

Case studies

Title of tool: Sustainability Appraisal of the draft South East Plan							
Keywords: Sustainable development; cross-cutting; assessment, South East Plan							
Audience: Sustainability Appraisal experts							
Messages in the ESPACE strategy to which the case study applies:	1. X	2. X	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.X
	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.
Sentences linking the case study to relevant strategy messages: 1. The Sustainability Objectives against which the South East Plan has been assessed include addressing climate change and addressing flood risk. 2. The Sustainability Appraisal investigated potential long-term impacts of the South East Plan. 7. The Sustainability Appraisal of the South East Plan has assessed climate change risks across all policy areas.							
Elements of 'Guidance' to which the case study applies:			'Tool' to which the case study applies: Sustainability Appraisal is well-known as a tool, but this case study demonstrates its example application.				
Photo/diagram/map: n/a							
Overview: The Sustainability Appraisal has assessed the draft South East Plan in terms of potential significant impacts on a range of Sustainability Objectives including mitigation of / adaptation to climate change as well as reducing flood risk.							
Description: The Sustainability Appraisal process accompanied the development of the South East Plan from the start. The 25 Sustainability Objectives covered all aspects of sustainable development. The two most relevant with regard to climate change adaptation were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 12: It was assessed if the policies in the Plan address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and if the policies ensure that the South East is prepared for climate change impacts. More specifically it explored: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if the Plan requires that development proposals are guided by 'climate proofing' principles and ○ if it ensures a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2010 (from 1990 levels). • No 2: It was assessed if the policies reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment. More specifically it explored: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the Plan would prevent all inappropriate development in the floodplain ○ If it requires that all new development applications show that sustainable 							

- drainage has been considered and implemented wherever practicable
- If it ensures that development located in the floodplain is designed to be flood resilient and
 - If it ensures that development does not increase flood risk to others

Whilst it has been impossible to address some of these issues in detail due to the lack of specificity of the Plan, the Appraisal concluded that several policies would contribute to the climate change resilience of the region. However, it also made clear the need for further action to reflect the scale of the challenge and the potential scale of the opportunities arising from climate change.

Author:

Jorn Peters, South East England
Regional Assembly

Further information:

Sustainability Appraisal Report.