

MONITORING OVERVIEW

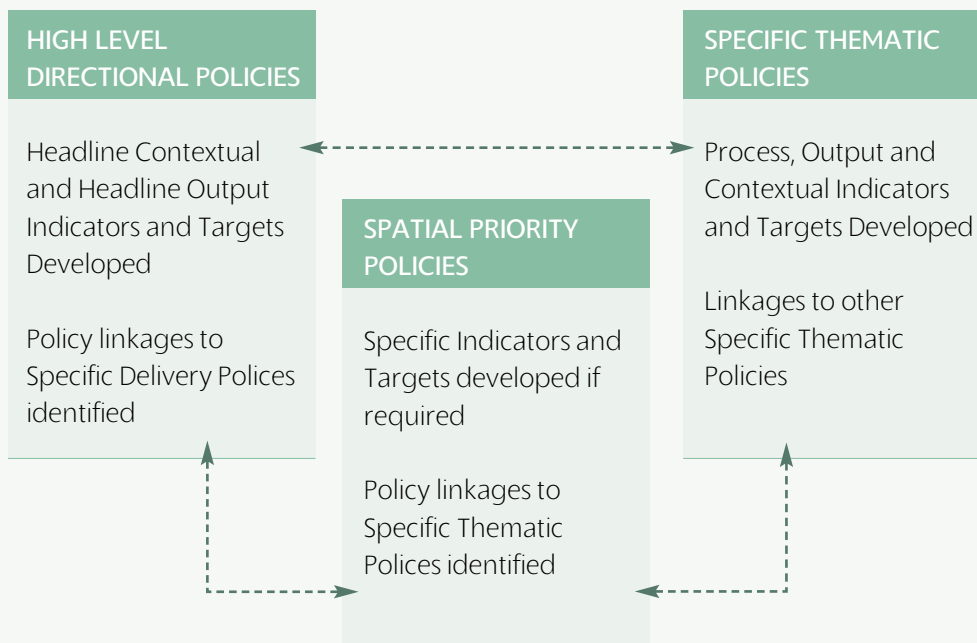
INTRODUCTION

The outcomes of the High Level Directional Policies set out in section 4 of the Plan, are monitored by a series of Headline Contextual Indicators and Headline Output (Core ODPM) Indicators. This enables the general performance of the Region to be monitored over the lifetime of the plan. The linkages to 'spatial priority' policies (in sections 6-12) and specific 'thematic' policies (in sections 13-16) are also identified.

The Spatial Priority Policies (in sections 6-12) draw upwards to the High Level Directional Policies and downwards to the Specific Thematic Policies - and apply them to a specific spatial area. The outcomes of the Spatial Priority Policies are monitored through specific outcome indicators if required, and by acknowledging linkages to the Specific Thematic Policies and their associated indicators.

The outcomes of the Specific Thematic Policies (in sections 13-16) are monitored by a series of process, output and contextual indicators and targets to monitor their success and delivery. Linkages between policies and indicators are identified.

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Section 5 explains a three-phase approach to delivering the plan. Where possible, indicators and targets have been identified to align with these time phases. This allows for developing of output indicators in the medium to long term once process indicators have been achieved or the results of further baseline research have identified alternative indicators and data sources.

TARGETS

Where applicable, targets have been identified for regional and sub regional policy objectives. These target are considered to be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound) in line with ODPM guidance. The targets have been largely drawn from RSS policy and other regional level documents such as the Regional Economic Strategy. The targets define the extent of change in the Region within a specified time period. It is against the policy objectives and these targets that the performance of the RSS will be measured. Different circumstances mean that not all separate parts of the Region or individual sub-areas will be expected to meet the targets – other parts should be able to outperform the targets, which have been set for the Region as a whole.

For a number of policies, it has not been possible to include targets at this stage, in some cases because of the lack of baseline data or the need for further work to define the targets (these gaps will be filled following consultation). In addition, a number of aspirational targets have been identified to highlight the general direction of change

INDICATORS

A suite of provisional indicators has been developed to track progress against identified targets and long-term policy outcomes. The indicators are divided into three broad categories – output, contextual and process indicators:

- Output indicators relate to the measurement of the direct effects of policy and provide the benchmark for evaluating the progress of the Plan towards its stated outcomes
- Contextual indicators provide a description of the wider social, economic, environmental and demographic background to the Plan, helping to evaluate progress towards sustainable development objectives
- Process indicators measure the extent to which policies set out in the Plan are being taken up at the local level in Local Development Frameworks

Headline Indicators are also identified in the Plan. These are either contextual or output indicators and are intended to be measured annually to inform decision makers as to whether Plan is broadly on course, or whether all or parts of the Plan require review. The headline indicators take account of the national core indicators that are promoted by the Government to facilitate a consistent approach to monitoring key national objectives at the regional level. In a number of circumstances a single indicator measures the implementation of more than one policy (cross references are used to avoid repetition).

FREQUENCY OF MONITORING

With the exception of the Headline Indicators it is not intended to monitor all indicators on a yearly cycle. How regularly indicators are monitored will depend on the targets set, the extent of potential change anticipated over time and the availability of data. For some indicators it will be impossible to measure change annually, and for others data may only be collected or plans updated every three years. The reporting frequency for each indicator will be identified in the final version of the Plan.

INDICATOR LIFESPAN

Some indicators, in particular process indicators (which measure conformity between the RSS and LDFs), will have a relatively short lifespan and will be replaced by output indicators between 2011 and 2021. In some cases 'proxy' indicators have been identified to measure the implementation of specific policies where further work is required to identify a more suitable indicator.

DATA COLLECTION

The monitoring framework in the final version of the plan will set out the potential data sources and the existing information gaps. Where possible the indicators will be monitored using data from readily available sources such as Yorkshire Futures, Office of National Statistics, Progress in the Region, The Environment Agency's Annual State of the Environment Report and Defra. Some indicators require a separate piece of work to be commissioned to provide a baseline from which to monitor. Other indicators require specific work to be undertaken to define an appropriate data collection methodology. In addition many of the indicators require data to be collected at a number of different levels e.g. ward, Local Authority, Sub Area, Region. The final version of the Plan will identify the extent of disaggregation required in data collection.