

REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY REPORT

APPENDIX 1

The Sustainability Policies

SD1 The Ecological Footprint

The Region's ecological footprint will be stabilised and then reduced by:

- Ensuring that development respects environmental limits.
- Requiring the wise use of natural resources and reducing the consumption of key resources such as energy, water and minerals.
- Building a sustainable, low carbon and low resource consuming economy which can be secured within environmental limits to bring prosperity and well being to all parts of the region.
- Requiring sustainable construction and design as the norm in all future development and when opportunities arise, improving the region's existing building stock in line with current best practice.
- Minimising the need to travel by better alignment of jobs, homes and services, reducing the reliance on the private car by improving public transport and effective planning of future development and strong demand management regime applied in the region's main centres in particular.
- Requiring a shift towards the more sustainable modes of transport; and
- Meeting National Regional targets relating to renewable energy, resource consumption, extraction and waste production/recycling.

Local Authorities, Regional Agencies and others will include policies and proposals and their strategies, plans and programmes to assess how all new developments, regeneration areas and major refurbishments contribute to stabilising and reducing the region's ecological footprint.

Policy SD2 Climate Change

The region's contribution to climate change will be reduced by:-

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions at least in line with current National targets i.e. by 30% by 2026 (compared to 1990 levels) and
- Following the principles outlined in SD1.

The region will adapt to the anticipated changes in climate by:-

- Managing the impact of future climate change on the environment, economy and society.
- Identifying the most vulnerable communities and eco systems given current understanding of future climate change and providing measures to mitigate against these effects.
- Avoiding the need for development in flood risk areas and incorporating measures in design and construction to reduce the effects of flooding.
- Recognising and putting in place policies and measures to develop and exploit those opportunities that climate change will bring.
- Requiring "future proofing" of developing activity for its susceptibility to climate change and
- Improving the resilience and reliability of existing infrastructure to cope with changes in climate and in the light of future demand. It will be a priority for the places identified... to determine potential future climate change impacts and plan ways in which key services and infrastructure needs to adapt.

All local authorities in their LDDs will need to demonstrate how they intend to contribute towards the required 60% cut in CO₂ emissions by 2050 and how they intend to identify and respond to the potential impacts of climate change in their area.

Policy SD3 The Environment & Natural Resources

The region's environment and natural resources will be protected and enhanced by:-

- Ensuring that development respects landscape and ecological thresholds of settlements.
- Reducing the environmental impact of the economy, transport and development.
- Positively planning to enhance natural environment through development, taking a holistic approach based on landscape or eco-system scale planning.
- Planning and design of development to reduce pollution and contamination and to maintain tranquillity.
- Positive planning and design to set development within and to enhance local character (including setting development within the landscape of the historic environment) and bringing historic buildings back into viable economic use and supporting regeneration and
- Contributing to regional bio-diversity targets through the restoration, creation, improvement and management of habitats.

Policy SD4 Sustainable Communities

Growth and development will be planned for and managed positively to create and maintain Sustainable Communities throughout the region by:-

- Realising the economic possibility of the south west and reducing disparity.
- Setting a clear vision and strategy to meet the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities based on the role and functions of cities, towns and villages and their local character and distinctiveness.
- Linking the provision of homes, jobs and services based on role and function so that cities, towns and villages and groups of places have the potential to become more self contained and the need to travel is reduced.
- Promoting a step change in public transport, taking steps to manage demand for travel and promoting public transport 'hubs' and access to them.
- Encouraging business activity and particularly small businesses and their contribution to the region's prosperity including through promoting regional sourcing.
- Making adequate and affordable housing available for all residents, including the provision of a range and mixture of different housing types to accommodate the requirements of local communities.
- Making the best use of existing infrastructure and ensuring that supporting infrastructure is delivered in step with development.
- Investing in and upgrading cultural facilities, including their marketing and management.
- Creating healthy, safe and secure places to live for example by following Life Time Homes and Secure By Design Principles
- Providing homes which are adaptable to the changing needs of individuals and provide an opportunity for live-work space.
- Delivering a step change in the quality of urban living.
- Providing networks of accessible green space for people to enjoy and
- Supporting social and economic progress by enhancing education, skills, development and training.