for development and regeneration.
- Give project management support to major crime reduction programme towns in areas such as Thanet and Brighton.
- Invite proposals from Crime Reduction Partnerships throughout the region, not just pronounced hot spots, which balance expenditure against crimes reduced. This will allow crime reduction initiatives in areas where fear of crime is high, or rural areas, which have not previously qualified for funding from the Crime Reduction Programme.
- Help promote and support programmes to reduce racial discrimination and homophobia.
- Improve the level of crime statistics held within GOSE, and share this information among regional bodies and local partnerships.
- Help with the part-funded, phased modernisation of CCTV equipment in a few major urban centres where the existing technology is old, gives poor quality images, is expensive to maintain and does not cover recently-developed parts of the town.

Education and Skills

6.26 The figures are stark. 1.064 million people in the South East lack basic literacy or numeracy skills. Adults with poor basic skills are five times more likely to be unemployed than those with average skills. Soft skills – such as the capacity to interact with customers and workers, enthusiasm and dependability – are of obvious importance. Under-developed skills are all too easily linked to poor quality jobs, and unemployment, and poor general health and depression. A prosperous and fair society, in which all individuals have an opportunity to fulfil their potential, cannot be achieved with such large numbers of people needing to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

6.27 Much can be done at an early age to improve life chances:

- Schools succeeding against the odds suggest the importance of leadership, a vision of success, improved physical environment and common expectations about pupil behaviour.
- Pre-school and early childhood interventions, such as Sure Start, work well.
- Healthy schools initiative and breakfast clubs can help attainment, attendance and reduce bullying.
- Family literacy and numeracy programmes increase the active support parents give their children and their schools as they develop their own skills.
- The Children's Fund targeted at 5-13 year olds at risk of social exclusion and disadvantage will provide further support as it comes on stream.

- Local authority members can focus on attainment of their Council's looked after children.
- More information on learning opportunities that are available.
- Role models in learning need to be found.

Action Example

Thanet Basic Skills Project

- Product of interagency working involving Kent County Council schools and youth and community divisions, Thanet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Thanet NHS, East Kent Social Services, East Kent Voluntary Services, Thanet District Council, Kent Careers Service and Thanet College, closely working with the Employment Service and Thanet Community Development Corporation.
- Strategic plan 2000-2005 aims to improve achievement of children and adults in Thanet by increasing the quality, coherence and sustainability of provision through an innovative community based multi-agency approach.

Case Studies

"Storysacks" at Thanet College

A "storysack" is a large cloth bag which contains, amongst other things, a good quality young child's picture/story book and a non-fiction book which is linked to the story, e.g. "Red Riding Hood" and a book on baby wolves, how they develop, what they eat, where they live. The "sack" will eventually also contain soft toys and props which the child and reader can handle and enjoy as the story is being read.

The aims are to give parents the confidence to enjoy books and reading together with their child, and to encourage children in their reading development and enjoyment of books. As not everyone finds it easy to read stories, the sacks offer valuable support to parents as they and their child will be able to see, touch and talk about the items together. The child can be encouraged to think about words and so increase their general knowledge and develop their reading skills.

This initiative has proved very popular at a number of schools and pre-school playgroups. The intention is that the number of "sacks" will grow into a library at each school and playgroup.

Newington and Northwood Young Parents Scheme

This is a project run by Kent Adult Education Service catering for young parents from disadvantaged backgrounds from the Newington area of Ramsgate. It caters for around fifteen students, mostly women whose education was interrupted when they started families. Students can follow courses in basic English and Maths on two mornings: all students took AEB/AQA Achievement tests in Numeracy and Literacy and subsequently the following year, achieving good results both times.

One to one English support is also available for students who are not yet ready to move to the main group. Three students were able to move into jobs, and two others are starting at college.

For further information on the projects contact:

Jenny Gartland on 01843 583553
or e-mail: tbsp@lineone.net

6.28 From early years, throughout life, the aim is clear:

- To excite people to learn and raise achievement levels across the South East.
- We want to enhance pre16 and post 16 learning opportunities to give local people the skills, self-confidence and achievement they need to develop enterprise and innovation and access employment opportunities.

6.29 For those with basic or low level skills the barriers can often include:

- The cost of learning (or travel).
- Fear of or lack of access to IT.
- Inflexible and overly academic courses.
- The lack of childcare facilities.
- Lack of role models.
- Poor experience of education as children.

6.30 The solutions are many and varied. But:

- We all want to engage the energy, expertise and commitment of all partners to tackle the basic skills problem in the South East.
- GOSE and SEEDA want to promote key skills, employability and basic skills as indispensable passports to personal success.
- GOSE will develop a regional framework for local action to improve literacy and numeracy skills levels in the region by creating a thorough, high quality literacy and numeracy skills learning infrastructure and by engaging potential learners through every possible means.

- GOSE will want to ensure that LSPs and others working in areas of disadvantage are aware of local literacy and numeracy skills needs and how they can best be addressed.
- GOSE wants to encourage local Learning and Skills Councils and further and higher education colleges to play a full part in all local strategic partnerships covering areas containing wards in the South East among the most deprived 10% in the country.
- GOSE will ensure that best practice from early years initiatives such as Surestart, the Children's Fund, and Quality Protects Programme is shared across the region.
- GOSE wants to work with Further and Higher Education Institutions to maximise their potential contribution to the community and regeneration and in ensuring access for disadvantaged people.
- GOSE wants to pilot work to co-ordinate the support available to schools in deprived communities from a range of initiatives.
- We all want to work with LSPs to support the establishment of single service schools where health, social care and education are provided in the same building.
- GOSE wants to work with local Connexions Partnerships to ensure that young people receive the specialist support they need including appropriate careers advice and guidance.
- The Social Care Regional Office wants to support local authorities in achieving their Quality Projects Target for boosting the educational attainment of looked after children.

6.31 And we will want to encourage local partners to:

- Develop inclusive access to IT and high quality literacy and numeracy provision through outreach and mobile centres and provision in neighbourhood learning and community centres such as those provided by UK on-line.
- Develop peer training groups and identify and support local learning champions.
- Resource voluntary/community groups to ensure provision meets need and is appropriately designed, delivered and located (often away from educational establishments).
- Identify the particular needs of black and minority ethnic groups.
- Improve homework facilities for children as needed.
- Develop facilities for pupils with behaviour difficulties and school based programmes to reduce exclusions.
- Fund childcare to allow parents to develop their skills or take up employment.

Enterprise

“Generating an active private sector in deprived communities is a vital dimension to tackling exclusion.”¹⁶

6.32 It is also one of the most difficult. As the Assembly’s report recognised, past business support strategies have failed to support entrepreneurship in deprived areas. Yet unless business is attracted to, and remains in, currently

deprived areas, the chances of neighbourhood renewal are much diminished. Business can help promote employment and prosperity. It can foster a culture of innovation. It helps encourage investment in the skills of local people.

6.33 There are new opportunities to exploit:

- The Small Business Service will co-ordinate their regional strategy with SEEDA with the aim of providing social enterprise with the necessary quality business support and training.
- The Small Business Service regional team, SEEDA and Business Links will work closely to address the social agenda. Social enterprises have an important role to play in the UK to support sustainable economic and social regeneration and provide for a diverse national economy. Social enterprise is an umbrella term for organisations that achieve a variety of social aims predominantly, but not necessarily exclusively, by trading in goods and services. They are competitive businesses, which often will have invented innovative ways of meeting local needs. They have proved to be a very effective way of developing, then channelling, the skills and talents of diverse groups into producing the services and products – from new technologies to housing management, and from manufacturing to credit unions.
- Business Links recognise the need to support these businesses and to encourage and assist their formation and all social investment strategies should include provision for social enterprise development.

¹⁶ Assembly Select Committee Report, p11.

6.34 We will want the SBS and private sector companies to be influential in Local Strategic Partnerships to identify and create opportunities for local enterprise to flourish.

These might include:

- Advice and guidance for new and existing enterprises, including social enterprises.
- Targeted business development and support in deprived communities.
- Increasing the number of business start-up and move-on units.
- Encouraging employers to use local labour and supply chains.
- Promoting business participation in community regeneration.
- Improving care and childcare facilities so that local people can better access employment opportunities.
- Developing strategies for keeping money, business and skills in neighbourhoods with high unemployment and deprivation.
- Encouraging entrepreneurship at all levels of education.
- Influencing the use of venture capital funds to meet neighbourhood renewal requirements.
- Supporting capital investment to create sustainable businesses and jobs in deprived areas.
- Businesses investing in the skills and education of young people in the most deprived areas.

6.35 To help this process we will:

- (Following a national pilot) SEEDA will fund a number of cities and towns in the region which have

strong business representation on their LSPs to develop growth strategies, which will map their urban business base and build detailed plans for business growth.

- SEEDA will explore the scope for developing a regional give as you earn scheme, as recommended by the Assembly, that directs local charitable donations through the payroll to local charities, so helping long term community investment.
- Examine the key problems of adequate funding for business involvement in deprived communities for social enterprise.

Action Example

Brighton & Hove Business Community Partnership

Brighton & Hove Business Community Partnership was established in 1996 under Brighton & Hove Council's Regeneration programme. The Partnership was the idea of the locally based company Family Assurance and Chief Executive of the Council. A steering group was set up comprising representatives from the business, the voluntary, statutory and community sectors and the public sector. The business members represented national and local companies. The main aim is to encourage more businesses to support community projects and emphasis the benefits of partnerships to all sectors in the community.

Business in the Community (BiTC) was awarded a contract by Brighton & Hove Council, under the Single Regeneration Budget, to manage the work of the partnership. The Partnership brings together the skills and resources of the business, public

and voluntary sectors to maximise their value to the social and economic environment of Brighton & Hove.

Recent activities include

- 110 staff from BT Corporate Relations team completing 7 community challenges including clearing a wood for the Horse and Pony Rescue Centre, building a winter wood shelter and office for the wood recycling project and redecorating the dining hall for Hamilton Lodge School for Deaf Children.
- Two teams from Family Assurance completed “Operation Mini-Beast” – a challenge to transform an unused part of St Mary Magdalene’s School playground into a nature area where children can observe plants and insects in a safe and educational environment.
- A team from BUPA International completed a scrub management and downland restoration for the Friend’s of Devil’s Dyke – an area of outstanding natural beauty.

In four years the Partnership has:

- Brokered £600,000 in kind support.
- Involved over 80 business and 100 voluntary/community organisations.
- In excess of 270 relationships brokered.

For more information contact
The Partnership on 01273 770075
or e-mail: brighton@bitc.org.uk

Health

6.36 Health inequalities in the region are profound.¹⁷ On almost all the measures of mortality and illness, incidence among the poorest people in the region is up to 2 or in some case 3 times higher than among the most affluent.¹⁸

6.37 These inequalities cannot be solved by any one organisation. 70% of the determinants of people’s health are outside the NHS realm. The Assembly noted that it seemed that those in greatest need of health services had the least access to them and that poor physical or mental health prevented social and economic participation.

6.38 The links between health and other forms of social deprivation are close and profound, as the following examples show:

- Good nourishment and emotional support in early childhood is important in laying the foundations of adult health. A good diet is important for health and well-being. Access to good affordable food makes more difference to what people eat than health education. Lone mothers eat smaller quantities of important vitamins, minerals and energy food than mothers with spouses.
- A variety of groups are at risk of exclusion. This is not just a matter for black and minority ethnic groups or disabled people but includes people who are emotionally vulnerable, and people with physical disabilities or mental health problems, who often have difficulty

¹⁷ *Health inequalities in the South East Region.*

¹⁸ *The exceptions are melanoma and breast cancer, elderly emergency admissions and road traffic accidents.*

gaining an adequate education or earning a living. Disabled children are most likely to live in poverty. People living on the streets suffer the highest rates of premature death. Teenage pregnancy is associated with increased risk of poor social, economic and health outcomes for both mother and child. Among the whole population, there are higher than average rates of teenage pregnancies in the region's largest towns and cities. Lone parents and elderly people living alone may not have the social support others enjoy.

- Addiction – there is a connection between illicit drug use, alcohol dependence and smoking, with social and economic disadvantage. Early exposure to smoking, along with poor social and economic circumstances, present risks to a child's development. Drug addiction is common in the region and highest levels of drug misuse are in East Sussex (including Brighton & Hove) and South West Hampshire (including Southampton). Estimated deaths due to smoking are particularly high in Medway and Slough.
- Inequalities in access to health and social services.
- Fuel poverty – the likelihood of ill health, including influenza, heart disease and strokes, is increased by cold homes. The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy identified that the need to spend a large proportion of income on fuel could lead to poor diets and/or withdrawal from the community. Families with children, the disabled or those suffering from a long-term illness and older people are especially vulnerable. In the South East, almost 15% of households are in fuel poverty. We want to eradicate it from the region by 2010.

6.39 Some of the actions needed to address these inequalities are best taken by health agencies. But health inequalities are an integral part of exclusion and there is much scope for joint working, through LSPs, through the development of Health Improvement Programmes, the development of health promotion interventions within the context of local settings, e.g. schools, work places, hospitals, clinics, community centres, neighbourhoods and the work of associate Health Action Zones in North Kent, Slough, Southampton, Portsmouth, Oxford, Brighton, Hastings, Isle of Wight and Thanet.

6.40 These actions include:

- More support for families with young children, including encouraging greater community participation, increased activity to reduce the fear of crime and promoting coping skills in education services and rehabilitation processes following health care.
- Introducing pre-school programmes to improve reading and stimulate development and increasing opportunities for educational attainment at all ages.
- Encouraging the uptake of benefits, reducing barriers to local services, encouraging neighbourhood social support systems and providing good relationship and sex education at school.
- The development of treatment services, education of young people, and tighter controls to reduce drug, alcohol and tobacco use.
- The more widespread availability of high quality, fresh (local) food.
- Better preventative services, such as counselling for young people and

advice to older people to reduce accidents at home. The services need to be non-judgemental, supportive and these may need to be dedicated access points to health services.

- The provision of key worker housing for nurses and other key public sector workers (health bodies and local authorities have a role in harnessing their own land resources to meet housing need).
- Increased NHS awareness and sensitivity to the needs of people from black and minority ethnic groups, including more culturally appropriate service provisions and availability of translated material.
- More home support for older people, together with rapid intervention of a preventative nature and recuperation after a period in hospital. These services are often under-developed and under threat given labour market constraints in the South East. Businesses of the kind that are needed to provide social services are in their infancy and are often poorly linked to training provision. These constraints are experienced through ever-increasing short term pressures.

6.41 To help this process NHS SERO will:

- Provide dedicated support to ensure that health inequality issues are integral to the development of Local Strategic Partnerships.
- Through workforce planning ensure that community development skills and methods form part of the education and training of policy makers and practitioners.
- Develop further the concept of Health Impact and Health

Inequality Impact assessment in order to assess the potential health impacts - both positive and negative, of regional and local policies, programmes and projects.



Do you agree with the main infrastructure issues as detailed in this chapter? Anything major that you feel has been omitted please detail.



Do you feel that the commitments being undertaken by the organisations will help address the issues as stated?



What scope is there for further commitment?

7 Bringing it Together

The Way We Work

7.1 At the regional level, all the regional partners who have signed this document are pledged to working together to help make the priorities happen. We cannot deliver alone. We will need the help of other public sector agencies.

7.2 But public sector agencies cannot deliver in isolation. We want to aim for a common agenda, understood at regional to community level, which can only be delivered if there is effective communication, networking and information flows. There are obvious difficulties of joining together regional and local priorities so as to ensure that a number of diverse community plans and strategies from different towns and cities across the region with differing priorities receive the much needed regional co-ordination to ensure that funds are spent effectively to reduce social exclusion.

7.3 That is why we began by emphasising in this Statement the importance of working together. And that is why we have agreed the following principles which we would want to see to the fore in any regeneration partnership in which we are engaged:

- Strong community involvement – as decision makers on any partnership, with budgets for community capacity building and community development. Success should be measured in the development of residents' skills and their perceptions of change.
- Private sector involvement – we want to create opportunities which

release skills in the private sector to work in communities to develop social capital, support voluntary and community organisations and social entrepreneurs.

- A clear vision of the future – to help everyone work towards an agreed outcome, to avoid focus on inputs and outputs.
- Clear objectives – to turn the vision into reality and against which progress can be measured.
- A commitment to working in partnership from all involved.

Priority Areas

7.4 However, partnership and joint working needs to lead to a reduction in inequalities across the region. We shall, therefore, give particular attention and support to the areas experiencing the greatest deprivation and inequalities. These are:

- Hastings and Thanet – the two most deprived areas of the region.
- Ashford, Brighton, Havant, Dover, Isle of Wight, Oxford, Maidstone and Southampton – where there are severe pockets of deprivation in individual neighbourhoods.
- Portsmouth – where are many deprived wards and where levels of child poverty within the region are at their most acute.
- Reading and Crawley – where lack of education and skill attainment are particular issues.

- Slough – where there are severe concentrations of poor housing.
- Shepway – where there are underlying trends of decline, where early action makes sense and preventative work would avoid more difficult – and expensive – remedial action later.
- Dartford, Gravesham, Medway, Swale and Milton Keynes – to ensure that existing local communities are enabled to take advantage of future opportunities associated with growth.
- Sussex coast – in places such as Arun (where there are issues of low income and poor health,) Rother (low employment and poor health), Worthing (health) and Adur and Lewes (education).
- Pockets of deprivation – such as wards in Wycombe and Woking with particularly poor housing and Aylesbury (education).

Communities of Interest

7.5 While there is a strong geographical focus to social exclusion, notably in wards or at a smaller level still, there is another dimension too. Some groups of people are more likely to be vulnerable to exclusion than others, notably:

- Young people in need, particularly those in public care;
- Older people;
- Black and ethnic minorities; and
- Disabled people.

The needs of these groups may not always be met from within their own area unless special support is put in

place. This is not to say that identical support needs to be provided in each area. Local Strategic Partnerships will have the key role in ensuring that appropriate support for particular groups occurs to meet local needs. At the regional level, we will want to work with representatives from these communities of interest, to highlight issues of mutual interest and to increase awareness and understanding of local good practice. One of the themed meetings each year will be dedicated to issues around one of these communities of interest.

Young People

7.6 As the Assembly recognised, we need to start young on active citizenship. Future outcomes can be strongly influenced by a focus on children and young people. The capacity of tomorrow's communities will be affected by the social inclusion of today's young people. Local partnerships should aim to engage young people in discussion, planning and the implementation of outcomes that they have identified as solutions to their problems. For our part, we will want to involve young people in the work of Connexions and Children's Fund Partnerships throughout the region. Over time, we will want the participation and achievement of young people at risk (including young people with learning disabilities) to converge with their peers. We will also want to ensure that the life chances of disabled children are maximised, through educational opportunities and health and social care and that they, and their parents, receive comprehensive and culturally appropriate information about services on a multi-agency basis, from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

Action Example

The Medway Youth Parliament

aims to represent all young people in Medway, to respond to issues affecting them, to inform and influence decision makers and to inform young people about progress on issues raised and about their responsibilities and rights. It can be contacted through Peter Sargison or Jackie Keskeys on 01634 854784 or e-mail: medway_youth_parliament@hotmail.com

Older People

7.7 Growing older, of course, does not necessarily lead to exclusion. Increasingly, older people will have spending power. And they have skills and experience which their communities can use. Through the Community Champions' Fund, we will be supporting people over 50 to build on these skills and encourage them to help others to become more involved in the regeneration of their communities. However, they can be denied choice and lose their independence where appropriate services are lacking.

Local partners need to be aware that when elderly people are from an ethnic minority, are disabled or living in an area of deprivation they are more likely to experience exclusion. As a minimum, local authorities and partnerships need to ensure that the elderly have access to the services they need. In many cases, there will be a particular focus on ensuring that older people have safe, warm, housing (whether or not they are living in supported housing or in their own homes) and affordable, accessible, available and acceptable transport. We would also look to local partnerships to know how many older carers there

are in the local area, in order to plan services in partnership with them.

Black and Minority Ethnic Communities

7.8 As a region, we have not engaged sufficiently with black and minority ethnic communities. Although much good work has been done, we have failed to get enough regeneration projects led by people from ethnic minorities; failed to get enough people putting themselves forward in potential positions of influence and leadership; failed to provide good enough services to support the development and growth of BME businesses; and failed to provide people from minorities with the services they need. From a regional perspective, we will want to ensure therefore that funding in neighbourhood renewal and other areas fairly reflects the interests and needs of black and minority ethnic groups. We will also work to establish a strong regional voluntary/community sector network, to help inform our policies and practice, working with black and minority ethnic groups directly and through regional networks. We will also want to continue to concentrate on finding people from ethnic minority backgrounds to act as Community Champions.

Disabled People

7.9 We have recognised in earlier sections of this statement the needs of disabled people, for example on accessing transport. This section has identified particular issues around disabled younger and older people. More generally, we will encourage local authorities to enable people with learning difficulties to have as much choice and control as possible over

their lives. This can be achieved by, among other means, advocacy and advice and direct payments. It can also be achieved through better service provision, such as increasing the range and choice of housing so that disabled people can live as independently as possible, and increasing access to education and lifelong learning in order to promote greater independence and employment opportunities. We will also want to ensure that social and health care staff working with people with learning disabilities are appropriately skilled, trained and qualified. Local Learning Disability Partnership Boards will need to be established to take responsibility for the delivery of services to improve the support given to people with learning disabilities.

7.10 These issues are faced by people in urban and rural areas alike. But we are very much aware that because issues of rural exclusion can often be dispersed, and as a consequence hidden, we will be encouraging and supporting the early formation of a Local Strategic Partnership in a predominantly rural area (East Hampshire) to help us identify the issues facing rural areas and promote lessons and good practice learned, particularly in service delivery, around the region.

7.11 Wherever people are, in town or country, in a deprived ward or an otherwise affluent area, excluded people are vulnerable to isolation and stigmatisation. We want to end this – for its own sake. But it is also the case that the South East cannot endlessly import its labour needs. Unless we have a trained workforce, that is able to access work easily (by IT or transport), economic growth will be held back and the environment harmed. Social, physical and economic development needs to take place in parallel. In some

cases, the starting point for individuals may be basic literacy and numeracy skills rather than customer focus and computer programming.

But the goals are the same for everyone:

- the enhancement of individuals through the development of their skills;
- local pride in their communities and the achievements of people living in them.



Do you concur with the principles that the partners have agreed should be at the fore of any regeneration partnership (as detailed at the beginning of the chapter)?



Has sufficient detail been captured about Communities of Interest?



Are the Action Examples as detailed throughout the document helpful and interesting?

Monitoring Progress

We need to be able to measure whether social inclusion in the region is getting better. Here is how we propose to do it.¹⁹

Objectives	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Source
1 To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	<p>a Homelessness (number of homeless per 1000 adult population, including homeless applicants accepted by local authority and those in temporary accommodation, and rough sleepers)</p> <p>b Percentage of region's overall housing stock (rent and buy) that is affordable</p> <p>c Number of unfit homes in private sector housing</p> <p>d Percentage of household overcrowding</p>	<i>To be completed</i>	<i>To be set</i>	<p>DTLR</p> <p>SEEDA draft</p> <p>Index of Local Deprivation</p> <p>Index of Local Deprivation</p>
2 To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health	<p>a Percentage of births of low birth weight (under 2.5kg)</p> <p>b Total conceptions for 18s per 1,000 females under 18 years</p> <p>c Standardised mortality rates per 1,000 population in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cancer in under 75s - circulatory diseases in under 75s 			<p>Inequalities and Health</p> <p>Department of Health</p> <p>Health Authority</p>

¹⁹ These indicators have been developed by RAISE, taking the indicators in the Assembly's Sustainable Development Framework as the starting point.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accidents - suicides <p>d Percentage of people experiencing difficulty in accessing health services</p> <p>e Percentage of randomly selected group saying they were broadly happy with their health and well-being</p> <p>f Better health outcomes for looked after children</p>			<p>Additional Best Value Performance Indicator survey questions or additional research commissioned by SEEDA (possibly via Skills Insight)</p> <p>DH Performance Assessment Framework</p>
3 To reduce poverty and close the gap between the poorest communities and the rest	<p>a Proportion of children under 16 who live in households where families claim means-tested benefits (income support, income-based job seeker's allowance, family credit, disability working allowance)</p> <p>b Percentage of households receiving less than half region's average income</p> <p>c Reduction in percentage of households experiencing fuel poverty</p>			<p>DTLR - Supplementary Child Poverty Index</p> <p>Library of Local Performance Indicators (from 2002) DTLR</p>
4 To stimulate economic revival in priority regeneration areas	<p>a Start-up and survival rates of credit unions and social enterprises in priority regeneration areas</p> <p>b Percentage increase or decrease in the number of local jobs in priority regeneration areas over the financial year</p>			<p>Library of Local Performance Indicators</p> <p>NOMIS</p>

	c Business start-ups and survival rates in deprived areas (Ratio of VAT registrations)			IDBR\DTI
5 To raise levels in learning and skills (including achievement) and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed for fulfillment throughout life: particularly those need to find and remain in work	<p>a Percentage of region's adult population engaged in learning</p> <p>b Working age adults without qualifications</p> <p>c Adults without basic literacy and numeracy skills</p> <p>d Increase the percentage of pupils obtaining 5 or more GCSEs at A-C grade</p> <p>e Improved educational qualifications, participation rates, training and employment rate for looked after children</p>			<p>DfES</p> <p>DfES</p> <p>DfES</p> <p>DfES</p> <p>DH Performance Assessment Framework</p>
6 To reduce crime and the fear of crime	<p>a level of crime</p> <p>b fear of crime</p> <p>c reduce rate of final warnings and convictions for looked after children</p>			<p>SEEDA draft</p> <p>SEEDA draft</p> <p>DH Performance Assessment Framework</p>
7 To ensure access to decent services, activities and opportunities	a Based on additional BVPI survey question. Ease in getting to the following using your usual form of transport: corner shop, medium to large supermarket, post office, doctor, local hospital, publicly accessible green space, public transport facility, recycling facility, leisure facilities (library, museum, art gallery, theatre, sports centre, etc.)			Additional Best Value Performance Indicator question

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b Spending on travel (poorest relative to middle income) c Percentage of people who have been actively involved with at least one community or voluntary organisation in last the 12 months d Number of childcare places per 1,000 population e Number of computer terminals available with Internet access per household 			<p>New Policy Institute</p> <p>Additional Best Value Performance Indicator question</p> <p>DfES</p> <p>Family Expenditure Survey Office for National Statistics</p>
8 To reduce social exclusion, isolation and discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Incidents of racial/sexual attacks b Percentage of randomly selected group saying they had had no face-to-face contact for the previous 24 hours c Levels of ethnic minority unemployment d Percentage reduction in turnover of population in priority areas e Reduced rate of admissions of older people to residential and nursing care f Reduce the level of delayed discharges from hospital and emergency admissions g Reduce the level of emerging psychiatric admissions 			<p>Home Office</p> <p>Based on additional Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) survey question or additional research commissioned by SEEDA (possibly via Skills Insight)</p> <p>DH Performance Assessment Framework</p> <p>DH Performance Assessment Framework</p> <p>DH Performance Assessment Framework</p>



Are the indicators proposed the most appropriate to be using?

Will they act as the correct measure in determining our effectiveness in reducing social exclusion?



What information do you hold that could help with setting the baselines?



Please offer views on where you feel the target for indicators should be set.

Endpiece

9.1 In a Statement of this kind it has not been possible to include all the issues that have been raised during the consultation process. We recognise that we may well have neglected to mention issues in this Statement which some groups hold very dear to their hearts. For this we apologise.



How useful do you find the document?

How convinced are you that the Statement will make a difference?

9.2 But the Statement is the first of its kind, rather than the last word. Over the next year or two we will be setting up of the themed discussions, referred to in section 3 of the text. We hope and expect the links between regional, local and community levels to grow stronger as a result of the commitments expressed here and through the work of Local Strategic and other Partnerships.



Should we seek to prepare a successor version in, say, two years time?

9.3 We hope this Statement will achieve the aim of setting out a regional framework for social inclusion. To help our thinking about future developments, we would particularly welcome views during consultation.

Annex A

National Targets

Jobs	Increase employment rates of 30 local authority districts with the poorest labour market conditions and narrow the gap between these and the overall rate.
Jobs	Generate more sustainable enterprise in deprived areas.
Jobs	Increase the employment rates of disabled people, lone parents, ethnic minorities and over-55s, and narrow the gap between these rates and the overall rate.
Jobs	Improve the economic performance of all regions, measured by the trend growth in each region's GDP per capita.
Crime	Reduce domestic burglary by 25%, with no local authority district having a rate more than 3 times the national average (by 2005).
Education	Reduce to zero the number of local education authorities (LEAs) where fewer than x % of pupils achieve the expected standards of literacy and numeracy [x to be set in 2001].
Education	Increase the % of pupils obtaining 5 or more GCSEs at A*- C, with at least 38% to achieve this standard in every LEA, and at least 25% in every school.
Health	To develop targets in 2001 to narrow the health gap in childhood and throughout life between socio-economic groups and between the most deprived areas and the rest of the country.
Housing	Reduce by 33% the number of households living in non-decent social housing, with most improvement in the most deprived local authority areas, as part of a comprehensive regeneration strategy, by 2004.
Environment	Improve air quality in the most deprived areas so that it meets the objectives and targets prescribed in the Government's Air Quality strategy in line with the dates set out in the strategy.

Annex B

Local Strategic Partnerships

The idea behind LSPs is a very simple one – that the voluntary and community sectors should come together with the public and private in a simple overarching local co-ordination framework which:

- Enables priorities to be set and services aligned.
- Brings those who deliver or commission services together with those for whom the services are provided.
- Ensures other local partnerships know how they fit into the wider picture, and allows local partners to move to simpler structures where it makes sense to do so.

Membership should include:

- Residents and community groups.
- Voluntary organisations.
- Faith communities.
- Private sector and business organisations.
- Local councillors.
- Representatives from various public sector organisations, including, as appropriate:
 - The local authority.
 - The local learning and skills council.
 - Education and training providers.
 - Registered social landlords.
 - The Health Authority of Primary Care Trusts/Groups.
 - The police and fire services.
 - The police authority.

- The Employment Service and New Deal Partnerships.
- The Benefits Agency.
- The Small Business Service.
- The Regional Development Agency.
- The Community Legal Service Partnerships.
- Drug Action Teams.
- The Government Office.

In the context of neighbourhood renewal, the key task of the LSP is to prepare a local neighbourhood renewal strategy which:

- Sets out an agreed vision and plan for positive change in as many neighbourhoods as are in need of renewal;
- Has the agreement and commitment of all the key people and institutions who have a stake in the neighbourhood, or an impact on it; and
- Clearly sets out a local strategic level framework for action that responds to neighbourhood needs and puts them in the context of the area as a whole.

Taken from “A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal”, pages 44 – 46.

Annex C

Roles and Responsibilities

This annex is under preparation and will be included in the final version

Annex D

The Scale of the Problem

The Index of Local Deprivation 2000

Identifies the relative deprivation of wards in the South East under 6 separate headings²⁰, together with an aggregated index.

The Index confirms that many coastal towns in the region contain significant pockets of deprivation. There are 7 wards in the South East which are among the 5% most deprived in the country. All but 2 of these wards are in coastal towns. There are 29 wards among the 10% most deprived. 22 are on the coast. 12 alone are in Hastings and Thanet.

Although the underlying causes of this deprivation are complex, there are particular issues in these 2 districts around low income, low employment and poor health. Although both areas have been identified as priority areas for funding in recent years, the problems are deep-rooted. Deprivation in both areas increased significantly between 1991 and 1996. Both deteriorated further between 1996 and 1999 – Hastings sharply and Thanet slightly. Both contain wards with high levels of child poverty.

There are notably deprived wards outside major towns in other coastal areas:

Folkestone;
Dover;
Swale; and
Isle of Wight.

But it would be a mistake to think that deprivation in the South East is solely an issue for the coast. Rural areas are experiencing problems as the agricultural employment base is in decline and there is less work available for the local population. Housing in rural areas is being bought by people who do not work locally, so reducing the amount of affordable housing for local people and leading to a decline in village life as local shops and services are required less. This can lead to isolation and social exclusion, particularly for the economically inactive. In one part of the region, East Kent, the closure of the coalfields in an otherwise isolated rural area has left a particularly deep legacy of derelict land, redundant buildings and social scars.

And the South East's largest towns and cities also contain some of its most deprived neighbourhoods.

There are wards in:

Brighton;
Southampton;
Portsmouth;
Milton Keynes; and
Maidstone,

which are among the worst 10% in the country. The worst child poverty in the region is in a ward in Portsmouth. The poorest ward for education and skills is in Brighton. The poorest housing conditions and overcrowding are in Slough.

The index also identifies pockets of deprivation in otherwise apparently prosperous areas. 2 of the most deprived wards in the region are in:

Havant;
Ashford.

²⁰ The headings are income, employment, health, housing, education (including skills and training), accessibility and child poverty. See Annex F for maps and further details of the most deprived wards in the region under each of these headings.

As the Assembly's Select Committee report noted, the fact that there is no critical mass of deprivation in an area does diminish the experience of social exclusion for those who are excluded. In fact, it can aggravate it, since there is less overall demand for public transport or community health and social facilities.

In addition, the region contains areas of significant growth potential, most notably in the Thames Gateway. In these areas, and any others which may undergo expansion in the future (for example Ashford and Milton Keynes are both identified in Regional Planning Guidance as potential growth areas), it will be essential that existing communities, some of which, as we have seen, contain notable levels of deprivation, feel that they have the opportunities to benefit from the area's physical and economic growth.

If we look separately at the 6 domains which go towards the overall index, we can see that:

- **Low income**
and reliance on benefits, is a particular issue for the region's smaller coastal towns. Of the 31 wards in the South East among the worst 10% nationally for income, 22 are in coastal areas.
- **Employment**
deprivation is even more keenly felt around the coast. There are 32 wards in the South East among the worst 10% on this indicator. 29 are in coastal areas.
- **Health**
deprivation and disability is again most pronounced in coastal areas. Although there are just 16 wards among the 10%, 14 belong to the coast.
- **Education, skills and training**
attainment is an area in which the South East underperforms. There are 80 wards among the national 10%. Nor is this just a coastal issue. There are particular issues for wards in Brighton, Havant, Reading, Oxford, Milton Keynes, Southampton,

Crawley and Dartford – and in some areas generally perceived to be prosperous.

- **Household**
overcrowding and homelessness and poor quality private sector housing is another major issue for the region - 81 wards are among the worst 10%. 6 of the worst 8 wards are in Slough. Although many problems occur in the region's largest towns and cities, the problems are widespread.
- **Access**
to a post office, food shops, a GP or a primary school is another issue for the region. This aspect of deprivation focuses on people on benefits. Although access to services may not be such an issue for those who can afford to run their own transport, service accessibility is particularly poor in 94 wards in the region for those on low incomes. It is perhaps in these rural areas that individuals are most likely to feel isolated from the relative prosperity around them.

A supplementary Child Poverty Index, showing the percentage of children living in families claiming means tested benefits was also published.

There are 50 wards in the South East among the most deprived 10% in the country, mainly in the:

- region's larger towns:
Portsmouth;
Medway;
Southampton;
Brighton.
- smaller coastal areas:
Thanet;
Hastings;
Isle of Wight;
Dover.
- and other notable pockets of deprivation in:
Ashford;
Havant.

Crime

Although the South East is regarded as a relatively low crime area there are particular issues relating to high levels of crime in Brighton, Milton Keynes, Reading, Oxford, Portsmouth, Southampton, Slough and Hastings. People living in the South East experience lower levels of fear of crime than elsewhere in the country but it is still a real issue to be addressed.



Do you have any comments on the accuracy in the detail of the analysis of the situation in the South East?

Annex E

Documents

South East Documents

Building a World Class Region: An Economic Strategy for the South East of England

The Regional Economic Strategy, published by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) was published in 1999. It set out a number of programmes for the region, including sections on World Class Communities and Urban Renaissance and a World Class Rural Economy. The strategy identified 3 principal areas requiring regeneration – East Kent, Sussex Coast and the Isle of Wight - and the importance of the Thames Gateway.

The report is available from SEEDA or www.seeda.co.uk

Regional Planning Guidance (RPG9)

Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG 9) was published by GOSE in March 2001. The section on the Core Strategy for the region identified the following priority areas:

- The Thames Gateway, which should continue to be a focus of public and private investment in regeneration and growth.
- South Hampshire.
- Southampton and Portsmouth.
- The Isle of Wight.
- The Sussex coastal towns from Shoreham Harbour to Hastings.
- The former coalfields and coastal towns of East Kent.

In each case these priority areas would need strategies based on partnership, co-ordinated funding streams and be locally designed. RPG noted that strategies to tackle social exclusion should be based on communities' own assessment of their need and be inclusive in their implementation.

RPG is available from GOSE or www.gose.gov.uk

Report of the Social Inclusion Select Committee of the South East England Regional Assembly

The Report identified 22 findings and 19 recommendations, most of which have been referred to within this Statement.

For a full copy of the Select Committee's report, contact Assembly or www.southeast-ra.gov.uk

Inequalities and Health in the South East Region

This report, published by the Regional NHS Observatory, illustrates the links between poverty and ill health and between social exclusion and premature death. It promotes measures to tackle the root causes of ill health – not just the treatment of disease and injuries.

The report is available from Public Health Observatory, Old Road, Oxford, OX3 7LF .

The Regional Housing Statement

This Statement is published by the Housing Corporation South East and GOSE. It sets out housing objectives for the region, foremost of which is the provision of affordable housing, and sets a framework for the Corporation's investment priorities.

The Statement is available from the Kent Housing and Communities Team at GOSE or www.gose.gov.uk

Rural Development Plan

This plan, published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out how the European Rural Development Regulation will be used to promote and improve the countryside and to encourage sustainable enterprise and thriving rural communities.

For a full copy of the plan contact www.defra.gov.uk

Sustainable Development Framework

Published by the Assembly in 2001

Other documents referred to in this Statement

A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: National Strategy Action Plan

This action plan, published in January 2001, sets out the Government's strategy to tackle the problems in the country's poorest neighbourhoods.

Copies of the report are available from Tel: 020 7944 8383 or e-mail: neighbourhoodrenewal@dtlr.gov.uk

Urban Regeneration Through Partnership

This report, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Copies of the report are available from Tel: 01904 629241 or www.jrf.org.uk

The New Community Strategies –

How to Involve Local People

Published by the Community Development Foundation in December 2000.

Copies of the report are available from Tel: 020 7226 5375

Active Partners: Benchmarking Community Participation in Regeneration

Published by Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency for Yorkshire and the Humber. The document sets out 12 benchmarks for community participation, as a means of evaluating schemes.

It is available from www.yorkshire-forward.com

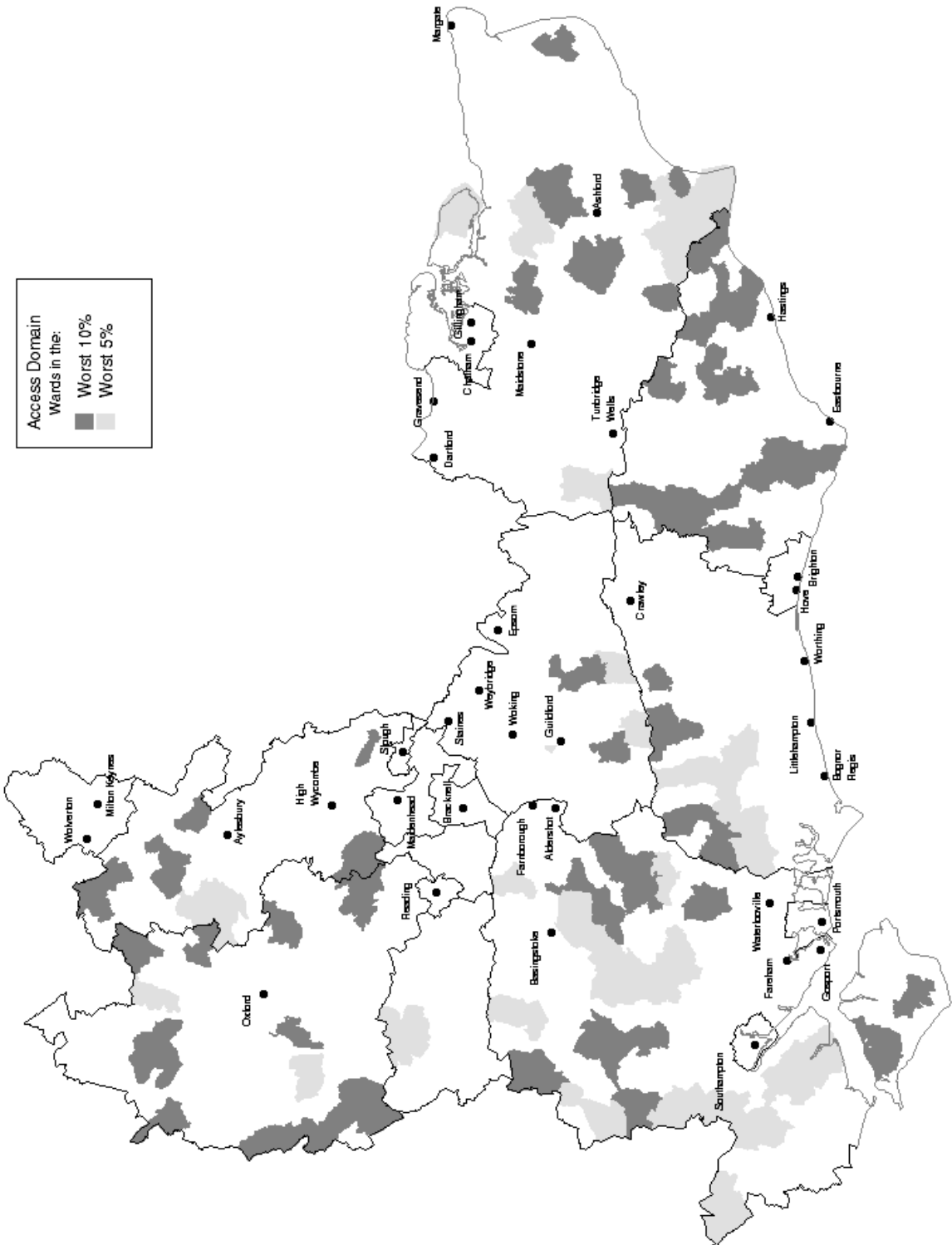
Guidance on Local Strategic Partnerships

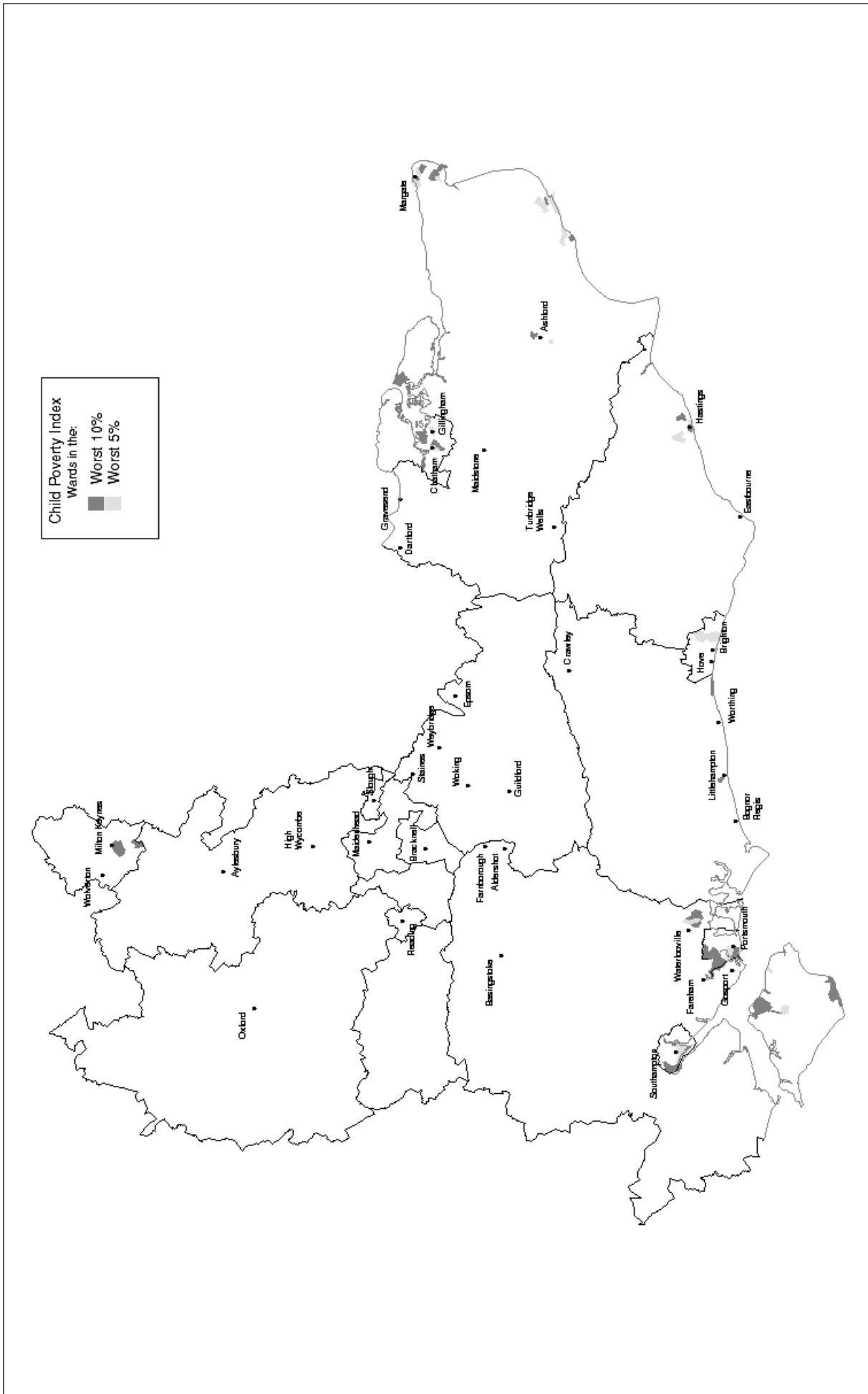
Published by the DETR in conjunction with other Government Departments. Essential reading for anyone involved in LSPs.

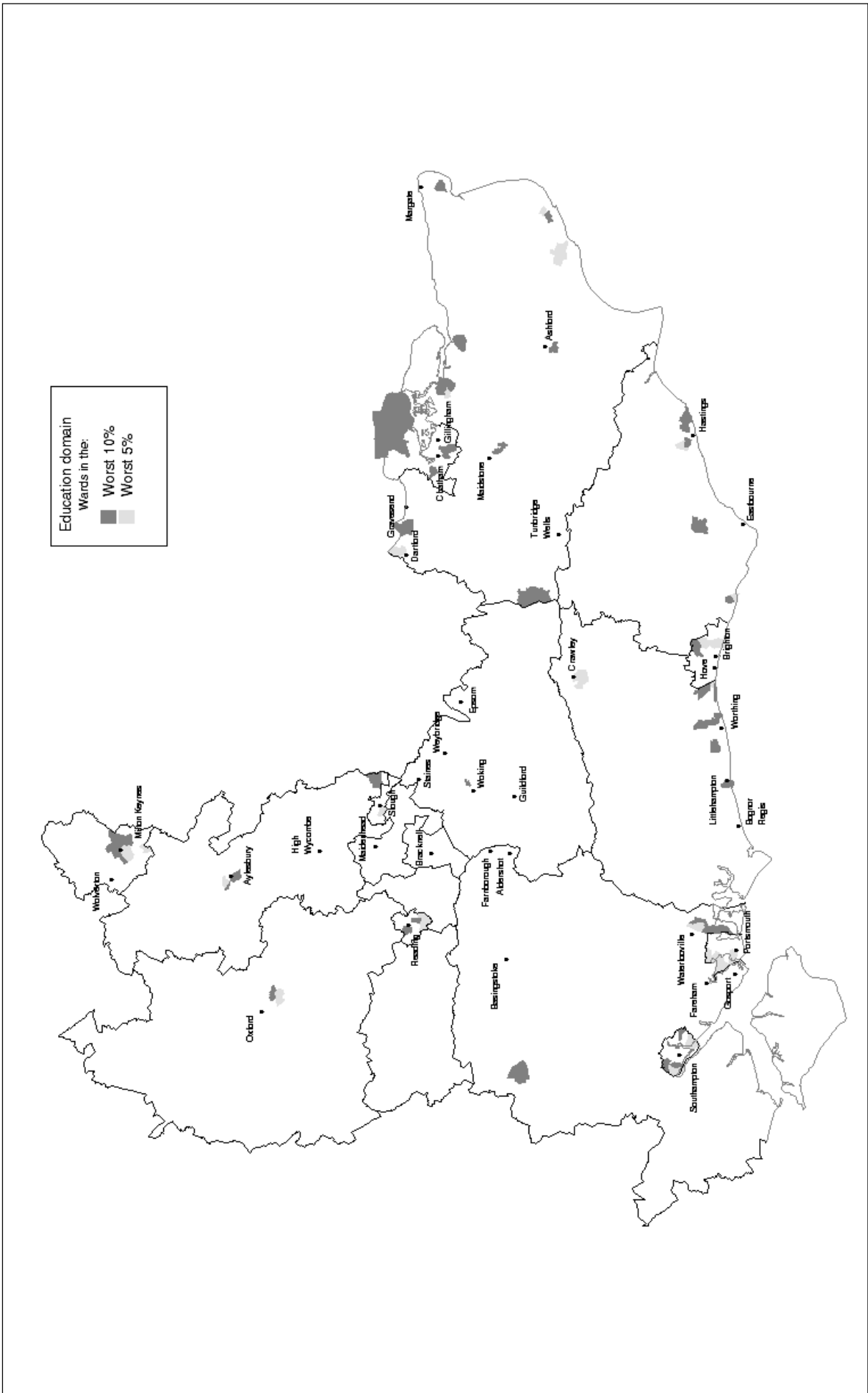
It is available from the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit in DTTR or www.regeneration.dtlr.gov.uk

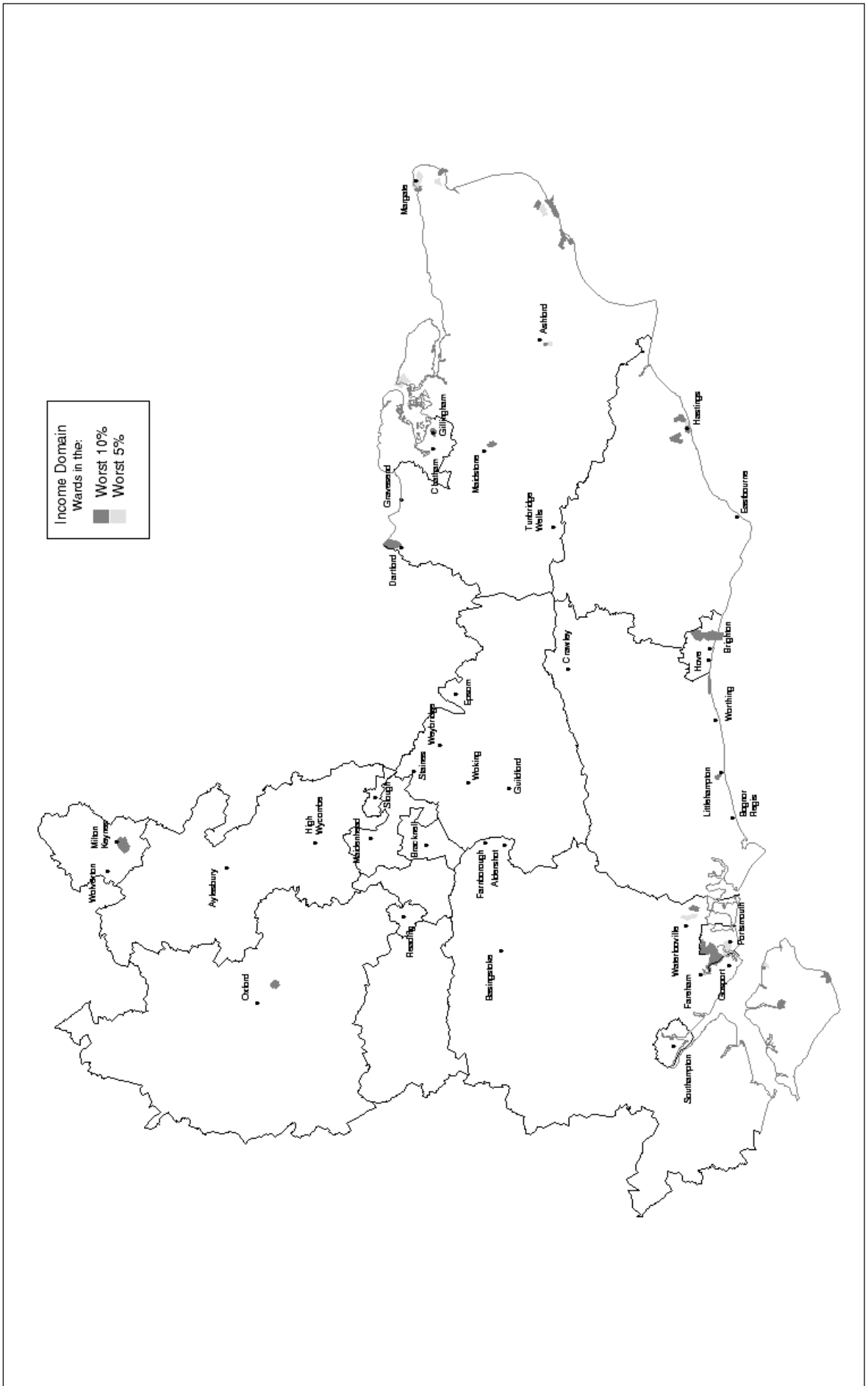
Annex F

Maps









Annex G

Definitions

Arts and Sports Councils	South East Arts and Southern Arts (independent bodies with their own boards) are responsible for arts development, funding and advice in our region. The regional office of Sport England plays a similar role for sport.
Benchmarks	Standards letting you seek good practice by comparing your performance against others’.
Breakfast clubs	Initiatives to allow parents to drop off their youngsters before school, and offer the children a meal and activities to engage them until formal school begins. Clubs receive funding from a variety of sources including New Opportunities Fund and parental contributions.
Children’s Fund	Intended to provide a flexible and responsive approach to meeting the needs and developing good practice for services to children aged 5 – 13 at risk of social exclusion, supporting them and their families in breaking the cycle of poverty and disadvantage. The fund is currently only available in Kent and Portsmouth.
Communities of Interest	Communities whose members have common needs or characteristics (such as ethnic origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation or interest) as opposed to communities defined geographically
Community Champions	The purpose of this government fund, worth £9 million over 3 years, is to support individuals who have already shown leadership in stimulating community activity, or who have ideas for encouraging greater community activity.
Community Development	A process of building active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect. It is about changing power structures to remove the barriers that prevent people from participating in the issues that affect their lives - (strategic framework for Community Development Standing Conference for Community Development 2001).
Community Development Foundation	A non-governmental public body providing support to regional community development initiatives and aiming to promote the principles of community development in a range of professional practices.

Community Foundations	Independent charities that raise new funds from a wide range of sources to build an endowment so as to make grants to small groups now and in perpetuity.
Community Safety Partnerships	See Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
Connexions	The Service offers all 13 – 19 year olds a full range of guidance and support to help them make a smooth transition to adult and working life. Young people will be at the heart of the service which they are helping to design and develop. It is bringing together a wide range of agencies to identify and remove barriers to learning, provide advice on the most appropriate education and training routes and help raise aspirations and tackle stereotypes.
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships	These partnerships, set up through the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, comprise local (or unitary) authorities, the police, police authorities, the probation service, health authorities and the community. They work together at district level to develop and implement strategies for reducing crime and disorder in the area. They audit crime and disorder in their areas, put together strategies and monitor the strategy's effectiveness. They are sometimes called Community Safety Partnerships.
Development Trusts	Community led regeneration organisations
Economic Partnerships	These partnerships are typically composed of public, private and voluntary sector representatives of a defined locality, united in their pursuit of local economic development and improved performance of the area.
Fuel poverty	A household that needs to spend in excess of 10% of household income in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime.
Health Authorities	These provide the strategic leadership needed to ensure that all those working in the local health service share a clear vision of how it would develop and understand their role in it. They have the responsibility for empowering Primary Care Trusts to drive the improvements in care which local doctors and nurses know their population needs.
Healthy Schools Initiative	A joint DfES and Dept of Health initiative which recognises that schools are in a key position for improving health and redressing inequalities. A National Healthy Schools scheme is being developed and a website called Wired for Health will provide information on health issues for the school community
Homelessness	The Housing Act 1996 says that a homeless person has no accommodation in the United Kingdom or elsewhere or has accommodation but is not able to use it.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation	Funds research and pioneering development projects in the fields of housing, social policy, and social care and disability.
Key players	Those regarded as the most influential in decision making processes
Learning and Skills Councils	47 local and 1 national body that fund all post 16 education and training (except Higher Education)
Lifelong Learning Partnerships	Local groups, spanning all sectors, responsible for advising LSCs on the needs of learners and the best ways of meeting those needs collectively.
Local Strategic Partnerships	Single strategic bodies bringing together key local players to meet the needs of communities by better co-ordinating local.
Local public service agreements	A partnership agreement between an individual local authority and Government. The aim is to improve key outcomes more quickly and/or to higher level than would otherwise be the case. The outcomes reflect a mixture of national and local priorities focusing on education, social care, transport, the environment, crime reduction and cost effectiveness.
Local Transport Plans	Produced by counties/unitary authorities, these detailed transport strategies form the basis for bids to Government.
Phoenix Fund	This £30 million government fund aims to encourage entrepreneurship in disadvantaged communities by helping create jobs and develop services, activity, confidence and determination.
Primary Care Trusts	Free standing, legally established statutory NHS bodies that are accountable to their Health Authority. Provide the opportunity for family doctors, nurses, midwives, health visitors, the professions allied to medicine, social services and the wider community that they serve to shape services to provide better health and better care.
Regeneration	Uplifting geographical areas and/or communities of interest experiencing economic disadvantage and social exclusion, to levels of economic activity and social cohesion which are, as a minimum, average for the region.
Regional Housing Forum	A multi-disciplinary group representing housing and associated interests from across the region. It is responsible for identifying housing priorities and helping to shape the regional housing statement.
Regional Transport Strategy	Being developed by the Assembly and partners, this will provide the framework for local transport plans.

Registered Social Landlords	Independent, not for profit private sector organisations providing social housing.
Small Business Service	The Small Business Service (SBS) is an agency within the United Kingdom's Government which champions the interest of small businesses.
SEREN	South East Racial Equality Network is the Black and Minority Ethnic Network in the South East which seeks to provide support to Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, address racism and exclusion facing BME communities and work with regional agencies and networks to address issues affecting BME communities.
Social capital	Trust, networks, common resources and the other things that help communities get things done.
Social enterprise	An organisation that trades for social as well as commercial aims
Social exclusion	<p>"An inability (of individuals) to participate in economic, social and political and cultural life, alienation and distance from mainstream society";</p> <p>not the same as poverty, although often associated with being poor. The process through which individuals and groups are excluded from participation in the society in which they live.</p>
Sure Start	A partnership of parents, voluntary organisations and government, Sure Start works to promote the physical, intellectual and social development of babies and young children (under 4) - particularly those who are disadvantaged- so that they can flourish at home and when they get to school, and thereby break the cycle of disadvantage.

