



Devon Strategic Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy Evidence Base

Regional Strategies

Many of the hyperlinks provided below are to files that are necessarily very large – this may lead to a long download time.

Introduction

While the other documents in this evidence base have mainly concentrated on information gathered from within Devon, there is also a need to look at what is happening at a regional level, particularly where these will impact directly on how Devon develops. There are a multitude of strategies, some referred to within other part of the evidence base; by following the links provided further details are available. This document then looks further at a few key strategies, namely:

1. [The Integrated Regional Strategy](#)
2. [SW Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2015.pdf](#)
3. [Regional Spatial Strategy \(RSS\) Including the Regional Transport Strategy](#)
4. [The Regional Environment Strategy](#)

1. [The Integrated Regional Strategy](#) – Just Connect!

The Integrated Regional Strategy ('Just Connect!') was launched by the South West Regional Assembly on November 12, 2005.

Its chief aims are to:

- Harness the benefits of population growth and manage the implications of population change.
- Enhance our distinctive environments and the quality and diversity of our cultural life.
- Enhance our economic prosperity and quality of employment opportunity.
- Address deprivation and disadvantage to reduce significant intra-regional inequalities.

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• Make sure that people are treated fairly and can participate fully in society. The website above identifies many relevant strategies for the South West and analyses how they are helping to meet the Just Connect aims. These strategies include:

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| Architecture & Built Environment Strategy - Designing our environment: towards a better built environment for the South West | - | Creating Excellence |
| Cohesion Framework (emerging) | - | South West Cohesion Steering Group |
| Cultural Strategy for the South West - In Search of Chunky Dunsters | - | Culture South West Limited |
| Historic Environment Strategy | - | English Heritage South West |
| Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) | - | South West Regional Assembly |
| Regional Economic Strategy (RES) | - | South West Regional Development Agency |
| Regional Environment Strategy - Our Environment: Our Future 2004-14 | - | South West Regional Assembly |
| Regional Housing Strategy | - | Regional Housing Body |
| Regional Information and Communication Technology Strategy (RES Subset) | - | South West Regional Development Agency |
| Regional Innovation Strategy 2005-16 (Note: The RIS is currently out for consultation. This analysis is based on the actions detailed in the 2001 strategy) | - | South West Regional Development Agency |
| Regional International Trade Strategy 2004-07 (RES Subset) | - | South West Regional Development Agency |
| Regional Plan for Sport 2004-8 | - | Sport England South West |
| Regional Renewable Energy Strategy for the South West 2003-10 | - | Regen South West |
| Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Including the Regional Transport Strategy | - | South West Regional Assembly |
| Regional Strategy for Enterprise (RES Subset) | - | South West Regional Development Agency |
| Regional Sustainable Development Framework - A Sustainable Future for the South West | - | Sustainability South West |

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| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <u>Regional Waste Strategy - From Rubbish to Resource</u> | - | <u>South West Regional Assembly</u> |
| <u>Regional Water Resources for the Future</u> | - | <u>Environment Agency South West Region</u> |
| <u>South West Regional Skills Strategy</u> | - | <u>South West Regional Skills Partnership</u> |
| <u>Tourism Strategy - Towards 2015: Shaping Tomorrow's Tourism 2005-2015</u> | - | <u>South West Tourism</u> |

2. [The SW Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2015](#)

(RES) - warning large file size!

a. Critical Issues - RES

In the decade ahead, South West England needs to address five key issues:

- population growth, ageing and distribution
- business creation and retention
- rapidly changing industrial and employment mix
- technological and other knowledge dissemination
- energy, use of resources and climate change

b. Strategy - Vision

“The vision sets out where South West England wants to go – giving a clear sense of direction.

Our Vision is:

South West England will have an economy where the aspirations and skills of our people combine with the quality of our physical and cultural environment to provide a high quality of life and sustainable prosperity for everyone.

South West England will demonstrate that economic growth can be secured within environmental limits to bring prosperity to the region.“

Our Vision will be realised when the South West has developed an economy where:

- prosperity is measured by wellbeing as well as economic wealth
- knowledge, service quality and performance are key to business success
- more people can find jobs which fully utilise and reward their skills
- the region respects the environment as the foundation of people’s quality of life and as a business opportunity

Running through the Vision, and therefore the RES as a whole, is a commitment to sustainable development and equality of opportunity.

c. How can we achieve the vision?

In order to make a real success of our economic potential, we need to create conditions whereby:

- more of the region’s people have higher levels of basic skills

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- more of the region's businesses recognise the benefits of competition and innovation
- the region has more ambition and leadership
- the region develops genuinely sustainable communities in the right locations
- the region ensures better connections with markets and ideas within the region and beyond
- the region ensures more people benefit from the economy
- the region generates an increasing proportion of its power from sustainable forms of energy
- the region invests in the capacity for future wealth –in people, place, and innovation and in the South West image

d. Strategy – Achieving Our Objectives

The vision will be realised through three strategic objectives. At the highest level, these are the things that make our economy work.

- successful and competitive businesses
- strong and inclusive communities
- an effective and confident region

e. The Five South West Debates in the Regional Economic Strategy

- Securing economic growth within environmental limits What does this mean for the South West? How can consequences be measured? What can we learn from elsewhere? What are the impacts of climate change and the need to reduce carbon emissions? How can we make sure that we take economic advantage of any changes?
- A growing, ageing and more diverse population How do we make sure we benefit from a growing population? What is the most sustainable way to manage such growth? How will we provide quality employment for our changing population? What are the business opportunities that might arise? How will we celebrate a more diverse cultural and racial mix? How can we better support the needs of migrant workers?
- Energy challenges Can the region become more energy self-sufficient? How far can renewable sources contribute, and over what timescale? Should we explore nuclear? How will the market for carbon-based fuels change as stocks diminish? Can we always rely on technology to provide solutions? What is the appropriate role for energy efficiency? Where are the business opportunities?

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- Regional leadership Is this important? What difference would it make? Can we 'grow' leaders or do they emerge? Are we prepared to support leaders for the common good? How can we improve the quality of leadership in our regional organisations and in the business community?
- Competitive threats and opportunities from globalisation Where are the emerging economies and technologies? What sectors are likely to be affected in the future? Will we suffer from a 'hollowed out' economy? Can we do anything to mitigate or benefit from it? How important is international trade for productivity and prosperity compared with local and regional trade? What skills will be at a premium in the future? What are the South West's real locational advantages?

3. [The Regional Spatial Strategy](#)

The Regional Assembly was designated as South West England's Regional Planning Body (RPB) on September 28, 2004. This role has two key statutory functions. The Assembly as RPB is required to:

- Review and revise the existing Regional Planning Guidance. This was first published in 2001 as the RPG10, and is now called the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- Develop a new Regional Spatial Strategy for 2006 –2026. This will set a regional framework for development.

What does the [Regional Spatial Strategy](#) mean for Devon?

The draft Regional Spatial Strategy proposes:

- Between 2006 and 2026 almost 3,400 new homes to be built annually in Devon
- The scale of change and focus of development will be greatest in Exeter, Barnstaple and Newton Abbot
- Two new communities in South Hams and East Devon to help meet the scale of housing need associated with Plymouth and Exeter
- Transport and infrastructure frameworks to support change
- More limited change to support the localised role and function of market towns
- Limited development, at a reduced rate than in the past, in smaller towns and villages to meet community need
- Measures to protect the environment, reduce resource consumption and promote renewable energy technologies
- Better quality development and timely delivery of the necessary social and community facilities to support it.

The RSS looks ahead for the next 20 years, setting out a blueprint for future development in Devon. Predicting the scale of change, and the need for new development, over this time period is a difficult but necessary task if the management of that change is to be achieved. The strategy of the RSS will be translated into development on the ground by District Councils as they prepare their Local Development Frameworks – and these plans must be in general conformity with the regional strategy. The RSS will also guide the investment decisions of other major agencies in the South West.

A key feature of the RSS is the desire to reduce our impact on the environment. The consumption of resources – land, water, energy, minerals – is unsustainable at present. If everyone on the planet consumed as much as an average resident in the region three planets would be needed to support life. Global concerns about climate change

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indicate more sustainable life styles are needed alongside policies and programmes to deliver the improvements to communities, prosperity and quality of life without compromising the needs of future generations.

Devon is expected to play its part in this. Reducing our carbon footprint is a particular challenge. Our dispersed rural population means transport is a significant component of our resource consumption. Encouraging sustainable transport and energy solutions that support and complement development is an important part of the RSS strategy. This sets out to secure a better future balance between where people live and work and to improve accessibility to jobs, facilities and services. It does this in the context of policies to protect and improve the environment; promote renewable and energy efficient technologies; and proposals that seek to improve the quality of development.

Most new development will be focussed on the urban areas. In Devon, Exeter, Barnstaple and Newton Abbot are identified as places whose role and function is of more than local importance. Major growth is also planned at Plymouth while the level of development in Torbay is also expected to be greater than in the past. The future prosperity of these places greatly influences the job opportunities and services available to Devon's residents.

The towns and cities listed above are the places where there is the opportunity to bring together new housing, job growth and transport improvements, with fewer environmental impacts. The future role of Exeter is important to the whole region, with a range of measures to promote its economy, improve housing supply and support this with significant transport and other new facilities and services. To help ease the housing shortage in the county, new community proposals in East Devon and South Hams are also included. Delivering the type of development envisaged by the RSS will mean the public sector and other agencies responding to regional priorities, working in partnership with the development industry and making sure that development is coordinated across local authority boundaries. Measures will also be needed to improve the urban environment so that towns and cities become the places people choose to live.

Many people in Devon live in market towns and smaller communities. The RSS envisages less development in these places than in the past, with more attention paid to the local role and function of settlements when determining the amount of development appropriate to them. There is therefore likely to be more focus on the type of development in rural areas [for example, affordable housing; economic regeneration] and the role development plays in sustaining the community, helping regeneration and

enhancing the role of settlements as locally important “hubs” for rural areas.

The strategy of the RSS will be finalised by April 2008, after an Examination in Public in the spring of 2007.

4. Regional Environment Strategy: Our Environment: Our Future 2004-14

Strategy - Key headline objectives:

The strategy clearly states that it wants a region where people benefit from an excellent environment to live in and work in, now and for the future; a region:

- where we protect and enhance our distinctiveness and diversity – the variations between our villages, towns and cities, our coast and our countryside;
- that continues to benefit from the richness of its important landscapes, wildlife and habitats;
- that is free from pollution and contamination;
- where we use our natural resources wisely;
- where the benefits of high quality natural, historic and built environments are widely acknowledged and provide opportunities for business success and improved quality of life;
- where a diverse range of people and communities have access to and value the natural, historic and built environment.