



Green Infrastructure, Regional Policy and Spatial Planning

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Specialist*

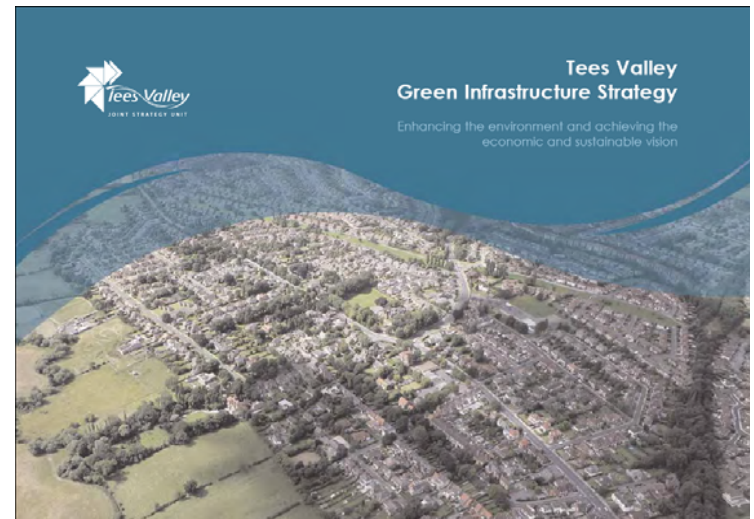
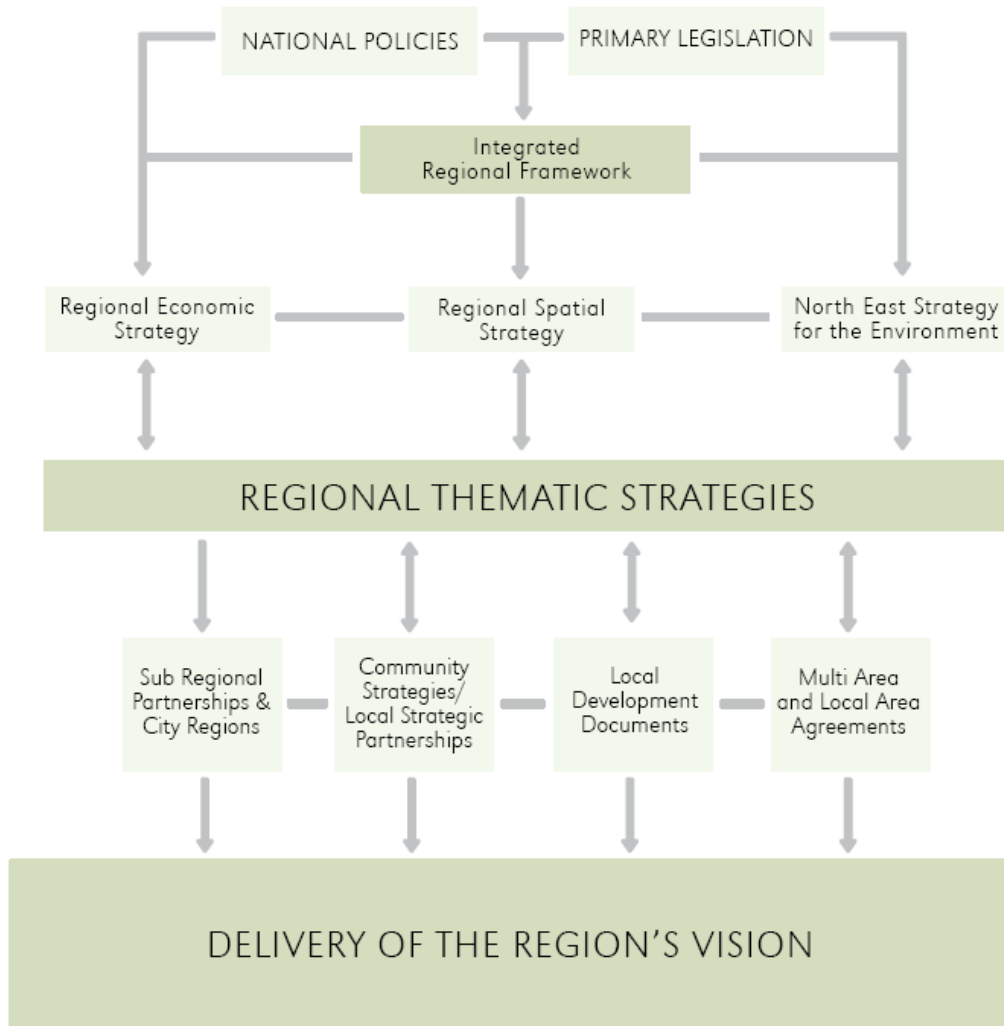
Policy Context

- National Policy context
- Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)
- Integrated Regional Framework (IRF)
- Regional Economic Strategy (RES)
- North East Strategy for the Environment (NESE)
- Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)
- The Future?

Policy Context



Green Infrastructure should be integrated at all policy and strategy levels



National Policy Context

- **PPS1 (2005) 'Delivering Sustainable Development'** – recognises the value of natural environment to economic and social wellbeing.
- **Supplement to PPS1 (2007) 'Planning and Climate Change'** – value of green infrastructure to 'urban cooling, sustainable drainage systems, and conserving and enhancing biodiversity'
- **PPS 7 (2004) 'Sustainable development in rural areas'** - emphasises the protection and enhancement of the natural environment as a key role for the planning system,
- **PPS 9 (2005) 'Biodiversity and Geological Conservation'** – especially paragraph 12 'Networks of Natural Habitats'; **PPS9 Guide to Good Practice** - checklist of issues which might be covered in a LDF Core Strategy or other DPD Policy
- **PPS12 (2008) 'Local Spatial Planning'**– plan for 'physical, social and green infrastructure'
- **PPS25 (2006) 'Development and Flood Risk'**– 'making the most of the benefits of green infrastructure for flood storage, conveyance and sustainable drainage systems (SUDS)'
- **PPG 17 (2002) 'Planning for open space. Sport and recreation'** – open space audits, assessments and standards
- **Growth Fund Programme of Development Guidance 2008** – programme should include 'a statement on the delivery of green infrastructure to support new development and how this will be achieved, including details of any green infrastructure strategy and key partners organisations'

Regional Spatial Strategy



14 references to green infrastructure including:

- **RSS Policy 2** – Climate Change
- **RSS Policy 8** Protecting the Environment
- **RSS Policy 9** – Tyne and Wear City region
- **RSS Policy 10** – Tees Valley City region
- **RSS Policy 12** – Sustainable Economic Development
- **RSS Policy 24** – Delivering Sustainable Communities



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE NORTH EAST

The North East of England Plan
Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021

July 2008



Regional Spatial Strategy

‘Strategic elements of green infrastructure’:

- **Biodiversity Target Zones**
- **Habitat Creation and Enhancement Areas**
- **strategic recreation routes**
- **strategic wildlife corridors**
- **Wildlife Sites**
- **Nationally Important Landscapes**
- **Community Forests**
- **Cultural Sites** — Hadrian’s Wall WHS; Durham Castle & Cathedral WHS; Wearmouth-Jarrow Candidate WHS.

Local Development Frameworks



Middlesbrough Core Strategy adopted February 2008

- Gather evidence on green infrastructure to support plan development
- Incorporate green infrastructure into Core Strategy, LDDs, SPDs

POLICY CS20 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Council will work with partners to ensure the successful creation of an integrated network of green infrastructure. This will be delivered through a planned network of multi-functional green space and inter-connecting links which are designed, developed, and managed to meet the environmental, social, and economic needs of communities across Middlesbrough and the wider Tees Valley city region. It will be set within, and contribute to, a high quality natural and built environment and will be required to enhance the quality of life for present and future residents and visitors, deliver liveability for sustainable communities, and contribute to the Middlesbrough Biodiversity Action Plan.

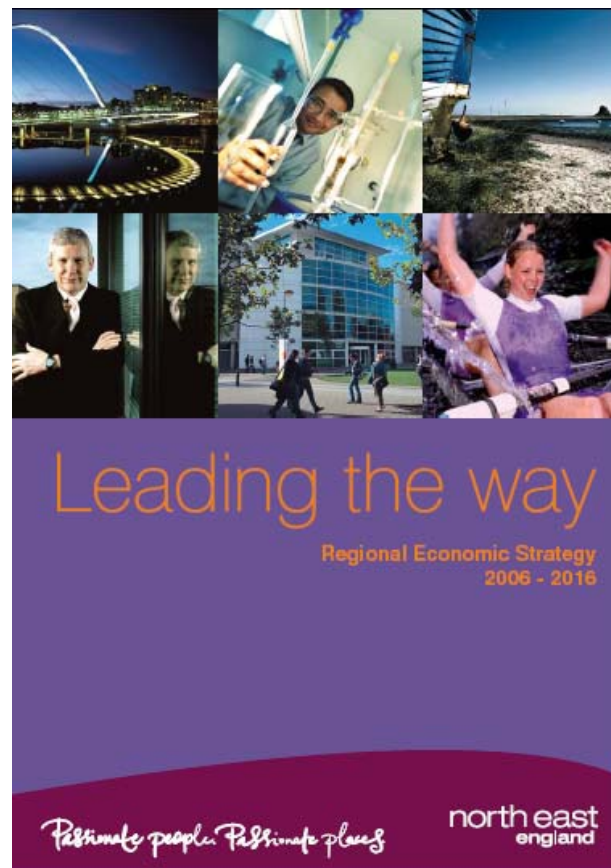
At a strategic level this network will include the following open spaces:

- i Green Blue Heart;
- ii Middlesbrough's green lung;
- iii beck valleys;
- iv green wedges;
- v green flag parks;
- vi River Tees frontage; and
- vii South Middlesbrough country park.

The loss of green space that contributes to the achievement of an integrated network of green infrastructure will be resisted. In assessing the role of any particular area of green space regard will be had to the provisions of the Green Space Strategy. Where appropriate, SPD and masterplans will be prepared to provide further guidance on the provision of green infrastructure.

Regional Economic Strategy

- **Regional Economic Strategy (RES)** – *‘Our green infrastructure is increasingly recognised as being a key component of sustainable communities. It is critical that the benefits of these public assets are maximised through sound planning and management’*
- **RES Action Plan** – *‘maximising the potential of our natural and cultural heritage assets’*
- **Northern Way** – recognises the value of places in raising economic achievement
- **City Region Development Plans** – Green infrastructure embraced in Tees valley for its contribution to economic and social development



Integrated Regional Framework



- Objective 7 – ‘Safeguarding and enhancing the region’s environmental infrastructure’
- ‘the use of green infrastructure in urban design.’
- ‘Green infrastructure can help attract and retain businesses and visitors and contribute to our overall quality of life and well-being.’

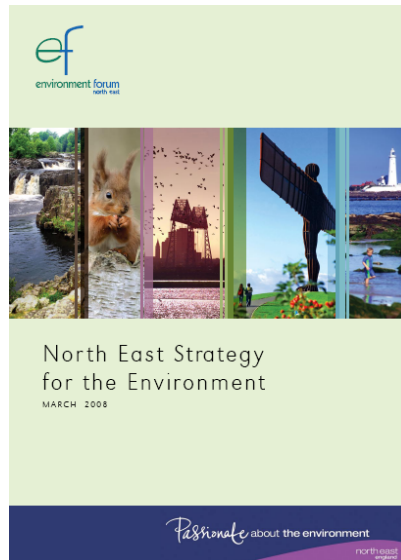


- ‘Priority Action: Deliver social, economic and environmental benefits through new and existing landscape scale partnerships, for example tackling climate change adaptation and mitigation.’

North East Strategy for the Environment (NESE)



Environmental Infrastructure:
Securing key natural, physical and cultural assets and realising their potential



- 'A strategic planning approach is required to deliver Green Infrastructure on a landscape scale. This will enable land and water management to be proactive and better integrated with efforts to manage economic growth and development at all spatial planning levels.'
- 'Deliver the environmental, social and economic benefits of Green Infrastructure through landscape scale partnerships and projects'

The Future?



- **Opportunities through new unitary authorities, LDFs and Green Infrastructure Strategies**
- **Sub National Review and the ‘Integrated Regional Strategy’**
- **Gathering Evidence - ERIC**
- **NESE – ‘*There is a need to develop overarching region-wide delivery principles to provide a framework for co-ordinating activity within and across landscape partnerships. Such a move will assist the spatial planning system in contributing towards the delivery of Green Infrastructure.*’**