

Appendix H

Policies required emerging from revocation of the SW Regional Spatial Strategy

The policies proposed below are considered appropriate now that the SW RSS is revoked and policies therein have no validity. Existing PPS policies and those we already have in the emerging Core Strategy have been taken into account in a comparative assessment and as a result of that exercise the following additional policies are proposed for Member consideration

Air Quality

The impacts of development proposals on air quality must be taken into account to ensure that new development will not exacerbate air quality problems in existing and potential AQMAs. This should include consideration of the potential impacts of new developments and increased traffic levels on internationally designated nature conservation sites, and adopt mitigation measures to address these impacts.

Woodlands and Forests

South Somerset District Council will support the implementation of the RWFF, ensuring the environmental, social and economic value and character of the district's trees, woods and forests are protected and enhanced in a sustainable way. Woodland areas, including ancient and semi-natural woodland should be maintained at least at 2005 levels and expanded where possible to provide a buffer to core areas of woodland. Ancient or veteran trees should be protected against loss. Where woodland is unavoidably lost through development it should be replaced with appropriate new woodland on at least the same scale.

Renewable Electricity Targets

The District Council will seek to achieve renewable electricity generation capacity within South Somerset as a minimum of 20% of the total electricity demand existing at that time

Tourism

New Tourism Proposals

In order to sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of tourism in the District new tourism proposals will be permitted provided that

- the proposals are of a scale appropriate to the size and function of the settlement within which they are to be located and would help to sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the settlement.
- the proposals ensure tourism developments are accessible by public transport, cycle and pedestrian networks.
- the proposals do not harm the District's environmental, cultural or heritage assets

Tourism development within open countryside must be relevant to and associated with the countryside location and be of a scale and nature not to conflict with the national directive for protection of the countryside.

Major new tourist facilities

Major new tourism facilities should be assessed in terms of overall sustainability development objectives. Of particular relevance should be

- enhancing the overall quality of the tourism offer in the District
- developing new tourism markets
- be readily accessible by non car means
- help to extend the tourism season
- contribute significantly to the District's economy
- will increase rather than just displace visitors from other areas and attractions
- be located within or near Yeovil or the District's Primary Service Centres to ensure a local workforce that can access the attraction effectively and sustainably#
- be well located to the national route network