

Priorities for Cornwall Sustainable Community Strategy

Title: **Environment Priorities**

Background:

Climate Change and **Resource Use** are two key issues affecting Cornwall's environment. This is Environment Kernow's starting position on priorities and direction of travel, encapsulated in the Golden Box (see right). A third issue, **Demographic Change**, is a key link between these two key issues. All three issues will affect social infrastructure security which is underpinned by decisions affecting economic development, land management, food, water, energy, waste and housing. Cornwall is peripheral - geographically, economically and socially; this is what makes it unique and characterizes the county. It also strongly influences the priorities that EK wishes Cornwall's Sustainable Community Strategy to address (below).

Enhance Cornwall's Distinctive High Quality Environment		
	CLIMATE CHANGE	RESOURCE USE
KNOWLEDGE & ACCESS	Increase Cornwall's understanding of the risks of climate change and of measures to mitigate and adapt	Increase Cornwall's appreciation of its environment and the importance of managing it sustainably
ENGAGEMENT & ACTION	Achieve a carbon neutral Cornwall by 2020 and increase Cornwall's resilience to climate change	Put environmental enhancement at the heart of Cornwall's economic and social life

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Priority	Rationale	Signpost to relevant evidence
<p>1 Deliver a redirection of the economy towards local community, the environment and a sustainable future, with the aim being to integrate such areas as land management, resource use (e.g. energy, food, water and materials) and housing to that end.</p>	<p>Environmental and social issues are interconnected and stem from resource use in the economy. Sectors which can be environmentally sustainable (egs may include: sustainable farming, food & drink, sustainable tourism, marine economy, environmental technologies and arts & leisure) should be promoted. Sustainable development embraces a broad set of objectives; they are not purely financial (e.g. GDP/GVA), but include (for e.g.) pollution avoidance, landscape, health, education, quality of life, existence of cohesive communities, vibrancy of cultural life (SDC 03, 06, 07). Convergence is driven by the Lisbon <u>and</u> Gothenburg agendas, which together make up the three pillars of sustainable development (i.e. Convergence is not about economic growth at any cost). On relaunching the Lisbon Strategy in March 2005, the European Council reaffirmed that “the Strategy was to be seen in the wider context of the sustainable development requirement that present needs should be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.”</p>	<p>There are “three indispensable components of societal progress: economic wellbeing, societal wellbeing, and environmental wellbeing” <i>Living well – within limits</i>. Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) 5/07</p> <p>Defra / LGA strategic approach to the environment has three key environmental aims for local and national government: Tackle climate change; Maintain a healthy natural environment; cleaner, safer and greener local environment <i>Joint Environmental Prospectus</i>. LGA/Defra 7/07</p> <p>What should progress mean? Section 1 of: <i>Redefining Progress Consultation</i>, SDC report 3/06</p> <p>“the inadequacies of standard definitions of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and economic growth as yardsticks for wellbeing are [well established]. Yet economic policy still seems to be designed as though maximising GDP was its sole objective.” <i>Redefining prosperity</i>. SDC report 6/03</p> <p><i>The Green Economy: Environment, Sustainable Development and the Politics of the Future</i>. Jacobs, M. 1991.</p> <p><i>For the Common Good</i>. Daly, H. E. and Cobb, J.B., 1989.</p> <p><i>Hooked on oil: breaking the habit with a windfall tax</i>. New Economics Foundation (NEF) 2006 http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/uploads/hya3c255clsra5yk04fkvh3n23102006092016.pdf</p> <p><i>Growth isn't working: the uneven distribution of benefits and costs from economic growth</i>. NEF 2006 http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/uploads/hfu5w555mzd3f55m2vqwtv502022006112929.pdf</p> <p>Gothenburg (6/01): protecting the environment to achieve a more sustainable pattern of development. Aim: “<i>decouple environmental degradation & resource consumption from economic & social development by 2010</i>” http://europa.eu/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2001/com2001_0264en01.pdf</p> <p>Reaffirmation of sustainable development in the Lisbon Strategy 3/05 http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/85349.pdf</p>

2	Achieve resilient and flexible diverse local communities	Required by predicted changes in climate, resource availability and demographics (local & worldwide)	<p>“climate change must be at the heart every local area's ambitions & it is important to ensure infrastructure and services are resilient to climate change” LGA Climate Change Commission interim report 7/07 http://www.lga.gov.uk/Documents/Publication/strengtheninglocalaction.pdf</p>
3	Create and maintain ecologically functioning environments (terrestrial and marine) / Living Landscape, taking account of climate change mitigation, demographic changes and development pressures	<p>Ecosystems are the planet's life-support systems, Ecosystem services are the benefits people and businesses obtain from ecosystems, e.g. they provide food, water, clean air, shelter and relative climatic constancy. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) assessed 24 ecosystem services and found the majority to be degraded (UN 2005, see also WWF 2004). The MA also identified six interconnected challenges for business as these affect ecosystem integrity and capacity to provide services: 1) Water scarcity 2) Climate change 3) Habitat change 4) Biodiversity loss and invasive species 5) Overexploitation of oceans 6) Nutrient overloading. Living Landscapes is a project to “restore the UK’s battered ecosystems, for both wildlife and people” (Wildlife Trusts 2007) Ecosystem services are indispensable to the well-being and health of people everywhere. WHO (2005) considers their degradation could cause major adverse health impacts.</p>	<p><i>Business and Ecosystems</i>. Earthwatch Institute, World Resources Institute, WBCSD and World Conservation Union. November 2006.</p> <p><i>Ecosystems & Human Wellbeing</i>. United Nations. 2005. www.MAWeb.org</p> <p><i>Ecosystems and Human Well-being</i>. World Health Organization 2005</p> <p><i>Taking the temperature: Towards an NHS response to global warming</i>. NEF/NHS Confederation 6/07</p> <p><i>Living Planet Report 2004</i>. WWF 2004</p> <p><i>A Living Landscape</i>. The Wildlife Trusts 1/07 http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/index.php?section=about:publications:free</p>

4	Employ Quality of Life / Well-being assessment indicators to monitor progress	The local quality of life indicator set is 45 key measures covering a range of important sustainable development issues that influence long-term well-being. Life satisfaction measures one aspect of well-being, but an important second dimension 'personal development' is related particularly to long-term health outcomes and to the ability to cope flexibly and creatively with life's challenges	<p><i>Local quality of life indicators – supporting local communities to become sustainable.</i> Audit Commission 8/05</p> <p><i>The Power & Potential of Well-Being Indicators.</i> NEF 2004</p> <p>Last quality of life report for Cornwall published 2004 http://www.cornwallstatistics.org.uk/media/pdf/2/b/quality_of_life_report.pdf</p> <p><i>Sustainable development indicators in your pocket 2006: An update of the UK Government Strategy indicators.</i> Defra 7/06</p> <p>New Economics Well Being Programme http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/well_being_top.aspx?page=1038&folder=174&</p>
5	Adopt One Planet Living into CSCS	There is one planet Earth. Human demand is increasing, while ecological capacity is decreasing. One Planet Living means moving towards an ecological footprint that the Earth can sustain – in 2005 the SW footprint was 3.1 earths (NEF, 2005).	<p><i>A Definition of "Carbon Footprint".</i> Centre for Integrated Sustainability Analysis. 6/07</p> <p><i>Ecological Footprints: A Guide for Local Authorities</i> WWF-UK 2002</p> <p><i>Stepping Forward: A resource flow and ecological footprint analysis of the South West of England</i> Commissioned by SW England Environment Trust 4/05</p> <p><i>The UK Interdependence Report.</i> NEF. 2005.</p> <p><i>The UK Interdependence report: How the world sustains the nation's lifestyles and the price it pays.</i> NEF 2006 http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/uploads/f2abwpumbr1wp055y2l10s5514042006174517.pdf</p> <p><i>The Happy Planet Index: An index of human well-being and environmental impact.</i> NEF 2006</p> <p><i>The European Happy Planet Index: An index of carbon efficiency and well-being in the EU.</i> NEF/FOE 7/07</p> <p><i>Living Planet Report 2004.</i> WWF 2004</p>

6	Adopt a model of integrated decision-making based on social, economic and environmental factors to manage, monitor & plan local development (e.g. SEA)	Sustainable development puts special demands on valuation and appraisal methods. Stagl (2007) reviews the suitability of 6 sustainability valuation and appraisal methods developed and road-tested over the last 10 years.	<i>Emerging Methods for Sustainability Valuation and Appraisal. A report to the Sustainable Development Research Network. S. Stagl 1/07</i>
7	Lead on scenario mapping in light of rapidly changing information base to inform future priorities	Scenario mapping will allow rapid assessment of local impact of emerging information	<p>The Tyndall Centre Coastal Simulator (2007) http://tyndall.webapp1.uea.ac.uk/publications/briefing_notes/bn18.pdf</p> <p>International Energy Agency predicts shortfall in oil supply in five years time. Financial Times front page 10/7/07</p> <p>Tourism Scotland's Scenario Planning Group http://www.visitscotland.org/research_and_statistics/scenarios.htm</p> <p>Sustrans – response to Scotland's Transport Strategy http://www.sustrans.co.uk/webfiles/Sustrans%20Scotland%20submission%20to%20NTS.pdf</p>

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