

Appendix C
<b>Combined Appraisal of The Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>

## 1.1 Biodiversity and Landscape

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and local landscape character?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should recognise that housing development impacts on biodiversity and local landscape character of areas and that similarly, supported housing could benefit from improved landscape and biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>No reference to ecology</p> <p>No reference to biodiversity</p> <p>No reference to landscape impacts or conservation of character</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>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.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure should perhaps be mentioned as it is an integral part of maintaining biodiversity in an area and can help establish ecological links between areas. There are also potential economic benefits which can be realised:</p> <p>Resources such as the countryside, coast, wetlands, urban parks, street trees and their ecosystems are seen as critical for sustainable economic growth and social goals, not just a way of supporting wildlife and 'the environment'. (Economic Value of Green Infrastructure, 2008)</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>RSS Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DP 7 Promote Environmental Quality</li> <li>• EM1 (A) Landscape</li> <li>• EM1 (B) Natural Environment.</li> <li>• EM3: Green Infrastructure</li> <li>• EM4 Regional Parks</li> <li>• EM6 Managing the North West's Coastline</li> <li>• RDF3The Coast</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RDF4 Green Belts</li> </ul> <p>Biodiversity Audit for the north west:</p> <p>North West Green Infrastructure Guide:  <a href="http://www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk/html/index.php?page=resources&amp;NorthWestRegion=true">http://www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk/html/index.php?page=resources&amp;NorthWestRegion=true</a></p> <p>The Economic Value of Green Infrastructure (Commissioned from ECOTEC by The Mersey Forest on behalf of Natural Economy Northwest)</p> <p>Natural Thinking; A Report by Dr William Bird, for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Investigating the links between the Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Mental Health</p>
<b>Author Response</b>

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will it improve the amount and quality of, and access to, local green space?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact – Slightly Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should recognise that in delivering new housing and improving and managing existing housing stock access to open/ green space for communities and improving their health and well being is a key issue and could be a particular objective. This is particularly relevant for the client groups identified in the Objective of <i>Opportunity: Supporting the most vulnerable and excluded to successfully live independently</i> and improving their health and well being.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>In table 4.2: <i>Proposals for local action</i>;</p> <p>Housing support has focussed primarily on access to primary health and social care services but to truly support independence and promote personal responsibility more work is needed to promote healthier lifestyles, ranging from access to sports facilities to signposting to green spaces to encouraging engagement in community and voluntary work.</p> <p>In Annex 1 it states:</p> <p>The regional strategy aims to achieve: Green and public spaces for all Housing support enables: Accessibility to public amenities and open space.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The initial mention of green and open spaces is to be encouraged; however it is recommended that these initial mentions be expanded on to express in more detail how to improve the amount/quality of and access to green space can be improved and what specific benefits can result.</p> <p>The issue of equality in terms of access to the green space should be mentioned. This is a key issue in ensuring that a basic quality of life is achieved through access to green/open space. As mentioned above access to green space has also been shown have positive effects on mental</p>	

health. These positive aspects should be mentioned and expanded upon.

The positive adaptation/mitigation effects of green space on climate change should also be a consideration.

### **Mitigation**

A neutral - slight positive impact has been awarded as it has been acknowledged that more work is needed to be done in this area to achieve positive outcomes. Specifically outlining what should be done and signposting relevant guidance and best practice examples would help increase the score in this area as this would explicitly help those looking to this strategy in increasing quality of and access to green space.

### **Policies for Consideration**

Specific mention/signposting of RSS policies could be provided within the strategy such as:

- DP2: Promote Sustainable Communities
- EM3: Green Infrastructure
- RDF5 Green Belts
- RT7 Regional Framework for Walking & Cycling

Additional links with the RSS could also be developed – Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society with Policy L1: Health, Sport, Recreation, Cultural and Education Services Provision.

Natural England Access to Green Space Standard: <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/greenspace/>

North West Green Infrastructure Guide

The Economic Value of Green Infrastructure (Commissioned from ECOTEC by The Mersey Forest on behalf of Natural Economy Northwest)

<http://www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk/html/index.php?page=resources&NorthWestRegion=true>

### **Author Response**

## 1.2 Buildings & Heritage

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative protect places of historic, cultural and archaeological value?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that housing development can be particularly influential on the management of places of historic, cultural and archaeological interest. Similarly, the quality of the built heritage can have genuine value for delivering successful housing and communities. In order to promote successful Urban Renaissance, historic and cultural assets should be recognised as an issue for consideration in the RSHS.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>No reference to historic, cultural or archaeological assets</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>There should be some recognition of the need to conserve historic and cultural assets in the North West. Protection or enhancement of listed buildings and/or conservation areas should be alluded to in line with national, regional, sub-regional and local policy.</p> <p>A neutral impact has been anticipated. In order to attain a more positive impact, cultural and historic assets should be recognised by the RSFHS. In addition the RSFHS should also consider issues such as building materials for any new developments or refurbishments in historic environments and the potential cost implications this may incur.</p> <p>Design and Access Statements and their role to ensuring high standards of new development through the planning system could be recognised within the RSFHS to assist in demonstrating how new supported accommodation contributes to the wider environmental quality.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>Consideration of RSS Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DP 7 – Promote Environmental Quality</li> <li>• EM1 (C) Integrated Enhancement and Protection of the Region's Environmental Assets (Historic Environment)</li> <li>• L3: Existing housing stock and renewal</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the CABE Publication: Building in context: New development in historic areas</p> <p>Available at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=434&amp;field=browse_subject&amp;term=Heritage&amp;type=2">http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=434&amp;field=browse_subject&amp;term=Heritage&amp;type=2</a></p> <p>Stakeholders referred to Affordable Rural Housing and the Historic Environment</p> <p><a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/ARH3.pdf?1245408423">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/ARH3.pdf?1245408423</a></p>	

<b>Author Response</b>
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<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative be based on high-quality design that respects local character and enhances local distinctiveness?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the emerging strategy should seek to recognise that the impact of high quality design on the local character and distinctiveness of an area can have real value for future occupants and therefore should be a key objective of any housing strategy.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>Section 4.1 sets out the requirements to develop regional minimum standards for housing investment and services as they relates to vulnerability and social exclusion. This includes the need for private sector housing to be high quality, affordable and secure. It also sets out the need to develop:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Standards about the quality and size of new housing provision, for example, it should meet lifetime homes standards as a minimum</li><li>• Expectations that plans for regeneration and renewal based on an evident understanding of the local needs of the vulnerable and socially excluded, the impact of plans on them and how this will be mitigated and managed to ensure they can contribute to new and sustainable communities</li><li>• The development of standards in the private sector to ensure that vulnerable and socially excluded households are able to access and sustain their tenancy.</li></ul>	
<p>There is also reference to Comprehensive Area Assessments which related to the wider environmental quality.</p>	
<p>Stakeholders referred to the need to define 'place' and the role housing provision plays in this as they considered it to be critical in forming the basis for improved environmental quality.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The RSFHS could build on its current content by clearly setting out how existing and new supported accommodation will contributed to wider environmental quality. This would provide a clear framework for how sub regional and local organisations will prepare for Comprehensive Area Assessment.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DP7: Promote Environmental Quality</li><li>• DP8: Main Stream Rural Issues</li></ul>	

Affordable Rural Housing and the Historic Environment <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/ARH3.pdf?1245408423">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/ARH3.pdf?1245408423</a>
<b>Author Response</b>

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative help to reduce the number of vacant buildings, through re-use as well as redevelopment?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the emerging strategy should seek to clearly recognise the value of, and promote, re-use of vacant and existing buildings.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>Section 2.2 (context) - ...continue to raise the quality of existing housing stock...This framework is identified as contributory to objectives and the vision (of the new regional housing strategy)</p> <p>This, it could be argued, could be expanded to include vacant buildings. There does not appear to be any explicit reference to vacant, disused or empty houses within the existing stock.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<p>It is recommended that the emerging strategy should seek to clearly recognise the value of, and promote re-use of vacant and existing buildings as part of the region's sustainability agenda. This can have positive social and economic advantages through conservation and improvement of local character and through cost savings.</p> <p>This should link to the aim of sustainable consumption and production as re-use of existing vacant housing will reduce the need to consume more natural resources in the building of new housing. Likewise it will reduce waste from construction, demolition and excavation.</p> <p>A neutral impact has been awarded. To attain a positive impact, acknowledgment of the positive impacts of re-using vacant buildings as outlined above should be included in the RSFHS.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DP4: Make the Best Use of Existing Resources and Infrastructure</li> <li>• DP9: Reduce Emissions and Adapt to Climate Change</li> <li>• L3: Existing Housing Stock and Housing Renewal</li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

### 1.3 Climate Change and Energy

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative develop or deliver local, regional and national policies to tackle climate change?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Neutral or Mixed Impact</b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper raised awareness of <b>impacts, mitigation and adaptation</b> to climate change with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and how housing could make such groups more or less vulnerable. A clear guide is needed on these otherwise the potential to set up the RSHS policy correctly will be limited.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>(Section 2.2) When setting the context within which the RSFHS has been prepared:</p> <p>Government guidance on the new strategy requires each region to describe plans for sustainable economic growth and development, and adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Awareness of impacts, mitigation and adaptation to climate change with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and how housing could make such groups more or less vulnerable. A clear guide is needed on these long term issues. Stimulating action now is imperative.</p> <p>Reference should be made directly to government and regional guidance on climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>A neutral impact has been awarded as there is only a passing reference for the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <p>Mitigation would be required to get the RSFHS to have a slight or major positive effect on developing or delivering climate change policies at all levels.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DP 9 – Reduce emissions and Adapt to Climate Change</li> <li>• EM5 – Integrated Water Management</li> </ul> <p>In addition the RSFHS could also refer to/ signpost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Climate Change PPS (PPS1 Supplement)</li> <li>• Planning Policy Guidance 25 – Development and Flood Risk</li> <li>• North West Regions Climate Change Action Plan: <i>Rising to the Challenge A Climate Change Action Plan for England's Northwest 2007-09</i> (<a href="http://www.nwda.co.uk/PDF/climatechange.pdf">http://www.nwda.co.uk/PDF/climatechange.pdf</a>)</li> <li>• CIRA – Flood Advice Sheets from <a href="http://www.ciria.org.uk/flooding/advice_sheets.html">http://www.ciria.org.uk/flooding/advice_sheets.html</a></li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIRA – Information on SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) from <a href="http://www.ciria.org.uk/suds/icop.htm">http://www.ciria.org.uk/suds/icop.htm</a></li> <li>• Meeting the Sequential Flood Risk Test North West <a href="http://www.nwrpb.org.uk/documents/?page_id=4&amp;category_id=173">http://www.nwrpb.org.uk/documents/?page_id=4&amp;category_id=173</a></li> <li>• Carbon reduction commitment proposals and impact on local authorities and businesses: <a href="http://www.carbonreductioncommitment.info/">http://www.carbonreductioncommitment.info/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Author Response</b>

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative help to mitigate greenhouse gases?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should be developed with reference to the NW Climate Change Action Plan and <a href="http://climatechangenorthwest.com">climatechangenorthwest.com</a></p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>When setting the context within which the RSFHS has been prepared:</p> <p>Government guidance on the new strategy requires each region to describe plans for sustainable economic growth and development, and adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The RSFHS should be developed with reference to the NW Climate Change Action Plan and <a href="http://climatechangenorthwest.com">climatechangenorthwest.com</a>. To achieve this objective the RSFHS should seek to promote responsive design solutions including, for example, adaptation and retrofitting of existing housing stock to reduce fuel consumption; and promotion of the Code for Sustainable Homes standards for new developments in advance of national regulation changes.</p> <p>The RSFHS should seek to approve these measures as they contribute to other aspects more directly associated with supported housing like reducing fuel poverty.</p> <p>A neutral impact has been awarded as there is only a passing reference for the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <p>Mitigation would be required to get the RSFHS to have a slight or major positive effect on developing or delivering the following objectives to mitigating and reduce green-house gas emissions by (amongst other things):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the need to travel</li> <li>• Reducing the need for new build housing</li> <li>• Retrofitting existing housing stock</li> <li>• Promoting recycling</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing waste to landfill</li> <li>• Make new homes zero carbon</li> </ul>
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policy EM17 Renewable Energy</p> <p>In addition the RSFHS could also refer to/ signpost Carbon Trust solutions:  <a href="http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/solutions">http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/solutions</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change North West</li> <li>• Zero Carbon Hub</li> <li>• Department for Energy Climate Change</li> </ul>
<b>Author Response</b>

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative help to adapt to climate change?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified the need for the RSHS to be developed with reference to the NW Climate Change Action Plan and <a href="http://climatechangenorthwest.com">climatechangenorthwest.com</a></p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>When setting the context within which the RSFHS has been prepared:</p> <p>Government guidance on the new strategy requires each region to describe plans for sustainable economic growth and development, and adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<p>The need for the RSFHS to be developed with reference to the NW Climate Change Action Plan and <a href="http://climatechangenorthwest.com">climatechangenorthwest.com</a> which includes reference to climate change adaptation. This can reduce impacts of climate associated impacts in the future such as flooding which can have devastating impacts economically and socially.</p> <p>Reference to UK Climate Impact Programme (UKCIP) adaptation information and tools (for example the Adaptation Wizard) should be signposted.</p> <p>A neutral impact has been awarded as only a passing reference to adaptation to climate change impacts has been mentioned. In order to attain a higher, more positive impact, specific reference must be made to the potential impacts of climate change on the North West. These should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased average temperature</li> <li>• Increasing sea levels and frequency of coastal storm surges</li> <li>• Wetter winters and drier summers (precipitation changes)</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the incidence of extreme weather.</li> </ul> <p>These impacts can have potentially devastating economic, social and environmental effects and it is imperative that action to prevent and lessen impacts is taken sooner rather than later. The less obvious more long-term effects/impacts should be also be considered like, for example the effect of a slight increases in temperatures and drier summer conditions on buildings.</p>
<p><b>Policies for Consideration</b></p>
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DP 9 – Reduce emissions and Adapt to Climate Change</li> <li>• EM5 – Integrated Water Management</li> </ul> <p>In addition the RSFHS could also refer to/ signpost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Climate Change PPS (PPS1 Supplement)</li> <li>• Planning Policy Guidance 25 – Development and Flood Risk</li> <li>• North West Regions Climate Change Action Plan: <i>Rising to the Challenge A Climate Change Action Plan for England's Northwest 2007-09</i> (<a href="http://www.nwda.co.uk/PDF/climatechange.pdf">http://www.nwda.co.uk/PDF/climatechange.pdf</a>)</li> <li>• CIRA – Flood Advice Sheets from <a href="http://www.ciria.org.uk/flooding/advice_sheets.html">http://www.ciria.org.uk/flooding/advice_sheets.html</a></li> <li>• CIRA – Information on SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) from <a href="http://www.ciria.org.uk/suds/icop.htm">http://www.ciria.org.uk/suds/icop.htm</a></li> <li>• Meeting the Sequential Food Risk Test North West <a href="http://www.nwrpb.org.uk/documents/?page_id=4&amp;category_id=173">http://www.nwrpb.org.uk/documents/?page_id=4&amp;category_id=173</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Author Response</b></p>

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative address the social and economic, as well as environmental impacts, of energy use?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that by having reference to the aforementioned Action Plan and website and the emerging RSHS should be expanded to reflect the full potential of its scope to address fuel poverty and also the potential to deliver low carbon energy solutions for existing and new housing, recognising the potential for social, economic and environmental benefits.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>The RSFHS makes no mention of the impact of energy use.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The RSFHS should be developed to reflect the full potential of its scope to address and</p>	

reduce fuel poverty and also the potential to deliver low carbon energy solutions for existing and new housing, recognising the potential for social, economic and environmental benefits.

Fuel poverty should be a major concern for this strategy. Adequate insulation should be a key factor in determining the quality of all types of new and existing accommodation as it reduces fuel poverty and stops houses being more sensitive to fluctuating fuel prices.

A slightly negative impact has been awarded as no mention is made to the social, economic and environmental impacts of energy use. In order to attain a positive impact scoring the RSFHS should recognise the issues highlighted above particularly those relating to eradicating fuel poverty for the most vulnerable people in society.

Developing a better understanding of the link between poor quality housing, fuel poverty, energy and climate change should be a priority.

The North West Homes Insulation Partnership which was to be created as part of the Regional Housing Strategy should also be referenced.

The use of micro-generation should also be highlighted. On-site and community energy generation should be cited as one way of mitigating the effects of energy use on climate change and creating positive social and economic impacts.

This area should perhaps be included in the 'value for money' section of the strategy.

### **Policies for Consideration**

North West Sustainable Energy Strategy, NWRA and partners, 2006

Rising to the Challenge: A Climate Change Action Plan for England's Northwest', NWDA, 2006.

Energy Bill 2007-8 – review of which is available at  
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/bill/page40931.html>

Microgeneration research by BERR:  
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.htm>

### **Author Response**

## 1.4 Community

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the Initiative enhance the lives of ALL communities within its scope?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should recognise that all members of a community are affected by the condition of housing markets and that it will need to be clear in how it will prioritise tackling housing market imbalance.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>Notably there is no definition of 'Housing' within the RSFHS, which leaves it open to interpretation as to whether it covers mobile communities (Gypsies and Travellers).</p> <p>Section 2.2 of the RSFHS makes reference to the need for 'fairness and opportunity for all, with stronger communities and a better quality of life'. It goes on to refer to Public Service Agreements (PSA) and specifically PSA 16 and 17 which addresses disadvantages that stem from gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief. However, it does not make reference to the existing inequalities (different to disadvantages) and the opportunity that housing support can present to address such inequalities.</p> <p>Discussion is also made on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing crises and how housing support should empower citizens to shape their own lives and the services they receive.</li> <li>• Vulnerable and marginalised groups and involving them to understand the needs and aspirations of local communities.</li> </ul> <p>The section goes on to discuss more specific issues at the sub regional and local levels including a need to understand the aspirations of the older population, reducing re-offending, drug supply and use, alcoholism and rough sleeping. It does this through reference to a number of strategies such as the North West's Regional Framework for Ageing 'Everybody's Future' (2009) and Reducing Re-Offending Strategy (2009 – 2011).</p> <p>Further detail is provided in Section 2.3 which sets out a monitoring RSFHS based on National Indicators.</p> <p>Section 3 builds on Section 2 and outlines the outputs of the region's first assessment of housing support needs through the development of a Regional Needs Model. This broadly categorises client groups and the extent to which existing accommodation meets need and demand. These can be summarised as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Independent with support – the model suggests a significant increase in net requirement for new support and a slight shift towards accommodation based support as opposed to non accommodation support for older people.</li> <li>2. Support with care – There is a proportionally large oversupply of accommodation based support. However there is an even greater undersupply of non-accommodation based support. Finally there is an oversupply of support for people with learning disabilities and shortage of support for people with physical or sensory disabilities.</li> </ol>	

3. Socially excluded – There is a large shortage of all support for socially excluded households amounting to around 6,600 accommodation based support units and 4,000 non accommodation based support units in 2010. The client group most affected is substance misusers. Over half the net requirement is for drug misusers. There is a net oversupply of support for young people.

Section 4.1 makes reference to commissioning research where a common need is identified and lists a number of equality and vulnerable group, however notably missing is disabled people alongside other groups.

Section 4.1 does recognise that policies and practice should be assessed to ensure they do not disproportionately impact vulnerable people. It also recognises that vulnerable people face considerable difficulties accessing affordable accommodation and that allocations and letting policies effectively excludes many. This could be embedded into the main body of the RSFHS.

The RSFHS does recognise the need to align the role of housing support with wider communality agendas as a means to create further, wider positive change.

The RSFHS does not make reference to how information relating to communities housing support choices would be accessible for all.

### **Mitigation for the Housing Strategy**

The RSFHS should:

Make reference to the diversity of communities across the NW and value of that diversity. Reference should also be made to the objectives of the North West Regional Equality and Diversity Strategy 2006-2009.

Make reference to the inclusion of mobile communities, not living in bricks and mortar, within the scope of services.

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 in this respect.

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.

Should make reference to disabled people as a group which action resulting from the framework should benefit (Section 2.2).

Recognise that appropriate information dissemination relating to communities housing support choices is fundamental to promoting peoples inclusion (ensuring information is in accessible formats).

Stakeholders suggested the RSFHS should also make reference to the national and regional objective of reducing the number of people in institutional care and caring for in or close to their homes.

### **Policies for Consideration**

Policies the RSFHS should seek to complement:

- The objectives of the North West Regional Equality and Diversity Strategy 2006-2009.
- The North West's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Strategy: Breaking the Cycle: Supporting the Delivery of a sustainable Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Sector in the North West Region. North West's first Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Strategy: *Breaking the Cycle: Supporting the Delivery of a sustainable Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and*

*Trans (LGB and T)sector in the North West Region”* <http://www.lgf.org.uk/breaking-the-cycle>

- Align housing investment and regeneration programmes with social and economic outcomes. (DCLG: Strong and Prosperous Communities White Paper Volume 1, 2006)
- Ensure that the impact of development on the social fabric of life is considered and taken into account. Need to develop tailored approaches to enhance the relationship between housing and social need (PPS 1, 2005)
- Work to remove the barriers to social inclusion faced by people living in poor housing. (North West Regional Housing Board)
- To need boost quality of life for North West people as a whole including for hard to reach groups – to create sustainable, cohesive communities that respect and promote equality and diversity.( The North West of England RSS 2008)
- Some people are excluded from the register by law (people subject to immigration control, for example). Outside these groups, it is open to authorities to decide who does or does not qualify. However, the allocation scheme must give priority to certain specified households: Those in unsatisfactory, insecure or temporary accommodation; Those who need housing on medical or welfare grounds this includes pregnant women and families with dependent children or people; Low income or non-working households; Homeless people with a priority need for accommodation (Every Child Matters, 2003)
- The RSS Partial Review district figures for Gypsy & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- It is unlawful to discriminate directly on racial grounds, or to have policies and procedures that are directly discriminatory and effectively bar people from a particular racial group (or groups) from access to new or improved housing (Code of Practice on Racial Equality in Housing)

The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policy L2 Understanding Housing Markets; specifically the final section which states:

*ensure the needs of the wider population are met, including disabled people, students, older people, black & minority ethnic communities and families with children, including single headed households*

Information on Public Service Agreements:

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about\\_the\\_cabinet\\_office/publicserviceagreements.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about_the_cabinet_office/publicserviceagreements.aspx)

#### **Author Response**

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative engage all members of the community in the development and delivery of the project/programme/plan?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS will need to recognise that in ensuring that the strategy is developed and implemented effectively, all members of the community are engaged in the process. The emerging strategies. Recognise that the material produced relating to housing options/choices across the region will be produced to ensure that it is accessible to all (including; language, print size, audio visual, minimised</p>	

jargon, location of information [web-based, hard copy from local access points]).

### **Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper**

Section 2.2 states that housing support should 'empower citizens to shape their own lives and services they receive. Section 4.2 also emphasises the importance of people's involvement – 'People should be at the heart of shaping services in the future'.

The RSFHS suggests that much of the community engagement, consultation and needs analysis should be led by local authorities and their partners.

Section 4 provides a table of actions that requires engagement with client groups to develop and update evidence for regional and local plans, the Regional Needs Model and surveys of regional supported housing assets.

There is also a specific requirement to analyse regional benefits of housing support in relation to economic prosperity and sustainable communities. This also makes links to the Regional Supported Housing Strategy's objective that the emerging Regional Strategy includes 'social inclusion'.

Further actions also include developing minimum standards for housing investment and services to vulnerable and socially excluded groups and their changing needs.

The RSFHS also recognises the opportunity for the housing support services to encourage engagement in community and voluntary work.

### **Mitigation for the Housing Strategy**

The RSFHS should recognise that in ensuring that the strategy is developed and implemented effectively, all members of the community are engaged in the process. The importance of the involvement of client groups within the design and delivery of new accommodation should be referenced. The strategy should make explicit reference to the importance of community and stakeholder consultation in relation to housing development.

The RSFHS should recognise the potential of the Local Development Framework and Parish Plans to help guide new development.

### **Policies for Consideration**

There are a number of possible policy interventions that should be considered. There is potential to develop stronger policy links with the RSS which identifies that the North West should be a region which involves people and communities in planning their futures.

In addition, an inclusive approach to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process should also be integrated into the Regional Housing Strategy (Planning Policy Statement 1, 2005). There is also scope to provide opportunities for residents to have greater influence over management of housing related services. (DCLG: Strong and Prosperous Communities White Paper Volume 2, 2006). Support Tenant Management Organisations to take direct control over their housing and housing related services (DCLG: Strong and Prosperous Communities White Paper Volume 1, 2006).

Housing departments are responsible for making sure that the best use is made of all housing in their areas. They are expected to assess local needs and produce comprehensive housing strategies, in partnership with tenants, residents and other members of the local community. (Every Child Matters, 2003)

### **Author Response**

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime, whilst offering opportunities for rehabilitation to offenders?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Very Positive</b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the RSHS needs to recognise the relationships between housing and instances of crime and disorder and the environments required to successfully rehabilitate offenders in terms of housing choice, opportunities for education, training and employment etc.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>The RSFHS provides a summary of the North West (The North West at Glance' and its key issues. This includes 'the need to further understand the needs of a number of household groups to ensure positive outcomes, i.e. single homeless, <b>offenders or people at risk of offending</b>, black and minority ethnic and new and emerging communities'</p>	
<p>Section 2.2 of the RSFHS makes reference to the need for 'fairness and opportunity for all, with stronger communities and a better quality of life'.</p>	
<p>Discussion is also made on preventing crises and how housing support should empower citizens to shape their own lives and the services they receive. In addition it refers to the need to address vulnerable and marginalised groups and involve them to understand the needs and aspirations of local communities.</p>	
<p>The section goes on to discuss more specific issues at the sub regional and local levels including a need to reduce re-offending, drug supply and use and refers to the North West Reducing Re-Offending Strategy (2009 – 2011).</p>	
<p>Further detail is provided in Section 2.3 which sets out a monitoring RSFHS based on National Indicators. This includes NI 144: Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence, and: NI 19 Rate of proven reoffending by young offenders.</p>	
<p>In Section 3 the Regional Needs Model identifies that there is a large shortage of all support for socially excluded households amounting to around 6,600 accommodation based support units and 4,000 non accommodation based support units in 2010. The client group most affected is substance misusers.</p>	
<p>Section 4 provides an action to commission research where a common need is identified of which Offenders forms part of this.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should build on the current references to current and ex offenders recognise the relationships between housing and instances of crime and disorder, and the environments required to successfully rehabilitate offenders in terms of housing choice, opportunities for education, training and employment etc. Therefore it will need to be increased recognition of the benefits design can have on crime reduction, specifically the Designs on Security section of the North West Best Practice Design Guide.</p>	
<p>The RSFHS should reference the aspirations of the North West Regional Equality and Diversity Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan (2006-2009)</p>	

## Policies for Consideration

The policies the RSFHS should seek to complement include:

The need to ensure that all the poorest neighbourhoods have common goals of lower worklessness and crime (A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: National Strategy Action Plan, 2001).

That there is provision of appropriate housing options for prisoners and offenders subject to community orders, prior to sentences, in order to prevent homelessness and re-offending. (DCLG: Strong and Prosperous Communities White Paper Volume 2, 2006)

Vision: To strengthen the NW region's understanding of and approach to tackling hate crime and violence with the aim of reducing the incidence on both across the region. With a focus on: Domestic Violence and Hate Crime, including homophobic, religious and racially motivated hate crime (North West Regional Equality and Diversity Strategy & Implementation Plan 2006-2009)

To encourage the North West areas to develop appropriate housing and accommodation options for families experiencing domestic violence and hate crime (North West Regional Equality and Diversity Strategy & Implementation Plan 2006-2009)

Safety and security are essential to successful sustainable communities. Not only are such places well designed, attractive environments to live and work in, but they are also places where freedom from crime, and from the fear of crime, improves quality of life. By highlighting the need to consider crime prevention as part of the design process this guide aims to deliver 'safer places' (ODPM and Home Office Joint Publication; Safer Places, The Planning System and Crime Prevention, 2004).

Reference should be made to the objectives of the North West Regional Equality and Diversity Strategy 2006-2009 which includes Reducing Hate Crime and Violence.

Reference should be made to the forthcoming North West's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Strategy: *Breaking the Cycle: Supporting the Delivery of a sustainable Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Sector in the North West Region*. North West's first Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Strategy: *Breaking the Cycle: Supporting the Delivery of a sustainable Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGB and T)sector in the North West Region"*

The North West's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Strategy: *Breaking the Cycle: Supporting the Delivery of a sustainable Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Sector in the North West Region*. North West's first Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Strategy: *Breaking the Cycle: Supporting the Delivery of a sustainable Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGB and T)sector in the North West Region"* <http://www.lgf.org.uk/breaking-the-cycle>

## Author Response

<b>Supplementary Question to IAT (EqIA)</b>	<b>Will the initiative create opportunities for any relevant group or improve the relationships within and between groups?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Very Positive</b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS will need to recognise the overall strategic deprivation experienced in the region, but also the interrelations of the groups and communities within these areas. Specific reference should be made to the opportunities to address existing inequalities in housing standards and accessibility.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>Section 2.2 of the RSFHS makes reference to the need for 'fairness and opportunity for all, with stronger communities and a better quality of life'. It goes on to refer to Public Service Agreements (PSA) and specifically PSA 16 and 17 which addresses disadvantages that stem from gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and promotes building more cohesive communities.</p> <p>Discussion includes engaging with vulnerable and marginalised groups and involving them to understand the needs and aspirations of local communities.</p> <p>Section 2.2 also makes reference to the North West Regional Housing Strategy (2009) vision to '<i>create balanced housing markets...that...strengthen economic and social inclusion and ensure that everyone has access to mixed and vibrant communities</i>'.</p> <p>Section 3.1 recognises evidence which suggests that there is a need to review the traditional sheltered housing model and move towards more sheltered units functioning as mixed communities and acting as community hubs.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should:</p> <p>Recognise the overall strategic deprivation experienced in the region, and also the interrelationships within and between the groups and communities.</p> <p>Consider the impact of the ageing population on housing availability.</p> <p>Recognise opportunities to address existing inequalities in housing provision and provide clear guidance on how the Regional Needs Model will be used to direct action and funding</p> <p>Make reference to the opportunity for supported accommodation and services to contribute to community cohesion and integration agendas.</p> <p>The RSFHS should recognise the potential role of Local Development Frameworks and Parish Plans to support the consultation on and delivery of housing.</p> <p>Design and Access Statements and their role to ensuring high standards of new development through the planning system could be recognised within the RSFHS to assist in demonstrating how new supported accommodation contributes to the wider environmental quality.</p>	

## **Policies for Consideration**

The RSFHS should recognise the following baseline information:

BME groups are concentrated in areas of relatively high deprivation, poorer health and, particularly among some BME groups, a reliance on poor quality housing (Action for Equality Strategy for NW, 2005)

At present approximately a quarter of the Traveller population are living in unauthorised sites which effectively makes them homeless under the Homelessness Act (2002) (Action for Equality Strategy for NW, 2005)

Policies the RSFHS should seek to complement:

### **Community Cohesion/Inclusion**

The RSS Partial Review will set out district figures for Gypsy & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, on the required provision and is an issue for the RSFHS.

The Government's key housing policy in PPS 3: to create *sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas, both urban and rural*. (PPS 3, 2006).

Integration and community cohesion have become increasingly important considerations for housing organisations and agencies (Code of Practice on Racial Equality in Housing, CRE)

To need boost quality of life for North West people as a whole including for hard to reach groups – to create sustainable, cohesive communities that respect and promote equality and diversity. (The North West of England RSS 2008)

Development Plans should promote development that creates socially inclusive communities, including suitable mixes of housing. Plan policies should ensure that the impact of development on the social fabric of life is considered and taken into account; seek to reduce inequalities (PPS 1, 2005)

Work to remove the barriers to social inclusion faced by people living in poor housing. (North West Regional Housing Board).

Need to go beyond planning for housing and consider the spaces between houses that make up a neighbourhood. Promote high quality and inclusive design to create well planned public spaces that bring people together. (PPS 1, 2005)

### **Vulnerable Groups**

Local Authorities should work in partnership with housing providers to address local housing needs of different groups. (Draft North West Regional Spatial Strategy, 2008)

Ensure that access to services is not necessarily restricted though local connections or administrative boundaries, particularly for groups of people, such as survivors of domestic violence or gypsies and travellers who tend to be mobile (Supporting People, National Strategy- Opportunity and Independence, 2007)

Prioritise housing for families and children living in unsatisfactory, insecure or temporary accommodation, or with medical or welfare grounds. (Every Child Matters, 2003)

Make explicit recognition of the need to take into consideration cultural needs and for access to faith amenities. (A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: National Strategy Action Plan, 2001)

Increased access to a choice of settled homes could significantly support young people, notably young offenders, single people, offenders and substance misusers, Gypsies and Travellers, BME communities, A2 and A5 Nationals and Migrant Workers (NE Homeless Strategy, 2008)

Sub Regional Housing Assessments should be conducted to ensure the needs of the wider population are met, including ageing population and BME communities. (Draft North West Regional Spatial Strategy, 2008)

Demographic trends will mean considerable increases in the population of older people by 2021. Coupled with the complexity associated with changing lifestyle and housing aspirations, this means that there is a need for: housing that more flexibly meets lifestyle changes and more variation in the housing offer to reflect the changing nature of household size, and specialist provision. (Draft North West Regional Spatial Strategy, 2008)

Ensure that all new houses are built to 'Lifetime Homes' standard. (Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbours: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society).

Five key challenges now to be addressed by local and national information provision: 1) impartial information that meets the full range of individual aspiration, need and risk; 2) more coherent national information and advice; 3) more reliable, comprehensive local services; 4) to develop housing information provision and advice services for the future to be comprehensive and proactive; 5) to move from a reactive to a proactive service, helping people to anticipate change. (Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbours: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society).

#### **Author Response**

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## 1.5 Economy

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative encourage sustainable economic growth and employment?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Very Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should enhance its definition of affordability and the wider housing, lifestyle and economic issues it includes.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>The opening section 'The North West at a glance' identifies that a large proportion of those who receive housing support are not in employment, education or training. In the first 9 months of 2008/09 the economic status of 15,952 people for whom outcomes were recorded indicate that 27% were long term sick or disabled, 26% were job seekers and 24% were not seeking work.</p> <p>Section 1.2 identifies that the impact of the recession on vulnerable and socially excluded households in the region needs to be managed and minimised that Housing support clearly has a role, particularly to prevent homelessness and reduce financial exclusion, for example, by enabling access to services or employment so people can maximise their income.</p> <p>Section 2.1 makes reference to the housing support programme and how this helps provide people with skills and motivation. It also provides a monitoring framework through with National Indicators NI 144 and NI 146. These indicators help demonstrate how housing support enables people, particularly socially excluded households, to access settled accommodation and opportunities to gain an education, develop skills and access employment. It also makes reference to the housing support programme and how this helps provide people with skills and motivation. It also provides a monitoring framework through with National Indicators NI 144 and NI 146. It also states that research suggests that for every £658.1m spent annually on housing support to people with a mental health issue or learning disability the net financial benefit is £1,151.2m</p> <p>Section 2.2 of the RSFHS makes refers to Public Service Agreements (PSA) and specifically PSA 16 and 17 which seek to increase the proportion of socially excluded adults in employment.</p> <p>Section 2.2 also refers to emerging evidence. Section 4.1 sets out proposals for regional and sub-regional action, identifying the need for analysing the regional benefits of housing support to economic prosperity. It also sets out that locally areas will be expected to develop a more co-ordinated approach to enabling service providers to access training and employment opportunities for their customers. Annex 4 provides a definition of Regeneration which refers to local economies and the Regional Economic Strategy</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The RSFHS has a good focus on contributing to sustainable economic growth and provides a sound basis to ensure that this will be achieved at sub regional and local levels. There could be opportunities to provide best practice examples within the RSFHS and this should be considered when developing the RSFHS further.</p> <p>Stakeholders suggested that the RSFHS includes Specific reference to Housing Learning and</p>	

Improvement Networks (LIN) could be made to help support the RSFHS's already strong focus on employment issues.
<b>Policy for Consideration</b>
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DP2: Promote Sustainable Communities</li> <li>• DP5: Manage Travel Demand; Reduce the Need to Travel, and Increase Accessibility</li> <li>• DP6: Marry opportunity and Need</li> <li>• RT2: Managing Travel Demand</li> <li>• RT3: Public Transport Framework</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>The RSFHS could also have reference to the documents such as the Green New Deal:  <a href="http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/greennewdealneededforuk210708.aspx">http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/greennewdealneededforuk210708.aspx</a>  Information on Department of Health Care Networks  <a href="http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/IndependentLivingChoices/Housing/">http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/IndependentLivingChoices/Housing/</a></p>
<b>Author Response</b>

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative encourage the formation, survival and growth of sustainable enterprise schemes?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should recognise the importance of relating housing enterprise schemes to maximise the access to vacancies and employment opportunities and sustainable economic growth.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>The RSFHS does not make any specific reference to the sustainable enterprise schemes.</p> <p>However Section 2.2 of the RSFHS makes refers to Public Service Agreements (PSA) and specifically PSA 16 and 17 which seek to increase the proportion of socially excluded adults in employment and that locally areas will be expected to develop a more co-ordinated approach to enabling service providers to access training and employment opportunities for their customers.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
As stated previously the RSFHS has a good focus on contributing to sustainable economic	

growth and provides a sound basis to ensure that this will be achieved at sub regional and local levels. However specific focus on enterprise schemes and the role this could play in providing employment for vulnerable and socially excluded client group is absent at present. Consequently, there could be opportunities to identify and present best practice examples within the RSFHS and this should be considered when developing the RSFHS further.

### Policies for Consideration

The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:

- DP2: Promote Sustainable Communities
- DP5: Manage Travel Demand; Reduce the Need to Travel, and Increase Accessibility
- DP6: Marry opportunity and Need
- RT2: Managing Travel Demand
- RT3: Public Transport Framework

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.

The RSFHS could also have reference to the documents such as the Green New Deal:

<http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/greennewdealneededforuk210708.aspx>

### Author Response

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative make linkages to ensure vacancies are accessible to all communities and locations especially disadvantaged areas?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should recognise the importance of relating housing choice to vacancies and employment opportunities, particularly in disadvantages/ deprived areas.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>The opening section 'The North West at a glance' identifies that a large proportion of those who receive housing support are not in employment, education or training. In the first 9 months of 2008/09 the economic status of 15,952 people for whom outcomes were recorded indicate that 27% were long term sick or disabled, 26% were job seekers and 24% were not seeking work.</p> <p>Section 1.2 identifies that the impact of the recession on vulnerable and socially excluded households in the region needs to be managed and minimised that Housing support clearly has a role, particularly to prevent homelessness and reduce financial exclusion, for example, by enabling access to services or employment so people can maximise their income.</p> <p>Section 2.1 makes reference to the housing support programme and how this helps provide</p>	

people with skills and motivation. It also provides a monitoring framework through with National Indicators NI 144 and NI 146. These indicators help demonstrate how housing support enables people, particularly socially excluded households, to access settled accommodation and opportunities to gain an education, develop skills and access employment. It also makes reference to the housing support programme and how this helps provide people with skills and motivation. It also provides a monitoring framework through with National Indicators NI 144 and NI 146.

Section 2.2 of the RSFHS makes refers to Public Service Agreements (PSA) and specifically PSA 16 and 17 which seek to increase the proportion of socially excluded adults in employment and that locally areas will be expected to develop a more co-ordinated approach to enabling service providers to access training and employment opportunities for their customers

Section 2.2 also refers to emerging evidence to understand the relationship between health inequalities and the impact on the economy and that Economic wellbeing and health are two of the five outcomes from housing support services, enabled through access to education, training and employment, health services and other amenities that promote healthy lifestyles.

### Mitigation for the Housing Strategy

The RSFHS clearly identifies that an emerging objective will be to provide local solutions for employment. It will be important to ensure that this is effectively monitored and that employment vacancies can be shown to provide employment for client groups that have access to these opportunities.

### Policies for Consideration

The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:

- DP2: Promote Sustainable Communities
- DP5: Manage Travel Demand; Reduce the Need to Travel, and Increase Accessibility
- DP6: Marry opportunity and Need
- RT2: Managing Travel Demand
- RT3: Public Transport Framework

### Author Response

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative support growth in key cities/towns and/or areas remote from growth?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the RSHS should recognise that housing and its links to economic growth can contribute to the wider growth of key towns/cities and remote areas.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>The RSFHS does not make any specific reference supporting growth in key cities, towns or areas</p>	

remote from growth.

Section 4.1 sets out proposals for regional and sub-regional action identifying the need for analysing the regional the benefits of housing support to economic prosperity and that locally areas will be expected to develop a more co-ordinated approach to enabling service providers to access training and employment opportunities for their customers.

### **Mitigation for the Housing Strategy**

There are opportunities to provide greater spatial expression to the RSFHS. At present there is recognition of sub regional and local levels however specific locations and broad areas are limited to sub regional needs as set out in Section 3 in relation to the Regional Needs Model.

### **Policies for Consideration**

The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:

- Policy DP 3 Promote Sustainable Economic Development
- Policy RDF 1 Spatial Priorities
- Policy MCR 1 Manchester City Region Priorities
- Policy LCR 1 Liverpool City Region Priorities
- Policy CLCR 1 Central Lancashire City Region Priorities
- Policy CN1 Overall Spatial Policy for Cumbria
- Policy CNL 2 Sub-area Development Priorities for Cumbria
- Policy CNL 3 Spatial Policy for the Lake District
- Policy CNL 4 Spatial Policy for North Lancashire

Department for Transport research on the drivers of business location:

- <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/scienceresearch/social/theimportanceoftransportinbu1933?page=4>
- <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/scienceresearch/social/theimportanceoftransportinbu1933?page=8>

### **Author Response**

## 1.6 Health and Well Being

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative improve health and/or improve access to health care in the region, particularly in deprived areas?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Very Positive</b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the RSHS should recognise that health benefits could be further improved by placing a stronger emphasis on the quality of the public realm in new and existing residential areas, access to green space, traffic calming, environmental quality (e.g. air and noise) and access to key local services and facilities, either directly or through reference to the RSHS. It is recommended that there is an emphasis on the need to better align health and housing strategies and promote more collaborative working between agencies responsible for delivering health care services and housing to provide a more comprehensive service.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>The introduction section places the housing places the Supported Housing Framework in the context of sustainable communities, reflecting the need for an integrated approach to housing support to deliver community health benefits. The health sector is identified as a specific audience in Section 1.4.</p> <p>The Vision includes three key ambitions, one of which is that ‘people should have the opportunity to access services and amenities that will support them to improve their health and wellbeing’. This directly responds to this IAT question.</p> <p>The Delivery section takes these principles forward with specific actions identified in Table 4.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ‘Align housing support plans with local and sub regional plans for housing, regeneration and renewal, and health, criminal justice and social care (adult and children)’ and</li> <li>- ‘Develop support services that enable access to services and amenities that promote and improve health and wellbeing’</li> </ul> <p>It is recognised that ‘more work is needed to promote healthier lifestyles, ranging from access to sports facilities to signposting to green spaces to encouraging engagement in community and voluntary work’.</p> <p>However the above actions are high level and would benefit from more information on how they will be achieved and measured. Section 5 sets out the strategy for target setting and monitoring. Health improvement targets for the supported housing strategy should focus on provision of opportunities for health (number of homes with access to health services, parks, safe walking routes to neighbourhood centres etc) rather than on health outcomes.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>There are opportunities to further develop the actions set out in table 4.1 by setting standards in relation to access to amenities and support services for vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Stakeholders recommended that the RSFHS 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</p>	

opportunities and stronger links to communities and services, particularly health promotion and prevention services.

### Policies for Consideration

The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:

- RSS Section 7 – Living in the North West – Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society provides a comprehensive policy framework and should be referred to in the strategy.
- L 1 Health, Sport, Recreation, Cultural and Education Services Provision
- DP2 Promote Sustainable communities
- DP 5 Manage Travel Demand; Reduce the Need to Travel, and Increase Accessibility: *Safe and sustainable access for all, particularly by public transport, between homes and employment and a range of services and facilities (such as retail, **health**, education, and leisure)*
- DP 7 Promote Environmental Quality: assessing the potential impacts of managing traffic growth and mitigating the impacts of road traffic on air quality, noise and health;

In addition the RSFHS should have regard to the Regional Health Investment Plan (Investment for Health , A Plan for North West England 2003, Dept for Health and partners)

### Author Response

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative improve income levels in deprived areas?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Very Positive</b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of 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.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>The opening section ‘The North West at a glance’ identifies that a large proportion of those who receive housing support are not in employment, education or training. In the first 9 months of 2008/09 the economic status of 15,952 people for whom outcomes were recorded indicate that 27% were long term sick or disabled, 26% were job seekers and 24% were not seeking work.</p>	
<p>Section 1.2 identifies that the impact of the recession on vulnerable and socially excluded households in the region needs to be managed and minimised that Housing support clearly has a role, particularly to prevent homelessness and reduce financial exclusion, for example, by enabling access to services or employment so people can maximise their income.</p>	
<p>Section 2.1 makes reference to the housing support programme and how this helps provide people with skills and motivation. It also provides a monitoring framework through with National Indicators NI 144 and NI 146. These indicators help demonstrate how housing</p>	

support enables people, particularly socially excluded households, to access settled accommodation and opportunities to gain an education, develop skills and access employment. It also makes reference to the housing support programme and how this helps provide people with skills and motivation. It also provides a monitoring framework through with National Indicators NI 144 and NI 146.

Section 4.1 sets out proposals for regional and sub-regional action identifying the need for analysing the regional the benefits of housing support to economic prosperity and that locally areas will be expected to develop a more co-ordinated approach to enabling service providers to access training and employment opportunities for their customers.

### **Mitigation for the Housing Strategy**

There are opportunities to provide greater spatial expression to the RSFHS 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 as set out in Section 3 in relation to the Regional Needs Model.

Stakeholders recommended that the RSFHS supports the inclusion of housing 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.

It was also suggested that the RSFHS 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.

Stakeholders also recommended that 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. It is also likely to demonstrate Value for Money when delivering services and highlights the need for true partnership working and consequently provides an opportunity to demonstrate this.

### **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](http://www.gos.gov.uk/497468/docs/276882/400859)) is a useful source of information that should be signposted in the strategy to ensure that sub regional and local housing strategies in rural areas are aware of the issues and approaches to Rural Proofing.

The RSFHS should also refer to/ signpost RSS policy RDF2 which deals with Rural Areas

### **Author Response**

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative encourage up-take of exercise opportunities?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<i>Slightly Positive</i>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the strategy will need to recognise the wider 'lifestyle and quality of life' issues related to housing and housing services. Access to opportunities for exercise could be addressed in the priority 'to enable people to access services to meet their individual needs'. For the groups which the RSHS aims to benefit, access to exercise opportunities is a key issue in relation to quality of life.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>Broad health issues and opportunities are addressed throughout the RSFHS, but without specific reference to opportunities for exercise. The Vision includes an aim as follows: people should have the opportunity to access services and amenities that will support them to improve their health and wellbeing'. This covers a range of issues of which exercise is just one.</p> <p>Table 4.1 recognises the role of exercise in achieving the strategy's broad aims of promoting wellbeing and independence in vulnerable groups: 'to truly support independence and promote personal responsibility more work is needed to promote healthier lifestyles, ranging from access to sports facilities to signposting to green spaces to encouraging engagement in community and voluntary work'. This is considered to be a useful and positive action.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>Exercise has been shown to have a broad range of mental and physical health benefits for vulnerable groups such as the elderly. Failure to achieve recommended levels of exercise is known to be more prevalent in communities with high levels of social exclusion. Therefore the strategy could benefit from more emphasis on the links between opportunities for exercise and the broader sustainable communities agenda and promoting independence for those in supported accommodation. (Specific issues for consideration include safe walking routes to local services and facilities and public transport, and the ability to use green spaces without fear of crime).</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future, 2003</p> <p>RSS policies DP2: Promote Sustainable Communities; EM3: Green Infrastructure; RT9: Walking and Cycling, Policy L 1 Health, Sport, Recreation, Cultural and Education Services Provision.</p>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative protect mental health and promote wellbeing of communities, particularly those in deprived areas?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<i>Slightly Positive</i>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p>	

The Discussion Paper and emerging strategy needs to recognise and expand on the links between housing and housing services and how, through regeneration, place shaping choice and stability, the health and well being of individuals and communities can be improved. Encouraging strong social networks within communities should also be recognised as a means of preventing mental health problems and of supporting those with mental health problems.

### **Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper**

Mental health is influenced by a broad range of lifestyle, social, economic and environmental factors and as such is potentially affected by almost all the issues dealt with in the strategy. The Vision can be seen as beneficial to mental health, for example: 'Working together to enable people to access support services to meet their individual needs' and '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'.

Section 2 makes reference to priorities in Local Area Agreements in the region in relation to: mental health problems as a factor in social exclusion; and the role of housing in promoting mental health.

### **Mitigation for the Housing Strategy**

The reference to health sector providers under 'our audience' (Section 1.4) is positive in this respect, but could be broadened to include mental health specifically.

Stakeholders recommended that the RSFHS 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. In addition the felt the RSFHS should make 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.

### **Policies for Consideration**

The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:

- DP 7 Promote Environmental Quality: assessing the potential impacts of managing traffic growth and mitigating the impacts of road traffic on air quality, noise and health;
- Policy L 1 Health, Sport, Recreation, Cultural and Education Services Provision

In addition the RSFHS could also refer to/ signpost:

- *Connect and Include* work published by the Community Development Foundation, found at:  
[http://www.cdf.org.uk/pooled/articles/BF\\_DOCART/view.asp?Q=BF\\_DOCART\\_303333](http://www.cdf.org.uk/pooled/articles/BF_DOCART/view.asp?Q=BF_DOCART_303333)
- It shows you how a community-focused approach can promote mental well being and reduce ill health in communities.

Link to the Department of Health's Transformation and Personalisation initiatives:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Socialcarereform/Personalisation/DH\\_079379](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Socialcarereform/Personalisation/DH_079379)

### **Author Response**

## 1.7 Housing

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative improve access to good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<i>Slightly Positive</i>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should recognise the role of the RSS in delivering resource efficient housing and strengthens links with the RSS in delivering good quality, affordable housing.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>Section 4.1 sets out the requirements to develop regional minimum standards for housing investment and services as they relate to vulnerability and social exclusion. This includes the need for private sector housing to be high quality, affordable and secure. It also sets out the need to develop:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standards about the quality and size of new housing provision, for example, it should meet lifetime homes standards as a minimum</li> <li>• Expectations that plans for regeneration and renewal based on an evident understanding of the local needs of the vulnerable and socially excluded, the impact of plans on them and how this will be mitigated and managed to ensure they can contribute to new and sustainable communities</li> <li>• The development of standards in the private sector to ensure that vulnerable and socially excluded households are able to access and sustain their tenancy.</li> </ul>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The RSFHS provides a sound basis for improving access to good quality, affordable housing. The recognition of development plans and the need to recognise housing support and supported accommodation is a good starting point, however there could be further opportunities to promote higher quality accommodation by setting out best practice examples in the region.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L3: Existing Housing Stock and Housing Renewal</li> <li>• L4: Regional Housing Provision</li> <li>• L5: Residential Density Policy</li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative contribute to high quality, well-designed living environments?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the RSHS should recognise the role of the RSS in delivering resource efficient housing and strengthen links with the RSS in the delivering good quality, affordable housing.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>Section 4.1 sets out the requirements to develop regional minimum standards for housing investment and services as they relates to vulnerability and social exclusion. This includes the need for private sector housing to be high quality, affordable and secure. It also sets out the need to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standards about the quality and size of new housing provision, for example, it should meet lifetime homes standards as a minimum.</li> </ul> <p>There is also reference to Comprehensive Area Assessments which related to the wider environmental quality.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The recognition of lifetime homes and Comprehensive Area Assessments is a good starting point for ensuring better quality living environments. There are opportunities to provide further guidance in the respect and to build on the published Regional Housing Strategy.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy L4; Regional Housing Provision.</li> <li>DP2: Promote Sustainable Communities</li> <li>DP4: Make the Best Use of Existing Resources and Infrastructure</li> <li>Policy EM 16 Energy Conservation &amp; Efficiency</li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative deliver affordable housing with planned access to local services, amenities and employment?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Very Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should recognise the need to ensure new and existing housing is well located, with good access to a range of local services amenities and areas of employment and how this can improve the economic and health of local communities.</p>	

**Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper**

Section 4.1 sets out the requirements to develop regional minimum standards for housing investment and services as they relates to vulnerability and social exclusion. This includes the need for private sector housing to be high quality, affordable and secure. It also sets out the need to develop:

- Standards about the quality and size of new housing provision, for example, it should meet lifetime homes standards as a minimum
- Expectations that plans for regeneration and renewal based on an evident understanding of the local needs of the vulnerable and socially excluded, the impact of plans on them and how this will be mitigated and managed to ensure they can contribute to new and sustainable communities
- The development of standards in the private sector to ensure that vulnerable and socially excluded households are able to access and sustain their tenancy.

Section 4.1 also states that that locally areas will be expected to develop a more co-ordinated approach to enabling service providers to access training and employment opportunities for their customers.

**Mitigation for the Housing Strategy**

The RSFHS provides a positive foundation for ensuring client groups have planned access to services, amenities and employment. This could be strengthened further with specific reference to Local Development Frameworks and the role they could play in ensuring that new supported accommodation is well located to service and area of employment and vice versa.

**Policies for Consideration**

The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:

- Policy DP 6 Marry Opportunity and Need
- Policy DP 1 Spatial Principles
- Policy DP 2 Promote Sustainable Communities
- Policy L 2 Understanding Housing Markets

**Author Response**

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<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative improve and ensure local accessibility of jobs, community goods and services as well as amenities?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Very Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
The Discussion Paper and emerging strategy should recognise the need to ensure new and existing housing is well located in relation to local jobs and community goods and areas of employment and how this can improve the economic and health of local communities.	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing</b>	

**Support Consultation Paper**

Section 4.1 states that that locally areas will be expected to develop a more co-ordinated approach to enabling service providers to access training and employment opportunities for their customers.

**Mitigation for the Housing Strategy**

The RSFHS provides a positive foundation for ensuring client groups have planned access to services, amenities and employment. This could be strengthened further with specific reference to Local Development Frameworks and the role they could play in ensuring that new supported accommodation is well located to service and area of employment and vice versa.

**Policy Interventions for Consideration**

The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:

- DP2: Promote Sustainable Communities
- DP5: Manage Travel Demand; Reduce the Need to Travel, and Increase Accessibility
- RT2: Managing Travel Demand

**Author Response**

## 1.8 Local Environmental Quality

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative contribute to the provision of cleaner, safer, greener communities?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact – Slightly Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper set out the need for the RSHS to recognise that housing should be considered in the context of the wider local environment and that this is key to achieving sustainable environments and improving the health and well being of local communities. The discussion paper should recognise the importance of design for ‘shared spaces’ particularly with reference to road safety and encouraging the design of public spaces to be safely accessible to all, including disabled people, children and older people.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>Within the ‘context’ section (2.2) that the government’s vision for ‘prosperous and cohesive communities, offering a safe, healthy and sustainable environment for all’.</p> <p>Promote better health and wellbeing for all, ensuring better care and making communities safer</p> <p>Annex One – Housing support contribution to aims of RS2010 – Communities and Places in which people feel safe and proud.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The RSFHS should recognise that housing should be considered in the context of the wider local environment and that this is key to achieving sustainable environments and improving the health and well being of local communities.</p> <p>The consultation paper should recognise the importance of design for ‘shared spaces’ particularly with reference to road safety and encouraging the design of public spaces to be safely accessible to all, including disabled people, children and older people.</p> <p>A neutral-slight impact has been awarded as only passing references to the provision of cleaner safer, greener communities have been made. In order to attain a positive scoring impact, expansion of these references in more detail is necessary.</p> <p>Design and Access Statements and their role to ensuring high standards of new development through the planning system could be recognised within the RSFHS to assist in demonstrating how new supported accommodation contributes to the wider environmental quality.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy DP 7 Promote Environmental Quality</li> <li>• Policy EM 3 Green Infrastructure.</li> </ul>	

Cleaner, Safer, Greener communities website – ‘a one stop shop for best practice examples’: <a href="http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk/en/1/csgc.html">http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk/en/1/csgc.html</a>
<b>Author Response</b>

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative protect or enhance soils and/or land whilst promoting the re-use or regeneration of previously developed land?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
The SA of the Discussion Paper identified the need to recognise that re-use and regeneration of previously developed land and re-use of existing housing stock are key to protecting and enhancing soils.	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the RSHS Consultation Paper</b>	
No mention of soils or land protection or enhancement.	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
The SA of the RSFHS identified the need to recognise that re-use and regeneration of previously developed land and re-use of existing housing stock are key to protecting and enhancing the soils of contaminated sites through extensive remediation.	
It is recommended that the protection of Greenfield sites should be referred to more explicitly in the RSFHS to ensure there is a common understanding of the wider benefits of development of previously developed/brownfield land in terms of efficient use of land, limiting instances of urban sprawl and increasing the remediation of land	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy DP 4 make the Best Use of Existing Resources and Infrastructure</li> <li>• Policy L 4 Regional Housing Provision: maximise the re-use of vacant and under-used brownfield land and buildings in line with Policy DP4 and indicative targets set out in Table 7.1</li> </ul>	
Cleaner, Safer, Greener communities website – ‘a one stop shop for best practice examples’: <a href="http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk/en/1/csgc.html">http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk/en/1/csgc.html</a>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative protect or improve inland or coastal waters?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS will need to recognise the impact housing has on inland and coastal waters; this includes issues such as water quality, treatment and supply as well as issues such as flood risk.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support</b></p> <p>No mention of inland or coastal waters.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The final strategy will need to recognise the impact housing has on inland and coastal waters; this includes issues such as water quality, treatment and supply of water as well as issues such as flood risk.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>In developing the RSFHS policies further, the RSS should be referred to with regards to water quality through policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EM5: Integrated Water Management</li> <li>• EM6: Managing the North West's Coastline and RDF3: The Coast</li> </ul> <p>Cleaner, Safer, Greener communities website – 'a one stop shop for best practice examples':  <a href="http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk/en/1/csgc.html">http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk/en/1/csgc.html</a></p>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative protect or improve local air quality?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the RSHS should make reference to the role of the RSHS in ensuring favourable environmental conditions for new and existing accommodation.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>The RSFHS makes no reference to local air quality or air pollution</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The SA of the Consultation Paper recommended that the RSFHS should make reference to the role of the RSFHS in ensuring favourable environmental conditions for new and existing accommodation.</p>	

A slightly negative impact has been awarded to this area as there is no mention of air quality improvements. Such areas where improvements can be made may be with reference to out of date technologies in housing such as boilers. Also reducing the need to travel can have positive air quality impacts.
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>
The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy DP 7 Promote Environmental Quality</li> </ul> Cleaner, Safer, Greener communities website – ‘a one stop shop for best practice examples’: <a href="http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk/en/1/csgc.html">http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk/en/1/csgc.html</a>
<b>Author Response</b>

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative reduce exposure to high noise levels?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the RSHS should make reference to the role of the RSHS in ensuring favourable environmental conditions for new and existing accommodation.	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
No mention of noise levels.	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
The SA of the Consultation Paper recommended that the RSFHS should make reference to the role of the RSFHS in ensuring favourable environmental conditions relating to noise exposure for new and existing accommodation.	
A slightly negative impact has been awarded to this area as there is no mention of reducing exposure noise quality improvements.	
Reducing exposure to high noise levels can have positive impacts on people’s health, productivity at work and general well-being. Improvements can be made by avoiding locating housing near noisy areas (main roads, railways, major industrial installations and so forth). Also improvements to housing such as double glazing may reduce noise exposure in the home.	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy DP 7 Promote Environmental Quality: <i>assessing the potential impacts of managing traffic growth and mitigating the impacts of road traffic on air quality, noise and health;</i></li> <li>• Policy W 2 Locations for Regionally Significant Economic Development: <i>well related to neighbouring uses, particularly in terms of access, traffic generation, noise and</i></li> </ul>	

*pollution.*

Cleaner, Safer, Greener communities website – ‘a one stop shop for best practice examples’:  
<http://www.cleanersaferegreener.gov.uk/en/1/csgc.html>

**Author Response**

## 1.9 Raw Materials

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative promote sustainable production?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative – Neutral or Mixed Impact</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should recognise and consider how housing development and related services are can minimise the use of natural resources.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>No reference to natural resources or sustainably sourced materials or waste minimization during production.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The SA of the Consultation Paper identified that the RSFHS should recognise and consider how housing development and related services can minimise the use of natural resources.</p> <p>Sustainable production should be a major consideration since the strategy is recommending new housing provision. Without consideration of sustainable production techniques a slight negative - neutral impact may occur as housing may be built in an unsustainable way.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <p>Policy DP 4 Make the Best Use of Existing Resources and Infrastructure which states that: <i>Natural and man-made resources should be managed prudently and efficiently. Sustainable construction and efficiency in resource use (including reuse and recycling of materials) should be promoted.</i></p>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative encourage sustainable consumption?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative – Neutral or Mixed Impact</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the discussion identified that the RSHS should recognise and consider how housing development and related services are can minimise the use of natural resources.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>No reference to sustainable consumption.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	

**Recommendations**

The RSFHS should recognise and consider how housing development and related services can minimise the use of natural resources. For example:

- Increased insulation to reduce energy demand,
- Grey water recycling,
- Energy/carbon usage monitoring equipment
- Recycling and proper waste disposal facilities
- These aspects may have “knock-on” effects through education and awareness raising which can lead to more sustainable behaviour.

A slight negative – neutral impact has been anticipated as the strategy is considered to be missing an opportunity to stimulate behaviour change (to some extent, however small). Consideration of the above mentioned aspects should be built in to attain a positive impact.

**Policies for Consideration**

The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as Policy EM 9 Secondary and Recycled Aggregates which states the region’s requirements are:

- working with the construction industry to achieve a target of 20% of construction aggregates to be from secondary or recycled sources by 2010 and 25% by 2021;
- encouraging local authorities and developers to incorporate temporary materials-recycling facilities on the sites of major demolition or construction projects; and
- plans and strategies identifying, sites or criteria for the provision of permanent recycling plants for construction and demolition waste in appropriate locations.

**Author Response**

## 1.10 Skills and Behaviour

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative bring intermediate or higher levels skills into the current workforce or develop skills required to bring people back into the labour market?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<i>Slightly Positive</i>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS will need to have close links to the developments in the RSHS regarding these issues and ensure the issues already identified in the RSHS Discussion paper are reflected in the RSHS. In achieving this it should also recognise the role of improving the skills of the region's workforce in strengthening the relationship between housing and economic growth.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>There is no specific reference to achieving intermediate or higher level skills. However the RSFHS addresses the need to develop skills in general in its vision under the Opportunity objective.</p> <p>Section 2.1 also makes reference to the housing support programme and how this helps provide people with skills and motivation. It also provides a monitoring RSFHS through with National Indicators NI 144 and NI 146. These indicators help demonstrate how housing support enables people, particularly socially excluded households, to access settled accommodation and opportunities to gain an education, develop skills and access employment.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
The RSFHS could provide best practice example of specific skills and training levels that are achieved.	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy L 1 Health, Sport, Recreation, Cultural and Education Services Provision</li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative support skills development important to growth for key regional sectors?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS will need to recognise that in building relationships between housing and economic growth skills development should be focused on the region's key employment sectors.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>There is no specific reference to proving support skills of key regional sectors. However the RSFHS addresses the need to develop skills in general in its vision under the Opportunity objective.</p> <p>Section 2.1 also makes reference to the housing support programme and how this helps provide people with skills and motivation. It also provides a monitoring RSFHS through with National Indicators NI 144 and NI 146. These indicators help demonstrate how housing support enables people, particularly socially excluded households, to access settled accommodation and opportunities to gain an education, develop skills and access employment.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
The RSFHS could provide specific guidance on specific employment sectors where skills and training can contribute to.	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
In developing policy links for the RSFHS, it should have regard to the RES (and the emerging RS) in particular to the five key objectives for skills and education established to deliver the North West's vision for an international sustainable economy.	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative promote the take up of training and/or further education opportunities?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should build on the issues already identified in this policy area and recognises the wider economic and health benefits this can bring.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>There is no specific reference to promoting the take up of training. However Section 2.1 makes reference to the housing support programme and how this helps provide people with skills and motivation. It also provides a monitoring RSFHS through with National Indicators NI 144 and NI 146. It also states that research suggests that for every £658.1m spent annually on housing support to people with a mental health issue or learning disability the net financial benefit is £1,151.2m</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The RSFHS could provide examples in the North West employment sectors to promote where training and further education opportunities have been provided through housing support.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>In developing policy links for the RSFHS, it should have regard to the RES (and the emerging RS) in particular to the five key objectives for skills and education established to deliver the North West's vision for an international sustainable economy.</p>	
<b>Author Response</b>	
<p></p>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative promote sustainable living and/or working?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Neutral or Mixed Impact – Slightly Positive</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should recognise the opportunities housing provides in terms of new, sustainable forms of living and working, it will be important for this to be considered together with other issues raised in the Climate Change, Waste and Transport elements of the appraisal.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>The RSFHS makes a number of references on how supported housing contributes towards sustainable communities.</p> <p>Section 4.1 sets out the proposals for regional and sub-regional action and identifies the need to analyse the regional benefits of housing support to: Economic prosperity and Sustainable communities. It identifies that the, single regional strategy and locally strategic partnerships</p>	

have recently refreshed local area agreements and will be preparing for Comprehensive Area Assessment. These are all key mechanisms to help promote sustainable living and working.

It states that locally areas will be expected to develop a more co-ordinated approach to enabling service providers to access training and employment opportunities for their customers

### **Mitigation for the Housing Strategy**

The RSFHS could also make reference to Local Development Frameworks and how new development for supported accommodation will help contribute to sustainable patterns.

### **Policies for Consideration**

The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:

- Policy DP 1 Spatial Principles
- Policy DP 2 Promote Sustainable Communities
- Policy DP 4 Make the Best Use of Existing Resources and Infrastructure
- Policy DP 9 Reduce Emissions and Adapt to Climate Change
- Policy RDF 2 Rural Areas
- Policy RT 2 Managing Travel Demand

### **Author Response**

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## 1.11 Transport

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative reduce the need to travel or the distances needed to travel?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper highlighted the need for the RSHS to emphasise how the proximity of housing to areas of employment, local services, amenities and green space etc affects the distances needed to travel.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>There is no specific reference to reducing the need to travel or distances needed travel.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should recognise the potential to ensure new support accommodation is located as close as possible to health and associated services. Minimising distances travelled for client groups and service providers will help assist effective service delivery.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy DP 1 Spatial Principles</li> <li>• Policy DP 2 Promote Sustainable Communities</li> <li>• Policy DP 4 Make the Best Use of Existing Resources and Infrastructure</li> <li>• Policy DP 9 Reduce Emissions and Adapt to Climate Change</li> <li>• Policy RDF 2 Rural Areas</li> <li>• Policy RT 2 Managing Travel Demand</li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative encourage walking, cycling and/or travelling by public transport?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper highlighted that the RSHS will need to recognise how housing relates to different modes of transport other than private car use. In particular this should relate to travel to work patterns and access to local services and amenities.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	

There is not specific reference to using sustainable modes of transport.
<b>Mitigation for the Draft Strategy</b>
The RSFHS should give consideration to promoting sustainable modes of transport. Increased walking and cycling amongst client groups to access work and in everyday living would help achieved improved health. In addition, sustainable modes of transport help reduce emissions and help improve air quality, resulting in health benefits whilst helping tackle climate change.
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>
The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RT2: Managing Travel Demand</li> <li>• Policy L 1 Health, Sport, Recreation, Cultural and Education Services Provision</li> </ul>
<b>Author Response</b>

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative reduce unnecessary freight movements?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<i>Slightly Negative</i>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
The SA of the Discussion Paper recommends that the RSHS should have consideration to the strategic implications of housing growth and how this effects the transportation of goods, raw materials for construction and fuel.	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
There are no specific references to this appraisal criterion.	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
The RSFHS should consider how new housing developments can result in heavy goods movements. The location of new developments can have implications for the movements of freight. There are opportunities to ensure that housing support services, improvements to accommodation and new build should involve sustainable procurement.	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RT7: Freight Transport and</li> <li>• Policy RT6: Ports and Waterways,</li> <li>• RT8 Intermodal Freight Terminals.</li> <li>• DP5: Manage Travel Demand; Reduce the Need to Travel, and Increase Accessibility</li> <li>• RT2: Managing Travel Demand</li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative reduce traffic congestion?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS will need to recognise that provision of housing; particularly in relation to travel to work patterns can affect levels of traffic congestion.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>There is currently no reference to the strategic implications housing development can have on traffic congestion.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The RSFHS could have a greater emphasis on Local Transport Plans (LTP) to ensure the highest design and sustainability standards in the delivery of housing support services.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy DP 1 Spatial Principles</li> <li>• Policy DP 2 Promote Sustainable Communities</li> <li>• Policy DP 4 Make the Best Use of Existing Resources and Infrastructure</li> <li>• Policy DP 9 Reduce Emissions and Adapt to Climate Change</li> <li>• Policy RDF 2 Rural Areas</li> <li>• Policy RT 2 Managing Travel Demand</li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	
<p></p>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative improve road safety for all users?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the RSHS will need to recognise that the location of new and existing housing and the communities living in them affect the levels of road safety in an area. Therefore consideration will need to be given in terms of the proximity to housing to highways infrastructure and how the design of the wider local environment can reduce the risk of road accidents. Encouragement of safe design for disabled people, children, older people and families should be included in any strategy.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support</b>	
<p>There is no reference to road safety in the RSFHS.</p>	

**Mitigation for the Housing Strategy**

The RSFHS could provide further explanation on how design can help improve road safety in housing areas.

**Policy Interventions for Consideration**

The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost to RSS policies such as:

- RT4: Management of the Highways Network
- RT9: Walking and Cycling

The RSFHS could also refer to/ signpost policies and strategies such as the Department of Transport's Manual for Streets: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/manforstreets/>

**Author Response**

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## 1.12 Waste

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative ensure the sustainable management of waste?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS should recognise that housing, both new development (which will result in construction waste) and in particular the existing housing stock (which houses the majority of the population and therefore the majority of domestic waste production) will have significant impacts on the region's ability to achieve sustainable waste management.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>No mention of waste or waste management</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should recognise that housing, both new development (which will result in construction waste) and in particular the existing housing stock (which houses the majority of the population and therefore the majority of domestic waste production) will have significant impacts on the region's ability to achieve sustainable waste management.</p>	
<p>Section 3 shows that by 2020 significantly more numbers of units of housing are going to be needed than in 2010. If the housing does not initiate sustainable management of waste, it can be assumed that there will be negative effects on the regions waste levels (i.e. they would go up in proportion with the rise in housing).</p>	
<p>In order to attain a positive score the strategy should seek to have both existing and future housing fitted with proper waste recycling facilities.</p>	
<p>Of course, there is only so far this can go without the help and support of the local authority in charge of waste management and handling.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy EM 10 A Regional Approach to Waste Management</li><li>• Policy EM 11 Waste Management Principles</li></ul>	
<p>In addition, the RSFHS could also refer to/ signpost:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management</li><li>• Regional Waste Strategy – (A waste strategy for the North West: The Challenge Ahead, 2004)</li></ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative encourage disposal of waste as close to its origin as possible?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<i>Slightly Negative</i>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper suggested that the RSHS will need to recognise that the location of housing, both in terms of new development and existing housing stock is key in local communities being able to dispose waste as close to its origin. This is often a sensitive issue for local communities and individuals whom often appreciate the merits of methods of waste disposal that reduce the need to/ distance for travel, however do not want it 'on their doorstep'.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
No mention of waste or waste disposal.	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<p>The RSFHS will need to recognise that the location of housing, both in terms of new development and existing housing stock in local communities are able to dispose waste as close to its origin. This is often a sensitive issue for local communities and individuals whom often appreciate the merits of methods of waste disposal that reduce the need to/ distance for travel, however do not want it 'on their doorstep'.</p>	
<p>The RSFHS should identify that in delivering supported housing services waste generated should be disposed in a sustainable manner. This is particularly relevant with regards to links between housing support and other services such as health.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EM 10 A Regional Approach to Waste Management</li> <li>• Policy EM 11 Waste Management Principles</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the RSFHS could also refer to/ signpost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management</li> <li>• Regional Waste Strategy – (A waste strategy for the North West: The Challenge Ahead, 2004)</li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative encourage re-using, recycling and/or recovery?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b><i>Slightly Negative</i></b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that twill need to recognise that housing (in terms of construction, re-use of existing stock etc) and more specifically the lifestyles of the people that live in this housing directly effect the region's ability to re-use, recycle and recover waste.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>No mention of encouraging re use, recycling and recovery of waste.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<p>The SA of the Consultation Paper identified that the RSFHS will need to recognise that housing (in terms of construction, re-use of existing stock etc) and more specifically the lifestyles of the people that live in this housing directly effect the region's ability to re-use, recycle and recover waste.</p>	
<p>As mentioned earlier, Section 3 shows that by 2020 significantly more numbers of units of housing are going to be needed than in 2010. If the housing does not initiate and encourage re-use, recycling and recover, it can be assumed that there will be negative effects on the regions waste levels (i.e. they would go up in proportion with the rise in housing).</p>	
<p>In order to attain a positive score the strategy should seek to have both existing and future housing fitted with proper waste recycling facilities.</p>	
<p>Of course, there is only so far this can go without the help and support of the local authority in charge of waste management and handling.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EM 10 A Regional Approach to Waste Management</li> <li>• Policy EM 11 Waste Management Principles</li> </ul>	
<p>In addition, the RSFHS could also refer to/ signpost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management</li> <li>• Regional Waste Strategy – (A waste strategy for the North West: The Challenge Ahead, 2004)</li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>IAT Question</b>	<b>Will the initiative reduce waste generation?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<i>Slightly Negative</i>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identifies that the RSHS will need to recognise that housing, both new development (which will result in construction waste) and in particular the existing housing stock (which houses the majority of the population and therefore the majority of domestic waste production) will have significant impacts on the region's waste generation.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>No mention of reducing waste generation.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<p>The SA of the Consultation Paper identifies that the RSFHS will need to recognise that housing, both new development (which will result in construction waste) and in particular the existing housing stock (which houses the majority of the population and therefore the majority of domestic waste production) will have significant impacts on the region's waste generation.</p> <p>As mentioned earlier, Section 3 shows that by 2020 significantly more numbers of units of housing are going to be needed than in 2010. If the housing does not initiate and encourage re-use, recycling and recover, it can be assumed that there will be negative effects on the regions waste generation (i.e. it would go up in proportion with the rise in housing).</p> <p>In order to attain a positive score the strategy should seek to have both existing and future housing fitted with proper waste recycling facilities.</p> <p>Of course, there is only so far this can go without the help and support of the local authority in charge of waste management and handling.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to/ signpost RSS policies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EM 10 A Regional Approach to Waste Management</li> <li>• Policy EM 11 Waste Management Principles</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the RSFHS could also refer to/ signpost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management</li> <li>• Regional Waste Strategy – (A waste strategy for the North West: The Challenge Ahead, 2004)</li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

## 1.13 Rural Proofing

<b>Rural Proofing Question</b>	<b>Question 1: Does the Strategy make distinction between rural and urban areas in the North West region?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<i>Slightly Positive</i>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS will need to recognise that there are distinction between urban and rural areas and the communities they live in, particularly sparsely populated/ remote rural areas.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>The RSFHS makes one specific reference to rural areas. This is set out in Annex four 'Glossary jargon buster' this defines Rural and identifies the government's definition of rural areas is as being based on density of population; rural areas are those with settlements with a population under 10,000'</p> <p>There are a number of references to the five sub regions that make up the North West. This is reflected in several sections of the RSFHS, particularly with respect to the Regional Needs Model which identifies unmet need for, and over-supply of, housing support from different household groups varies across the region. The RSFHS includes breakdowns of the status of supply for Support with care, Independence with support and socially excluded groups for the sub regions of Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire.</p> <p>Section 2.2 refers to Sub-regional plans with specific plans (for example, sub-regional housing strategies) and policies that seek to translate national and regional expectations into reality. Supported by the government, work is underway to develop and deliver city region strategies and multi-area agreements that describe joint priorities for action. There has been no consideration to the contribution from housing support to these plans and priorities to date.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should expand on the current definition of rural areas and recognise that they have distinct issues in terms housing support and affordability due to housing supply and issues regarding service delivery because of remoteness.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to the following research and articles: Living Working Countryside: The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing:  <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared Ownership and Leasehold Enfranchisement and Designation of 'Protected Areas' - A consultation paper:  <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/protectedareasconsultation">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/protectedareasconsultation</a></li> <li>• Community Land Trusts - <i>capturing land value for communities</i> :  <a href="http://www.communitylandtrust.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=4&amp;Itemid=1">http://www.communitylandtrust.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=4&amp;Itemid=1</a></li> <li>• Housing costs more in the countryside:</li> </ul>	

[http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=592&Itemid=91](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=592&Itemid=91)

- Downturn could hit affordable housing:

[http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=626&Itemid=110](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=626&Itemid=110)

### Author Response

<b>Rural Proofing Question</b>	<b>Question 2: How will the Strategy's policy or service be delivered in rural areas?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Neutral or Mixed Impact</b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the RSHS will need to fully consider whether housing policies and services have different service delivery requirements to those in urban areas. Possible area for research would be the implications of the lack of affordable housing in rural areas on the social infrastructure and also on rural businesses.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>Section 4 sets out a range of action including the need to share best practice of service delivery across the five sub regions. This includes aligning housing support plans with local and sub regional plans for housing, regeneration and renewal, health, criminal justice and social.</p>	
<p>Annex two recognises the need for sub regional working through the activities of the Regional Supported Housing Strategy Group. This includes development, consultation and direction.</p>	
<p>Annex four also provides information on the role of sub regions in 4NW, Local Area Agreements, the Northern Regional Resource Team and Sub Regional Forums.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should have specific regard to rural areas and issues regarding service delivery due to remoteness.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>Reference should be made to the aspirations of the North West Equality and Diversity Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan 2006-2009, notably the aspiration to 'Influence the implementation of the Rural Delivery Framework to ensure that inequity for disadvantaged groups living in rural areas is addressed and rural exclusion is tackled'.</p>	
<p>The RSFHS should also refer to the following guidance:</p>	
<p>Community Land Trusts - <i>capturing land value for communities</i> :</p>	
<p><a href="http://www.communitylandtrust.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=4&amp;Itemid=1">http://www.communitylandtrust.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=4&amp;Itemid=1</a></p>	

<b>Author Response</b>

<b>Rural Proofing Question</b>	<b>Question 3: Will extra costs be incurred to deliver the Strategy's policy or service to rural areas?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<i>Slightly negative</i>
<b>Observations</b>	
<p><b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b></p> <p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS will need to recognise that the delivery of policy and housing services in rural areas may result in additional costs being incurred. The strategy should recognise this issue and look at ways to ensure that funding mechanisms recognise and address this issue to ensure housing provision in rural areas is no longer constrained by this issue.</p> <p><b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b></p> <p>There is no specific reference to service delivery costs in rural areas.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
The RSFHS should have specific regard to costs associated with delivering supported accommodation and housing support commonly known as the 'rural premium'.	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The RSFHS should refer to the following research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living Working Countryside: The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside</a></li> <li>• Housing costs more in the countryside: <a href="http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=592&amp;Itemid=91">http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=592&amp;Itemid=91</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	

<b>Rural Proofing Question</b>	<b>Question 4: Does the Strategy's policy or service rely on local organisations for delivery?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Neutral or Mixed Impact</b>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper identified that the RSHS will need to recognise that the delivery of housing and associated housing services may require the involvement of local organisations to ensure effective delivery. At present it is felt that the strategies need to address this issue and also consider the benefits of strong stable cohesive rural communities.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>The RSFHS sets out a specific question (Question 14) that asks Consultees to identify if there other particular challenges that regional and/or local organisations will face in directing and delivering housing support to achieve the RSFHS vision.</p> <p>Section 2.2 of and discusses specific issues at the sub regional and local levels and Section 3 builds on Section 2 and outlines the outputs of the region's first assessment of housing support needs through the development of a Regional Needs Model. This broadly categorises client groups and the extent to which existing accommodation meets need and demand and provides a basis for understanding where there will be local level issues. However there are limited references to how local level organisation should address these issues particularly in relation to rural areas.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>There are opportunities for the RSFHS to identify and signpost existing local organisations that deliver housing support services. This could also include any shortfalls in service provision and be reviewed against the outputs of the Regional Needs Model to ensure there is targeted support.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>The following guidance could be considered for delivering new supported accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Land Trusts - <i>capturing land value for communities</i> : <a href="http://www.communitylandtrust.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=4&amp;Itemid=1">http://www.communitylandtrust.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=4&amp;Itemid=1</a></li> <li>• Living Working Countryside: The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	
<p></p>	

<b>Rural Proofing Question</b>	<b>Question 5: Will the Strategy have an impact on rural business and the economy?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<i>Slightly Positive</i>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of the Discussion Paper recommended that the RSHS will need to recognise that the location of housing provision will impact on rural businesses and the economy.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>There is no specific reference to the impact on rural businesses. However the RSFHS does have a particular focus on providing support for employment and training.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>The RSFHS could specifically refer to how rural businesses could be used to provide access to employment and training.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>Key Growth Assets are fully utilised such as the Natural Environment especially The Lake District, and the Rural Economy. Economies of areas such as East Lancashire, Barrow and West Cumbria are regenerated and in doing so achieving high employment rates. (North West Regional Economic Strategy).</p> <p>The need to raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas. The statement promotes more sustainable patterns of development: and improve economic performance so that rural areas are able to reach their full potential. To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors. (Planning Policy Statement 7).</p> <p>The following guidance could be considered for delivering new supported accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Land Trusts - <i>capturing land value for communities</i> : <a href="http://www.communitylandtrust.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=4&amp;Itemid=1">http://www.communitylandtrust.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=4&amp;Itemid=1</a></li> <li>• Living Working Countryside: The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Author Response</b>	
<p></p>	

<b>Rural Proofing Question</b>	<b>Question 6: Will the Strategy have an impact upon travel needs, time and costs for rural businesses and people?</b>
<b>Impact</b>	<i>Slightly Positive</i>
<b>Observations</b>	
<b>Recommendations from SA of the RSHS Discussion Paper</b>	
<p>The SA of Discussion Paper identified that Housing provision in rural areas is leading to unsustainable patterns, particularly in terms of travel to work. Consequently there is a need to recognise that creating the right balance of housing and how this relates to the employment opportunities in rural areas is key to minimising the need to travel and/or unsustainable travel patterns.</p> <p>It is essential that RSHS policies have a strong synergy with RSS policies, especially those relating to the delivery of affordable housing, are sufficiently flexible to enable the delivery of the housing that is necessary to support rural economic growth and social sustainability.</p>	
<b>Observations and Discussions on the Regional Strategic Framework for Housing Support Consultation Paper</b>	
<p>There is no specific reference to this issue.</p>	
<b>Mitigation for the Housing Strategy</b>	
<p>Clarification is required in terms of how the location of supported accommodation and services in rural areas relates to areas of employment areas and how this reduces the need to travel, time and costs for rural businesses and communities.</p>	
<b>Policies for Consideration</b>	
<p>Developing strong, vibrant and sustainable communities and to promoting community cohesion in both urban and rural areas (Planning Policy Statement 1 Delivering Sustainable Development): <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/planningpolicystatements/pps1/">http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/planningpolicystatements/pps1/</a></p> <p>Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg13">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg13</a></p> <p>Key Growth Assets are fully utilised such as the Natural Environment especially The Lake District, and the Rural Economy. Economies of areas such as East Lancashire, Barrow and West Cumbria are regenerated and in doing so achieving high employment rates. (North West Regional Economic Strategy)</p> <p>The RSFHS should also refer to the following guidance:</p> <p>Living Working Countryside: The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside</a></p>	
<b>Author Response</b>	