

4NW Regional Leaders
Board

**SA and EqIA of The
Regional Strategic
Framework for Housing
Support**

Combined Appraisal of
Regional Strategic
Framework for Housing
Support Consultation
Paper

Issue

4NW Regional Leaders
Board

**SA and EqIA of The
Regional Strategic
Framework for Housing
Support**

Combined Appraisal of
Regional Supported
Housing Consultation
Paper

Issue

November 2009

Ove Arup & Partners Ltd
St James's Buildings, Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EL
Tel +44 (0)161 228 2331 Fax +44 (0)161 236 1057
www.arup.com

This report takes into account the
particular instructions and requirements
of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be
relied upon by any third party and no
responsibility is undertaken to any third
party

Job number 207055

Job title	SA and EqIA of A Regional Strategic Framework	Job number	207055
-----------	---	------------	--------

Document title	Combined Appraisal of Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support	File reference	
----------------	--	----------------	--

Document ref

Revision	Date	Filename			
Issue	02/11/2009	Description	Final Version Report		
			Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
		Name	Stephen Pimlott	Stephen Pimlott	Jane Healey Brown
		Signature			
		Filename			
		Description			
			Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
		Name			
		Signature			
		Filename			
		Description			
			Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
		Name			
		Signature			
		Filename			
		Description			
			Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
		Name			
		Signature			

Issue Document Verification with Document

Contents

	Page	
1	Introduction	3
	1.1 The Appraisals	3
	1.2 Structure of the is Report	4
	1.3 Background	4
	1.4 Need for a Sustainability Appraisal	5
2	Key aims of the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support	6
	2.1 Introduction	6
	2.2 Development of the Key Aims of the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support	6
3	Summary of Combined Appraisal of the RSFHS Consultation Paper	8
	3.1 Introduction	8
	3.2 Summary of Cumulative Combined Appraisal Scores	8
4	Key Issues	10
	4.1 Introduction	10
	4.2 Areas for Clarification	10
	4.3 Making the Connections and Achieving Balance	10
	4.4 Implementation of Housing Provision and Service Delivery	12
5	Emerging Issues regarding future development of the North West's IAT and evidence base	13
	5.1 Introduction	13
	5.2 Issues that will be Considered for Future Appraisals	13
	5.3 Future Development of the IAT	13
	5.4 Future Evidence Base Considerations	14
	5.5 Future Consultation Considerations	16
	5.6 Considerations for the RSS Partial Review	16
6	Next Steps	17
	6.1 Taking the Appraisal Findings of the RHS Consultation Paper Forward	17

Appendices

Appendix A

Appraisal Methodology

Appendix B

Need for Appraisal

Appendix C

Combined Appraisal of Regional Housing Strategy Consultation Paper

Appendix D

Response to the Sustainability Appraisal, Equality and Health Impact Assessments and Rural proofing of the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support 2009-2020.

Appendix E

IAT and Supplementary Questions used to undertake EqIA, HIA and Rural Proofing elements of the Combined Appraisal

1 Introduction

Arup was appointed by the 4NW Regional Leaders Board in February 2008 to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the North West's Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) and Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support (RSFHS). The commission also involves undertaking a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Rural Proofing of both strategies.

This is the second and final appraisal stage before the final RSFHS is developed.

This report is an important tool in the policy making process, whereby the authors of RSFHS will need to fully consider the issues and recommended mitigation measures raised and provide justifications where these are not taken forward in the preparation of the RSFHS.

1.1 The Appraisals

This report sets out the findings of the appraisal of the RSFHS Consultation Paper. This follows an initial Combined Appraisal of the RHS and RSFHS Discussion Papers earlier in 2008 which were appraised together.

The initial Combined Appraisal was used to assess each Discussion Paper collectively to provide a holistic appraisal of their social, economic and environmental credentials as well as specific appraisals that focused on equality, health and rural issues. For the RSFHS, the first stage of the Combined Appraisal involved an initial assessment being undertaken by Arup. This was followed by an Appraisal Group Workshop on 23 May 2008 that involved a range of stakeholders. Following this a Combined Appraisal Report was completed and published on www.4nw.org.uk.

Since that stage the RSFHS Consultation Paper has been produced and undergone a further appraisal and electronic consultation. The consultation was from 4 June to 29 June 2009 and the results have been used to inform the final appraisal. The RHS Consultation Paper was appraised using the same method earlier in 2009.

Below is a diagram presenting the basic stages of preparation for both the RHS and RSFHS. We are now at the third stage of the preparation process (Appraisal 3). The outcomes of this stage have been used to inform the development of the final RSFHS.

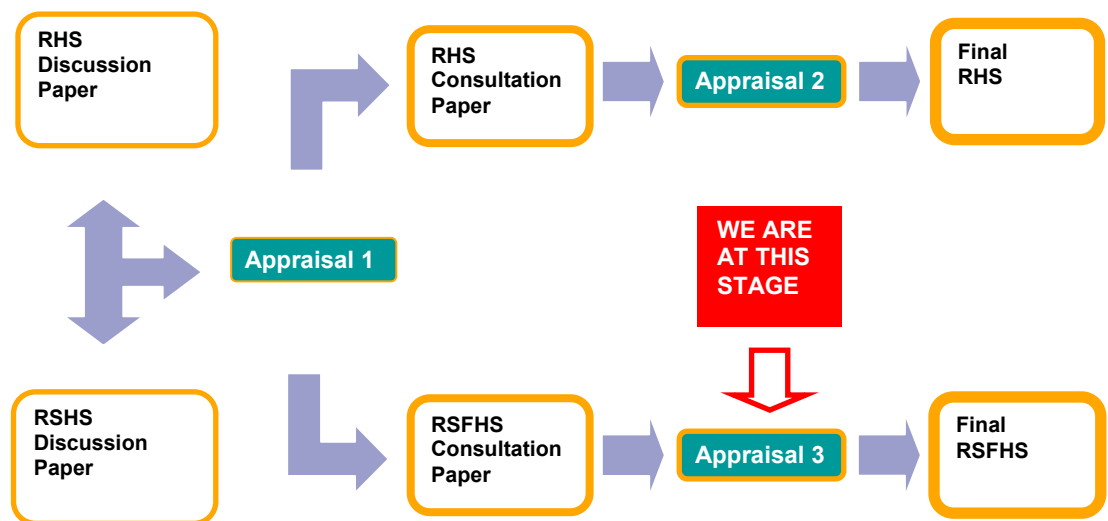


Figure 1: North West RHS and RSFHS Appraisal and Preparation Process

1.2 Structure of the is Report

In summary the structure of this report includes:

- **Section 1 Introduction:** This section provides background information on the need to review the RSFHS, the emergence of a Regional Strategy for the North West and the need to develop an appraisal approach that will help produce more effective spatial strategies.
- **Section 2 Key Aims of the Regional Strategic Framework for Action:** This section summarises the key issues identified in the RSFHS Consultation Paper.
- **Section 3 Summary of Combined Appraisal:** This section provides a brief overview of the results of the Appraisal.
- **Section 4 Key Issues:** This section provides a summary of the key issues and recommended mitigation measures to be considered by the RSFHS steering group and authors.
- **Section 5 Emerging Issues regarding future development of the North West's IAT and Evidence Base:** This section sets out a range of additional issues that should be considered when developing the IAT in the future.
- **Section 6 Next Steps:** Provides a summary of the next stage for the preparation of the RSFHS.

1.3 Background

The RSFHS is a key document for the North West. It supplements the recently published Regional Housing Strategy (RHS), which in turn sits alongside the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) and Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) to inform the sustainable development of the region.

The Regional Leaders Board, North West Development Agency (NWDA) and Government Office of the North West (GONW) have been working to ensure better alignment of regional strategies. This has included the commissioning and joint use of common evidence bases on a variety of topics, to inform policy development in the RES, RSS and other strategies. This has been successful in ensuring better policy alignment. The proposals under the Sub-National Economic Review (SNR) for a Regional Strategy build upon that approach.

Further consultation on this has been undertaken via the publication of 'Prosperous Places: Taking forward the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration' by CLG and BERR in 31 March 2008. The Consultation Paper provided further detail on how the new regional strategy will be developed.

For the housing element of the new strategy, it proposes that local authority (LA) assessments will need to be undertaken to identify housing opportunities and needs in each area, with LAs encouraged to work collaboratively within a sub regional framework. The LA assessments would then be used by Regional Development Agencies (RDA) and LAs to 'test' guidance produced (based on advice from the National Housing and Planning Advisory Unit (NHPAU)¹) on housing provision required over a 15 to 20 year period. The delivery of housing focuses on the need for local authorities to have ownership of housing distribution as set out in the regional strategy. The role of Regional Leaders Board is central as they are engaged in all aspects of the regional strategy's development and implementation.

In setting out the long-term vision for sustainable economic growth and housing supply the Prosperous Places Consultation Paper recognised the need for future development to contribute to a low carbon economy, deliver the objectives set out in the Climate Change

¹ See <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/nhpau/>

and Energy Bills, and to be in line with planning policy on climate change. As well as undertaking the appraisal for the North West's Regional Housing Strategies, 4NW, as a Regional Planning Body, has also agreed to undertake a Partial Review of the RSS that ran concurrently with the review of RHS and RSFHS and this appraisal process. The emergence of the Regional Strategy (RS) is driving towards an integrated appraisal approach. Therefore this has implications for the RSFHS and provides an opportunity for the final framework to inform the Regional Strategy. The RSFHS was presented to a wide audience of stakeholders at a national Supported Housing event held on 11 May 2009. This event included presentations on how the RSFHS will sit in the wider context of other regional strategies, housing provision and service delivery.

1.3.1 Developing a Combined Appraisal Approach

Each type of appraisal/ assessment for this commission (EqIA, HIA and Rural Proofing) has been integrated to create a Combined Appraisal and is based on the first version of the North West's Integrated Appraisal Toolkit (IAT) (Please visit: www.sdtoolkit-northwest.org.uk/toolkit/index.php). The IAT has been developed to ensure that policies and projects developed in the North West integrate fully economic, social and environmental objectives. In addition to developing a Combined Appraisal, a key consideration for this commission has been to ensure that stakeholders are fully engaged in the process on order to access existing knowledge and skills. For full details on the methodology used, the IAT and how the Appraisal Groups have been developed and involved in the process please see Appendix A of this report.

1.4 Need for a Sustainability Appraisal

Thorough consideration of sustainability from an economic, social and environmental perspective is a critical step necessary to secure the successful delivery of any strategy. The Regional Leaders Board is committed to ensuring that policy and strategies are fully informed and appraised to secure the delivery of the best options possible for the region. Appendix B provides a full breakdown of the driving forces behind the content of this appraisal which includes the following elements:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (not including Strategic Environmental Assessment);
- Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) taking into account:
 - Race Relations Action 1976 and Amendment Act 2000
 - Disability Discrimination Act 2005
 - Equality Act 2006
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Rural Proofing.

2 Key aims of the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support

2.1 Introduction

This section provides a short background to the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support (RSFHS), what it aims to do and how it relates to other strategies being prepared for the region.

2.2 Development of the Key Aims of the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support

A discussion paper on the RSFHS was published on 9 May 2008. This document set out a vision, objectives and emerging key priorities for supported housing in the region and is based on work undertaken that identifies common areas for improvement/opportunities for developing a joint approach. Priorities are set out under the theme headings as follows:

Choice: To enable people to access services to meet their individual needs

Proposed areas for improvement or development:

- Access arrangements – access to support and accommodation, to enable choice, mobility and sustainability etc.
- Related services – access to health, probation and associated services etc.
- Accommodation – all forms and the barriers surrounding them, for example: supported & general affordable housing; sustainable move-on and the impact of choice based lettings schemes and policies within; lifetime homes and standards in place; making better use of the private sector; DFGs and the package of changes etc.
- Personalisation – moving towards self directed support, impact of individual budgets, needs assessments, common assessment frameworks, flexibility etc.

Opportunity: Supporting the most vulnerable and excluded to successfully live independently

Proposed areas for improvement or development:

- Worklessness – opportunity for education, training and skills for all through linking housing with economic growth.
- Recognising our diverse needs – not just about Supporting People client groups but people who have complex and multiple needs, such as:
 - Families
 - Gypsies & travellers
 - Single people
 - Offenders
 - Mental health
 - BME and new and emerging communities
 - Older people and an ageing society
 - Young people
 - Other marginalised client groups – people with HIV/AIDS etc

Stability: To ensure that people are always able to access the best service to meet their needs

Proposed areas for improvement or development:

- Identifying need e.g. further research and needs model implementation etc.
- Enhancing partnerships with the third sector – voluntary community sector, SITRA and working with providers.
- Enabling services users to inform plans – engagement at all levels.
- Building capacity in the region e.g. joint commissioning, stronger and diverse provider market, strategic sub-regional working etc.
- Improving value for money and efficiency – through the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership, a proposed regional methodology approach on how we collect our data and how we commission future services.
- Influencing national, regional and local policy and investment.
- Raising regional profile – within region and with other regions.

2.2.1 Developing the Regional Supported Housing Strategy Aims for the Regional Strategic Framework for Action

Following the completion of the Combined Appraisal (Appraisal 1) of the RSFS Discussion Paper and comments received through consultation, the revised RSFHS sets out a framework that has three purposes:

- To enable **social inclusion** through demonstrating that housing support to vulnerable and socially excluded households has a considerable contribution to make to regional and local ambitions for economic prosperity and sustainable communities
- To provide the **framework for regional and local action** that will make the most of the housing support contribution, based on an understanding of unmet need for housing support, local intelligence about the supply and quality of housing support and accommodation and best practice within and outside the region
- To reflect a **joint commitment** – and expectation – from regional partners in health, social care, housing and criminal justice and housing providers; that vulnerable and socially excluded households must be recognised in plans to deliver regional and local ambitions for people and communities.

This is underpinned by the vision which was established and agreed by the Regional Supported Housing Strategy Group in 2008 following considerable regional consultation. The vision encourages:

‘Working together to enable people to access support services to meet their individual needs wherever they choose to live, providing the most vulnerable and socially excluded with an opportunity to successfully live independently.’

Choice, opportunity and sustainability remain as the three shared ambitions for housing support in the region:

- **Choice:** people should be able to access a home and housing support to meet their personal needs and enable independent living
- **Opportunity:** people should have the opportunity to access services and amenities that will support them to improve their health and wellbeing, to develop skills and confidence, to contribute to, and benefit from, their communities and economic prosperity
- **Sustainability:** housing support must be available on a sustainable and secure basis if it is to achieve positive, longer term, outcomes for individuals and communities

3 Summary of Combined Appraisal of the RSFHS Consultation Paper

3.1 Introduction

This section provides a summary of the cumulative scores following the Combined Appraisal of the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support (RSFHS) Consultation Paper using the IAT and additional, supplementary questions developed to meet the requirements of SA, EqIA, HIA and Rural Proofing. For further details on the methodology, the use of the IAT and how the Appraisal Groups were developed and contributed to the appraisal process please see Appendix A.

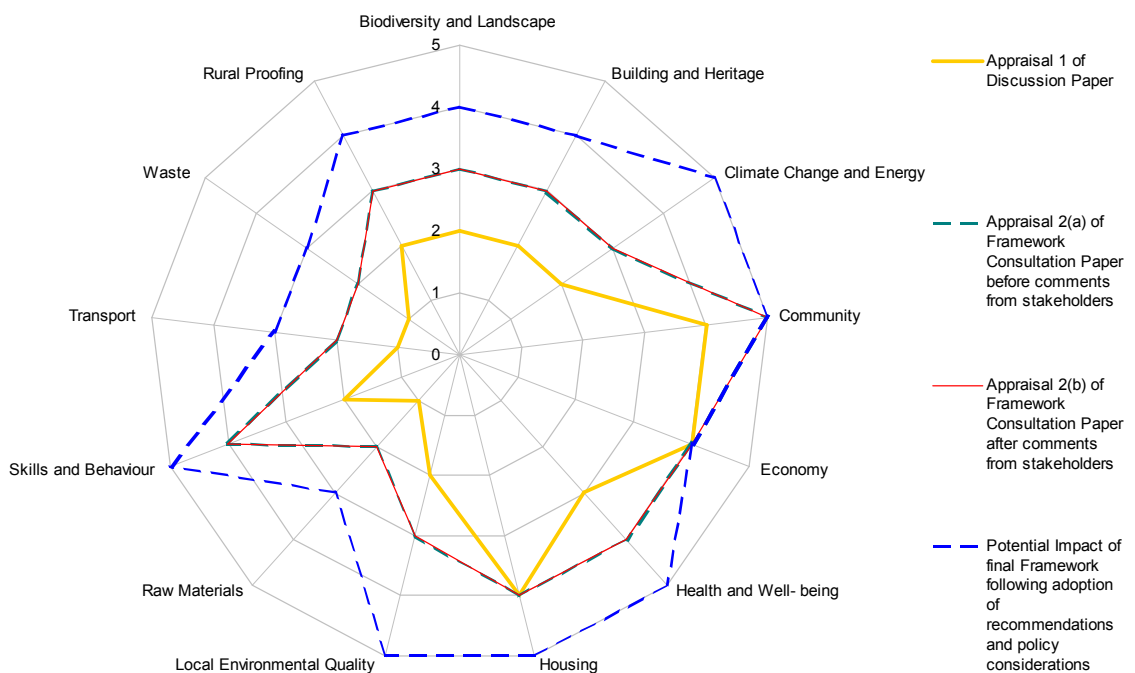
3.2 Summary of Cumulative Combined Appraisal Scores

3.2.1 Introduction

This section presents the cumulative scores for each of the appraisal themes used for the Combined Appraisal of the RSFHS Consultation Paper. For a more comprehensive summary of the key issues identified following the appraisal of the RSFHS Consultation Paper please see Section 4. For the full details of the appraisal please see Appendix C.

It is important to note that the results of the appraisal are based on the status of the document as a Consultation Paper and not a Draft Strategy. The Consultation Paper builds on the issues and prompts contained in the Discussion Paper which represented the very first stage of policy development for both the RHS and RSFHS (Appraisal 1) and sought to explore a range of issues that they may need to consider. Because of the nature of the Consultation Paper (i.e. it is a document that seeks further discussion and debate of issues as well as setting out the beginnings of a policy framework structure rather than being a conventional 'draft' strategy) the overall appraisal results are slightly distorted as a number of issues in the Paper are 'open ended'. Therefore, to help demonstrate the iterative process used for the appraisal of the RSFHS Discussion Paper and RSFHS Consultation Paper this section presents the scores at various stages of the process. It also presents the potential scores for the final RSFHS if the recommendations and policy consideration from the detailed appraisal (see Appendix C) are adopted.

Figure 2: Summary of Appraisal Scores for the RSFHS Discussion Paper (Appraisal 1), RSFHS Consultation Paper (Appraisal 2 a & b) and Potential Impact



3.2.2 The Iterative Appraisal Process

Figure 2 presents the results of Appraisal stages 1 and 2a & b following the responses from stakeholders during the online consultation. As can be seen in Figure 2, following the appraisal of the RSHS Discussion Paper (Appraisal 1) an initial appraisal was undertaken of the RSFHS Consultation Paper (Appraisal 2a). Appraisal 2a identified that the RSFHS Consultation Paper was likely to have more positive impacts on a number of themes than the Discussion Paper. This currently includes slight improvements in relation to Biodiversity and Landscape, Building and Heritage, Local Environmental Quality, Rural Proofing and Climate Change and Energy which has progressed from slightly negative impacts to having neutral/ mixed impacts. Slight improvements were also identified in relation to Raw Materials, Waste and Transport which has increased from a very negative impact to a slightly negative.

There were significant improvements to Skills and Behaviour which increased from a slightly negative impact to a slightly positive impact overall. Further positive impacts were given for the Community theme which as increased from slightly positive to very positive impacts and Health and Well – being improved from a neutral/ mixed impact to slightly positive. Finally Housing and the Economy did not change and both received a slightly positive score.

As set out in Figure 2, the key indicates the remaining phase to the Appraisal 2 (Appraisal 2b) of the Consultation Paper. This phase include an electronic consultation phase with the results issued to stakeholders, who then provided comments on the scores of each theme of the combined appraisal. At the time of issuing the results of Appraisal 2a to stakeholders it was anticipated (as with the initial (Appraisal 2a) appraisal of the RHS Consultation Paper) that a number of themes will receive more stringent scores and that Appraisal 2a has been scored too positively for some themes.

Following the consultation event there were no issues identified with the scoring for Appraisal 2a. Comments received focused on new evidence and reaffirming key messages that should be considered when finalising the RSFHS. The primary issues discussed in written submissions were based on health and well matters. These focused on the need to strengthen the links between housing support and health and social care and the wider benefits this brings to the economy and social cohesion. Other issues included the need to clearly set out the role of housing in place shaping and how the wider environmental quality of residential areas are critical in ensuring that health and well being is improved within communities, particularly the more deprived areas of the region. These issues are set out in more detail in Section 4 and Appendix C.

In addition a further 'Potential Impact' score has been provided that indicates what the final RSFHS is likely to achieve if all recommendations and policy recommendations are adopted by the RSFHS authors.

4 Key Issues

4.1 Introduction

This section sets out a brief analysis of the appraisal against the Consultation Paper and summarises the key issues and recommendations for mitigation that the RSFHS Steering Group and strategy authors will need to consider when developing the final Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support (RSFHS).

In considering the findings of the appraisal the Consultation Paper takes forward a number of recommendations from the appraisal of the RSFHS Discussion Paper.

To help clarify and further improve the final RSFHS, a number of key issues are identified in the rest of this section. To help structure the summary of responses we have categorised them into three main themes.

- **Areas for clarification**
- **Making connections and achieving balance**
- **Implementation of housing provision and service delivery**

Due to the comprehensive nature of the Combined Appraisal, it remains likely that a number of the issues raised will be beyond the scope and remit of the RSFHS. However, it is still appropriate to raise these issues as it provides a useful reference to the full range of social, economic and environmental issues facing the region. Where the RSFHS Steering Group and authors consider the issues and recommendations to be inappropriate for the RSFHS to respond to directly, it will be important that a justification is provided as to why this is the case to help provide clarification, transparency and certainty to the process. This understanding can then be used to inform other strategies such as the RSS and emerging Regional Strategy and how these relate to the RSFHS and help to 'future proof' the region's strategies.

4.2 Areas for Clarification

At present there is no definition of 'housing' within the framework. This currently leaves the framework open to interpretation as to whether it covers mobile communities (i.e. Gypsies and Travellers). The framework should also make reference to:

- the inclusion of mobile communities, not living in bricks and mortar, within the scope of services;
- disabled people as a group which action resulting from the framework should benefit (Section 2.2)

Further, the framework should recognise that appropriate information dissemination relating to communities housing support choices is fundamental to promoting inclusion (e.g. ensuring information is in accessible formats).

There are also opportunities to provide greater spatial expression to the framework and to provide examples of broad areas where deprivation is experienced for each sub region. At present there is recognition of sub regional and local levels however specific locations and broad areas are limited to sub regional needs only.

The framework should expand on the current definition of rural areas and recognise that rural areas have distinct issues in terms housing support and affordability due to housing supply and issues regarding service delivery due to remoteness. In particular there are opportunities to address increased costs associated with delivering supported accommodation and housing support commonly known as the 'rural premium'.

4.3 Making the Connections and Achieving Balance

The framework should recognise:

- That any housing development can impact on biodiversity and local landscape character areas and that similarly, supported housing could benefit from improved landscape and biodiversity. These benefits can come in the form of cleaner and safer environments (air quality, tranquillity etc.), better ability to exercise (walking, running etc.), reduced stress and so forth. Equally by recognising and developing the framework in this way there would be benefits to Environmental Quality of neighbourhoods and local authority areas.
- Specific reference to Housing Learning and Improvement Networks (LIN) could be made to help support the framework's already strong focus on employment issues.
- The RSFHS should also make reference to the national and regional objective of reducing the number of people in institutional care and caring in or close to their homes. One stakeholder referred to links to Public Services Agreements, particularly PSA 16 which deals with socially excluded adults.
- That housing exists within a wider public realm/environment which is also important for communities' health, wellbeing, accessibility and integration. There is potential to provide specific advice in relation to preparing for Comprehensive Area Assessment in this respect.
- The framework could explicitly set out how housing support links with health and social care and the benefits this brings in terms of social capital and cohesiveness and social and mental well being.
- That the framework places more emphasis on the role housing support can play in tackling the issues that cause health inequalities. These include providing decent and settled accommodation, access to training, skills and employment opportunities and stronger links to communities and services, particularly health promotion and prevention services.
- That the RSFHS supports the inclusion of housing provision and housing support needs as part of the statutory requirements of Public Health, Adult Social Services and Children's Services directives. It was suggested by one stakeholder that a Joint Strategic Assessment linked to local commissioning plans and informing Local Area Agreements (LAA), Multi Area Agreements (MAA) and Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) is also considered.
- The potential role of Local Development Frameworks and Parish Plans to support the consultation on and delivery of housing.
- Design and Access Statements and their role to ensuring high standards of new development through the planning system could be recognised within the framework to assist in demonstrating how new supported accommodation contributes to the wider environmental quality. It was also recommended by a stakeholder that the framework recognises the role of assistive technology in providing housing support.
- Local Transport Plans (LTP) and their role to ensure the highest design and sustainability standards are achieved when delivering housing support services i.e. to reduce the need to travel by car and use sustainable modes of transport. One stakeholder referred to emerging research in the UK that demonstrates that high levels of traffic in streets have adverse impacts on social networks.
- The RSFHS should emphasise the need to invest in housing and associated services and how this can create 'whole system benefits' and develop efficiencies across all key social, economic and environmental agendas and is likely to demonstrate Value for Money when delivering services. It also highlights the need for true partnership working and consequently provides an opportunity to demonstrate this for CAA.

4.4 Implementation of Housing Provision and Service Delivery

- The framework should advocate for Equality Impact Assessments to be carried out when designing, developing, amending or removing any development for supported accommodation, and related services, policies and/or plans.
- There are opportunities for clarification of the contribution supported housing and services could make to tackling climate change. This includes:
 - Reducing the need to travel in terms of delivering supported services to client groups and client groups having access to employment opportunities and related health and support services without the need to travel by car.
 - Making existing and new build accommodation more energy efficient and capable of producing renewable energy.
 - Contributing to minimising waste through sustainable production and consumption practices.
 - Providing employment opportunities as part of a low carbon economy.
- There are opportunities to further develop the actions set out in table 4.1 of the Consultation Paper by setting standards in relation to access to amenities and support services for vulnerable groups to further help improve Health and Well Being across the region.
- The RSFHS recognises the transformation agenda and its promotion of early intervention and preventative services.
- That the framework makes links to the personalisation agenda that forms part of social care provision as there are already strong links to housing support. There are a number of toolkits developed that could help inform future strategic assessments and support sub regional and local practitioners implement and manage transformation in service provision.

5 Emerging Issues regarding future development of the North West's IAT and evidence base

5.1 Introduction

This section sets out a range of additional issues that were raised at the Appraisal Group workshops for the Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) and Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support (RSFHS) Discussion Papers and RHS and RSFHS Consultation Papers.

There are further opportunities for stakeholders to contribute to this through the RSFHS consultation and therefore comments are welcome. These comments will be passed on to the consultants currently commissioned by NWDA to review and develop the IAT.

Where appropriate these issues will be considered for:

- the future review and development of the IAT;
- the development of the North West's Regional Evidence Base; and
- wider consideration of issues such as the emerging Regional Strategy.

5.2 Issues that will be Considered for Future Appraisals

This section provides a summary of the issues raised with IAT with regards to the appraisal process for of the RHS and RSFHS Discussion and Consultation Papers. The key issues are set out below:

- It was noted that children's education is not covered by the IAT.
- The Appraisal Group members disagreed with some of the IAT questions that were screened out. This included environmental quality questions relating to litter and fly tipping, hazardous waste and an economic question relating to innovation and research and development.

The issues raised by stakeholders were considered for the appraisal of the RHS Consultation Paper; however it was felt that such issues could still be considered without adding additional questions/ supplementary questions to the IAT. That said these issues should be considered in the future development of the IAT by the NWDA.

5.3 Future Development of the IAT

This section sets out a range of issues that should be considered in the future development of the IAT following the appraisal of the RHS and RSFHS to date.

Further development of the IAT appraisal framework

There should be focus on expanding the appraisal framework to have an increased emphasis on equality and health and how accommodation and the wider environment relate to this. The suggestions included:

- Ensuring there is greater emphasis on age proofing, as an aging population is regarded as one of the main sustainability issues facing the region.
- Opportunities to further develop the IAT Health and Well Being theme, particularly in relation to the links to the Department of Health's Transformation and Personalisation and Care Network websites.
- The question of high quality design should promote best practice design of homes and accommodation to support accessible homes and sustainability.
- The question on enhancing the lives of ALL communities in the Community section of the IAT needs more detail and in addressing supported housing client groups the term "vulnerable groups" should be avoided.
- The question on improving health and/or improve access to health care: in the Health and Well Being theme could be expanded to include a wide range of issues including:

- accessible design of accommodation in the public and private sectors;
 - the accessibility of the environment and transport, as well as to local facilities including chemists, shops and post offices;
 - issues relating to clean air policies; and
 - provision of adequate waste disposal and recycling procedures (some of which are currently impossible for disabled people to comply with without assistance), designing for security, ensuring the provision of open spaces and facilities for children and young people etc.
- Providing access to good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing should include better standards than the “decent homes standard”. This was recently recognised in the CLG proposals in promoting Lifetime Homes and other standards. Currently BS 8300 is under review and is in a consultation phase. This may also affect and improve current accessibility standards.
 - It was considered that future approaches to appraisal should fully integrate Rural Proofing into all aspects of the IAT, particularly in the EqIA element of the appraisal process to ensure it is not a ‘bolt on’ assessment. The approach should view rural residents/communities as a population group with particular needs that may be impacted upon to a different degree than urban residents by policies, strategies and service delivery arrangements. The object of the exercise is to consider those differential impacts and any variation in policy or delivery that may be needed to mitigate them.

Further technical development of the IAT

The future development of the IAT should consider a range of technical improvements in terms of systems and software development. These include:

- Development of IAT questions to be weighted and linked to each other to ensure that the impacts of supplementary questions automatically effect on the main, ‘parent’ question for each IAT theme. The links and weighting could also be applied across different themes. For example, if the RHS Consultation Paper identifies the objective of using existing housing stock rather than demolition; this is likely to have positive impacts on reducing waste; the need for raw materials and in turn reducing CO2 emissions.
- The software needs to be developed to ensure there is a more robust approach to auditing the contributions of appraisers. At present there is too much scope for appraiser’s comments to be deleted in the text boxes and therefore for the purposes of the appraisal of the RHS and RSFHS Arup have resorted to more traditional forms of consultation.
- In addition, the IAT should include areas in the toolkit that clearly present the results of previous appraisals and provide opportunities for the authors of the plans, programmes and strategies etc being appraised to respond to the comments made and provide justifications and responses where necessary. This would improve the opportunities for a transparent and robust appraisal and clearly demonstrate an iterative process.
- There are opportunities to improve the final outputs of the IAT by providing a range of presentational options for the user to present the results of the appraisal. This could include the symbol approach currently used along with a range of graphic options including bar charts and radar diagrams.

5.4 Future Evidence Base Considerations

This section presents a number of issues raised at the Appraisal Group workshops for the Appraisal of the RHS and RSFHS Discussion Papers and RHS and RSFHS Consultation

Papers and through comments received via email from the Appraisal Group members relating to the future development of the North West Evidence Base.

5.4.1 Accessible Accommodation

The Appraisal Group members raised concerns regarding the lack of information on the availability and management of accessible housing, especially in the private sector and in housing trusts. It was felt that there is a need for a regional strategy to support mixed schemes, choice and availability of housing relating to employment opportunities. A key issue discussed at the RHS Consultation Paper appraisal included the role of Housing Market Areas (HMA) in providing a framework for ensuring existing and future employment and housing areas are fully integrated with each other. However to achieve this, it was felt that currently HMAs do not accurately reflect and/or are flexible enough to adapt to future housing and employment development and would only serve to maintain current travel to work patterns. Therefore it was recommended that amendments to HMAs are considered to better reflect changes regarding the potential impact of significant housing or employment development such as Growth Points.

Accessible housing standards will be appropriate for older people requiring additional support, for larger families, for people receiving NHS medical support at home instead of in hospital and for disabled people. It was noted that baseline information on the availability and quality of accessible accommodation for disabled people is not available anywhere in the North West and this should be a priority.

5.4.2 Use of Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

The Appraisal Group members raised a number of issues with regards to the accuracy of data to inform the North West Evidence Base. One recommendation from an Appraisal Group member was that the future development of the region's evidence base takes into account sources such as OCSI www.ocsi.co.uk. This uses the same data, however interprets it at an Output Area levels with smaller populations (i.e. populations of around 300). It was considered that this allows for a much better understanding of the way in which small numbers of deprived people cluster in rural areas. OCSI also looks at the 'rural share' of deprivation by comparing the number of people affected by deprivation in rural areas against their urban counterparts. This can transform understanding about the targeting of activity because it translates a relatively low percentage of deprivation in rural areas into numerically significant populations.

5.4.3 Community-level Evidence:

The Appraisal Group emphasised the need for using community consultation as part of the North West Evidence Base. It was emphasised that in responding to the Government's community engagement and empowerment agenda; policies and strategies should be built from the bottom up i.e. community/parish plans informing community strategies and Local Development Frameworks, in turn informing regional policy/strategy. There was concern at the workshop that there was a limited connection between the RHS and RSFHS and 'grass roots' sources of evidence and subsequently strategies often fail to address the real needs of some communities in the region.

5.4.4 Health Evidence

Stakeholders have referred to a range of health related evidence that should be used to further develop the links between housing and health. Regionally specific evidence could include the delivery of housing types and links with health. This could also be widened to include social, economic and environmental considerations such as traffic free neighbourhoods, proximity to places of work and home working, permeability of housing estates and the contribution of housing, housing support and social/health care in providing 'whole system benefits'.

5.4.5 Monitoring of the Planning System:

At the Appraisal Group workshop it was suggested that more evidence on the way that planning authorities are operating was needed. This included decision making, including

consultations, best practice in relation to access standards for disabled people, open and green spaces and the relationship to employment.

5.5 Future Consultation Considerations

This section presents a number of issues raised at the Appraisal Group workshop and through comments received via email from the Appraisal Group members relating to future approaches to consultation in the region.

5.5.1 Developing a consistent, regional approach to consultation

Issues were raised regarding the need to develop specific guidelines and procedures for consultation and community engagement to include not only local residents but also groups that operate city wide and regionally. This would often ensure that consideration is given to issues such as accessibility in housing, transport and the environment that would meet the needs of all members of the community.

It was recommended that the development of guidelines and procedures should be part of an overall consultation strategy common throughout the North West and in keeping with various government strategies.

One example provided by the Appraisal Group members included the potential for a strategy for communicating the knowledge underpinning best practice design to ensure that developers, architects, planners and building control officers and planning inspectors are aware of the reasons behind best practice design (i.e. the needs of different client groups) which is often to the detriment of many developments.

5.6 Considerations for the RSS Partial Review

This section sets out a number of issues raised at the Appraisal Group workshop and comments received from Appraisal Group members via email with regards to the planning system that could be considered as part of the RSS Partial Review. Since the inception of this commission there have been significant changes in the scope of the RSS Partial Review that have resulted in housing numbers being omitted. Therefore the degree to which the appraisal of the RHS and RSFHS can be used to influence the Partial Review is limited to issues regarding Gypsies and Travellers only.

5.6.1 Potential Barriers in the Planning System

The Appraisal Group raised a number of issues with regards to housing provision in general, in particular potential and perceived barriers in the planning system for affordable and supported housing provision. It was considered that these tensions are well illustrated in the latest RSS where there are policies that are supportive of meeting rural needs (e.g. DP8, RDF2) however; experience has shown that such policies are often interpreted literally and inflexibly by Local Planning Authorities. For example DP1, 2 and 5 all require development to be genuinely accessible by public transport. However, this is a requirement that simply cannot be met by numerous smaller and more remote Cumbrian communities, including some that are Local Service Centres.

In addition, further examples included provision of housing being constrained because of strict design policies, particularly in rural areas where there are landscape characteristic sensitivities.

One recommendation from the Arup team was that in ensuring the right balance of housing provision is met to meet different community and client group needs an annual EqIA of Planning Permissions should be considered.

6 Next Steps

6.1 Taking the Appraisal Findings of the RHS Consultation Paper Forward

Now that the final appraisal (Appraisal 2b) has been completed the findings will be issued to the authors of the RSFHS. The key findings, recommendations and areas for mitigation should be fully considered by the authors and responses should be provided where these are not taken forward. Upon completion of the RSFHS, this Appraisal Report will be published alongside the final framework.

Appendix A

Appraisal Methodology

A1 Appraisal Methodology

A1.1 Introduction

This appendix sets out the methodology used in undertaking a Combined Appraisal of the RHS and RSFHS and provides background information on the IAT, what its purpose is, how it was developed and how it has been assessed to meet the requirements for appraising the RHS and RSFHS.

The method used in undertaking the Combined Appraisal of the RHS and RSFHS has followed a two stage approach for each key appraisal stage (i.e. Appraisal 1, 2 and 3):

- Stage 1: Initial appraisal undertaken by Arup to provide an initial level of assessment to stimulate discussions at Stage 2.
- Stage 2: Appraisal Group Workshop which reviewed the initial findings from Stage 1 and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to provide additional comments at the workshop and/ or via email.

Following completion of this stage the method used in undertaking the Combined Appraisal of the RSFHS Consultation Paper followed the same two stage approach; however the Appraisal Group Workshop was replaced by a consultation period.

A1.2 Methodology

The approach undertaken for these Appraisals is based on the North West IAT. In summary, the principles behind undertaking a combined approach to appraising the RHS and RSFHS are:

- To ensure a holistic approach to appraisal is achieved based on the North West Integrated Appraisal Toolkit (IAT).
- That the appraisal fully integrates the specific requirements of the different types of appraisal/ assessment.
- A more comprehensive range of social, economic and environmental issues are taken into consideration.
- That the approach is used to form the basis for appraisals of the future Single Regional Strategy.

The appraisal process for the RHS and RSFHS Discussion Papers and RHS/RSFHS Consultation Papers includes the following tasks in accordance with SA/SEA requirements:

1. Test the plan objectives against the sustainability objectives;
2. Predict and assess the effects of different issues.

The appraisal process is iterative, building on previous experience and feedback from the Regional Leaders Board and Appraisal Groups with an interest in the SA, EqIA, HIA and Rural Proofing.

A1.2.1 Using the IAT as the basis for the Combined Appraisal

One of the core elements of the commission is to use the North West IAT as the basis for undertaking the Combined Appraisal and to help inform what additional, supplementary questions are required in order to meet the requirements of EqIA, HIA and Rural Proofing.

The IAT has been developed in consultation with statutory stakeholders to ensure that policies and projects developed in the North West integrate fully economic, social and environmental objectives to ensure sustainable development. It is an interactive and dynamic tool that provides a robust framework for appraisal, valuable information, and a transparent and coherent audit record for those producing policies, programmes and other proposals.

The IAT has been designed to address the sustainable development issues that are pertinent to the North West, whilst incorporating enough flexibility to allow both regional and local initiatives to be assessed.

For further information on the entire question set used in the IAT please visit: www.sdtoolkit-northwest.org.uk/toolkit/index.php

The IAT appraisal framework covers the following themes:

- Biodiversity and Landscape
- Building and heritage
- Climate Change and Energy
- Community
- Economy
- Health and Well- being
- Housing
- Local Environmental Quality
- Raw Materials
- Skills and Behaviour
- Transport
- Waste

In addition to the established IAT framework, a specific section on Rural Proofing has also been developed.

A1.2.2 Assessing the IAT against the RSS SA Objectives

One of the key issues for this combined approach is to ensure there is a consistent approach to appraisal that ensures the links with other regional strategies such as the RSS and RES is achieved. In achieving this, an assessment was undertaken to compare the suitability and robustness of the themes in the IAT compared to the RSS SA objectives. This ensured we had a clear understanding of the IAT's ability to provide a broad appraisal and how this will inform the more detailed and specific requirements of EqIA, HIA and Rural Proofing.

A1.2.3 Screening the IAT

In addition to assessing the IAT for its suitability for SA of the Regional Housing Strategies we have also undertaken a screening exercise to ensure we only appraise the strategies with the most relevant questions.

A1.2.4 How we will Use the IAT

The IAT is a dynamic and interactive tool that can be used to assess the economic, social and environmental credentials of plans, policy and programmes etc. For details on the IAT questions used to undertake the EqIA, HIA and Rural proofing as well as the supplementary questions developed, please refer to Appendix D.

A1.3 Developing Appraisal Groups for the RHS and RSFHS

As identified in Section 1.2.1, the identification of appropriate stakeholders to be involved and engaged in the appraisal process is key to the robustness of the Combined Appraisal. Identification of potential stakeholders began in March 2008. The initial invitation to be involved in the appraisal process was made on 25 March 2008 with expressions of interest to be received by the 4 April 2008. In addition, to ensure further alignment with the RSS the invitation was extended to include expressions of interest for being involved in the appraisal process as part of the RSS Partial Review.

Following expressions of interest being received, further correspondence was made on 4 May 2005 inviting members to the first Appraisal Group workshop to be held on the 23 May 2008. The correspondence provided each Appraisal Group member with guidance on the appraisal process, their roles and responsibilities and relevant background information for the RHS and RSFHS in order to effectively frontload them in the process.

A1.4 Assessing the Effects

The method used to assess the direct and indirect effects of the RHS and RSFHS is informed by judgments. This judgement process will be based upon the method used by Arup to undertake an initial assessment and the findings then presented to the Appraisal Group members to review and comment on, either via email and/or at the Appraisal Group workshop.

In assessing the RHS and RSFHS a series of tables have been developed to record the appraisal and are developed to reflect the IAT appraisal framework and scoring scale. The scoring scale used is set out below:

- No Response
- I consider that this is not relevant
- I do not know
- It will have a very negative impact
- It will have a slightly negative impact
- It will have a neutral or mixed impact
- It will have a slightly positive impact
- It will have a very positive impact

A1.4.1 Presenting the Appraisals

In undertaking the assessment a systematic approach was used to ensure that wherever possible:

- the content of the strategy Discussion/Consultation Paper is identified in relation to the issues it is being appraised against with general observations provided that identify the specific contents of the paper;
- mitigation measures are identified that should be considered in shaping the RHS and RSFS with a view to then preparing the next stage of the strategies.

- guidance and signposting to relevant policy interventions is provided that should also be considered to avoid policy conflict.

An example of the tables used is set out below:

Figure 3 Example of Appraisal Table

IAT Question	Will the initiative improve income levels in deprived areas?
Impact	<i>It will have a slightly positive impact</i>
Observations	
The paper looks at tackling worklessness in order to allow the excluded to successfully live independently.	
Mitigation for the Discussion Paper	
The Discussion Paper should recognise the need to address average incomes in the region and how housing and in particular housing led regeneration can assist in increasing incomes in areas of deprivation.	
Appraisal Group Comments	
Appraisal Group Members recommended that housing and health should be better linked to the 'Pathways to Work Programme' to enable people to access opportunities more readily	
Policies for Consideration	
Potential areas for further policy development include reference to the RES, in particular the objectives set out in the People and jobs section of the strategy. This sets out a range of issues needed to be addressed to achieve greater accessibility to employment including the development to job linkages, growth of local employment in areas remote from growth in addition to existing successful areas. It also considers the need to improve the health of workforces and the need to respond to an aging population and the implications this has for the economy.	
In addition, in relation addressing the requirements of Rural Proofing the North West Regional Rural Delivery Framework (www.gos.gov.uk/497468/docs/276882/400859). Reference should also be made to policy RDF2 of the RSS which deals with Rural Areas	
RHS Author Response	

Appendix B

Need for Appraisal

B1 Need for Appraisal

B1.1 Assessment (SA/SEA)

In the case of the RHS and RSFHS there is no statutory requirement for SA/SEA². Despite this, both the Regional Leaders Board and Arup consider that as a matter of good practice, an SA (but not SEA) should be undertaken for the regional housing strategies to ensure they are robust and effective in addressing the region's housing needs sustainably.

Arup have developed a Combined Appraisal approach that enshrines the processes of SA (based on the Region's Integrated Appraisal Toolkit), EqIA, HIA and Rural Proofing. This approach has been developed in partnership with the 4NW Regional Leaders Board. It is important to highlight that the Regional Leaders Board have agreed with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) that this approach is appropriate.

B1.2 Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA)

B1.2.1 Race Relations Act 1976 and Amendment Act 2000

Section 71 of the Race Relations Amendment Act sets out the statutory obligation referred to as the General Statutory Duty. This duty requires every body, or other person specified in Schedule 1A³ or of a description falling within that Schedule, in carrying out its functions, to have due regard to the need:

- (a) to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination; and
- (b) to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups.

This legislation also sets out the Commission for Racial Equalities right to issue Statutory Codes of Practice.

In the context of Section 71 of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, and the Equality Standard for Local Government, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a thorough and systematic analysis of a policy, whether that policy is written or unwritten, formal or informal, and irrespective of the scope of that policy.

B1.2.2 Disability Discrimination Act 2005

The Act places a duty on the public sector to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people and to eliminate discrimination. This duty is anticipatory, meaning that public authorities will have to review all their policies, practices, procedures and services to make sure they do not discriminate against disabled people and ensure that all their services are planned with disabled people's needs fully considered in advance.

B1.2.3 Equality Act 2006

The Equality Act has three main purposes:

- To establish the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR)
- To make discrimination unlawful on the grounds of religion or belief in the provision of goods, facilities and services, the disposal and management of premises, education, and the exercise of public functions.
- To outlaw discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the provision of goods, facilities and services.

² The SA/SEA process is a statutory requirement. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a requirement for all Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and Local Development Documents (LDD) to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

The European Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) came into effect in the UK from the 21 July 2004 in the form of 'The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI2004/1633)'. These regulations require that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is undertaken on a range of plans and programmes including housing strategies.

³ Schedule 1A includes government departments and local government

- To create a duty on public authorities to promote equality of opportunity between men and women, and to prohibit sex discrimination in the exercise of public functions.

This means that all public sector bodies will have a general duty in the exercise of their public functions to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, and to promote equality between men and women, known as the Gender Equality Duty (GED). This will affect all of their activities, from the provision of bus services to social care.

B1.3 Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

There is no statutory requirement for HIA; however the SEA Directive requires consideration of the likely significant effects of a plan or programme on human health. Information to be provided in a scoping report includes:

“the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors...”

The Government White Paper Choosing Health (DH, 2004) states that *‘the impact of ‘non-health’ interventions on population health should be routinely considered both before implementing policies (through Health Impact Assessments, for example) and afterwards through evaluation.’*

The Department of Health has issued draft guidance on Health in Strategic Environmental Assessment (DH, 2007). The draft guidance recommends an approach that focuses on the determinants of health, or those environmental, social and economic factors that have the most influence on health, in order to promote wellbeing throughout the affected communities and reduce health inequalities. The guidance states that *“the population’s health is affected by all the different SEA topics so their inter-relationship needs to be considered”*.

B1.4 Rural Proofing

There is no statutory requirement for Rural Proofing, however, it is an increasingly important mechanism used by government, at national and regional levels, to ensure that rural needs and circumstances are taken into account in policy development and delivery. As a process, it is intended to ensure that as policy is developed and implemented, government and other relevant bodies:

- consider whether their policy is likely to have a different impact in rural areas, because of particular circumstances or needs;
- make a proper assessment of those impacts, and, where they are thought to be significant;
- adjust, where appropriate, policy and delivery with solutions to meet rural areas’ needs and circumstances.

Rural proofing was formally introduced by government in the Rural White Paper 2001. It was then refreshed by government in the Rural Strategy 2004, giving the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) a statutory role to monitor and report on how policy is developed and the extent to which those policies are meeting rural need.

Appendix C

**Combined Appraisal of
Regional Housing
Strategy Consultation
Paper**

C1 Combined Appraisal of Regional Housing Strategy Discussion Paper

Appendix D

**Response to the
Sustainability
Appraisal, Equality and
Health Impact
Assessments and Rural
proofing of the
Regional Strategic
Framework for Housing
Support 2009-2020.**

D1 Response to the Sustainability Appraisal, Equality and Health Impact Assessments and Rural proofing of the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support 2009-2020.

D1.1 Overview:

SA, HIA, EIA and Rural Proofing	Justification and response
The need to strengthen the links between housing support and health and social care and the wider benefits this brings to the economy and social cohesion	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and wellbeing cited in the introduction as ambitions, and in the definitions The section on contribution (2) has been added to, to incorporate reference to relevant priorities and ambitions The section on support in the North West (3) has been added to, to incorporate reference to financial benefits work and other benefits work by CSED
The need to clearly set out the role of housing in place shaping	<p>Framework not amended</p> <p>A considerable number of references are already made to the framework and housing support contributing to sustainable communities at a local level, and the need for local areas to consider the needs of vulnerable people within plans to deliver this</p>
Demonstrate how the wider environmental quality of residential areas are critical in ensuring that health and wellbeing is improved within communities, particularly in the more deprived areas of the region	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>The section on understanding the supply of supported housing (3) and the role of the local asset survey has been updated to reflect that this does consider the quality of the environment</p>

D1.2 Areas for clarification:

Findings	Justification and response
No specific definition of 'housing' and open to interpretation as to whether it covers mobile communities, i.e. Gypsies and Travellers	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>See also next response</p>
Make reference to the inclusion of mobile communities, not living in bricks and	Changes incorporated in the final framework.

Findings	Justification and response
mortar, within the scope of services	A definition of sustainable communities has been included in the introduction with a statement to clarify that this can also refer to mobile communities such as Gypsies and Travellers
Make reference to disabled people as a group which action resulting from the RSFHS should benefit (Section 2.2, RSFHS should recognise that appropriate information dissemination relating to communities' housing support choices is fundamental to promoting people's inclusion and ensuring information is in accessible formats)	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>A bullet point has been added to this section and reference made to the government's five-year Independent Living Strategy</p> <p>The Single Equality Bill has been referred to with Section 2</p>
Greater spatial expression needed, i.e. provide examples of broad areas where deprivation is experienced for each sub-region. At present there is recognition of sub-regional and local levels; however, specific locations and broad areas are limited to sub-regional needs only, and there may be an opportunity for the RSFHS to present local case study examples	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>The spatial dimension is not something that has been considered in depth, primarily because the resources for housing support are locally controlled, i.e. the decision to link this funding to addressing issues in specific geographic areas is not within the remit of the RSHSG or sub-regional groups</p> <p>However, the section on partnerships has been changed to highlight the need for work with sub-regional strategic housing partnerships in the future to develop an approach where appropriate</p>
Expand on the current definition of rural areas and recognise that rural areas have distinct issues in terms of housing support and affordability due to housing supply and issues regarding service delivery due to remoteness. In particular there are opportunities to address increased costs associated with delivering supported accommodation and housing support commonly known as the 'rural premium'	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>Although very early consultation did raise an issue about providing housing support in rural areas, subsequent consultation has not raised this again – this is felt to be because the framework seeks to provide a basis for regional working primarily, yet a response to a rural issue is something that would be a local or sub-regional response. Having said that, the framework has been amended to incorporate reference to the need to understand the supply of housing support in more depth; this would include understanding the rural perspective and as agreed by RSHSG will need to be built into Action Plan.</p> <p>Reference has also been made directly to this issue being raised through the SA in Section 2</p>

D1.3 Making the connections and achieving the balance:

Findings	Justification and response
<p>Recognise that any housing development and service can impact on biodiversity and local landscape character areas and that similarly, supported housing could benefit from improved landscape and biodiversity. These benefits can come in the form of cleaner and safer environments (air quality, tranquillity) better ability to exercise (walking, running), reduced stress and so forth. Equally by recognising and developing the RSFHS in this way, there would be benefits to the environmental quality of neighbourhoods and local authority areas</p>	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>See references to accessibility to public transport and healthy environments in relation to the local asset survey and in the standards expected of new supported housing development</p>
<p>Recognise Housing Learning and Improvement Networks (LIN) and how they could be made to help support the RSFHS's already strong focus on employment issues</p>	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>Reference has been made for links to be established in Section 2 under partnerships</p>
<p>Recognise the Department of Health's national and regional objective of reducing the number of people in institutional care and caring in or close to their homes</p>	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>Section 3 updated to include reference to this objective and links to relevant information</p>
<p>Recognise that housing exists within a wider public realm/ environment which is also important for communities' health, wellbeing, accessibility and integration. There is potential to provide specific advice in relation to preparing for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) in this respect</p>	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>Changes made to stress relevance of environment within the context of the local asset survey</p>
<p>Recognise how housing support links with health and social care and the benefits this brings in terms of social capital and cohesiveness and social and mental wellbeing</p>	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework in Section 2 already suggests many links to these aspects • A target has also been established to reflect the role of housing support in reducing isolation felt by service users • A target relating to mental health for all client groups has been established
<p>Recognise the role housing support can play in tackling the issues that cause health</p>	<p>Changes incorporated in the final</p>

Findings	Justification and response
<p>inequalities. These include providing decent and settled accommodation, access to training, skills and employment opportunities, and stronger links to communities and services, particularly health promotion and prevention services</p>	<p>framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Section 2 updated to incorporate health inequality and prevention more specifically ● A target relating to access to health services was not selected by RSHSG as targets based on SP outcomes framework chosen by RSHSG working group did not highlight this area of work as a priority as outcomes achieved are already sufficiently in line with national averages and the decision was made to concentrate on other priority areas i.e. employment.
<p>Recognise housing provision and housing support needs as part of the statutory requirements of public health, adult social services and children's services directives</p>	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>Section 2 highlights that housing support can contribute to meeting statutory requirements</p>
<p>Recognise potential role of Local Development Frameworks and Parish Plans to support the consultation on and delivery of housing</p>	<p>Changes not incorporated in the final framework.</p> <p>Considered to be more relevant to overarching strategies such as RHS or RSS.</p>
<p>Recognise that Design and Access Statements and their role to ensuring high standards of new development through the planning system could be recognised within the RSFHS. This would assist in demonstrating how new supported accommodation contributes to the wider environmental quality. It was also recommended by a stakeholder that the RSFHS recognises the role of assistive technology in providing housing support</p>	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>The proposals for action have been updated to make specific reference to design standards that must include location of homes in a healthy environment</p>
<p>Recognise Local Transport Plans (LTPs) and their role to ensure the highest design and sustainability standards are achieved when delivering housing support services, i.e. to reduce the need to travel by car and use sustainable modes of transport. One stakeholder referred to emerging research in the UK that demonstrates that high levels of traffic in streets have adverse impacts on social networks</p>	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>The proposals for action have been updated to make specific reference to design standards that must include location of homes to access to public transport.</p>
<p>Emphasise the need to invest in housing and associated services and how this can create 'whole system benefits' and develop efficiencies across all key social, economic and environmental agendas and is likely to demonstrate value for money when</p>	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework.</p> <p>Extensive reference to partnership working and specific references to CAA and North West Improvement & Efficiency</p>

Findings	Justification and response
delivering services. Its also highlights the need for true partnership working and consequently provides an opportunity to demonstrate this for CAA	Partnership.

D1.4 Implementation of housing provision and service delivery:

Findings	Justification and response
Advocate Equality Impact Assessments to be carried out when designing, developing, amending or removing any development for supported accommodation, and related services, policies and/or plans	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>Section 2 updated to include requirements of the Single Equality Bill</p>
Opportunities for clarification of the contribution supported housing and services could make to tackling climate change. This includes a) reducing the need to travel in terms of delivering supported services to client groups and client groups having access to employment opportunities and related health and support services without the need to travel by car; b) making existing and new-build accommodation more energy- efficient and capable of producing renewable energy; c) contributing to minimising waste through sustainable production and consumption practices; and d) providing employment opportunities as part of a low carbon economy	<p>Changes not incorporated</p> <p>This was felt by the RSHSG to be something that should be adopted at a local level by commissioners as they are responsible for commissioning specific services which would need to respond to local requirements in relation to travel, new-build specifications, waste and employment.</p>
Opportunities to further develop the actions set out in table 4.1 of the Consultation Paper by setting standards in relation to access to amenities and support services for vulnerable groups to further help improve health and wellbeing across the region	<p>Changes not incorporated</p> <p>The RSHSG has identified a number of targets by which success will be measured based on existing measures of success (the SP outcomes framework). Access to amenities and other services were not selected but contact with family, friends and external groups was particularly selected on the basis that service users felt that this would make the most difference to their health and wellbeing, i.e. it would reduce their isolation</p>
Recognise the transformation agenda and its promotion of early intervention and preventative services	<p>Changes incorporated in the final framework</p> <p>See next section</p>
Make links to the personalisation agenda that forms part of social care provision as there are already strong links to housing	Changes incorporated in the final framework

Findings	Justification and response
<p>support. There are a number of toolkits developed that could help inform future strategic assessments and support sub-regional and local practitioners to implement and manage transformation in service provision</p>	<p>Section 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further references have been made to responding to needs through personalised services• A bullet point about the ambition to transform people's experience of local support and services for adults who need care and support has been added• The section on developing the framework into action has been expanded in Section 1 and in Section 4

Appendix E

**IAT and Supplementary
Questions used to
undertake EqlA, HIA
and Rural Proofing
elements of the
Combined Appraisal**

E1 IAT and Supplementary Questions to undertake EqIA, HIA and Rural proofing elements of the Combined Appraisal

E1.1 Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

The following questions are taken from the IAT Section on:

Community:

- Will the Initiative enhance the lives of ALL communities within its scope?
- Will the initiative engage all members of the community in the development and delivery of the project/programme/plan?
- Will the initiative reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime, whilst offering opportunities for rehabilitation to offenders?

Health:

- Will the initiative improve health and/or improve access to health care in the region particularly in deprived areas?

Economy:

- Will the initiative make linkages to ensure vacancies are accessible to all communities and locations especially in deprived areas?

Housing:

- Will the initiative improve access to good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing?
- Will the initiative deliver affordable housing with well planned access to local services, amenities and employment?

Supplementary Appraisal Question:

- Will the initiative create opportunities for any relevant group or improve the relationships within and between groups?

E1.2 Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Health:

- Will the initiative improve health and/or improve access to health care in the region, particularly in deprived areas?
- Will the initiative improve income levels in deprived areas?
- Will the initiative encourage up-take of exercise opportunities?
- Will the initiative promote opportunities for gaining knowledge of and achieving a healthier diet?
- Will the initiative protect mental health and promote wellbeing of communities, particularly those in deprived areas?

Community

- Will the initiative enhance the lives of ALL members of communities within its scope?
- Will the initiative engage all members of the community in the development and delivery of the project / programme / plan?
- Will the initiative improve and ensure local accessibility of jobs, community goods and services as well as amenities?

- Will the initiative reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime whilst offering opportunities for rehabilitation to offenders?

Biodiversity

- Will it improve the amount and quality of, and access to, local green space?

Economy

- Will the initiative support growth in key cities/towns and/or areas remote from growth?

Housing:

- Will the initiative contribute to high quality, well-designed living environments?
- Will the initiative deliver affordable housing with planned access to local services, amenities and employment?

Local Environmental Quality:

- Will the initiative reduce the amount of litter, flytipping or graffiti in local communities?
- Will the initiative protect or improve local air quality?
- Will the initiative reduce exposure to high noise levels?

Skills and Behaviour:

- Will the initiative promote the take up of training and/or further education opportunities?

Transport:

- Will the initiative encourage walking, cycling and/or travelling by public transport?
- Will the initiative reduce traffic congestion?

E1.3 Rural Proofing

Community:

- Will the Initiative enhance the lives of ALL communities within its scope?
- Will the initiative engage all members of the community in the development and delivery of the project/programme/plan?

Economy:

- Will the initiative make linkages to ensure vacancies are accessible to all communities and locations especially in deprived areas?

Supplementary Appraisal Questions:

- Question 1: Does the Strategy make distinction between rural and urban areas in the North West region?
- Question 2: How will the Strategy's policy or service be delivered in rural areas?
- Question 3: Will extra costs be incurred to deliver the Strategy's policy or service to rural areas?
- Question 4: Does the Strategy's policy or service rely on local organisations for delivery?
- Question 5: Will the Strategy have an impact on rural business and the economy?
- Question 6: Will the Strategy have an impact upon travel needs, time and costs for rural businesses and people?

