

Sustainable Futures:
**Integrated
Sustainability
Framework**
for the East of England

January 2009



Foreword

We are very pleased to present **Sustainable Futures – the Integrated Sustainability Framework for the East of England**.

The purpose of the Framework is to place sustainable development at the heart of the East of England's future.

The region is an attractive place to live and work with a growing economy and population. But we need to ensure that all people can participate in the benefits of economic growth and that the quality of our natural environment is maintained and improved.

The core of the Framework is ten objectives to achieve sustainable development in the region. They are objectives we can all understand and work towards.

The publication of the Framework is also timely as we look in future to develop a Single Regional Strategy for the East of England. This strategy will need to address the sustainable development challenges set out in this Framework.

We hope that we can ensure a truly Sustainable Future for the East of England.

Barbara Follett MP

Minister for the East of England



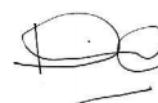
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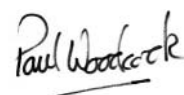
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Executive Summary

The Integrated Sustainability Framework (ISF) is a statement of the sustainable development priorities and challenges facing the East of England. Its vision is:

“To promote and enhance the environmental, economic and social well-being of the East of England, and ensure a better quality of life for everyone – now and in the future.”

The ISF seeks to identify:

- The main objectives to achieve sustainable development in the East of England;
- How those objectives are being addressed by current regional targets in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and Regional Economic Strategy (RES) and any gaps that may need to be addressed in a future Single Regional Strategy;
- A monitoring framework to assess current and future performance in relation to the sustainable development objectives;

The ten identified sustainable development objectives for the East of England are outlined in Figure 1 below. Each of these objectives has a number of headline indicators that can be used to monitor the region’s progress towards sustainable development.

East of England Sustainable Development Objectives

1. Promote sustainable growth within environmental limits
2. Reduce poverty and inequality and promote social inclusion
3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
4. Adapt to the impacts of climate change
5. Promote employment, learning, skills and innovation
6. Increase resource efficiency and reduce resource use and waste
7. Conserve, restore and enhance the region’s natural and built environment
8. Move goods and people sustainably
9. Meet the needs of the changing regional demographic
10. Provide decent, affordable and safe homes for all

Figure 1

one.

Introduction

What is the Integrated Sustainability Framework?

The Integrated Sustainability Framework (ISF) is a statement of sustainable development objectives for the East of England.

The aim of the ISF is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are embedded within regional strategies and work towards the vision ***'to promote and enhance the environmental, economic and social well-being of the East of England, and ensure a better quality of life for everyone – now and in the future.'***

The ten regionally specific objectives provide a framework for policy makers at regional, sub-regional and local level to promote sustainable development.

The ISF shows where targets from the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) are helping to achieve the ten sustainable development objectives and where there are gaps that any future Single Regional Strategy should address.

The ISF also includes headline indicators for each of its ten objectives. These have been developed through extensive consultation and research and come from sources that are already being reported upon and measured at either a local or regional level.

The ISF does not have its own targets or action plan as it is not a regional strategy itself.

Finally, the Integrated Sustainability Framework will provide a foundation for the development of any future regional strategies which will need to respond to all the sustainable development challenges facing the East of England region.

two.

Sustainable Development

What is sustainable development?

There are numerous definitions of sustainable development, most based upon the concept that the economic, social and environmental dimensions of any issue have to be considered in the round, and focus on the need to move to 'one planet living'. This framework utilises the 'international' definition of sustainable development from the World Commission on Environment and Development;

'Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

Sustainable Development in the National Context

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 'Securing the Future' narrates five guiding principles needed to achieve sustainable development. Published in March 2005, it sets out a sustainable vision for the UK and the guiding principles needed to achieve it. It seeks to ensure the 'integration' of different aspects of sustainability into policy, rather than the earlier approach of 'balancing' social, environmental and economic aims. A policy that is sustainable must respect all five of these principles as set out in Figure 2 below.

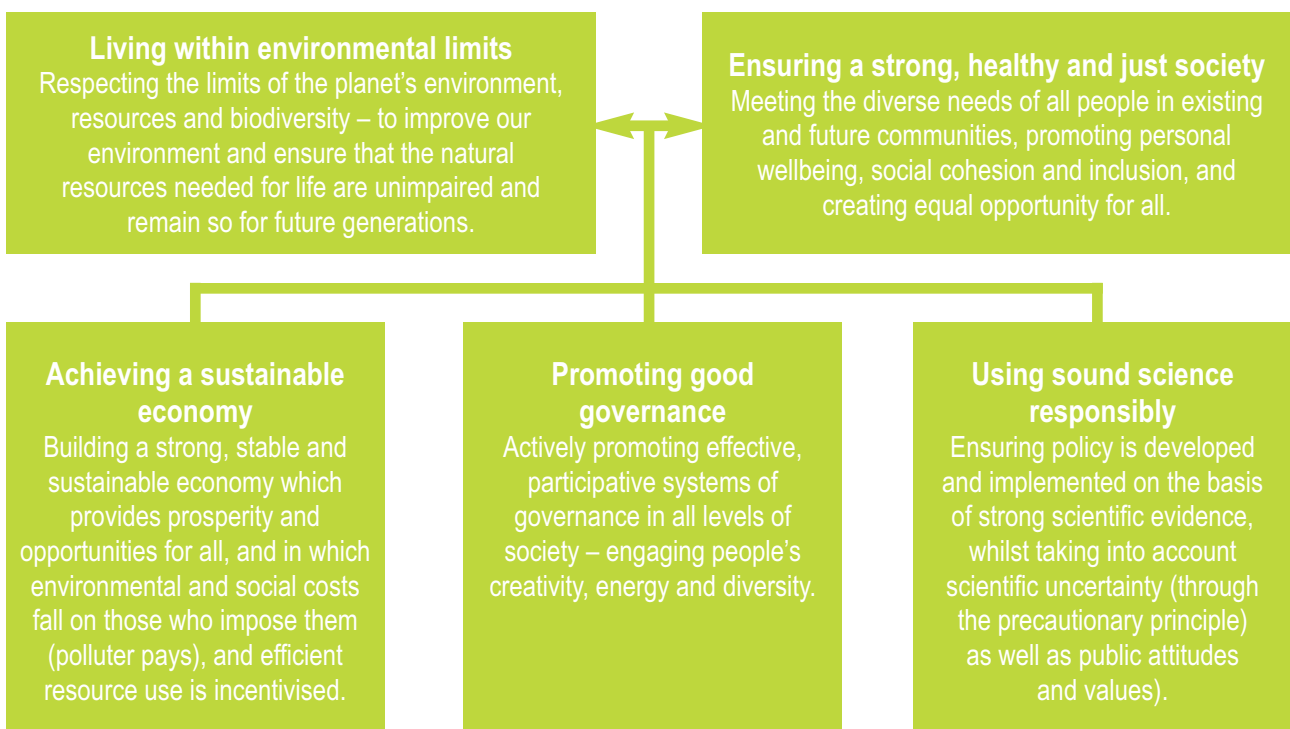


Figure 2 – Securing the Future 2005

Securing the Future also sets out the four priorities for immediate action to deliver sustainable development in the UK. These are shown in Figure 3 below.

Priorities for UK action

Sustainable Consumption and Production

Looking at how goods and services are produced, and the impacts of products and materials across their whole lifecycle and building on peoples awareness of social and environmental concerns.

Climate Change and Energy

Securing a profound change in the way we generate and use energy, and other activities that release greenhouse gases. Also, preparing for climate change that cannot now be avoided.

Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement

Getting a better understanding of environmental limits, environmental enhancements and recovery where the environment is most degraded.

Sustainable Communities

Working to give communities more power and say in the decisions that affect them; and working in partnership at the right level to get things done.

Figure 3 – Securing the Future 2005

Sustainable development in the East of England

The ISF has responded to the five principles, the four national priorities for action, and the subsequent Government advice to regions as set out in 'Securing the Regions' Futures' to produce ten sustainable development objectives for the region. These seek to recognise the unique strengths and challenges facing the East of England, and are set out in Figure 4 below.

East of England Sustainable Development Objectives

1. Promote sustainable growth within environmental limits
2. Reduce poverty and inequality and promote social inclusion
3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
4. Adapt to the impacts of climate change
5. Promote employment, learning, skills and innovation
6. Increase resource efficiency and reduce resource use and waste
7. Conserve, restore and enhance the region's natural and built environment
8. Move goods and people sustainably
9. Meet the needs of the changing regional demographic
10. Provide decent, affordable and safe homes for all

Figure 4

The ten objectives provide an overarching framework of issues each of which are discussed in greater depth in Chapter Four. Each objective has a series of headline indicators that will show the current situation in the region and, where possible, what the trend data shows is the direction of travel.

Most of the indicators being used in the ISF come from one of four sources. This is designed to align the ISF closely with local, regional and national strategies. The four main sources are:

- The Regional Spatial Strategy
- The Regional Economic Strategy
- The National Indicator Set – 198 indicators through which local government performance is monitored
- Defra Sustainable Development Indicator Set

A full report showing the current position of the region will be published annually.

Where gaps in the indicator set exist, these need to be looked at in the development of future regional strategies.

This framework does not set targets for each of the objectives; it expresses relevant targets from the RSS and RES under the appropriate objective.

The regional partners who have contributed to this ISF are in agreement that the future Single Regional Strategy should encompass all of the sustainable development issues set out in this document.

Any future Single Regional Strategy will need to directly address how any incompatibilities and conflicts between sustainable development objectives can be overcome. For example, it will need to address:

- Fundamentally how living within environmental limits can be achieved whilst also delivering growth
- How the deployment of low carbon and renewable technologies can be reconciled with its impact on the natural environment and landscape

Chapter 5 provides a decision making hierarchy that allows for apparent conflicts between policy drivers to be reconciled. However the Single Regional Strategy will need to describe in detail how these conflicts can be addressed across the region.

Developing the Integrated Sustainability Framework

The methodology used to produce the Sustainable Development Objectives and Indicators is attached as Annex 1.

Securing the Regions' Futures set out eight 'essential ingredients' for reviewing or preparing high-level strategic documents. These are outlined below along with how the ISF seeks to meet them.

Evidence base – using robust social, economic and environmental data, trends, scenarios or analysis to establish the region's current and future challenges.

The ISF uses a shared performance framework with the RSS, RES, Defra and the National Indicator Set for Local Government.

Indicators, actions and targets – identifying targets, indicators and actions in order to meet the region's aims and objectives along with owners and timescales and referring to related actions, indicators or targets in other regional or local plans.

The ISF sets ten high-level Sustainable Development Objectives. This has involved extensive stakeholder consultation and research.

The ISF indicators are taken from the RSS, RES, Defra and the National Indicator Set for Local Government and are used to show the current position and direction of travel for sustainable development in the region.

As a framework there are no specific actions, rather other relevant strategies receive significant signposting.

The ISF does not have its own targets, but expresses relevant targets from the RES and RSS which have their own reporting regime.

Stakeholder Involvement – engaging regional stakeholders from social, economic and environmental interests from all sectors in the preparation of high level regional strategies.

The ISF has been developed by EERA but with strong support from regional partners including EEDA, GO-East, the Environment Agency, Sustainability East, Natural England, English Heritage and others.

Integrated Vision – developing and effectively communicating a shared, overarching and long-term vision for the future of the region based on the region’s challenges and opportunities.

The ISF has developed a clear, concise vision taking into account the visions of the key regional strategies and feedback during the consultation process. The visions for each of the premier league strategies are shown in Figure 5 on page 11.

Aims and Objectives – identifying clear aims and objectives through which the shared vision will be implemented.

The ISF has ten clear high-level Sustainable Development Objectives owned by the region.

Monitoring and Reporting – making arrangements by which to monitor progress on implementation and for reporting to regional stakeholders and the wider public.

The ISF is seeking to utilise existing monitoring processes through informed selection of indicators. This ensures that no additional monitoring burden has been created. The approach taken is to highlight the issues and indicators that need monitoring and ensure that regional partners adopt the appropriate mechanisms during the preparatory stages of developing the future Single Regional Strategy.

Sub-regional and local levels – establishing links between the ‘ingredients’ above and opportunities offered by sub-regions, city regions and local Sustainable Community Strategies/Local Area Agreements (LAAs), to help contribute to national and regional sustainable development priorities.

Recognising that sustainable development is usually delivered locally, the ISF seeks to establish clear links with local strategic documents and use indicators from LAAs where they relate directly to the sustainable development objectives.

Sustainability appraisal – conducting a sustainability appraisal on high-level strategies in line with available good practice.

A sustainability appraisal was conducted on the consultation draft. The issues raised have been taken into account in the subsequent drafting process for the final Integrated Sustainability Framework.

three.

A Framework for the East of England

Regional strategies

In presenting a high-level vision and series of Sustainable Development Objectives for the region, the ISF draws extensively from a family of existing regional strategies such as the Regional Spatial Strategy, Regional Economic Strategy, Regional Housing Strategy, Regional Health Strategy, Regional Social Strategy, Regional Cultural Strategy and the Regional Environment Strategy.

The ISF draws together and reinforces the sustainable development themes intrinsic within each of the strategies into a single document to ensure that future strategies at both regional and local levels embed these themes further.

The seven strategies are considered the 'premier league' strategies with the RSS and RES enjoying a greater prominence within this group. Both have undergone thorough, detailed and intensive processes of development and consultation that resources have not allowed for other regional strategies; and they have both made a particularly strong contribution to articulating the vision and priorities for a sustainable future in the East of England.

The ISF has been developed at a time when a new RES has been published and a review of the RSS has begun. As such it has been able to influence, and has been influenced by both documents. Future local and regional strategy development needs to ensure a close synergy with the ISF.

A number of other regional strategies for the East of England have been developed. Together they improve understanding of the priorities for the region, and are often key strategic documents in delivery. In many cases, these strategies are regional expressions of national strategies e.g. regional implementation plan for the Government's Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food, or delivery strategies for a specific policy area, e.g. The Woodland Strategy.

East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy)

The East of England Plan was published by Government in May 2008 and sets the spatial direction for the region until 2021. The vision in the RSS is,

By 2021 the East of England will be realising its economic potential and providing a high quality of life for its people, including by meeting their housing needs in sustainable and inclusive communities. At the same time it will reduce its impacts on climate change and the environment, including through savings in energy and water use and by strengthening its stock of environmental assets.

A review has already begun on the Plan to extend its remit to 2031; which will be completed by 2011.

Regional Economic Strategy

The Regional Economic Strategy was published in September 2008, setting a vision and targets for the period 2008 – 2031. Its vision is,

By 2031, the East of England will be:

- *internationally-competitive with a global reputation for innovation and business growth*
- *a region that harnesses and develops the talents and creativity of all*
- *at the forefront of the low-carbon and resource-efficient economy*

and known for:

- *exceptional landscapes, vibrant places and quality of life*
- *being a confident, outward-looking region with strong leadership and where communities actively shape their future*

EERA, EEDA and the Government Office for the East of England (Go-East) are developing a joint implementation plan for the RES and RSS. The East of England Implementation Plan will set out how both strategies can best be delivered.

There is already strong alignment between the two strategies with consistent targets for economic and housing growth. The joint implementation plan will be a high-level business plan setting out shared high-level objectives and targets from the RES and RSS and an agreed set of implementation priorities. A joint implementation plan has a number of benefits:

- *improving the coherence and effectiveness of RES and RSS delivery*
- *providing the basis for a robust, prioritised East of England response to the forthcoming, expanded government regional funding allocation (RFA) exercise*
- *developing new ways of regional working that could be built upon in the future development of a Single Regional Strategy.*

The visions of the other premier league strategies are shown in figure 5 below.

Figure 5 – Regional Strategies

Strategy	Vision
Regional Environment Strategy (2003)	To be known for the quality of the environment, and the quality of environmental management and stewardship, as part of the region's progress towards improvements in prosperity and quality of life for all.
Regional Housing Strategy (2005)	To ensure everyone can live in a decent home which meets their needs, at a price they can afford and in locations that are sustainable.
Regional Social Strategy (2007)	To achieve social inclusion through the East of England.
Regional Cultural Strategy (2006)	To put culture at the heart of life in the region, for every resident and visitor, wherever they are, whoever they are.
Regional Health Strategy (2005)¹	To improve the health of the population and to reduce health inequalities within the East of England.

¹This is distinct from 'Towards the best, together' the ten year clinical vision for the NHS developed by NHS East of England.

A future Single Regional Strategy

The Sub National Review of Economic Growth and Regeneration was published in July 2007 as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. It sets out proposals for change to regional governance arrangements and the roles and relationships of regional, sub-regional and local organisations.

One of the most significant proposed changes is the development of a Single Regional Strategy to encompass the RSS, RES and ISF. This presents an opportunity to ensure the genuine sustainability credentials of regional strategies as policy areas are brought together.

The ISF will have an important role in future regional strategy, including any Single Regional Strategy, with the sustainable development priorities established in the framework needing to form an integral part of any future strategy development.

The Sub National Review also points to closer working between regional, sub-regional and local organisations in the prioritisation and delivery of key policies as identified in local and regional strategy.

The local context

At the county, district and unitary levels, local authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are required to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy, bringing together local partners to deliver coordinated and sustainable action.

Sustainable Community Strategies should:

- Allow local communities to articulate their aspirations, needs and priorities;
- Co-ordinate the actions of the council, and of the public, private, voluntary and community organisations that operate locally;
- Focus and shape existing and future activity of those organisations so that they effectively meet community needs and aspirations; and
- Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development both locally and more widely, with local goals and priorities relating, where appropriate, to regional, national and even global aims.

These objectives are complementary to the purposes of the ISF, but on a local rather than regional scale. Likewise, the relationship between the ISF and RSS is similar to that between Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Development Frameworks. The diagram in Figure 6 illustrates the relationships between regional, sub-regional and local.

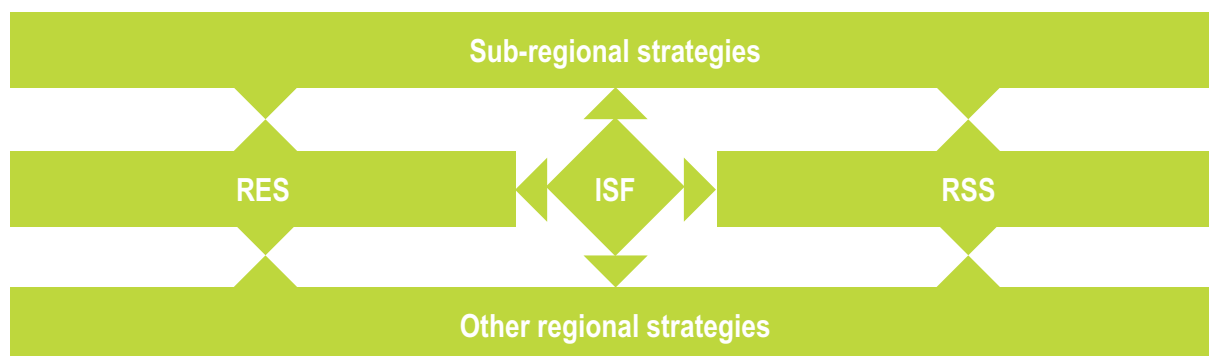
There is useful added value to be gained from securing close alignment between the ISF and Sustainable Community Strategies. There are a number of mechanisms through which such links occur:

- The ISF provides a regional context in which Community Strategies are developed, specifically in terms of priority issues for the wider area, and baseline information against which progress on regional sustainable development objectives will be tested.
- The ISF sets out a strategic regional framework for tackling sustainable development, which should help to inform decision making at the local and sub-regional level.
- Objectives in the ISF, and regional strategies, can provide direct support for local and sub-regional policies.

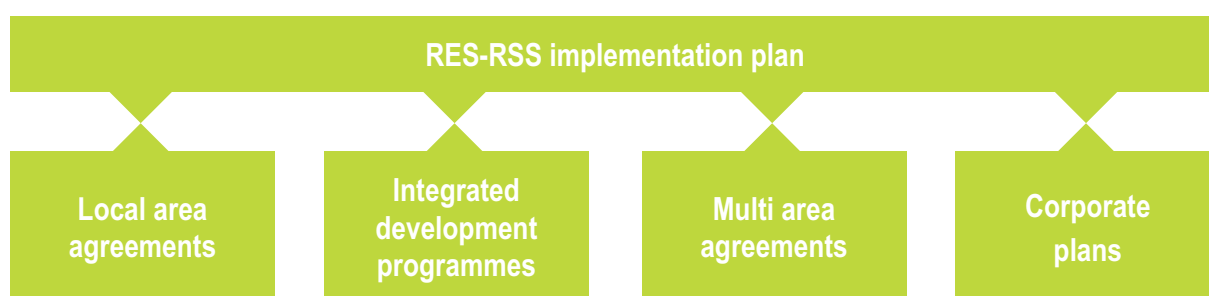
Similarly it is important that regional strategies reflect the priorities set out in Sustainable Community Strategies. Such linkages can be difficult to achieve because of differences in remit and timescale, and the resources required. There is however, a move towards 'place' based working at the regional level, and this should support the stronger recognition of local priorities in regional policy making.

Figure 6 – Regional, sub-regional and local strategy relationships

Strategy



Implementation



Local Area Agreements

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are three-year agreements, negotiated with central government, that set out the priorities for a local authority area. They seek to simplify some central funding, help join up public services more effectively and permit greater flexibility for locally designed solutions to suit local circumstances.

New LAAs were agreed in June 2008 for all of the ten areas in the East of England. Local authorities negotiate which areas out of the 198 National Indicator Set are priorities for their area and set targets accordingly. A spreadsheet of the new LAA targets against the indicators is attached as Annex 4.

There is a strong link between LAAs and Sustainable Community Strategies. Improved synergy with regional sustainable development objectives should support LAAs in delivering sustainable development objectives at the local level.

The publication and move towards implementation of the Sub National Review means the importance of Local Area Agreements and other placed based configurations increases as key drivers of delivery.

The ISF takes a number of indicators from the National Indicator Set that are also used to develop LAA targets.

four.

Sustainable Development Objectives



Carbon footprint, West Runton

Objective 1:

Promote sustainable growth within environmental limits

Growth in per capita output is the foundation for rising material living standards. Wages, employment opportunities, the quality of housing and the ability to enjoy goods and services once available only to a few are dependent on it. The East of England is committed to improving its economic performance through its Regional Economic Strategy which contains ambitious targets for employment and economic growth. Yet quality of life also depends on a wider range of environmental and social factors. The region's unique landscape and geography, its natural and man-made heritage give it the character that makes it such an attractive place to live, work and do business.

Economic growth can place greater demands on land-use and the environment. Growth in employment creates commuting and housing pressures. Increased consumption and production require scarce natural resources like water and traditionally have been associated with the higher emission of greenhouse gases like CO₂. It can also lead to increased transport movements and infrastructure use. Promoting sustainable growth that takes account of these pressures and is de-coupled from resource use is the key challenge for the region.

The other objectives of the ISF address directly the pressures on climate change, resource efficiency, the natural and built environments and transport. This objective focuses on managing the impacts of new development on water, energy and the region's carbon footprint.

Challenges for the future

Despite the immediate issue of the credit crunch, the next ten to fifteen years are likely to be a period of significant growth. The region is committed through the East of England Plan to add 508,000 dwellings to the housing stock between 2001 and 2021. The regional population is forecast to rise to 6.5 million by 2021, up from around 5.7 million in 2007. Consistent with this housebuilding target, the Regional Economic Strategy sets the ambition of raising annual growth in real GVA to 2.3 per cent per worker and 2.1 per cent per capita. By 2031, real output per head would be over 70 per cent higher than today. Following recent planning decisions, the capacity of key sea ports and airports will grow too.

Both the RSS and RES include ambitious targets for minimising waste, reducing water use and CO₂ emissions while increasing the share of electricity generated from sustainable sources. Research undertaken to support the RES shows that achieving these and the region's growth targets would require policy intervention beyond the scale and scope of current activities. Growth however needs to be accommodated within the capacity of the region's environment overall.

Reducing water use

The coming increase in housing and population will place great demands on the region's water. The East of England is the country's driest region and some local areas are already over-committed. Lack of a national grid in water means there are limited opportunities to draw on surpluses elsewhere. To stabilise overall demand will require efficiencies across sectors and a fall in household consumption. The RES sets the target of 120 litres per head per day (l/h/d) across all housing, with the East of England Plan calling for 105 l/h/d for metered new build houses. It will be necessary to incorporate high, water-efficient standards into future development, reducing leakage rates, increasing the efficiency of existing buildings and behavioural change in how we use water in our homes. The UK is also committed to meeting water quality standards of the EU Water Framework Directive, which in the East of England will require a balance between human water needs and those of natural habitats.

Reducing our carbon footprint

In the East of England, CO₂ emissions per head from domestic sources, such as energy use in the home, exceed that of any other UK region. Recent government policy strongly supports the move to low carbon housing. In 2006, the Department for Communities and Local Government consulted on proposals to improve progressively energy/carbon performance set in Building Regulations to achieve zero carbon housing within 10 years (by 2016). Zero carbon means that, over a year, the net carbon emissions from all energy use in the home would be zero. The intention is to achieve the target through the progressive tightening of the Building Regulations: with a 25% improvement in energy efficiency by 2010, a 44% improvement by 2013 and all new homes zero carbon by 2016. To do this, policy will need to support developers to look to zero and low-carbon sources of electricity supply, a new area for most developers in terms of technical skills and understanding of the regulatory system.

Zero carbon proposals refer only to new homes, the intention is that with the volume of development planned, it will bring down the costs of environmental technologies that can then be applied to existing homes too. Other activity to encourage energy savings in existing homes is required, especially to reach the rental sector as well as homes with owner occupiers. The focus, however, should not just be on zero carbon homes. All developments should seek to be carbon neutral, if not negative.

Sustainable energy

The scale of growth in the East of England presents a major opportunity for widespread deployment of renewable and low-carbon energy technologies. With its long, shallow coastline, and large swathes of rural and agricultural land, there is much scope for development of wind, wave and tidal power and fuel crops. There are further opportunities to develop carbon-abatement technologies such as carbon capture and storage. The RES sets the ambition of renewable sources accounting for 20 per cent of energy generation by 2020 and maintaining the region's lead position through to 2031². Regional companies and universities have specialist expertise in elements of the wider energy supply chain, and developing new capacity and generation presents a major opportunity to create new businesses, jobs and investment.

ISF indicators



1) Gross Value Added per capita

Source: RES

GVA is a key measure from the RES and has long been an important measure of prosperity in society. However, increasingly more sophisticated measures are being sought to indicate overall well-being and satisfaction beyond this economic measure.

2) Ecological footprint

Source: WWF-UK, Counting Consumption (March 2006)

Humanity needs natural resources to survive – the ecological footprint allows us to calculate humanity's demand on nature. It measures the land and water area a human population requires to produce the resource it consumes and to absorb its waste.

By measuring the Footprint of a population (at any scale or level) we can assess our pressure on the planet, which helps us manage our ecological assets more wisely and take personal and collective action in support of a world where humanity lives within the Earth's bounds.

Relevant regional targets



RES

Annual growth in real GVA over 2008-31

- Per capita – 2.3%
- Per employee – 2.1%



Supporting the homeless, Norwich

Objective 2:

Reduce poverty and inequality and promote social inclusion

Nearly a million people in the East of England are living in poverty and many others suffer from other forms of inequality or social exclusion. Pockets of exclusion and poverty exist across the region but are most concentrated in the coastal areas, the north of the region and some urban areas³. This section focuses on reducing poverty and health inequality as two of the key issues in promoting social inclusion. Detailed analysis of the causes and responses to social exclusion can be found in the Regional Social Strategy.

Poverty

Poverty is often associated with multiple barriers to economic participation that remain consistent across generations, reducing aspirations and expectations. For example, children in low-income households have a higher risk of experiencing unemployment, ill health and low income in later life⁴.

Statistics from the Regional Social Strategy highlight levels of poverty and exclusion within the region:

- An estimated 17% of individuals, 22% of children and 25% of pensioners are in low-income households. Overall, an estimated 884,000 individuals in the region are below the poverty threshold (60% median income after housing costs⁵)

³East of England Regional Social Strategy, Second Edition, EERA, 2007

⁵Households Below Average Income 1994/5-2004/5, Department of Work and Pensions

- On average, benefits represent 35% of the income of lone-parent households, compared to 6% for two-parent families and 5% for the population as a whole⁶

The Social Exclusion Unit's Policy Action Team report "Jobs for All", reasoned that providing employment opportunities was the single most effective means of tackling poverty and social exclusion. The Regional Economic Strategy recognises the importance of this and seeks to overcome barriers to economic participation by looking to increase economic opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

Tackling low pay is essential because poverty and low pay are clearly linked throughout an individual's lifetime and across generations. Efforts should not therefore focus on simply creating employment opportunities at any price but also on the quality and conditions of employment. In addition, some population groups are particularly at risk of poverty and exclusion⁷.

Health inequality

Most indicators show that people in the East of England enjoy a higher standard of health than the national average. However, within the region, there are considerable variations in health based on geographic area, social and demographic grouping. This is illustrated most starkly by the fact that boys born today in Great Yarmouth can expect to live over four years less than boys born in South Cambridgeshire. In addition, the gap in life expectancy between the healthiest and unhealthiest groups in the region is growing⁸.

Health equality is not something for the NHS to solve alone. The Regional Health Strategy, *Healthy Futures*, outlines the key factors in determining health as:

- Access to services
- Weak social and community networks
- Physical inactivity and increasing obesity
- Lifestyle factors such as smoking, drug and alcohol abuse and sexual health
- Housing issues and liveability
- Relatively low levels of educational attainment
- High incidence of low paid employment
- Stress at work
- A relatively large number of economically inactive people
- Healthy natural environment and access to greenspace

Healthy Futures sets out to improve the overall health of people in the East of England and to reduce inequalities in health.

Social exclusion

Social exclusion is about more than income poverty, although the two are closely linked. It is a broad concept, the dominant definition being that:

*"Social exclusion is a shorthand term for what can happen when people or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health, poverty and family breakdown."*⁹

These problems are mutually reinforcing, and social exclusion is an extreme consequence of what can happen when people are exposed to multiple problems throughout their lives, often because of disadvantage they face at birth. This disadvantage can be transmitted from one generation to the next.

⁶Family Resources Survey, Department of Work and Pensions, 2006

⁷East of England Regional Social Strategy, Second Edition, EERA, 2007

⁸Healthy Futures – Regional Health Strategy, EERA & East of England Public Health Group, 2005

⁹National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal, SEU, 2001, updated 2005

“Social inclusion is not quite the mirror image of social exclusion. Social inclusion is sometimes described as citizenship, but it also incorporates the idea that people are not only able to make choices, but feel that what they choose to do will make a difference to themselves, their families and their communities, i.e. a sense of control.”¹⁰

Social inclusion is the long-term outcome which the Regional Social Strategy is working towards.

ISF indicators



3) Health inequality: (a) Infant Mortality: difference between socio-economic groups and (b) Life expectancy: differences in average life expectancy between local authority areas

Source: Defra’s Sustainable Development Indicator set (Number 49).

Both infant mortality and life expectancy are used to show the differences in health between different socio-economic groups and different geographic areas.

4) Inequality (Earnings) – The ratio of lower-quartile to average incomes

Source: RES

This measure shows the relationship between the percentage of the lowest 25% income against the average income.

5) Social Inclusion – The percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality

Source: National Indicator Set for Local Government (NI 4).

It is hard to find one measure that can adequately be used to measure social inclusion. This indicator was felt to be a useful proxy as it shows how engaged people are with decision-making processes in a local area.

Relevant regional targets



RES

A reduction in income inequality for those in work, with a rise in lower quartile earnings to 60% of average earnings by 2031.



Wind turbines, Scroby Sands

Objective 3:

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

The East of England is the UK region most at risk from the effects of climate change. Its long coastline and low-lying geography make it vulnerable to flooding. Coastal erosion is putting properties at risk and in villages like Happisburgh in Norfolk; this process is already well advanced.

To sustain economic prosperity and quality of life in the longer term, the East of England must play its part in mitigating climate change through reductions in greenhouse gases. This approach is supported by the findings of the Stern Review which estimated that the costs of failing to act would be equivalent to an average annual economic loss of 5-25%, compared to the 1% of GDP by 2050 that would be required to stabilise CO₂ emissions.

The RES sets the ambition for a 60 per cent reduction in end-user CO₂ emissions by 2031, relative to 1990 levels¹¹. This would put the region on a trajectory to reach 80 per cent by 2050, the reduction that many scientists believe is necessary for average temperatures to remain within a 'safe level' of 2°C above pre-industrial levels. If achieved, it would also establish the East of England as a global leader in tackling climate change. Given the academic and commercial expertise in the region, the East of England is well-placed to convert this into commercial leadership in the \$550 billion global market in environmental goods and services.

¹¹RES targets are inclusive of appropriate international transport greenhouse gas emissions.

To achieve the RES target of lower CO₂ emissions alongside a growing population and the planned expansion in housing poses a huge challenge. It is consistent with regional ambitions around economic performance but only if bold policies are in place to de-couple economic growth from resource use and greenhouse gas emissions. Research undertaken to support the RES highlighted the policy measures needed and the scale of the interventions¹². The East of England Plan seeks to limit the impact of further growth on overall emissions by:

- aligning employment opportunities with new housing to reduce the need to travel and encouraging modal shift from cars to public transport, walking and cycling
- maximising the energy efficiency of development and promoting the use of renewable and low carbon energy sources

Activities are already ongoing in the East of England at the community, local, sub-regional and regional level to encourage behavioural change in individuals and organisations that will reduce carbon emissions. Efforts to understand and monitor the emissions from different sectors and the policy measures that can be applied will need to continue. Key regional bodies have committed to further action on climate change and intend to publish Climate Action Plan East of England. To prepare this document EEDA, EERA, GO-East and the Environment Agency are working with the Region's Climate Change Partnership to:

- gauge the scale of the challenge posed by climate change
- collate existing activity in the region to deal with climate change
- consider climate change goals for the region
- encourage further activity to tackle climate change

Although regional and local policy measures are important, it will also require investment and policy leadership nationally to ensure, for example, there are viable alternatives to the use of cars and to remove freight from the roads. The region can play an important role in lobbying national government to deliver on this agenda.

Other greenhouse gases are also significant in the East of England. While gases such as N₂O, methane and hydro-fluorocarbons are emitted in smaller volumes, they have greater global warming potential tonne-for-tonne than CO₂. Although the East of England Plan and RES do not contain targets for non-CO₂ greenhouse gases, there is a commitment to establish baselines and explore how policy can work to minimise emissions.

ISF indicators

6) Greenhouse gas emissions and carbon dioxide emissions

Source: Defra – Sustainable Development Indicators (Number 1)

7) Carbon dioxide emissions associated with UK consumption

Source: Defra – Sustainable Development Indicators (Number 2)

8) Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the Local Authority area

Source: National Indicator set for Local Government (NI 186)

All three indicators provide differing perspectives on emissions of greenhouse gases and reductions in these emissions. The focus on CO₂ in the indicators reflects its significance as a greenhouse gas.

Relevant regional targets

RES

End-user attributed CO₂ emissions by 2031 – 60% reduction of 1990 baseline



Managed retreat, Wallasea Island

Objective 4:

Adapt to the impacts of climate change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has explored the potential impacts of global warming on the natural and built environments, business and society¹³. Even with the successful abatement of greenhouse gas emissions, these effects are likely to be felt as average temperatures rise. The impacts include hotter and drier summers, milder and wetter winters, water stress, and more frequent and severe flooding. Other important climate impacts in the East of England are on water services and pollution control, health service provision, leisure and tourism and conservation of the natural and historic environment and water supply. Coastal erosion and the fragmentation of vulnerable habitats will have implications for biodiversity.

With its long and low-lying coastline, the East of England is especially vulnerable to these climate change effects. Coastal areas are the most at risk from rising sea levels while water resource issues in the south of the region could be exacerbated by drier summers. Adapting to a changing climate will require new technologies and a planning system that takes account of the risks. It will need new infrastructure, building designs and construction techniques. Agriculture will need to adapt to reflect the changing weather patterns and the availability of water and there will need to be an approach to coastal management that covers coastal squeeze, flood defence and habitat re-creation/restoration.

Planning for adaptation

The planning system has a key role in ensuring that current and future risks are taken into account in development and growth decisions. It will be necessary to consider how buildings and transport links should be located to avoid flooding or minimise damage from flooding. The policy of the East of England Plan is to protect existing structures and steer new development towards locations at little or no risk.

Tools such as the Three Regions Adaptation Checklist should be used to support planners and developers in the East of England to ensure new developments are resilient to future climate changes. This includes enhancing the use of quality green space and promoting the connectivity of natural landscapes. Adaptation strategies should also work with the natural processes on the coast and with close community engagement to deliver long-term solutions that make economic and environmental sense. We must also ensure that where disruption is caused by climate change effects, the capacity is in place to deal with the consequences.

The Sustainable Development Round Table (now Sustainability East) has produced adaptation guidance on spatial issues and service provision. Additionally, the region's climate change partnership has developed an understanding of the existing activity on both adaptation and mitigation and a climate change action plan for the East will seek to address the gaps in activity.

Design and construction

The Regional Economic Strategy stresses the importance of building adaptation into new buildings and infrastructure but the solutions will differ according to the location and type of physical development. The cost of transporting construction materials means that new homes and infrastructure draw heavily on locally-extracted produce which differ in their vulnerability to climate change effects. Adaptive measures may be as simple as roadside trees to shade roads from heat damage or more sophisticated like flood defences or pollution filtering.

Maximising the economic benefits of adaptation

The RES sets challenging regional targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption. Improving the efficiency with which we use water will not only help address the supply issues arising from drier summers but also save money. There are other opportunities. There is potential for economic advantage from increases in tourism to the region boosted by warmer summers.

The Coastal Initiative is a multi-agency project that aims to use the region's coastal assets as a driving force to develop regeneration and skills opportunities in coastal areas under change. In particular, the Initiative aims to enable integration of coastal defence, regeneration and planning policies and to provide policy support and tools to all organisations in their challenging coastal roles.

Addressing the barriers to adaptation

The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change identifies the challenges to successfully adapting to climate change. These include market failure in capturing the benefits of investing in adaptive measures, uncertainty and lack of information. Financial constraints are also important, particularly for low-income households looking to protect and insure their homes against flood risk.

The region will need to continue developing the evidence base for responding to climate change such as improving the suite of adaptation indicators that can be monitored closely. We will need to promote understanding of the need to adapt to increase the capacity and willingness to implement measures across business, public sector, voluntary sector and individuals.

ISF indicators



9) Planning to adapt to climate change

Source: National Indicator Set for Local Government (NI 188)

NI188 is designed to measure progress in preparedness in assessing and addressing the risks and opportunities of a changing climate. The aim of this indicator is to embed the management of climate risks and opportunities across all levels of services, plans and strategies.

10) Flood and coastal erosion risk management

Source: National Indicator Set for Local Government (NI 189)

The aim of this indicator is to record the progress of local authorities in delivering agreed actions to implement long term flood and coastal erosion risk management plans (Shoreline Management Plans and Catchment Flood Management Plans).

Relevant regional targets



RSS

To decrease the amount of development occurring in floodplains, other areas of risk from flooding and areas where development would increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.



University students

Objective 5:

Promote employment, learning, skills and innovation

High employment, high skill levels and high quantities of innovation are essential ingredients for sustainable economic development and growth. Although employment within the East of England is relatively high, our skills base is comparatively low. We must harness the region's research and development resource, and promote employment, learning and skills to enable the region to reach its full economic potential.

Employment

To ensure sustainable economic growth within the East of England, we must ensure everyone has access to quality employment opportunities. The employment rate for the East of England is comparatively high with 77.4 percent of the working age population in employment (Jan – Dec 07) compared to 74.3 percent for the UK. The Regional Social Strategy sets out plans to promote access to work, whilst the Regional Economic Strategy aims to improve economic participation through promoting opportunities for all in a sustainable economy. By targeting the barriers to employment, we will be able to harness the untapped time, skills and creativity of the people in the region; reduce the costs of benefits claims, grow the workforce to meet economic targets and raise the quality of life for all who live and work in the region¹⁴.

¹⁴Regional Economic Strategy

Lifelong learning

We need to develop a culture of lifelong learning where skills development starts at home with parents and continues through education in schools, colleges and universities and into the workplace. Skills development for young people in our region falls spectacularly after relatively strong school age performance¹⁵; those that enter work too often go into low-skilled, low-wage work where no further training or vocational education is offered. Our region has by far the lowest percentage of students remaining in the home region to access higher education, and the lowest number of graduates remaining in the region to work following the end of their studies.

For those that work in coastal and rural areas, access to learning opportunities is a major issue. For the region to become sustainable and continue to grow, we need all our communities to continue to learn. We need to communicate the links between learning, work and prosperity; not only will it be to the benefit of the East of England's economy, but also to the individual and their quality of life. Raising aspirations will go a long way to developing a lifelong learning culture. As the RES points out, the majority of our 2031 workforce has already left compulsory education, so if we are to meet the RES targets it is essential that we embed learning in the workplace, and access to workplace learning must be enhanced.

Skills

The region's skills base compares unfavourably to the national average. Only 26 percent of the region's working age population are qualified to Level 4 and above (Jan – Dec 07), 43.4 percent are qualified to Level 3 and above and 62.2 percent are qualified to Level 2. For the UK, the figures are 28.5 percent, 46.3 percent and 64.5 percent respectively. The region is also below the national average in the proportion of the workforce with more transferable skills, such as management, leadership, team working and communication. A more highly skilled workforce will increase the region's productivity and competitiveness as well as improve the individual's career options and wages.

The Leitch Review of Skills considered what the UK's long term ambition should be for developing skills in order to maximise economic prosperity, productivity and improve social justice. The East of England has a long way to go to meet the Leitch (and RES) targets of at least 40 percent of adults qualified to at least Level 4; 68 percent qualified to at least Level 3 and over 90 percent qualified to Level 2. Failure to do so could mean the East of England is likely to fall behind other countries and regions in productivity terms and at risk of exacerbating inequality and poverty within the region.

Key to developing a sustainable skills system is the movement towards a demand-led system. Allowing employers to influence provision, design relevant courses and ensure qualifications reflect the skills valued by employers will ensure employees are equipped with the necessary skills, both now and in the future. A demand-led system will also increase employer and individual investment in skills, enabling public funds to go further.

The East of England Skills and Competitiveness Partnership (EESCP), the regional skills partnership, has a key role to play in bringing together the people, business and investment needed to create sustainable economic growth, jobs and world class skills across the region. EESCP, through its partners, including EEDA, EERA, Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council, works to ensure the region makes the most of its knowledge-based assets, creates sustainable jobs, and promotes skills development and lifelong learning, all to encourage sustainable economic growth.

Innovation

The region's science and research and development (R&D) based industries are one of our greatest strengths¹⁶ and must be harnessed to ensure the East of England's sustainable development. Innovation, defined as the successful exploitation of new ideas, is also becoming increasingly important for the East of England to compete in the global economy. The region needs to expand the sector base – the more widespread innovative activity is, the more stable any resulting economic growth is likely to be. However, the strength of R&D is not matched by the commercialisation or the adoption of technologies and processes. It is the use of technology, not the generation of technology, that has the biggest impact on growth¹⁷.

¹⁵Adult Skills and Employment Strategy

¹⁶The region has the highest levels of business enterprise research and development per unit of GVA in the UK and amongst the highest in the EU (RES)

¹⁷Regional Economic Strategy

The significance of science and innovation is much wider than the contribution it makes to economic wealth. How effectively the region responds to climate change, the pressure on natural resources and other challenges will crucially depend on our scientific community. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy highlights the contribution that science and R&D can make to:

- Strengthen the UK and international measures to improve the environmental performance of products and services;
- Drive to improve resource efficiency and reduce waste and harmful emissions across business sectors; support for innovation to bring through new products, materials and services; and
- Reduce waste at source and making use of it as a resource.

ISF indicators

11) Employment rate of working age population and for 16-74 year olds

Source: RES

This shows the total working population of the region and is one of the key economic participation indicators utilised in the RES

12) Percentage of adults qualified to at least Levels 2, 3 and 4

Source: RES

Skills for Productivity indicator shows the percentage of people qualified to Level 1 (GCSE grades D-G), Level 2 (GCSE grades A*-C) and Level 3 (A Levels, BTEC Professional Diplomas and Awards). Improving skill levels is key to maximising economic prosperity, productivity and improving social justice.

13) Percentage of businesses that are 'innovation active'

Source: RES

This is a general measure of enterprises that are engaged in innovation activity.

Relevant regional targets

RES

(i) A regional employment rate of 70 per cent for residents aged 16-74 and 80% for working-age residents by 2031.

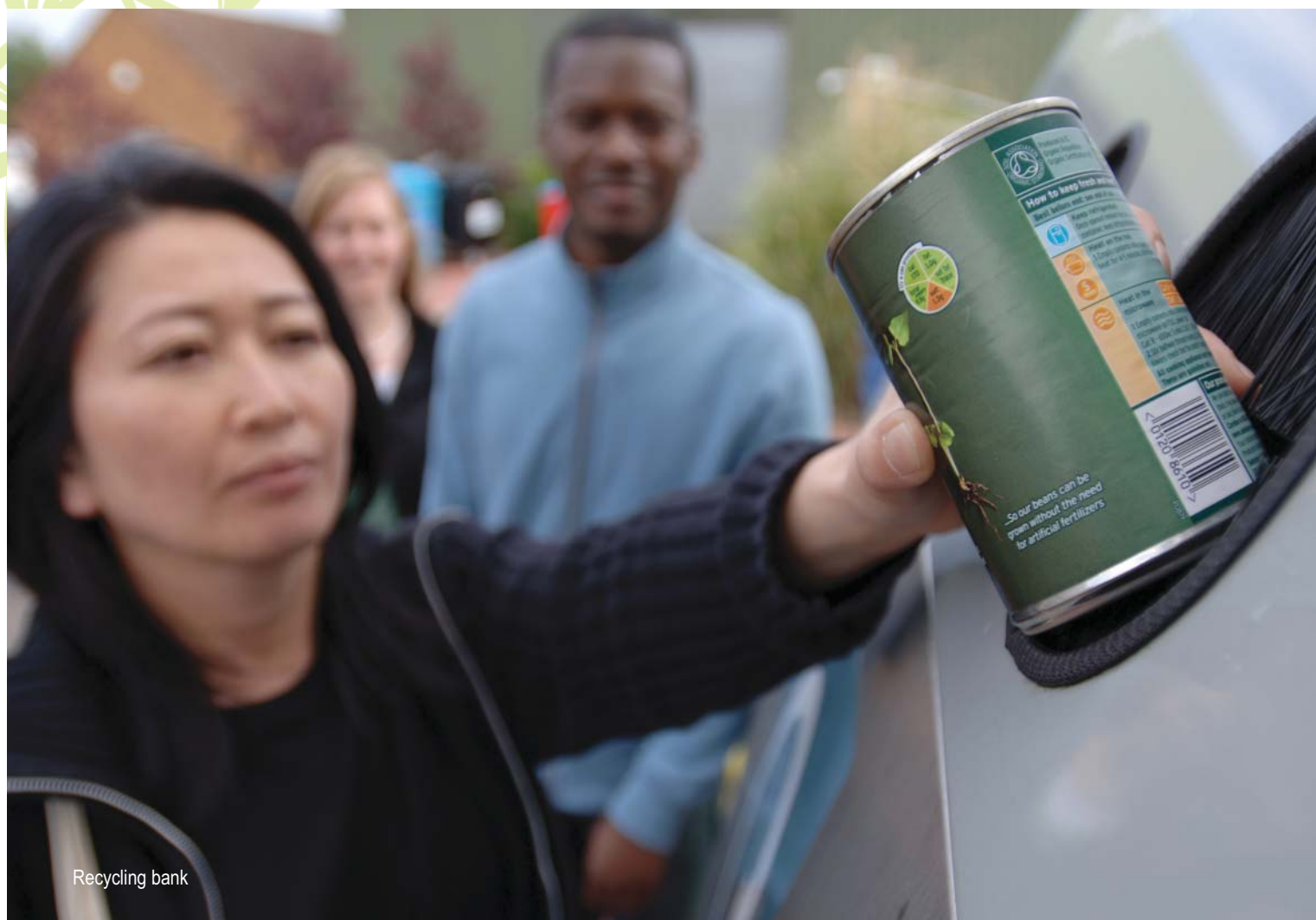
(ii) Increase in qualification attainment with:

- Over 40% of adults qualified to at least level 4
- 68% of adults qualified to at least level 2
- Over 90% of adults qualified to at least level 2 consistent with Leitch targets

(iii) An increased share of businesses that are 'innovation active'.

RSS

452,000 new jobs between 2001 and 2021



Recycling bank

Objective 6:

Increase resource efficiency and reduce resource use and waste

Our modern lifestyle consumes natural resources which have a limited supply. Consuming these resources can also have other costs such as pollution and waste. According to WWF, a 75% reduction in resource flows is required to move towards 'one planet living'.¹⁸

As a region, we need to substantially increase the efficiency with which we use resources whilst reducing the region's overall resource use and waste. We must be as self-sufficient as possible in our use of water and energy.

Resources

The East of England currently has one of the highest levels of resource-use of the UK regions. The effects of this resource use in terms of environmental degradation, pollution and waste will not only be felt in this region but in other parts of the world.

The financial costs of resource-use have also risen. This is likely to continue as supply is constrained and the costs of pollution and waste are increasingly included through regulatory measures such as carbon permits and landfill tax.

Minimising resource-use is therefore important for the environment, for businesses to make profits and to protect consumers from high utility bills.

The region needs to achieve large reductions in the use of energy, fuels, water and other materials such as packaging, as well as more effective and efficient use of those resources that are required.

Energy

Central to the drive for resource efficiency is the need for a twin track approach to energy; more efficient use of energy, and more emphasis on renewable and zero carbon sources of energy. Energy efficiency is a challenge for everyone, from small individual behavioural changes to adoption of energy efficient measures by industry. There are also major opportunities for the East of England to become more self-sufficient in energy generation through using renewable and low-carbon energy technologies, both locally and offshore.

Water

Our region is the country's driest region and water is a scarce resource. It has a valuable water environment, which is one of the key features underpinning a high quality of life in the region. The majority of the region's local water resources are fully developed and in some cases overcommitted.

Even with the new resources and infrastructure currently planned by water companies through their water resource plans, regional growth will lead to an overall deficit by the late 2020s unless further solutions are implemented.¹⁹

We should aim to incorporate high water efficient standards in new development, reduce leakage rates and increase the efficiency of existing buildings. Ideally, new developments will be located to maximise the potential of the existing water supply and waste water treatment infrastructure and minimise the need for new infrastructure.

Waste

Waste is produced in large quantities by the East of England, approximately 20 million tonnes per year.

Most waste is managed in one of three streams:

- **Municipal waste** – includes household waste and any waste that is that collected by local authorities.
- **Commercial and industrial** – waste that is produced by businesses and is collected by private operators.
- **Construction and demolition** – this is the waste from building operations and constitutes the largest single waste source and generally does not decompose.

The total amount of municipal and commercial waste arising in the East of England in 2006 was approximately 10.3 million tonnes. In addition, over 3 million tonnes of waste from London is imported into the region to be landfilled. There is significant potential for construction waste to be recycled and re-used and therefore reduce extraction of minerals in the region.

The projected growth in households in future decades is likely to lead to an increase in the amount of waste generated in both the municipal and commercial waste streams. Waste generated from construction activity will also increase with the planned development in the region, although again the information on how much is generated currently is very poor.

In order to attain the RSS targets for reducing the amount of waste that will be sent to landfill in future years, further efforts will be needed to tackle both waste prevention and to increase waste recovery. A waste prevention strategy is being developed as part of the East of England Plan – Review to 2031. This will examine ways to tackle the amount of waste arising through smarter design of products, less over-ordering in production processes and reducing the amount of packaging used. Behavioural change will also play an important role in this work.

¹⁹In this 'deficit' scenario the water-supply would still outstrip projected demand but be below the target headroom that needs to be maintained for contingencies

Collecting waste streams separately will play a significant part in achieving higher recycling rates both by households and businesses. This may include separate collections of food waste and other organic waste which makes up over 25% of the waste stream. This waste can then be composted or digested to generate heat, electricity and fertiliser with the residue.

More facilities for sorting, bulking and processing materials will also be needed in the region in order to reduce the costs of transport.

ISF indicators



14) Estimated total annual waste arisings by sector

Source: Defra

This shows the total waste arisings for municipal waste including household, commercial/industrial and demolition/construction.

15) Total Final Energy Consumption at Regional and Local Authority Level

Source: Defra

This shows the type of energy used (eg. oil, gas) and the consuming sector (Commercial, domestic or transport).

16) Water Company Distribution Input

Source: Environment Agency

Distribution input (DI) accounts for the total volume of treated water the water companies put into their supply systems each year. It captures demand by both domestic and non-household customers and also means supply system leakage is taken into account.

17) Percentage of Total Dwellings Built on Previously Developed Land

Source: Regional Spatial Strategy Annual Monitoring Report

The RSS emphasises the need to re-use previously developed land (PDL) and buildings in sustainable locations in urban areas in order to help maintain and improve the quality of life in urban areas and to minimise the amount of greenfield land used for development.

Relevant regional targets



RES

Per capita consumption of water by households in 2030 that is 20% below 2008 levels, or 120l/h/d.

RSS

To achieve an overall regional target of 60% of development on previously developed land.

To eliminate the landfilling of untreated municipal and commercial waste by 2021 and secure at least the following minimum levels of recovery:

- **municipal waste** – recovery of 50% at 2010 and 70% at 2015
- **commercial and industrial waste** – recovery of 72% at 2010 and 75% at 2015.

Nature Conservation, Wicken Fen



Objective 7:

Conserve, restore and enhance the region's natural and built environment

All life is dependent on a high quality environment. Clean air, water and soil provide the basic life support system for the East of England. Our landscapes, towns and villages, historic features as well as wildlife and natural resources are crucial for our well-being and sense of place as well as for their own intrinsic value.

A high quality natural and built environment:

- helps to define regional identity and distinctiveness;
- offers access to green space and contact with nature and history, providing people with a variety of recreational and health benefits;
- provides environmental resources including minerals, food, water, energy and soils;
- provides environmental services including flood risk management, regulation of local air quality and opportunities to adapt to a changing climate; and
- creates the conditions needed to attract inward investment and retain resident businesses.

Natural Environment

Water quality

Many human activities and their by-products have the potential to pollute water. The Water Framework Directive is a new piece of European legislation which promotes a new approach to water management through River Basin Planning.

The Directive seeks to achieve:

- clean water for drinking, bathing, community and economic uses;
- wiser, sustainable use of water;
- better habitats for wildlife that live in and around water;
- protected and improved native aquatic wildlife;
- protected natural landscapes and more opportunities for recreation;
- draft River Basin Management Plan and associated programme of measures.

Biodiversity

The region has a rich and diverse wildlife resource with a high proportion of the UK's rarest habitats and species. There are well over 500 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, representing nearly 7% of the region's land area and over 3,000 county wildlife sites.

The key challenges facing the region's biodiversity include:

- Addressing the direct and indirect impacts of growth and development on wildlife habitats and species.
- Reversing habitat fragmentation by investing in landscape scale habitat restoration and enhancement.
- Adapting to the impacts of climate change which is particularly important for the region's wetland habitats, coast and marine environments.
- Ensuring our marine environment is properly protected – the increasing use of the marine environment is impacting upon its quality.

Further information is available at: www.eoebiodiversity.org

Landscape

The pressures on the region's landscapes are intense. These include new housing, mineral extraction and new sources of energy (bio-fuels and wind farms). The key challenges for the region's landscapes are:

- Ensuring the protection and management of the region's nationally important landscapes;
- Ensuring that all opportunities are taken to conserve and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of the region's landscapes and the provision of facilities to enjoy them;
- Adoption of the European Landscape Convention definition of landscape and commitment to implementing the UK Action Plan in the region when published.

Landscape Character Assessments and Management Plans have been produced for the region's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and set out the visions for these areas. An Integrated Regional Landscape Framework will provide a further source of information²⁰.

Green infrastructure

Green infrastructure (GI) is essential to both the environmental sustainability and the long-term social and economic success of the region. GI includes new and established green spaces and corridors which should thread through and surround the built environment, connecting the urban area to its wider rural hinterland. It should be delivered at all spatial scales – regional, sub-regional, local and neighbourhood levels – and should accommodate both accessible natural green spaces and corridors within local communities and much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside. We need to ensure that new GI is of high quality and established permanently with financial support. Green Infrastructure Strategies (GIS), which provide partners with evidence and strategic guidance, have been prepared for a number of substantial growth localities within the region and are to be fully integrated into Local Development Documents.

Built environment

It is important that the region's built environment is recognised for the valuable part it plays in the quality of life people enjoy, in defining a sense of place and identity, and in creating a positive image for the region. Both the quality of the region's historic environment but also all built assets which affect our daily lives, are vitally important to the sustainable development of the region.

Existing built environment

The East of England is a region of small and medium sized towns and cities surrounded by more rural areas. The main exceptions are Essex Thames Gateway and the London Arc. They are characterised by towns and urban areas which are strongly influenced by London.

Enhancement of the existing built environment can have positive benefits for sustainability generally but specifically social inclusion, housing, health and transport. Re-use of historic fabric conserves embedded energy and resources.

Regeneration schemes often focus on physical improvements as a way to lever-in investment and increase a sense of local pride and well-being in an area, for example the waterfront improvements at Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Ipswich and the public realm strategy for Harwich Old Town.

New development

The distinctive character of the East of England provides a context within which new development needs to enhance the existing built environment. Design needs to be of a high quality and sympathetic to the best attributes of the built form.

Housing growth presents a significant challenge and can potentially undermine settlement character and distinctiveness. Growth can also provide opportunities for enhancement in areas of poor quality.

Historic assets

Inspirational historic sites and settlements are at the heart of identity in the East of England which possesses a remarkable heritage of small, historic market towns, coastal resorts, historic churches and archaeology.

Historic sites and wider character are subject to considerable pressures including neglect, lack of appropriate maintenance, in part due to loss of traditional skills/materials, and development that fails to respect its context. These can all contribute to the loss or degradation of our historic assets.

The designated historic assets in the region include 57,643 listed buildings, 211 registered parks and gardens, approximately 1600 scheduled monuments and 1100 conservation areas of architectural or historic interest – all are recognised as needing special protection. These designated assets are part of a wider historic landscape, comprising important archaeological remains, historic landscape features and settlement patterns, whose character gives meaning to the individual sites. New development can draw inspiration from a careful analysis and respect for the built environment of the past, but can threaten the integrity of the region's historic character where it cuts across its context.

ISF indicators



18) Improved local biodiversity

Source: National Indicator Set for Local Government (NI197)

This measures biodiversity at a local authority level, specifically the proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented.

19) Water Framework Directive measurement of good ecological status within the region's waterbodies

Source: Environment Agency

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is designed to improve and integrate the way water bodies are managed throughout Europe. Good ecological status is defined in Annex V of the Directive, in terms of the quality of the biological community, the hydrological characteristics and the chemical characteristics.

20) Bird populations (woodland and farmland)

Source: Defra

Measuring the quality and condition of the natural environment at a regional scale is a difficult task and some significant gaps exist. However, populations of wild birds is an important and available indicator.

21) Improved street and environmental cleanliness

Source: National Indicator Set for Local Government (NI195).

This measure focuses on litter, detritus, graffiti and flyposting and has been developed to measure the cleanliness of the local environment as a member of the public would see it.

22) Heritage at risk

Source: English Heritage

This is the best available data on the state of regional heritage assets and is also available at local authority level.

Relevant regional targets



RSS

- To maintain the broad extent of the Green Belt in the East of England
- To maintain, restore and create habitats by 2010 in accordance with the East of England priority habitats targets set out in the RSS
- To maintain and increase the region's network of green infrastructure.

Rail bridge construction, Ely



Objective 8:

Move goods and people sustainably

The ability to travel in a safe, efficient manner with minimal environmental impact is of critical importance to people's quality of life and to the economy, underpinning the East of England's international and national competitiveness. Tackling the economic, social and environmental issues relating to transport in an integrated way presents an enormous challenge, requiring a significant shift towards lower carbon transport choices and minimising the need to travel.

The Eddington Transport Study which examined the long-term links between transport and economic productivity, growth and stability, concluded that targeted transport infrastructure interventions, combined with demand management through carbon and congestion pricing, would have the strongest benefits. The Regional Transport Strategy, part of the RSS, pursues a dual approach similar to Eddington – looking to support targeted investment in transport infrastructure along with support for further work to look at the role of road pricing and other demand management measures.

The EEDA Transport Economic Evidence Study (TEES) shows that traffic congestion in the East of England could cost the UK economy £2 billion each year by 2021. 85% of the congestion hotspots are found in the region's seven 'engines of growth'. The study shows that merely investing in improved road infrastructure is not enough, behavioural change, public transport investment and demand management are also necessary to reduce congestion.

Transport infrastructure

The region has an extensive network of major road and rail routes as well as two major international airports (Stansted and Luton) and a number of major international ports (London Gateway, Ipswich, Felixstowe, Tilbury, Harwich). Radial road and rail corridors lead out from London and are connected by a sparser series of East – West links which is a major shortcoming in the transport network. The implications of economic growth in the region has meant that major routes e.g. M1, M11, M25, A1(M), A11, A12 and A14 are increasingly under strain, as are many urban centres. Public transport service provision is very poor in parts of the region and, in the more rural areas, lack of access to private transport is a major contributor to social exclusion. Conversely, those routes with better services, such as radial rail lines to London, are under considerable stress as key commuter routes.

Eddington proposes that infrastructure improvements should be focused on the performance of the existing network, where there are already problems associated with congestion and unreliability.²¹ However, a lack of infrastructure investment in previous decades has resulted in a relatively long list of priority transport infrastructure needs, but limited funds available to meet them. Exercises such as the Regional Funding Advice allow the region to prioritise this limited investment in a systematic and rational manner.

International gateways

Air travel has expanded rapidly in recent years as flights have become cheaper and disposable incomes increased. As the UK's leading container ports region, the East of England is an international gateway and the RSS is clear that the region's Ports and Airports will be *"managed and enhanced to support development so that they can contribute to national and regional objectives in relation to economic growth and regeneration."*²²

There is, however, a fundamental paradox that Government has failed to overcome between the expansion of airport capacity in the UK, including a second runway at Stansted, and the goal of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases to combat climate change. This will mean that further cuts in greenhouse gases will need to be made elsewhere to balance the predicted increase in emissions from international travel. The inclusion of transport emissions in UK targets for cuts in greenhouse gas emissions is welcome and inline with the targets in the RES.

An issue of particular importance in the East of England is the need to move a greater proportion of through freight traffic by rail. The Regional Freight Strategy for the East of England, published in November 2008, contains policies and actions that seek to move the region towards the following objective:

"Secure the efficient and sustainable movement of freight to maximise the overall competitiveness and productivity of the regional economy, whilst minimising global and local environmental impacts."

Behavioural change

The East of England has experienced a steady increase in car ownership since the mid-1990s, with 2,812,000 cars licensed in 2005. By 2002, 35% of households had two or more cars.²³ Alongside this we know that the East of England has the highest CO₂ emissions for transport of any region, 13% higher than the national per capita average.²⁴ High car ownership is clearly a factor in this, but also low car occupancy and high distance travelled are significant.

Clearly high levels of car use have a negative impact on the environment and are ultimately unsustainable. Changing people's behaviour to reduce reliance on cars and increase use of sustainable forms of transport, or to reduce the need to travel, are key areas of work. Further encouragement for walking and cycling as genuine and sustainable alternatives to motorised transport is essential. Travel in ways that benefit the environment can also have very positive impacts on health and well-being. Access to transport is also a key factor in deprivation and social exclusion.

Schemes such as car sharing, congestion charging and other forms of demand management, flexible working practices and improved planning regimes all have a part to play in making transportation more sustainable. At the same time new technologies are being developed which can improve the efficiency and lower the carbon impact of vehicles.

²¹The Eddington Transport Study – transport's role in sustainable UK economic competitiveness. HM Treasury, December 2006

²²P146, Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the East of England Plan, December 2006.

²³Regional Trends 39; 2005 edition, Office for National Statistics, 2007

²⁴Counting Consumption – CO₂ emissions, material flows and ecological footprint of the UK by region, WWF, 2006

ISF indicators



23) Average distance travelled per person per year by mode of travel

Source: Department for Transport

This indicator outlines how patterns of travel for personal journeys and the use of various modes of transport within the region have changed over time.

24) Total road transport CO₂ emissions

Source: Defra

This shows estimated emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Relevant regional targets



RSS

- To increase the number and proportion of journeys made by public transport, and walking, cycling and other non-motorised transport
- To increase the proportion of the region's freight carried by rail

Polish Piknik, Walden Castle



Objective 9:

Meeting the needs of the changing regional demographic

The population of the East of England region is growing and changing. By 2031, another million people are likely to be living in the region,²⁵ bringing the regional population to almost 7 million.

The population of the region is also ageing. Projections suggest that by 2014 the number of people in the UK aged 65 and over will exceed the numbers aged under 16, and by the early 2020s 50% of the regional population will be over 50.²⁶ The profile of the region's population is also changing in other ways, for example, there has been a significant increase in the number of migrant workers. An increasing number of people are also living alone.

Meeting the needs of this growing and changing population profile will therefore bring new challenges for public services including health, education, transport, housing and community safety.

It is also important that all people in the East of England have equal access to opportunities to improve their quality of life.

²⁵Sub-national population predictions, Office for National Statistics, 2008

40 ²⁶The Implications of an Ageing Population for the Sustainable Development of the East of England, Population Ageing Associates, 2003

Fairer future for all

The East of England region is becoming more diverse in terms of its population profile which presents diverse needs and issues of equality. To ensure a fairer future for all, many issues of social inequalities and discrimination need to be tackled.

For example:

- Health inequalities experienced by marginalised groups
- Access to mental health services
- Rural isolation is particularly an issue for older people and disabled people in rural areas across the region
- Hate crime targeting black and minority ethnic people, disabled people and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community

Therefore, we need fair and effective public services and equality of opportunities in employment and enterprise to ensure a fairer future for all. Discrimination can occur on the basis of age, disability, race, ethnicity, colour, nationality and national origin, gender (including sex, marriage, gender re-assignment), faith and belief and sexual orientation. It is also important to recognise that discrimination affects individuals and groups in multiple ways. The Equality and Human Rights Commission champions equality and human rights for all.

Ageing

The ratio of those aged 18-64 to those aged 65 and over will fall from 3.9 to 24.1 between 2001 and 2041. This means significantly fewer workers to support an increased number of older people. There will inevitably be resource constraints associated with an ageing population as more of a burden is placed upon those within the workforce as increased resources are required to support those in retirement.

Health and social care are major concerns for an ageing population. Care providers will have to plan services to meet increased long-term care demands. Dementia and obesity, for example, will have a major impact on individuals, carers and families. The number of people affected by dementia in the UK may rise to 1.4 million over the next 30 years at a cost of over £50 billion per annum.²⁷

Targeting social exclusion is vital to a successful response to an ageing population. We can help prevent the social exclusion of older people by increasing the engagement, empowerment and independence of older people and by tackling age related inequalities.

Future East is a grouping of regional stakeholders who have an interest in addressing the diverse challenges presented by the region's ageing population. They provide advice and expertise to ensure the issues arising from the ageing of the population are fully addressed and seek to combat ageism – whether overt, unintentional, cultural or institutional.

ISF indicators

25) Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area

Source: National Indicator Set for Local Government (NI 1).

This indicator is being used to show levels of cohesion in local communities.

26) Fair treatment by local services

Source: National Indicator Set for Local Government (NI 140)

27) Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood

Source: National Indicator Set for local government (NI 138).

Indicators 26 and 27 show how local services are responding to changes in local demographics with the ageing population being a key issue.



²⁷Mental Capital and Wellbeing: Making the most of ourselves in the 21st Century, Foresight Mental Capacity and Wellbeing Project – Final Report, 2008



Objective 10:

Provide decent, affordable and safe homes for all

A decent, affordable and accessible home is the foundation of anyone's quality of life. However, there is a growing challenge in the East of England to ensure that there is enough housing available in the region at a reasonable price.

Despite fluctuations in the housing market, the long-term trend is still one of increasing housing demand and unaffordability. To ensure greater access for everyone to a home for life, a significant increase in the amount and types of housing available in the East of England is needed.

Housing costs

The cost of housing in relation to people's earnings has been rising steeply in recent years. The multiple of lower quartile earnings required to purchase a lower quartile home has risen from a regional average of 5.02 in 2001 to 8.56 in 2007²⁸. The average house price in the region in the first quarter of 2001 was £114,300; this had reached £236,400 in the third quarter of 2007, before falling back to £230,100²⁹ by the first quarter of 2008 (an increase of 101% over the first quarter figure for 2001).

In practical terms, these figures mean it is increasingly difficult for first-time buyers to get on the housing ladder and also that individuals in certain professions and communities are priced out of the market. The solution is to ensure that, over the long-term, more homes are being built in the East of England and that a greater proportion are 'affordable'.

More housing

The East of England Plan, the regional planning blueprint, sets a target for at least 508,000 additional homes to be delivered over the period 2001 to 2021. The Plan also sets a further target that 35% of these should be 'affordable', either as social rented or intermediate housing.

New targets for more jobs and homes up to 2031 will be developed by the East of England Regional Assembly and Government by 2011.

Affordable housing

The delivery of affordable homes through public investment is planned to double from approximately 4,000 new homes a year in 2006 to 9,000 in 2011. The priorities for public investment in housing are set out in the Regional Housing Strategy and the East of England Housing Investment Plan. The stated aim of the Regional Housing Strategy is: *"To ensure everyone can live in a decent home which meets their needs, at a price they can afford and in locations that are sustainable."*

The East of England Regional Assembly has commissioned a new study to assess the future need for affordable housing in the region.

Sustainability

New housing must be developed in line with sustainable development principles. It needs to be located close to sources of employment and public services such as transport. The region is performing well in relation to environmental standards for new affordable housing but the challenge is to extend this good performance to all new homes across the region. Improved design and quality of new housing can also help communities respond to issues such as climate change, flooding and community safety.

Initiatives such as the Housing Corporation's 2008-2011 design and quality standards, including the Code for Sustainable Homes, will help to meet this objective.

Inspire East is the regional centre of excellence for sustainable communities in the East of England and helps partners to create high quality places to live and work in the region.

Existing housing stock

For the foreseeable future, the vast majority of the region's population will be living in the existing stock of housing rather than new housing. The focus must therefore also be on improving the environmental sustainability and general quality of accommodation of the present housing stock, this includes ensuring homes are accessible and adaptable for everyone, from young families to older people and individuals with a temporary or permanent physical impairment. The East of England Housing Investment Plan highlights that the region is making good progress towards meeting the Government's decent homes standard within public sector housing stock.

²⁸Land Registry Data

²⁹Lower Quartile house prices Land Registry, lower quartile ASHE

The Housing Investment Plan 2008-11 supports a range of activities directed at private sector renewal, regeneration and mixed communities. The new programme aims to achieve a balance between supporting continuity in local authority activities whilst trying to meet Government expectations of greater co-ordination and alignment of funding, improved partnership working and a move away from a grant to loan-based culture. As part of the new programme, EERA has provisionally allocated £25m capital funding to support projects that will deliver against a range of objectives including the reduction of carbon emissions and fuel poverty as well the broader mixed communities and regeneration themes. Proposed measures include low and zero carbon technologies, solar thermal panels for heating hot water, cavity and solid wall insulation and fuel switching together with a range of initiatives to bring empty homes back into use.

ISF indicators



28) Housing affordability – ratio of lower-quartile house prices to lower quartile household earnings

Source: Land Registry and Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)

The ratio of house prices to income is a key indicator of the relative affordability of owner-occupation. It is used to show whether people with the lowest incomes can afford the cheapest housing. The ratio is calculated by combining Land Registry data on house prices with data on gross annual pay from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

29) Net additional homes provided

Source: National Indicator Set for Local Government (NI 154)

This shows the number of homes provided in the region.

30) Dwellings below the Decent Homes Standard

Source: English Housing Survey (EHS) by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

This is the proportion of vulnerable households living in decent homes in the private sector.

Relevant regional targets



RSS

508,000 new dwellings between 2001 and 2021

To ensure that some 35% of new dwelling provision is affordable.

five.

Implementation

Supporting decision making

Fundamentally, the ISF is a high-level document. It provides an overarching context for the sustainable development of the region and a clear statement of direction to inform policy making throughout the region. The expectation, therefore, is that policy-makers should consider the objectives and issues highlighted in this document, to ensure that any policy proposals are consistent with the sustainable development priorities for the East of England.

Tools to support decision making

Several devices are available to support the process of ensuring the region's sustainable development objectives are used to inform policy development.

The Excellence Framework is a web-based tool which helps to promote good practice in the development of sustainable communities in the East of England, created by Inspire East and the Building Research Establishment. You can use the Excellence Framework in the following ways: as a signposting tool, for advice and information, to look for standards, case studies and best practice, to appraise the quality of projects, and to evaluate the success of projects.
www.inspire-east.org.uk/welcome.aspx

Sustainability Checklist East of England is an easy-to-use online tool that has been developed by EERA, Inspire East, BRE, WWF and other partners. It was devised specifically to guide the design of new developments by making sense of current policy; the Checklist highlights best practice, complementing Ecohomes and the new Code for Sustainable Homes.

www.eastofenglandchecklist.co.uk

Sustainable development toolkit

The Sustainable Development Toolkit was developed by UKCEED on behalf of EERA, EEDA and GO-East in 2003. Its purpose is to ensure compatibility with regional sustainable development objectives by highlighting the economic, environmental and social impacts of policies, development proposals and other new initiatives within the region and providing information which can help to improve them. It is an online tool and is flexible in that it can be used to inform project and programme appraisal, to aid policy development or to support audit processes.

Decision making hierarchy

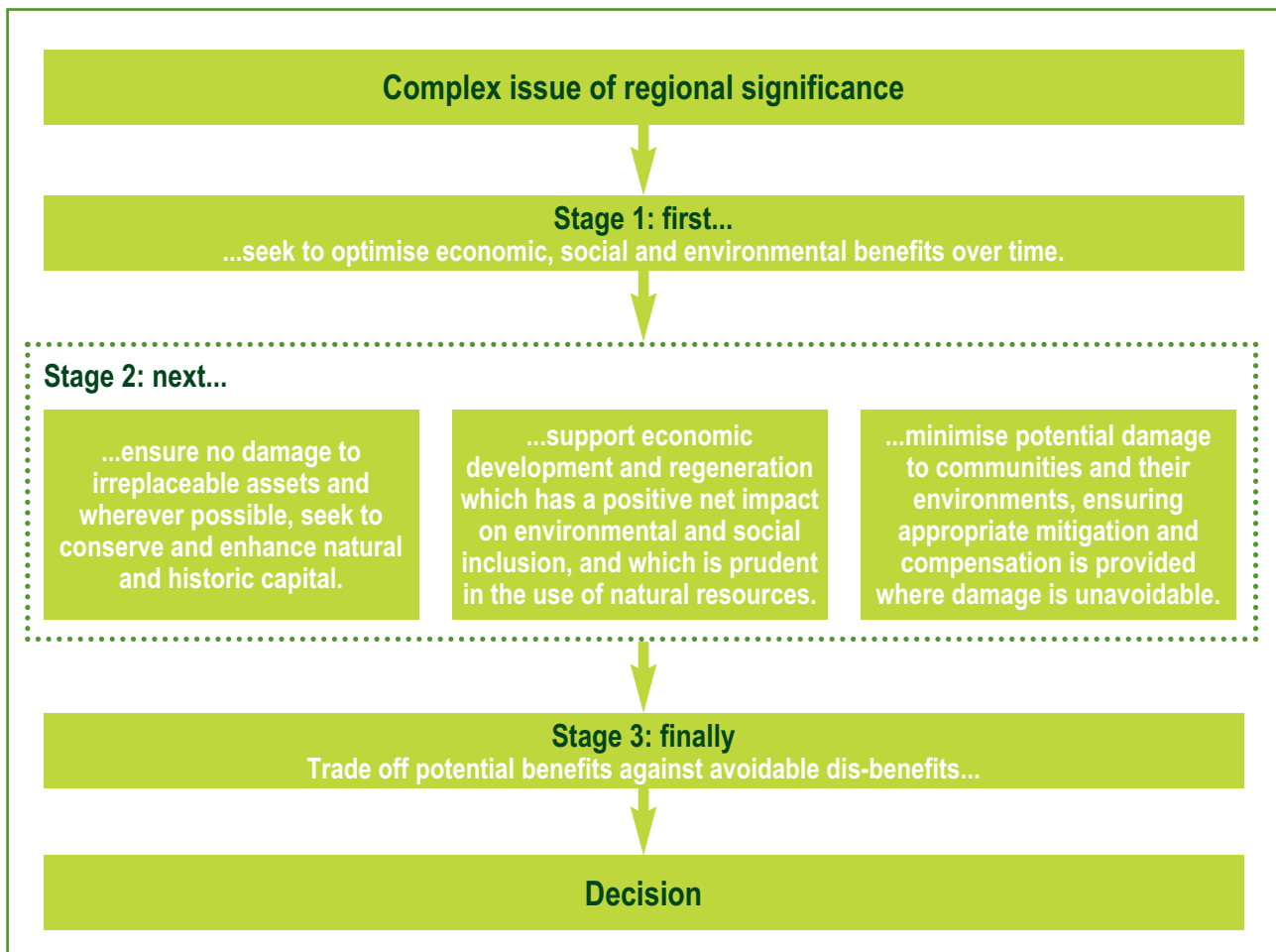
The UK Sustainable Development Strategy states that the five guiding principles – that are the foundations for this ISF – are applicable across of all areas of policy development, and that a policy that is sustainable must respect all five of these principles. This can be said to represent a move towards 'integration' of different aspects of sustainability into policy and encouraging 'win-win' situations, rather than earlier approaches that 'balance' social, environmental and economic aims. However, it is recognised that some trade-offs may be necessary:

“some policies, while underpinned by all five (principles), will place more emphasis on certain principles than others. Any trade-offs should be made in an explicit and transparent way. We want to achieve our goals of living within environmental limits and a just society, and we will do it by means of a sustainable economy, good governance, and sound science.”³⁰

A decision-making hierarchy for the East of England was developed as part of the 2005 IRS (see Figure 7), and is intended to provide a pragmatic approach to decision-making that is relevant and appropriate to the needs of the region. It consists of three ‘layers’ which represent different stages in decision-making. Recognising that the ISF is focused on delivering growth across the region, but doing so in a manner that is genuinely sustainable, the decision-making hierarchy provides a basis for positively endorsing those forms and processes of economic development and regeneration that will – on balance – enhance environmental assets and/or help to engender stronger social inclusion. Where this is not possible, the decision-making hierarchy makes clear provision for mitigating and compensating for damage.

Figure 7

Making choices: a decision-making hierarchy for the East of England



Six.

Other Policy Issues

Rural

The process of rural proofing is an appraisal technique to ensure that, in the process of policy making, any differential impacts on rural areas are taken into account. This is considered to be good practice in the development of regional policy and has been included for example in the Social, Housing, Cultural and Economic Strategy development processes. How the consideration of rural issues in policy varies. Existing regional strategies have tended to tackle rural issues either by treating the rural agenda as a cross-cutting theme, or by identifying specific rural priorities.

In 2003, some 43.5% of the region's population were classified as living in rural areas.³¹ However, these rural areas are very diverse, ranging from wealthy commuter belt areas to those more remote areas in the north and east of the region that are more vulnerable to rural disadvantage. A number of issues can be said to be particularly relevant to the East of England. These are explored in greater depth below.

Rural housing, wages and jobs are significant rural issues. Where local people cannot afford to buy homes, and move away, this can result in labour shortages. Factors impacting on rural housing affordability include second home ownership and the movement of commuters and wealthy retirees into areas. Sustainable Development Objectives 5 and 10 both address these issues.

Access to basic services is also a key issue, it can be difficult for those living in rural areas without access to a car, and is a major source of social exclusion and disadvantage. The coverage and quality of broadband is also a very important issue in rural areas. More generally rural dwellers are vulnerable to the progressive centralisation of services. Sustainable Development Objectives 2 and 9 seek to address this issue.

Regional landscapes are integral to quality of life, vital to biodiversity and to tourism, and are thus an important economic asset. Much of this landscape has been shaped by traditional farming practices but are now degraded by more modern agricultural practices and subject to change caused by economic pressures on the farming industry. Economic changes caused by factors such as increasing grain prices and global food demand are heightening the awareness of local food security and the intensification of farming. Sustainable Development Objective 7 relates to this issue.

Approximately a quarter of England's market towns are in the region and historically have had strong relationships with the surrounding rural area, especially as a hub for provision of services. Many towns are now experiencing development pressure which tends to cause a functional detachment from surrounding rural areas. Sustainable Development Objectives 7 and 10 address this issue.

Agricultural policy shifts, such as the CAP reform package mean some farms are seeking to intensify production further whilst others will receive payment effectively to manage the land for environmental benefits. This has social, environmental and economic impacts, both negative and positive. There are also considerable opportunities in the region for contributing to provision of renewable energy from biomass. Sustainable Development Objective 7 relates to this objective.

The approach taken in this Framework is therefore to emphasize that rural issues are relevant and important across all of the ISF Sustainable Development Objectives.

³¹State of the Countryside in the East of England, Countryside Agency, 2003

Urban

The character of the region is unusual in that there is no single dominating conurbation. Instead, there are a number of small and medium sized cities, including 25% of England's markets towns and parts of the region are strongly influenced by the London urban area. As a region subject to significant growth, issues such as the density of new building, land use issues including the appropriate use of brownfield land, inter and intra-urban transport and the equitable distribution of economic growth are all key regional urban policy concerns.

'Urban proofing' is a newer concept than rural proofing, but there is a growing interest in testing policies for their impact on urban areas. This is perhaps a reaction to the prominence of rural proofing, but also a response to the plethora of national developments in urban policy related to the emphasis on housing and jobs growth in our existing towns and cities such as the Urban White Paper (2000) and the Sustainable Communities Plan (2003, and follow up documents in 2005).

EEDA have pioneered an urban policy appraisal process in the East of England, as part of their Integrated Sustainability Appraisal of the revised RES. EEDA's approach is based around the eight characteristics of a 'sustainable community' as set out in the Sustainable Communities Plan. These are as follows:

- Well run – with effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership
- Well connected – with good transport services and communications linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services
- Well served – with public, private, community and voluntary services that are appropriate to people's needs and accessible to all
- Environmentally sensitive – providing places for people to live that are considerate of the environment
- Thriving – with a flourishing and diverse local economy
- Well designed and built – featuring quality built and natural environment
- Fair for everyone – including those in other communities, now and in the future
- Active, inclusive and safe – fair, tolerant and cohesive with a strong local culture and other shared community activities

All of these identifying characteristics are supported through the sustainable development priorities and challenges for the East of England, as they are largely reflecting the principles of sustainable development in the context of the development of new communities. Certainly, for the purposes of this strategy, urban issues are relevant and important across all of the ISF Objectives.

Coastal

The East of England coastline is among the most environmentally rich, scenic and economically diverse landscapes in the country. It is an extremely complex and dynamic environment and is one of the region's most valuable – and often underrated and underutilised – assets.

The coast is home to some of our most deprived communities. Our coastal communities and economies face changes and pressures that, although different in character, are as challenging and far reaching as those facing communities directly affected by growth.

The coast and its communities also need to address some significant challenges associated with climate change; a fragile, changing coastline; and significant areas of high-value agricultural land and rare habitats vulnerable to flooding and salting.

The East of England Coastal Initiative, a multi-agency project, initiated by the Government Office, and steered by a partnership of EEDA; EERA; English Partnerships; the Environment Agency; Natural England; the coastal Local Authorities, represented by Norfolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council; and Sustainability East is seeking to address these challenges.

Equality

Six equalities themes are identified in the Equality Act 2006, as:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sexual orientation and transgender

Equality and diversity in society is an important sustainability issue because quality of life and wellbeing issues, which are central to sustainable development, are affected by individuals' freedom and opportunity to live the way they choose. The Equalities Review³² defines an equal society as, "recognising different people's needs, situations and goals and removes the barriers that limit what people can do and can be."

Equality and diversity issues are relevant across the sustainable development priorities and challenges for the region. From an overarching perspective, for example, achieving the vision and objectives of the ISF must mean creating opportunities for everyone to improve their quality of life, regardless of ethnicity, gender, disability, age, faith or sexual orientation. Because these equality and diversity issues are relevant across all of the ISF Objectives, they are treated as an integrated cross-cutting theme in this ISF.

Some equality and diversity issues that may be particularly pertinent to the East of England are:

- The East of England has a significant population of migrant workers. There are issues of under utilisation of skills and unfair levels of pay for this group.
- The region has the UK's largest population of gypsies and travellers. Lack of secure accommodation is a particular issue for this group.
- 17% of the population is over 65, with much higher rates in some coastal areas. The region's older population is growing faster than average for the UK and this has significant implications for housing, health and employment policy.
- Younger people are a small proportion of the population of the region and there is a net loss of people entering university in other regions. This age group is vital to support continued economic growth.
- Lone parent households, of which most are headed by women, are particularly susceptible to income poverty. A combination of childcare and employment issues contributes to women in the region being significantly disadvantaged in their participation in the labour market³³.

The ISF has undergone an equality impact assessment (EqIA). Those strategies and policies that deliver the sustainable development objectives outlined in this document should also undergo equality impact assessments. Advice on conducting an EqIA can be found on the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) website www.idea.gov.uk

³²Fairness and freedom: the final report of the equalities review, The Equalities Review, Cabinet Office, February 2007

³³Topic Paper 4: Equality and Diversity: Integrated Sustainability Appraisal of the Regional Economic Strategy – Scoping Report, CAG/Scott Wilson for EEDA, May 2007

Annexes

Annex 1. Development of the ISF – methodological approach

EERA has led on the development of the ISF working closely with a steering group of partner organisations including EEDA, GO-East, the Environment Agency and Sustainability East.

The ISF replaces the Integrated Regional Strategy 'Sustainable Futures' (2005) and the Regional Sustainable Development Framework (2001).

Consultation on the development of the Framework has been thorough and wide-ranging. The stages have been as follows:

Initial proposals and high-level consultation

Working to engage partner organisations and other groupings in the review of the ISF, and specifically to gather initial feedback on the proposed set of Sustainable Development Objectives for the region.

Developing a monitoring framework

Developing and consulting on a set of appropriate indicators for monitoring progress against the Sustainable Development Objectives, and establishing the baseline situation against which we can assess progress.

Strategy development

Drawing together all the information collected so far in preparation for formal consultation on a draft ISF.

Sustainability appraisal

Assessing the effectiveness of the document as a high-level sustainable development strategy.

Consultation

Formal 12 week written consultation on the draft strategy, in which all sectors, private, public and voluntary, were invited to contribute.

Following consultation, a decision was made to delay the publication to allow for the final publication of the East of England Plan in May 2008 and the Regional Economic Strategy in September 2008.

Feedback from the consultation process resulted in some significant improvements to the document including:

- A reduction in the number of sustainability Objectives from 18 to 10
- Move away from a strategy to a framework approach
- Ensure a close working synergy with the final RES and RSS
- Using the ISF to help develop a future Single Regional Strategy

The final ISF was redrafted by EERA, EEDA, the Environment Agency, Sustainability East and Natural England with support from a number of other partners.

Annex 2. LAA Agreements East of England

C1 = agreed indicators: no target proposed

C2 = agreed indicators: draft targets under discussion

C3 = agreed indicators: targets agreed (by GO & LA)

C4 = agreed indicators: no target to be set in first year

L = Local indicator M = mandatory

Owner	NI	Name	Mandatory	Count all	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex	Hertfordshire	Luton	Norfolk	Peterborough	Southend-on-Sea	Suffolk	Thurrock
CLG	1	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	0	7		C3		C3	C3	C3	C3	C3		C3
CLG	2	% of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood	0	2							L		C3	
CLG	3	Civic participation in the local area	0	1	C4									
CLG	4	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	0	8		C3	L	C3		C3	C3	C4	C3	C4
CLG	5	Overall/general satisfaction with local area	0	2		L	L							
CO	6	Participation in regular volunteering	0	5	L		C3			L	C3			L
CO	7	Environment for a thriving third sector	0	8	L	C3	L	C3	C3	C3		L		C3
DCMS	8	Adult participation in sport and active recreation	0	10	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	L	C3	C3
DCMS	9	Use of public libraries	0	1										C3
DCMS	10	Visits to museums or galleries	0	0										
DCMS	11	Engagement in the arts	0	4	L		C3		L			C3		
HO	12	Refused and deferred Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) license applications leading to immigration enforcement activity	0	0										
HO	13	Migrants English language skills and knowledge	0	1							L			
CO	14	Avoidable contact: The proportion of customer contact that is of low or no value to the customer	0	0										
HO	15	Serious violent crime rate	0	2		C4			C3					
HO	16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	0	6	C3	C3		C3	C3		C3			L
HO	17	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	0	6		C3	C3	C3	C3		C3	C3		
MoJ	18	Adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision	0	2			C4			L				
MoJ	19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	0	4					L	L		C4	C4	
HO	20	Assault with injury crime rate	0	3			C3				L			C3
HO	21	Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police	0	2					L	C4				
DCSF	22	Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area	0	0										

Owner	NI	Name	Mandatory	Count all	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex	Hertfordshire	Luton	Norfolk	Peterborough	Southend-on-Sea	Suffolk	Thurrock
DCSF	23	Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and consideration	0	1					C3					
HO	24	Satisfaction with the way the police and local council dealt with antisocial behaviour	0	0										
HO	25	Satisfaction of different groups with the way the police and local council dealt with anti-social behaviour	0	0										
HO	26	Specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence	0	1										C4
HO	27	Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police	0	1										C4
HO	28	Serious knife crime rate	0	0										
HO	29	Gun crime rate	0	0										
HO	30	Re-offending rate of prolific and other priority offenders	0	7	C3				C3	L	C3	C3	C3	C3
HO	31	Re-offending rate of registered sex offenders (DELETED)	0	0										
HO	32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence	0	8	C4	C4		C4	C4	C4	C4		C4	L
HO	33	Arson incidents	0	2							L			L
HO	34	Domestic violence – murder	0	0										
CLG	35	Building resilience to violent extremism	0	1							C3			
HO	36	Protection against terrorist attack	0	0										
CO	37	Awareness of civil protection arrangements in the local area	0	0										
HO	38	Drug-related (Class A) offending rate	0	0										
DH	39	Rate of hospital admission per 100,000 for alcohol related harm	0	4			C3		C3	C3		C3		
DH	40	Number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment	0	5	C3			C3		L	C3	C3		
HO	41	Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem	0	0										
HO	42	Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem	0	0										
MoJ	43	Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	0	0										
MoJ	44	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals	0	0										
MoJ	45	Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training	0	3				C3				C3		L
MoJ	46	Young offenders access to suitable accommodation	0	0										

Owner	NI	Name	Mandatory	Count all	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex	Hertfordshire	Luton	Norfolk	Peterborough	Southend-on-Sea	Suffolk	Thurrock
DfT	47	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	0	6		C3	C3			C3	L	L		C3
DfT	48	Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	0	0										
CLG	49	Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties, excluding precautionary checks	0	1										L
DCSF	50	Emotional health of children	0	1							C4			
DCSF	51	Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHs) services	0	9	C3	C3	C3	C3	L	C3		C3	C3	C3
DCSF	52	Take up of school lunches	0	0										
DH	53	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 - 8 weeks from birth	0	1								C4		
DCSF	54	Services for disabled children	0	5		C4		C4	C4	L	C4			
DCSF	55	Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year	0	2						L				L
DCSF	56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6	0	10	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	L	C3	C3
DCSF	57	Children and young people's participation in high-quality PE and sport	0	2			L		L					
DCSF	58	Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children	0	1								L		
DCSF	59	Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral	0	4			L	C3			L			C3
DCSF	60	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	0	5			L	C3		C3	C3			L
DCSF	61	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	0	0										
DCSF	62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	0	0										
DCSF	63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	0	2					C3		C3			
DCSF	64	Child protection plans lasting 2 years +	0	1								C3		
DCSF	65	Percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	0	0										
DCSF	66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales	0	1				C3						

Owner	NI	Name	Mandatory	Count all	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex	Hertfordshire	Luton	Norfolk	Peterborough	Southend-on-Sea	Suffolk	Thurrock
DCSF	67	Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	0	0										
DCSF	68	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	0	1										L
DCSF	69	Children who have experienced bullying	0	5		L		C3	C3			C3		C3
DCSF	70	Reduce emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people	0	1		C3								
DCSF	71	Children who have run away from home/care overnight	0	0										
DCSF	72	Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	74	Achievement at level 5 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 3	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	75	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	76	Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above in both English and Maths at KS2	0	0										
DCSF	77	Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 50% of pupils achieve level 5 or above in both English and Maths at KS3	0	0										
DCSF	78	Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including English and Maths	0	1			C3							
DCSF	79	Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	0	4			C3			C3	L			C3
DCSF	80	Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	0	1										L
DCSF	81	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	0	0										
DCSF	82	Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	0	0										
DCSF	83	Achievement at level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M

Owner	NI	Name	Mandatory	Count all	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex	Hertfordshire	Luton	Norfolk	Peterborough	Southend-on-Sea	Suffolk	Thurrock
DCSF	84	Achievement of 2 or more A*-C grades in Science GCSEs or equivalent	0	0										
DCSF	85	Post-16 participation in physical sciences (A Level Physics, Chemistry and Maths)	0	0										
DCSF	86	Secondary schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour	0	0										
DCSF	87	Secondary school persistent absence rate	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	88	Percentage of schools providing access to extended services	0	0										
DCSF	89	Reduction in number of schools judged as requiring in special measures and time taken to come out of the category	0	1						C3				
DCSF	90	Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas	0	0										
DCSF	91	Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training	0	1									C3	
DCSF	92	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	95	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	96	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	97	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	98	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	99	Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	100	Looked after children reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	M	0	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
DCSF	102	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2 and 4	0	1										C3

Owner	NI	Name	Mandatory	Count all	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex	Hertfordshire	Luton	Norfolk	Peterborough	Southend-on-Sea	Suffolk	Thurrock
DCSF	103	Special Educational Needs – statements issued within 26 weeks	0	0										
DCSF	104	The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap – achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold	0	0										
DCSF	105	The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap – achieving 5 A*-C GCSE inc. English and Maths	0	0										
DCSF	106	Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education	0	1										L
DCSF	107	Key Stage 2 attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups	0	1							L			
DCSF	108	Key Stage 4 attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups	0	0										
DCSF	109	Delivery of Sure Start Children Centres	0	0										
DCSF	110	Young people's participation in positive activities	0	7	C4	C4			C4	C4		C4	C4	C4
DCSF	111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 – 17	0	7		C4	C4		C4	C4	C4	C4	C4	
DCSF	112	Under 18 conception rate	0	8		C3	C3		C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3
DH	113	Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds	0	2								L		L
DCSF	114	Rate of permanent exclusions from school	0	2								C3		L
DCSF	115	Substance misuse by young people	0	5	C4	L	C4			C3				L
DWP	116	Proportion of children in poverty	0	2	L			C3						
DCSF	117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	0	7	C3		C3		C3	C3	C3	C3		C3
DCSF	118	Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families	0	0										
DH	119	Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing	0	0										
DH	120	All-age all cause mortality rate	0	7	C3	C3	C3		C3		C3	C3		C3
DH	121	Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75	0	3						C3	C3		C3	
DH	122	Mortality from all cancers at ages under 75	0	0										
DH	123	Stopping smoking	0	9	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3		C3	C3
DH	124	People with a long-term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition	0	3					C4				C4	C4

Owner	NI	Name	Mandatory	Count all	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex	Hertfordshire	Luton	Norfolk	Peterborough	Southend-on-Sea	Suffolk	Thurrock
DH	125	Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/ intermediate care	0	6		C3		C4	L	C3		C3	C3	
DH	126	Early access for women to maternity services	0	0										
DH	127	Self reported experience of social care users	0	0										
DH	128	User reported measure of respect and dignity in their treatment	0	0										
DH	129	End of life care – access to appropriate care enabling people to be able to choose to die at home	0	0										
DH	130	Social Care clients receiving Self Directed Support per 100,000 population	0	6	C3				L	C3	C3	C3		L
DH	131	Delayed transfers of care	0	2		C3								C3
DH	132	Timeliness of social care assessment (all adults)	0	0										
DH	133	Timeliness of social care packages following assessment	0	0										
DH	134	The number of emergency bed days per head of weighted population	0	1			C3							
DH	135	Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information	0	8	L	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	L		C3	
DH	136	People supported to live independently through social services (all adults)	0	3		C3				L		C3		
DWP	137	Healthy life expectancy at age 65	0	1					C4					
DWP	138	Satisfaction of people over 65 with both home and neighbourhood	0	0										
DWP	139	The extent to which older people receive the support they need to live independently at home	0	2							L			C4
DWP	140	Fair treatment by local services	0	1						L				
CLG	141	Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living	0	6	C3	C3	C3	C3		C3			C3	
CLG	142	Percentage of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living	0	5	L				C3	L	C3	C3		
CLG	143	Offenders under probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or licence	0	0										
CO	144	Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence	0	0										

Owner	NI	Name	Mandatory	Count all	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex	Hertfordshire	Luton	Norfolk	Peterborough	Southend-on-Sea	Suffolk	Thurrock
CO	145	Adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation	0	1									C3	
CO	146	Adults with learning disabilities in employment	0	1								C3		
CO	147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	0	0										
CO	148	Care leavers in employment, education or training	0	2		C3								L
CO	149	Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in settled accommodation	0	1										C4
CO	150	Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment	0	3							L	L		L
DWP	151	Overall employment rate	0	3			L		C3		C3			
DWP	152	Working age people on out of work benefits	0	7	C3	C3		C3	C3	C3		C3	C3	
DWP	153	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods	0	3					L		C3			L
CLG	154	Net additional homes provided	0	9	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3		C3	C3
CLG	155	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	0	6		C3			L	C3	C3	C3		L
CLG	156	Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation	0	3			C3		C3			C3		
CLG	157	Processing of planning applications	0	0										
CLG	158	% non-decent council homes	0	1								C3		
CLG	159	Supply of ready to develop housing sites	0	1		L								
CLG	160	Local Authority tenants' satisfaction with landlord services	0	0										
DIUS	161	Number of Level 1 qualifications in literacy (including ESOL) achieved	0	0										
DIUS	162	Number of Entry Level qualifications in numeracy achieved	0	2					C3		L			
DIUS	163	Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2 or higher	0	9	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3		C3	C3
DIUS	164	Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 3 or higher	0	3			C3					C3		L
DIUS	165	Proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 4 or higher	0	6	C3		L	C3			L		C3	L
DBERR	166	Median earnings of employees in the area	0	6			C3			C3	C3	C3	C3	C3
DfT	167	Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak	0	1							L			
DfT	168	Principal roads where maintenance should be considered	0	0										

Owner	NI	Name	Mandatory	Count all	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex	Hertfordshire	Luton	Norfolk	Peterborough	Southend-on-Sea	Suffolk	Thurrock
DfT	169	Non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered	0	0										
CLG	170	Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years	0	0										
DBERR	171	New business registration rate	0	7	L		C4		C4	C4	C4	C4		C4
DBERR	172	Percentage of small businesses in the area showing growth	0	5	C4	L		C4	L				C4	
DWP	173	Flows on to incapacity benefits	0	1					L					
DIUS	174	Skills gaps in the current workforce reported by employers	0	0										
DfT	175	Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling	0	6	L			C3		C3	L	C3		C3
DfT	176	Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes)	0	0										
DfT	177	Local bus and light rail passenger journeys originating in the authority area	0	3		C3					C3	C3		
DfT	178	Bus services running on time	0	1				C3						
CLG	179	Value for money – total net value of on-going cash-releasing value for money gains that have impacted since the start of the 2008-9 financial year	0	0										
DWP	180	The number of changes of circumstances which affect customers' Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit entitlements within the year	0	0										
DWP	181	Time taken to process Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit new claims and change events	0	1					C3					
DBERR	182	Satisfaction of businesses with local authority regulatory services	0	1		C3								
DBERR	183	Impact of local authority regulatory services on the fair trading environment	0	0										
DH	184	Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law	0	0										
DEFRA	185	CO ₂ reduction from Local Authority operations	0	0										
DEFRA	186	Per capita reduction in CO ₂ emissions in the LA area	0	9	C3	C3	C3	C3	L	C3	C3		C3	L
DEFRA	187	Tackling fuel poverty – % people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating	0	4					L	L	L			C4
DEFRA	188	Planning to adapt to climate change	0	8		C3	C3		C3	C3	C3	C3	C3	C3
DEFRA	189	Flood and coastal erosion risk management	0	0										

Owner	NI	Name	Mandatory	Count all	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex	Hertfordshire	Luton	Norfolk	Peterborough	Southend-on-Sea	Suffolk	Thurrock
DEFRA	190	Achievement in meeting standards for the control system for animal health	0											
DEFRA	191	Residual household waste per household	0	0			C3							L
DEFRA	192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	0	5			C3		L		L	L		L
DEFRA	193	Percentage of municipal waste landfilled	0	8	C3			C3	C3	C3	C3	L	C3	C3
DEFRA	194	Air quality – % reduction in NOx and primary PM10 emissions through local authority's estate and operations	0	0										
DEFRA	195	Improved street and environmental cleanliness	0	5			C3			L	C3	C3		C3
DEFRA	196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping	0	1							L			
DEFRA	197	Improved local biodiversity – proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented	0	7	L	C3	C3			C3	L		L	C3
DfT	198	Children travelling to school – mode of travel usually used (5-16yrs – car (including vans and taxis))	0	7	C3	C3	L		C3		L	L		L
DCSF	199	Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas	0	0										

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