

## Integrated Regional Framework for the North East Consultation

This consultation document has been developed in discussion with a number of regional partners, but it is now essential that we receive your input to ensure that we achieve a robust and valued IRF for the North East. We hope that the changes we propose will strengthen the IRF and enhance its role as a key influencing document in the North East as future regional policy is developed.

1.	Please enter your name  Kate Hatton
2.	Please enter your email address to be kept informed of IRF developments (your details will not be used for any other purposes).  kate.hatton@energynortheast.net
3.	Please select the appropriate box to describe who you are representing.  <input type="checkbox"/> A private individual <input type="checkbox"/> An organisation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Partnership
4.	If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please enter its name.  Energy North East
5.	Do you think the consultation document contains the 'essential ingredients' set out in Securing the Regions' Futures?  <p>Page 9 of the consultation document illustrates the relationship between the IRF and other regional strategies. In the diagram there is a large block in the middle with bullet points naming the individual strategies. Another format to consider is on page 8 of the draft submission RSS which uses a Venn diagram approach, which is a clearer way of detailing the many strategies and how each informs the RSS or RES.</p> <p>Also Local Area Agreements should now be replaced with Multi Area Agreements.</p>
6.	Do you think the consultation document adequately reflects the critical issues for the North East?
7.	Do you think the proposed objectives are the right ones for the North East?  No. Objectives 1 and 7 need to be expanded to include elements of Objective 3, this objective could then be removed.

Objective 1 would become 'Strengthen North East England's economy within sustainable and environmental limits' with objective 7 remaining 'Secure and enhance the region's environmental infrastructure'.

Objective 9 should take some account of the need to minimise the adverse environmental impact of transport.

8. Do you think the proposed indicators are the right ones to measure progress against the objectives?

The three indicators for objective 3 (p20) that relate to waste management as well as the energy and water indicators in objective 2 (p19) should become part of the revised objective 1 (p18). All these domestic indicators should be supplemented with similar indicators for the industrial and commercial sector. An additional indicator should be added to monitor the region's progress to meeting the renewable energy generation targets set for the four sub-regions in the draft submission RSS.

For objective 2 there should be indicators for the industrial and commercial sector as well as the domestic sector indicators that are identified .

9. Do you think that 'headline' indicators should be identified? And if so, which indicator should form the 'headline'?

A visual representation of progress say in the form of a traffic light system would assist comprehension.

10. What targets do you think should be associated with the objectives and indicators?

11. Do you think the actions and delivery mechanisms identified against each objective are the right ones and are there any additional actions or delivery mechanisms that you would like to suggest?

For objectives 1 and 2

- The use of scenario planning to establish the key external factors that are influencing sustainable development, climate change adaptation & mitigation, and energy usage in the region. This will determine a list of appropriate interventions for the region to take on a pro-active basis as well as identify a series of responses to each scenario should they occur.
- The IRF emphasises the support for start-ups and new entrepreneurs, however it is also important to give similar recognition to the important contribution of existing businesses to the regional economy. A potential area for action is to highlight the assistance that they will require not only to grow their business but also to adapt to a changing environmental circumstances.
- The document does not recognise the economic effect of alleviating fuel

poverty in this region both in terms of the money that it is entering the regional economy as well as jobs created.

- An assessment of public attitudes in the region towards environmental custody, climate change and usage of natural resources; supported with educational programmes to address the behavioural changes required in society.

There are actions from objective 3 that need to be transferred into the revised objective 1.

12. Do you think the proposed Appraisal Matrix adequately reflects the proposed objectives and indicators?

The Appraisal Matrix represents an opportunity to document the contribution of an objective/indicator to the regional policy framework; this could be achieved quite simply through an addition column to the matrix. Such a column would demonstrate the linkage between an objective/ indicator and the specific region policy, e.g. the objective/indicator 'Increase the proportion of energy generated from sustainable and renewable resources' would be supported by Policy 40 - Renewable Energy Generation in the draft submission RSS.

13. Do you have any comments on the sustainability appraisal of the draft IRF?

14. Please enter any other comments you may have.

Whilst the document does propose that NERIP will perform the monitoring role for this IRF and publish the regions progress against the identified indicators in their State of the Region Report; it would be valuable in this document to give some indication of the regions progress with the indicators since the previous 2004 version. Indeed, there is a missed opportunity for this 2007 IRF to establish a baseline for all the indicators against which any future State of the Regions Report can measure improvements.

The document would benefit from cross references between indicators and the core regional strategies, e.g. when discussing an indicator about renewable energy generation there is a link to policy 40 in the draft submission RSS. Such cross references would indicate clearly to the reader which seminal regional strategy would influence progress to achieving the identified indicators. Such a correlation between indicators and individual policies in regional strategies would provide more coherence and give the IRF a more substantive and quantitative perspective.

Once you have completed this form, please email it to [enquire@sustaine.com](mailto:enquire@sustaine.com) or post it to:

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