

## West of England Partnership

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council



North  
Somerset  
Council

South Gloucestershire  
Council



# Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is between the West of England Partnership authorities (Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bristol City Councils), the Environment Agency, and Natural England. We are jointly committed to delivering sustainable economic growth in ways which protect and enhance the environment. The MoU provides a framework for a more consistent and transparent working relationship in the field of spatial planning, where the priorities of the authorities, the Environment Agency and Natural England are aligned. This will enable effective co-ordination and co-operation between our organisations, in recognition of the fact that we can achieve much more for the environment and the economy by working in partnership.

It is hereby agreed that each organisation will work together to deliver the following outcomes for new and existing communities within the West of England:

Environmental constraints within Core Strategy 'priority growth locations' are identified and necessary funding is secured for investment in infrastructure to unlock development opportunities.

Cost effective flood and coastal risk management investment is secured.

At the local level the causes of climate change are mitigated and adaptations made.

Natural resources are used wisely, and waste is minimised and managed sustainably.

Business and communities are more aware of the benefits of high quality design in new development.

Energy demand is reduced and new renewable generation capacity is provided to meet future needs.

A co-ordinated approach to management for a sustainable water environment that delivers good ecological status, sufficient water resources and high aesthetic quality and which also includes the delivery of specific Water Framework Directive targets for water quality.

Biodiversity and the diverse and distinctive landscape character across the West of England and beyond is protected and enhanced.

### In seeking to achieve these outcomes:

The West of England authorities will ensure early, continuous and effective engagement of the two agencies in the production of Local Development Frameworks and neighbourhood plans, and reciprocally, the West of England Partnership authorities will be key stakeholders in the Environment Agency and Natural England's strategic plans.

Each organisation will jointly monitor and keep up to date a shared evidence base which addresses the key environmental issues.

Each organisation will identify a senior contact officer with lead responsibility for the Memorandum of Understanding and provide regular reports on progress on agreed actions.

The Environment Agency and Natural England working with other Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) partners, will provide a dedicated, multi-functional team to support the work of the authorities in specific agreed areas.

Signed on behalf of:



Date: 15 March 2011

Councillor Ap Rees, Deputy Leader of North Somerset Council and Executive Member for Strategic Planning, Highways, Economic Development and Housing.



Date: 16 March 2011

Councillor Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Service Delivery.



Date: 24 March 2011

Councillor Anthony Negus, Executive Member for Strategic Housing and Regeneration.



Date: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Councillor Brian Allinson, Executive Member for Planning, Transportation and Strategic Environment.



Date: 18 March 2011

Nick Gupta, Wessex Area Manager, South West Region



Date: 18 March 2011

Gerry Hamersley, Area Manager, West of England, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire