

Example plans and policies

Title: South East Plan							
Keywords: Regional spatial planning; climate change; water management; development							
Governance level: Regional							
Messages in the ESPACE strategy to which the plan or policy applies:	1. X	2.	3.	4. X	5.X	6.	7.
	8.X	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.X	14.
<p>Sentences linking the plan/policy to relevant strategy messages:</p> <p>1. The South East Plan includes a cross-cutting policy covering a range of aspects of climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>4. In the South East Plan, climate change adaptation is integrated into sectoral policies and in particular is reflected in policies about water management.</p> <p>5. The South East Plan went through an in-depth public examination process that has helped to develop and refine its content.</p> <p>8. The water management policies in the South East Plan address the management of risk related to water supply, water quality and flood risk, and the impacts of climate change have been taken into consideration.</p> <p>13. The development of the South East Plan was informed by a series of workshops (referred to as the 'Spring Debates') including one specifically focussing on climate change.</p>							
<p>Overview:</p> <p>The South East Plan is the regional spatial strategy for the South East of England covering the period to 2026. It provides the statutory regional framework for the development of spatial plans at local level. The Plan includes a cross-cutting climate change policy and reflects climate change into sectoral policies such as water management.</p> <p>The Plan has been prepared in close consultation with key stakeholders including a series of workshops on different topics. The Environment Agency helped in particular with background work informing the development of the water management policies (see Further Information below). The studies took the likely impacts of climate change as far as possible into consideration. The co-operation is on-going. The Plan has been the subject of an in-depth examination process helping to develop and refine its content.</p>							
<p>Description/Example policies:</p> <p>Extract of the adaptation aspects of the cross-cutting policy CC2 on climate change:</p> <p>Adaptation to risks and opportunities will be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guiding strategic development to locations offering greater protection from impacts such as flooding, erosion, storms, water shortages and subsidence • Ensuring new and existing building stock are more resilient to climate change impacts • Incorporating sustainable drainage measures and high standards of water efficiency in 							

new and existing building stock

- Increasing flood storage capacity and developing sustainable new water resources
- Ensuring that opportunities and options for sustainable flood management and migration of habitats and species are not foreclosed.

Aspects of key sectoral policies reflecting climate change adaptation:

NRM1 – Sustainable Water Quality Management

- A twin-track approach of demand management and water resource development will be pursued, together with water treatment infrastructure
- Require development to achieve high levels of water efficiency
- Encourage winter water storage reservoirs which reduce summer abstraction and increase flood storage capacity

NRM2 – Strategic Water Resource Development

- Local authorities should allocate and safeguard sites identified for reservoir development from other uses
- Bulk water transfers, effluent re-use or desalination may also be required.

NRM3 – Sustainable Flood Risk Management

- The sequential approach to development in flood risk areas will be followed
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessments should have regard to climate change and identify appropriate types of development and suitable mitigation and adaptation measures in scheme design and layout
- Where development is permitted in appropriately defended floodplains it must be designed to be resilient to flooding and allow for future management or re-alignment
- Local authorities should require water retention and flood storage measures
- Where flood storage or managed re-alignment are identified, land should be safeguarded and appropriate land management practices should be encouraged

NRM6 – Coastal Management

- Local authorities should take account of climate change and forecast effects on the coastal zone
- They should ensure that development does not preclude the delivery of sustainable flood risk management solutions in the future
- They should restrict development on the undeveloped coastline
- They should prevent development on unstable land or areas at risk of erosion
- They should realise opportunities for sustainable coastal defences, which enhance wildlife and fisheries

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Further information:

Relevant research related to the water management policies includes:

1. South East Plan (South East England Regional Assembly, 31st March 2006).
2. Creating a Better Place: Planning for Water Quality and Growth in the South East (Environment Agency, Oct.2006)
3. Water Resources South East – Commentary on provision (Environment Agency, May 2006)
4. Flood Map and Historic Flood Map for England and Wales (Environment Agency, Dec. 2006)
5. Regional Flood Risk Appraisal (SEERA, Nov. 2006)



	<p>6. A Strategy for Managing Environmental Infrastructure in the South East (Environment Agency and SEEDA, Dec. 2006) – 3 reports under heading – Environmental Infrastructure</p> <p>7. Further work is underway in relation to water quality and environmental infrastructure.</p>
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