

Regional Sustainability Action Framework - Policy Partnership Checklist
Response from Strategic Review Group

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	The Equalities and Diversity Strategic Review examined how regional partners were considering E&D issues in delivering their objectives. Recommendation 13 states that Concordat Partners carry out an audit of their internal processes and delivery arrangements by 31 December 2006 in the light of this review to identify areas for improvement and joint working.
Enabling communities to participate in the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life	Yes	The Equalities and Diversity Strategic Review recommended the establishment of a new Regional Partnership body to act as a hub bringing together representatives of regional bodies and thematic, sectoral and sub regional networks. This is intended to advise and support regional organisations and networks in developing a holistic approach to addressing inequalities in the region and also to provide a mechanism by which regional bodies and leaders can be held to account in respect of their commitments to and delivery of a regional equalities and diversity agenda

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	The Equalities and Diversity Strategic Review has attempted to raise the profile of issues, including multiple deprivation, and has put structures in place that will ensure these issues are considered during the development of regional strategies and policies. In addition recommendation 14 addresses multiple deprivation via community cohesion - That the new Regional Partnership Body establishes a regional commission to examine how regional partners can contribute to the understanding, development and achievement of community cohesion goals. Clear progress should be demonstrated by 31 December 2006.
Improving health and reducing health inequalities by encouraging and enabling healthy lifestyles as well as protecting health and providing health services	No	Not within programme for reviews – health inequalities was not included within the remit of the Equality and Diversity Strategic Review
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	No	Not within remit of reviews
Reducing crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour	No	Not within remit of reviews

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Improving opportunities to participate in the diverse cultural and recreational activities the West Midlands can offer	No	Not within remit of reviews
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	No	Not within remit of reviews
Enhancing and protecting the environment:		
Valuing, enhancing and protecting the Region's environmental assets, including the natural and built environment and the historic environment	No	Not within remit of reviews
Valuing, enhancing and protecting regional biodiversity	No	Not within remit of reviews

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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	Although not the subject of a review, the High Technology Corridor scrutiny review touched on these issues in relation to developments within Corridors. Recommendation 8 states that Local Authorities involved with High Technology Corridors ensure that Local Development Frameworks encourage the development of sites within the framework of the Regional Spatial Strategy, in particular policy PA3 – High Technology Corridors.
Local stewardship of local environments	No	Not within remit of reviews
Minimising air, water and soil pollution levels	No	Not within remit of reviews
Minimising the Region's contribution to the causes of climate change whilst implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts	No	Not within remit of reviews

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	No	Not within remit of reviews
Using natural resources such as water and minerals efficiently	No	Not within remit of reviews
Promoting and ensuring high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings	Yes	The High Technology Corridor review recognised the potentially influential role that Advantage West Midlands has with recommendation 13 stating that Advantage West Midlands work with High Technology Corridors to encourage sustainable design within corridor projects And to influence other developments including those outside corridor areas.
Ensuring the location of development makes efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and helps reduce need to travel, especially by private car	Yes	Although this was not within the remit of reviews, this was touched on in the High Technology Corridor review. No specific recommendation was made but the report briefly discusses sustainable transport in relation to corridor developments. The report encourages Advantage West Midlands and High Technology Corridors to consider sustainable transport as part of these developments.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing road traffic congestion and pollution	No	Not within remit of reviews
Encouraging and enabling waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream	No	Not within remit of reviews
Encouraging local sourcing of goods and materials	No	Not within remit of reviews
Rewarding efficient resource use and encouraging development of alternative and renewable resources where resources are likely to become depleted	No	Not within remit of reviews
Developing a flourishing, diverse and stable regional economy:		

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Achieving sustainable economic growth and prosperity for the benefit of all the Region's inhabitants	Yes	Underlying aim of scrutiny of Advantage West Midlands is to assist them in achieving the RES vision of the West Midlands being recognised as a world class region in which to invest, work, learn, visit and live and the most successful in creating wealth to benefit all of its people. Fundamental to this is sustainable economic growth. The two scrutiny reviews completed this year were High Technology Corridors and Rural Renaissance, both of which made recommendations for how Advantage West Midlands could work with partners to deliver their programmes in a more effective and efficient manner.
Creating high quality employment opportunities suited to the changing needs of the local workforce, whilst recognising the value and contribution of unpaid work	Yes	Both scrutiny reviews examined how Advantage West Midlands were delivering opportunities for high quality employment in different environments and circumstances. Neither review looked at unpaid work.
Promoting investment in future prosperity	Yes	This is inherent within the scrutiny process and in particular was a key issue within the High Technology Corridor review. A number of recommendations from this review are intended to assist Advantage West Midlands in achieving this. In particular recommendation 5 that requires close linkages to be made between the Innovation and Technology Council and High Technology Corridors, and recommendation 11 to develop a sustainable funding plan for corridors.

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Encouraging ongoing investment and engagement in learning and skills development	No	A planned scrutiny review for 2005/6 will examine Advantage West Midlands' support for the skills agenda and therefore this area has not been addressed by completed reviews.
Encouraging a culture of enterprise and innovation	Yes	The High Technology Corridor scrutiny review examined how this delivery mechanism was contributing to innovation within the region. It raised a number of concerns about the linkages that exist between corridors and other structures, particularly with the Innovation and Technology Council, and how corridor experiences can be shared more widely.
Promoting and supporting the development of new technologies, especially those with high value and low impact	Yes	The High Technology Corridor scrutiny review made 15 recommendations that the Panel believed would assist in the future development of the three corridors and thereby promote the development of new technologies. It is important that the linkages made with universities and other centres of excellence are spread beyond corridor areas to businesses more widely in the region.
Encouraging corporate social and environmental responsibility, with regional organisations and agencies leading by example	Yes	The Equalities and Diversity review recommended that the Assembly explicitly adopts equalities and diversity as central principles of all aspects of its work and takes on a regional leadership role. This was agreed at the Assembly meeting on 18 January 2006. It also recommended that the revised Concordat includes a stronger commitment to valuing all citizens and giving all communities and individuals the chance to contribute to regional renaissance.

