

Regional Partnerships Sustainable Development Report to Assembly AGM

Regional Environment Partnership Response June 2006.

The following table sets out the Regional Environment's Partnership response setting out how they are contributing to sustainable development in the region.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Developing thriving sustainable communities:		
Ensuring easy and equitable access to services and opportunities, including jobs and learning, regardless of ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality, background or location	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> *	
Enabling communities to participate in the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> * No <input type="checkbox"/>	The development of the Regional Biodiversity, Forestry and Energy strategies were carried out in an open and transparent manner to allow people to be aware of and participate in their development. All Partnership responses to consultations are available on the WMRA website and available to a wide range of people on request.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Addressing poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantage	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	As part of the approved RSS priority for urban renaissance, the Partnership supports the development of, for example, new green infrastructure in deprived urban areas, improved access to biodiversity and the reclamation of brown field land for beneficial land uses in urban areas. The promotion of the wider access network to green space, canals and new cycle ways and footpaths including access for people with disabilities is an important part of the development of green space networks. The reduction in flood risk and improvement in air quality can also benefit deprived communities.
Improving health and reducing health inequalities by encouraging and enabling healthy lifestyles as well as protecting health and providing health services	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Partnership promotes access to green space and the wider access network, increased appreciation of biodiversity and the use of woodlands for pleasure and recreation. This provides the setting for walking, cycling and sports activity to encourage and enable healthy lifestyle choices.</p> <p>Improvements in air quality, development of new approaches to deal with waste, reduced flood risk (physical harm and pollution risk), improvements in water quality (access to fishing and safer abstracted water supply) and urban tree planting (microclimatic effects and effect on climate change heat island effect) has a long term contribution to health.</p> <p>The Partnership will be contributing to the development of the Regional Health Strategy.</p>
Providing decent and affordable housing for all, of the right quantity, type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The Partnership promotes the creation of high quality built environments, including living environments, securing high quality master plans, building design and open spaces which respects regional and local historic and landscape Character

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Reducing crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No	The Partnership promotes good urban design which includes designing out crime.
Improving opportunities to participate in the diverse cultural and recreational activities the West Midlands can offer	Yes * No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The development of green infrastructure, wider access network maintaining and enhancing sports, playing fields and recreation ground and improvement and enhancement of the historic landscapes and buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and battlefields all contribute to improving opportunities for cultural and recreational activities.</p> <p>The RSS phase 3 revision process will develop policy on recreational provision.</p>
Encouraging physical development with a better balance of jobs, housing and services within each part of the Region in order to meet local needs locally and encourage stable and sustainable integrated communities	Yes * No <input type="checkbox"/>	The Partnership promotes the proper provision for energy, use of renewables, supply of minerals and use of secondary aggregates and waste facilities to support the development of sustainable communities.
Enhancing and protecting the environment:		
Valuing, enhancing and protecting the Region's environmental assets, including the natural and built environment and the historic environment	Yes * No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Partnership engages with a range of regional plans and strategies to strengthen environmental policy concerned with protecting and enhancing the quality of the region's environment assets, including the review of RSS, which includes the regional waste strategy and the RES.</p> <p>Development of a woodland opportunities map to guide developers of new planting proposals into new areas has been prepared.</p>

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Valuing, enhancing and protecting regional biodiversity	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Partnership works with the Regional Biodiversity Partnership to halt biodiversity loss and protect manage and enhance the regions biodiversity and nature conservation resources.</p> <p>Policy M1 includes the requirement to protect and seek improvements to biodiversity during the operational life of workings and policies which require restoration of mineral workings should contribute to local regional biodiversity targets.</p> <p>A delivery plan for the Regional Biodiversity Strategy is being prepared, work on the delivery of Biodiversity Enhancement Areas is being taken forward and two new biodiversity programmes have been established in the region.</p> <p>An initial consultation on Biodiversity Enhancement Areas and a regional map of Biodiversity Enhancement Areas has been completed.</p>
Land use and development that optimises the use of previously developed land and buildings and creates high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity, promote local distinctiveness and sense of place, and are well-designed	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Partnership promotes an integrated approach to the regeneration and redevelopment process which includes the reuse of brown field land, the development of master plans which integrates good urban and landscape design, sustainability considerations with provision for waste disposal and different approaches to energy conservation and generation. There is also prudent use of resources through avoiding the sterilisation of mineral resources.</p> <p>The Brownfield Land Group has been set up reporting to the Partnership to assist the development of stronger policy links between the RSS and RES and to drive forward brown field land activities in the region through the production of Brownfield land Action Plans</p>

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Local stewardship of local environments	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No *	
Minimising air, water and soil pollution levels	Yes * No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Partnership works to support the protection of vulnerable surface and groundwater and is contributing to the development of Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan liaison panels for the Severn and the Humber regions. The Partnership will be involved in the national consultation on the Soils by the EA in 2006. In RSS Phase 3 areas where air quality is poor and have regional implications are to be addressed.</p>
Minimising the Region's contribution to the causes of climate change whilst implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts	Yes * No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Partnership wants to increase the awareness of members and regional partners in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Working with other partners and using the national "Tomorrows Climate-Today's Challenge" a report and forward business plan case will be developed in 2006 with partners.</p> <p>The Partnership will work with partners to strengthen the political engagement and consideration of CC in the RSS review and develop mitigation measures through the Regional Energy Strategy and Regional Waste Strategy</p>

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Using natural resources prudently and efficiently:		
Reducing overall energy use through increasing energy efficiency, and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Energy West Midlands, the Regional Energy Office is a member of the partnership and is actively working to promote initiatives to take forward the implementation of the Regional Energy Strategy. This covers increasing energy efficiency, using energy from renewable sources and using energy from waste
Using natural resources such as water and minerals efficiently	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The Partnership ensures that each initiative or strategy takes into account the prudent use of minerals by encouraging the reuse and recycling of secondary aggregates in redevelopment projects and ensuring that development projects do not sterilise mineral resources that can be removed in an environmentally acceptable manner.
Promoting and ensuring high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Partnership promotes the creation of a high quality environment for all by supporting early neighbourhood level and master planning which incorporates consideration of energy efficiency and generation, appropriate waste provision and sustainable drainage and a high quality of townscape.</p> <p>All new development and should incorporate sustainability considerations including use of renewable energy, sustainable construction practices and use of recycled material.</p>

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Ensuring the location of development makes efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and helps reduce need to travel, especially by private car	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The Partnership supports the creation where appropriate of higher densities at nodes on the public transport system to enable choices to be made about access and in town and city centres close to facilities, the development of access into green space and provision of networks of parks and open space to encourage walking and cycling. It also seeks to ensure that loading and unloading facilities for the rail/water transport of minerals are safeguarded for the future.
Increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing road traffic congestion and pollution	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The Partnership supports the development of a spatial approach that will help to achieve an integrated public transport system that encourages use of public transport, the location of new development at transport nodes, cycling and walking and the development of low carbon technology and vehicles.
Encouraging and enabling waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Partnership has completed three waste and resources studies which will facilitate the development of a regional Waste Strategy as part of the RSS Phase 2 review.</p> <p>The partnership supports the greater focus on waste minimisation and prevention across all waste streams seeing waste as a resource and extension of the recycling culture with disposal as a last resort.</p>
Encouraging local sourcing of goods and materials	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No *	

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Rewarding efficient resource use and encouraging development of alternative and renewable resources where resources are likely to become depleted	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> * No <input type="checkbox"/>	The Partnership supports the prudent use of natural resources, recycling of waste, introduction of new technology to minimise landfill, encouraging the reuse of secondary aggregates and energy efficient urban design and master plans.
Developing a flourishing, diverse and stable regional economy:		
Achieving sustainable economic growth and prosperity for the benefit of all the Region's inhabitants	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> *	
Creating high quality employment opportunities suited to the changing needs of the local workforce, whilst recognising the value and contribution of unpaid work	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> * No <input type="checkbox"/>	The Partnership supports the development of high quality working environments accessible by public transport if possible and integrated as part of the development of mixed use sustainable communities. Environmental volunteering is a key part of increasing awareness of natural systems and landscape.
Promoting investment in future prosperity	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> * No <input type="checkbox"/>	The partnership promotes an increased awareness of the role of the growing environmental economy as a e direct economic driver and the role of the good urban design and landscape for tourism and image of the region. Waste technology and the environmental clusters for new businesses are part of the Regional Waste strategy
Encouraging ongoing investment and engagement in learning and skills development	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> * No <input type="checkbox"/>	The Partnership promotes the use of waste and new technologies and business opportunities to treat waste as business resources.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Encouraging a culture of enterprise and innovation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> *	
Promoting and supporting the development of new technologies, especially those with high value and low impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> * No <input type="checkbox"/>	New waste technologies, biomass technologies renewable and incorporation of sustainability considerations into all developments provides the markets for innovation.
Encouraging corporate social and environmental responsibility, with regional organisations and agencies leading by example	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The Partnership has a membership of nominated local authority members, business and other stakeholders and is advised by statutory environmental agencies and other environmental interests. As advisors to the Regional Assembly on all quality of the environment matters the Partnership acts to work towards the goal of sustainable development.