

3. Making use of the Framework

3.1 How the Framework can be used

Government Office for the South West is fully committed to the Framework, having commissioned Sustainability South West to draw it up on behalf of the region.

Government Office South West will use the Framework to set the context for its own work as well as to assess the work of others. We will expect other organisations to use the Framework to set objectives for their work to ensure that what they do contributes to sustainable development in the Region.

*Jane Henderson, Regional Director,
Government Office South West*

It is in everyone's interest that policy-making in the region is mutually supportive. This means that strategies dealing with single issues like health or transport need to recognise linkages with other strategies. Each needs to consider how it can positively support strategies dealing with other issues. In this way, the whole will be greater than the sum of the parts.

Partnership working is critical to promote this integrated approach. The Regional Assembly has a central role in encouraging and enabling a collaborative approach to regional working, and other regional and local agencies must also play their part.

Delivering sustainability is a challenge, but we are not starting from scratch. The Framework recognises and draws on the wide range of current activity on sustainable development within the region. It provides a common sustainable development context for other regional and local strategies, and a reference point from which they can identify their contribution to sustainability in the region.

The main purpose of the Framework is to set out an agreed agenda for everyone in the region to work towards, to improve the quality of life for ourselves and for future generations. As such it will be a valuable tool for a vast range of organisations.

Key Linkages - Regional Agencies:

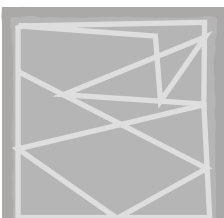
Many agencies have specific statutory or regulatory roles in the South West. The Regional Assembly is now the 'regional planning body' charged with preparing

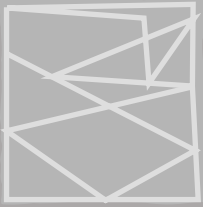
draft regional planning guidance [RPG], including the regional transport strategy. The South West Regional Development Agency is responsible for preparing the region's economic strategy [RES]. Both the RPG and the RES include sustainable development principles, and were subject to sustainability appraisals. They are central to implementing the vision and objectives of this Framework. The principles in the Framework will inform future reviews of the RES and RPG. SW RDA also provides grant assistance to projects and initiatives and they will wish to ensure these comply fully with sustainability principles.

There are a range of other regional agencies who produce strategies. Some strategies already exist but a review process allows the Objectives outlined in the Framework to be incorporated. Examples include:

- South West Biodiversity Action Plan [South West Biodiversity Partnership]
- Rural Development Plan -South West [MAFF/GOSW]
- Regional Cultural Strategy [Regional Cultural Consortium]
- Tourism Strategy - updating 'Towards 2020' [South West Tourism/SW RDA]
- Regional Waste Strategy [Regional Technical Advisory Body]
- Regional Water Resources Strategy [Environment Agency/water companies]
- Regional Strategy for Sport and Recreation [Sports Council]
- Local Environment Agency Plans [LEAP's]

Where there is no regional strategy currently proposed for a particular subject area, the Framework may still have an important role in providing a broader context for officer working groups such as the Regional Aggregates Working Party, dealing with Minerals, or the Regional Coastal Issues Group.





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Local authorities:

Under the Local Government Act 2000 local authorities have a new duty to prepare community strategies for promoting the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area. These strategies must operate alongside all other statutory plans and strategies which authorities are required to produce. Examples include Structure and Local Plans dealing with land-use planning, Local Transport Plans, Education Development Plans, Community Care Plans etc. They will also draw on other work such as Local Agenda 21 strategies etc. The Objectives set out in the Framework provide the context for incorporating sustainability into both community strategies and other plans. In addition the Checklist provides a new tool for assessing the extent to which any project or proposal measures up to sustainability criteria. The Checklist can also be customised to meet the needs of specific functions of a local authority - e.g. planning control or environmental health.

Business:

The primary purpose of a business is to supply goods and services which the public want or need in a profitable way. But businesses do not work in a vacuum. They are regulated by legislation which deals with sustainability issues, including health and safety, the minimum wage, and pollution. Increasingly business is seeing that more sustainable forms of production and operation are the way forward. This is principally because a business which succeeds in meeting its sustainability objectives is likely to be more profitable in the long term, and thereby will sustain itself. The value of the Framework to business will be in helping to inform their business plans and in providing a checklist against which to assess their operations and proposals.

Sub-regional economic partnerships also produce strategies for their areas to promote economic development. The Framework will increasingly play a part in shaping these strategies.

Voluntary sector:

Increasingly the voluntary sector participates in planning and strategy making at the local, regional and national scale. The value of involving the voluntary sector includes access to networks, skills, information and data; and, via membership, to significant parts of the community. The voluntary sector has no statutory duty to progress sustainability, but often seeks such an outcome to help deliver some or all of its own agenda. This sector should review its own practices to ensure they meet the principles set out in the Framework. A further role is for all voluntary sector organisations is to press for better performance by the statutory agencies and local government, using the Framework to measure progress.

Health Authorities:

Health Authorities are required to draw up Health Improvement Programmes to enable the delivery of the targets set out nationally in 'Our Healthier Nation'. The framework shows the overall regional picture in relation to health and quality of life, and should be of great value to health planners.

The national and international dimension
The Framework has to be seen in the context of national and international policy-making. It identifies the issues in the South West that need to be addressed by national policy, or through international agreements. In some parts of the region European Structural Funds are available. The Framework objectives will help inform the process for distributing this support. Other important links are to the international Kyoto agreement on greenhouse gas emissions, the EU Common Agricultural Policy, and Common Fisheries Policy.

3.2 A Sustainability Checklist for the South West







How you can use the checklist










The sustainability checklist can be used by any organisation in the South West. It can be applied to both the organisation's working practices and its activities in the region.

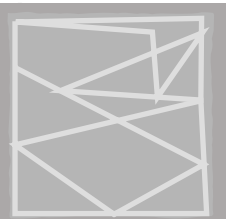
The generic checklist could be customised into a specific management tool, which relates to the particular needs of any sector in the region. Sustainability South West is a contact point for organisations interested in more information or examples of good practice to help them develop the checklist.

The Checklist

Will your decision/project...

- 1  provide employment and training opportunities that support the needs of the region's local workforces?
provide any business opportunities which support environmental goods and services?
incorporate environmental management to increase business competitiveness?
- 2  provide satisfying and fairly paid work?
offer new opportunities for voluntary and unpaid work?
help to provide all year round rather than just seasonal employment?
- 3  use local goods and services wherever possible?
- 4  offer new opportunities for learning or training?
increase awareness and understanding of sustainable development in the region?
- 5  help to meet people's basic needs for healthy food, clean water, affordable housing and efficient energy?
- 6  provide a service, facility or product that is accessible to everyone including those with disabilities?
maximise opportunities for access to services by residents and visitors by encouraging public transport use, cycling or walking?

- 7  safeguard and take opportunities to promote people's physical and mental well-being?
support preventative health strategies by encouraging healthy physical exercise and diets and deterring unhealthy activities and diets?
- 8  contain or reduce air, water or land pollution to levels which do not damage natural systems?
take into account the possible impacts of climate change ?
minimise noise and light pollution?
- 9  manage demand for energy and water and contribute to their efficient use?
create opportunities for the use of renewable energy?
minimise the need for raw materials and minerals?
conserve land and soil resources?
reduce the risk of flooding?
- 10  protect and enhance the unique biodiversity of the South West's land or marine environments, for example by planting native species and providing other habitats for wildlife?
minimise the use of chemicals which are harmful to living things in the environment?
conserve or enhance the region's characteristic landscapes and features?
- 11  help to minimise the region's production of waste?
reuse or recycle waste materials?
involve the use of recycled products?
- 12  enable all people in the region to live without fear of crime or persecution?
- 13  enhance local diversity and distinctiveness by respecting local character and using local skills, materials, produce and creativity?
- 14  promote opportunities for recreation, art, culture and heritage in those parts of the region that are underprovided?
- 15  allow everyone to become informed and involved in decision-making?
take into account local views in local and regional decision-making?
- 16 **Above all, will your proposal/decision... take a long-term perspective, taking into account the needs of future generations as well as our own?**



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