

Guidance

<p>Title: Draft climate change principles for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. spatial planning policies 2. sustainable economic prosperity 							
<p>Keywords: spatial planning, principles, partnerships, economic planning.</p>							
<p>Audience: Spatial planners at local, regional, national and EU levels; stakeholders seeking to influence these processes for climate change issues</p>							
<p>Messages in the ESPACE strategy to which the guidance applies:</p>	1.X	2.	3.	4.	5.X	6.	7.X
	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.
<p>Sentences linking the guidance to relevant strategy messages:</p> <p>1: The draft climate change principles make clear the need for climate change adaptation (and mitigation) to be a core objective of spatial and economic planning and illustrate the range of issues that spatial and economic planning will need to address.</p> <p>5: The draft climate change principles can be used as part of a review of existing plans etc, as well as in drafting new ones.</p> <p>7: The draft climate change principles can inform stakeholder engagement and consensus building with communities and interested organisations.</p>							
<p>Photo/diagram/map:</p> <p>N/A</p>				<p>Overview:</p> <p>The principles set out structured sets of criteria for ensuring that planning addresses fundamental adaptation (and mitigation) issues. They were devised by sector groups of a regional climate change partnership – i.e. informed by a wide range of perspectives but with a ‘planning’ (spatial and economic) focus. The spatial planning principles were adopted by the SE England Regional Assembly as the basis for its cross cutting climate change policy in the Regional Spatial Strategy (the South East Plan), while the economic principles have informed the sustainable prosperity policies in the new Regional Economic Strategy – i.e. they are in use.</p>			
<p>Description:</p> <p>The proposed spatial planning principles are set out in full below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> With regard to climate change, the overarching aims for local and regional decision takers and stakeholders in the South East should be to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> work to reduce the extent of future global climate change, through effective 							

- measures to reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases within the region;
- b. work with a changing climate, through adaptation to its impacts (both risks and opportunities) within the region and to manage these for the benefit of present and future generations.
2. The guiding principle for 1a) must be to reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases within the region by:
 - a. designing any new developments to standards of high energy efficiency, low embedded carbon and good accessibility by public transport (e.g. high levels of insulation; minimal use of plastics; green transport plans for major employers, hospitals etc);
 - b. promoting changes to existing development that will increase the efficiency of energy use in power, heating and transport (e.g. insulation);
 - c. promoting local services to increase resource efficiency (e.g. local shops, recycling services etc);
 - d. promoting land uses that serve as carbon sinks (e.g. community woodlands).
 - e. Encouraging development and use of renewable sources of energy, preferably local (e.g. photovoltaics, wind power, biomass etc);
 - f. Reducing the amount of waste (particularly biodegradable waste), reducing the volume sent to landfill and maximising capture and use of greenhouse gases, particularly methane (e.g. waste minimisation, composting etc)
 3. The guiding principle for 1b) must be to reduce risks from climate change by:
 - a. guiding any new development to locations that best offer protection from the likely impacts – including flooding and drought, sea level rise, storminess, soil subsidence and heave and implications for supply and demand of essential services (e.g. preference to locations that have sustainable existing water supply rather than those that require long distance supply)
 - b. ensuring that the design and layout of new developments (including buildings, open spaces and infrastructure) will be resilient or adaptable to the likely impacts during the development's lifetime (e.g. designing in flood protection and water-saving features; orientation to take advantage of solar gain for PVs etc);
 - c. promoting changes to existing development that will enhance its resilience or adaptability to the likely impacts during its lifetime (e.g. improving site drainage; connecting to neighbourhood SUDS; introducing grey water recycling etc).
 4. Within these guiding principles, there are a number of subsidiary principles that will be important in helping planners and other decision takers to take proper account of the causes of climate change and the risks and opportunities from its impacts. Policies and plans should:
 - a. Protect existing land uses from the impacts of sea level rise and flooding only when it can be justified in social, economic and environmental terms, taking account of both costs and benefits;
 - b. Avoid new development in locations that could constrain or reduce the effectiveness of future options for adaptation (e.g. development now that is not likely to prevent effective flood management in the future);
 - c. Enable new development in areas at risk only where the development is itself resilient or adaptable to the likely impacts of climate change, can enhance other local adaptation to these and does not displace the effects elsewhere (e.g. raising floor levels in flood risk areas);
 - d. Adopt technical solutions to impacts (for example, flooding and water supply issues) only where necessary and having considered other adaptive options

- beforehand, including alternative locations in areas at less risk;
- e. Locate new development so that it can be supplied with water and other resources in a sustainable manner under changing and variable climatic conditions. Sustainable supply should also include the requirements for water and other resources within the natural environment;
 - f. Design new development and changes to existing development that are resilient to climate change impacts (e.g. subsidence);
 - g. Where new or existing development may arise from responses to climate change, protect existing terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats from adverse impacts;
 - h. Seek to compensate for any loss of habitat as a result of climate change or new development by creation of similar habitats in areas that will be suitable under changing climatic conditions;
 - i. Minimise the negative health impacts associated with climate change (e.g. through provision of shading);
 - j. Recognise the relationships between different natural and human activities, including the implications of climate changes responses (adaptation and mitigation) in one area for the ability of other areas to develop their own responses.

5. It is also important that policies and plans should promote development that enhances the natural environment and takes advantage of social, economic and environmental opportunities that may be afforded by climate change impacts or by the need for mitigation. Subsidiary principles here include:
 - a. Promote local goods, services and facilities; and promote accessibility to these via public transport and transport infrastructure that is resilient to climate change impacts (e.g. farmers' markets, entrepreneurial responses to shifting consumer demand);
 - b. Seek to create corridors and stepping stones that will allow species to migrate and adapt in response to climate change;
 - c. Promote agricultural practices that are compatible with and adaptable to the impacts of climate change (e.g. winter water storage, new crops, farm diversification etc);
 - d. Promote social and economic benefits of new habitat opportunities (e.g. tourism) and other land use changes (e.g. recreation at reservoirs)

The proposed economic principles are set out in full below:

In a changing climate, a sustainable economy requires:

1. Local, regional and national infrastructures that are resilient to changing physical conditions (e.g. heat, precipitation, drought, flooding, storms and subsidence / heave etc), enabling the movement of people, goods, services, utilities and wastes with least disruption to business, communities and the environment. Planning and investment for this resilience should take account of the average and extreme conditions that are projected for the life of the infrastructure.
2. In parallel with this, private development that incorporates resilience to the same climate risks, e.g. through SECCP's "Climate change principles for spatial planning" (June 2004) and the Three Regions Climate Change Group's Adaptation Checklist for Developers (November 2005).
3. Incorporating climate risks and costs into other public policy and business decisions, recognising the uncertainties but also the scope for no / low regret options and potential cost savings, reduced exposures to risk and losses, enhanced reputation,

improved regulatory relationships and market leadership. Established standards and systems for environmental, corporate social responsibility, quality and risk management provide a sound basis for managing climate risk, supported by the risk and costing tools developed by UKCIP.

4. Widespread adoption of resource efficiencies, particularly for those resources (such as water) which are already under pressure within the region and/or where climate change will exacerbate this. This will protect the security of supplies (e.g. energy, water etc) to business and other users. Therefore, it also applies to resources imported from regions of the world where climate change will have more dramatic impacts and where uncertainty of supplies or prices will impact on business and enterprise or on market confidence.
5. Business innovation for new markets, technologies, products & services to meet changing consumer and customer requirements and to maximise the opportunities provided by the changing climate.
6. Proper recognition by business and policy makers of the underlying principles of sustainable development, the pressures that climate change will put on natural resources, biodiversity and communities and the need for responses that enhance economic, social and environmental quality.
7. Public and private sector leadership through long-term planning and investment, and through good practice in procurement, investment, pension funds etc – i.e. fully informed of the likely costs of climate change impacts - and of adapting to them compared with the costs of failing to adapt. Regulation has an important part to play in encouraging and supporting businesses, providing a level playing field and supporting fiscal incentives.
8. Recognition that some further and unprecedented climate change is unavoidable over at least the next 30-40 years, as a result of the 'legacy' greenhouse gas emissions over the past century, and that we need to adapt to this. At the same time, actions are required to mitigate the emissions that are adding to longer-term climate change and so reduce the avoidable risks in the more distant future. This also requires recognition of the links between adaptation and mitigation, for example ensuring that actions to help us cope with the impacts over the next 30-40 years do not add to the causes of greater impacts later on, through higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions.
9. Public and private sectors leadership in the deployment and use of renewable sources of energy.

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Further information:

1. Proposed climate change principles for the South East Plan
2. Proposed climate change principles for sustainable economic prosperity
3. www.climatesoutheast.org.uk