

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 15 JUNE 2006**

**THE SOUTH EAST PLAN: NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
RESPONSE**

**Report by:** Sarah Applegate, Senior Planning Officer (Policy)

**Summary:**

This report:

- i) advises members on the strategic planning framework for the South East region up to 2026 set out in the draft South East Plan, and its implications for the New Forest National Park; and
- ii) seeks approval for a response to the South East Regional Assembly by their deadline of 23 June.

Copies of the pamphlet entitled '*What is our future?*' produced by Hampshire County Council summarising the South East Plan as it affects Hampshire have been sent to Members.

In addition, the full version of the draft South East Plan can be viewed at:  
[http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/view\\_plan.html](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/view_plan.html)

**Recommendation:**

**That the Authority endorses the report's findings and authorises the Director of Strategy and Planning to submit comments outlined in section 3 of this report to the South East England Regional Assembly as the Authority's response on the South East Plan.**

**Resources:**

Routine

**Other major considerations:**

None

**Papers:**

NFNPA 101/06: Cover paper  
NFNPA 101/06 Annex 1: Previous consultation responses on the South East Plan  
Annex 2: South East Plan policy summary  
Annex 3: Extract from South West Regional Spatial Strategy

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**1 Introduction**

1.1 For the purposes of regional planning, the New Forest National Park lies wholly within the South East region. However, small areas in the north west of the Park lie within the South West Region and parts of the northern and western boundary adjoin the Government region of the South West.

1.2 The South East Plan is the formal Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East region prepared by the South East England Regional Assembly. It sets out strategic planning policies for the period up to 2026 and provides the context for the preparation of this Authority's Local Development Framework.

1.3 The South East Plan comprises the following documents:

- An Executive Summary
- A Core Document
- A Monitoring Framework
- An Implementation Plan
- A Pre-Submission Consultation Statement
- A Sustainability Appraisal.

1.4 The draft South East Plan was submitted to Government on 31 March 2006 and representations on the Plan should be made by 23 June. An Examination-in-Public into the Plan will be held between November 2006 and March 2007. An independent Panel has been appointed to consider the representations on the Plan. The Panel will identify which issues will be discussed and which participants will be invited to the Examination-in-Public.

**2 South East Plan format**

2.1 The South East Plan Core Document outlines the regional strategy, broad locations for development and policies for the region. It also identifies nine sub-regional strategies, including South Hampshire,

which includes the eastern part of New Forest District, beyond the National Park boundary. Key policies and issues include:

- cross-cutting themes, including sustainable development, character of the environment and quality of life
- enhancing economic prosperity and employment opportunity
- housing requirements in New Forest District (including the National Park) of 207 dwellings per year
- promotion of small-scale affordable housing in rural areas
- policy to maintain and enhance regionally important ports, including Southampton
- conservation and improvement of biodiversity
- New Forest National Park policy identifying importance of protecting back-up grazing land
- sub-regional strategies, including South Hampshire.

### **3 Implications for the New Forest National Park**

- 3.1 The broad principles contained in the South East Plan are generally supported. However, the National Park Authority has the following detailed comments.

#### **Linkages with the South West region**

- 3.2 The South East Plan states (Section B, paragraph 4.4) that there are doubts regarding the significance of links with the South West region, particularly the Bournemouth and Poole, and Swindon areas. However, parts of the National Park fall within the South West region and the potential impact on the National Park from increased development in the Bournemouth and Poole conurbation should not be underestimated.
- 3.3 Furthermore, there is an opportunity within policy CC7 on Inter-Regional Connectivity (Section D1, paragraph 1.19) to strengthen reference to links with the South West region. This is particularly important with regard to the transport and recreational pressures placed on the National Park lying as it does between the Bournemouth and Poole conurbation and the South Hampshire sub-region.

#### **Proposed Response:**

Sections B and D1 of the South East Plan should emphasise the importance of the strong linkages between the South East and the South West Regions, particularly the pressure placed on New Forest National Park from the proposed growth in Dorset and the South Hampshire sub-region.

## **National Park purposes**

- 3.4 Section D7 contains policy C1a on the New Forest National Park including a reference to the importance of protecting back-up grazing land. This policy is to be welcomed, especially as it takes into account comments made by the National Park Authority in April 2005 on an earlier draft of the South East Plan.
- 3.5 However, the text accompanying the policy should refer to Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 which places a general duty on all relevant authorities, including National Park Authorities, statutory undertakers and other public bodies, to have regard to the statutory purposes of national parks. This should ensure that they take account of national park purposes when reaching decisions or carrying out their activities relating to or affecting land within national parks. Relevant authorities will be expected to be able to demonstrate that they have fulfilled this duty.

### **Proposed Response:**

The New Forest National Park Authority welcomes Policy C1a which recognizes the high priority which must be given to conserving and enhancing land in the New Forest National Park and identifies the importance of protecting back-up grazing land.

However, it should make explicit reference in the policy or supporting text to the Section 62(2) duties on all relevant authorities which should be clearly stated in the South East Plan.

## **Noise**

- 3.6 Tranquillity of the New Forest is central to its special character. The National Park Authority therefore recommends that Policy NRM8 should refer specifically to the need for measures to conserve, enhance and monitor the tranquillity of the National Park as a key aspect of it's national and regional significance. This reiterates comments made to the Regional Assembly in April 2005 on an earlier draft of the South East Plan.

### **Proposed Response:**

The New Forest National Park Authority considers that Policy NRM8 Noise should include criteria on the potential impact on the tranquillity of the New Forest National Park, and the need for monitoring and mitigation.

## Housing

- 3.7 The proposed housing requirement for New Forest District is 207 dwellings per year. The South East Plan should clarify whether this figure relates exclusively to New Forest District Council or if it includes the National Park as well. This housing requirement is much lower than the average build rate of 500 dwellings per year, which the District Council has achieved over the past 10 to 15 years. Consequently it is expected that the District Council can meet this requirement without needing to identify any new green-field allocations beyond those already identified.
- 3.8 Policy BE6 in Section D8 of the South East Plan is supported, as it allows for small scale affordable housing and services within villages to meet local needs.

**Proposed response:**

Clarity should be provided in the South East Plan on whether the housing requirement for New Forest District includes the National Park.

The Authority welcomes policy BE6 allowing some affordable housing in villages.

## South Hampshire sub-regional strategy

- 3.9 South Hampshire Sub-region covers the whole districts of Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth, Southampton and parts of East Hampshire, Winchester and New Forest District. This includes Totton and the Waterside areas.
- 3.10 One of the main principles of development for the sub-region is to improve the economic performance to at least match the regional average. This will be complemented by housing, infrastructure and community facilities.
- 3.11 The cities of Southampton and Portsmouth will be the focus for growth, including brownfield development, existing allocated sites, and limited extensions to existing urban areas. Additionally, after 2016 development will be concentrated in two new Strategic Development Areas at Fareham and North / North East of Hedge End.
- 3.12 The principle of concentrating new development within the two Strategic Development Areas (Section E1) is supported, subject to the proviso of adequate investment in recreation, green infrastructure and public transport.

- 3.13 In addition, the brief for the preparation of a sub-regional strategy for South Hampshire, drafted by the Regional Assembly in August 2004, identified the need for the relevant local authorities to take account of “the need to provide recreational provision within the sub-regional area as alternatives to the National Parks” (SEERA brief, paragraph 5.4). It is disappointing that the South Hampshire Sub-regional Strategy does not appear to have taken this consideration into account in assessing the spatial options and policies for the sub-region. This clearly falls within the remit set out in Section 62(2) of The Environment Act 1995 with regard to the statutory purposes of National Parks.

**Proposed response:**

The Authority wishes to see any new communities in South Hampshire planned as self-contained settlements with adequate provision of recreational facilities, and investment in green infrastructure and public transport, to minimise additional recreational pressure on the National Park.

**Appropriate Assessment**

- 3.14 Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora requires an Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects. This applies to Regional Spatial Strategies, transitional plans, Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 3.15 More than half of the National Park is covered by sites of European importance, comprising Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation. However, as an Appropriate Assessment has not been included as part of the South East Plan, it is difficult to assess the implications of the Plan on these sites. The regulations place great emphasis on the consideration of the cumulative impacts of plans and policies on those sites.
- 3.16 If the Regional Assembly undertakes an Appropriate Assessment prior to the Examination in Public it is unclear whether the Plan will be further revised if the results indicate this is necessary. The regulations indicate that the Assembly should consider whether the Plan can be modified or whether mitigation could avoid any adverse effects.
- 3.17 It is important for the National Park Authority to be able adequately assess the cumulative impact of the policies and spatial options in both the South East Plan and the South West Regional Spatial Strategy.

**Proposed Response:**

The Regional Assembly should have undertaken an ‘appropriate assessment’ under the European Habitats Directive to determine potential significant effects on sites of European importance for nature conservation. This should now be undertaken as a matter of urgency, in order to assess the findings prior to the Examination in Public.

**Sustainability Appraisal**

- 3.18 The Sustainability Appraisal of the South East Plan aims to assess the economic, social and environmental effects likely to arise from the Plan’s policies. It integrates the statutory requirements of two processes:
- *Sustainability Appraisal* – a process for understanding whether policies, strategies or plans promote sustainable development, and for improving them to deliver more sustainable outcomes;
  - *Strategic Environmental Assessment* – a process for assessing and mitigating the negative environmental impacts of specific plans and programmes, required under EU Directive 2001/42.
- 3.19 The 25 core objectives in the Sustainability Appraisal have been developed by a group of key regional partners including the Government Office for the South East, and South East England Development Agency. The objectives include the aims to “*conserve and enhance the region’s biodiversity*”, and “*to protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the region’s countryside and historic environment*”.
- 3.20 Where policies have potentially negative effects, the Appraisal states that effective mitigation will be dependent on detailed implementation actions at regional and sub-regional level.
- 3.21 The Sustainability Appraisal concludes that the implementation of the South East Plan is likely to give rise to increased resource consumption, increased production of waste, increased emissions from transport and increased levels of water resource consumption. It also identifies a loss of biodiversity. Overall the ecological footprint of the region will be increased rather than reduced. It further concludes that the region-wide target for the provision of affordable housing is unlikely to be achieved.
- 3.22 The sustainability appraisal matrix set out for the South Hampshire growth options has not addressed many issues, such as the conservation and enhancement of the region’s biodiversity. It also identifies a clear strong and negative impact on the objective to protect, enhance and restore the region’s natural environmental assets.

- 3.23 The Appraisal recommends that the overall sustainability of the South East Plan should be monitored by an independent body with the aim of producing an annual report.
- 3.24 It is essential that the Regional Assembly indicates how the South East Plan policies and spatial options will be revised in light of the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal. This is particularly important given that the appraisal was carried out after the preferred spatial options had been identified, and did not inform the process of selecting them at an earlier stage.
- 3.25 In order to redress some of the negative impacts identified above, the Plan should also include a more positive statement on the regional requirements for Green Infrastructure, together with a specific policy for the development of networks of Green Infrastructure as an integral part of further growth. This could be modelled on the approach taken in the submitted South West Regional Spatial Strategy (see **Annex 3**).

**Proposed Response:**

It is imperative that the South East Plan be reviewed in light of the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal to improve its overall sustainability, and particularly the spatial options. This should be carried out before the Examination in Public to allow a full debate on the potential social and environmental impacts of the South East Plan.

The South East Plan should include a specific policy for the provision of Green Infrastructure as an integral part of all future development proposals. The approach taken by the South West England Regional Assembly is commended to SEERA for consideration.

**Recommendation:**

**That the Authority endorses the comments set out in Section 3 of this report, and authorises the Director of Strategy and Planning to submit these to the South East England Regional Assembly as the Authority's response to the South East Plan.**



## NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Formal Response to:

### **Where shall we live?**

#### **Consultation on District-Level Housebuilding Targets**

By Hampshire County Council and the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)

### **1 Introduction**

This document constitutes the response of the New Forest National Park Authority to the consultation on district-level housebuilding targets within the South Hampshire area. The Authority is grateful for the opportunity to express its views. The consultation paper was considered at the Authority meeting on 20 October 2005. Given the potential significance and impact of Housebuilding Targets on the New Forest National Park the Authority is providing written comments rather than completing the questionnaire.

### **2 South Hampshire**

#### **National Park Authority Response**

Enhanced economic performance and managed growth for the sub-region is recognised and supported but this development needs to be planned in ways that safeguard national park purposes and ensure that the New Forest's resources are protected and can be enjoyed by all.

The National Park Authority considers that proposals for growth in South Hampshire will increase pressures on the New Forest National Park through increased use of the strategic transport routes through the park, demand for construction materials and other resources, waste management and most significantly the impact of recreational activity, especially along the eastern margin of the park. It is essential that both existing and new communities are planned as self-contained centres with adequate provision of recreational facilities to meet the day to day needs of residents. The New Forest National Park Authority will work to improve the understanding and enjoyment of the National Park in ways which are compatible with protecting and enhancing its natural beauty, wildlife and culture. However, this does not necessarily equate with providing the resources for the day to day recreation needs of residential areas adjacent to the Park boundaries. The scale of housing expansion and employment and commercial development envisaged by PUSH must be matched by radical improvements and investment in recreation, public transport and green infrastructure throughout the existing urban areas. Investment must also be committed to developing sustainable public transport routes (including

walking and cycling) to link urban centres with appropriate recreation modes within the National Park.

### ***38,000 homes on previously used land***

In the absence of any analysis of the social, economic and environmental consequences of the house building figures and various options presented it is not possible to express a view on the proposed increases in housing density within existing residential areas. This question can only be answered once the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessments have been completed. The principle of building on allocated sites and in urban areas in preference to green field sites is fully accepted but the point at which intensification results in 'town-cramming' cannot be assessed without detailed study.

### ***Strategic Development Areas***

The principle of concentrating new development within the two Strategic Development Areas is fully supported, subject to the proviso above on adequate investment in recreation, green infrastructure and public transport. The National Park Authority wishes to see a creative approach being taken to long term planning of these communities including a fully integrated and long term approach to transport and employment considerations.

### ***Location of 12,500 New Homes***

Although the consultation paper makes passing reference to the status of the New Forest National Park, it fails to recognise the duty imposed by statute (s.62 Environment Act 1995) on all authorities to have regard to the purposes of the National Park when planning or implementing major projects or activities. In confirming the designation of the New Forest National Park, the Secretaries of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and for Local Government have specifically advised all authorities to pay special attention to any proposals in the vicinity of the National Park that could affect its landscape setting. The National Park Authority considers that all of the options outlined for greenfield site development have the potential to have such impacts.

It is clear that the landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the eastern areas of the New Forest National Park will be placed under less pressure if the order of preference is confirmed as C, then B then A. However, even under option C the process of urban intensification will increase the existing densities of housing in the Waterside / Totton areas in the period 2006-2011 and the overall increase in household units in South Hampshire is likely to have significant impact on the National Park.

The National Park Authority is concerned that no environmental assessment or sustainability appraisal has been undertaken to gauge the likely impact of these levels of development on the National Park. It considers that Option C is potentially the least damaging of the three options but this cannot be confirmed without proper assessment. The National Park Authority is opposed to Options A and B.

The National Park Authority will work closely with New Forest District Council to examine the capacity of the Waterside/Totton area to accommodate new housing on existing sites and other previously used land and does not consider that additional allocations of green field land envisaged under Options A and B should be contemplated until the results of this assessment have been made.

### **3 North Hampshire**

At a practical level, development in this corridor would not impact directly on the New Forest National Park but it would of course add to the pressure for recreational access arising from growth in population in both the SE and SW regions.

#### **National Park Authority Response**

The National Park Authority favours **Option 2**, which avoids environmentally sensitive areas (affected in Option 1) and concentrates development in and around Basingstoke. (As a general principle, development of self-contained settlements or extensions to existing centres is to be preferred over development of dispersed or green field sites).

### **4 Central Hampshire and New Forest**

#### **National Park Authority Response**

The National Park Authority sees substantial advantage in **Options 1 and 2** due to the proximity of the proposed sites to existing centres and rail links. Option 3 is noted to have environmental disadvantages, while Options 4 and 5 result in greater dispersal of new housing which is less sustainable.

New Forest National Park Authority  
21 October 2005

South East England Regional Assembly

South East Plan Consultation Response Analysis - June 2005 - Letters M-N

| Unique Reference Number | Respondent                         | Policy Area                                      | Key Points Raised   |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1614                    | New Forest Business Partnership    | Housing  | There is a need to ensure more affordable housing is made available, especially in rural areas. However, further measures should be considered to encourage a younger working population in such areas by the provision, for example, of a greater level of Housing Association and key worker housing. |
| 1614                    | New Forest Business Partnership    | Infrastructure and Implementation (CC4)          | Present infrastructural requirements are inadequate. Any major new development will need to be preceded by major investment in all aspects of infrastructure.   |
| 1614                    | New Forest Business Partnership    | Vision and Overall Strategy                      | No more than the currently planned rate of housing growth should be contemplated.   |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Countryside and Landscape Management             | *Ref: C1. The Council strongly support this policy. The Plan should give the highest priority to protecting and conserving land within the New Forest National Park, as recommended.  |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Countryside and Landscape Management             | *Ref: C1. Some matters are referred to in the text that would appropriately be included in the policy.  |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Green Belts and Strategic Gaps (CC9)             | The Council fully supports the retention of the Green Belt to the south and west of the New Forest.   |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Housing  | Affordable housing policy should reflect the objectives of a step change in delivery.   |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Housing  | *Ref: H4. The split between different types of affordable housing should be determined at the sub-regional or local level.  |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Housing  | The statement that site thresholds, with regards affordable housing, may need to be set below Government guidance, is strongly supported.   |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Housing  | The Council agrees that affordable housing needs should be met where they arise, but implementation needs to take into account environmental constraints.   |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Housing  | It is essential that economic growth is accompanied by an increase in affordable housing supply.  |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Implementation Plan                              | This needs to be better developed to show how the Plan will have an impact on the region.   |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Indicators and Monitoring                        | These need to be better developed to demonstrate the impact on the region that the Plan aims to have.   |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Infrastructure and Implementation (CC4)          | The new development proposed must be accompanied by the provision of adequate new infrastructure.   |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Infrastructure and Implementation (CC4)          | It is essential that any growth in South Hampshire is matched by the necessary infrastructure and services.   |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Management of the Built and Historic Environment | This section needs to be updated to refer to the requirements in PPG1.  |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Scale and Distribution of Growth                 | It would be difficult to meet the proposed levels of growth for 'Rest of Hampshire' without adverse impact on the New Forest National Park.   |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Sustainability Appraisal                         | Before any decision is made on the level and distribution of growth, it is essential that an integrated SA and SEA is carried out.  |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Sustainable Natural Resource Management          | The Plan acknowledges that the South East is one of the driest areas in the country but does not try to reconcile this with the levels and distribution of development proposed.  |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Sustainable Natural Resource Management          | The Council maintains its objections to the minerals and waste policies as they stand.  |
| 0841                    | New Forest District Council        | Town Centres                                     | The town centres policies imply too great a concentration of facilities in the larger town centres.   |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Climate Change (CC2)                             | Plan as a whole needs to reflect climate change impacts and show how greenhouse gas emissions can reduce through land use policies.   |

South East England Regional Assembly

South East Plan Consultation Response Analysis - June 2005 - Letters M-N

| Unique Reference Number | Respondent                         | Policy Area                                      | Key Points Raised   |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Countryside and Landscape Management             | Policy C1 - support as policy helps set clear guidance for the NP Authority and other organisations with responsibilities in and around the Park. Para 1.5 should be updated as designation has been confirmed. Suggest some rewording of Policy C1 - reflecting that recommended by the Council for National Parks *text provided. |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Countryside and Landscape Management             | Para 1.7 - amend * text proposed - "to ensure adjacent land uses and management contribute to the statutory purposes of the National Park. The NPA and surrounding authorities will therefore need to work together to agree policies to protect the setting....".  |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Green Belts and Strategic Gaps (CC9)             | welcome policy . Significant strategic gaps include (1) land between New Forest and Solent Coast, (2) Avon Valley.  |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Housing  | Support H4 and affordable housing in rural areas. Development should be small scale and relate to existing settlements. Should refer to need to take into account environmental impact when identifying sites in National Park.   |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Infrastructure and Implementation (CC4)          | Sustainability assessment of sub-regional proposals needed to ensure Policy C1 remains achievable taking into account visitor levels, traffic, impact on habitats, visual and landscape impacts, effect on communities in and adjacent to Park and services provided, pressure for infrastructure.                                  |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Management of the Built and Historic Environment | Support BE4, BE5, BE6. Box BE3 should refer to cultural landscape of New Forest.  |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Scale and Distribution of Growth                 | No attempt to relate development scale to environmental capacity. Need for better cross-regional discussion with SWRA to consider cumulative impacts of growth in SE and Dorset.  |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Scale and Distribution of Growth                 | Support for Sharper Focus. Concerns over all scales of growth for "rest of Hampshire" - higher than other parts of SE. Re-assess figures in light of new constraints posed by national parks.   |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Sustainable Natural Resource Management          | Amend M3 - only consider minerals recycling facilities development in National Parks in exceptional circumstances, and be small scale serving local needs.  |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Sustainable Natural Resource Management          | M5 - anticipate no apportionment for New Forest . Reduce apportionment for Hampshire to reflect impacts of extraction in adjacent areas on New Forest e.g. Avon Valley.   |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Sustainable Natural Resource Management          | Amend W18 - only consider development in National Parks in exceptional circumstances and be small scale serving local needs.  |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Sustainable Natural Resource Management          | Support NRM4. Para 1.54 refer to local BAPs and National Park Plans as delivery mechanisms. Clarify Map NRM3 as several habitats of relevance in New Forest.  |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Sustainable Natural Resource Management          | Support NRM6  |
| 1187                    | New Forest National Park Authority | Sustainable Natural Resource Management          | NRM8 should refer to need to conserve tranquility of National Parks and protected landscape, including reducing noise from aviation on sensitive sites.   |
| 2135                    | Newbury Town Council               | Scale and Distribution of Growth                 | The definition of brownfield sites is currently such that there is increasing redevelopment of period housing with large gardens.   |
| 2135                    | Newbury Town Council               | Vision and Overall Strategy                      | The whole process is wrong. There is too much imposition of a top-down approach rather than using the local expertise at grass roots level in providing bottom-up information.  |
| 0593                    | Newby, N E                         | Infrastructure and Implementation (CC4)          | More infrastructure is needed before any more housing is built.   |
| 1512                    | Newhaven Town Council              | Economy and Tourism                              | The content of the Plan that gives priority to improving local economic performance is welcome.   |
| 1512                    | Newhaven Town Council              | Green Belts and Strategic Gaps (CC9)             | The existing Green Belts and strategic gaps should be protected from inappropriate development.   |
| 1512                    | Newhaven Town Council              | Scale and Distribution of Growth                 | The rate of proposed house building is contentious.   |

## SOUTH EAST PLAN POLICIES

This annex sets out the South East Plan policies that are referred to in the main body of the National Park Authority report.

### **POLICY CC7: INTER-REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY**

The Assembly will engage in joint research programmes and partnerships with neighbouring regions in order to address issues of common interest. These will especially relate to the economy, housing, transport, natural resources and water. The relationship with London will be of special significance but, over the Plan period, linkages with the East of England and East Midlands regions will grow in economic, social and environmental terms. The scope for further links with the South West, West Midlands and Nord-Pas de Calais regions will be kept under review.

### **POLICY NRMB: NOISE**

Measures to address and reduce noise pollution will be developed at regional and local level through means such as:

- i** Locating new residential and other sensitive development away from existing sources of significant noise or away from planned new sources of noise
- ii** Traffic management and requiring sound attenuation measures in major transport schemes
- iii** Encouraging high levels of sound-proofing and screening as part of sustainable housing design and construction.

**POLICY C1a:  
THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK**

High priority should be given to conserving and enhancing land within the New Forest National Park. The local planning authority and other partners should also develop supportive sustainable land management policies, both inside the National Park and within the zone of 'New Forest commoning activity', including protection of grazing land outside the National Park which is needed to support National Park purposes.

**POLICY BE6:  
VILLAGE MANAGEMENT**

In preparing their Local Development Documents, local planning authorities should positively plan for limited small scale affordable housing, business and service development in villages to meet defined local needs (eg affordable housing) and protect or extend key local services in accordance with rigorous design and sustainability criteria.

To assist this, local planning authorities should encourage community-led local assessments of need and action planning to inform decision making processes.

**POLICY HI:  
HOUSING PROVISION**

In the South East provision will be made for an annual average of 28,900 net additional dwellings between 2006 and 2026.

Local authorities should make the following provision in their Local Development Documents:

| District/Strategic Development Area | Annual Average | Total  | District/Strategic Development Area | Annual Average | Total  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| Adur                                | 130            | 2,600  | New Forest                          | 207            | 4,138  |
| Arun                                | 465            | 9,300  | North East/North of Hedge End SDA*  |                | 6,000  |
| Ashford                             | 1,135          | 22,700 | Oxford                              | 350            | 7,000  |
| Aylesbury Vale*                     | 1,060          | 21,200 | Portsmouth                          | 735            | 14,700 |
| Basingstoke & Deane                 | 825            | 16,500 | Reading                             | 521            | 10,420 |
| Bracknell Forest                    | 539            | 10,780 | Reigate & Banstead                  | 387            | 7,740  |
| Brighton & Hove                     | 550            | 11,000 | Rother                              | 280            | 5,600  |
| Canterbury                          | 360            | 7,200  | Runnymede                           | 146            | 2,920  |
| Cherwell                            | 590            | 11,800 | Rushmoor                            | 310            | 6,200  |
| Chichester                          | 430            | 8,600  | Sevenoaks                           | 155            | 3,100  |
| Chiltern                            | 120            | 2,400  | Shepway                             | 255            | 5,100  |
| Crawley                             | 350            | 7,000  | Slough                              | 235            | 4,700  |
| Dartford                            | 785            | 15,700 | South Bucks                         | 90             | 1,800  |
| Dover*                              | 305            | 6,100  | South Oxfordshire*                  | 510            | 10,200 |
| East Hampshire                      | 260            | 5,200  | Southampton                         | 815            | 16,300 |
| Eastbourne                          | 240            | 4,800  | Spelthorne                          | 151            | 3,020  |
| Eastleigh                           | 354            | 7,083  | Surrey Heath                        | 187            | 3,740  |
| Elmbridge                           | 231            | 4,620  | Swale                               | 415            | 8,300  |
| Epsom & Ewell                       | 181            | 3,620  | Tandridge                           | 112            | 2,240  |
| Fareham                             | 186            | 3,729  | Test Valley                         | 446            | 8,910  |
| Fareham SDA*                        |                | 10,000 | Thanet                              | 325            | 6,500  |
| Gosport                             | 125            | 2,500  | Tonbridge & Malling                 | 425            | 8,500  |
| Gravesham                           | 465            | 9,300  | Tunbridge Wells                     | 250            | 5,000  |
| Guildford                           | 322            | 6,440  | Vale of White Horse*                | 575            | 11,500 |
| Hart                                | 200            | 4,000  | Waverley                            | 230            | 4,600  |
| Hastings                            | 210            | 4,200  | Wealden                             | 400            | 8,000  |
| Havant                              | 315            | 6,301  | West Berkshire                      | 525            | 10,500 |
| Horsham                             | 620            | 12,400 | West Oxfordshire                    | 335            | 6,700  |
| Isle of Wight                       | 520            | 10,400 | Windsor & Maidenhead                | 281            | 5,620  |
| Lewes                               | 220            | 4,400  | Winchester                          | 522            | 10,439 |
| Maidstone*                          | 410            | 8,200  | Woking                              | 242            | 4,840  |
| Medway                              | 815            | 16,300 | Wokingham                           | 523            | 10,460 |
| Mid Sussex                          | 705            | 14,100 | Worthing                            | 200            | 4,000  |
| Milton Keynes*                      | 2,440          | 48,800 | Wycombe                             | 330            | 6,600  |
| Mole Valley                         | 171            | 3,420  |                                     |                |        |

Local authorities should adopt a Plan, Monitor, Manage approach to housing provision, with appropriate phasing policies in Local Development Documents and taking account of any phasing and provisos set out in the sub-regional strategies/policies.

The total level of housing provision to be planned for includes an allowance to address the backlog of unmet housing need that existed in the South East in 2001. Local authorities should demonstrate in their Local Development Documents how they have addressed any backlog of unmet housing need in their areas.

**Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006-2026 (June 2006)**  
**Green Infrastructure Section**

**Green Infrastructure**

- 6.2.16 Careful management will be required to ensure that development contributes to, rather than detracts from the quality of life in urban areas. Green Infrastructure (GI) is an important component of ensuring development provides positive benefits for the region. GI consists of strategic networks of accessible, multifunctional sites (including parks, woodland, informal open spaces, nature reserves and historic sites) as well as linkages (such as river corridors and floodplains, wildlife corridors and greenways). These contribute to people's well-being, and together comprise a coherent managed resource responsive to evolving conditions.
- 6.2.17 In order to achieve a distinctive approach for the South West, it will be important to plan GI around existing environmental and cultural characteristics. GI networks should consist of a series of features (both existing and new), appropriate at various spatial scales, preferably with links connecting smaller, more local sites with larger, more strategic ones. Networks can provide links between town and country, between different parts of an urban area, and between existing and new development. Linear GI (greenways and 'blue infrastructure' such as rivers, streams, canals etc) is integral in securing connectivity for wildlife and accessibility for people (though it may not always be appropriate to combine these two roles).
- 6.2.18 Continual improvement of GI must be based on a sound understanding of existing assets (including location, size, functions, accessibility, user groups and intensity of use). PPG17 requires adequate provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities to be provided and maintained.
- 6.2.19 Identification of 'areas of opportunity' or 'GI demand' will be necessary in order to provide clear objectives and priorities. These should then be mapped and disseminated such that they can be proactively incorporated within spatial strategies and development proposals at the earliest possible stage. Considerable work has already been undertaken in the identification of areas of opportunity and targets (for example South West Regional Nature-Map and Rebuilding Biodiversity Initiative, Biodiversity Action Plans, Catchment Flood Management Plans, and Forest Plans) and should be built upon.

**G11 Green Infrastructure**

**Development of networks of Green Infrastructure (GI) will be required to enhance quality of life in the region and support the successful accommodation of change. GI networks will comprise multifunctional, accessible, connected assets, planned around existing environmental characteristics. This may take the form of protection, enhancement or extension of existing resources or the provision of new or replacement facilities.**

**When planning the proposed distribution of development, GI is required as an integral part of development, with provision for a network of GI incorporated in the Spatial Strategy. Local authorities and partners will:**

- **Build upon existing expertise and initiatives to identify priorities and partnerships for GI**
- **Incorporate GI policies setting out broad locations for GI appropriate to the extent and distribution of development proposed, co-ordinated across administrative boundaries as appropriate**
- **Develop a GI Plan with a delivery programme to support GI policies**