



Sustainability Appraisal of the Submitted Draft Regional Spatial Strategy

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SA of North West Regional Spatial Strategy

- Why Sustainability Appraisal and what was the approach taken?
- How does the Final Submitted Draft perform – what are the Key Findings?
- Can the sustainability performance be enhanced?

Why is it required?

- **Requirements for SA**

- Planning and Compensation Act 2004;
- Planning Policy Statement 11;
- Guidance within Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents. (former ODPM) 2005.

- **SA aims to:**

- Integrate social, economic and environmental considerations into the preparation of Plans and Programmes;
- Integrate the requirement for SEA (European Directive 2001/42/EC).

- **Entec's Prime Purpose:**

- To work iteratively with the RSS Policy team to produce a Spatial Strategy that delivers excellence in the Region.

The Approach

● Scoping

- To develop an understanding of baseline conditions;
- To understand how other plans and programmes may impact upon the baseline, and future trends;
- To develop Sustainability objectives and indicators derived from the above;
- To gain agreement on the above through consultation on the Scoping Report.

The Approach

- **The Appraisal of Options**

- undertaken within two workshops attended by a range of consultees
- reported with recommendations to improve sustainability performance

- **Appraisal of Preferred Option and production of final SA Report**

- appraised by Entec and reviewed through consultation workshops

The Approach – Sustainability Matrix

North West Regional Strategy – Coastal Zone Appraisal Matrix

Option: Appraisal of existing Spatial Development Framework									
Sustainable Development Objectives and Criteria	Key baseline info and target (where available)	Geographic Scale			Timescale			Cumulative	Commentary, including prevention, reduction, offsetting of adverse effects
		Region		Effects outside the region	Short 0-5 years	Medium upto 2021	long period beyond 2021		
		Urban	Rural						
1. To reduce the disparities of sub-regional and regional economic performance									
1a. Will it provide job opportunities in areas with residents most at need?	Highest % claimants in Liverpool, Knowsley, Manchester, Blackpool	+	?	-	?	✓	✓	+	Although limited to a range of development that largely requires a coastal location, the policy framework (SDF20 / RT4 / EM5) do offer considerable scope for development, in particular in the developed areas of Liverpool and the port, that should be associated with benefits /synergies in the older areas. Sustainability will depend upon skills being available locally to meet the demands. Unless this is delivered, there is significant risk that employers will not be able to obtain a suitable local labour supply. Policy addressed marginally positively on the assumption that these measures can be put in place.
1b. Will it reduce economic disparities within the region and with other UK regions?	NW, GVA 87% of UK average, target 89% by 2006								

Key													
++	Strongly positive impact	+	Positive impact	0	No impact or relationship	-	Negative impact	--	Strongly negative impact	?	Uncertain - Impact unknown	✓	Operates at this timescale

Key Findings

- **Significant Challenges face the Region:**
 - Climate Change
 - Economic disparity
 - Housing Choice
 - Transportation
 - Air & Water Quality
 - Biodiversity
 - Communities
 - Educational attainment
 - Health & Wellbeing
 - Energy, Waste and Resource efficiency
- **Many have a sub-regional emphasis**

Key Findings

● RSS Overall Performance

– Objectives:

- A strong commitment to social, economic and environmental improvement.

– Development Principles:

- A welcome recognition of the need to improve the efficiency of our existing assets and to improve the quality of new.
- A recognition of the need to reduce to travel.
- A recognition of climate change as an urgent regional priority.

Key Findings

- **At a Policy Level:**

- Supporting

- economic growth and development;
- recognising the need to increase housing and better locate it with jobs, services and facilities;
- Concentrating development in Cities, towns and other settlements.
- An emphasis upon the more efficient use of our transport infrastructure.
- Requiring an integrated approach to land management.
- Seeking to reduce resource use and maximise efficiency regionally.

- Challenges remain

- To reconcile the economic priorities within the sub-regional policies with the over-arching environmental policies within RSS.
- To recognise the need to support engagement with all the regions communities.
- To reconcile the principle of reducing the need to travel with an expansion in air travel and freight movement.
- To recognise that those areas targeted for greatest growth have the poorest performance in resource use, to recognise that resources are constrained and that higher targets for recycling and re-use could be adopted.

In Conclusion - How can it be Enhanced?

- Consider sub-regionally specific social and environmental priorities in addition to economic and transport;
- Consider the environmental capacity of the sub-regions to accommodate growth;
- Include reference within the Development Principles to engagement with communities;
- Consider a transport hierarchy that reduces the need to travel, in a form similar to those adopted for waste and energy;
- Recognise current under-performance in meeting some regional targets and the resulting implications.