



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

Climate Change Champions meeting

Some initial thoughts on development plans

John Hack April / May 2010

Climate change within LDFs (SEEPB)

Mitigation and adaptation in SE Plan:

Mitigation	Adaptation
Improve energy efficiency of new and existing buildings	Guide strategic development to less vulnerable locations
Reduce the need to travel	Ensure new and existing buildings are resilient to climate change impacts
Promote land uses that act as carbon sinks	Incorporate sustainable drainage measures and increase water efficiency in new and existing buildings
Encourage the development of renewable energy	Increase flood storage capacity and new water resources
Reduce the amount of biodegradable waste landfilled	Promote sustainable flood management and migration of habitats and species

Guide focus:

Mitigation

- Energy efficiency and building standards
- Sustainable design
- Renewable and low carbon energy generation

Adaptation

- Water management
- Resilience of built environment and infrastructure

SE Plan policies

Core approach:

- Sustainable development
- Climate change (reducing emissions etc)
- Resource use (stabilise ecological footprint)
- Sustainable design and construction

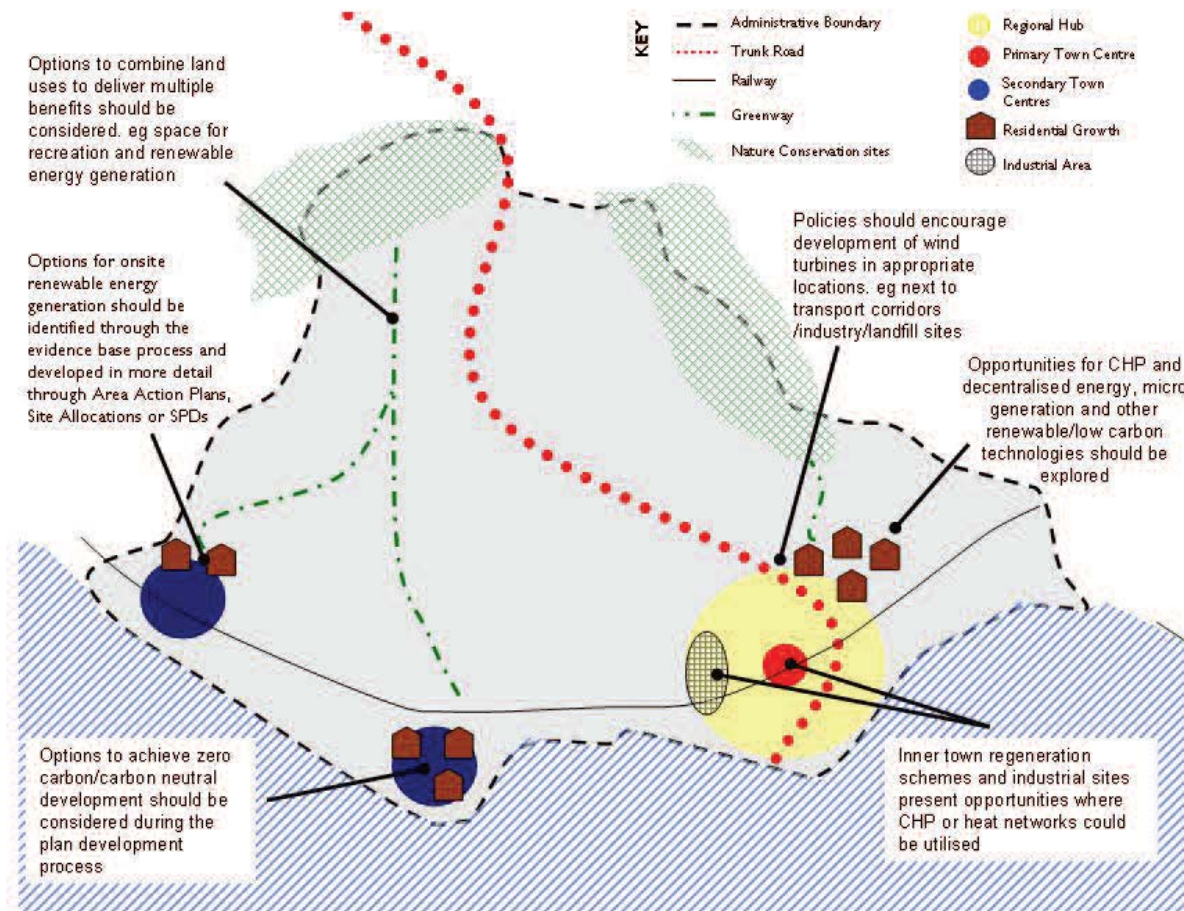
Spatial dimension:

- Urban focus and renaissance
- Housing provision
- Manage urban-rural fringe
- Town centres (focus for uses and transport)
- Employment and land provision
- Sustainable water resources
- Sustainable flood risk management
- Conservation, improvement of biodiversity
- Coastal management
- Renewable energy location
- Community infrastructure
- Sub-regional policies (location of development)

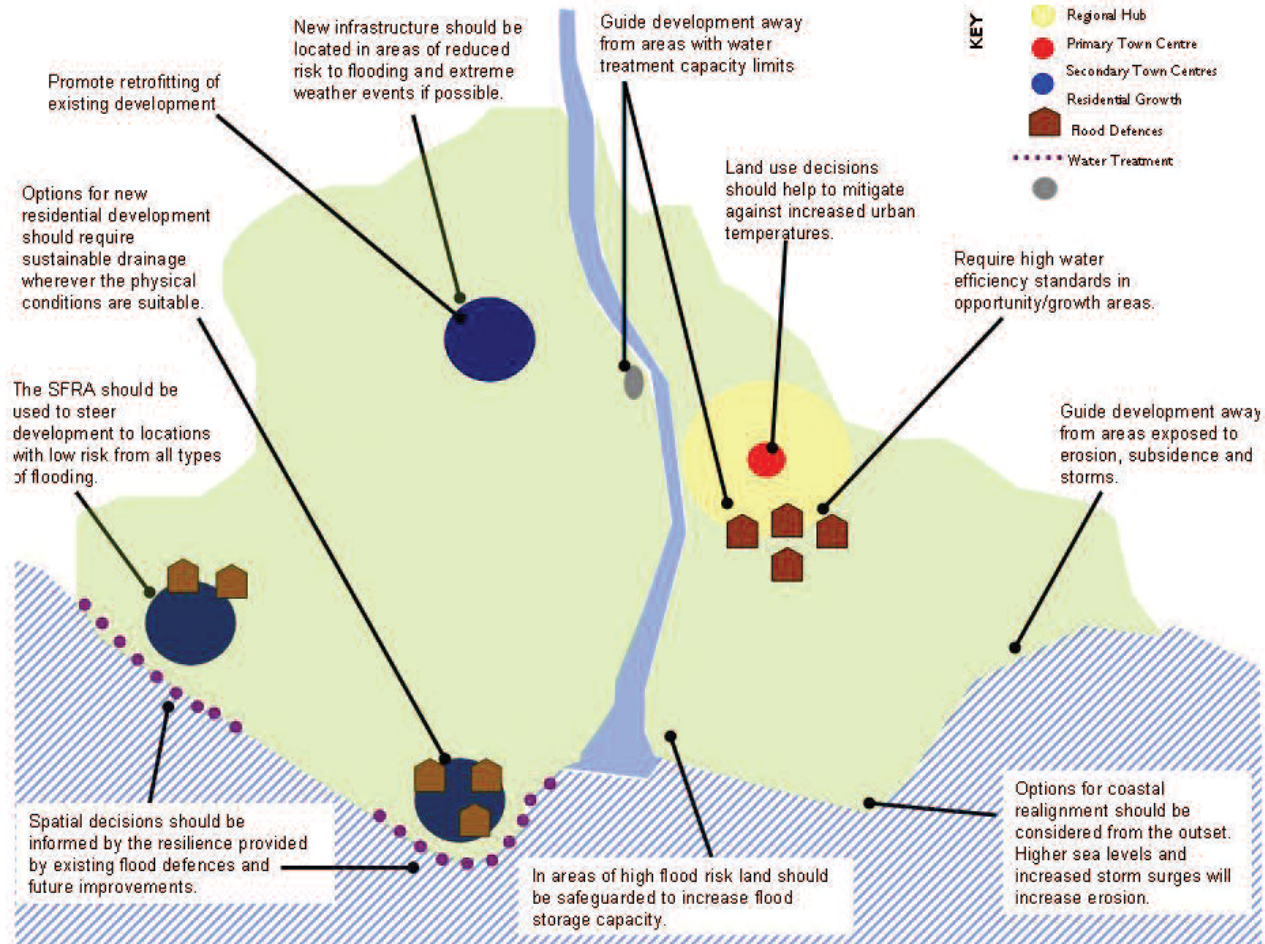
Implementation and delivery:

- Air quality (reduction)
- Housing design / density (resources and adaptation)
- Water quality
- Woodlands
- Energy design (efficiency, renewable)
- CHP
- Communications technology and smart growth
- Regional renewable energy targets
- Landscape and countryside management (local distinctiveness)
- Infrastructure and implementation (to support growth)
- Green infrastructure

Mitigation-related spatial strategy (SEEPB)



Adaptation-related spatial strategy (SEEPB)



Questions

What contribution is your authority making to:

- a. Increasing knowledge of climate change & the resource issues of different alternatives?
- b. Working with others to increase knowledge of likely effects?

How will your planning policies and delivery mechanisms ensure existing buildings and places use less resources?

How are you evaluating the likely effects of all the policies over the plan period on emissions and resources?

How are you learning from others (at all spatial levels) on the considerations that should be included in preparing a sound plan that meets the statutory requirement to contribute to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change?

How are you developing staff and educating councillors and stakeholders in their understanding of climate change and resource issues and implications?

To what extent do you think your alternatives:

- a. Reduce the demands for energy in major sectors?
- b. Reduce the consumption of natural resources (including land)?
- c. Encourage a shift to renewable and local energy generation?

Do you have examples or case studies showing best current practice in spatial planning and decision making that might assist others?

Responses

N Devon:

- Housing and efficiency work
- Sustainable design and construction
- Biosphere and AONB
- Decentralised energy
- Sustainable design (conversions and extensions)
- National indicators and AMR
- Regional / county indicators on NIs
- Unknown staff development
- Little corporate support, some scepticism
- Evidence / justification may inhibit inclusion
- Lack of interest outside LPA

Vincent Goodstadt:

- “...most LDPs fall short of having any real climate change policies – they are strongest where they have implemented EU or national policies (e.g. flooding and waste) but are weak in other fields of activity – e.g. tackling modal shift.”
- Shared experience through METREX (EU)
- Work underway in University of Manchester [Tyndall Centre], Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.

Metropolitan Mitigation Measures Sourcebook

METREX / Glasgow 2009

9A Integrated transportation

The best functioning urban areas have a coherent system of transport that links all modes to enable a high level of accessibility and mobility. Such highly integrated systems now need to be thought of in terms of their total energy use and GHG emissions. This requires a metropolitan wide decision on the accessibility and mobility that it wished to provide, for social and economic reasons, and how best to provide this in terms of financial and carbon costs.

9B Integrated spatial planning and transportation

Integrated spatial planning and transportation will be at the heart of metropolitan mitigation strategies. They will reduce the need to travel by restructuring urban areas to maximize the use of urban land and buildings through higher densities and mixed-use development related to public transport accessibility. The plan for Amsterdam is an example. The SDRIF, for the Paris region, adopts the same approach.

9C Road pricing

A fundamental concept is that a high level of accessibility in urban areas, particularly to the central area, does carry a price. A balanced approach involves charging for road use and parking and subsidizing public transport. There are Congestion Charging schemes in London and Stockholm for this purpose. National road pricing, through tolls, is well established in Europe.

Sustainable Glasgow Project

A consortium, led by the University of Strathclyde, including the Council and the private sector, are developing a project that aims to position Glasgow as one of Europe's most sustainable cities within 5 to 10 years. The project will provide the evidence to support investment in a range of projects that will contribute to its sustainability objectives through:

- placing most homes, offices, and public buildings in Glasgow on a district heating network – delivering lower cost and cleaner heat;
- delivering more sustainable homes and offices for the people of Glasgow;
- developing low carbon public transport in Glasgow;
- significantly reducing Glasgow's carbon emissions;
- providing Glasgow with a state of the art telecommunications infrastructure.

Climate change Action Plan:

- This Document is the result of initial consultation with a variety of stakeholders and will approach Climate Change through nine subject areas: education, energy, waste, transport, water, cultural & natural heritage, built environment, sustainable procurement and health & wellbeing.

Recent Core Strategies

Dover:

- Extreme weather, rising sea levels and flooding impacts on area with much deprivation
- Water efficiency
- Green infrastructure – and network
- Sustainable construction (code levels)
- Density, transport and groundwater protection

Barking and Dagenham:

- TC Action Plan – reduce council’s own carbon footprint
- Sustainable transport for people and freight
- Produce climate change strategy
- High building standards
- Manage flood risk, sustainable water demand and waste management
- Water and air quality
- Contaminated land
- “Plan in harmony with landscape and biodiversity”

Southampton:

- Context of PUSH vision of growth
- Flooding risk and coastal planning
- Low carbon refurbishment. of existing housing
- Energy efficient new building
- Local generation of electricity and renewables
- Focus development on public transport – modal shift from cars
- Reduce carbon emissions, carbon offset fund
- Conserve water, improve air quality and waste mgt.

Sutton:

- “One planet living” Borough
- Minimise carbon emissions
- Renewable energy, district heating and cooling
- Hackbridge Sustainable Suburb
- Manage flood risk, minimise summer solar gain, reduce water use
- Green infrastructure
- Waste self-sufficiency
- Area based transport, restrict parking

HC Environment Audit Committee March 2010

- [Sum.] The planning system has a key role in adapting the built environment. New developments should only be approved if they are suited to future climates and do not increase risks to others. Developers should be required to make a greater contribution to improving the general resilience, and thus the sustainability, of communities.
- [28] In revising its guidance on planning and climate change, the Government must make adaptation and mitigation more central to the planning system. New developments should only be permitted if they are suited to future climates, and support the overall resilience of the built environment. Past experience clearly demonstrates that issuing planning guidance is not enough to ensure change. The Government needs to make sure that revised planning guidance, and action to improve the skills and capacity of planning departments, improves decision making.
- [29] In updating its planning guidance on open spaces, sport and recreation, the Government must set out the strategic role green infrastructure should play in climate change adaptation. The Government should also promote green infrastructure as part of the National Adaptation Programme. ...

Some thoughts to take away

- Climate change falling down the agenda? - Electioneering and public spending / cuts focus. [Worries about candidates' denials of the issue!]
- National Policy developing, but how much “bite” in comparison with “economic growth” assumptions?
- Advice to LPAs seems sectoral, concentrating on separate elements (buildings etc.) - Not spatial or joined up (see HCA, PAS web pages)
- Regional and strategic studies have a broader outlook – but unlikely to implement politically difficult aspects (e.g. modal shift)?
- Growing interest in adaptation measures may distract from mitigation imperative?
- Forward thinkers here and in Europe have a strong message (that has been underpinning planning for years)
- Significant advances in thinking in many Core Strategies – but danger that “easy” individual building / energy initiatives will be promoted rather than a spatial approach
- Doubt that what we see in current plans will allay the impending crisis without more radical action – not a resilient solution to the issues
- RTPI's *Seven Commitments* are a good basis to re-focus work in authorities and the community