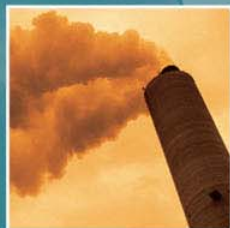


SEEDA

SUSTAINABILITY
APPRAISAL REPORT of
the REGIONAL
ECONOMIC STRATEGY
IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN – consultation
draft

June 2007



Entec

Creating the environment for business

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SEEDA

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT of the REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – consultation draft

June 2007

Entec UK Limited

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

This document is the Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) Implementation Plan. The purpose of the sustainability appraisal is to maximise the contribution of the Implementation Plan to the sustainability of the South East and to identify mitigation measures where potential negative impacts exist. In accordance with Government guidance the sustainability appraisal aims to meet the requirements of the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC and this Report incorporates the requirements of the Environmental Report as specified by the SEA Directive. The sustainability appraisal is informed by Government guidance – ‘*A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*’ – published by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in September 2005.

To ensure that the sustainability appraisal of the Implementation Plan is independent and rigorous, the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) commissioned Entec UK Ltd to undertake it.

A Scoping Report for the sustainability appraisal was issued for consultation in February 2007. The Scoping Report explained how the Implementation Plan would be developed and how the sustainability appraisal would be undertaken.

This Sustainability Appraisal Report has been issued alongside the Implementation Plan for public consultation. The outcome of this consultation will be reviewed and incorporated into a final Sustainability Appraisal Report.

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment and sustainable development

1.2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) requires a ‘Strategic Environmental Assessment’ of certain plans and programmes, the objective being ‘*to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development*’ (Article 1).

The SEA Directive applies to all relevant plans and programmes whose formal preparation began after 21st July 2004 and those that will not be adopted by 21st June 2006. The Directive has been transposed into UK Legislation through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument 2004 No.1633).

The Directive defines ‘environmental assessment’ as a procedure which involves:



- Preparing an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects of the draft plan or programme;
- Carrying out consultation on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying Environmental Report;
- Taking into account the Environmental Report and the results of consultation in decision making; and
- Providing information when the plan or programme is adopted and showing how the results of the environmental assessment have been taken into account.

1.2.2 Sustainable development

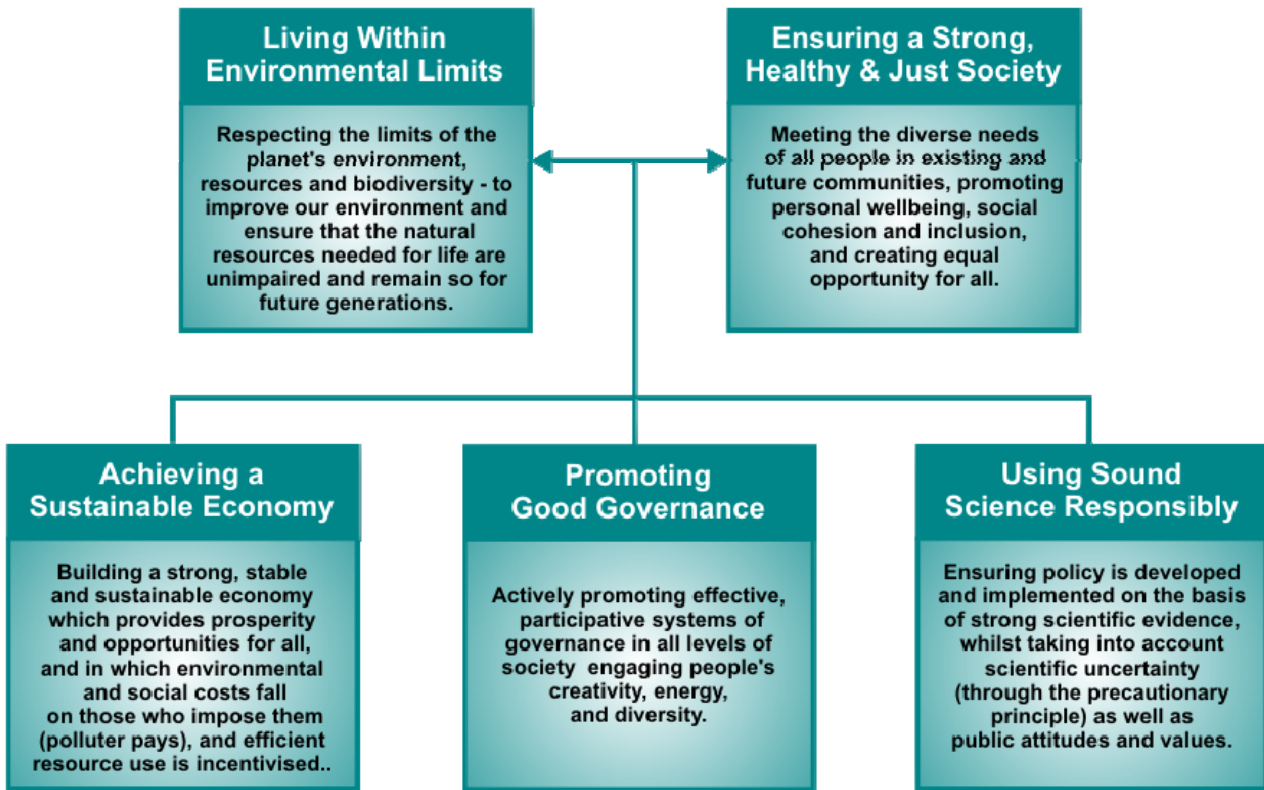
The UK Sustainable Development Strategy, *Securing the Future*, 2005, defines sustainable development as 'enabling all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations'. The Strategy contains four priority areas for immediate action and emphasises the need for changing behaviour to bring about long-term sustainability improvements. These are:

- Sustainable consumption and production;
- Climate change and energy;
- Natural resources protection and environmental enhancement; and
- Sustainable communities.

The Strategy also sets out five shared principles that will be used to achieve sustainable development. These shared principles are identified in Figure 1.1.



Figure 1.1 Shared principles of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy



Securing the Future, 2005

1.3 Sustainable development and the Regional Economic Strategy Implementation Plan

SEEDA as a Regional Development Agency (RDA) has a statutory duty to contribute towards the delivery of sustainable development. Guidance from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) states that regional economic strategies, and the actions to implement them, should be based on the five sustainable development principles set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005 'Securing the Future', (see Section 1.2.1). The DTI therefore requires that the RES, and hence its Implementation Plan, should help advance the four shared priorities for immediate UK action set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy.

SEEDA commissioned a sustainability appraisal of the RES to identify how they and their partners could ensure their actions would contribute towards sustainable development. The decision was taken to use the 25 sustainability appraisal (SA) objectives from the Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the South East, known as the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF), in the sustainability appraisal. The *Sustainability Appraisal of the Regional Economic Strategy of the South East, October 2006*, appraised the fourteen RES targets against the 25



IRF SA objectives. Overall, the sustainability appraisal concluded that the RES did take account of the shared priorities of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, ‘*whilst retaining a clear focus*’ on the region’s economy. Furthermore, it assessed that the RES recognised that a ‘*significant shift in the consumption and management of resources is required if the region and the economy are to prosper*’. The sustainability appraisal also highlighted that it is a challenging goal for the RES to achieve economic development within the context of sustainable development and that for this to be achieved, a step-change in the current approaches to policy development, implementation and funding mechanisms would be required. It also acknowledged that the RES had set clear targets to assist in driving through this necessary step-change in behaviour. Therefore, it was assessed that the RES Implementation Plan would also need to demonstrate how it would deliver these changes in current practice.

The recommendations of the sustainability appraisal of the RES have been taken into consideration in the development of the Implementation Plan (see Table 1.1).

Table 1.1 Correlation between RES sustainability appraisal recommendations and the RES Implementation Plan

RES target	Summary of RES sustainability appraisal recommendations (October 2006)	How the recommendations have been incorporated into the RES Implementation Plan
Target 1 Global Business & Direct Foreign Investment	Develop a tool to screen investors based on their sustainability credentials Identify partner regions with similar sustainability aspirations	Not present in Target 1 of the Implementation Plan Action 1.4 –involves working with regional partners in London and the East of England
Target 2 Knowledge Transfer & Business Expenditure on Research and Development	Encourage greater public sector expenditure on R&D and ensure marketable ideas are supported R&D should include house design & construction, sustainable transport, fuel technologies, resource efficiency technologies for water & waste and research into behavioural change	Action 2.2 promotes the strengths of the region’s knowledge base to regional, national & international businesses Transformational action Global Leadership in Environmental Technologies
Target 3 Innovation & Creativity	Actions under this Target should include a focus on environmental technologies	Action 3.1 supports key sector consortia including Envirobusiness South East (environmental technologies & services) and the South East Centre for the Built Environment
Target 4 Infrastructure	Increased capacity needs to be associated with significant upgrading of public transport and requires significant behavioural change	Included in Target 8 ‘Transport’ of the Implementation Plan
Target 5 Enterprise	Voluntary and community enterprises should be a component of this target	Action 5.3 includes supporting social enterprises; Action 5.4 supports the development of rural social enterprises; Action 5.5 supports & recognises the contribution from the voluntary sector and Action 5.9 includes providing capacity-building support to the Voluntary and community sector



RES target	Summary of RES sustainability appraisal recommendations (October 2006)	How the recommendations have been incorporated into the RES Implementation Plan
Target 6 Skills	Need to ensure that skills-demands are business led Needs to address skills needs and lifetime working patterns of an ageing population	Action 6.1 seeks to ensure that skills needs meet business requirements and it includes for example the 'Action for Business Programme' to deliver skills and training solutions to business needs Action 6.2 seeks to skills deficit across the region Target 10 actions include lifelong learning
Target 7 Competition and Regulation	No specific recommendations were made for this Target	
Target 8 Transport	This Target needs to proceed in tandem with the Global Competitiveness Targets 1-4 and those of the South East Plan	No specific reference to the Global Competitiveness Targets in the action plan. The action plan recognises that policy support and partnership support will be a key part of the activities described and it likely that many of these transport projects will be covered and developed in the South East Plan
Transport 9 Physical Development	SEEDA and the South East Assembly (SEERA) need to work jointly on this Target	SEERA are identified as one of the partners for Action 9.1, 9.2, 9.4 & 9.7
Target 10 Employment	The focus on increased productivity and economic activity should assist in addressing issues of social exclusion, poverty and poor health status in some areas of the region	Action 10.1 seeks to address barriers to employment & to develop an evidence base of the issues that cause disadvantage in the SE labour market; Action 10.5 includes activities to support the older workforce and to promote the benefits of a diverse workforce by developing a business case for diversity and exemplar models of diversity
Target 11 Climate Change & Energy	Infrastructure investment will need to be 'tested' in terms of its impact on CO ₂ emissions The RES Implementation Plan should identify ways that key agencies and funding organisations in the region can focus their energies on carbon reduction	Target 11.6 of the Implementation Plan proposes to develop a strategic approach to climate change mitigation through target setting and capacity building. This is to include a common methodology for carbon calculation with clear carbon reduction objectives across key organisations
Target 12 Sustainable Consumption & Production	Detailed actions will be required within the Implementation Plan to meet the target to reduce water consumption	Target 12 of the RES Implementation Plan does identify specific activities to address this issue
Target 13 Natural Resources and the Environment	Clear actions should be developed in collaboration with Natural England and other key stakeholders to ensure that the region's high quality natural assets are necessary to maintain its quality of life	Specific activities and partners are set out in the Implementation Plan. The partners include Natural England, English Heritage, National Trust, British Waterways plus a range of other relevant stakeholder partners
Target 14 Sustainable Communities	More detailed descriptions and quantification are required	A number of specific activities under Target 14 are now identified with the RES Implementation Plan

The sustainability appraisal of the Implementation Plan builds upon that of the RES. It is informed by the baseline data, key issues and appraisal objectives that were identified in the RES sustainability appraisal. This approach was agreed by SEEDA and statutory consultees at a scoping workshop held on the 25th January 2007. The approach was further tested through consultation on the Scoping Report (which was hosted on SEEDA's website). The same 25 IRF SA objectives have been used to ensure consistency between the sustainability appraisals of the



RES (2006) and the RES Implementation Plan (2007) (although there have been some minor changes to the criteria used to support the SA objectives following feedback at the scoping workshop and consultation on the Scoping Report).

1.4 Structure of this Report

The Report contains the following sections:

- Section 2 – outlines the appraisal methodology, including: the development of objectives; development of Implementation Plan options and alternatives; the appraisal process; consultation; and difficulties encountered;
- Section 3 – outlines the purpose, targets and transformational actions of the Implementation Plan and links with other plans and policies;
- Section 4 – summarises the key sustainability issues associated with the Implementation Plan; and
- Section 5 – describes the results of the assessment of the sustainability performance of the Implementation Plan;
- Section 6 – provides proposals for monitoring the sustainability impacts of the Implementation Plan.

Table 1.2 indicates where information required by the SEA Directive (Annex 1) can be found in this Report.

Table 1.2 Comparison of the contents of this Report with the requirements of the SEA Regulations (an Environmental Report)

Information requirement of the SEA Directive (as defined by annex I)	Section in the Sustainability Appraisal Report
• An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Section 3
• The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and how it will change without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 4
• The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Section 4
• Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive	Section 4 and Section 4.2.7 in particular
• The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Section 4
• The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between these issues	Section 5



Information requirement of the SEA Directive (as defined by annex I)	Section in the Sustainability Appraisal Report
• The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme	Section 5 and Appendix G
• An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	Section 2
• A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring	Section 6
• A non-technical summary of the information provided	Separate Non-Technical Summary



2. Appraisal Methodology

2.1 Introduction

This section describes the sustainability appraisal methodology. It includes a detailed description of the development of SA objectives, the development and consideration of options for the Implementation Plan, and a summary of the sustainability appraisal consultation process and difficulties encountered.

The appraisal methodology integrates the requirements of a sustainability appraisal and a SEA. It is a qualitative exercise that uses the expertise of the appraisers and consultees and available baseline information to assess the impacts of the Implementation Plan on a set of SA objectives.

2.2 Stages and tasks in the appraisal process

The sustainability appraisal has five stages. These are described in Table 2.1 and elaborated in the following sections. The stages are also described in the ODPM Guidance¹.

Table 2.1 Stages in the sustainability appraisal and their purpose

SEA stage and tasks	Purpose	Comments
Stage A: Setting the context and establishing the baseline		
A1. Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives	To document how the plan/programme is affected by outside factors and suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed. Help to identify SA objectives	This review of plans and programmes is presented in Appendix A of the RES Scoping Report, November 2005 and therefore are not replicated in this Report. Relevant plans or programmes that have arisen since the earlier assessment have been reviewed and included in Section 3
A2. Collecting baseline information	To provide an evidence base for sustainability problems, effects prediction and monitoring. Also help in the development of SA objectives	This information is presented within the RES Scoping Report, November 2005 Appendix B. A summary of the key sustainability issues emerging from this review is presented in Section 4 and has been updated in light of any relevant baseline information that have arisen since the earlier assessment
A3. Identifying environmental / sustainability problems	To help focus the SA and streamline the subsequent stages including baseline information analysis, setting for the SA objectives, prediction of effects and monitoring	This information is presented within the RES Scoping Report, November 2005 Appendix B. A summary of the key sustainability issues emerging from this review is presented in Section 4 and has been updated in light of any relevant baseline information that have arisen since the earlier assessment

¹ Figure 5 in 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Directive' September 2005 and Figure 2 in 'Sustainability Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents', November 2005.



SEA stage and tasks	Purpose	Comments
A4. Developing SA objectives and assessment framework	To provide a means by which the environmental/sustainability performance of the plan or programme can be assessed	These are presented in Section 3. The methodology used to devise these is also identified in Section 3
A5. Consulting on the scope of sustainability appraisal	To ensure the sustainability appraisal covers the key environmental issues	The information obtained from the steps identified above was presented in a Scoping Report issued on the 22 February 2007. The Scoping Report was issued to the statutory consultees and they were invited to attend a workshop to comment on the scope of the assessment and the SA objectives (held on the 25 January 2007)
Stage B: Defining options and assessing affects		
B1. Testing the plan or programme objectives against the SA objectives	To ensure that the overall objectives of the plan or programme are in accordance with the SA objectives and provide a suitable framework for developing options	The compatibility matrix used to test the draft Implementation Plan is included in Appendix B. This was issued to the statutory consultees for comments at the January 2007 Scoping Workshop and again for consultation in the Scoping Report issued in February 2007
B2. Developing options / alternatives for the Implementation Plan and assessing options	To assist in the development and refinement of the strategic alternative by identifying potential environmental impacts of alternatives for achieving the plan or programme objectives	Section 5.2 describes how options and alternatives have been developed and assessed through the development of the RES and Implementation Plan
B3. Predicting the effects of the plan or programme, including alternatives	To predict the significant environmental/sustainability effects of the plan or programme and its alternatives	An appraisal of the draft Implementation Plan was undertaken during March to April 2007. The appraisal was informed by the information provided by SEEDA in the form of completed sustainability checklists, produced for actions identified in the draft Implementation Plan. The appraisal matrices are given in Appendices C and D
B4. Evaluating the effects of the plan or programme, including alternatives	To evaluate the predicted effects of the plan or programme and its alternatives and assist in the refinement of the plan or programme	An appraisal of the draft Implementation Plan was undertaken during March to April 2007. The appraisal was informed by the information provided by SEEDA in the form of completed sustainability checklists, produced for actions identified in the draft Implementation Plan. The appraisal matrices are given in Appendices C and D
B5. Mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects	To ensure all potential mitigation measures are considered and as a result residual effects are identified	These were identified by Entec during the appraisal process (see appraisal matrices in Appendices C and D) and the results are presented in Sections 5 and 6
B6. Proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of plan or programme implementation	To detail the means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme can be assessed	These are identified in Sections 5 and 6
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report (including the Environmental Report)		
C1 Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	To provide a detailed account of the sustainability appraisal process, including the findings of the environmental assessment and how it influenced the development of the draft plan or programme, in a format suitable for public consultation and decision-makers	This document incorporates the requirements of an Environmental Report (see Table 1.2)
Stage D: Consulting and decision-making		
D1. Consulting on the draft plan or programme and the Sustainability Appraisal Report	To provide the public and consultation bodies with an opportunity to express their opinions on the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal Report and to use it as a reference point in commenting on the strategy or plan or programme To gather more information on the baselines	This is being undertaken from May to July 2007



SEA stage and tasks	Purpose	Comments
	and environmental problems through the opinions and concerns of the public and identify preferred alternatives	
D2. Assessment of significant changes	To ensure that any significant changes to the draft plan or programme are assessed for their environmental implications and influence the revision of the draft plan or programme	Significant changes to the draft Implementation Plan arising from the consultation will be reappraised. These results will be reported in a final Sustainability Appraisal Report
D3. Decision making and provision of information	To provide information on how the Sustainability Appraisal Report and consultees' opinions were taken into account in preparing the plan or programme	Section 2.7 describes the consultations and involvement of consultees was undertaken and how their opinions were taken into account
Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the plan or programme		
E1. Developing aims and methods for monitoring	To measure the environmental performance of the plan or programme in order to determine whether its effects are as anticipated, and thereby inform future revisions	Indicators for monitoring are included in Section 7
E2. Responding to adverse effects	Ensure that adverse effects can be identified and appropriate responses developed	Section 7 provides a suggested method to facilitate the identification of adverse effects and set out appropriate responses

2.3 Stage A – Setting the context and establishing the baseline

2.3.1 Defining the scope of the sustainability appraisal

The sustainability appraisal builds upon work undertaken for the sustainability appraisal of the RES. Table 2.1 cross-references information from the RES sustainability appraisal Scoping Report, November 2005, and the RES Sustainability Appraisal Report, October 2006.

2.3.2 Review of other plans and programmes and identification of key sustainability issues

Changes that may occur as a result of the Implementation Plan need to be considered in the context of other plans, programmes, policies and strategies that may affect sustainable development in the South East. Most key relevant documents were assessed during the sustainability appraisal of the RES. Section 3.4 provides a review of key documents that have arisen subsequently and describes links between other plans and programmes and the Implementation Plan. The RES sustainability appraisal baseline review was also reviewed and updated in light of recently available information. This is presented in Section 4.

2.3.3 Development of sustainability appraisal objectives

The performance of the Implementation Plan was appraised against a set of SA objectives and criteria in an appraisal matrix.

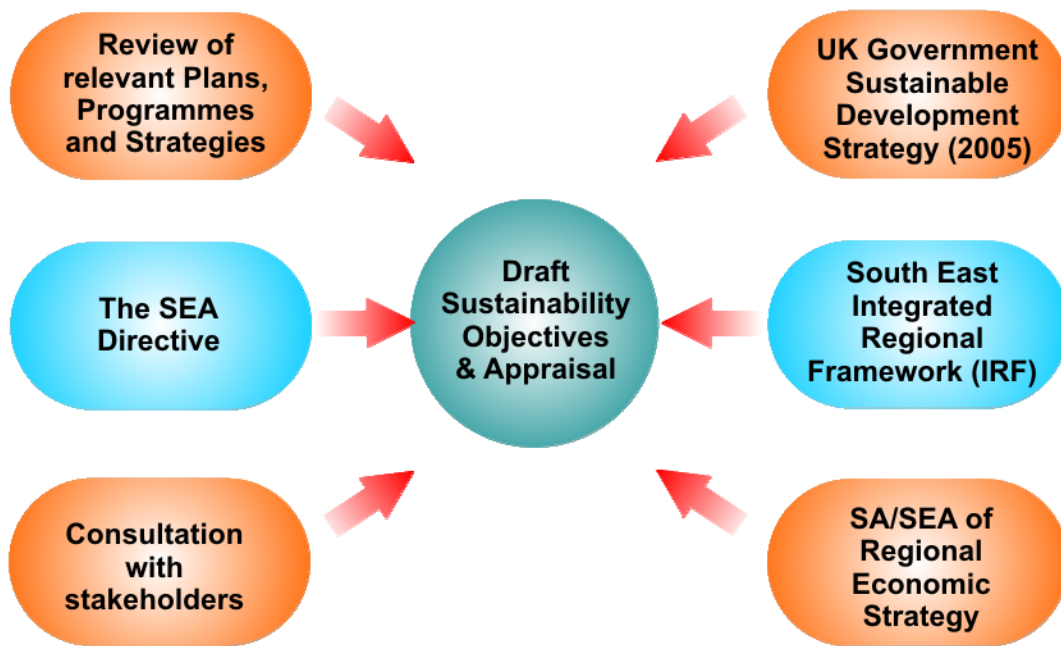


To ensure a consistent approach between the sustainability appraisals of the RES and the Implementation Plan, the same SA objectives were used. These SA objectives were taken from the South East Integrated Regional Framework (IRF). This decision to use these same SA objectives was taken by SEEDA, the key consultees and the statutory stakeholders.

Box 1	What are SA objectives?
<p>'Objectives specify a desired direction for change and they should <i>focus on outcomes</i>, not how the outcomes will be achieved ('inputs'); they should focus on ends rather than means; on the state of the environment rather than on responses to pressure on it. For instance, they should focus on "improving biodiversity" or "Improving access", rather than say establishing wildlife areas or protecting rail corridors (different ways of getting to what is really wanted).'</p> <p>(Therivel, R (2005) SEA in Action).</p>	

Criteria were devised to ensure that the sustainability appraisal specifically addressed and appraised the issues contained within the Implementation Plan. The sources used to develop the SA objectives and criteria are identified in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1 Development of the SA objectives and criteria



Source: Entec

The SA objectives and criteria are presented in Table 2.2. The table shows the extent to which the objectives encompass the range of sustainability issues identified by the baseline review undertaken during the sustainability appraisal of the RES (and described in Section 4).



Table 2.2 SA objectives compared against regional sustainability issues

SA objective	Appraisal criteria – will it ...	Key regional sustainability issues
<p>1 To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure the provision of housing for key workers and key sectors in the region? ensure that housing and economic development policies deliver housing and jobs in an integrated fashion? ensure the provision of a range of economic opportunities in, or accessible to, rural areas? promote the adoption of sustainable design and construction practices in development (eg energy/water/land/materials efficiency, incorporation of biodiversity/natural assets etc)? ensure that the mix/type of new developments can reflect changes in population (size, demographics, etc) and household structure in the region? take account of existing conditions that affect minority and excluded groups? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South East has a population of approximately 8 million Population predicted to increase by 10 per cent between 2003 – 2021 580,000 new homes planned for the South East over next 20 years Shortage of affordable homes for key workers House prices have increased by 70 per cent since 1999 Annual earnings have increased by 30 per cent since 1999 High costs in private rental sector
<p>2 To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prevent all inappropriate development in the flood plain? require that all new development applications show that sustainable drainage has been considered and implemented wherever practicable? ensure that development located in the floodplain is designed to be flood resilient? ensure that development does not increase flood risk to others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 310,000 properties & businesses are at risk from coastal or river flooding in the South East South East has 1,2500 kilometres of coastline Economic costs associated with flood damage has tripled in last decade
<p>3 To improve the health & well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> substantially diminish inequalities in mortality, health and well-being across the region? ensure the accessibility of healthcare services, including access to environments that may be beneficial to health, by non-car means, e.g. through the incorporation of services in new developments? promote healthy, active lifestyles as part of the well being of the region and as a means of reducing economic and social exclusion? take account of the specific health and wellbeing issues of minority and excluded groups? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall South East has good levels of health but with disparities across the region Major causes of ill health & deaths in the region is cardiovascular diseases
<p>4 To reduce poverty & social exclusion, and close the gap between the most deprived areas in the South East and the rest of the region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contribute towards a halving the gap between the most disadvantaged communities and the average position of the region by 2010? ensure the provision of employment land and housing in, or accessible to, the most deprived areas of the South East? promote the economic and social inclusion of deprived and minority groups? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One in 20 of the region's population falls within the most deprived 20 per cent nationally, Indices of Multiple Deprivation Main areas are located in the eastern and coastal districts 85 per cent of all deprived people in the region live in coastal areas



SA objective	Appraisal criteria – will it ...	Key regional sustainability issues
<p>5 To raise educational levels across the region and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure the accessibility of educational/training opportunities by non-car means? ensure the accessibility of educational/training opportunities for the most deprived communities and those excluded and minority groups? ensure the accessibility of educational/training opportunities for rural communities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well qualified workforce in comparison to other English regions However, employers report a shortage of workers with relevant skills Workforce in the coastal South East has a lower level of skills Approximately 900,000 people in the South East have poor numeracy skills Almost 1 million people aged between 16 and 60 have poor literacy skills
<p>6 To reduce crime and the fear of crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote the incorporation of 'secured by design' principles as part of good urban design in economic development sites? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels of recorded crime across most key crime categories has increased Exception is theft and handling of stolen goods & burglary Offences against the person have increased significantly Fear of crime – disparities between the sexes For females fear of crimes against the person is greatest, for males fear of theft from cars is greatest



SA objective	Appraisal criteria – will it ...	Key regional sustainability issues
<p>To create and sustain vibrant communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage the involvement of communities in the planning and management of their neighbourhoods? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 per cent of region's residents consider they live in a 'very good' or 'fairly good' area, MORI 2004 5 per cent consider they live in a 'fairly' or 'very' poor area



SA objective	Appraisal criteria – will it ...	Key regional sustainability issues
<p>8 To improve accessibility to all services and facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote compact, mixed-use development with good accessibility to local facilities and services (eg employment, education, health services, shopping, leisure, green spaces, culture etc), that reduce the need to travel? • ensure that facilities and services (eg employment, education, health services, shopping, leisure, green spaces, culture, outdoor recreation etc) are accessible to rural communities? • ensure the provision of the services and facilities of most relevance to excluded and minority groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large parts of the region suffer from relatively high access deprivation • Access to doctors surgeries is a concern • Majority of the region's rural communities have above 60 per cent access to primary schools
<p>9 To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that existing facilities and locations for cultural activities are protected and that new facilities are provided in areas targeted for development? • ensure that cultural needs of minority groups are addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A data gap exists for this objective which needs to be addressed
<p>10 To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing materials from buildings, and encourage urban renaissance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the provision of employment land and housing on previously-developed land, as opposed to greenfield sites (in line with the sequential approach) and through conversion of existing buildings, to ensure that 60% of all forms of development (not just housing) occurs on previously used land by 2008? (Note that not all previously developed land may be suitable as may have special designations, etc.) • encourage the reuse of materials in construction? • promote the adoption of sustainable design and construction practices in non-housing developments (e.g. energy/water/land/materials efficiency, incorporation of biodiversity/natural assets etc)? • require good design to create attractive, high quality environments where people will choose to work and live? • ensure that the historic urban environment and the distinctiveness/character of urban areas is protected and enhanced as part of urban developments? • ensure that the historic rural environment and its distinctiveness and character is protected and enhanced as part of the development of rural areas? • have regard to the positive opportunities presented by the historic environment through regeneration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High demand for land in the region • Two thirds of land is agricultural • 40 per cent of land is protected by conservation designation • Approximately 15 per cent of the land in the region is designated as green belt • 60 per cent of new homes were built on previously used land between 1998 – 2001 • 48 per cent of new commercial and industrial floor space was built on previously used land between 1998 – 2001 • Need to recognise that some previously used land may have a high biodiversity value



SA objective	Appraisal criteria – will it ...	Key regional sustainability issues
<p>11 To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote more sustainable transport patterns in all economic development areas, particular those of low air quality (eg AQMAs), including provision for public transport, walking and cycling • address the air quality impacts arising from specific development activities (e.g. airports, energy generation etc)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality within the region has improved in the last decade • However there are local air pollution hot-spots • 90 Air Quality Management Areas have been declared
<p>12 To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure that the South East is prepared for its impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2010 (from 1990 levels) • require that development proposals are guided by 'climate proofing' principles? • promote actions that will favour a shift towards a 'low carbon' economy? • provide business with support to address the challenges and opportunities of climate change? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South East produces above average CO₂ emissions, with respect to industry & commercial activities, road transport, domestic and land-use changes • Predicted climate change impacts for the South East include summer heat-waves & winter storms, which will increase frequency of floods & droughts • Coastal sea defences will be threatened by rising sea levels • Coastal aquifers and soils will be at risk from salt water contamination • Wildlife will be at risk due to changing habitats
<p>13 To conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect, enhance and restore the region's (international, national and local) designated sites recognizing the contributions they make to the region's economy and the wellbeing of residents and visitors? • protect, enhance and restore the region's priority habitats and species, and take account of the need to deliver regional biodiversity targets so as to maintain the region's natural asset base? • encourage the development of new biodiversity assets within/alongside developments? (Including encourage the linkage of habitats and the provision of wildlife corridors?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One third of the region is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty • 700 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) • Condition of SSSI has improved 79 per cent in 2006 • Pressures on biodiversity most notably from habitat loss, incompatible land use, invasion by non-native species & pollution • Populations of farmland and woodland bird species have declined • Health of river & stream habitats is poor, 90 per cent is classified as unfavourable or declining
<p>14 To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment the region's countryside and historic environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise the importance to the region's economy of it's natural environmental assets (e.g. the green belt, parks and green spaces, common land, woodland and forests, National Parks, AONBs, ESAs etc) and seek to protect, restore and enhance them as an integral part of the region's quality of life • recognise the importance to the region's economy of the region's cultural and heritage assets (e.g. Heritage Coasts, World Heritage Sites, SAMs, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas, Registered Battlefields etc and their role in the region's quality of life and seek to protect, restore and enhance them? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New Forest was designated as a National Park in 2005 • The region has 72km of coastline designated as heritage coastline • Wealth of historic sites including two UNESCO designated World Heritage Sites • Historic environment is facing increased pressure from the intensification of urban development



SA objective	Appraisal criteria – will it ...	Key regional sustainability issues
<p>15 To reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice and reducing the need for travel by car/lorry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote more sustainable transport patterns in all areas, particularly those with high congestion? • promote public transport, walking and cycling? • promote more sustainable transport patterns in connection with developments in rural areas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South East has the highest level of road traffic of all the English regions • 20 per cent increase in road traffic in the last decade • 86 billion kilometres of road travel in undertaken annually in the region • Bus accessibility increased improved between 1992 – 2001 • Use of public transport for journeys to work decreased by 1 per cent between 2003 – 2004 to 9 per cent
<p>16 To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably produced and local products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the use of locally and sustainably-sourced, and recycled, materials in construction and renovation? • promote measures to reduce the overall ecological footprint of the region? • promote resource efficiency measures within the region's businesses? • promote the region's strengths in the environmental goods and services industry? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable consumption of resources is a key issue for the region • The region's ecological footprint indicates it would take three and a half planets is everyone in the world had the same level of consumption as the South East
<p>17 To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote sustainable waste management practices in all sectors and at all levels through the provision of a range of appropriate waste management facilities? • promote waste minimisation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste production in the region is predicted to increase to 35 million tonnes in 2010 • Most common method of disposal is to landfill, the capacity of which is decreasing
<p>18 To maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers and coasts, and to achieve sustainable water resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote measures to reduce water demand (including groundwater resources) by business • promote pollution control and reduction measures by business (including groundwater resources) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South East consumes more water per head than most other English regions • South East receives below UK average levels of rainfall • Groundwater provides 70 per cent of public drinking water supplies • Quality of groundwater is vulnerable to pollution incidents • Groundwater availability is vulnerable to droughts, low rainfall and over abstraction
<p>19 To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide for the establishment of renewable energy developments at a regional level, to ensure that renewable energy targets are achieved (e.g. 16% of generation capacity by 2026)? • promote the uptake of renewable energy sources by business? • promote the incorporation of small-scale renewable energies in developments? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2003 0.65 per cent of electricity in South East was from renewable sources compared to 2.5 per cent for the UK as a whole • Total installed capacity is 73MW, mostly all from 'energy from waste' and landfill gas • Target that renewable energy sources should supply 16 per cent of generation capacity by 2016



SA objective	Appraisal criteria – will it ...	Key regional sustainability issues
<p>20 To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote actions to deliver employment to all sections of society in the region especially deprived minority and excluded groups? • target employment growth in areas where social and transport infrastructure capacity exists? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest employment source in the region is the hotel and restaurant sector • Second largest sector is public administration, education and health • Region benefits from relatively high levels of employment • Approximately 820,000 people of working age are economically inactive • Main areas of inactivity are located in East Kent and Ashford
<p>21 To sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote actions to narrow the gap in GVA per capita between the best and worst performing parts of the region? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The region accounted for 15.6 per cent of total UK Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2003 • GVA per head disparities exist across the region, with lower GVA areas being Sussex coast, East Kent & Ashford.
<p>22 To stimulate economic revival in priority areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify priority areas for economic regeneration and their needs? • promote actions to develop less-favoured areas within the region? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term unemployment exists in areas of the region, including Thanet, Medway, Shepway and Ashford • Areas of deprivation are found where long-term unemployment and low third level education take-up are endemic
<p>23 To develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge based economy that excels in innovation, with higher value, lower impact activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the development of access to broadband infrastructure, particularly in rural and deprived areas and among excluded and minority groups? • identify actions to promote innovation and research and development in the region? • identify clear priorities for investment in new services/technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge-based economy is a key driver for economic growth in the region • Between 1995 – 20005, the sector contributed 1.5 per cent of annual growth • Continued growth is dependent on a range of factors including maintenance of a diverse business base
<p>24 To encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional appraisal criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2003 almost £3bn was spent by tourists in the region • It is the second most popular region in terms of trips and visitor numbers • However, there is an ongoing and a steady decline in tourism within the region
<p>25 To develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote business support measures/skills programs that meet the demands of the region's businesses? • identify key skills sets/skills gaps to be developed/managed? • identify key sectors that provide 'skills escalators' that create opportunities for less-skilled individuals in the region's economy? • identify the skills needs/demands for skills amongst minority and excluded groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant disparities in the level of basic skills exists within the region

Data Source for Table 3.1 RES 2006-2016 Evidence Base, SEEDA



Annex I of the SEA Directive lists the range of issues that should be considered by an SEA. Table 2.3 shows how the SA objectives compare with these issues.

Table 2.3 SA objectives compared against the SEA Directive issues

SEA Directive issue	SA objective
Biodiversity	13
Population*	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 20
Human Health	3, 6
Fauna	13
Flora	13
Soil	10
Water	18
Air	11, 12, 15
Climatic Factors	2
Material Assets*	11, 12
Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological	10, 14
Landscape	14

*These terms are not clearly defined in the SEA Directive

2.3.4 Development of appraisal methodology and matrix

An appraisal matrix was developed to appraise the likely significant effects (see Box 2) of the targets and transformational actions of the Implementation Plan against the SA objectives.

Box 2 Determining the significance of effects



It was developed to record the following types of information:

- Whether effects were likely to be positive or negative;
- Whether effects were likely to be major or minor;
- Whether effects were likely to occur in the short, medium or long term;
- The likely geographic scale of effects;
- Uncertainties and risks associated with the assessment of effects; and
- Potential mitigation measures to reduce negative effects and enhance positive impacts.

The ODPM Practical Guide to the SEA Directive states that SEA should aim to predict the significant environmental effects of the plan (see Figure 5, ODPM 2004). Annex II of the Directive provides criteria for determining the likely significance of effects, which should have regard to the characteristics of the plan or programme (e.g. the relevance of the plan for integration of environmental considerations) and the areas likely to be affected (e.g. the value of the receiving environment and factors related to the area's special characteristics) and the nature of those effects (e.g. the reversibility of the effect, its duration and frequency, its cumulative nature and spatial extent etc). European guidance (European Commission, 2003²) recognises that in determining significance many uncertainties exist and insufficient or missing data and inadequate knowledge may make it difficult to decide whether significant effects are likely. Nevertheless, it is assumed that a rough estimation of the effects should always be possible. The significance of the RES Implementation Plan impacts was assessed using expert judgment and reference to legislation, regulations and the evidence base. In assessing and commenting on significance within the appraisal, the degree to which the RES Implementation Plan can actually influence the objective has been taken into account.

It is important to note that the completed appraisal matrices do not represent the final conclusions of the sustainability appraisal.

Positive or negative effects

The appraisal matrix was used to record whether the targets or transformational actions would be likely to have a positive or negative effect on the achievement of each SA objective.

Major or minor effects

Box 3 provides information on how the magnitude of effects was considered.

Box 3 Magnitude of impacts

² European Commission (2003) *Implementation of Directive 2001/42 on the Assessment of The Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment*



<i>Major impacts</i>	<i>Minor impacts</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive• Will affect many people• Large change in environmental conditions• Effect will be unusual or particularly complex• Will affect valuable or scarce features or resources• High risk that environmental standards will be breached• High likelihood that protected sites/areas/features will be affected• High probability of effect occurring• Irreversible• Mitigation difficult	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Localised• Will affect few people• Small change in environmental conditions• Effect will be ordinary or simple• Will not affect valuable or scarce features or resources• Low risk that environmental standards will be breached• Low likelihood that protected sites/areas/features will be affected• Low probability of effect occurring• Reversible• Mitigation straightforward

Geographic scale of effects

There are only a few instances where specific locations are identifiable given the nature of the Implementation Plan (i.e. it lacks a significant spatial definition).

Uncertainties and risks

Uncertainties and risks were associated with the sustainability appraisal of some of the targets and transformational actions, in particular:

- For some actions, there was not enough detailed information to be able to fully understand what the action would mean in practice and hence what effects would be likely;
- Future funding or commitment to some of the actions proposed by SEEDA and their partners were key uncertainties at this stage ; and
- Uncertainties about changes such as future economic performance meant that many long term impacts were more difficult to predict.

Mitigation measures

The identification of mitigation measures is fundamental to sustainability appraisal. Mitigation measures were identified as suggestions only and would not necessarily be the responsibility of SEEDA to implement. No attempt was made to estimate financial costs for mitigation.



2.4 Stage B – Developing and refining the options and assessing effects

2.4.1 Developing and assessing options and alternatives

The SEA Directive states that the Environmental Report should consider ‘*reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme*’ and give ‘*an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with*’ (Article 5.1 and Annex 1(h)). However, it is the role of decision makers and not the sustainability appraisal to decide which alternatives should be chosen.. The sustainability appraisal simply provides information on the relative sustainability performance of alternatives.

The Implementation Plan sets out the various transformational actions and targets that have been developed to deliver the RES (see Section 3). As a result of the nature of the Implementation Plan (which includes a substantial number of committed and ongoing programmes) and the process to develop it (targets and transformational actions were defined as part of the development of the RES), there was not a specific stage in the sustainability appraisal whereby options and alternatives were identified and assessed. However, the Implementation Plan has developed in an iterative and collaborative process and changes have been made and the document has evolved as a result of a well defined consultation process:

- **Early consultation document of RES (November 2005):** It is understood that a consultation paper was developed collaboratively with partners together with the development of an evidence base (identifying the key challenges) and the main strategic objectives. The consultation paper on the RES (‘Review of Regional Economic Strategy for South East England’ November 2005) included consideration of four growth scenarios anticipating; different responses of South East businesses to the challenge of global competitiveness (positive/negative response) and different approaches to deliver infrastructure (effective/laissez faire). This paper was sent out for consultation which began in Dec 2005 and finished at the end of February 2006 and was used to inform the development of the Draft RES;
- **Draft RES (April 2006):** The early consultation paper (November 2005) focused on drivers of prosperity (employment and five characteristics of productivity) with a ‘sustainability dividend’ attached to each of these. The responses to the consultation on the paper suggested that rather than sustainability being an ‘add-on’ it was considered important that there were specific targets relating to sustainability. As a result of these consultation comments ‘Sustainable Prosperity’ was developed as an overarching objective (or ‘Key Challenge’) in the Draft RES. The Draft RES was produced in April 2006 with the consultation ending in June 2006;
- **Final RES (October 2006):** The key difference between the Draft RES and Final RES is the inclusion of Target 14 on Sustainable Communities within Sustainable Prosperity. In addition, the Stern Report was published in October 2006 and represented an important document that has been considered by SEEDA and the implication of its findings has been worked into an Annex to the Sustainable Prosperity Targets in the Implementation Plan. A final evidence paper and intervention framework (setting out the rationale for public sector intervention) was also produced at this time;



- **Draft RES Implementation Plan:** Early in the development of the Implementation Plan the various targets & transformational actions were reviewed and prioritised (January 2007). This exercise recognised that many of the existing programmes (interpreted in various Targets) may deliver potential positive impacts with a little additional effort and that those with the greatest potential gain for the region, particularly those newer programmes concerning sustainable development, would require a greater level of effort. This exercise confirmed SEEDA's commitment to such Targets, especially those concerned with sustainable development;

- Since the Final RES was published, detailed activities have been developed by the various leads in conjunction with partners. This has represented the single greatest opportunity to consider alternatives during the timescale of this assessment. As a result, sustainability checklists were designed and developed by SEEDA and Entec and introduced into the Implementation Plan process to help those developing activities consider wider SA objectives (see Sustainability Checklists, Box 4) as iterations of the specific actions were developed;

- In April 2007, the Draft Implementation Plan was reviewed by SEEDA and, given the significant range of actions that had been developed, it was decided that these needed to be checked to ensure that they would deliver against the main Targets in the RES. A set of 'Principles' were defined to help 'sift' the activities. These Principles are described in Appendix F and draw strongly from the SA objectives developed in this assessment.

Box 4	Sustainability checklists for the Implementation Plan
<p>An important feature of the appraisal process included the development, with SEEDA, of a sustainability checklist on the basis of the objectives set out in this report. This was an important tool used by SEEDA staff in developing and assessing the effects of alternative actions. As such it provided the opportunity to ensure that sustainability issues have been actively considered throughout the process of developing the Implementation Plan actions. A copy of the sustainability checklist is contained in Appendix E.</p> <p>Training and completion of the Sustainability Checklists</p> <p>SEEDA's staff received training (during February 2007 – this included workshops and ad hoc support) from Entec on how to use the sustainability checklist. The completed checklists were returned and considered as part of the sustainability appraisal. The completed checklists also provide an audit trail to demonstrate how decisions were taken and what issues were taken into account in the decision-making process.</p> <p>Evidence</p> <p>Checklists were undertaken by those who had prepared the action plans and when the activities had been broadly formulated. There is evidence, based on the sustainability checklists received, that the activities and actions have been amended in light of the exercise.</p> <p>Further application of the Sustainability Checklists</p> <p>SEEDA are considering applying the sustainability checklist to other parts of their project appraisal cycle so that the activities appraised as part of this sustainability appraisal may be appraised when they become projects at business plan / approval stage and potentially through the project lifetime as part of SEEDA's evaluation processes.</p>	

2.4.2 Assessment of effects and identification of mitigation measures

The sustainability appraisal was undertaken by a team of Entec consultants and used the findings from sustainability checklists undertaken by staff at SEEDA. It was informed by expert judgment and local knowledge on how baseline conditions could be affected by the Implementation Plan. The results of the assessment of effects are described in Section 5.



2.4.3 Proposals for monitoring the significant effects of the Implementation Plan

Proposals were developed for monitoring the likely significant effects of the Implementation Plan and are presented in Section 6.

2.5 Stage C – Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

The report has been prepared in line with the requirements described in Table 1.2 and includes revisions to include:

- More detailed information regarding the ‘Spatial Frameworks’ available from SEEDA;
- An assessment of the need to undertake an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ of the Implementation Plan undertaken by Entec; and
- New information regarding principles used to assess the actions in the targets and transformational actions and subsequent amendments to the appraisal matrices, conclusions and detailed recommendations.

2.6 Consultation and involvement

Key stakeholders were involved throughout the sustainability appraisal. These included key SEEDA staff, statutory consultees (English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England) and other organisations including the Southeast Forum for Sustainability, Government Office for the South East and Regional Action and Involvement in South East (RAISE). Involving these organisations has improved the robustness of the sustainability appraisal and helped in the information gathering stages of the process and in determining the key sustainability issues for the region. As indicated in Table 2.2, there have been three key stages in the sustainability appraisal which have included stakeholder involvement:

- i) the scoping workshop and report;
- ii) the sustainability checklists; and
- iii) the assessment of sustainability effects.

Scoping workshop and report

A stakeholder workshop was held on the 25th January 2007 to discuss the key sustainability issues for the region, the SA objectives and proposed approach to the appraisal. The agreed outcomes of this workshop were included in the Scoping Report which was published for consultation on 22nd February 2007. As a result of the Scoping Report consultation additions were made to the key sustainability issues (Section 4.2), list of relevant plans and policies (see Section 3.4), and possible indicators and their sources (Section 6). In addition, there were some changes to the criteria accompanying the SA objectives. A summary of consultation responses and how they were addressed is given in Appendix A.



Sustainability checklist

Following discussion on the proposed approach, it was suggested and agreed by SEEDA that Entec would produce a sustainability checklist based on the SA objectives and criteria. A series of workshops for SEEDA leads were held over a two-day period, with a subsequent surgery session, to explain how SEEDA leads should use the checklist. SEEDA subsequently used the checklist to assess each of the proposed actions within the Implementation Plan, prior to the sustainability appraisal. The purpose of the sustainability checklist was two-fold; firstly it added value to the sustainability appraisal by improving the quality of information available to the Entec assessors and secondly it assisted in the process of integrating sustainability issues into the development of the Implementation Plan. In this respect it provided a mechanism for SEEDA to begin to identify opportunities to alter potential actions and activities so that they deliver greater sustainability benefits. As such the sustainability checklist helped to increase awareness and understanding among SEEDA staff of the importance of sustainability issues and sustainability appraisal.

The completed sustainability checklists and the RES Implementation Plan were provided to Entec on 16th March. Entec used both sets of information to inform the sustainability appraisal of the RES Implementation Plan which was undertaken during late March and early April.

Table 2.4 describes how different organisations have been involved at stages of the sustainability appraisal.

Table 2.4 Consultation and decision making in the sustainability appraisal

Stage	Who	How	When	Outcome
Context, objectives and baseline				
Setting the context, establishing the baseline and developing the SA objectives	Consultants and sustainability appraisals steering group	The draft SA objectives were those contained in the South East Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) and used in the earlier sustainability appraisal of the RES. These were reconfirmed for use in this sustainability appraisal by the scoping workshop	January 2007	Following the scoping workshop the draft IRF SA Objectives were integrated into the scoping report
Scoping Report	Statutory consultation bodies and other organisations including Southeast Forum for Sustainability, Government Office for South East and Regional Action and Involvement in South East	The Scoping Report was sent to the statutory consultation bodies and published on SEEDA's website to seek views on the key sustainability issues, relevant plans & programmes, sustainability objectives and potential indicators	February 2007	Responses were received were used to modify the key sustainability issues
Alternative options				
Appraisal of the Implementation Plan Alternative Actions	SEEDA and its partners	Ongoing process during the development of the Implementation Plan. Workshops were held between SEEDA and its partners to identify actions and activities	March 2007	SEEDA completed sustainability checklists of the proposed Implementation Plan actions



Stage	Who	How	When	Outcome
RES Implementation Plan preferred actions				
Preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal Report for Implementation Plan preferred Actions	Consultants	Based on the approach set out in the scoping report, and following receipt from SEEDA of scoping report consultation comments, Entec undertook a desk-based assessment of the potential sustainability implications of the preferred Actions	April 2007	This resulted in production of this Sustainability Appraisal Report
RES Implementation Plan preferred actions consultation				
Sustainability Appraisal Report for RES Implementation Plan preferred Actions	SEA statutory consultation bodies and the public	The Sustainability Appraisal Report of the RES Implementation Plan preferred actions will be sent to the statutory consultation bodies and key stakeholders, alongside the RES Implementation Plan. The report will be made available to the public on the SEEDA website	June 2007	The consultation findings and report will be taken into account of the final RES Implementation Plan and final Sustainability Appraisal Report

2.7 Difficulties encountered

Table 2.5 outlines some of the main difficulties encountered during the stages of completion of the sustainability appraisal, as required by the SEA Regulations:

Table 2.5 Difficulties encountered during the sustainability appraisal

Sustainability appraisal stage	Difficulties
Context, objectives and baseline	
Setting the context, establishing the baseline and developing the SA objectives	<p>Review of plans and programmes: the key plans and programmes were reviewed during the sustainability appraisal of the RES. During the consultation responses to this first sustainability appraisal a number of other documents were identified. However the remit for the RES Implementation Plan was that the Scoping Report would be an addendum of this earlier work. Therefore although these additional documents were included in the Scoping Report there was insufficient time to allow a through assessment of these documents. However, one particular issue that was highlighted was that of groundwater and subsequent reference was made to this issue in the appraisal questions</p> <p>Baseline data collection: the sustainability appraisal of the RES collated an extensive baseline of data for the appraisal objectives. However it has not been possible to gather data on resource intensity per unit of development within the region. This was a problem that was highlighted in the sustainability appraisal of the RES and one that needs to be addressed by the Implementation Plan partners. There is also a data gap with regards to engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the communities of the South East</p> <p>Identification of environmental issues: the key environmental issues used in this sustainability appraisal were identified in the sustainability appraisal of the RES and agreed upon by the stakeholders at the Scoping Workshop. This was believed to be the correct approach to ensure consistency between the appraisals of the RES and the Implementation Plan</p>
Alternative options	
Alternative Actions and activities for	The development of the actions has been an ongoing process between SEEDA and its partners and in



Sustainability appraisal stage	Difficulties
the Implementation Plan	so doing, alternatives have been actively considered. These have then been appraised using the sustainability checklists. The preferred actions and activities are those based on the one assessed as part of the sustainability appraisal of the RES
RES Implementation Plan preferred actions and activities	
Preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal Report	<p>Responses to the Scoping Report consultation identified and requested changes to the SA Objectives. English Heritage considered that Objective 14 does not adequately reflect the importance of the historic environment and would have preferred a new objective to have been created. However, it was recognised that this could pre-empt the outcome of the review of the IRF SA objectives due in late summer. The Environment Agency recommended changing Objective 13 to include a reference to the importance of water quality on biodiversity. Again, it was believed to be inappropriate to do so at this time before the outcome of the IRF SA objectives review is completed. However, changes were made to the questions used in conjunction with the objectives to reflect the views presented</p> <p>Details of the cross-cutting theme of Europe was not available so it was not possible to take any associated issues into account during the appraisal</p>
Sustainability Appraisal Report	Some of the action plans provided by SEEDA detailing the transformational actions and targets were initially incomplete and as they became finalised required assessment at a later stager in the appraisal.

2.8 Summary

The appraisal methodology met the requirements of both a sustainability appraisal and the SEA Directive. The sustainability appraisal built upon the work of the sustainability appraisal of the RES. In particular, the same SA objectives were used to provide a level of consistency between the two appraisals. However, an innovative approach to the sustainability appraisal of the Implementation Plan was the introduction of sustainability checklists and associated training for SEEDA staff involved in writing the Plan's actions and activities. This approach helped to integrate the sustainability appraisal with development of the Implementation Plan, thereby raising awareness and increasing understanding of sustainable development in SEEDA and allowing SEEDA staff to identify opportunities where the actions of the Implementation Plan can help to achieve greater sustainability benefits.



3. The Regional Economic Strategy Implementation Plan and Other Relevant Plans and Policies

3.1 Introduction

This section provides some background to the RES Implementation Plan and a review of relevant plans and policies. It provides an overview of the RES, the function of the Implementation Plan and its constituent parts. The section also provides a review of plans and policies to supplement the review of plans and policies undertaken as part of the sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment of the RES. It focuses on key relevant documents that have become recently available and summarises the implications for the implementation plan.

3.2 An overview of the Regional Economic Strategy 2006 – 2016

The vision for the South East, as set out in the RES, is *'to be a world class region achieving sustainable prosperity'*. This illustrates the importance of sustainable development to SEEDA and their partners. The RES is underpinned by work that highlighted key challenges for the region. These challenges together with an understanding of the different 'economic contours', ('inner south east', 'rural south east' and 'coastal south east' various growth areas, 'regional hubs' and 'diamonds for investment and growth') are translated into, and are the subject of, of three strategic objectives:

- Global Competitiveness – investing in success;
- Smart Growth – lifting under performance; and
- Sustainable Prosperity – supporting quality of life.

The RES identifies a number of actions to achieve these objectives, along with eight transformational actions which have the potential to have wide ranging effects.

3.3 Outline of the Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan is the delivery vehicle for the third RES for the South East England, 2006 - 2016. The RES does not seek to function in isolation; it clearly recognises that it is placed within the context of the Integrated Regional Framework for sustainable development in the South East and the South East Plan. As such, SEEDA and the South East Regional Assembly have committed to producing a single regional implementation plan, due for publication in 2007/08. In the interim period, the RES Implementation Plan has taken the approach to cross-reference the draft South East Plan Implementation Plan, which was published in October 2006.



The vision in the RES is that *'by 2016 the South East will be a world class region achieving sustainable prosperity'*. The RES *'sets targets to ensure that success is more widely attainable; and identified the importance of quality of life as a competitive advantage'*. It identifies three key and interlinked objectives for the region:

- 1) Global Competitiveness**– the region must remain competitive in the face of increasing international competition;
- 2) Smart Growth** – the need to raise economic underperformance by using the resources available more effectively;
- 3) Sustainable Prosperity** – the recognition that environmental limits must not be seen as impeding growth, rather that it can provide new opportunities for innovation and competition.

These objectives are supported by 14 targets which are:

- Global Business and Foreign Direct Investment;
- Knowledge Transfer and Business Expenditure on Research and Development;
- Innovation and Creativity;
- Infrastructure;
- Enterprise;
- Skills;
- Competition and Business Regulation;
- Transport;
- Physical Development;
- Employment;
- Climate Change and Energy;
- Sustainable Consumption and Production;
- Natural Resources and the Environment; and
- Sustainable Communities.

In addition to these targets the RES identifies 8 transformational actions:

- 100% Next Generation Broadband Coverage;



- Science and Innovation Campuses;
- Regional Infrastructure Fund;
- Raising Economic Activity Rates;
- Skills Escalator;
- Global Leadership in Environmental Technologies;
- Education-led Regeneration; and
- Making the Most of 2012.

The RES Implementation Plan sets out a series of actions and accompanying activities that will support these targets and transformational actions. These activities will further have to support the three cross-cutting themes of the RES which are Rural Areas; Equality and Diversity; and Culture, Sport, Leisure and the Creative Industries, as well as two additional themes of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Europe. It identifies the partner organisations that will have responsibility for delivering specific activities, provides a broad indication of phasing, costs and funding mechanisms. The Implementation Plan is a high-level strategic business plan; the specific details of the activities remain the responsibility of the relevant partners.

3.4 **Links with other plans and programmes**

The purpose of reviewing plans and programmes as part of the sustainability appraisal is to ensure that the relationship with these other documents is fully explored and to ensure that the relevant environmental protection and SA objectives are taken on board during the process. An extensive review of relevant plans and programmes was undertaken for the sustainability appraisal of the Regional Economic Strategy 2006 - 2016³. The detailed review is not replicated in this Report; however, a list of plans of programmes that were considered is given in Appendix B.

There are a number of plans and programmes that are considered to have a key bearing upon the Regional Economic Strategy Implementation Plan. These include certain documents that were published subsequent to the sustainability appraisal of the Draft Regional Economic Strategy 2006 – 2016. In summary these are:

Regional Spatial Strategy – South East Plan, 2006

The South East Plan is the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East region up to 2026. It was submitted to Government on 31 March 2006. The vision for the Plan is “for a healthier region, a more sustainable pattern of

³ South East RES 2006 -2016 Evidence Base, SEEDA



development and a dynamic and robust economy, the benefits of which are more widely shared.”⁴ It therefore provides the context and policy direction against which the Implementation Plan is set. The Plan was submitted for examination in Public in October 2006. It is anticipated that it will receive Government approval in early 2008.

The South East Plan contains a wide range of policies on key issues for planning. These cover issues concerned with the economy, housing, transport, natural resource management, waste and minerals, tourism, town centres and deprivation and social inclusion. The Plan acknowledges the disparities between different areas of the South East and thus the limitations of setting policies governing the whole region. Instead the Plan has identified nine sub-regions where development tailored to that sub-region’s characteristics will be concentrated. These sub-regions used to determine the spatial areas defined in the RES.

Stern Review, October 2006

The Stern Review, released in October 2006 for the Government, investigates and reviews the economic impacts and effects of climate change. It provides the context for the Implementation Plan’s targets for climate change and the importance of meeting these targets to ensure the sustainability of the RES. The Review comprehensively outlines the nature of the economic challenges being faced and how they can be addressed by the UK and the world. It highlights the importance of acting now in order to mitigate the future impacts of climate change. It assesses the damage of not acting against the costs of acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It identifies a number of key measures for tackling climate change including increased energy efficiency, changes in demand and the adoption of clean power, heat and transport technologies. It recommends that tackling climate change will present a long term pro-growth strategy.

Leitch Report, December 2006

The Leitch Report (2006) is an independent review undertaken in order to assess Britain’s long-term skills needs. It identifies the skills mix necessary to “maximise economic prosperity and productivity and to improve social justice.” The Report finds that despite having a strong economy, the UK suffers from low comparable rates of productivity and identifies a lack of skills as a key contributor. The UK Government has set targets for achieving an optimal skills mix by 2020. This includes increasing the proportion of working age people holding a degree from 27% to 38%. The Report highlights the gains that this will bring to the economy by increasing annual productivity growth by 0.2%. Addressing Britain’s skills requirements is crucial to maintaining its globally competitive stance. It is against this background that the skills targets of the RES are set, addressing and meeting skills and training needs in the region in order to support national priorities and strategies.

⁴ South East Plan



Gender Equality Duty, 2007

The Gender Equality Duty (2007) is aimed at addressing and eliminating all forms of harassment and discrimination based on gender. It requires all public authorities to demonstrate that they are promoting gender equality, placing the responsibility on organisations to support equality rather than individuals to highlight discrimination. All public sector employers will need to assess their plans and policies to ensure that the services they deliver cater for the needs of men and women. Employment policies, for example, will have to be assessed to determine how they affect men and women. These new requirements will necessitate all public authorities to set their own gender equality goals and targets and set out the necessary steps to achieve these targets.

Baker Review of Land Use Planning, 2006

The Baker Review of Land Use Planning is a review undertaken in 2006 of the current planning system in the UK. Specifically it addressed the questions of how planning policy and procedures can better deliver economic growth in accordance with sustainable development goals. It found that improving the speed and efficiency of the system was very important, reducing delays and unnecessary complexity which may cause extra hidden and economic costs. The Review notes that planning is often a key concern for inward investors and that a majority of firms expressed dissatisfaction with local planning authorities and the planning system. Thus increasing the flexibility, transparency and predictability of the planning system is a key focus of the Review. An efficient system contributes to increased overall productivity and growth for a region and contributes to creating an environment that is supportive of investment and business.

Comprehensive Spending Review, 2007

All the actions set out in the RES Implementation plan will be subject to budgetary and spending rules & constraints. The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) “is an in-depth examination of Government spending priorities, to establish long-term aims and objectives for each Government department linked to public expenditure and performance management frameworks”. The CSR 2007 will encompass spending for the period 2008-2011. In June 2006 the Regional Assembly and SEEDA made their submission to the review on funding and spending priorities. The CSR plays an important role in guiding the RES Implementation Plan in its priorities and targets and where areas of spending should be focused.

3.5 **Spatial dimension of the Regional Economic Strategy Implementation Plan**

The role of the RES Implementation Plan is to set out the actions that will deliver the targets of the RES. As these actions will be implemented in different parts of the region, they should reflect local distinctiveness and recognise the different challenges and opportunities that exists these locations. The RES recognised three broad ‘economic contours’ within the region. These are:



- **Inner South East.** A generally wealthy core around London, where the challenge is to make the most of the area's economic strength to secure future prosperity whilst addressing significant pockets of deprivation.
- **Rural South East.** This contour accounts for 80 per cent of the region's land mass, a third of its business base and a quarter of its population. It is an area that is attracting an increasing number of knowledge-based businesses. However, the challenge is to reverse the slow economic decline and to do so in a sustainable manner. Investment is needed in physical and community infrastructure to support rural communities and new solutions are required to sustainably maintain and to manage landscape assets.
- **Coastal South East.** The coastal South East is characterised by environmental assets and a distinctive coastline with diverse cities and towns, yet it is an area that has seen continued economic and social decline. There is a need to invest in the potential of both individuals and areas in order to lift underperformance. This is likely to be achieved through skills progression, innovation and creativity, economic upgrading and culture and leisure-based growth.

It is intended that Spatial Frameworks are developed for each of these economic contours translating the targets and transformational actions to a sub regional level. At this stage only key priorities have been identified for each of these Spatial Frameworks and these will need a sustainability appraisal when more information is available. The potential implications of the Habitats Directive are considered in Section 4.2.7.

3.6 Summary

The extensive review of the relevant plans and policies that was undertaken as part of the sustainability appraisal of the Regional Economic Strategy assisted in the selection of the key regional sustainability issues identified in this Report. A review of the key relevant plans and policies for this appraisal identified a number of new documents that have the potential to impact on the Implementation Plan. These include the Stern Report, October 2006, which investigated the economic impacts and effects of climate change that has particular relevance to the RES Implementation Plan with its commitment to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions attributable to the South East by 20% from the 2003 baseline by 2016.



4. Existing Environmental Conditions

4.1 Introduction

An essential part of the sustainability appraisal process is the identification of the current baseline conditions and their likely evolution. It is only with a knowledge of existing conditions, and a consideration of their significance, that the issues which the plans and programmes should address (in this case the RES Implementation Plan) can be identified and its subsequent success or otherwise be monitored.

The SEA Directive requires that the evolution of the baseline conditions of the plan area (that would take place without the plan or programme) are identified. This is useful in informing assessments of significance, particularly with regard to the effect that conditions may already be improving or worsening and the rate of such change. Where information on these trends is available it has been included within the following section. Where the key issue has links to one or more of the SA objectives (identified in Section 3) these are referenced in italics at the end of the description of the issue. However, this report does not seek to replicate the baseline data that is identified and given in the RES Scoping Report, November 2005 and reference should be made to this earlier report if the baseline information is required.

4.2 Key sustainability issues

Outlined below are the key sustainability issues for the South East region that were identified during the SEA/SA process undertaken for the Draft RES. As referred to in Section 2.7 Consultation and Involvement, these key issues were brought forward into the Scoping Report, March 2007 of the RES Implementation Plan. These have been amended in light of responses received from the Scoping Report consultation exercise. A summary of consultation responses to the scoping report and how they have been addressed and are given in Appendix A.

4.2.1 Housing

The South East has a population of over 8 million people, and this is predicted to increase by 10 per cent between 2003 and 2021. To meet the demands of this growing population, 580,000 new homes are planned for the South East over the next 20 years⁵. The challenge will be to build these new homes in a manner that ensures that they contribute towards the creation of sustainable and cohesive communities.

In this respect, one key issue is the need to provide sufficient affordable homes for key workers, of which currently there is a short supply. High demand for housing in the South East has seen house prices increase by 70 per cent

⁵ State of the Environment Report 2006, Environment Agency



since 1999. However, annual earnings over the same period have increased by just 30 per cent⁶. This has created a situation where sections of the population are in effect denied access to the housing ladder. In addition, high house prices have had a knock-on effect on the private rental sector. *This is related to SA Objective 1.*

4.2.2 Access and transport

There is a need to improve access to services and facilities in the South East for both the current and planned new populations. With respect to access to and via road transport, the South East already has the highest level of road traffic of all the English regions. There has been a 20 per cent increase in road traffic in the last decade. Annually more than 86 billion kilometres of road travel is undertaken in the South East⁷. The use of public transport for journeys to work within the South East decreased by 1 per cent between 2002 and 2003 to 9 per cent, even though bus accessibility within the region improved between 1992 and 2001.

Heavy road usage leads to congestion which has several negative implications. It impacts upon journey to work times, which in turn can impact on productivity and business costs. It reduces the effectiveness of the road system as a mechanism for moving goods and people. Congestion also results in increased local air pollution, in particular from nitrogen oxides, and increases greenhouse gas emissions. *This is related to SA Objective 8 & 15.*

4.2.3 Sustainable consumption and production

The sustainable consumption of resources is a key issue for the South East. The region's ecological footprint indicates that we would need three and half planets if everyone in the world had the same level of consumption as the South East.

The region consumes more water per head of population than most other regions, despite it receiving lower than the UK average of rainfall. This increases the pressure upon water supply, and this pressure is expected to rise with the increase in house building. It is an issue that affects both rural and urban areas. Groundwater provides more than 70 per cent of the public drinking water supply for the region⁸. Groundwater is vulnerable to pollution incidents from various diverse sources including agricultural activities, industrial and chemical plants, petrol, diesel and oil storage facilities, sewage disposal and waste disposal sites. Groundwater availability is vulnerable due to droughts, low rainfall and over-abstraction. There is the need to ensure that developments include the timely provision of environmental infrastructure, such as waste water and sewerage infrastructure to assist in overcoming some of these issues.

⁶ South East RES 2006 – 2016 Evidence Base, SEEDA

⁷ State of the Environment Report 2006, Environment Agency

⁸ State of the Environment Report 2006, Environment Agency



Waste production is an issue clearly linked to resource consumption. Waste production in the South East is predicted to increase to 35 million tonnes in 2010⁹. The amount of domestic waste produced in the region continues to rise. Most commonly this waste is disposed of in landfill sites. Not only is landfill capacity decreasing but this method removes potential resource materials out from production. Recycling meanwhile recognises that waste is actually a resource. The increasing level of waste production needs to be tackled through waste minimisation, reuse, recycling, and waste treatment.

The South East produces above UK average carbon dioxide emissions, with respect to industry and commercial activities, road transport, domestic and land-use change. It produces the greatest carbon dioxide emissions for transport and domestic use compared to the other English regions and is second highest for emissions for industrial and commercial use¹⁰. Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases that are contributing towards climate change. Within the South East climate change impacts are predicted to include summer heat-waves and winter storms, which will increase the frequency of droughts and floods. This in turn will impact on buildings and infrastructure, through subsidence, and on the drainage and sewerage systems, through increased rainfall intensities and runoff. Coastal sea defences will be threatened by rising sea levels, as will coastal aquifers and soils, which could become polluted by salt water. Wildlife will also be at risk due to changing habitats, as climatic zones are predicted to shift north¹¹. *This is related to SA Objectives 12, 16, 17, 18, 19.*

4.2.4 Flooding and flood zones

In the South East 310,000 properties and businesses are at risk from coastal or river flooding. Of all the English regions, it is the one that is considered to be most at risk from flooding. The greatest risk is posed by the sea; the region has 12,500 kilometres of coastline. The risk of flooding is also affected by land use practices. The economic cost associated with flood damage to both commercial and domestic properties has tripled in the last decade¹². The challenge will be to achieve economic growth in a manner that does not increase the risk, and costs, of future flooding incidents. *This is related to SA Objective 2.*

4.2.5 Poverty, social exclusion and regeneration

Although the South East is a relatively prosperous region it does contain areas of significant deprivation. According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2004) 5.1 per cent of the region's population falls within

⁹ RES 2006-2016 Evidence Base, SEEDA, 2006

¹⁰ State of the Environment Report 2006, Environment Agency

¹¹ State of the Environment Report 2006, Environment Agency

¹² State of the Environment Report 2006, Environment Agency



the most deprived 20 per cent nationally. This equates to one on 20 residents in the region. These areas are mainly located in the eastern and coastal districts, with 85 per cent of all deprived people in the region living in the coastal districts¹³. The challenge is to ensure that the actions of the RES Implementation Plan deliver benefits for all communities within the region. *This is related to SA Objectives 4 & 22.*

4.2.6 Land use

There is a high demand for land within the region. Two thirds of the land is agricultural and 40 per cent of the land is protected by conservation designation and approximately 15 per cent of the land in the South East is designated as green belt¹⁴.

To meet this demand, an increasing number of homes are now built on previously used land (often call brownfield land). Between 1998 and 2001, 60 per cent of new homes were built on brownfield sites. Within the same period, 48 per cent of new commercial and industrial floor space was developed within brownfield sites¹⁵. There is potential to increase development within brownfield as the area of derelict land and vacant buildings increased between 1998 and 2001. However, in some cases brownfield land may have a higher biodiversity value than a greenfield site and this needs to be taken into consideration to ensure no less of biodiversity value. Another element to this issue is the role that land management has to play in enhancing and preserving soil quality which is vital for economically viable farming. Appropriate land management can also assist in reducing the risk of water pollution, reducing the risk of localised flooding and can provide benefits to biodiversity and habitats within the region. *This is related to SA Objectives 2, 12, 10, 13 & 17.*

4.2.7 Biodiversity

One third of the region is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are 700 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covering 131,000 hectares. The condition of the SSSI has improved from 70 per cent in 2005 to 79 per cent in 2006¹⁶. The total area of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the South East is approximately 72,700 hectares and approximately 88,500 hectares for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) according to data supplied by Natural England (May 2007). Forty two percent of the SACs and 45% of SPAs in the South East are considered favourable, whilst 38% of SACs and 33% of SPAs are assessed as being unfavourable but

¹³ RES 2006-2016 Evidence Base, SEEDA, 2006

¹⁴ RES 2006-2016 Evidence Base, SEEDA, 2006

¹⁵ RES 2006-2016 Evidence Base, SEEDA, 2006

¹⁶ State of the Environment Report 2006, Environment Agency



improving. Nineteen percent of SACs and 23% of SPAs are considered to be either unfavourable with no change, unfavourable and declining, or destroyed.

However, there are pressures on biodiversity within the region, most notably from habitat loss, incompatible land use, invasion by non-native species and pollution. The health of river and stream habitats is poor; 90 per cent is classified as unfavourable or declining. Populations of farmland and woodland bird species have also declined within the South East. The issue will be to conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity, recognising its own intrinsic value and the economic and well-being benefits that a high quality natural environment can deliver. *This is related to SA Objective 13.*

The assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations

In October 2005 (Case C-6/04), the European Court of Justice (ECJ) held that Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (known as the 'Habitats Directive') apply to land use plans (LUP) in England (under the definition of 'plans or projects' within the Directive) and furthermore, that as a result of the failure to make land-use plans subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) of their implications for European Sites, Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive has not been transposed completely. In the UK, the Habitats Directive is implemented through The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994 No 2716) (as amended) (known as the 'Habitats Regulations') of which a new draft was published in May 2006 to implement the ECJ judgement. The new regulations are due to come into force in 2007 and will result in the addition of Part IVa "Appropriate Assessments for Land Use Plans in England and Wales". The requirements of Part IVa of the draft regulations are that prior to a Land Use Plans (LUP) being published, the competent body must assess the potential effects of the LUP upon European Sites in Great Britain. For the purpose of this guidance, the whole process of assessing the effects of an LUP on European Sites is referred to as 'Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)'. It should therefore be noted that 'Appropriate Assessment' is one step within the whole process of HRA.

European Sites are sites of nature conservation value with statutory protection at the European Level. These sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) designated under the EC Habitats Directive 1992, Special Protection Areas (SPA) and potential Special Protection Areas (pSPA) classified under the EC Birds Directive 1979 and Ramsar Sites designated under the Ramsar Convention 1976. The then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) indicated in a letter dated 28th February, to Chief Planning Officers that AA will be required for all land-use plans that Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs) or Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) consider likely to have a significant effect on a European Site. The Habitats Directive states that Appropriate Assessment is required on "Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon" (Article 6(3)). Although 'plan' or 'project' are not defined in the directive, the ECJ have taken a broad approach to the definition of plans and projects and is not, as such, exclusive to 'land use plans'.



Habitat Regulations Assessment and the Regional Economic Strategy Implementation Plan

Although economic strategies are not strictly land use plans, the RES for South East England does include Spatial Frameworks that may prescribe some locations for new initiatives and development. The RES in its current form already indicates for example, particular road links that may require improvement and identifies locations for new economic development. It is therefore assumed that the Implementation Plan may describe development at specific locations to a level of detail that could be equal to or greater than that prescribed by the RES.

Although the prescriptions as part of the RES are relatively high level, the Implementation Plan, particularly relating to the Spatial Frameworks, may potentially be more specific in terms of spatial proposals and as such, could possibly result in significant effects on European Sites. This is potentially of importance for the coastal areas of the South East as much of the coast line has been designated for its international importance for nature conservation. Following further refinement to the Spatial Frameworks, SEEDA will give active consideration to whether an HRA would be required and if it is, it will be subject to an assessment consistent with statutory requirements and the involvement of Natural England.

4.2.8 Countryside and historic environment

The South East has a rich variety of landscapes and historic environments. The region has 6,500 square kilometres of land designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is one third of the total area of AONB designations for England¹⁷. The New Forest was designated as a National Park in 2005, the first new national park to be created in 50 years. The South Downs have been proposed for designation as a national park. The South East was the first region to have a designated heritage coastline and there are now five stretches of coastline that are designated, a total of 72km¹⁸. In addition water bodies, such as the Thames and the Solent, provide significant leisure and sport opportunities that could contribute towards the economic success of the region. These bodies of water may also face challenges from inappropriate development which may adversely affect their value.

The region has a wealth of historic sites including 76,350 listed buildings, 2,647 scheduled monuments, 17 protected wreck sites, 369 registered historic parks & gardens and 6 registered historic battlefields. It has two UNESCO designated World Heritage Sites; Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire and three sites in Canterbury – the Cathedral, St Augustine Abbey and St Martin's Church.

The historic environment faces an increasing challenge from the intensification of development in urban areas which could lead to a loss of assets and character in these areas. The countryside and historic environments in rural areas could also face pressures from potentially conflicting development requirements and changes in land-use,

¹⁷ SEEDA, http://www.seeda.co.uk/Work_in_the_Region/About_the_South_East/

¹⁸ Heritage Counts, Web Report 2006, English Heritage, http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/hc2006/upload/pdf/HC_2006_South_East_DATA.pdf



which again could lead to a loss or change in the character of areas, both with respect to heritage quality and biodiversity. Potential conflicts could include energy production, intensive agricultural and horticultural practices, which have an valuable role in contributing towards the region's economy but which may also lead to potentially negative effects, for example upon soil and water quality. It may also be possible that certain types of developments may impact upon the visual character of urban and rural historic and countryside environments.

The role of historic and countryside environments, both urban and rural, in helping to define places and to give communities a sense of shared belonging, needs to be recognised as an element that can help to create sustainable communities. *This is related to SA Objectives 10 & 14.*

4.2.9 Health

Overall the South East has high levels of good health with most health indicators illustrating that it performs well in comparison to other English Regions. However, there are disparities between areas within the region. The areas of highest levels of limiting illnesses within the region are closely correlated with deprivation on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004. The major causes of ill health and deaths in the region are cardiovascular diseases¹⁹.

Increasing access to a good quality natural environment (accessible natural greenspace) is recognised as having positive health benefits. The Environment Agency, working with partners, at three different sites have demonstrated and recorded these benefits. For example, at Freiston Shore Nature Reserve, Lincolnshire, 90 per cent of respondents reported that they felt less stressed and much calmer after visiting the site²⁰. At Chinbrook Meadows, South London, improvements in the quality of the environment resulted in enhancing people's feelings of safety which encouraged them to spend more time in the park²¹. In Old Moor Nature Reserve, South Yorkshire, nine out of ten visitors stated that they believed that visiting the reserve improved their sense of well-being and almost 50 per cent saw their visit as an opportunity to take some exercise²². *This is related to SA Objective 3.*

4.2.10 Education and skills

In comparison to the other English regions, the South East has a well qualified workforce. However, there are disparities within the region, and the National Employers Skills Survey suggested that many employers encounter difficulties in finding workers with the relevant skills. In particular the workforce in Coastal South East has a lower level of skills. Additionally, almost one million people in the region aged between 16 and 60 have poor

¹⁹ RES 2006-2016 Evidence Base, SEEDA, 2006

²⁰ Freiston Shore Nature Reserve, Case Study, Environment Agency

²¹ Better Places Case Study 2: Chinbrook Meadows, Environment Agency, 2006

²² Better Places Case Study 1: Dearne Valley, Environment Agency 2006



literacy skills and approximately 900,000 have poor numeracy skills²³ Low levels of these basic skills impacts upon productivity and competitiveness. One potential skills shortage which may also need to be address is those required for sustainable construction. *This is related to SA Objectives 5, 25.*

4.2.11 Cohesive communities

The challenge today is to create places where people want to live and where communities can flourish, i.e. to create sustainable communities. The South East contains a wide range of communities and cultural environments. The initial challenge will be to ensure that these are recognised and that effort is made to support these so that they may benefit from, and contribute positively towards, the development of the South East.

When developing new communities, the challenge will be to avoid creating environments that lead to dormitory neighbourhoods, which lack vibrancy and suffer from issues such as fear of crime, and social isolation. Cohesive communities need to create social inclusion, which is recognised by the South East Regional Assembly as being a key aspect for ensuring the sustainable economic success of the region. The provision of high-quality green infrastructure is an element that can play a role in creating a sense of place and providing safe and welcoming places where people can meet new neighbours on an informal basis. *This is related to SA Objectives 6, 7 & 9.*

4.2.12 Air pollution

There has been an improvement in air quality in the region within the last decade. This is due in part to stricter emission standards, cleaner fuels and new technology. However, there are local air pollution hot-spots and 90 Air Quality Management Areas that have been declared in the South East²⁴. Low air quality is not confined solely to urban environments. Rural areas can be affected by the breakdown products of low level ozone. The challenge will be to ensure that increased economic growth, and associated transportation, does not lead to a decrease in air quality. *This is related to SA Objective 11, 12 and 15.*

4.2.13 Economic growth and competitiveness

The South East is a highly prosperous region, in national terms (as measured by GVA per head)²⁵. The region makes a major contribution to the UK economy, accounting for 15.6% of total UK Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2003 and on a European basis (2001 figures) the South East ranks 15th of the EU's 86 regional units (including

²³ RES 2006-2016 Evidence Base, SEEDA, 2006

²⁴ State of the Environment 2006, Environment Agency

²⁵ RES 2006-2016 Evidence Base, SEEDA, 2006



accession states)²⁶. In broad terms, the South East economy can be categorised as being advanced, high cost, high income, broadly based and service oriented. Structural and locational factors provide much of the reason for the South East's successes. However, in order to maintain the current levels and achieve forecast levels of economic growth in the face of competition from developing regions requires a range of factors including a continuation of current economic stability supplemented with considered economic (as well as social and environmental) actions. A change in the economic prospects for the South East could have significant implications for the wider social and environmental well-being of the region. *This is related to SA Objectives 20, 21.*

4.2.14 Knowledge based economy

The knowledge economy constitutes a significant part of the South East's business base and has been identified as a key driver for economic growth both in the South East and the UK. Over recent time, the finance and business sector has contributed to around 1.5% of annual growth within the South East between 1995 to 2005 and forecast to contribute around 1% of the growth to 2015²⁷. The growth of the knowledge sector depends on a range of factors including ensuring that a diverse business base is maintained, creative and cultural sector is effectively tapped and that required economic, social and environmental actions are taken (such as investment in new infrastructure, etc.). *This is related to SA Objective 23.*

4.2.15 Tourism

The South East is home to a wide variety of tourist attractions and destinations. The most popular visitor attractions during 2005 (charging admission fees) included Canterbury Cathedral (over one million visits); Windsor Castle (945,000 visits); RHS Garden Wisley, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Hop Farm Country Park in Kent and Tulleys Farm in West Sussex all recorded more than 500,000 visits²⁸.

Tourism is one of the region's largest industries creating over £10 billion per annum in terms of visitor expenditure. It provides employment for more than 225,000 people, approximately 8 per cent of the regions workforce. However, the Tourism Better Business Scheme reported, in their Skills Strategy 2004, the difficulties that that the sector faces in retaining staff. The sector in the South East region loses on an annual basis approximately 23 per cent of the sector workforce²⁹. *This is related to SA Objective 20, 24.*

²⁶ www.seeda.co.uk

²⁷ RES 2006-2016 Evidence Base, SEEDA

²⁸ Tourism South East Key Facts & Figures 2005, Tourism South East website

²⁹ Tourism Better Business Scheme, <http://www.tbbs.org.uk/page.asp?tourismid=30>



4.3 Summary of key environmental trends

The SEA Directive requires that the evolution of the baseline environmental conditions of the plan area that would take place without the plan or programme to be considered (in this case the RES Implementation Plan) should be identified. This is useful in informing assessments of significance, particularly with regard to the effect that conditions may already be improving or worsening and the rate of such change. The information contained within Table 4.1 has been summarised from the above and from the baseline data contained in Table 2.2.

Table 4.1 South East environmental trends summary

SEA topic	Trend summary
Biodiversity, including Fauna and Flora	The condition of SSSI in the region has improved from 70 per cent in 2005 to 79 per cent in 2006. Pressures on biodiversity within the region include habitat loss, incompatible land use, invasive non-native species and pollution. The health of river and stream habitats is poor; 90 per cent is classified as unfavourable or declining. Populations of farmland and woodland bird species have also declined within the South East
Population	The South East has a population of approximately 8 million and it is predicted to increase by 10 per cent between 2003 – 2021. GVA per head disparities exist across the region with lower GVA areas being the Sussex coast, East Kent and Ashford. In comparison to the other English regions, the South East has a well qualified workforce. However, there are disparities within the region. Almost one million people in the region aged between 16 and 60 have poor literacy skills and approximately 900,000 have poor numeracy skills. The region has relatively high levels of employment with the highest source is the hotel and restaurant sector
Human Health	Overall the region has good levels of health although there are disparities across the region. Major causes of ill health and deaths are cardiovascular diseases. The areas of highest levels of limiting illnesses within the region are closely correlated with deprivation on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004
Soil	There is a high demand for land in the region. 40 per cent of the land is protected by conservation designation. 60 per cent of new homes were built on previously used land between 1998 & 2001
Water	The South East consumes more water per head than any other English region but receives below UK average rainfall. Groundwater, which provides 70 per cent of public drinking water supplies, is vulnerable to pollution incidents and over-abstraction
Air	Air quality within the region has improved in the last decade. However, there are local air pollution hot spots and 90 Air Quality management Areas that have been declared in the region
Climatic Factors	The South East produces above average CO ₂ emissions, with respect to industry & commercial activities, road transport, domestic and land-use changes. Predicted climate change impacts for the region include summer heat-waves & winter storms which will increase the frequency of droughts and floods. Rising sea levels will also threaten sea defences and coastal aquifers and soils will be at risk from salt water contamination. 310,000 properties & businesses are at risk from coastal or river flooding
Material Assets	580,000 new homes are planned for the region over the next 20 years. The region has a shortage of affordable homes, in particular for key workers. House prices have increased by 70 per cent since 1999 whilst annual earnings have increased by just 30 per cent in the same period
Cultural Heritage	The region has a wealth of historic sites including two UNESCO designated World Heritage sites. However, the historic environment in both urban and rural areas is facing pressure from sometimes conflicting development needs and this may lead to a change in the character and loss of heritage assets
Landscape	The region has 1,250 kilometres of coastline of which 72km is designated as heritage coastline. The New Forest was designated as a national park in 2005. One third of the region is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



SEA topic	Trend summary
Inter-relationship	The region's ecological footprint is calculated at 55 million global hectares (gha), which is 29 times the physical land area of the region. It is equivalent to 6.8 gha per person. If the world's population were to live like the average South East resident we would need three and a half planets

4.4 Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected

A further requirement of the SEA Directive is that the environmental characteristics of those areas likely to be significantly affected by the plan or programme are identified. The RES Implementation Plan contains a wide range of actions mostly at the regional level and at this stage only a limited number of these have been identified with a specific geographic focus. Spatial Frameworks, discussed in Section 3.5, may provide some more specific references when they are developed.

4.5 Summary

The key regional sustainability issues were identified during the sustainability appraisal of the draft Regional Economic Strategy. That these issues were still considered to be of the greatest importance for the region was tested by consultation. This consultation process included a Scoping Workshop held with key and statutory consultees and with the publication of the Scoping Report of the RES Implementation Plan, which was made available on SEEDA's website. Comments received from this consultation, with regards to the key sustainability issues, were incorporated into this Section, as appropriate.



5. Assessment of Sustainability Performance

5.1 Introduction

This section summarises the assessment of the RES Implementation Plan targets and transformational actions against the SA objectives, using information derived from the appraisal matrices contained in Appendix C and Appendix D, and provides recommendations to improve the sustainability performance of the Implementation Plan. Detailed recommendations are contained in Appendix G. It also assesses the overall compatibility of the RES with the SA objectives.

5.2 Assessment of options

The SEA Directive states that the Environmental Report should consider ‘*reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme*’ and give ‘*an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with*’ (Article 5.1 and Annex 1(h)). As a result of the nature of the Implementation Plan (which includes a substantial number of committed and ongoing programmes) and the process to develop it (targets and transformational actions were defined as part of the development of the RES), there has been no formal stage within the development of the Implementation Plan that has included consideration of strategic alternatives. However, the Implementation Plan has developed as a result of an iterative, collaborative process with ongoing consultation, during which changes have been made and the document has evolved. This is further discussed in Section 2.4.

5.3 Compatibility of the Regional Economic Strategy and sustainability appraisal objectives

An assessment of the potential compatibility of the RES Implementation Plan with the 25 SA objectives is contained in Figure 5.1. The three overarching objectives of the RES were assessed against the SA objectives using the same methodology as that used to complete the appraisal matrices..



Figure 5.1 Assessment of the overarching objectives of the RES against the SA objectives

SA objective	Overarching objective of the RES		
	The Global Challenge Achieve an annual average increase in GVA per capita of at least 3%	Smart Growth Increase productivity per worker by an average 2.3% annually, from £39,500 in 2005 to at least £50k by 2016 (in constant prices)	Sustainable Prosperity Reduce the rate of increase in the region's ecological footprint (from 6.3 global hectares per capita in 2003, currently at 1.1% per capita per annum), stabilise it and seek to reduce it by 2016
1 Sustainable homes	0	0	++
2 Flooding	--	--	++
3 Health and well-being	?	?	0
4 Poverty and social exclusion in deprived areas	?	?	--
5 Education and skills	++	++	~
6 Crime	?	?	~
7 Vibrant communities	?	?	?
8 Access to services and facilities	++	++	++
9 Cultural engagement	?	?	~
10 Land use	0	0	0
11 Air quality	--	--	++
12 Climate change	--	--	++
13 Biodiversity	--	--	++
14 Countryside and historic environment	?	?	++
15 Better transport	--	--	++
16 Resource consumption	--	--	++
17 Waste management	--	--	++
18 Water quality and resources	--	--	++
19 Energy	0	0	++



SA objective	Overarching objective of the RES		
	The Global Challenge Achieve an annual average increase in GVA per capita of at least 3%	Smart Growth Increase productivity per worker by an average 2.3% annually, from £39,500 in 2005 to at least £50k by 2016 (in constant prices)	Sustainable Prosperity Reduce the rate of increase in the region's ecological footprint (from 6.3 global hectares per capita in 2003, currently at 1.1% per capita per annum), stabilise it and seek to reduce it by 2016
20 Employment	++	++	--
21 Economic growth and competitiveness	++	++	--
22 Economic revival in priority areas	?	?	~
23 Innovation and knowledge economy	++	++	++
24 Sustainable tourism	?	?	?
25 Workforce skills	++	++	++

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KEY		
Effect	Description	Symbol
Major Positive	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective.	++
Minor Positive	The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral	The proposed policy does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective	0
Minor Negative	The proposed policy detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	-
Major Negative	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.	--
No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible.	~
Uncertain	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependant on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?



The assessment suggests:

- The Global Challenge and Smart Growth objectives are similar in their contribution to the SA objectives. There are strong positive links with economic SA objectives (#20 to #25), potentially adverse effects in relation to environmental objectives (broadly, #2, #10 to #19) and uncertain effects in relation to social objectives (broadly objectives #1 to #9);
- The Sustainable Prosperity objective may potentially have a strong positive link with some of the economic SA objectives (#23 to #25) and environmental SA objectives (broadly, #2, #10 to #19). There may be a more uncertain link with the social SA objectives (broadly objectives #1 to #9); and
- Most of the SA objectives are supported positively by at least one of the three overarching RES objectives.

5.4 Assessment of targets

5.4.1 Target 1 Global Business and Foreign Investment

The action plan for the Global Business and Foreign Investment target describes its aim as to: ‘*increase the percentage of businesses located in the South East operating internationally ...*’ and to maximise ‘*... the South East’s share of global Foreign Direct Investment*’. It includes actions to: create a focused regional team working to a Regional Trade and Investment Strategy; strengthen and focus partnership and joint working; and develop a programme of aftercare support for investors as part of an Investor Development Programme.

The focus of the target is to encourage and support businesses that may invest in the South East and as such involves work with several partner organisations at a UK (UK Trade and Investment) and regional (London Development Agency, East of England Development Agency, Sector Consortia, etc.) level, as well as activities run through overseas offices. The promotion of trade and investment involves a two way flow of businesses who might invest in the South East (this may include from other UK regions) as well as helping businesses in the South East trade internationally. Therefore, the effects of the action are likely to be best aligned with economic objectives. The detailed assessment presented in the appraisal matrices confirms this and the target performs well in relation to objectives such as ‘high and stable employment (#20)’, ‘sustain economic growth and competitiveness’ (#21), ‘develop the knowledge based economy (#23)’ and ‘development of the skilled workforce (#25)’. However, there is some uncertainty regarding the potential success of the target in relation to other economic objectives, particularly; ‘stimulating economic revival in priority (deprived) areas (#22)’. This objective, as well as some of the wider social and community themed objectives (particularly; #4, #8, #9, and to some extent #3), are expected to be closely linked to the target, as they could benefit indirectly from the location of new businesses in the south east and help existing businesses to grow.

Directing inward investment and new companies into a particular part of the region or to benefit specific groups (i.e. the unemployed or people in deprived areas) may not be in the long term interest of these firms if their location is sub-optimal in relation to their market or supply base. However, the actions could include measures to ensure



that such opportunities are at least considered. Whilst this has been recognised in the sustainability checklist prepared by SEEDA for the target, it would appear that there have been no substantive changes made or reference to this issue in the activities proposed and as such to improve the performance against this objective, consideration could be given to elevating the prominence of the impact of inward investment on specific groups within the region.

There are several environmental and wider socio-cultural objectives that are not strongly supported by this target. In consequence, there is the potential to strengthen its positive impacts by increasing cultural engagement and improving the accessibility to services and facilities. This could potentially be achieved through the implementation of programmes to introduce new investors into the local community and to promote the benefits of corporate social responsibility. These activities could potentially be delivered by the Investment Development Managers (IDMs). This potential role for the IDMs was identified by SEEDA during the sustainability checklist work they undertook prior to the completion of the sustainability appraisal.

There are uncertainties with respect as to whether target 1 could contribute positively towards improving the health and well-being of communities in the region and the extent to which it could help to reduce poverty and social exclusion and assist in the economic revival of the priority areas. With respect to health and well-being, one potential opportunity could be for the IDMs to promote the business benefits of a healthy and diverse workforce to employers. This should include promoting flexible working and sharing best practice among employers in the region (identified by SEEDA during their sustainability checklist work). These potential benefits could be enhanced by integrating or coordinating action 1.3 (aftercare support for investors) with actions of target 10 (Employment): i.e. actions 10.5 (promoting the benefits of a diverse workforce) and 10.6 (supporting business to place physical and mental well-being at the heart of their drive to increase productivity).

Recommendation

The aftercare support provided as part of the Investor Development Programme is seen as a key opportunity to strengthen and broaden the impact of this target. There is the potential that the activities could be adapted to ensure that investors are provided with environmental advice and support. This signposting role could be undertaken by the IDMs. This potential role for the IDMs was identified by SEEDA during the sustainability checklist work (as detailed in Section 2.7) undertaken prior to the sustainability appraisal.

With respect to reducing poverty and stimulating economic revival in the priority areas, SEEDA, during their sustainability checklist work, raised the question of whether the IDMs could concentrate on the deprived areas of the region. It was recognised that this would mean changing the types of companies that the IDMs engage with as there are fewer multi-nationals in these areas. One possibility is that perhaps the IDMs could focus on medium sized enterprises which need to make that next step to internationalisation.

Target 1 could potentially contribute towards stimulating the economic revival of the priority areas by integrating or co-ordinating its activities with those of target 7, Competition and Business Regulation. target 7 seeks to



increase the level of South East business, especially small business and social enterprises, in tendering for public sector contracts.

5.4.2 Target 2 Knowledge Transfer and Business Expenditure on Research and Development

The action plans for the Knowledge Transfer and Business Expenditure on Research and Development (R&D) target describe its aim to ‘*increase the proportion of businesses in the South East reporting R&D links with universities...*’ and ‘*... increase business expenditure on research and development in the South East...*’. This includes a number of actions to develop and deliver an innovation action plan in response to the Government investment framework in science and innovation; to promote and assist access to the South East’s knowledge base to regional, national and international businesses; and to ensure that the funding for these necessary skills is included in future UK Government investment frameworks.

The focus of this target is to promote the use of the South East’s R&D base to the benefit of local and international businesses. This includes actions to ensure that the most appropriate science and innovation skills are identified and supported. This involves work with a number of partner organisations at a UK (DTI, UKTI, and other Government departments) and regional (South East Science, Engineering and Technology Advisory Council, Higher Education Institutes, IDMs, Knowledge Networks, Sector Consortia, Business Links, Learning and Skills Councils, Higher Education Funding Council for England, etc) level.

The actions of this target have the potential to most strongly support the economic sustainability objectives, in particular objectives #21 ‘sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region’, #23 ‘develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge based economy that excels in innovation, with higher value, lower impact activities and #25, ‘develop & maintain a skilled workforce to support the long-term competitiveness of the region’. The target has the potential to strongly support objective 5 ‘raise educational levels and develop opportunities to acquire skills’. It is assessed to offer minor support to a number of objectives as a result of indirect benefits that enhanced R&D may create in these areas. These include the social and environmental objectives #6, #7, #8, #9, #11, #15 and #16. Target 2 does not strongly address environmental objectives which may be an issue considering the importance of climate change and the challenges that the region may face. Additionally, the actions do not demonstrate how, if at all, they will contribute towards stimulating the economic revival of the priority areas (objective #22).

It is noted that work to define the Innovation Action Plan is underway and until this is available the full impact of these actions is uncertain.

Recommendation

Target 2 needs to ensure that it address, through science, the challenges that the region will face from a changing climate and there are obvious potential links between this action and that of the Global Leadership in Environmental Technologies transformational action. It must also ensure that it seeks to encourage the uptake of



science skills by a diverse range of communities and promote initiatives to increase the appeal of science to a broader audience and hence increase the variety of people accessing and entering science a profession.

5.4.3 Target 3 Innovation and Creativity

This target describes a wide range of potential actions to promote innovation and creativity through: support to different sectors; initiatives aimed at identifying and removing barriers to innovation; and enterprise in businesses. Some of these activities include support that is either made available (e.g. available on Business Links website) or provided through sector organisations or specific locations (e.g. Enterprise Hubs), and as such involves work with, and by, a large number of partner organisations at a UK (Business Link, UKTI) and regional (Enterprise Hubs, Sector Consortia, etc.) level, as well as activities run through overseas offices.

Actions under this target also include support to the environmental technology and services sector consortia (EnviroBusiness South East) with obvious links to the transformational action related to environmental technology and a project to help ensure that appropriate land and premises are available for key sectors. There are therefore expected to be strong links with economic SA objectives. This is the case as SA objectives #20, #21, #23 and #25. In addition, the target performed well against some of the wider social objectives including #1, #4, #5, #9 and #16. These include contributions that may arise from the consolidation of Enterprise Hubs which may bring greater efficiency to delivery as well as having secondary environmental benefits as the operational footprint of the hubs could be reduced. The target appears to link the importance of design with creativity and commercialisation of ideas with innovation and does not appear to directly capitalise on some of the cultural aspects of innovation and creative industries as is tackled in target 5 'Enterprise'. However, this is recognised as a cross cutting issue in the Implementation Plan.

Recommendation

SEEDA has been working with its partners to maximise the effectiveness of business support services (see 'Businesses Support Simplification' action as part of target 5 'Enterprise') and this interface with South East businesses represents a key opportunity to promote wider sustainability agenda. It is hoped that the Business Support Simplification programme will help to ensure that the range of messages provided to businesses are focussed. However, sustainable business and the types of activities described in target 10 (flexible working, social responsibility, etc.) should also be a key part of these services, as well as a strengthening the importance and participation of local businesses in the BREW programme. SEEDA's equality and diversity team has identified a need for activities under this target to ensure that specialist support is available to providers in the voluntary and community sector to provide 'intensive capacity building support' to entrepreneurs from hard to reach backgrounds and ensure 'a seamless service of referral exists in partnership with Inclusive Finance CIC'. The equality and diversity team also noted that financial products made available as part of this target must be non-discriminatory.



5.4.4 Target 4 Infrastructure

The action plans for the Infrastructure target describe its aim to ‘*secure investment in infrastructure priorities to maintain international economic competitiveness*’. This includes a number of actions to: secure funding for Airtrack into Heathrow Airport; support the growth of the port of Southampton; secure gauge upgrading on the South Hampshire – Midlands National Rail Freight Corridor; develop an access management package for the port of Dover; and ensure Brighton Mainline provides appropriate facilities for Gatwick Airport users to access London and the South Coast. These activities are focused on helping the development of key infrastructure in the South East and in most cases are delivered by a range of transport related partners (e.g. BAA, Transport for London, Kent County Council, Highways Agency, Dover Harbour Board, Network Rail, Associated British Ports). It is assumed that the key effects of these activities would relate to the mitigation of congestion or enhancement of communications between these areas resulting in potential positive effects in relation to SA objective #15. The proposals predominantly include freight and rail projects which, ultimately, may help reduce the reliance on road transportation. Construction activities associated with the development of infrastructure are assessed to have a minor negative effect on SA objective #16 as a result of a potential intensive use of construction materials and resources. The indirect effects (including economic effects such as improvement to business efficiency as a result of more rapid transport or environmental effects such as reduction in emissions from vehicles as a result of ability to shift to rail transport) are generally uncertain at this stage and depend on funds becoming secured for the proposals. In addition, it is expected that each scheme, given its scale, may have to undergo some form of environmental impact assessment or sustainability appraisal, potentially as part of the planning process, which may identify and mitigate any potential negative effects.

Recommendations

These developments, should they proceed, would include substantial construction activity and as such sustainable construction techniques should apply. There may be limited scope to implement such recommendations as these projects may be delivered by other partners. Therefore consideration needs to be given as to what recommendations could be reasonably promoted.

5.4.5 Target 5 Enterprise

The action plans for Enterprise describe its aim to ‘*increase the business stock*’ including the number of new businesses run by women. This includes a wide range of actions including: implementing an integrated approach to business support; improve support for women’s enterprise; support new and growing businesses in the creative, cultural, leisure, sporting and visitor economy sectors; stimulate rural enterprise and new business making use of networks, co-operatives and centres of excellence; support the development of home-based enterprise; expand the Enterprise Gateway Network; build sustainability and corporate social responsibility into business practice; enhance the teaching of enterprise in educational institutions; and stimulate enterprise among under-represented groups. The target has a comprehensive range of activities delivered by a large number of partner organisations at



a UK (Business Link Providers, UK Trade and Investment, Arts Council) and regional (Learning and Skills Council, Local Partnerships, Enterprise Hubs, Sector Consortia, Social Enterprise Support Providers, etc.) level.

As a result of the diverse range of activities in this target, it performs well against a wide range of SA objectives, especially #20, #21, #23 and #25 (economic) as well as community based SA objectives (e.g. #4, #5, #7, #8, #9). There is potential for some of these benefits to be strengthened and enhanced, particularly where either new activities, or reference to activities elsewhere, can be included to enhance the environmental SA objectives (e.g. concerning sustainable production and consumption of resources). There are some particularly interesting and innovative actions proposed as part of this target, including support to home based working for carers or women (Action 5.2) or the use of festivals to showcase creative and cultural talent to a wider audience (Action 5.3).

Recommendation

SEEDA has been working with partners to maximise the effectiveness of business support services (see 'Businesses Support Simplification' action 5.1). This interface with South East businesses represents a key opportunity to promote wider sustainability agenda. It is hoped that the Business Support Simplification programme will help ensure the range of messages provided to businesses are focused. However, sustainable business and the types of activities described in target 10 (flexible working, social responsibility, etc.) should also be a key part of these services as well as a strengthening the importance and participation of local businesses in the BREW programme. Activity 5.7 ('Build sustainability and corporate social responsibility into everyday business practice') under this target is a clear commitment in the RES Implementation Plan to the promotion of sustainable business and may benefit from greater prominence, perhaps in combination with targets 11 and 12. More discrete recommendations involve making sure that excluded and minority groups are able to access and benefit from some of the activities (for instance involvement of schools from deprived areas in some of the activities described in action 5.8 or ensuring that the 'offer' from Enterprise Gateways is relevant to the local area), and to support the use of social enterprise as a sustainable business model for the cultural sector in an effort to move it away from funding dependency.

5.4.6 Target 6 Skills

The action plans for Skills describes its aim to '*maximise the number of people ready for employment at all skill levels, and ensure they are continually equipped to progress in the labour market*'. This includes a number of actions: ensure that education and training providers deliver skills that meet business requirements and stimulate the demand for higher skills; simplify the skills offer to businesses across the region and address skills deficits at an intermediate level; increase skills levels among the working age population; ensure that all young people and adults of all ages have access to relevant diplomas, vocational and work-based learning opportunities; and develop a 'action for communities model' with providers and other partners. Activities under this target are delivered by a wide range of partners including SEEDA, Learning and Skills Council, Higher Education Funding Council for England, Sector Skills Councils, Business Links Partnerships, Connexions, JobCentre Plus and Local Skills for Productivity Alliance, and are aimed regionally as well as at different communities or groups.



A number of the proposed activities are already underway and there is a some uncertainty regarding the potential overall effect of this target given that the status of a number of activities as described in the action plan as ‘planned’ with no funding identified. However, the sustainability appraisal indicates that the range of activities may benefit businesses in the South East and help employment in the region (notably SA objectives: #20, #21, #23 and #25). The target is also assessed to perform well in relation to SA objectives #4 and #5 (reducing poverty and social exclusion and increasing the level of educational attainment across the region) which are fundamental to tackle some of the issues that may hinder progress toward some of the RES’s Smart Growth objectives as well as some of the issues raised in the Leitch Report (2006) regarding long term skills needs (see section 3.7 for a review of the Leitch Report). This action and the recommendations of the Leitch Report are further supported by a transformational action: ‘Skills Escalator’. No direct environmental benefits have been identified in the assessment in comparison with SA objectives #10 to #19. Training and skills needs as they relate to the environmental sector are addressed in the transformational action ‘Global Leadership in Environmental Technologies’.

Recommendation

There are a number of other targets (e.g. ‘Employment’ or ‘Innovation’) that refer to skills, as well as transformational actions such as ‘Education Led Regeneration’ and ‘Skills Escalator’. Whilst these may, in combination, ensure that the main areas of need for skills in the South East are being met, it may be difficult to identify in monitoring which initiatives contribute towards to the targets/indicators of the RES.

The assessment of this target highlighted the potential to ensure that construction skills, as well as those required by the creative and cultural sector, be incorporated in the target. However, it is noted that these are likely to be addressed in target 9 (Physical Infrastructure) and 5 (Enterprise). Activities in action 6.5 to develop an ‘Action for Communities Model’ to help disadvantaged adults in the community and ‘Grow Our Own Model’ to help the economically inactive may need to include an up-front element of research to identify who may benefit.

Support to volunteering is recommended as a mechanism to assist individuals gain transferable skills.

5.4.7 Target 7 Competition and Business Regulation

The Competition and Business Regulation aim is to ‘*increase the level of participation of South East businesses (especially small businesses and social enterprises) in tendering for public sector contracts*’. This includes a number of actions: improve business support available to small and medium enterprises and social enterprises; identify areas of the public sector where there is potential for more procurement and encourage alliances; develop the region’s capability to influence legislation and regulations affecting the region’s economy (including rural businesses); and develop a proactive approach to improving planning performance and speed. This includes a few activities that have been described as ‘underway’ with the majority ‘planned’, and in consequence there is some uncertainty regarding the likelihood of the effects identified in the assessment.. Responsibility for the delivery of activities is a combination of joint delivery between SEEDA and regional partners such as Business Link, NHS, Local authorities, Housing Associations to Local Food Networks as well as delivery by others such as Regional Action and Involvement in South East (RAISE).



In terms of the target's performance against the SA objectives, it is most strongly aligned with economic objectives (particularly #20, #21 and #25). Activities as part of actions 7.1 and 7.2 encourage procurement opportunities for local businesses and have environmental as well as economic benefits as products and services are consumed closer to source, reducing the ecological footprint of the region. Other environmental effects are uncertain, such as the potential effect on biodiversity (SA objective #13) or the causes of climate change (SA objective #14). Interestingly, there are no activities to help small businesses address environmental or health and safety legislative issues, probably as the main issues visualised under action 7.3 (activities to influence regulations and legislation affecting the region's economy) relate to migrant workers, lobbying for benefit and tax reform, as well as coping with changes to support to the land based economy.

Recommendation

The activities that collectively comprise this target potentially play an important role in the delivery of some key SA objectives (particularly concerning sustainable procurement and help to SMEs). However, some uncertainty relating to the status and funding of proposed activities will need to be addressed. There is potential under this target for consideration to be given to developing activities to help small businesses address environmental or health and safety legislative issues in the most effective and efficient manner and to reduce perceptions that such legislation is a barrier to competitiveness.

5.4.8 Target 8 Transport

The Transport target aim is to '*reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, promoting public transport, managing demand and facilitating modal shifts*'. This includes a number of actions to: invest in transport to support strategic economic corridors; invest in integrated, inter-modal transport hubs of national and international economic significance; and to develop deliverable and sustainable solutions for regional road, rail and light rail schemes. The activities described under this target in the action plan comprise descriptions of each of the various transport proposals in the South East, without details of their status or a source of funding. Generally, the action plan proposes policy support for these initiatives but, in a number of instances, includes funding assistance, facilitation and partnership support. Responsibility for delivery is led in many cases by the main transport organisations, including Department for Transport, National Rail, Highways Agency and local authorities.

The action plan notes that the initiatives may have a range of potential outcomes, including: unlocking land for development; reducing congestion and removing bottle necks; better freight access and more efficient transport routes; linking deprived areas; completing strategic links; linking different transport modes at hubs; increasing capacity to facilitate growth, or service upgrades. The cumulative impact of these initiatives (both in terms of the direct effects arising from construction activities, operational use and potential indirect effects on development or growth) are likely to be significant. The sustainability appraisal has not considered the effects of each of these initiatives in detail as it is expected that each scheme may have to undergo some form environmental impact assessment or sustainability appraisal potentially as part of the planning process. which may act to mitigate any potential negative effects. In addition, these are considered as part of the Regional Spatial Strategy.



It is considered, in this SA, that these initiatives may improve access between employees and employment (#20) and contribute towards SA objectives that improve access to services and facilities (#8), assist priority areas (#22), and benefit the overall economic growth and competitiveness of the region (#21). Whilst both road and rail links are supported, the sustainability appraisal has assumed that there would be an overall net increase in the amount of road traffic in the South East with potentially negative effects on air pollution (SA objective #11) and the causes of climate change (#12). Such direct and indirect effects (economic effects such as the potential improvement to business efficiency as a result of more rapid transport; or environmental effects such as an impact on biodiversity due to the potential loss of habitats) are uncertain at this stage and would be revealed in a more detailed study of the effects of each initiative.

Recommendation

The cumulative effects of these initiatives may be significant in relation to the other targets in the RES and other regional strategies. In consequence, it would be important to ensure that the cumulative sustainable impacts of the transport initiatives described in this target have also been considered as part of the Regional Spatial Strategy. If they are not, it may be appropriate to consider the effects as part of the assessment of the Sub-Regional Frameworks. All construction projects should aspire to good sustainable construction practices and in urban areas meet the requirements of the considerate constructors' scheme. In addition, development partners should consider using SEEDA's Sustainable Construction Checklist.

Uncertainty relating to the status and funding of proposed activities will need to be addressed as well as measures to ensure that the effects of development are monitored by partners in a manner consistent with the rest of the RES Implementation Plan.

5.4.9 Target 9 Physical Development

The Physical Development aim is to '*Ensure sufficient and affordable housing and employment space...*' '*... to meet the needs of the region and support its competitiveness ...*' and to '*...create the climate for long term investment through the efficient use of land resources, including sustainable, mixed use developments*'. This includes a number of actions including: support housing delivery by encouraging close collaboration between local authorities; improve the condition of private housing stock in the region; ensure that physical development supports sustainable prosperity; ensure that surplus public sector land is put to the best use; build the capacity of local authorities to deliver sustainable development; ensure that developments are supported by adequate environmental infrastructure; encourage the adoption of quality development standards and best practice; and increase the number of organisations and people with the skills to take forward significant regeneration and development projects. Through 8 actions, the Implementation Plan proposes a wide range of activities to promote and deliver housing and employment space for the region's needs. A broad range of partners are identified including South East Excellence, SEEDA, English Partnerships, Housing Corporation, Environment Agency, Professional Institutions, local authorities, Natural England, GOSE, SEERA, Centre for Architecture and the Built Environment and developers. The majority of activities are underway with funding and funding sources identified.



In addition to the proposals within the Transport and Infrastructure targets, the Physical Development target includes £1billion allocated to the delivery of projects (jointly between SEEDA and English Partnerships, see action 9.4) that support economic, housing and social needs, including education, Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy (jointly between Regional Housing Board and local authorities, see action 9.3) as well as support to the development of environmental infrastructure (partnership of activities between Environment Agency, SEERA, Local authorities, Natural England and SEEDA – action 9.7). These projects may have a significant cumulative effects both in terms of their effects during construction (for example, construction activities can create a demand for employment in the construction sector and present job opportunities to people in the vicinity of the development) and when complete (for example, there is a lack of affordable housing across the South East and new affordable homes will help meet these needs). The significance of such effects will depend on the nature of the jobs demanded by the development and the ability of local people to take advantage of the opportunity. Details of these specific initiatives were not available in this appraisal but may need to undergo some form of environmental impact assessment or sustainability appraisal potentially as part of the planning process which may act to mitigate any potential negative effects. In addition, it is anticipated that these may have been considered as part of the Regional Spatial Strategy. Application of SEEDA’s sustainability checklist as part of development process may help mitigate adverse effects and maximise beneficial effects.

The target combines activities to deliver physical development and support delivery, including: strategy development; developing evidence or undertaking research; promoting high quality design and performance of developments; access to expertise and training opportunities; and measures to support the involvement of the community in regeneration activities. Despite some uncertainties relating to a number of SA objectives (namely #13, #14, #15, and #20), the target performs positively across a wide range of SA objectives, particularly #1, #2, #7, #8, #10, and #19 which are considered to be strongly aligned to this target. Of these, the target’s potential positive contribution to the minimisation of flood risk and efficient use of land deserves recognition.

Recommendation

The cumulative effects of these initiatives may be significant in relation to the other targets in the RES and other regional strategies. In consequence, it would be important to ensure that the cumulative sustainable impacts of the physical development initiatives described in this target have been considered as part of the Regional Spatial Strategy. If they are not, it may be appropriate to consider the effects as part of the assessment of the Sub-Regional Frameworks. In addition, development partners should consider the use of SEEDA’s Sustainable Construction Checklist. As some physical development projects are already underway, it may be difficult to retrospectively assess the cumulative effect of these projects. Therefore measures may be required to ensure that these effects are monitored by partners in a manner consistent with the RES Implementation Plan.

5.4.10 Target 10 Employment

The Employment target aim is to ‘*improve the productivity of the workforce and increase economic activity...*’ by bringing in ‘*...additional South East residents of working age into the labour market*’. This includes a number of



actions: support in-house and vocational training and target Further Education and Higher Education courses in industrial sectors with significant skills gaps; encourage lifelong learning and a culture of learning throughout business and community life; enable access to ICT support and promote flexible working among employers and regional planning policy; increase awareness of equalities and disability legislation among employers; and support the development of business strategies that focus on the physical and mental wellbeing of their workforce.

Activities are led by a range of different partners including SEEDA, Learning and Skills Council, JobCentre Plus, higher/further education institutes, Higher Education Funding Council England, National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, Regional Skills for Productivity Alliance, local authorities, sector skills councils, Manufacturing Advisory Service, and NHS. Activities include a mix of 'planned' projects and those 'underway' with details of funding sources reflecting their status (i.e. funding details available for those projects underway).

This target performs strongly within economic SA objectives (#20, #21 and #25) and some important social objectives (improve health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health (#3); reducing poverty and social exclusion (#4); raising levels of education attainment and developing opportunities to acquire skills needed to find work (#5); and improve accessibility to all services and facilities (#8)) which are fundamental to tackle some of the issues that may hinder progress toward some of the RES's Smart Growth objectives. Activities that underpin this include initiatives that aim to change business culture by introducing information about equalities and benefits of a diverse workforce, the importance of mental and physical well-being, life long learning and flexible working. There are a few environmental SA objectives that this target contributes positively towards, namely #15 and #16 concerning reduction of congestion and reduction in resource consumption due to potential changes resulting from an increase in the amount of flexible working.

Reference to initiatives to help re-offenders back to work in the sustainability checklist completed for this target lead to a positive contribution towards SA objective #6 (Reduction in crime and the fear of crime).

Recommendation

This target captures a range of different activities and captures some activities that overlap with other targets, for instance relating to Skills. Whilst it is likely that these, in combination, may act to ensure that the main areas of need for skills in the South East are being met, it may be difficult to identify in monitoring which initiatives contribute towards the targets/indicators of the RES.

Uncertainty relating to the status and funding of proposed activities (for instance, NHS partnered activities) will need to be addressed as well as measures to ensure that the effects of development are monitored by partners in a manner consistent with the rest of the RES Implementation Plan.

SEEDA has been working with partners to maximise the effectiveness of business support services (see 'Businesses Support Simplification' action 5.1): this interface with South East businesses represents a key opportunity to promote the wider sustainability agenda. It is hoped that the Business Support Simplification programme will help ensure the range of messages provided to businesses are focussed. However, sustainable



business should also be a key part of these services as well as a strengthening of the importance and participation of local businesses in the BREW programme. Activity 5.7 ('Build sustainability and corporate social responsibility into everyday business practice') under this target is a clear commitment in the RES Implementation Plan to this aim and may benefit from greater prominence, perhaps in combination with targets 11 and 12. More discrete recommendations involve making sure that excluded and minority groups are able to access and benefit from some of the activities, and support for the use of social enterprise as a sustainable business model for the cultural sector in an effort to move it away from funding dependency.

5.4.11 Target 11 Climate Change and Energy

The action plans for Climate Change and Energy describe its aim as to '*reduce CO₂ emissions ...*' and '*... increase the contribution of renewable energy...*' '*... to energy supply in the South East*'. This includes a number of actions to: promote the inclusion of climate risks and costs into public policy and business decision making; contribute to the delivery of infrastructure that is resilient to climate change; promote innovation for new markets and products that support adaptation to climate change; maximise opportunities arising from energy policy for South East businesses; and support energy efficiency initiatives.

This target is well aligned to a number of SA objectives including #19, #20, #21, and #22. These SA objectives relate to energy efficiency, access to employment and training. The activities under this target focus on strategies to respond to potential consequences of climate change rather than activities to prevent or reduce the contribution to climate change. Therefore, activities promoting the exploitation of potential commercial opportunities such as renewable technologies, developing environmental infrastructure, or development of energy efficient buildings may stimulate some economic growth (SA objective #21) but have little effect in relation to the SA objective relating to the causes of climate change (#12). Partners include the Environment Agency, EnviroBusiness, Manufacturing Advisory Service, South East Climate Change Partnership, Business Links, Carbon Trust, sector skills councils, Forestry Commission and local authorities. The majority of activities are planned.

Recommendation

Whilst the target is well aligned with some important objectives, consideration should be given to extending the activities covered by this target to include measures to respond to SA objective #12 which includes prevention and reduction to the contribution to climate change. It is understood that action 11.6 forms an important starting point from which to develop some of these activities.

5.4.12 Target 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production

The action plans for Sustainable Consumption and Production describe its aim as to '*to reduce per-capita water consumption*' and achieve an increase '*in GVA generated per tonne of materials entering the waste stream.*' This includes actions to: raise awareness of the need and opportunities for behaviour change amongst consumers; ensure that SEEDA's own developments incorporate water-saving and water-efficient technology; promote opportunities



for businesses in the environmental technology sector; promote sustainable consumption and production among South East businesses and improve support to businesses on resource efficiency; produce a South East Plan for Sustainable Public Procurement, facilitate the creation of demonstration Resource Recovery Parks; develop SEEDA's sustainability checklist; and ensure that all SEEDA funded developments achieve Ecohomes/BREEAM 'excellent' standards as a minimum.

Partners involved with this action include water companies, local authorities, Water Wise, South East Water Resources Forum, Carbon Trust, EnviroBusiness, SEEDA, GOSE, SEERA, and WRAP.

There are a number of key potential effects that may arise as a result of this target, especially relating to SA objectives #16, #17, #18, #19 which relate to environmental effects (waste, water, resources and energy consumption) with more minor positive effects associated with biodiversity (#13), climate change (#12), efficiency of land use (#10), and reduction of flood risk (#2). Activities supporting these effects include SEEDA's role as an exemplar in the design and construction of sustainable buildings, promotion of resource and energy efficiency, local procurement, creating a market for recyclables (at a greater London level), as well as activities on the supply chain.

Recommendation

Action 12.1 includes promoting changes in the behaviour of businesses and in the population of the South East in the consumption of water. It is recommended that this action is extended to include the promotion of beneficial changes in the behaviour of consumers to energy consumption and other resources.

5.4.13 Target 13 Natural Resources and the Environment

The action plans for Natural Resources and the Environment describe its aim as to '*achieve measurable improvements in the quality, bio-diversity and accessibility of green and open space.*' This includes a number of actions to achieve measurable improvements in the quality and accessibility of open space (including green space, open space and green infrastructure) in and around towns and cities.

This target has a large number of potential partners involved in delivery, including; Natural England, English Partnerships, local authorities, South East Rural Towns, Sport England, English Heritage, Tourism South East, and British Waterways. The activities mainly relate to the collection of evidence bases and research regarding the topic, development of strategies for green and open space as well as regional waterways, and promotion of the development (and benefits) of green space in development in urban areas. As a result, the target is considered to be well aligned with the following SA objectives: #3 (health and well being), #8 (access to services), #13 (biodiversity) and #14 (countryside and historic environment).



Recommendation

Other than the activities in this target, there is generally little alignment between SA Objective 14 (countryside and the historic environment) and the targets in the rest of the Implementation Plan. It is recommended that additional activities or adjustments are made to the activities in this target to widen the scope to include appropriate actions with regards to the historic environment and landscape.

5.4.14 Target 14 Sustainable Communities

The action plans for Sustainable Communities describes its aim as to ‘enable more people to benefit from sustainable prosperity across the region and reduce polarisation between communities.’ This includes actions to: support the participation of communities in shaping urban renaissance; work with public sector procurers to provide a level playing field for the voluntary and community sector to be able to compete effectively for public sector contracts; work through local mechanisms to spread the benefits of sustainable prosperity; capitalise on the ability of the voluntary sector build inclusive communities and spread benefits of sustainable prosperity across the region; and adopt the Regional Index of Sustainable Well Being as an additional indicator of sustainable prosperity.

This target includes partnership working with a wide range of partners including: GOSE, NHS, Jobcentreplus, Learning and Skills Council, Regional Action and Involvement in South East, local education authorities, SEERA, Her Majesty’s Treasury, commercial banks, Connexions, English Partnerships, South East Excellence, higher education institutes, local authorities, Department for Communities and Local Government, and New Economics Foundation.

The target is considered to perform well in terms of SA objectives that support sustainable prosperity and smart growth objectives, including: #1, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #14, #10, #20, #21, #22 and #25.

Recommendation

Uncertainty relating to the status and funding of proposed activities would need to be addressed as well as measures to ensure that the effects of development are monitored by partners (particularly in the voluntary and community sector) in a manner consistent with the rest of the RES Implementation Plan. Work to develop a Regional Index of Sustainable Wellbeing has been noted and included as one of the proposed indicators to monitor the Implementation Plan (See Section 7).

5.5 Assessment of transformational actions

5.5.1 Transformational Action 1 Raising Economic Activity Rates

The action plans for Raising Economic Activity Rates describes its aim as to ‘improve the productivity of the workforce and increase economic activity’. It is noted that this transformational action is in support of, or in



addition to, activities described in Skills (target 6) and Employment (target 10). The range of partners involved is also similar (Business Links SEEDA, Learning and Skills Council, Department for Work and Pensions, GOSE, Institute of Directors, Confederation of British Industry, JobCentre Plus, local authorities and voluntary and community sector) and the transformational action is also aimed regionally as well as at different communities or groups. This includes activities to: create a SE task force to identify issues and provide a focus for activities; invest in childcare and family care provision as it may be a barrier to entering employment; work with employers and relevant agencies to promote flexible working and maximise job take up; and promote the generation of local jobs in regeneration schemes – particularly with those who are economically inactive.

The most potentially significant effects are associated with SA objectives #20, #21 and #8 with potential effects aligned with #3 and #4. There is a potential that this action may help affect the delivery of jobs locally, given that it aims to promote local job opportunities in regeneration schemes, especially jobs with those individuals who are economically inactive. These effects are expected to be local to regeneration schemes. The significance of the cumulative effect of the activities under this transformational action on regeneration schemes across the South East will depend on the scale and location of schemes and is assessed in this case to be a minor beneficial effect.

Recommendation

The development of employment in high tech/high skilled industries are those that are typically associated with a relative low level of environmental / social impact per unit of GDP. It is recommended that the Employee Task Force considers the potential positive impact of different sectors on the region's footprint when initiatives are designed.

5.5.2 Transformational Action 2 Science and Innovation Campuses

The action plans for Science and Innovation Campuses describe its aim as to *'develop at least two science and innovation campuses... to provide businesses with new opportunities to develop innovative knowledge based products and services'*. This action will contribute to the above targets by: increasing foreign direct investment; increasing the number of businesses working with universities; increasing the business turnover attributable to new products; and having one campus focus on environmental technologies to reduce the region's CO₂ footprint and promote sustainable production and consumption. This transformational action is particularly aligned with SA objectives #23 and #25. Potential partners include South East Science, Engineering and Technology Advisory Council, higher education institutes, Higher Education Funding Council for England, research councils, local authorities, UK Trade and Investment, SEEDA, and sector consortia.

It is understood that one of the Science and Innovation Campuses may focus on environmental technologies as well as sustainable production and consumption. This may have a potentially indirect positive effect upon the consumption of resources over the long term particularly as a result of business support and innovation activities as well as research to help promote sustainable production and consumption and resource efficiency. An environmental technology themed Science and Innovation Campus located in the South East would be expected to



promote the region's strengths in the environmental goods and services industry. However, until the nature of the proposed Science and Innovation Campus is better known the effect is considered to be uncertain.

The creation of science and innovation campuses is also likely to make some significant contributions towards a number of economic objectives, particularly those relating to education and business competitiveness over the long term (SA objective #21).

The effect of the campuses on some environmental objectives such as transport, air pollution and climate change is likely to only be negligible. However, there is opportunity for them to incorporate sustainability into their design, construction and operation.

Recommendation

Ensure the potential employment, training, R&D and business related opportunities provided by the Science and Innovation Campuses are accessible by all members of the community – particularly those from deprived/priority areas.

If the development of Science and Innovation Campuses involves construction of new buildings or facilities then ensure that they embody sustainable design and construction practices and that any buildings achieve BREEAM excellent rating.

Ensure that one of the campuses has a focus on environmental technologies and that through links with local businesses, technology and skills transfers occur that promote more sustainable patterns of consumption and production and that a contribution is made to reducing businesses contribution towards regional CO₂ emissions.

5.5.3 Transformational Action 3 Education Led Regeneration

This transformational action includes activities to prepare a strategic masterplan for the combined activities of Learning and Skills Council, Higher Education Funding Council England, as well as other partners such as higher education institutions, SEEDA and GOSE. The aim of the transformational action is to *'develop a strategic delivery plan for the region for education led regeneration, and deliver a phased plan in partnership with key funding agencies (Learning and Skills Council and Higher Education Funding Council England)'*. This action is therefore strongly aligned with SA objectives #5 and #25 and as a result considered to have an impact on #21 (economic growth and competitiveness).

The transformational action relates to the development of strategic delivery and to some extent, the full range of potential effects will become more apparent when the various strategies are in place.



Recommendations

There is a strong link between this transformational action and the ‘Science and Innovation Campuses’ and ‘Skills Escalator’ actions, as well as other targets. Whilst it is likely that these, in combination, may act to ensure that the main areas of need for training and other employment related activities in the South East are being met, it may be difficult to identify in monitoring which initiatives contribute towards the targets/indicators of the RES.

5.5.4 Transformational Action 4 100% Next Generation Broadband Coverage

The action plans for 100% Next Generation Broadband Coverage include a number of activities that include: creating an annual report on next generation deployment; establishing pilot projects to explore next generation options for network deployment; lobbying government and ensuring all new developments include broadband services to their premises; and ensuring all business parks have access to next generation broadband services. Partners identified in the action plan include Telcos, SEEDA and local authorities.

The SA objectives that this transformational action is best aligned with relate to lifting educational standards (#5) and development of a skilled workforce (#25) with potential knock on effects on the growth of the economy. Environmental effects are uncertain at this stage but may include some impacts on the environment as a result of the setting out of broadband infrastructure. It is expected that work to lay broadband cables may have to undergo some form environmental impact assessment or sustainability appraisal potentially as part of the planning process which may act to mitigate any potential negative effects.

Recommendation

Many of the activities are focused on the importance of broadband technologies to the development of the business community; there are considerable potential benefits that may relate to the provision of services for communities as well as healthcare, etc. Some of these have been alluded to in the sustainability checklist provided by SEEDA. However, it is recommended that either additional activities or amendments to existing actions are incorporated to take account of this issue.

5.5.5 Transformational Action 5 Global Leadership in Environmental Technologies

The action plans for Global Leadership in Environmental Technologies describes its aim as ‘*to ensure that the South East is a global leader in this area (Environmental Technologies) working with a number of partners and the 1,200 company Environmental Technology Cluster*’. This includes a wide range of actions to develop a plan for the transformational action including identifying the relative position of the South East with regard to the aspiration of the action and key issues in the progression of environmental technologies. The action plan available for the transformational action indicates that the activities will be shaped through consultation and involvement of a cluster of 1,200 environmental technology businesses in the South East. Key partners identified include these businesses as



well as EnviroBusiness, SEEDA and UK Trade and Investment. The action plan for this action was partially incomplete and this assessment was based on the information set out in the sustainability checklist provided by SEEDA.

This transformational action is well aligned with a number of SA objectives that relate to sustainable prosperity, reflecting the potential for this action to contribute to economic growth and competitiveness. A weakness of this transformational action is that it does not explicitly seek to improve workforce skills for this sector, without which businesses will find it hard to succeed. There is some uncertainty relating to some of the potential indirect effects (mostly in relation to environmental SA objectives) of the transformational action given the status of the activities and funding identified.

Recommendation

Uncertainty relating to the status and funding of proposed activities will need to be addressed to be able to assess the potential indirect effects of the transformational action. Make an explicit link between increasing peoples' skills and the demand from businesses.

5.5.6 Transformational Action 6 Regional Infrastructure Fund

The action plan for Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) describes its aim to '*create a Regional Infrastructure Fund to enable early provision of the infrastructure required to unlock development and speed up delivery*'. This includes a number of activities that include identifying options and models for RIF prospectus, seeking government support and establishing RIF delivery partners and launching the RIF. These are essentially activities to create the fund. The fund is to be administered in both the South East and South West Region and key partners identified in the action plan include; SEEDA, SEERA, SWRDA and SWRA. Although the overall aim is identified (funding to unlock development and speed up delivery), there are no specific details or examples of projects or programmes that may be eligible or details of eligibility criteria. Therefore, the effects of RIF in relation to the sustainability objectives are uncertain, although it is anticipated (based on the RIF aim) that it is likely that they will assist SA objective #21 – supporting economic growth and competitiveness.

The cumulative impact of the range of projects and programmes that may obtain RIF funding (both in terms of the direct effects arising from construction activities, operational use and potential indirect effects facilitation of development or growth) could be significant; however, uncertainties remain due to the uncertainties around individual project proposals. In consequence, to aid the minimisation of any adverse effects and to help improve the contribution of individual project proposals towards sustainability, consideration could be given to the use of the sustainability checklist as part of the project funding approval process. Findings may then be used to support subsequent planning processes which may require more detailed consideration of sustainability and environmental effects.



Recommendation

The cumulative effects of these initiatives may be significant in relation to the other transformational actions and targets in the RES. As applications and proposals may arise on an ad hoc basis, some consideration of the potential cumulative sustainable impacts (using for example assumptions regarding a ‘typical’ set of applications that may be received) should be undertaken to guide the development of eligibility criteria.

In order to ensure consideration of the sustainability effects of individual funding proposals within the decision making process, it may be appropriate to include the use of either SEEDA sustainable construction checklist or a modified version of the sustainability checklist developed for this study. These tools can help ensure consistency between the appraisals of effects in relation to the rest of the rest of the RES Implementation Plan and between partners.

5.5.7 Transformational Action 7 Skills Escalator

The action plans for Skills Escalator describes its aim as to create a ‘*framework for future workforce development supporting employers and stimulating demand for enhanced skills at every level*’ and to ‘*transform SE business performance and individual workforce progression*’ and develop ‘*a strategy that aims to deliver aspects of the Leitch review of skills through the lifetime of the RES*’. This includes a number of actions to: simplify the skills offer to businesses in the region; ensure that people at all levels are equipped to progress in the labour market; raise employer demand for skills; change workplace culture and develop the sectors dimension through supporting supply. Key partners include: SEEDA, Learning and Skills Council, JobCentre Plus, Regional Skills for Productivity Alliance, local authorities, sector skills councils, Manufacturing Advisory Service, and Business Links. Activities include a mix of ‘planned’ projects and those ‘underway’ with details of funding sources reflecting their status (i.e. funding details available for those projects underway).

These activities are similar to, and support, those within targets 6 (Skills) and 10 (Employment). A number of the proposed activities are already underway and there is a some uncertainty regarding the potential overall effect of this target given that the status of a number of activities is described in the action plan as ‘planned’ with no funding identified. However, the sustainability appraisal indicates that the range of activities may benefit businesses in the South East and help employment in the region (notably SA objectives: #21 and #25). The target is also assessed to perform well in relation to SA objective #5 (increasing the level of educational attainment across the region) which is fundamental to tackle some of the issues that may hinder progress toward some of the RES’s Smart Growth objectives as well as some of the issues raised in the Leitch Report (2006) regarding long term skills needs (see section 3.7 for a review of the Leitch Report). No direct environmental benefits have been identified in the assessment in comparison with SA objectives #10 to #19. Training and skills needs as they relate to the environmental sector are addressed in the transformational action ‘Global Leadership in Environmental Technologies’.



Recommendation

There are a number of other targets (e.g. 'Skills', 'Employment' or 'Innovation') that refer to skills as well as transformational actions, such as 'Education Led Regeneration'. Whilst it is likely that these, in combination, may act to ensure that the main areas of need for skills in the South East are being met, it may be difficult to identify in monitoring which initiatives contributes towards to the targets/indicators of the RES.

5.5.8 Transformational Action 8 Making the Most of 2012

The aim of this action is to ensure that a *'positive and long lasting legacy'* is left for the South East in terms of an *'enhanced tourism offer, improved sporting and cultural facilities, increased business opportunities, a healthier and better skilled population and stronger communities.'* The transformational action also aims *'to bring forward and catalyse investment in programmes which would be desirable regardless of 2012'*. There are a large number of actions associated with this transformational action delivered by a range of potential partners, including Sport England, SEEDA, Business Links, Arts Council England, Connexions, Learning and Skills Council, Regional Action and Involvement in South East, VCS, and local authorities. The activities include a mix of planned and unplanned initiatives. Activities include those to improve the experience of visitors to the South East through improvements to key transport hubs and gateways as well as public realm, initiatives to ensure that the appropriate skills will be available both within business and potential workforce to exploit potential opportunities as well as activities to promote the values of the Olympics through cultural events.

The transformational action is strongly aligned to the objectives of #24 (development of sustainable tourism) as well as #3 (health and well being). Transport improvements may help improve access to facilities (#8) and may involve engagement with a wide section of the community (#9). The activities listed are likely to have a positive effect on the socio economic SA objectives, by promoting economic development and investment in the region and creating jobs. The significance of these effects will be partially dependent upon their geographic coverage in the South East. The long term effects of the Games will be dependent on the ability of SEEDA and its partners to put in place long-lasting programmes to fund and manage the activities listed. The major environmental impact is likely to be the development of multi modal public transport infrastructure. Other environmental impacts are likely to be minor given the small scale of development in relation to other developments in the South East.

Recommendation

Key recommendations are: (1) to ensure that the benefits from the Olympics (e.g. jobs and access to sports facilities) are felt in all parts of the community, including people in disadvantaged areas; and (2) to maximise the sustainability of developments associated with the Games, in line with one of the overall key themes of the 2012 Olympics.



5.6 Cumulative effects

Summaries of the assessment of all the targets and transformational actions against the 25 SA objectives are shown in Tables 5.2 and 5.3 respectively, providing a means to visualise the cumulative effects of the RES Implementation Plan.

Figure 5.2 Summary assessment of the RES Implementation Plan targets against the SA objectives

SA Objective	RES Implementation Plan Target													
	1 Global Business and Foreign Direct Investment	2 Knowledge Transfer and Research and Development	3 Innovation and Creativity	4 Infrastructure	5 Enterprise	6 Skills	7 Competition and Business Regulation	8 Transport	9 Physical Development	10 Employment	11 Climate Change and Energy	12 Sustainable Consumption and Production	13 Natural Resources and the Environment	14 Sustainable Communities
1 Sustainable homes	0	0	++	0	+	~	~	?	++	0	~	++	0	++
2 Flooding	0	0	+	~	0	~	~	?	++	0	?	+	?	~
3 Health and well-being	0	0	?	0	+	~	~	?	+	++	0	~	++	++
4 Poverty and social exclusion in deprived areas	~	+	++	?	++	++	?	?	+	++	0	?	0	++
5 Education and skills	?	++	++	0	++	++	+	0	+	++	+	?	0	++
6 Crime	0	+	+	0	~	~	~	0	++	+	0	~	?	++
7 Vibrant communities	+	+	+	0	++	?	?	?	++	+	0	?	?	++
8 Access to services and facilities	?	+	?	~	++	+	+	+	++	++	0	+	++	++
9 Cultural engagement	?	+	++	0	++	+	?	0	+	~	0	0	?	++
10 Land use	?	0	+	+	~	~	~	?	++	~	+	+	?	++
11 Air quality	~	+	?	?	+	~	~	--	+	?	?	?	+	0
12 Climate change	+	~	?	?	+	~	?	--	+	~	+	+	?	?
13 Biodiversity	~	~	~	?	0	~	?	?	?	~	?	+	++	0
14 Countryside and historic environment	~	~	~	+	+	~	?	?	?	?	?	~	++	++
15 Better transport	?	+	~	++	+	~	?	?	?	+	0	~	0	?
16 Resource	?	+	++	-	++	~	++	-	+	+	+	++	0	+



SA Objective	RES Implementation Plan Target													
	1 Global Business and Foreign Direct Investment	2 Knowledge Transfer and Research and Development	3 Innovation and Creativity	4 Infrastructure	5 Enterprise	6 Skills	7 Competition and Business Regulation	8 Transport	9 Physical Development	10 Employment	11 Climate Change and Energy	12 Sustainable Consumption and Production	13 Natural Resources and the Environment	14 Sustainable Communities
consumption														
17 Waste management	~	~	+	0	+	~	?	~	+	~	~	++	0	?
18 Water quality and resources	~	~	+	0	~	~	~	~	+	~	+	++	+	0
19 Energy	+	~	+	0	+	~	?	~	++	~	++	+	0	?
20 Employment	++	+	++	+	++	++	++	++	?	++	++	+	0	++
21 Economic growth and competitiveness	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	+	+	++
22 Economic revival in priority areas	+	?	?	+	++	++	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	++
23 Innovation and knowledge economy	++	++	++	0	++	++	+	~	+	+	~	++	0	0
24 Sustainable tourism	?	0	?	+	+	+	~	?	~	+	0	0	+	~
25 Workforce skills	++	++	++	0	++	++	++	~	+	++	++	+	?	++

KEY		
Effect	Description	Symbol
Major Positive	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective.	++
Minor Positive	The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral	The proposed policy does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective	0
Minor Negative	The proposed policy detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	-
Major Negative	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.	--



KEY		
Effect	Description	Symbol
No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible.	~
Uncertain	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependant on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?



Figure 5.3 Summary of the assessment of the transformational actions of the RES Implementation Plan against the SA objectives

SA Objective	RES Implementation Plan Transformational Action							
	1 Raising Economic Activity Rate	2 Science & Innovation Campuses	3 Education led Regeneration	4 100% Next Generation Broadband	5 Global Leadership in Environmental Technologies	6 Regional Infrastructure Fund	7 Skills Escalator	8 Making the Most of 2012
1 Sustainable homes	+	~	~	~	?	?	~	0
2 Flooding	0	0	~	0	+	?	0	0
3 Health and well-being	++	~	+	?	~	?	+	++
4 Poverty and social exclusion in deprived areas	++	0	+	~	0	?	+	+
5 Education and skills	+	+	++	++	~	?	++	+
6 Crime	?	0	?	0	0	?	?	0
7 Vibrant communities	+	+	+	+	0	?	?	+
8 Access to services and facilities	++	+	?	+	0	+	+	+
9 Cultural engagement	+	0	~	?	0	?	?	+
10 Land use	0	?	?	0	+	?	0	~
11 Air quality	-	?	?	?	+	?	0	?
12 Climate change	-	?	?	?	+	?	0	?
13 Biodiversity	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0
14 Countryside and historic environment	~	0	~	~	0	?	?	0
15 Better transport	+	?	?	?	0	?	0	+
16 Resource consumption	~	?	?	~	++	?	0	?
17 Waste management	~	?	?	0	+	?	0	0
18 Water quality and resources	~	?	?	0	+	?	0	0



SA Objective	RES Implementation Plan Transformational Action							
	1 Raising Economic Activity Rate	2 Science & Innovation Campuses	3 Education led Regeneration	4 100% Next Generation Broadband	5 Global Leadership in Environmental Technologies	6 Regional Infrastructure Fund	7 Skills Escalator	8 Making the Most of 2012
19 Energy	~	?	?	0	+	?	0	0
20 Employment	++	+	?	+	+	+	+	+
21 Economic growth and competitiveness	++	+	++	+	+	++	++	+
22 Economic revival in priority areas	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	?
23 Innovation and knowledge economy	?	++	?	+	++	?	~	+
24 Sustainable tourism	~	0	~	~	0	?	0	++
25 Workforce skills	+	++	++	++	?	?	++	+

KEY		
Effect	Description	Symbol
Major Positive	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective.	++
Minor Positive	The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral	The proposed policy does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective	0
Minor Negative	The proposed policy detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	-
Major Negative	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.	--
No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible.	~
Uncertain	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependant on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?

Overall, assuming that the effects identified for each of the targets and transformational actions are additional, the cumulative impact of the Implementation Plan on the South East region is considered to be positively (minor



positive) aligned with the SA objectives. It is not expected that any of the targets and transformational actions will diminish the effect of other targets and transformational actions. Despite some potential for ‘double counting’ of some effects – where some targets and transformational actions may include a number of similar activities (particularly relating to skills and some business support activities) – it is anticipated that the targets and transformational actions are complementary and reinforce the effects of each other.

There may be instances where delivery in relation to one action positively reinforces the effect of another, for example development of infrastructure to develop a site may unlock an important site with significant potential to contribute sustainable community when developed. Such effects are not considered here although targets and transformational actions such as Infrastructure, Transport or the Regional Infrastructure Fund may have such effects. The appraisal methodology does not assess the transformational nature of these actions.

A small number of the targets and transformational actions are considered to detract from the achievement of SA objectives and recommendations described earlier in Section 5.4 should be sufficient to mitigate these effects. The recommendations also include suggestions that may further augment the potentially beneficial effects identified, by both deepening and extending the range of potential positive cumulative effects of the Implementation Plan.

The cumulative impact of the plan considering the main UK shared principles and actions set out in the sustainability checklists (see Section 2) is described below.

Ensuring a strong healthy and just society – Sustainable communities (SA objectives: #1, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, and #25)

- These SA objectives are addressed well by the transformation actions and targets, particularly SA objectives #20 to #25. Two key SA objectives which are less strongly supported by the transformational actions and targets are: #22 ‘to stimulate economic revival in priority (deprived) areas’ and #24 ‘to encourage development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector’

Living within environmental limits – Natural resource protection and environmental resource enhancement (SA objectives: #2, #11, #13, and #14)

- These SA objectives are addressed by transformation actions and targets, although they are not strongly supported across all transformational actions and targets. In particular #2 ‘Reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public wellbeing and the environment’ is a key issue for the Region, and only strongly supported by one target

Living within environmental limits – Sustainable consumption and production (SA objectives: #10, #16, #17, #18, and #19)

- These SA objectives are moderately well addressed by transformation actions and targets. However, transformation actions and targets need to support these SA objectives more strongly given their potential to contribute towards the mitigation of the greenhouse gases emissions



Living within environmental limits – Climate change and energy (SA objectives: #2, #11, #12, and #15)

- These SA objectives are moderately addressed by transformation actions and targets. However there is a significant amount of uncertainty regarding some of the potential effects, particularly in relation to SA objectives #2, #11, #12, and #15. SEEDA have recognised these issues particularly within action 11.6 which is understood to represent a starting point from which to develop activities to addressing climate change

5.7 Key findings

The appraisal found that the proposed actions within the Implementation Plan will help realise the RES vision of becoming a world class region that is delivering sustainable prosperity. The Implementation Plan strongly supports the SA objectives that focus upon economic issues. It also supports SA objectives that focus upon more environmental and social issues; however this support is less strong across the board. In particular the following SA objectives are less strongly supported by some of the actions in the Implementation Plan:

- SA objective 12: Addressing the causes of climate change;
- SA objective 22: Economic revival in priority areas;
- SA objective 2: Reducing the risk of flooding;
- SA objective 14: Protect, enhance and make accessible the regions countryside and historic environment; and
- SA objective 24: Sustainable tourism.

There was some uncertainty regarding the effects of some actions as a result of potential overlaps in activities proposed or gaps in funding. Partners involved in the RES have significant contact with businesses in the south east and represent one of the best opportunities to promote sustainable development. In addition SEEDA and their partners in the RES have developed a range of excellent tools and initiatives that may be further utilised to expand sustainable prosperity.

5.8 Key recommendations

- Recognise more clearly actions to tackle the fundamental causes of climate change. There may be activities undertaken or proposed by partners that address these issues, but they need to be more clearly identified and integrated in the Implementation Plan. Proposals to influence consumer attitudes to the consumption of resources and affect a ‘change in behaviour’ need to be applied more broadly to the activities;
- Many activities involve direct contact between businesses and RES partners. This presents one of the most significant opportunities to promote sustainable development. Partners should ensure that



detailed and focussed information is available to give to businesses and that a simple and consistent message is communicated by all staff involved;

- Review and adjust actions to ensure that the most deprived areas of the region are considered. The Implementation Plan recognises the importance of voluntary and community sector organisations to these aims and a new transformational action is proposed: ‘Transforming the Third Sector’;
- Review and adjust actions to ensure that the SA objectives that are less strongly supported by the Implementation Plan, described above, are more fully considered;
- Continue best practice in sustainable construction ensuring tools such as SEEDA’s sustainable construction checklist is utilised as much as possible in physical development projects across the South East. Undertake a cumulative sustainability assessment of the potential impact of the Regional Infrastructure Fund to help design eligibility criteria for project proposals;
- Extend use of the sustainability checklist developed in this sustainability appraisal to the internal (SEEDA) appraisal of business plans and projects that may emerge from the actions as well as development of other strategies and plans described;
- Clearly define lead organisations and roles for the monitoring of targets (see Monitoring and Implementation, below). Overlap between some activities will require some thought to be given to the problem of identifying how different target or transformational action may contribute to an indicator; and
- Whilst this appraisal provides a comprehensive assessment of the effects, there should be subsequent structured consideration of the issues covered through out the lifespan of the Implementation Plan and review of the consequences of any proposed amendments to the Integrated Regional Framework objectives.

5.9 Summary

This section described the main findings and recommendations relating to this sustainability appraisal. An assessment of the relative performance of the overarching objectives of the RES was provided as an illustration of the general ‘compatibility’ of the RES Implementation Plan objectives with the SA objectives. A summary of the assessment of the targets and transformational actions, based on the matrices contained in Appendix C and Appendix D, formed the central part of the section. An assessment of the cumulative effects of all the transformational actions and targets drew out a number of key effects in relation to the shared principles in the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy *Securing the Future*, 2005.



6. Proposals for Monitoring the Implementation Plan

6.1 Introduction

This section sets out proposals for monitoring the sustainability impacts of the Implementation Plan.

6.2 Requirements for monitoring

Monitoring the sustainability effects of the Implementation Plan can help to answer questions such as:

- Were the appraisal's predictions of sustainability effects accurate?
- Is the Implementation Plan contributing to the achievement of the SA objectives?
- Are mitigation measures performing as well as expected?
- Are there any adverse effects? Are these within acceptable limits, or is remedial action desirable?

It is not necessary to monitor everything or monitor an effect indefinitely. Instead monitoring should be focussed on:

- Significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage, with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused and
- Significant effects where there was uncertainty in the sustainability appraisal and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be undertaken.

Monitoring is already established within the region and the monitoring of the Implementation Plan should be tied with the monitoring of the RES and where appropriate, other regional strategies.

Table 7.1 identifies potential indicators which may be used to monitor significant impacts. A number of these were suggested after consultation on the Scoping Report. The final proposals for monitoring significant effects should be confirmed after consultation on the significant effects of the Implementation Plan.



Table 6.1 Possible indicators for monitoring significant effects

Indicator	Source
Climate Change	
Energy Use per Capita	SEERA Regional Monitoring Report
Greenhouse gases emission by sector	SEERA Regional Monitoring Report
Percentage of electricity output from renewable sources	SEERA Regional Monitoring Report
Installed capacity for energy generation from biomass	TBC
Renewable energy capacity installed by type	SEERA Regional Monitoring Report
Measure of energy efficiency – housing stock surveys	DEFRA
Trends / Quantity of rainfall	Environment Agency
Sea level change at Sheerness (and other locations)	Proudman Oceanographic
Future climate change in this (South East) region	UK Climate Impact Programme
UK greenhouse gas emissions/releases from regulated sources	Environment Agency
Energy consumption	Department of Trade and Industry
Number of properties at risk from flooding	Environment Agency
Housing protected from flooding	Environment Agency
Resource Use	
A measure of resource intensity per unit of development (needs to be developed via SEEDA and the Sustainable Consumption & Production Network)	SEEDA and the Sustainable Consumption & Production Network
Sustainable Construction	
Number of homes certified to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 (due out April 2007)	BRE
Number of buildings certified to BREEAM very good/excellent	BRE
Economic Development	
GVA per capita	SEERA Regional Monitoring Report
Economic Regeneration/Social Exclusion	
Trend in performance on IMD indicators of 10% most deprived wards in the South East	IMD
Sustainable Wellbeing / Sustainable Prosperity	
Regional Index of Sustainable Wellbeing	RDA's / NEF (proposed as part of Implementation Plan)
Quality of Life	
MORI survey of South East residents	MORI
Population change	Ordnance National Survey
Access/use of open spaces	Local authorities
Road traffic	Department of Transport
Angling/rod licence numbers	Environment Agency



Indicator	Source
Biodiversity	
Bird populations (woodland/farmland)	SEERA Regional Monitoring Report
Condition of SSSI	SEERA Regional Monitoring Report
Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Natural England
Area of woodland	Forestry Commission
Distribution of Otters	Environment Agency/Vincent Wildlife Trust
Habitat/Distribution of Water voles	Environment Agency/Vincent Wildlife Trust
Numbers of fish catches - Salmon - Sea trout	Environment Agency
Wild/farmland bird populations	Defra
Pollution & Congestion	
Number of Local Air Quality Management Areas declared with sources of pollution	Netcen
Days when air pollution is moderate or high	SEERA Regional Monitoring Report
Water pollution (or serious pollution) incidents	Environment Agency
Land pollution (or serious pollution) incidents from agriculture and other sources	Environment Agency
Days when air pollution is moderate or higher	Defra
Sulphur dioxide concentration	Air Quality Archives
Nitrogen dioxide concentration	Air Quality Archives
Particulate concentration/exceedances	Air Quality Archives
Emissions to air from processes regulated by the EA	Environment Agency
Water Resources	
Per capita consumption of water	SEERA Regional Monitoring Report
Rivers of good or fair biological or chemical water quality	Environment Agency
Water demand and availability - Supply-demand balance - Annual abstraction by use - Household per capita consumption - Predicted water demand - Leakage - Household water metering	Environment Agency
River water quality - chemical GQA - biological GQA	Environment Agency
Compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive	Environment Agency
Compliance with River Quality Objectives	Environment Agency



Indicator	Source
Nutrient status of freshwaters - Phosphate - Nitrate	Environment Agency
Nitrate status of groundwater/% sites not meeting standard	Environment Agency
River flows and groundwater levels	Environment Agency
OPRA scores (proportion in each band)	Office of Water Services
Waste Management	
Waste generation (and growth rates) of major waste streams	SEERA Regional Monitoring Report
Per capita waste generation	GOSE
Fly-tipping Incidents - Serious incidents - Incidents reported on Flycapture	Environment Agency
Waste arisings and disposal methods - Waste arisings - Waste disposal inc recycling	Defra
Affordable Housing	
Completion rate of affordable housing against targets	SEERA Regional Monitoring Plan
Land and Soils	
New homes built on previously developed land	Community and Local Government (was ODPM)
Area under agri-environment/stewardship schemes	Defra
Use of pesticides in agriculture and horticulture	Central Science Laboratory
Land Entered into Environmental Stewardship	Natural England
State of Soils in England and Wales Report	Environment Agency

6.3 Documenting the monitored data

Following adoption of the Implementation Plan a statement will be issued confirming monitoring arrangements. The Table 6.2 below suggests a format for documenting how the monitoring process should be managed.

Table 6.2 Suggested format for documenting monitoring data

What needs to be monitored	Indicator	Source of Information	When should remedial action be taken?	What remedial action could be taken?



6.4 Summary

The set of proposed indicators will be used as a basis for monitoring the significant sustainability effects of the actions of the Implementation Plan. This will help determine whether the RES is delivering against its sustainability objectives and hence is contributing towards the achieving sustainable development, as required by and set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, *Securing the Future*, 2005.



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Appendix A Responses from Consultation on Scoping Report



Consultee	Issue raised by the consultee	SA response to the issues raised
English Heritage E-mail response dated: 27 th March 2007	<p>Why were the additional plans and programmes suggested by consultees during RES sustainability appraisal set out in a separate table in the Implementation Plan Scoping Report?</p> <p>The European Landscape Convention needs to be included in the table of relevant plans & programmes</p>	<p>The list of plans and policies given in this report is a supplementary an update to the previous RES SA report and therefore the two should be read in conjunction</p> <p>This document has been included in Appendix B</p>
English Heritage E-mail response dated: 27 th March 2007	<p>Reference to the draft South East Plan needs to be updated to that of 2006</p> <p>Please reference the SEA Directive issue of 'Cultural Heritage' with SA objectives 10 & 14</p> <p>Would prefer to see reference to conservation areas and schedule monuments included in the Key Issues section 3.2.8</p> <p>Welcome the changes to the appraisal questions in relation to the historic environment. However, there is a need for the IRF SA objectives to recognise the wider historic environment and the contribution of locally important assets. Recognise the difficulty of changing the objectives ahead of the IRF review which is due later this year.</p> <p>Request the inclusion of an indicator to monitor the number of designated heritage assets</p> <p>In Section 3.2.8, reference is not made to the reasons why intensification of development in urban areas is threatening the historic environment. Also there is no reference to issues for the historic environment within the rural areas with the prospect of further diversification and impacts upon both assets and landscape character. Section 3.2.8 refers to a list of designations without suggesting any issues such as implications from new developments e.g. will pressures for more renewable energy generation have implications for traditional and historic landscapes?</p> <p>The RES gives prominence to the regeneration of coastal resorts – should this be reflected in the Implementation Plan SA?</p>	<p>This has been updated in Appendix B</p> <p>Cultural Heritage has been referenced to SA objectives 10 & 14 in Table 2.2 Section 2</p> <p>Reference to conservation areas and scheduled monuments has been made in Section 4.2.8 Key Sustainability Issues</p> <p>This issues needs to be addressed by the IRF partners during the review of the IRF objectives</p> <p>An indicator to monitor the number of heritage assets in the region has been included in Section 7, Table 7.1</p> <p>Reference has been made to address these comments in Section 4.2.8. However, they are referenced as generic potential issues, for e.g. change of land use. It is not within the scope of this Report to determine the potential impacts of specific changes in land use upon the historic landscape and assets. This is an issue that would be addressed on a site-by-site basis, in consultation, as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>SEEDA are producing a set of spatial frameworks, one of which will focus on the coastal areas of the region.</p>



Consultee	Issue raised by the consultee	SA response to the issues raised
<p>Environment Agency E-mail response received: 27th March 2007</p>	<p>We are pleased to see that the SA guidance has been taken from DCLG and the SEA Directive. We recommend that the EA's Strategic Environmental Assessment Good Practice Guidelines are also referred to in the document for advice and examples of good practice.</p> <p>We would like to see water quality and water resources, in terms of timely provision of types of environmental infrastructure being added to the key sustainability issues. This should also include reference to how these can be affected by land use and management practices in both urban and rural environments</p> <p>We would like to see the quality of green infrastructure recognised and its importance to biodiversity social wellbeing and local economy recognised in the key issues</p> <p>We agree that the 25 SA objectives should form the framework of the appraisal matrix as long as reference is made to the importance of groundwater is added to objective 18</p> <p>We think that the Implementation Plan has the potential to impact nature conservation sites of European Importance. We recommend that an Appropriate Assessment of the RES Implementation Plan is carried out.</p> <p>The importance of land use management in the key sustainability issues needs to be expanded, e.g. importance of good quality soil is essential for economically viable farming, reducing risk of water pollution, local flooding etc.</p> <p>With regards to the countryside and historic environment, we suggest that reference should be made to the increasing challenges that these environments face from such pressure as land use change. Intensive agricultural and horticultural practices play a valuable role in the region's economy but it can also negatively impact upon soil and water resources. Glasshouses and the use of polytunnels can also impact upon the landscape, habitats and biodiversity.</p> <p>We recommend that there is a need to recognise that some water bodies such as the Solent and the river Thames are of regional and national significance for leisure and sport and as such contribute to the economic success of the region. These bodies also face challenges from development that may be inappropriate and may have an adverse effect on their value</p>	<p>The SA has followed the guidance from DCLG and the SEA Directive</p> <p>These comments have been included in the key sustainability issues 4.2.3 and 4.2.6</p> <p>These comments have been included in the key sustainability issues 4.2.11</p> <p>Reference to groundwater was added to the appraisal questions for Objective 18</p> <p>Comments relating to HRA have been addressed in section 4.2.7</p> <p>Reference to this has been made in the key sustainability issues Section 4.2.6</p> <p>Reference to this has been made in the key sustainability issues Section 4.2.8. However, they are referenced as generic potential issues, for e.g. change of land use. It is not within the scope of this Report to determine the potential impacts of specific changes in land use upon the countryside and historic landscape. This is an issue that would be addressed on a site-by-site basis, in consultation, as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>These issues are referenced in the key sustainability issues 4.2.8</p>



Consultee	Issue raised by the consultee	SA response to the issues raised
Environment Agency	<p>We suggest including sustainable construction skills in the list of skills that are currently at a low level in the region.</p> <p>We suggest adding some facts relating the value of the natural environment for tourism.</p> <p>We recommend changing proposed sustainability objective 13 to <i>'To conserve and enhance water quality, soil quality and biodiversity'</i></p> <p>We suggest that appraisal questions for objective 1 includes eference to ensure the existing housing stock is made decent</p> <p>We suggest including a question as to whether the Implementation Plan promotes access for all to open space to improve peoples quality of life</p> <p>We suggest adding an appraisal question to ensure that satisfactory provision for formal and informal recreation forms an integral part of major regeneration schemes in a way that benefits the local population and adds value to the economic benefits of the development.</p> <p>We recommend that the Appropriate Assessment asks the questions 'can the Implementation Plan demonstrate no adverse effect on site integrity for European sites?'</p> <p>We suggest adding water bodies to the list of natural assets in question 14.1</p> <p>We suggest measures that need to be promoted to reduce per capita water consumption across the South East including households and industries as well as businesses.</p> <p>We suggest includes questions relating to energy efficiency.</p> <p>We suggest including an additional appraisal question relation to the Index for Sustainable Economic Wellbeing</p> <p>We suggest adding the following appraisal questions to Objective 24:</p>	<p>This issues has been referenced in the key sustainability issues Section 4.2.10</p> <p>This has been referenced in the key sustainability issues Section 4.2.15</p> <p>The decision was taken at the Scoping Report Workshop, January 2007, that it would be inappropriate to change the wording of the sustainability objectives ahead of the review of Integrated Regional Framework, from which these objectives were taken, in Autumn 2007</p> <p>Comment noted</p> <p>Comment noted. Objective 8 includes accessibility to all services and facilities</p> <p>Comment noted. Objective 10 includes appraisal question to require good design to create attractive, high quality environments where people will choose to live and work.</p> <p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Comment noted</p> <p>Comment noted</p> <p>Objective 19 makes reference to both energy efficiency and renewable energy generation</p> <p>Comment noted</p>



Consultee	Issue raised by the consultee	SA response to the issues raised
<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>'ensure that existing tourism resources and assets are protected from inappropriate development that may harm their character and amenity value?'</p> <p>'ensure that tourism relying on natural resources can take place and develop without harming the environmental quality of the location?'</p> <p>'has an environmental quality management plan that is being implemented?'</p> <p>If the recommended amendment to Objective 13 is made then Table 4.3 should be amended to show that Objective 13 is relevant to the SEA issues of Soil, Water and Landscape</p> <p>We would like to propose a range of potential indicators and their sources for inclusion in the monitoring section.</p>	<p>Comments noted</p> <p>The decision was taken at the Scoping Report Workshop, January 2007, that it would be inappropriate to change the wording of the sustainability objectives ahead of the review of Integrated Regional Framework, from which these objectives were taken, in Autumn 2007</p> <p>These proposed indicators have been included in table 7.1 in Section 7</p>



Consultee	Issue raised by the consultee	SA response to the issues raised
<p>Natural England Letter 20th March 2007</p>	<p>The scoping report is set out in a clear context. We welcome reference to the ODPM Guidance, SEA Directive and Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.</p> <p>Whilst required by law, the purpose of the SEA/SA process is to make the plan or strategy (in this case RES Implementation Plan) better. It should be iterative and continue to influence the whole strategy making process.</p> <p>The SEA/SA process should be concerned with likely and significant effects on biodiversity, geodiversity and the wider environment/ natural resources, as part of the wider sustainability issues of the South East.</p> <p>The simplicity of the proposed appraisal framework is supported and we welcome the recognition to take account of cumulative effects.</p> <p>A clear audit trail on how the results/ conclusions/ recommendations of the assessment/appraisal will be incorporated into the Implementation Plan needs to be defined. It is recommended that this is set up from the outset and not bolted on at the end of the process (ie establishing iterative process).</p> <p>The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations. We welcome the reference to the Habitats Regulations 1994 and the possible need for an Appropriate Assessment. As a result of taking advice internally on this matter, the Regional Economic Strategy does not require an Appropriate Assessment, but should conform with the RSS which does require such an assessment. We are currently seeking further clarification on what this means, in particular in relation to the Implementation Plan and the possible listing of specific projects which may potentially have a significant effect on European Sites within the Region. Natural England will advise further on this matter in due course.</p>	<p>General Comments Noted</p> <p>Monitoring and further development of recommendations is discussed in section 7.</p> <p>Appropriate Assessment is discussed in Section 4.2.7.</p>



Consultee	Issue raised by the consultee	SA response to the issues raised
	<p>Sustainability issues: 'the main sustainability issues for the region have been identified. An omission is the provision of accessible natural greenspace. The provision of natural greenspace benefits wildlife and the countryside as well as people's lives in the form of well being and health. This can be in part captured through the adequate provision and investment in green/ environmental infrastructure.</p> <p>NE provided an annex which outlines new datasets of baseline information for consideration.</p> <p>'the twenty-five objectives do cover the breadth of sustainability issues within the region ...' 'However, we recommend the consideration of Green Infrastructure in relation to the SA objectives. It can be considered an outcome in its own right or alternatively as a mechanism to deliver outcomes. The identification of green infrastructure and its multi-functional benefits is relevant across several of the proposed SA objectives': #1, #7, and #13.</p>	<p>Noted in the issues section 6.</p> <p>This baseline information has been reviewed and key information has been incorporated in Section 3.</p> <p>The decision was taken at the Scoping Report Workshop, January 2007, that it would be inappropriate to change the wording of the SA objectives ahead of the review of Integrated Regional Framework, from which these objectives were taken, in Autumn 2007</p>



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Appendix B List of Plans and Programmes

Table of Plans and Policies from the SA of the South East RES.

European and International
Directives and conventions
<i>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971).</i>
European Community (1979) <i>Bern Convention of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.</i>
United Nations (1979) <i>Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species.</i>
European Commission (2001/6) <i>Strategy for Sustainable Development</i>
European Commission (2007) <i>Sixth Environmental Action Programme</i>
Arhaus Convention
European Commission (1991) <i>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive</i>
European Commission (1991) <i>Nitrates Directive</i>
European Commission (1979) <i>Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds.</i>
European Commission (1992) <i>Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive).</i>
European Commission (1999) <i>The Landfill Directive.</i>
United Nations (1999) <i>The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC.</i>
European Commission (2000) <i>The Water Framework Directive.</i>
Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)
Valetta Convention on Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised 1992)
European Commission (2000) European Landscape Convention
European Commission (2007) Waste Framework Directive
National plans and strategies
Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005
Summit 2005: Delivering Sustainable Communities, ODPM
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Appendix C Assessment Matrices – Targets 1 to 14



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Appendix D Assessment Matrices – Transformational Actions



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Appendix E Sustainability Checklist





Appendix F

Principles and Priorities in Implementing RES Objectives

6.1 Introduction

(Provided by SEEDA):

4. Implementing the RES – Targets and Actions

The process of translating the Regional Economic Strategy into an Implementation Plan for the region is complex and wide-ranging. Over the last few months SEEDA has worked closely with a wide range of partners to develop these plans, and a complete set of detailed plans are appended. In order to focus this effort and build a bridge between the high level targets of the RES and the contribution of individual actions a series of principles have been identified for each main objective. These are listed below, together with the key actions that will translate these targets and principles into results action.

Global Competitiveness

RES Targets

1. Global Businesses and Foreign Direct Investment - increase the percentage of businesses located in the South East operating internationally from an estimated 10% in 2003 to 15% by 2016, maximising the South East's share of global Foreign Direct Investment.
2. Knowledge Transfer and Business Expenditure on Research and Development - increase the proportion of businesses in the South East reporting R&D links with universities from 11% in 2005 to 15% by 2016, and increase business expenditure on research and development in the South East from 3.2% of Gross Value Added in 2003 to 4% by 2016.
3. Innovation and Creativity - increase the percentage of total South East business turnover attributable to new products from 12% in 2004 to 20% by 2016, and the percentage attributable to significantly improved products from 18% in 2004 to 25% by 2016.
4. Infrastructure - secure investment in infrastructure priorities to maintain economic competitiveness.

Principles and Key Actions

1. **20% of businesses are likely to bring us 80% of the returns.** This means a much tighter focus on those people and organisations who can deliver the highest productivity growth. The key actions are:

Internationalising the Investor Development Programme – with SEEDA and UK Trade and Investment working together to develop closer links with parent companies of foreign-owned South East companies and assist foreign owned companies recently established in the South East with high growth potential.

Sector Consortia – the six business-led sector consortia (South East Media Network, Marine South East, South East Health Technologies, Envirobusiness South East, South East Centre for the Built Environment and Farnborough Aerospace Consortium) will work with businesses to improve these sectors' competitiveness within the region, the UK and internationally.

Internationalising Innovating Companies – to identify and work with innovative R&D companies, and support them in developing their international business.

2. **It is businesses that achieve productivity targets, not government agencies.** This means businesses must drive the agenda. The key actions are:

Science and Innovation Campuses – major new shared facilities where businesses and universities can work together, carrying out internationally leading research and development on challenges common to a range of businesses, to create early market leads.

Training Pools – funding support for employer-led partnerships to address technician-level skills gaps identified by groups of businesses.

Manufacturing Advisory Service and Enhanced MAS – to work with businesses and their supply chains to focus on lean production techniques to remove waste.



3. Global exposure drives up productivity more than anything else. This means an international outlook across all actions. The key actions are:

Global Innovation Opportunities – a regional programme delivered by sector consortia and knowledge and innovation networks to deliver a regional programme to get more innovation targeted at major global business opportunities.

International Partnering – supporting businesses within the region to develop international partnering opportunities.

Leadership for Global Competitiveness – developing leadership skills within businesses to allow them to become globally competitive through developing innovative products and processes.

Global Gateways – ensuring that delivery agencies prioritise efficient and reliable surface access to the global transport gateways and enable their sustainable growth.

4. Integration of resources is required if the region's businesses are to meet these stretching targets. This means a strategy which partners truly share and an integrated approach to working with businesses including positioning Business Link as the prime access channel for business support'. The key actions are:

Greater South East – collaborating across London, the East of England and South East England to develop and deliver activities around early stage investment, cluster and supply chain development, and inward investment and trade, innovation knowledge transfer and skills.

South East Innovation Action Plan – businesses working with public and private sector research organisations to focus on priority technologies and companies for knowledge transfer, innovation and skills for innovation.

Business Support Simplification – business support organisations across the region working together to ensure that it is easier for businesses to access publicly funded business support, including the development of a regional client management system.

5. Innovation and knowledge are critical in the global economy. This means that they need to be embedded in all aspects of the region's economy. The key actions are:

Open Innovation – promoting open innovation across businesses to strengthen the 'knowledge supply chain'; also developing corporate venturing and partnering in the region.

Innovation Networks – facilitating the formation of innovation networks across all parts of the region – connecting people with a shared interest in innovation.

Business to Business Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange – leveraging in the resources of the top 500 businesses in the South East to identify innovation opportunities in their wider supply chains and skills base, and encourage knowledge exchange between large knowledge based businesses and smaller South East businesses.

Smart Growth

RES Targets

- Enterprise - increase the business stock by 35% from 35 businesses per 1,000 inhabitants in 2005 to 44 per 1,000 inhabitants by 2016, including 10,000 new businesses run by women by 2010.
- Skills - maximise the number of people ready for employment at all skill levels, and ensure they are continually equipped to progress in the labour market.
- Competition and Business Regulation - increase the level of participation of South East businesses (especially small businesses and social enterprises) in tendering for public sector contracts.
- Transport - reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, promoting public transport, managing demand and facilitating modal shifts.
- Physical Development - ensure sufficient and affordable housing and employment space of the right quality, type and size to meet the needs of the region and support its competitiveness, and create the climate for long term investment through the efficient use of land resources, including mixed use developments.
- Employment - improve the productivity of the workforce and increase economic activity from 82% to 85% by bringing 110,000 net additional South East residents of working age into the labour market by 2016 (as a step towards bringing up to 250,000 residents into the labour market by 2026)

Principles and Priority Actions

1. Shared priorities and a common purpose underpin successful partnerships and teams. This means encouraging members of key partnerships such the Regional Skills for Productivity Alliance to agree firm objectives and targets for which they will be publicly accountable. The key actions are:



Skills Escalator – to develop and deliver a framework for future workforce development by supporting employers, connecting suppliers and stimulating demand for enhanced skills at every level, which will transform business performance and individual workforce progression through a range of activities driven from the workplace.

Train to Gain – to improve delivery of publicly funded skills development and training, including specialist sector brokerage provided by Sector Skills Councils.

Employer Engagement in Curriculum Development – to ensure that those leaving education have the right skills and attitudes required by employers and are fully equipped to join the labour market.

2. To achieve Smart Growth, the full potential of the region must be realised. This means releasing untapped potential and talent in our communities, business base and other resources. Making the case for flexibility in national programmes and harnessing mainstream resources through Local Area Agreements will be key to providing targeted support for business and communities in both successful and underperforming areas identified in the RES. The key actions are:

Information Advice and Guidance – with national (Government Office, JobCentre Plus), regional (Learning and Skills Council, Association of South East Colleges, SEEDA) and local (local authorities, Connexions) partners working together to develop and deliver a universal careers service to providing information advice and guidance for young people and adults leading to personal progression.

Grow Our Own – delivering a community based model which provides an integrated package of skills, information advice and guidance and other support to economically inactive to enable them to gain or return to employment.

South East Public Sector Procurement Forum – working across all public sector agencies to assist businesses (particularly Small and Medium Enterprises) and the Voluntary and community sector to bid for public sector contracts.

3. Working beyond individual interventions. This means that influencing roles need to be improved to combine public and private funding in a more imaginative approach to project finance. The key actions are:

Regional Infrastructure Fund – working across the public and private sector to deliver essential infrastructure for major developments where this can not be brought forward through normal funding mechanisms.

South East Water Resources Forum – bringing together water industry companies with regional and local agencies to agree and work to a regional water efficiency target, to co-ordinate activities and where possible implement agreed solutions.

Funding Escalator – working with Venture Capitalists and Business Angels to develop and deliver a funding escalator to create a continuous pipeline of funding for innovators as they progress their business ideas.

4. Businesses and individuals need to see the benefit to participate. This means that a compelling, client focused offer will be needed to secure increased uptake of services. Clear, simple messages and a reduction in employer-facing brands relating to skills, employment and enterprise are essential. The key actions are:

Business Support Simplification - making it easier for businesses to access publicly funded business support and reduce administration costs and simplify delivery.

Action for Business Programme – ensuring training providers are capable of delivering the skills and training solutions to meet business need.

Skills Information Advice and Guidance to Young People – developing and delivering effective information advice and guidance to young people through Connexions and Next Steps.

5. The concept of business opportunity through addressing climate change needs to be given real substance and focus. This means working through the implications across the enterprise, skills, transport and housing agendas. The key actions are:

Commercialisation of New Opportunities – working with businesses to facilitate development of emerging energy efficiency and renewable energy products, access to markets, commercialisation and support cross sector collaborations.

Resource and Waste Management in the Construction Sector – identifying options and pathways for developers to integrate environmental technologies, minimise waste and re-use materials and products.

Skills in the Land Based Sector – developing a skills action plan for the land-based sector to address new opportunities arising from climate change, renewable energy and environmental management.

Global Leadership in Environmental Technologies – securing a lead share of the global market for environmental technologies, by attracting higher levels of investment in environmental businesses, becoming a world class location for innovation in environmental technologies and utilising London 2012 to showcase the region's environmental capabilities.



6. Sustainable growth requires high quality and sustainable places in which people and business can increase their productivity and competitiveness. This means focusing on improving provision of business and residential space. The key actions are:

Physical Development - supporting competitiveness through ensuring the provision of innovative business space and sustainable and affordable housing through high quality, mixed use and accessible developments.

Improve Collaboration and Skills – supporting the creation of better places which demonstrate good design, sustainable construction, and which mitigate against climate change through improved energy and water efficiency.

7. Improving business productivity requires the efficient movement of goods, people and ideas. This means that, in delivering sustainable transport and access solutions, we need to solve bottlenecks in the system to improve the region's connections to the region's continued economic prosperity. The key actions are:

Focus on Strategic Economic Corridors - where increased transport capacity for road, rail, air and sea movement must be delivered alongside demand management mechanisms, using technology to inform and direct travel demand.

Promote Alternative ways of Traveling - by developing integrated public transport services and working with businesses to deliver sustainable company travel plans.

Reduce the Need to Travel - by ensuring 100% next generation Broadband coverage across the South East and piloting new ways of working.

Sustainable Prosperity

RES Targets

11. Climate Change and Energy - reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions attributable to the South East by 20% from the 2003 baseline by 2016 as a step towards the national target of achieving a 60% reduction on 1990 levels by 2050, and increase the contribution of renewable energy to at least 10% of energy supply in the South East by 2010 as a step towards achieving 20% by 2020.
12. Sustainable Consumption and Production - reduce per capita water consumption in the South East by 20% from 169 litres per day in 2003/04 to 135 litres per day by 2016, and achieve a 30% increase over the 2003 baseline in GVA generated per tonne of materials entering the waste stream by 2016.
13. Natural Resources and the Environment. Achieve measurable improvements in the quality, bio-diversity and accessibility of green and open space.
14. Sustainable Communities - enable more people to benefit from sustainable prosperity across the region and reduce polarisation between communities.

Principles and Priority Actions

1. Achieving Sustainable Prosperity in the South East is dependent on preserving quality of life as a competitive advantage. This means our environmental and lifestyle offer needs to be one that is attractive to business, their workforce and their families. The key actions are:

Promote Green Infrastructure and Quality Landscapes - to improve the quantity, quality, biodiversity and accessibility of the green space and landscapes.

Raising Design Standards – to raise aspirations in the design and delivery of development, including agreeing and applying regional standards for delivery. To also include working with specialist organisations to develop a definition of environmental quality that covers both quantitative and qualitative perspectives of design in the public realm.

2. The costs of ignoring climate change and resource depletion, will increasingly be greater than tackling the problems now. This means government, regional bodies, businesses, local authorities and communities need to use all the legislative, enabling and influencing mechanisms available, as well as work creatively through cross sector partnerships. The key actions are:

A Regional Carbon Action Plan - to agree a common methodology for carbon calculation, undertake a carbon impact study across the RES activities and agree carbon reduction objectives across key organisations.

Commercialise New Opportunities - by facilitating the development of emerging energy efficiency and renewable energy products, access to markets, commercialisation and support cross sector collaborations.

Local Carbon Management – to spearhead the reduction in the carbon footprint at the local level, particularly in relation to the built environment, local transport, energy efficiency and micro-generation.



3. Globalisation and population growth mean that natural resources are becoming scarcer, and businesses and individuals will need to become increasingly effective at doing more with less. This means investing in and deploying new technologies, changing attitudes and behaviours and avoiding unnecessary waste at work, home, leisure and in daily travel. The key actions are:

Business Resource Efficiency - a comprehensive regional programme of support to small and medium enterprises to make measurable improvements to their resource efficiency and waste.

Resource and Waste Management in the Construction Sector - assisting developers to integrate environmental technologies, minimise waste and encourage re-use of materials and products into new construction projects.

South East Water Resources Forum – developing the Forum’s role to focus on regional water efficiency targets, disseminating best practice and raising awareness.

4. The region will need to reduce the amount of carbon consumed and the amount of waste produced. This means finding ways to speed up both consumer demand, and market supply, of low carbon and less wasteful goods, services and lifestyles. The key actions are:

Resource Recovery Parks – creating at least two demonstrator facilities in the South East.

Greater South East Market for Recyclables – working across London, the East of England and the south East accelerate the development of markets for recyclables.

Develop Local Food and Energy Markets – building strong links with London to enable South East food and energy businesses to develop new or improved market opportunities.

5. Sustainable Prosperity requires the creation of vibrant places and communities in which to live, work and visit. This means increasing the emphasis on the role of place, improving work and life style balances, increasing the value placed on learning, culture and participation, celebrating and capitalising on the region’s diversity. The key actions are:

Community Engagement – including a framework for cultural opportunity, that integrates into the Local Area Agreement process, and includes opportunities that celebrate and harness the diversity within communities.

Engaging Young People – using the education curriculum to engage young people in shaping the built environment.

Rural Accessibility – a programme of support to improve accessibility to services between small towns and rural areas.

6. Exclusion, inequality, social tension and unrest can undermine growth, directly affect the bottom line of business and put pressure on the public purse. This means tackling the root causes of poverty, deprivation and crime, identifying and mitigating against direct and indirect discrimination, promoting inclusion and encouraging the development of local community infrastructure and support. The key actions are:

Integrated Policy and Services – joining up regional planning and service delivery structures for the most excluded groups in the region with a strong focus on services to people not in education, employment or training.

Developing Voluntary and Community Sector Capability – supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector to adapt and develop within a rapidly changing policy context, where the emphasis will increasingly be on Local Area Agreements and local structures for addressing exclusion and inequalities.

Integrated Policy and Services – joining up regional planning and service delivery structures for the most excluded groups in the region with a strong focus on services to people not in education, employment or training.

Developing Voluntary and Community Sector Capability – providing organisational development and sustainability support to the Voluntary and Community Sector, including a joined up regional information mechanisms on funding for the Voluntary and Community Sector.



Appendix G

Detailed Recommendations

6.2 Introduction

This section sets out detailed recommendations in relation to the targets and transformational actions of the Implementation Plan. These detailed recommendations are provided to all those parties responsible for the delivery of the Implementation Plan and are intended to be considered along with the recommendations made in section 5 of the sustainability appraisal.

6.3 Targets

Target 1 Global Business and Foreign Investment

- Ensure that action 1.3 activities are aligned and integrated with those of target 10 (Employment) actions 10.5 & 10.6
- Ensure that target 1 activities contribute to reducing social exclusion and poverty in the South East
- The role of Investment Development Managers (IDMs) should be reviewed to consider whether activities to develop vibrant communities should be included (if possible) or promote sustainable design and construction with clients
- Ensure that infrastructure is put in place to meet any new demands that are created by growth in trade to avoid overwhelming existing facilities
- Ensure that action 1.4 activities work with partners in the greater South East to capitalise on the growth potential of the creative and cultural industries
- Ensure that the IDM team promote green travel plans, as appropriate, to inward investors
- Integrate 1.3 activities with those of target 7 (Competition and Business Regulation) to link major employers with local producers, and in particular SME's and voluntary and community sector organisations
- Introductions between employers and the Carbon Trust be organised by IDMs as appropriate
- Signpost businesses to appropriate support agencies, for example Envirowise and Business Link where SEEDA have invested in Sustainable Business Advisors



- IDMs to encourage more companies to use renewable energy resources
- Ensure that action 1.3 activities have a greater focus on deprived areas of the region
- Answer the question raised by SEEDA during the sustainability checklist process: “Under action 1.3- should the IMDs concentrate on deprived areas of the region? This would mean changing the types of companies that IMDs engage with as there are fewer multi-nationals in these areas. Perhaps IMDs should focus on concentrate on medium sized enterprises which need to make that next step to internationalisation?”
- Ensure that actions 1.1, 1.2 & 1.4 contribute towards encourage inward tourism

Target 2 Knowledge Transfer and Business Expenditure on Research and Development

- Ensure that target 2 activities are aligned and integrated with those of target 6 (Skills) to ensure that the construction industry is equipped with the required skills to deliver sustainable construction
- Ensure that an element of R&D activities has a focus on flood reduction and flood management
- Implement a monitoring system, and intervention measures as needed, to check level of up take of provision by residents from deprived areas of the region. This could be achieved perhaps through target 6 (Skills) activities
- Ensure that links are made with the Rural Theme to ensure that target 2 address access issues for rural communities
- Ensure that target 2 activities can be accessed by excluded and minority groups
- As highlighted in the Implementation Plan (page 15), ensure that the opportunities offered by the cultural and creative industries to stimulate and provide a rich resource for innovation, through, for example, networks of Higher and Further Education, are realised
- Ensure that target 2 activities develop & implement technologies to reduce CO₂ emissions and to support the development of a low carbon economy
- Ensure that target 2 activities are aligned with those of target 11 Climate Change, to contribute towards reducing CO₂ emissions
- Ensure that target 2 activities the conservation and enhancement of the region’s biodiversity. This may have particular relevance to understanding and meeting the challenges that the region’s biodiversity is likely to encounter due to changing climatic conditions
- Ensure that target 2 activities support the conservation and enhancement of the region’s countryside and historic environments
- Ensure that the focus on Intelligent Transport Systems and Services is contributing towards sustainable transport choices



- Ensure that target 2 activities include a focus on sustainable waste management solutions and that they are aligned with target 12 activities on sustainable consumption and production
- Ensure that target 2 activities include a focus on sustainable water management solutions and that they are aligned with target 12 activities on sustainable consumption and production
- Ensure that target 2 activities support the development and implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies
- Ensure that target 2 activities provide benefits to rural communities and minority and excluded groups. To achieve this ensure that target 2 activities are aligned with the Rural Theme and the Equalities and Diversity Theme
- Ensure that target 2 activities provide benefit to all areas of the region, including the priority areas
- Ensure that target 2 activities are aligned with the Rural Theme to contribute towards sustainable tourism

Target 3 Innovation & Creativity

- Ensure that the delivery of suitable land and premises for the key sector consortia supports the efficiency of land-use and encourages urban renaissance
- Ensure that activities (i.e. targeted programmes) are implemented to enable the key groups (under Equality and Diversity Theme) to access the support available through Action 3.4 & 3.5
- Ensure that the Innovation Advisory Service has a focus on improving air quality
- Consider the location of the Regional Enterprise Hubs – is there the potential for any of these to be located in rural communities? If not, consider what actions may be needed to ensure that rural communities can easily access (perhaps remotely) the Regional Enterprise Hubs
- Ensure that activities under Actions 3.7, 3.8 & 3.9 support and enable business to take action to reduce their climate change emissions (this recommendation was identified by SEEDA during its sustainability checklist process)
- Implement measures to ensure that business supported under target 3 are directed towards the Business Resources Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme. Consider adopting a target and indicator for the number of business who participate in BREW
- Ensure that all communities of the region will be able to benefit from the actions of target 3. Implement activities to the needs of excluded and minority groups
- Ensure that all areas of the region, including the priority areas, benefit from the actions of target 3
- Ensure that target 3 activities address the needs of rural communities



Target 4 Infrastructure

- Ensure that a component of the infrastructure construction materials are sourced from sustainable sources
- Implement actions to ensure that the improved connections to the region (via rail and Dover port) are promoted to attract new tourism opportunities

Target 5 Enterprise

- Increase the range of providers of cultural services to the people of the South East by encouraging and supporting social enterprise as a sustainable business model for the cultural sector and moving the sector away from a subsidy dependent model in the climate of diminishing public resources (recommendation identified as an issue that needs to be addressed, within the Implementation Plan).
- Ensure that the Enterprise Gate way hubs adhere to SEEDA'S Development and Infrastructure sustainability checklist
- Encourage and support rural businesses to reuse existing buildings (recommendation identified by SEEDA during the sustainability checklist process)
- Ensure that business support includes advice to improve environmental performance. This needs to be integrated with the actions of targets 11 (Climate Change) and target 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production)
- Ensure that the offer of the Enterprise Gateways is relevant to the specific demographics of disadvantage in the community (recommendation identified in the Implementation Plan, Section 5, page 13).

Target 6 Skills

- Ensure that sustainable construction skills are one of the skills provided through target 6 activities
- Ensure that the skills provisions activities address the skills gaps within the land-based sector
- Evaluate what support with regards to flood risk management and mitigation that Innovation Advisory Service can provide
- Ensure that the most disadvantaged communities benefit from the actions of target 6. The Implementation Plan Section 5, page 13, under the Equality and Diversity Theme, highlights a number of actions that are needed. In particular the Action for Communities model and the Grow Our Own model need to focus on areas in the region where there is a concentration of disadvantage in the workforce among BME groups, women and people with disabilities
- Ensure that actions are undertaken to firstly understand the barriers that may be faced by certain groups to improving skills levels and secondly implement measures to overcome these barriers



- Ensure that the creative and cultural sector contributes to the development of an Academy of Leadership Skills to support creative individuals and further creativity as a crucial element of entrepreneurship and innovation
- Support volunteering (including within the cultural and creative sector) in communities as a mechanism to assist individuals gain transferable skills that are attractive to employers
- Encourage entry level opportunities for employment in the cultural and creative sectors
- Ensure that the creative and cultural sector contributes to the development of an Academy for Leadership Skills to support creative individuals and further creativity as a crucial element for entrepreneurship and innovation
- Expand the use of cultural facilities and sites as informal learning environments and extend the range of accessible learning provision within communities
- Implement activities under the Train to Gain and Grow Our Own activities to contribute towards objective 10. For example, how can the Train to Gain programme help businesses within related sectors develop the skills to contribute to urban renaissance? How can the activities under the Grow Our Own programme contribute to a range academic and vocational opportunities in specific sectors (e.g. built environment), and thereby contribute to the development of urban renaissance and improved efficiency in land use?
- Ensure advice on higher level skills is provided through the Innovation Advisory Service and the IAG programme, to help businesses within the environmental technology and related sectors develop the skills with respect to addressing air pollution and improve air quality, sustainable transport, sustainable waste management, sustainable water management, energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies
- Ensure that elements of the skills provision can be delivered, and accessed, remotely via Broadband
- Ensure that all groups can benefit (including those in priority areas) from target 6 activities

Target 7 Competition and Business Regulation

- Ensure that SME's in the sustainable construction sector are supported to bid for public sector contracts
- Ensure that action 7.4 'Develop a proactive approach to improving planning performance' influences the location of development so that it is avoided in the flood plain
- Implement actions to ensure that SME's and voluntary and community sector organisations located in the most deprived areas of the region access and therefore benefit from the support that is to be delivered through target 7 actions
- Ensure actions are taken to ensure that public procurement opportunities are accessed by BME SME's and women-owned businesses



- Ensure that the development of new legislation that may effect the creative industries in the region is monitored and that these industries are made aware of, and prepared for, any such changes
- Implement actions to ensure that public procurement can be used as a tool to increase cultural activity by opening up access to cultural businesses
- Ensure that the sharing of best practice with regards to planning and legislation , through actions 7.3 & 7.4, include information and support on the benefits of reusing land and existing buildings
- When implementing activities under action 7.3 ensure that new opportunities are included to conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity and its countryside and historic environments
- Implement proactive measures to support SMEs and voluntary and community sector organisations that work to provide local and sustainable services and products
- Implement activities to support SMEs and voluntary and community sector organisations that work to provide sustainable waste management services and energy efficiency and renewable energy services and products
- Implement activities to ensure that SMEs and voluntary and community sector organisations owned by deprived minority groups and excluded groups participate and benefit from target 7 actions

Target 8 Transport

- The cumulative effects of these initiatives may be significant in relation to the other targets in the RES and other regional strategies. In consequence, it would be important to ensure that the cumulative sustainable impacts of the transport initiatives described in this target have also been considered as part of the Regional Spatial Strategy. If they are not, it may be appropriate to consider the effects as part of the assessment of the Sub-Regional Frameworks. All construction projects should aspire to good sustainable construction practices and in urban areas meet the requirements of the consideration constructor scheme. In addition, development partners should consider SEEDA's Sustainable Construction Checklist.
- Uncertainty relating to the status and funding of proposed activities will need to be addressed as well as measures to ensure that the effects of development are monitored by partners in a manner consistent with the rest of the RES Implementation Plan.

Target 9 Physical Development

- Ensure that target 9 activities fully address the issue of providing sustainably constructed homes by engaging with and influencing the private developer/construction sector to encourage the implementation of sustainable design and construction.
- Ensure that the Energy and Water Research activity goes beyond research and into the implementation of measures to improve the energy and water performance of the private housing stock within the region



- Ensure that activities under action 9.9 address any skills gap that exists with respect to sustainable drainage techniques and practices
- Implement measures to ensure that private housing stock in most deprived areas is targeted for improvements
- Ensure that actions are implemented to ensure that the potential benefits, with respect to reducing poverty and social exclusion, are realised. In particular, actions may be needed to build the capacity of communities and the voluntary and community sector to enable them to take ownership of community assets in a financially sustainable manner
- Ensure that accessible education facilities are provided as a component of high-quality mixed-use developments
- Develop an evidence base expertise and research through knowledge exchange between practitioners and higher education institutions which could strengthen the mechanisms for delivering appropriate training in the long term. For example, increasing take up of apprenticeships etc
- Ensure that activities to improve design standards address the concepts of ‘secured by design’ principles
- Ensure measures are implemented to secure the active engagement of all communities across the region in the design and planning of new developments
- Support the use of creative practitioners in masterplanning
- Ensure that activities to improve design take into account the re-use of materials and sustainable construction practices.
- Support heritage construction skills as a mechanism for preserving the quality of the historic built environment
- Ensure that new developments include sustainable transport infrastructure, for examples coherent cycle tracks and pathways
- Ensure that the Energy and Water Efficiency Research project for the private housing stock goes beyond research into implementation of measures to increase energy efficiency as a means to reducing CO₂ emissions.
- Ensure that all publicly funded development projects are at the least low-carbon developments
- Ensure that brownfield sites are assessed for their biodiversity value and where necessary implement mitigation measures
- Ensure that best practice guidance (9.8) includes standards that address the issues of enhancing the region’s countryside and historic environments



- Ensure that new developments include sustainable transport options, including coherent cycle track and footpaths.
- Ensure that development in rural areas is provided with sustainable transport options
- Ensure that the activities of target 7 (Competition and Business Regulation) are integrated with those of target 9 to increase the opportunities for sourcing resources locally
- Ensure that actions are implemented to improve the water efficiency of the existing housing stock
- Ensure that all publicly-funded developments include high-quality water efficiency measures
- Ensure that actions are implemented to improve the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock
- Ensure that all publicly-funded developments include high-quality energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies
- Ensure that employment sites in the most deprived areas of the region are created as a means to ensuring that all communities in the region can benefit from the actions of target 9

Target 10 Employment

- Ensure that all communities have access to broadband (and the installation on the next generation broadband), of particular importance for rural communities and the most disadvantaged communities
- Promote awareness with employers of the contribution that participation in sports and cultural activity may have on attendance and productivity
- Encourage the potential for cultural and creative industries to contribute towards learning in the workplace, for example through the Creativity in Business agenda.
- Ensure that workplace training is aligned with target 11 (Climate Change) and target 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production)
- Ensure that schools-based enterprise projects focus on the region's countryside and historic environments
- Implement a strategy to purchase locally-made and environmentally-sustainable learning resource materials, where these are available.
- Develop a Green Pledge for project service providers to address the issue of sustainable resource
- Implement activities to ensure communities in the worst performing areas have access to teleworking opportunities, both in terms of physical access to next generation broadband and access to training to provide them with the skills needed by the tele-working sector
- Ensure that target 10 activities deliver benefits in the priority areas



Target 11 Climate Change and Energy

- The RES Implementation Plan partners need to move firmly towards delivering the strong and positive actions that are required to begin the challenge of reducing CO₂ emissions. For example, consideration needs to be given to utilising funding mechanism to bring about the necessary changes
- It is strongly recommended that a climate change proofing system is applied to all the activities that are due to be delivered by the RES Implementation Plan. All activities should be required to demonstrate that they will contribute towards reducing CO₂ emissions as a minimum pre-requisite to commencement
- In addition it is recommended that:
- Activities are implemented to address objective 1 and the issue of sustainably constructed homes. target 11 has a role to play in supporting target 9 (Physical Infrastructure) activities to ensure that the issue of affordable and sustainably constructed homes is addressed
- Ensure that woodland businesses are operated in a manner that also provide benefits to biodiversity

Target 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Ensure that the Resource and Waste Management in the Construction Sector, action 12.4, also deals with energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies
- Ensure that the target 12 activities are aligned and integrated with those of target 11 (Climate Change and Energy)
- Ensure that the delivery partners, including SEERA, local authorities and GOSE promote, and where in their direct authority ensure, the incorporation of SUDS into development schemes
- Ensure that programmes to raise awareness of water efficiency reach those in most deprived areas in order to assist them to reduce their water costs
- Ensure that activities to raise awareness of water efficiency are integrated into the lifelong learning activities of target 10 (Employment) to create synergy and provide greater impact and outcomes
- Ensure that any potential skills gap needed to address sustainable water management and sustainable resource and waste management is mapped and understood
- Ensure that skills gaps in sustainable water management and sustainable resource and waste management are integrated into the activities of targets 3 (Innovation and Creativity), target 6 (Skills) and target 10 (Employment) to capitalise on the synergies between these targets
- Ensure the involvement of communities in planning new SEEDA developments, through BREEAM
- Ensure that the recycling of Construction and Demolition wastes is a key activity on the demonstrator RRP (action 12.6)



- Ensure that the Resource and Waste Management in the Construction Sector, action 12.4, also addresses energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.
- Ensure that activities to promote sustainable resource use are integrated into target 10 lifelong learning and workplace training activities to create greater synergies and therefore greater positive impacts
- Require that the energy efficiency components of the BREEAM scheme are addressed (action 12.8).
- Ensure that target 12 activities are aligned with and integrated with those of target 9 (Physical Development)
- Ensure that target 12 activities are integrated with those of target 7 (Competition and Business Regulation) which also aims to support SMEs to access public procurement opportunities
- Ensure that target 12 activities are aligned and integrated with target 6 (Skills), target 9 (Physical Development) and target 10 (Employment)

Target 13 Natural Resources and the Environment

- Ensure that the role and potential of natural flood mechanisms, for example SUDS or water meadows, is promoted and implemented where feasible
- Ensure that the barriers that what may prevent communities and individuals to use green/open spaces are understood and that measures are implemented to remove them. This links clearly with target 14 Sustainable Communities and therefore opportunities to achieve integrated delivery need to be identified
- Ensure the involvement of communities in the planning and management of open spaces (links with target 14 Sustainable Communities)
- Encourage and facilitate the use of green spaces for cultural activities
- Ensure that brownfield sites that are proposed for development, are evaluated for their biodiversity value, and where needed implement necessary mitigation measures
- Ensure that the potential climate change impacts on the region's biodiversity are understood. Is it possible to implement mitigation measures to conserve existing biodiversity? What support can be provided to assist growers and land-owners adapt to climate change?
- Ensure that actions are implemented that specifically address the issue of improving environmental quality within priority areas
- Ensure that opportunities to address this objective by delivering land-based/biodiversity training are delivered through target 6 (Skills) and target 10 (Employment).



Target 14 Sustainable Communities

- Ensure that activities are linked with those of Targets 9 (Physical Development) and 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production)
- Ensure that flood risks are taken into account during the activities to shape urban renaissance
- Ensure that rural communities are included in the activities under this Target to build sustainable communities
- Ensure that activities under this target contribute towards reducing climate change emissions
- Ensure that the regional standards for delivery (Action 14.1) include standards that focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and developing communities that are prepared for climate change impacts
- Ensure that the regional index of sustainable wellbeing (Action 14.5) includes an appropriate greenhouse gas emissions measurement.
- Provide support to the voluntary and community sector to enable them to deliver community transport options
- Ensure links are made with Target 7 (Competition & Business Regulation) to support SMEs and voluntary and community sector organisations access public procurement opportunities

6.4 SA Matrices Transformations Actions

Transformational Action 1 Raising Economic Activity Rates

- Ensure the opportunities to improve economic activity, productivity and access to employment are available to all members of all communities across the region. There should be particular focus upon increasing the economic activity rates of deprived/priority areas
- Ensure that actions are implemented to ensure that raising economic activity does not adversely contribute towards climate change. The activities under targets 5, 9, 11, and 12 have a focus on improving the environmental performance of businesses or supporting the environmental technologies sector, all of which may help to raise economic activity whilst reducing contributions to climate change gases
- Ensure that all businesses assisted are provided with advice on how to improve their environmental performance, which has the additional benefits of helping to improve economic performance
- Ensure that the environmental economy sector is supported as a potential growth industry
- Ensure that actions are taken to support local economies are providers of resources needed for economic growth



Transformational Action 2 Science and Innovation Campuses

- Ensure the potential employment, training, R&D and business related opportunities provided by the science and innovation campuses are accessible by all members of the community – particularly those from deprived/priority areas
- Ensure the potential growth, R&D and investment opportunities provided by the science and innovation campuses are accessible by all members of the business community
- If the development of science and innovation campuses involves construction of new buildings or facilities then make best use of existing brownfield land, enhance biodiversity, maximise water conservation, minimise waste and make use of sustainable design ideas and materials
- Key recommendation: ensure that one of the campuses has a focus on environmental technologies to contribute to reduce the region's CO₂ footprint (Target 11) and promote sustainable production and consumption (Target 12)
- Key recommendation: Ensure that the campuses are built to high and exacting energy efficiency standards and incorporate renewable energy technologies

Transformational Action 3 Education-Led Regeneration

- Ensure the opportunities to access educational opportunities are available and accessible to all members of all communities across the region, in particular those in deprived areas
- Focus education-led regeneration activities on deprived/key priority areas where possible, as it is these areas that are likely to benefit the most
- Educate and encourage, communities to reduce their impact upon the environment, through the education-led regeneration plan

Transformational Action 4 100% Next Generation Broadband Coverage

- SEEDA should work in close partnership with its partners, other public sector bodies, business and all members of the community to maximise the potential capacity for the internet to reduce the need to travel, raise environmental awareness and empower individuals to reduce their contribution towards climate change
- SEEDA should work in close partnership with its partners, other public sector bodies, business and all members of the community to maximise the potential capacity for the internet to reduce the need to travel by car and access useful information on alternative modes of transport
- SEEDA should work in close partnership with its partners, other public sector bodies, business and all members of the community to maximise the potential capacity for the internet to improve health provision



- Ensure all members of the business community (particularly small / susceptible businesses) are equipped, trained and empowered to make best use of the internet for obtaining information, recruiting and selling their goods and services
- Ensure all members of the community (particularly those in deprived or priority areas) are equipped, trained and empowered to make best use of the internet for training, educational and community based purposes
- Community organisations should be equipped, trained and empowered to make best use of the internet for communication, involvement and management of their community activities
- Ensure that most disadvantaged communities are not further disadvantaged by an inability to access the next generation broadband
- Investigate the potential of the role of the public sector and the voluntary and community sector to provide accessibility facilities in the most disadvantaged communities

Transformational Action 5 Global Leadership in Environmental Technologies

- Make an explicit link between increasing peoples' skills and the demand from businesses.

Transformational Action 6 Regional Infrastructure Fund

- Where possible the RIF should be used to fund a wide variety of infrastructure projects, which should be considered on their merits with regards all of the economic, social and environmental contributions that they may provide
- Infrastructure projects funded through the RIF should include improvements to public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure that is safe and accessible by all members of the community

Transformational Action 7 Skills Escalator

- Ensure the opportunities to access new skills are available to all members of all communities across the region, in particular those in deprived areas.

Transformational Action 8 Making the Most of 2012

- Ensure that the benefits from the Olympics (e.g. jobs and access to sports facilities) are felt in all parts of the community, including people in disadvantaged areas
- Maximise the sustainability of developments associated with the Games, in line with one of the overall key themes of the 2012 Olympics.



6.5 Summary

In addition to the key overall recommendations that have been made with regards to the overall delivery of the Implementation Plan, the sustainability appraisal has identified several action and activity specific recommendations to maximise the contribution of the RES to sustainable development. A number of the recommendations propose changes to the delivery of the actions, to ensure that they achieve greater sustainability benefits. Other recommendations identify the need to ensure that similar actions, albeit under different targets, are implemented in a co-ordinated manner, again to ensure that potential sustainability benefits are enhanced. In some instances the recommendations have been derived from the work that SEEDA undertook when they completed sustainability checklists for each of the Implementation Plan actions.

