

RSS

The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy
for the South West 2006 - 2026

PRE-SUBMISSION
CONSULTATION STATEMENT

*South West
England*

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Pre-Submission Consultation Statement

The Assembly prepared, in February 2005, a **Statement of Public Participation** setting out how it planned to secure stakeholder and public involvement through the RSS revision process, and who it would work with in undertaking the RSS revision. This Pre-Submission Consultation Statement explains how this was actually carried out. The Regional Assembly is required to prepare the RSS on the basis of partnership working with regional stakeholders and community involvement. This Statement will be submitted to the Secretary of State with the Draft RSS revision as required under Section 5 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the Act).

1.2 Consultation Good Practice Principles

The Assembly works to a set of best practice principles for consultation (Appendix 1) and these have been used during the RSS revision process to date. The principles are based on the Government's Code of Practice on Written Consultation. Early on in the process of developing the RSS the Assembly set out its intention to, wherever possible, go further than simply consulting with organisations, but rather to aim to work in partnership with key bodies.

1.3 Major Elements of Consultation Carried Out to Date

A number of major consultation events and initiatives have been undertaken over the RSS development process to date and these can be summarised as follows:

- The revision process was formally launched at events in Plymouth and Weston-super-Mare, attended by over 200 people (March 2004)
- Series of **RSS Update** newsletters, produced quarterly and distributed to over 8,000 stakeholders around the region (ongoing)
- Consultation on possible development strategies for the region (the '**Options Consultation**') entailing over 2,400 full consultation documents and 8,800 summary documents being sent to about 1,600 organisations and many more individuals, consultation events in Plymouth, Weston-super-Mare and Bournemouth attended by over 300 people, and a report of the consultation setting out how the Assembly would address the points raised in the 400 or more detailed responses received (September to November 2004)
- Feedback from the Options Consultation was used to help develop a preferred strategy which was then debated at a series of consultation events (the '**Summer Debates**') in Bristol, Dorchester, Taunton, Swindon and Plymouth, which were attended by around 400 people and led to a report of the consultation setting out how the Assembly would address the points raised (July 2005) and
- With the first full Draft of the RSS revision published and having been debated at the 21 October 2005 full Assembly meeting, a further four consultation events were undertaken, jointly with the South West Regional Development Agency, in Cheltenham, Poole, Plymouth and Exeter, with over 500 people attending (the '**Winter Debates**', October and November 2005) which led to many useful contributions being fed into the second and subsequent versions of the Draft RSS

WHO HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON DRAFT RSS PREPARATION AND HOW HAS THIS INFLUENCED THE OUTCOME?

2.1 Introduction

In preparing the Draft RSS, the Assembly has worked closely with local authorities, business representatives, regional agencies, voluntary and community sector representatives, and interest groups. This section outlines who the Assembly has consulted during the process to date. Section 3 then sets out the main issues raised and how these have been addressed in the Draft RSS.

2.2 Regional Assembly

The Assembly has a minimum of one Member from each of the districts, unitary authorities, county councils and national park authorities in the region, together with one Member from the Council of the Isles of Scilly (53 bodies in total). In addition the Assembly includes a range of Social Economic and Environmental Partners (SEEPs) representing the various sectors of significance to the South West. These include business, voluntary, education and training, environmental bodies, faith communities, trade unions, tourism, health, disabled groups, agriculture, culture, racial equality, minority groups, public transport, youth, housing and co-operative agencies.

Briefing events for Assembly, county, unitary and district Members were held on a county basis in September and October 2004 and around 250 people attended. Further briefings for Councillors on the Draft RSS were held in October 2005, again covering the whole region on a county basis. SEEPs also took part in similar briefings.

2.3 Local Planning Authorities

As Regional Planning Body (RPB) the Assembly has ongoing contact with district councils over RSS general conformity issues and has, since August 2005, been a statutory consultee for planning applications meeting certain criteria with regard to their significance.

In terms of development of the Draft RSS all districts have been given the opportunity to participate in workshops to discuss detailed issues in relation to housing numbers. These have taken the form of discussions with a range of officers and Members together with industry representatives. A Housing Task and Finish Group was also formed to help advise on the housing policies and a number of district council representatives took part. A number of other separate meetings and discussions have been held with districts, at various stages, to discuss particular technical aspects.

Finally districts have been involved with the Joint Studies described in 2.5 overleaf.

2.4 Strategic Authorities

The Assembly is required, under Section 4 of the Act, to seek the advice of Strategic Authorities when preparing, keeping under review and monitoring the implementation of a revision of the RSS. This includes the county councils, unitary authorities and National Park authorities.

2.4.1 Sub-Regional Strategies

Strategic Authorities were asked to work with districts and other stakeholders to develop sub-regional strategies in a number of Joint Study Areas (JSAs). These areas are listed below:

- **West of England (Bath, Bristol and Weston-super-Mare)**
- **South East Dorset conurbation (Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch)**
- **Plymouth, South East Cornwall and South West Devon**
- **Swindon area**
- **Cheltenham and Gloucester area**
- **Exeter area**
- **Taunton area**
- **Torbay and South Devon**
- **Cornwall Towns (Truro, Falmouth, Camborne, Pool and Redruth)**

As part of the JSA work Strategic Authorities undertook their own consultation process to enable local participation in the process. The Strategic Authorities submitted First Detailed Proposals in relation to sub-regional strategy in September 2005.

2.4.2 Housing

The Strategic Authorities also provided, in September 2005, First Detailed Proposals on housing numbers for districts in their areas to inform the district housing allocation process. Authorities were also asked for proposals relating to any 'named settlements' not falling within the scope of any of the joint studies. In addition a number of Strategic Authorities provided, in February 2006, First Detailed Proposals on provision for Gypsies and Travellers.

2.5 Regional Planning Bodies for Adjoining Regions

The Assembly has been working in partnership with Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs) for adjoining regions including liaison meetings, at officer and Member level with the West Midlands Regional Assembly and South East of England Regional Assembly (SEERA), and at officer level with the Welsh Assembly Government. The adjoining regions were consulted on the Options Consultation in late 2004 and were invited to attend the Summer and Winter Debates events in July 2005.

2.6 Parish Councils in or Adjoining the Region

The Assembly has worked through the Associations of Town and Parish Councils to engage with the many hundreds of town and parish councils in the region and those whose areas adjoining the South West. The regular RSS Update newsletters have been sent to all town and parish councils, care of the Associations, and through the Associations, have been invited to engage with the various consultation events that have been undertaken. The opportunity was offered for town and parish councils to subscribe to the RSS Update directly, which some council clerks have done.

2.7 Specific Consultation Bodies

The following consultation bodies, defined specifically under Regulation 2 of the Act, have been consulted in a number of ways. Most importantly the Regional Spatial Planning and Transport Group (RSPTG) includes two representatives from the four statutory environmental bodies – the **Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature** and the **Environment Agency**. Representatives from those, and other key environmental bodies – such as the Protected Landscapes Forum, Biodiversity Partnership and Historic Environment Forum, have been involved in detailed discussions concerning the drafting and, in a number of cases, have had representation on the relevant officer groups that have helped advise the Assembly on the Draft RSS. All of the above named bodies were also involved directly in the Options Consultation and were invited to the series of consultation events that were held in mid and late 2005.

The **Strategic Rail Authority** (and its successor, DfT Rail) have been involved in the

Assembly's transport officer advisory group and have played an important role in terms of drafting of relevant sections of the RSS. In addition they, and many other transport stakeholders, have been invited to comment on the Options Consultation and to attend the Regional Transport Forum meetings that have been held at intervals throughout the process.

The **South West Regional Development Agency** (the RDA) have been a key partner throughout the RSS process and the Assembly ran its Winter Debates RSS conferences jointly with the RDA, which was consulting on its updated Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The RDA have been involved in advising on a range of elements of the Draft RSS – in particular the economic aspects – and the Assembly has worked jointly with them to ensure read-across between the RSS and the RES. The RDAs of adjoining regions have been consulted at key stages including the Options Consultation and through the RSS Updates.

Strategic Health Authorities in the region have been consulted, both through the Options Consultation and Summer and Winter Debates, and through a number of targeted meetings. The Assembly has also entered into a secondment arrangement with the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) with a specialist in public health working within the Secretariat two days a week. Health policies in the Draft RSS have been developed considerably and the document 'healthcare proofed' through this arrangement.

Utilities providers (electricity, gas, water or sewerage) have a SEEP representative on the Regional Assembly and representatives from the sector have been involved in specific meetings to feed into the Draft RSS development process.

2.8 General Consultation Bodies

Regulation 2 of the Act requires that a number of general consultation bodies are consulted in the development of the RSS. These bodies include the voluntary sector, bodies representing racial, ethnic, religious or national groups, bodies representing older people or younger people, those representing disabled people, and those representing business. The following paragraphs describe the ways in which such bodies have been consulted in the development of the Draft RSS.

South West Forum (SWF) is the regional network of **voluntary** and **community** groups, representing over 200 organisations. The Regional Assembly is joint signatory to a Regional Compact with SWF aimed at improving partnership working and public and voluntary community sector (VCS) relationships within the region, and setting out the principles for how partners will engage in regional policy making. SWF are represented on the Regional Assembly and the RSPTG, which has steered the development of the RSS on behalf of the Assembly.

Equality South West (ESW) is an umbrella organisation that brings all the equality strands together with major regional agencies and employment bodies. In January 2006 the Assembly undertook an 'equalities proofing' exercise, hosted by ESW, which brought together representatives of faith communities, Age Concern, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, disability groups and youth organisations to scrutinise the Draft RSS from each of their particular perspectives. A number of equalities organisations are represented on the Regional Assembly.

At an early stage, a number of focus groups were held by the Assembly to channel input into the process from groups representing **older people**. A meeting was held, in August 2005, with Age Concern and Third Age Employment Network to discuss age proofing of the RSS. Age Concern also organised their own focus groups with older people to feed their views into the Draft RSS.

Two specific events were held, in October 2004 and October 2005, involving the South West Youth Parliament in order to provide a means for the concerns of **young people** to be fed into the process. There is also a youth representative on the Regional Assembly from the Youth Parliament.

The Draft RSS sets out interim guidance (pending a single issue early review) for local planning authorities to identify and provide suitable sites for **Gypsies and Travellers** based on assessment of requirements made by the strategic planning authorities. The Assembly has engaged with representative organisations such as The National Gypsy Council, Consortium of Romany and Traveller Groups and the Society of Travelling People in two regional consultation events.

Many Members of the Regional Assembly, and a number on the RSPTG, represent a wide range of **business** interests in the region. These include SEEPs from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), Chambers of Commerce and the Co-operative and Mutual Council. As such the needs of business have been considered at every stage of RSS development. Specific meetings have been held with a number of these organisations and many individuals representing business attended the various consultation events and contributed to the Options Consultation.

A number of members of the **general public** have attended the various events and seminars where they have expressed an interest, and have provided written comments in response to the Options Consultation. The public will clearly have a further opportunity to comment as part of the 12 week formal consultation to be held in summer 2006.

County level **Local Strategic Partnerships** were all offered, during 2005, the opportunity for specific engagement with the Assembly with regard to RSS development. A number took up this offer and officers of the Assembly Secretariat attended meetings, gave presentations and answered questions about the Strategy. The opportunity was also taken to explain about future opportunities to comment.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ISSUES RAISED IN CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT RSS TO DATE

3.1 The Main Issues

The following tables summarise the main issues raised in consultation to date, by topic, together with (**underneath each entry in bold**) an explanation of how the Assembly has responded to these in the Draft RSS. The main sources of comments are as follows:

- Options Consultation (September to November 2004)
- Summer Debates (July 2005)
- Winter Debates (November to December 2005); and
- Formal correspondence received by the Assembly Secretariat

Full details of the issues raised during the various consultations, and the responses made, are given in separate reports for each stage, available from the SWRA website.

3.1.1 Housing (including Affordable Housing)

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>The region has a legacy of under provision in ‘affordable housing’ and needs higher numbers, basing allocations on local needs. There is also a need to define the term in the RSS.</p> <p>The Draft RSS aims to increase delivery of affordable housing above the levels achieved through RPG10. Para 6.1.5 sets out some of the delivery mechanisms that should be pursued by local authorities, which include measures to address local needs. Reference to the appropriate definition of ‘affordable’ is given in the footnote under Policy H1.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>A number of respondents called for the RSS to promote the need for affordable housing provision in smaller towns and rural areas.</p> <p>The Draft RSS follows the Regional Housing Strategy which examines priorities for housing in the region, including affordable housing in rural areas. This is a difficult issue as there are many instances of rural housing affordability problems, often coincident with relatively low incomes in the local economy. The emphasis set out in Section 3 of the Draft RSS is on enabling targeted small scale development for housing in accessible village communities, if it is supported by local needs surveys and other parish and village plans. In many of these cases the emphasis will be on the provision of affordable, rather than market, housing.</p>	<p>Options Consultation</p> <p>Summer Debates</p>
<p>The RSS needs to address the issues of second and holiday homes.</p> <p>The RSS should include a range of housing types including rentable for seasonal workers.</p> <p>General issues raised related strongly to provision of suitable affordable housing for young people.</p> <p>The Draft RSS will support the Regional Housing Strategy which aims to provide a range of housing types. The Assembly will work with the Regional Housing Body and housing providers to support the delivery of this.</p>	<p>Options Consultation</p> <p>Summer Debates</p> <p>Formal Correspondence</p>

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>Concerns over general growth levels and over-reliance on developer contributions to fund affordable housing provision.</p> <p>Noted. Developer contributions will be an important, but not the only, part of delivering affordable housing. The Assembly will continue to work with the Regional Housing Body and housing providers to increase the provision of social rented housing.</p>	<p>Formal Correspondence</p>
<p>RSS should have a clear statement about tackling homelessness; increase affordable units above 6,000-10,000, take a stronger lead on affordability (more than 30%), specify social rented housing proportion, assess whether planning gain will be sufficient in rural areas to provide affordable units and further develop Sections 9 and 10 which are inadequate.</p> <p>Many of these comments have been taken on board in the Draft RSS – the amount of affordable units has been increased, there is a strong Policy on affordability (at least 30% rising to 60%), and further work on Sections 9 and 10. The Assembly will work with the Regional Housing Body and housing providers to support the delivery of this.</p>	<p>Formal Correspondence</p>
<p>A number of specific comments in relation to affordable housing relating to particular areas.</p> <p>Noted in relation to Section 4 of the Draft RSS.</p>	<p>Formal Correspondence</p>

3.1.2 Spatial Strategy, Growth Levels and Distribution

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>People are still asking fundamental questions over the level of growth forecast for the region. Positive and negative aspects of future growth were raised.</p> <p>Noted. The technical assumptions behind the growth figures in the Draft RSS, including migration and demographics, are given in Background Paper 6 from the Summer Debates 2005, and Paper C Appendix 1 from RSPTG meeting on 22 February 2006, available from the SWRA website.</p>	Winter Debates
<p>A better balance needs to be made in the RSS in allocating growth to the main and smaller urban areas, as well as in rural areas, so that all can benefit fairly.</p> <p>The spatial strategy set out in the Draft RSS aims to better balance jobs and homes to reduce the need to travel. As around 80% of jobs are forecast to arise in the main urban areas (the SSCTs), these are also the focus for accommodating forecast growth (roughly 70%). However, approximately half the region's population currently live in rural areas, and a significant proportion of the region's growth (roughly 30%) will take place outside of the SSCTs including rural areas, focusing on the market towns as local centres.</p>	Winter Debates
<p>There is concern that there is too much emphasis on JSAs and not enough detail is included on what happens to the areas in between.</p> <p>The broad aims and principles for the strategy in Section 1, overall spatial strategy in Section 3 and policy guidance in Sections 5 to 10 cover the whole region. Section 4 provides sub-regional guidance for the three broad sub-areas, focusing on the JSAs as the strategic areas for growth, but also covering the wider area in broad terms. Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) will provide the detail below the RSS.</p>	Summer Debates
<p>Detailed comments on specific areas.</p> <p>Noted in relation to Section 4 of the Draft RSS.</p>	Formal Correspondence

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>High levels of growth promoted may be in conflict with environmental objectives of the strategy. The pollution impact (particularly air and noise) of growth needs to be addressed in the RSS.</p> <p>The Strategic Sustainability Assessment (SSA) has tested growth levels in the RSS and does raise concerns over conflicts with environmental objectives at higher growth levels. These have been addressed by Policies SD1 to 4, sustainable construction Policy G, green infrastructure Policy GI1 and a range of environmental Policies in Section 7. The SSA also identifies the social and economic benefits that could be gained from higher growth levels.</p>	<p>Formal Correspondence</p> <p>Summer Debates</p>
<p>There is a lack of clarity on what the green belt review means and concern of threat to greenfield sites and ecologically sensitive areas.</p> <p>The Assembly was required to review the general extent of the green belt in the Draft RSS. A review was carried out by the strategic authorities, and consultants commissioned to provide a consistency check of this work. Their report is available from the SWRA website. The review analysed the existing green belt, based on the criteria in PPG2 and advised on where broad revisions to the green belt would be appropriate, both in terms of releasing land from the green belt to provide urban extensions, and in adding new areas of green belt. The detailed boundaries of the revised green belt will be set in Local Development Documents (LDDs).</p>	<p>Summer Debates</p>

3.1.3 Infrastructure

Comments	Source
<p>The RSS should promote Information Communication and Technology (ICT) infrastructure, but this alone won't be able to alter work and travel patterns in the near future.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	Winter Debates
<p>Importance of necessary infrastructure being provided before housing and other development.</p> <p>Noted. This will be addressed through the Implementation Plan and other delivery mechanisms such as the Way Ahead, Regional Funding Allocation, and Regional Infrastructure Fund.</p>	<p>Summer Debates</p> <p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>Transport infrastructure and future development must be balanced to avoid increases in congestion, impacts on health, quality of life and safety.</p> <p>This is the basis of the spatial strategy set out in Section 3, to provide a better balance between homes and jobs and to reduce the need to travel.</p>	Options Consultation
<p>Highlighted that the new developments in SSCTs need to be balanced with the need to allow smaller scale change outside of these places, the emphasis on the provision of new infrastructure through a financial contribution from new development, should be reviewed as existing infrastructure provision in the region is inadequate.</p> <p>Noted. Several initiatives including the Way Ahead, Regional Funding Allocation and Regional Infrastructure Fund are underway in the region to try to increase investment in necessary infrastructure.</p>	<p>Formal</p> <p>Correspondence</p>

3.1.4 Economy/Employment and Regeneration

Comments	Source
<p>The links between the Regional Economic Strategic (RES) and RSS are still weak and out of alignment.</p> <p>Noted. The review of the RES and RSS are over a similar time period and provides an opportunity for closer alignment of the strategies, under the Integrated Regional Strategy. The Assembly worked closely with the RDA on linkages between the Draft RSS and RES to ensure that the two strategies are broadly aligned, particularly in terms of growth levels and distribution.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>The RSS should create an economy for local people whether they are in Principal Urban Areas (PUAs), market towns or rural areas.</p> <p>The Draft RSS seeks to support economic activity throughout the region, by encouraging economic potential in the north and centre of the region, accommodating economic growth in the south east of the region, and stimulating economic activity in the peninsular. Economic activity in rural areas is supported through Policy C in Section 3 of the Draft RSS.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>An economy needs to be created that retains younger people.</p> <p>This is supported through the RES.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>The RSS should address economic disadvantages within the Cornish sub-region, responding to issues such as low wages.</p> <p>The Draft RSS seeks to support economic activity throughout the region, including stimulating economic activity in the peninsular. The important role of Objective 1 in Cornwall is reflected in Sections 4 and 9.</p>	<p>Options Consultation</p>
<p>The RSS should not forget the needs of small businesses in rural areas and market towns.</p> <p>Noted. The Draft RSS encourages and supports economic activity at appropriate scales in rural areas through Policy C in Section 3 and Section 8. The detail will be determined by LDDs.</p>	<p>Summer Debates</p>
<p>There were strong feelings that the RSS should state ‘more jobs to people, not vice versa’.</p> <p>The market determines where jobs are provided and trends indicate that there will be increased job creation in urban areas. The Draft RSS aims to ensure provision of the majority of housing in larger settlements, where the jobs are, but will also support economic activity and housing at appropriate scales in rural areas.</p>	<p>Summer Debates</p>

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>The Agricultural sector sees itself as under-represented in the RSS and RES and overburdened with rules that constrain its economic flexibility.</p> <p>The Draft RSS cannot directly influence the agricultural sector, but does contain supporting statements for economic activity in rural areas in Section 3, and agricultural sector specifically, in Section 8.</p>	Winter Debates
<p>It was felt by some that there should be recognition of the problems of coastal areas. Coastal communities are amongst those most deprived.</p> <p>Noted. Many of the SSCTs identified in the strategy are coastal, and are covered in Sections 3 and 4. Deprivation is covered in Section 9. Section 8 includes specific Policies safeguarding employment land at waterside locations.</p>	Options Consultation
<p>Emphasis on improving quality of urban environment supported and that employment growth can be catered for without removing land from the green belt.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	Formal Correspondence
<p>Concerns that urban focus for economic activity too strongly stated. Questions about forecasts for other places in the region.</p> <p>Concerned that the economic importance of journey times and reliability are understated. Reference to provision of a range of business units on sites has been removed and watered down. Statement E1 will restrict development in rural areas and prevent the strategy emphasis of stimulating economic activity in the western peninsula.</p> <p>The Assembly has worked closely with RDA on economic forecasts and sought to align the RSS and RES. The technical assumptions about growth and economic forecasts are set out in Background Paper 6 from the Summer Debates 2005 and Paper C Appendix 1 from RSPTG meeting on 22 February 2006, available from the SWRA website. Economic activity in rural areas is supported through Policy C in Section 3, but this must be appropriate in scale, which LDDs will determine.</p>	Formal Correspondence
<p>The Draft RSS does not give clear guidance on the need for employment land.</p> <p>Noted. Section 8 and Policies E1 to 5 provide guidance on employment land.</p>	Formal Correspondence
<p>Number of comments relating to the need to address deprivation in particular places and lay down policies for regeneration.</p> <p>Noted. Priorities for regeneration and tackling deprivation are given in Section 9, based on an assessment of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).</p>	Options Consultation

3.1.5 Environment (Emissions, Pollution, Waste, Biodiversity, Energy, Climate Change)

Comments	Source
<p>Several calls to define ‘environmental limits’. People felt the RSS should take a stronger policy line on reducing emissions and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Noted. There will be a definition of environmental limits in the Glossary, based on the UK Sustainable Development Strategy definition.</p>	Winter Debates
<p>The RSS should seek to integrate the environment into spatial planning or recognise that sustainable development is dependent on environmental protection and enhancement.</p> <p>Noted. The spatial strategy set out in Section 3, and sub-regional components in Section 4 aim to do this. The SSA has sought to integrate sustainability objectives throughout the Draft RSS.</p>	Options Consultation
<p>Renewable energy targets set out in the renewable energy strategy should be incorporated into the RSS, which should provide clear direction on incorporation of renewable energy in new developments.</p> <p>Noted. Renewable energy targets and Policies are set in Section 7.</p>	Options Consultation
<p>There is a need to ensure that the capacity for improved waste infrastructure matches development.</p> <p>Noted. This is covered in the waste Policies in Section 7.</p>	Options Consultation
<p>The RSS needs to recognise that the environment of the South West is one of its key assets and it needs protecting <i>and</i> enhancing.</p> <p>The environmental Policies in Section 7 are based on the South West Regional Environment Strategy. The implications of the Draft RSS for environmental assets are tested as part of the SSA. Regular monitoring and review will enable future adjustments to policy to be made in light of any significant unforeseen environmental consequences arising.</p>	Summer Debates
<p>Welcomes the holistic approach in the Draft RSS, considers that Bath, the only city given World Heritage Status (WHS) in the country, with over 6,000 listed buildings and surrounded by green hills, should be considered differently due to its unique status.</p> <p>Noted. The WHS status of Bath is recognised in Section 4 and has influenced the strategy for this area, being clearly identified in the policy.</p>	Formal Correspondence

Comments

Source

There is a fundamental need for clean and reliable water supplies; the RSS needs to state this with anticipated growth levels. Particular concerns over the ability of utility companies to provide water and waste water disposal to serve an expansion of Swindon.

**Options
Consultation**

The Draft RSS is being tested against a SSA as it is being developed, including water resources. The Environment Agency has undertaken a study of water resource and waste water implications for the Assembly. The JSAs have carried out SSAs of their strategies.

Welcome fact that historic environment has been addressed. Historic environment should drive the RSS rather than an aside to economic and housing targets. Contribution of historic environment to culture, health and well being should be more widely recognised.

**Formal
Correspondence**

Noted. The importance of the historic environment alongside other environmental assets is recognised upfront in the Draft RSS in Section 1. Specific policy for the historic environment is given in Section 7. Links to the historic environment are made elsewhere where appropriate, particularly in relation to sub-regional components in Section 4.

3.1.6 Sustainability and Sustainable Development

Comments	Source
<p>There is a need to define ‘sustainable’, ‘environmental limits’ and even ‘communities’. The RSS could impose and set core criteria for all new developments with a set of tests to assess their environmental impact and sustainability.</p> <p>The need to define terms has been noted and will be included in a Glossary. Sustainable Development in the Draft RSS follows the definition in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy.</p>	Winter Debates
<p>The impact of climate change was raised by many. On the subject of climate change and sustainability, there appears to be a direct incompatibility between the aviation (airports) and greenhouse gas emissions policies from central Government. For the RSS to be internally consistent, this should be modified/resolved. Also views that the RSS should give direction to LDDs to ensure there is proper response to flood risk.</p> <p>Climate change is addressed as one of four headline Policies in the Draft RSS (SD1 to 4). However, it is recognised in the Foreword and Section 1 that climate change is a major issue for the region, and one that the RSS alone cannot address. Tensions with national policy such as airports are also highlighted. The aim has also been to integrate the issue throughout the Draft RSS, which has been tested against a climate change checklist based on national guidance and climate change implications are also included in the SSA.</p>	Options Consultation Winter Debates
<p>The RSS should define the term ‘sustainable construction’.</p> <p>There is a call for new construction projects that look at the ‘whole life’ basis for the energy cycle and for the use of traditional techniques.</p> <p>Noted. A definition of sustainable construction will be given in the Glossary. Policy G on sustainable construction in Section 3 has been considerably strengthened and is supported by a number of specific Policies (eg on energy, water resources, flood risk etc) in Section 7.</p>	Winter Debates
<p>There is too much of a bias towards PUAs. Sustainability is not about size but balance.</p> <p>The Draft RSS aims to balance the provision of jobs and homes reducing the need to travel and supporting more sustainable communities. This means focusing more growth in urban areas where jobs are likely to arise but does not mean that all growth will happen in large urban areas. The settlement functionality work carried out for the Assembly has identified a wide range of settlements than just PUAs, which provide an important role and function in the region, and which will also balance homes and jobs. In these cases there may be a need to encourage economic activity.</p>	Winter Debates

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>The RSS should do more in promoting sustainable communities.</p> <p>PPS1 provides clear guidance on sustainable communities. The Draft RSS aims to support sustainable communities across the region. Section 1 includes sustainable communities as one of the four headline Policies (SD1 to 4) in the Draft RSS.</p>	<p>Summer Debates</p>
<p>More emphasis on good quality design, use of characterisation, need to identify and protect most important sources of building stone.</p> <p>Noted. The importance of high quality design is highlighted in Policy E in Section 3. The use of characterisation and importance of local distinctiveness are set out in Section 7.</p>	<p>Formal Correspondence</p>
<p>Raised concerns over sustainable communities/market towns and villages (not every settlement under the status of 'market town' should be restricted to just affordable housing).</p> <p>It is for LDDs to set the strategy for smaller towns and villages, based on an analysis of their role and function. The Draft RSS recognises this and gives strategic guidance in Policy C in Section 3.</p>	<p>Formal Correspondence</p>

3.1.7 Market Towns and Rural Issues

Comments	Source
<p>The RSS fails to define and recognise the importance of market towns. There is strong support for growth in market towns and rural areas to make them more self contained.</p> <p>This has been addressed through the spatial strategy in Section 3, particularly Policies B and C.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p> <p>Summer Debates</p>
<p>Growth in market towns needs to be balanced as too much development can change their character and tourism potential.</p> <p>The Draft RSS aims to ensure that levels of growth are based on function and match economic potential but also take account of character and distinctiveness, delivering quality design and development.</p>	<p>Summer Debates</p>
<p>It was pointed out that for many residents in rural areas there is no alternative to the car. Rural public transport is important but is often neglected.</p> <p>Agreed. The Policies in Section 3 highlight the importance of accessibility planning, particularly using market towns as 'hubs' linking into the regional transport network. Local Transport Plans should set the framework for this.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>Growth is being stifled in villages which have a need to keep up employment and services, partly to reduce out migration of young people or commuting to urban areas.</p> <p>The Draft RSS is based on the premise of providing a better balance between jobs and homes, and as over 80% of jobs are predicted to arise in the travel to work areas of the Strategically Significant Cities and Towns in future, this has led to the focus on growth in these areas too. However this does not mean that the Draft RSS is ignoring rural areas, and provision of some growth has been made for areas outside the SSCTs. It is felt that this is best focused on the market towns which can play a role in providing employment and services and can be more self-contained, but it will be for LDDs to determine the detail of how this growth is accommodated, based on an analysis of role and function. Development in villages is not ruled out, and may be appropriate in some cases based on local needs assessments, particularly for affordable housing, but again it will be for LDDs to determine.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>The RSS must provide some kind of policy framework to better address the needs of the rural areas.</p> <p>This is set out in Section 3.</p>	<p>Options Consultation</p>
<p>A clearer policy line should help shape the balance needed between jobs and housing in rural areas and the need to prevent the degradation of the rural environment.</p> <p>Noted. Policies for protection of the environment are given in Section 7.</p>	<p>Options Consultation</p>

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>There were concerns over the impact of the growth of PUAs on the ‘rural hinterland’ around the region’s cities and towns. The fragility of the environment and the biodiversity of the rural hinterland can be affected.</p> <p>Noted. The relationship between the main urban areas and their ‘rural hinterland’ was investigated as part of the JSA studies and influenced the strategies put forward in Section 4. Policies on the environment in Section 7 and green infrastructure in Section 6 are also designed to protect the environment within and around these urban areas.</p>	Options Consultation
<p>A number of respondents called for the RSS to promote the need for affordable housing provision in rural areas.</p> <p>This has been picked up through Sections 3 and 6.</p>	Options Consultation
<p>Concern that the Draft RSS does not portray the rural parts of the region in a positive enough way. Rural areas need to be seen as possible motors for sustainable economic activity. Little in the document to underline the uniqueness of the region.</p> <p>This has been addressed through Section 3.</p>	Formal Correspondence
<p>Jobs should be permitted and enabled in the rural areas.</p> <p>Too much blanket protection proposed for environmental assets; needs more of a sense of priority.</p> <p>A positive approach to economic activity in rural areas is set out in Section 3 Policy C. The environmental assets of the region are important to the people who live, work and visit here and it is right that clear Policy guidance for their protection and enhancement is given in the Draft RSS. This does not mean that growth and development will not happen, rather that it must be managed in a way that also does not detract from the environmental assets that people value.</p>	Formal Correspondence
<p>Draft should be ‘rural proofed’.</p> <p>Following guidance from GOSW, the Assembly has taken the approach of working with the South West Rural Affairs Forum throughout development of the Draft RSS to ensure that the needs of rural areas are taken into account. A major conference addressing rural issues was also held in Summer 2005. It is considered that this is a more proactive approach, rather than undertaking a rural proofing exercise of the Draft RSS once complete, when the ability to influence the strategy would be much reduced.</p>	Formal Correspondence

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>Argue for policy requiring provision of small business units within developments and to allow development of jobs in the countryside.</p> <p>This is covered in Section 8. Policy E1 requires provision of a supply of sites recognising the needs of small business across the region, including in rural areas. Section 8.2.3 to 8.2.5 covers small rural businesses. Section 8.3.1 recognises the need for a larger number of smaller sites to meet organic growth including rural investment.</p>	<p>Formal Correspondence</p>
<p>Concern that the needs of smaller country towns will not be served well by the sub-regional planning approach pursued by the Draft RSS. Concern over the continuing ageing of small town populations, a stifling of their growth endangering their viability, and the spreading out of the urbanised coastline.</p> <p>The strategic approach to rural areas is set out in Section 3, but it will be for LDDs to determine the best approach to smaller country towns. The ageing population has been taken account of in the Draft RSS technical assessment of housing allocations, and similarly will need to inform LDDs. Protection of the undeveloped coast is set out in Section 7.</p>	<p>Formal Correspondence</p>
<p>Welcomed changes to emerging RSS on expressing rural issues.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p>Formal Correspondence</p>

3.1.8 Cultural/Social Issues

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>It is felt that the RSS could promote social change.</p> <p>Noted. The Draft RSS cannot require social change, but it is predicated on influencing behaviour, for example better balancing jobs and homes so that the need to travel (if not the desire) is reduced.</p>	Winter Debates
<p>There were requests that the RSS have a definition of what ‘cultural assets’ meant and it was felt that the RSS should integrate its ‘cultural assets’ with infrastructure so that people need to travel less.</p> <p>Noted. A definition of ‘cultural assets’ will be given in the Glossary.</p>	Winter Debates
<p>Not enough is being done in the RSS to protect and improve the region’s cultural environment.</p> <p>Thematic work has been undertaken on culture for the Draft RSS to try and ensure that growth supports improved quality of life by quality of design and support for culture.</p>	Winter Debates
<p>The RSS need to address inequalities and social deprivation as well as minority and faith groups.</p> <p>This is dealt with in Sections 9 and 10.</p>	Summer Debates
<p>Absence of a clear policy framework for provision of community facilities, including Places of Worship.</p> <p>Noted. This is covered in Section 6.</p>	Formal Correspondence

3.1.9 Transport

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>There are calls for improved north to south links to offset the current east to west bias in transport. This also applies to the balance in rural-urban areas.</p> <p>The Draft RSS emphasis is one of making best use of the transport infrastructure not in improving journey time.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>It was pointed out that for many residents in rural areas there is no alternative to the car. Rural public transport is important but is often neglected.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>There is an overriding need for improvement in bus service quality and capacity.</p> <p>The Draft RSS does provide the foundations for this.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>The vulnerability of the main line at Dawlish concerns a lot of people, with many calls to do something about this link sooner rather than later.</p> <p>The Assembly are aware of the issues, along with Network Rail, who are looking at the issues and implications of climate change. The security of vital infrastructure in the face of climate change flood risk is a real issue for the region and is reflected in the Draft RSS.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>There is concern that the RSS ‘institutionalises peripherality’ and that more attention should be paid to connections to other regions.</p> <p>The Draft RSS does address connectivity to adjacent regions, ie the South East, West Midlands and Wales.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>There is a need to reduce congestion.</p> <p>Policies on urban areas recognise this and seek to address it by promoting a step change in public transport use in conjunction with managing demand.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>Rail needs linked up thinking with other regions and some lines are regularly overcrowded and lack capacity. Franchise operators for rail need to improve their services and capacity on some lines with dual track being put in.</p> <p>The Draft RSS does address connectivity to adjacent regions, ie the South East, West Midlands and Wales.</p>	<p>Winter Debates Summer Debates</p>
<p>There is a need for more statements on ‘greener’ transport.</p> <p>Noted. Amendments have been made to address this.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>

Comments	Source
<p>Transport infrastructure and future development must be balanced to avoid increases in congestion, impacts on health, quality of life and safety.</p> <p>The Draft RSS does seek to address this issue through the spatial strategy approach and sub-regional components.</p>	Options Consultation
<p>The decline in the use of public transport needs to be addressed in the RSS.</p> <p>Policies on urban areas recognise this and seek to address it by promoting a step change in public transport use.</p>	Summer Debates
<p>Some respondents felt that there was an over reliance on Bristol Airport and that the region's other airports should be mentioned more. The RSS should also mention the environmental impacts of air transport.</p> <p>The focus on Bristol Airport results from national policy in the Air Transport White Paper. Policies in the transport Section do encourage utilisation of other airports. The Draft RSS aims to meet more of the South West's local demand within the region to reduce impacts on congested M4 to access London airports. Environmental impacts are considered in the SSA. The White Paper promotes a national policy of increases in air travel which the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS)/RSS has to fit within.</p>	Summer Debates
<p>Many felt that the transport issue had been underestimated and that there was a mismatch in the timetable between transport studies and the RSS.</p> <p>Studies have been carried out regarding this issue which have been used to support Section 5 in the Draft RSS.</p>	Summer Debates
<p>There is not enough recognition of ports and the maritime sector.</p> <p>There are Policies relating to and supporting ports development in Section 5 which have been strengthened.</p>	Summer Debates
<p>Proposals for car free development and parking standards should be included in the RSS.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	Formal Correspondence
<p>Strongly supports inclusion of innovative public transport systems and demand management.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	Formal Correspondence
<p>Support linkages to the South East in the Draft RSS must recognise that some infrastructure may need to be delivered in other regions, eg Reading Station improvements to deliver the strategy; support importance of transport links between South East and South West. Highlight links to town centres such as Oxford and Southampton.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	Formal Correspondence

3.1.10 Demographics

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>There is a feeling that the Assembly is carrying on a policy of centralising health services. This fits in with whether it can meet the needs of an ageing population (the need to travel for health care).</p> <p>The Assembly does not have any direct influence over health Policy or provision of services. However, the Assembly has worked with the health authorities to improve linkages between the Draft RSS and health service and investment decisions.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>An economy needs to be created that retains younger people.</p> <p>Noted. This is supported by the Draft RSS and RES.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>The Draft RSS must recognise the needs of younger people in the region, particularly for employment, affordable housing and transport.</p> <p>Noted. The Assembly organised two events with members of the Youth Parliament to consider issues affecting young people in the region and how these could be addressed through the Draft RSS.</p>	<p>Formal correspondence</p>
<p>There are problems with second homes and the tensions between wealthier in-migrants and the rest of the population. The RSS needs to recognise demographic changes that lead to disparity between local needs and wealthier in-migrants able to out-bid existing residents.</p> <p>The issues of in-migration, affordability and unmet housing needs are key issues that have been considered in developing the Draft RSS. Second homes are also an issue in particular parts of the region. The technical assumptions behind the growth figures in the Draft RSS, including migration and demographics, are given in Background Paper 6 from the Summer Debates 2005, and Paper C Appendix 1 from RSPTG meeting on 22 February 2006, available from the SWRA website.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>The RSS needs to recognise the likely future age profile ie ageing population.</p> <p>The Assembly has undertaken an ‘age proofing’ test of the Draft RSS, working with Age Concern to ensure that implications of ageing population are taken account of.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>Responses highlighted that the RSS needs to respond to the influx of retired people in the region, given the likely demand this may have on health services in rural/urban areas.</p> <p>The Assembly has undertaken an ‘age proofing’ test of the Draft RSS, working with Age Concern to ensure that implications of ageing population are taken account of.</p>	<p>Options Consultation</p>
<p>Exaggerated view of extent of retirement migration to the area.</p> <p>The technical assumptions behind the growth figures in the Draft RSS, including migration and demographics, are given in Background Paper 6 from the Summer Debates 2005, and Paper C Appendix 1 from RSPTG meeting on 22 February 2006, available from the SWRA website.</p>	<p>Formal Correspondence</p>

3.1.11 Education and Health

<i>Comments</i>	<i>Source</i>
<p>There is a feeling that the Assembly is not communicating with health authorities and carrying on a policy of centralising services.</p> <p>The Assembly worked with the three strategic health authorities on identifying links with health for the Draft RSS. A secondee from the public health section of GOSW worked with the Assembly to input to the Draft RSS from a health perspective.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>Concerns on how the RSS fits with the increasing centralisation of resources by local education authorities and NHS Trusts.</p> <p>Noted. The Assembly will continue to work with service providers on delivery of the strategy to improve alignment of investment and resource allocation.</p>	<p>Summer Debates</p>

3.1.12 Other Issues

Comments	Source
<p>The RSS needs to be more flexible at local level allowing more decision making at this level to meet local needs.</p> <p>The Draft RSS is required to provide strategic guidance on the broad scale and location of growth for the region. The detail of how this will be achieved at the local level is for local authorities to determine through their LDD processes.</p>	<p>Winter Debates</p>
<p>There is a concern on how the RSS will have an impact on the ‘blurring of boundaries’ at parish, town, and district, county, and unitary council level, and concern over how the RSS imposes on them.</p> <p>The Draft RSS is being produced in the context of new planning legislation which will remove County Structure Plans from the national planning system and is reflected in the guidance issued by government in PPS11. Local authorities are playing a key role in the development of the Draft RSS. Councillors sit on the Assembly and the specialist advisory group (the RSPTG), the Assembly asked local councils to consult at a local level on the JSA proposals. Parish Councils are also represented on the Assembly and have been kept informed of the Draft RSS development throughout the process.</p>	<p>Summer Debates</p>
<p>Some general comments were made about the RSS as a whole:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is too reliant on trends and backward looking and not holistic or visionary • More work is needed with neighbouring regions • Some think it is too rigid and prescriptive • Some think it is too coarse grained and doesn’t provide enough clarity/detail at local levels • There is a strong perception that the agenda is being driven and forced by central government (ODPM) <p>The Draft RSS has been supported by a wide range of technical studies and analysis. The Fit for Purpose review of RPG10 recommended that the Draft RSS should say ‘more on less’. It is intended that the Draft RSS is short, succinct and written in plain English. However the Draft RSS needs to deal with significant gaps in strategic policy resulting from the removal of Structure Plans and there will be more detail about some parts of the region; principally those areas which were the subject of a JSA approach. The Draft RSS will only set the framework; the detail will be set out in LDDs.</p>	<p>Summer Debates</p>
<p>The RSS document is too long, difficult to understand, headings and sub-headings are misleading, and it is repetitive and fails to give necessary specific guidance to local authorities.</p> <p>Noted. Much has been done since early drafts to improve the readability of the Draft RSS, reduce duplication and give clearer Policy guidance.</p>	<p>Formal Correspondence</p>

NEXT STEPS

4.1 Submission

The Assembly is required to submit the Draft RSS, and any supporting documents required by the Regulations, to the Secretary of State by the end of March 2006.

4.2 Formal Consultation

In accordance with the Regulations, a formal 12 week consultation period will begin once the Assembly has made available the Draft RSS in the manner set out in the Regulations, having submitted the necessary documents to the Secretary of State.

4.3 Examination in Public

An Examination in Public (EiP) will be held in early 2007 to enable an independent panel of inspectors to hear evidence from a wide range of individuals and bodies on such matters as it considers appropriate, guided by the range of issues raised in representations submitted during the formal consultation period. The report of the panel will be published perhaps two or three months after the end of the EiP.

4.4 Consultation on Proposed Changes

The Secretary of State will then publish proposed changes to the Draft RSS, with a reasoned statement of the decisions, and a consultation period of at least eight weeks for comment on the proposed changes will then begin.

4.5 Issue of Final RSS

Once all the necessary processes have been completed, it is anticipated that the RSS will be issued in its final form by the Secretary of State in 2008.

4.6 Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Annual monitoring of the key policies, principles and outcomes of the RSS will continue to take place through the Annual Monitoring Report process. In addition a rolling process of review of the RSS Implementation Plan will take place to ensure that everything possible is being done to enable RSS policies to be implemented.

A single issue early review will be carried out, as soon as is practicable on the issue of provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites in the region. Further single issue reviews, on specific areas of policy, may occur in later years as the need arises.

APPENDIX 1 - CONSULTATION GOOD PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

All consultation has been carried out in the spirit of the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Consultation.

The Assembly's Consultation Good Practice Principles state that all consultation documents will:

- Explain clearly who is being consulted, why and how
- Be concise, including a summary document
- Have a clear timescale and closing date
- Include a list of consultees
- Be transparent about how consultees were selected
- Be in plain English with clear numbering
- Explain clearly the process for responding - with a nominated contact for enquiries
- Seek to take account of the views of members of the community
- Be accessible, including provision of alternative formats or translations, as determined reasonably practicable

Consultees will be asked to give a summary of the group(s) and people they represent.

Wherever possible consultation will take throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for formal consultation at least once during the development of the policy/strategy.

If this is not possible (particularly if responding to Government timescales) a clear explanation will be provided.

A named contact will be identified to handle queries.

A (second) named contact will be identified to handle complaints about the consultation process.

All contributions will be acknowledged.

Consultation responses will be made public unless requested otherwise by consultees.

Members will receive a report of the outcome of consultation to inform their decisions.

A range of mediums – postal, website, events - will be used for consultation, to be decided by the Member Group.

Consultees will receive feedback on the outcome of the consultation.

The consultation process will be evaluated and a report made public.

The Assembly will promote best practice in consultation with other regional organisations.

The Assembly will designate a consultation co-ordinator to oversee all consultation processes.

APPENDIX 2 - LIST OF CONSULTEES

Devolved Administration

- * National Assembly for Wales

Education

- Association of Colleges
- Higher Education Regional Development Agency
- South West Universities

Executive Agencies/Non-Departmental Public Bodies/Public Corporations

- * Cotswolds AONB Conservation Board
- Arts Council England
- * British Geological Survey
- * British Waterways
- * Navigation Authorities
- * Business Link
- Citizens Advice
- * Civil Aviation Authority
- * Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
- * Commission for Racial Equality
- Connexions
- * Countryside Agency
- * Crown Estate
- * Disability Rights Commission
- * Empty Homes Agency
- * English Heritage
- * English Nature
- * English Partnerships
- * Environment Agency
- * Equal Opportunities Commission
- * Forestry Commission
- * Health and Safety Executive
- * Highways Agency
- * HM Prison Service
- * Housing Corporation
- Jobcentre Plus
- * Learning and Skills Councils

- Learning Partnerships
- Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
- National Housing Federation
- * Office of Government Commerce
- * Planning Inspectorate
- * Culture South West
- * South West Regional Development Agency
- * Regional Development Agencies adjoining the South West
- * Regional Housing Board
- Rural Affairs Forum South West
- Rural Development Service
- Small Business Service South West
- * Sport England South West
- * DfT Rail
- * South West Tourism
- * Women's National Commission

Influencers

- South West Members of Parliament
- South West Members of European Parliament

Local Government

- National Association of Local Councils
- * Avon Local Councils Association
- * Cornwall Association of Local Councils
- * Devon Association of Parish Councils
- * Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils
- * Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils
- * Somerset Association of Local Councils
- * Wiltshire Association of Local Councils
- * Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils
- * Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils
- * Herefordshire Association of Local Councils
- * Warwickshire Association of Local Councils
- * County Councils in the South West

* denotes required by PPS11

- * District Councils in the South West
- * Unitary Authorities in the South West
- * National Park Authorities in the South West
- * County Councils adjoining the South West
- * District Councils adjoining the South West
- * Unitary Authorities adjoining the South West
- * National Park Authorities adjoining the South West
- Local Education Authorities

Other Public Bodies

- * Fire Authorities
- * Police Authorities
- Government Office for the South West
- * Government Offices adjoining the South West
- NHS Executive South West
- * NHS Trusts
- Primary Care Trusts
- * Regional Planning Bodies adjoining the South West
- South West Observatory
- Business and Economy Module
- Public Health Observatory
- Skills and Learning Intelligence Module
- * Strategic Health Authorities
- * MoD Defence Estates
- Main Libraries

Private Sector Organisations

- * BAA Plc
- * Other airport operators
- * Associated British Ports
- Bristol Port Company
- British Ports Association
- Poole Harbour Commissioners
- Portland Port Ltd
- Sharpness Dock
- * Chambers of Commerce

- * Confederation of British Industry South West
- * Institute of Directors South West
- * Construction Industry Council
- * Association of Electricity Producers
- * Federation of Small Businesses Regional Office
- * Freight Transport Association
- * Association of Energy Suppliers
- * House Builders Federation
- * Quarry Products Association
- National Federation of Demolition Contractors
- * Network Rail
- * Rail Freight Group
- * Rail Passengers Council
- * Rail Passenger Committees
- * British Retail Consortium
- * Road Haulage Association
- * Actnow Broadband Cornwall
- * BT Plc
- * Kingston Communications
- * Surf Telecom
- * Telewest Communications
- * Association of Train Operating Companies
- * Coach Operators Federation
- * English, Welsh and Scottish Railways
- * First Great Western
- * Firstgroup Plc
- * National Express Group
- * Stagecoach
- * Thamesdown Transport Ltd
- * Virgin Trains Ltd
- * Wessex Trains
- * Wiltshire and Dorset Bus Company
- UK Film Council
- * Chartered Institution of Wastes Management

* denotes required by PPS11

- * Environmental Services Association
- * The Hills Group
- * County Environment Services Ltd
- * Wyvern Waste Services Limited
- * Devon Waste Management
- * Cory Environmental
- * SITA Waste Management Services
- * Viridor Waste Management Ltd
- * Water and Sewerage Companies

Strategic Partnerships

- * Local Strategic Partnerships (Districts)
- * Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Economic Partnership
- * Cornwall Economic Forum
- * Exeter and Heart of Devon Partnership
- * Gloucestershire First
- * North West Devon Economic Partnership
- * Plymouth Sub Regional Partnership
- * Somerset Economic Partnership
- * Torbay Economic Partnership
- * West of England Strategic Partnership
- * Wiltshire and Swindon Economic Partnership

Voluntary and Not For Profit Organisations

- * Age Concern
- * AONB Management Bodies
- * Better Government for Older People
- * Black Development Agency
- * British Urban Regeneration Association
- * British Youth Council
- * Church Commissioners
- * Childline
- * Civic Trust Societies
- * Rural Community Councils
- * South West Forum
- * Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation
- * Council for British Archaeology South West

- * Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
- * Chamber of Rural Enterprise
- * Countryside Alliance
- * Country Land and Business Association
- * National Farmers' Union
- * County Surveyors Society
- * Shaw Trust
- * South West Disability Equality Network
- * Centre for Sustainable Energy
- * Encams
- * Forum for the Future
- * Friends of the Earth
- * Greenpeace
- * National Trust
- * South West Protected Landscapes Forum
- * Recycling Consortium
- * Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- * South West Regional Biodiversity Partnership
- * Soil Association
- * Wildlife Trusts
- * Woodland Trust
- * World Wide Fund for Nature
- * Equality South West
- * Fair Play South West
- * Groundwork South West
- * Help the Aged
- * Heritage Lottery Fund
- * Institute of Historic Building Conservation
- * South West Historic Environment Forum
Crisis
Shelter
Rural Housing Trust
- * Somerset Racial Equality Council
- * Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and Other Travellers (ACERT)
- * British Romany Union

* denotes required by PPS11

- * Consortium of Romany and Traveller Groups
- * Gypsy Council for Education, Culture, Welfare and Civil Rights
- * National Association of Teachers of Travellers
- * National Gypsy Council
- * National Romany Rights Association
- * The Romany Guild
- * Romany Institute
- * Society of Travelling People
- * Scottish Wider Access Regional Forums
- * Friends, Families and Travellers
- * Irish Traveller Movement
- * Traveller Law Reform Coalition
- * NACRO
- * National Playing Fields Association
- * National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- * British Mountaineering Council
- * Ramblers Association
- * Cyclists Touring Club
- * Planning Officers Society
- * Prince's Foundation
- * RegenSW
- * New Deal for Communities
- * CPR Regeneration
- * New Swindon Company
- * Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company
- * Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
- * Royal Town Planning Institute
- * South West Co-operative and Mutual Council
- * Sustainability South West
- * Town and Country Planning Association
- * Trades Union Council South West Branch
- * GMB Union
- * Transport and General Workers Union
- South West Branch
- * Unison South West Branch
- * British Motorcyclists Federation
- * Confederation of Passenger Transport
- * National Federation of Bus Users
- * South West Sustainable Transport
- * Sustrans
- * Transport 2000
- * Women's Institute
- * South West Youth Parliament
- * Central Council for Physical Recreation
- Royal Institute of British Architects

* denotes required by PPS11

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