Severn Estuary Strategy

Workshop Report & Feedback - 3

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Executive Summary

The Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) facilitated the third workshop on the Severn Estuary Strategy development process on 17th May 2016 as part of the Joint Estuary Day. The workshop was held at Chepstow Drill Hall and 21 people attended, including facilitators, representing a wide range of different sectors.

The Partnership is undertaking the review and update of the Severn Estuary Strategy, which was first published in 2001. The revised and streamlined 2015/16 Strategy will provide a framework to inform more coordinated policy development, practices and strategies for the estuary. The aim of the workshop was to assess the outcomes and actions related to each objective and provide guidance on any revisions necessary. The Strategy will also provide context to inform and support decision making for a wide range of proposed estuary developments, including those related to maritime uses, minerals and marine renewable energy.

The Strategy document contains a set of 10 Objectives, which are based upon the High-Level Marine Objectives outlined in the UK Marine Policy Statement, and an overarching Vision. Under each *Objective*, are *Outcomes* and a series of *Actions* for the Partnership to undertake. The purpose of this short workshop was to assess the *Outcomes* and *Actions* related to each objective and provide guidance on any revisions necessary. The *Outcomes* are the measureable changes/what we are expecting to achieve under the *Objective* within the time period of the Strategy. The *Actions* are the activities that SEP (and its partners) can undertake to accomplish the outcomes. The aim for the two sessions was to identify whether the *Outcomes* and *Actions* were appropriate, achievable, measurable and clearly written.

The overall feedback from the event was significantly positive, with delegates supporting the revised 2016 Strategy development process. The overarching *Principles* and *Objectives* that the Partnership have developed were agreed by the various groups as useful in providing a strategic framework for development and planning in the estuary. Others suggested that the Strategy would be a useful document in terms of supporting funding applications for a range of estuary-wide projects. Generally, delegates agreed the overall *Outcomes* and *Actions* proposed by the Partnership. Many detailed and specific comments were made and recorded during the workshop and have since been incorporated into revised versions. The more detailed information on the workshop sessions is available in Section 2.1 to 2.3 and Appendix 4.5. It was also raised that the monitoring programme of the SEP *actions* needs to be considered in detail alongside the *principles, objectives, outcomes* and *actions*.

The next steps will be to review all of the themes together to ensure there are no gaps and duplications and to ensure consistency across all themes. A revised draft of these themes/principles will be released over the next couple of months.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 2015/16 Review & Update

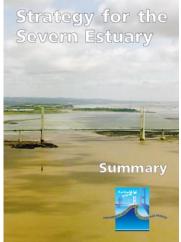
The Partnership is in the process of reviewing and updating the 2001 Strategy (Appendix 4.1), in the context of new and emerging policies and developments. The revised and streamlined 2015/16 Strategy will provide a framework to inform more coordinated policy development, practices and strategies for the estuary. As marine planning develops in both England and Wales, the Strategy's development will ensure an integrated approach for the Severn Estuary Region. The Strategy will also provide context to inform and support decision making for a wide range of proposed estuary developments, including those related to maritime uses, minerals and marine renewable energy.

1.2 2016 Strategy Aims

The revised 2016 Severn Estuary Strategy aims:

- To update & streamline the 2001 Severn Estuary Strategy
- To provide a strategic policy framework for the Estuary
- To provide context to inform and support decision-making
- To facilitate the Marine & Coastal Act (2009) obligations related to:
 - Cross-border integration
 - Land-sea integration
 - Ecosystem-based approach to management

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) and the UK Marine Policy Statement (2011), there is a requirement to take an ecosystem-based approach to management of the sea and coast. The duty to cooperate is also outlined as a requirement for local planning authorities and public bodies under the Localism Act (2011), to 'maximise the effectiveness of Local and Marine Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters'. In light of these statutory requirements, the Strategy will help to facilitate integration at the coast, between sectors and across administrative boundaries, ensuring that an ecosystem-based approach is taken for management of the Severn Estuary.



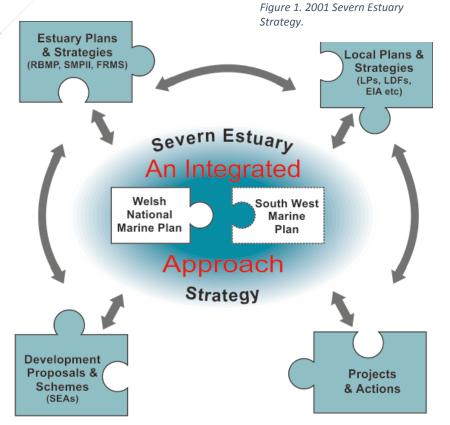


Figure 2. Severn Estuary Strategy update process.

1.3 2016 Strategy Contents

The revised 2016 Strategy will follow international best practice and adopt a similar structure to the <u>Gulf of Maine Action Plan</u>. The aim is to provide a simple, easily accessible and user-friendly document that has the following structure:

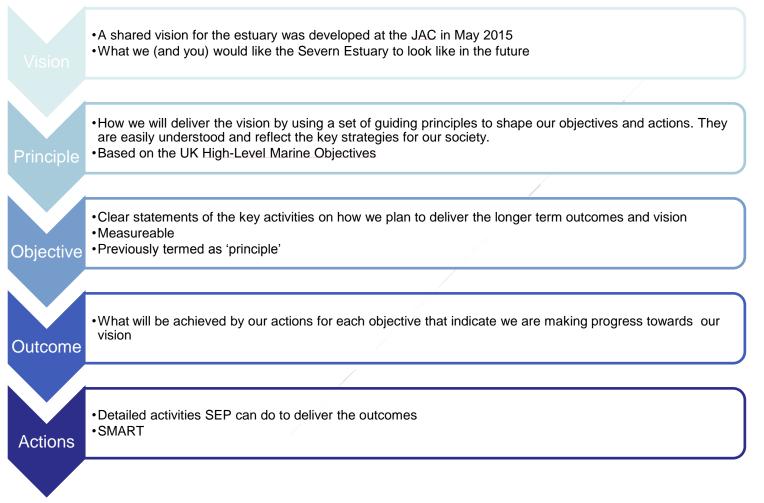


Figure 4. Structure of the 2016 Severn Estuary Strategy.

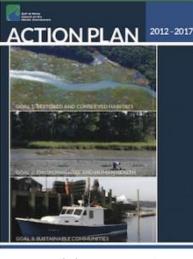


Figure 3. Gulf of Maine Action Plan.

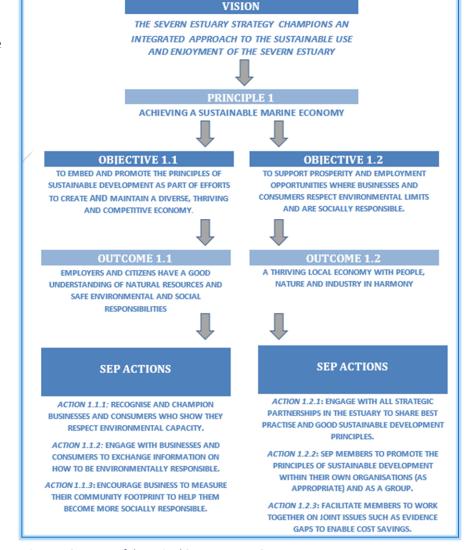
A shared Vision for the estuary was developed during the first Strategy workshop in May 2015.

"The Severn Estuary Strategy champions an integrated approach to the sustainable use and enjoyment of the Severn Estuary."

The **Principle** themes were derived from the <u>UK High Level Marine Objectives</u> (<u>HLMO</u>) Themes, set out in the <u>Marine Policy Statement</u> (MPS), to guide and provide a structure. The **Objectives**, which were previously termed Principles, have been developed with regard to:

- ✓ UK HLMOs
- ✓ East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan Objectives (2014),
- ✓ 2001 Strategy Principles
- ✓ EU ICZM Principles (2002)
- ✓ Other Coastal Partnership Strategies, like the <u>Dorset Coast Strategy</u> (2011).

The structure of the Strategy document follows Figure 5.



2.0 Workshop

The Partnership held the third Strategy workshop on 17th May 2016, hosted at Chepstow Drill Hall. The purpose of this short workshop was **to assess the outcomes and actions related to each objective and provide guidance on any revisions necessary.**

A list of workshop attendees is provided in Appendix 4.2.

Lucy Taylor, Severn Estuary Partnership Officer, gave an update on the Severn Estuary Strategy revision process (*Appendix 4.3*). She then explained the aims and structure of the workshop session.

The workshop attendees were split into three groups by Objectives (Appendix 4.4). These groups were facilitated by:

- Group 1 (Objective 1 and 2): John Harrison, Severn Estuary Partnership & Katie Clark, Natural England
- Group 2 (Objective 3): Lindsay Christian, Newport City Council & Harriet Yates-Smith, Litter Free Coast & Sea Somerset (SEP)
- Group 3 (Objective 4 and 5): Rhoda Ballinger, Cardiff University & Rhys Morgan, Natural Resources Wales

The following Sections 2.1 to 2.3 summarise the key points made in the workshop.

2.1 Session 1- Assessment of Outcomes

During the first workshop session, delegates reviewed the *outcomes* under each *objective*. The *outcomes* are the measureable changes/what we are expecting to achieve under the *objective* within the time period of the Strategy. The aim for this session was to identify whether the *outcomes* were appropriate, achievable, measurable and clearly written. Some of the key questions posed were:

- Are the outcomes appropriate and related to the objective?
- Are they appropriate for SEP to promote?
- Are they relevant to the whole estuary region?
- Are they achievable in the specified time frame?
- > Are they achievable within current resources or will addition resources be required?
- > Are they achievable within the current socio-economic climate?
- Are they clearly worded?

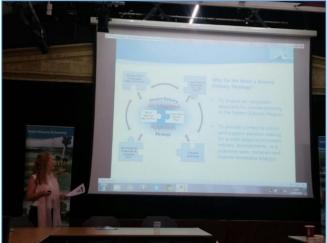


Figure 6. Lucy Taylor, SEP Officer, presenting on the 2016 Severn Estuary Strategy revision process.



Figure 7. Group 2 delegates during the workshop session.

Suggestions for any additional outcomes were also encouraged, as well as identifying which organisations should be involved in reviewing this objective. A full summary of the comments and amendments are provided in Appendix 4.5.

2.2 Session 2 – Assessment of Actions

The second workshop session involved the review of *actions*. These are the activities that SEP (and its partners) can undertake to accomplish the outcomes, within the time period of the Strategy. The aim for this session was to identify whether the *actions* were appropriate, achievable, measurable and clearly written. The same set of questions were posed as per Section 2.1. Suggestions for potential indicators were also noted during group discussions (Section 2.3).





Figure 8. Groups working in Session 2.

2.3 Record of Additional Comments

Table 1. Record of additional comments made by delegates.

High-Level Marine Objective	Sub-Group Lead	Comments
Achieving a Sustainable	Katie Clark,	Outcome 1.1:
Marine Economy	Natural England	 How SEP will support partners needs to be clear, with the limits and role of SEP set out clearly – ensure SEP is not duplicating the role of member organisations Ensure that the marine economy as well as the terrestrial economy is measured Could use natural capital as a measure?

		 Outcome 1.2: It is appropriate, but a distinct boundary needs to be identified, with an influence zone
		 It is achievable, but does depend on the political climate. The evidence base is key. The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) may have an impact.
		 It is not measurable at present- need to decide on measures
		Action 1.1.3 - Community footprint needs to be related to the Estuary- or could action this through local partnerships
		Action 1.2.1 - Ensure that it is clear that it is up to SEP members to do the actions. The measure could be the number of organisations that SEP is engaging with.
Ensuring a Strong, Healthy	John Harrison,	It is important to continue to work with local authorities across the whole estuary
and Just Society	SEP Chair	Wording of actions needs to be positive throughout
		Action 2.1.1 – similar to actions for Principle 1. Could include commenting on consultations etc so the Partnership is aware of what is going on.
		Action 2.2.2 – there is other change in addition to climate change e.g. economic change
Living Within Environmental Limits	Lindsay Christian, Newport City	Outcome 3.1.1 It would be useful to know whether the water companies in the area engage with each other and SEP.
	Council	Outcome 3.1.1 Source of information – Water quality management plan
		Outcome 3.1.2 NRW have Grant foreshore management plan, which looks at prioritising schemes based on vulnerability
		Outcome 3.1.2 Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust are undertaking a rapid coastal zone assessment (Scoping 2016). The link between this type of work and SEP strategy is useful in bidding for funding.
		Outcome 3.1.3 The ASERA work programme linking to code of conducts as a measure.
		Outcome 3.2.1 The Mineral Products Association may have best practice to share
		Outcome 3.2.1 The construction industry has environmental management audits which are a good source of information, which include working with communities.
		Outcome 3.2.1 Local Authorities can use procurement methods and local policies to help achieve this.
		Outcome 3.2.2 The key to this outcome is to ensure the message of ownership particularly self-management is disseminated.
		Additional Comments- • Living levels project (RSPB)
		 There is a need to look at the monitoring programme alongside these flow charts to get a true understanding of how these actions will be measured and what success will look like.

Promoting Good Governance	Lucy Taylor, SEP; Rhoda Ballinger,	There is a need to simplify the wording of some of the outcomes and make them more generic (e.g. 4.1)
Cardiff University	Action 4.1.1. – need to add a note in supporting text over the need for consistency to include 1) across estuary; 2) between public bodies; 3) cross-border	
		Action 4.1.2 – mention CPN, GEMS and other key networks in the supporting text
		Key roles of SEP
		 To include capacity building (training/education roles e.g. Action 4.2.4) To be a data (information bulk
		 To be a data/information hub To help others to work together to influence decisions
Line Cound Colones	Dhua Margan	
Using Sound Science Responsibly	Rhys Morgan, Natural	The Principle (5) itself should be widened and should reflect SEP's remit. In particular, an encouragement of engagement of stakeholders with the latest research and thinking. Wording of Principle has been amended
	Resources Wales	accordingly.
	Objective 5.1 - It was agreed that SEP could not provide the data, but should signpost others to relevant data and evidence.	
		Action 5.1.2 – Too much specific detail in this action and could be made stronger by being more general
		Action 5.1.3 - Too similar to Action 5.2.3 and so it was agreed that elements of these should be merged. The
		South West Coastal Observatory and the Wales Information Hub could both be mentioned in supporting text, as could the mention of a Severn Route Map (for policy).
		Action 5.1.3 - A new and stronger action which highlights the development of a potential long-term sign- posting facility
		Action 5.1.4 - It was agreed to reduce text on types of government bodies. It was also suggested that SEP is not in a position to 'ensure' policy development is well informed.
		Objective 5.2 - Too wordy and should be simplified. It should refer to the Severn Estuary Forum and should suggest that other platforms might be also appropriate.
		Outcome 5.2 - Outcome should focus on better understanding acquired through better data etc. The present and future aspects it was agreed could go into supporting text.
		Action 5.2.1 - There was some discussion as to whether this should move to go under Outcome 5.1. Need to
		define 'citizen science' in the supporting text.
		Action 5.2.3 – Need to cross-reference with 5.1.3 as some overlap.

3.0 Conclusion

The aim of the Strategy workshop was to assess the outcomes and actions related to each objective and provide guidance on any revisions necessary. Around 21 people attended the workshop at the Joint Estuary Day, representing a range of sectors from coastal defence, fisheries management to the historic environment. Delegates also represented both sides of the estuary. The overall feedback from the event was significantly positive, with delegates supporting the revised 2016 Strategy development process.

The overarching principles and objectives that the Partnership have developed were agreed by the various groups as useful in providing a strategic framework for development and planning in the estuary. Others suggested that the Strategy would be a useful document in terms of supporting funding applications for

a range of estuary-wide projects. Generally, delegates agreed the overall outcomes and actions proposed by the Partnership. Many detailed and specific comments were made and recorded during the workshop and have since been incorporated into revised versions. The more detailed information on the workshop sessions is available in Section 2.1 to 2.3 and Appendix 4.5. It was also raised that the monitoring programme of the SEP actions needs to be considered in detail alongside the principles, objectives, outcomes and actions.

3.1 Next Steps

The Partnership are now reviewing the results and comments raised during the workshop. The Strategy sub-group will now review all of the themes holistically to ensure there are no gaps and duplications and to ensure consistency across all themes. A revised draft of these themes/principles will be released over the next couple of months. The Strategy sub-group of the Partnership will meet again over the coming weeks to determine the next steps.

If you are interested in assisting with the Strategy development process or wish to suggest any other Figure 9. Workshop delegates. particular organisations/individuals, please get in contact at Severn@Cardiff.ac.uk. The SEP website (http://www.severnestuarypartnership.org.uk/sep/strategy/20152016-2/) will keep you up to date on the latest Strategy developments.

4.0 Appendix

4.1 Severn Estuary Strategy (2001)

The Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) is an independent, estuary-wide initiative, involving all those interested in the management of the estuary, from planners to port authorities. The Severn Estuary Strategy was published by the Partnership in 2001. The key aim of the project was to develop a strategic management framework to guide and support the sustainable development and wise use of the estuary. The 2001 Strategy was used to inform local plans and policy by local planning authorities and nature conservation agencies around the Severn Estuary.

The 2001 Strategy covered the area shown in Figure 1. The area extends between Gloucester and Hurlstone Point near Minehead on the English coast and Nash Point, Vale of Glamorgan, on the Welsh coast.

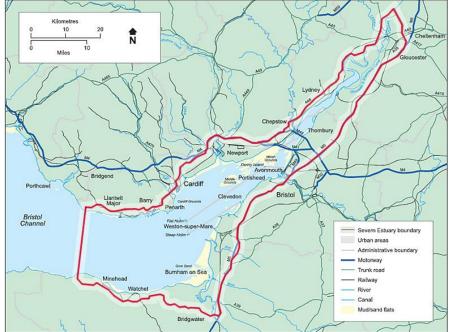


Figure 10. Severn Estuary Strategy (2001) Region.

<u>2001 Aim</u>

"To bring together all those involved in the development, management and use of the Estuary within a framework which encourages the integration of their interests and responsibilities to achieve common objectives."

2001 Vision

"A vibrant and prosperous community, working in partnership for a clean and pleasant Estuary environment, valued and protected for generations to come."

Strategy Document

There were 13 key topics presented in the 2001 Strategy. For each topic, the following were included:

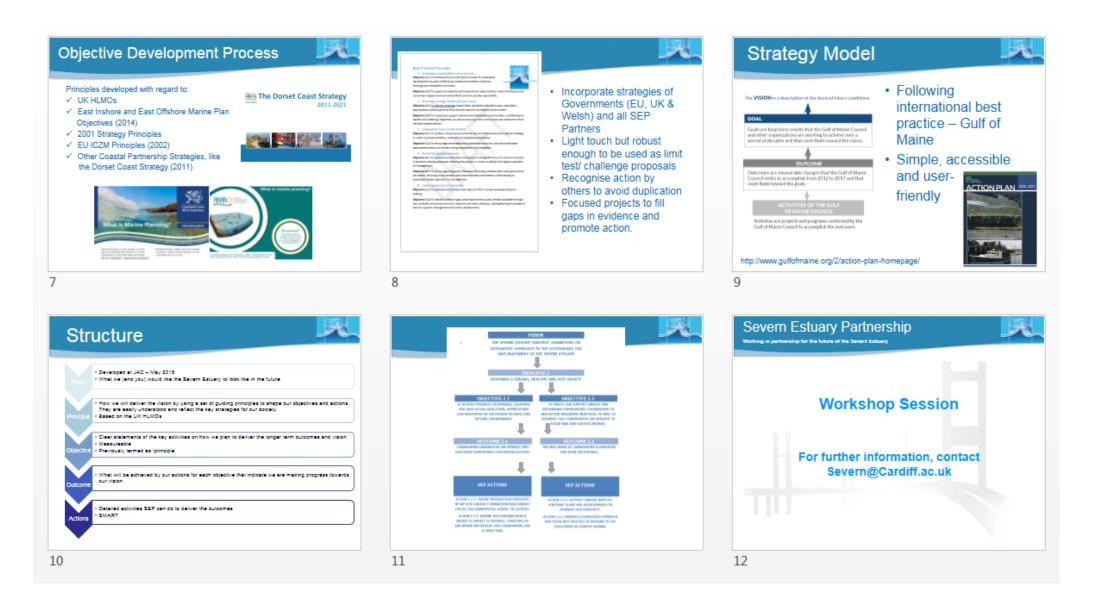
- Aims
- Policies
- Proposals for action

4.2 Strategy Workshop Attendees

Name	Organisation	Group
Rhoda Ballinger	Cardiff University	3
Dave Brain	Cardiff Council	1
Hermes Carlyon	Environment Agency	1
Lindsay Christian	Newport City Council	2
Katie Clark	Natural England	1
Edith Evans	Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust	2
Patrick Goodey	Bristol City Council	1
Neal Gray	Marine Management Organisation	1
Dave Harris	Monmouthshire County Council (SECG Chair)	2
John Harrison	Severn Estuary Partnership (Chair)	1
Phil Higginbottom	Somerset County Council	2
Jo Ibrahim	Natural Resources Wales	2
Peter Jones	English & Wye RFCC	1
Gary Kennison	Gloucestershire County Council	3
Matthew Lewis	Monmouthshire County Council	2
Conrad Moore	Stroud District Council	3
Rhys Morgan	Natural Resources Wales	3
Rob Niblett	Gloucestershire County Council	3
Libby Ross	Devon & Severn IFCA	3
Lucy Taylor	Severn Estuary Partnership/Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities	1;2;3
Harriet Yates-Smith	Litter Free Coast & Sea Somerset (SEP)	2

4.3 Severn Estuary Strategy Update Presentation – Lucy Taylor





Workshop	Workshop Groups	Activities
Workshop Aim: To assess outcomes and actions related to each objective and provide guidance on an revisions necessary Split into groups Facilitators: Katie, John, Lindsay, Rhoda & Rhys	 2. Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society 3. Living within environmental limits 	 1. Have we specified the appropriate OUTCOMES? Is what we are expecting to achieve: Appropriate? Achievable? Measurable? Clearly written?
Activities	14	15
ACTIONS? Is what we are expecting to achieve: • Appropriate?		

- Measurable?
- Clearly written?

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4.4. Best Practice Principles

1. Achieving a sustainable marine economy

Objective 1.1: To embed and promote the principles of sustainable development as part of efforts to create and maintain a diverse, thriving and competitive economy.

Objective 1.2: To support prosperity and employment opportunities where businesses and consumers respect environmental limits and are socially responsible.

2. Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society

Objective 2.1: To actively promote responsible, equitable and safe access, education, appreciation and enjoyment of the diverse natural and historic environment.

Objective 2.2: To create and support vibrant and sustainable communities, contributing to health and wellbeing objectives, as well as ensuring that communities are resilient to flood risk and coastal erosion.

3. Living within environmental limits

Objective 3.1: To protect, conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity and cultural heritage in order to achieve healthy, resilient and adaptable ecosystems.

Objective 3.2: To encourage renewable and sustainable resource use and to facilitate appropriate action on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

4. Promoting good governance

Objective 4.1: To promote partnership working by involving all those who have an interest in decision-making processes affecting the estuary in order to deliver the highest standard of management.

Objective 4.2: To encourage integration between all estuary-related plans and governance structures, ensuring cross-sectoral and cross-boundary consistency whilst taking an ecosystem-based approach to management.

5. Using sound science responsibly

Objective 5.1: To provide and actively share data to inform evidence-based decision-making.

Objective 5.2: To identify evidence gaps and improve the quality of data available through new scientific and socio-economic research and data collection, strengthening the evidence base to support management and policy development.





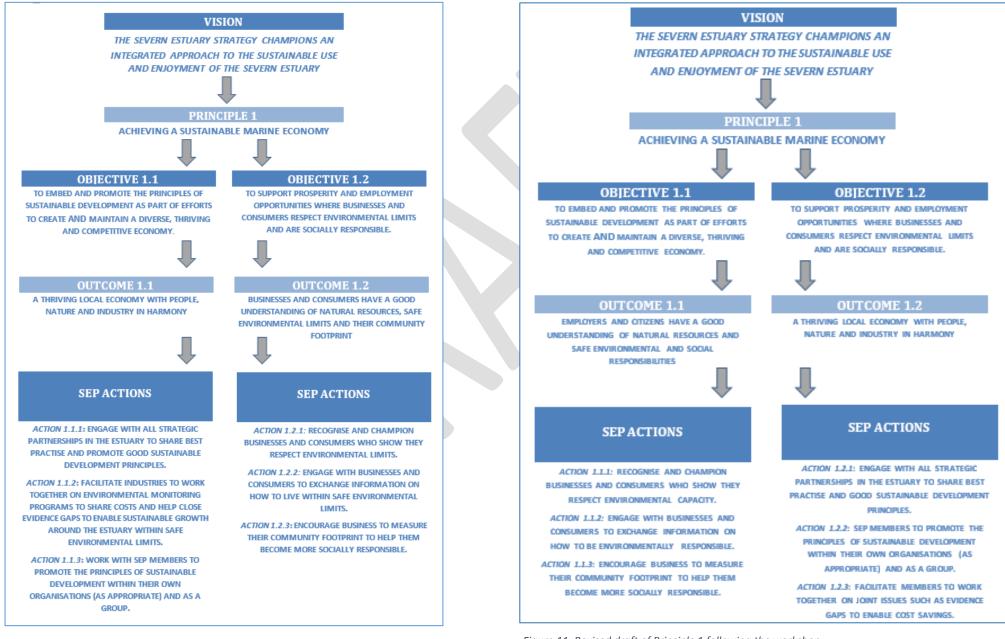


Figure 12. DRAFT of Principle 1.

Figure 11. Revised draft of Principle 1 following the workshop.

2 Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society

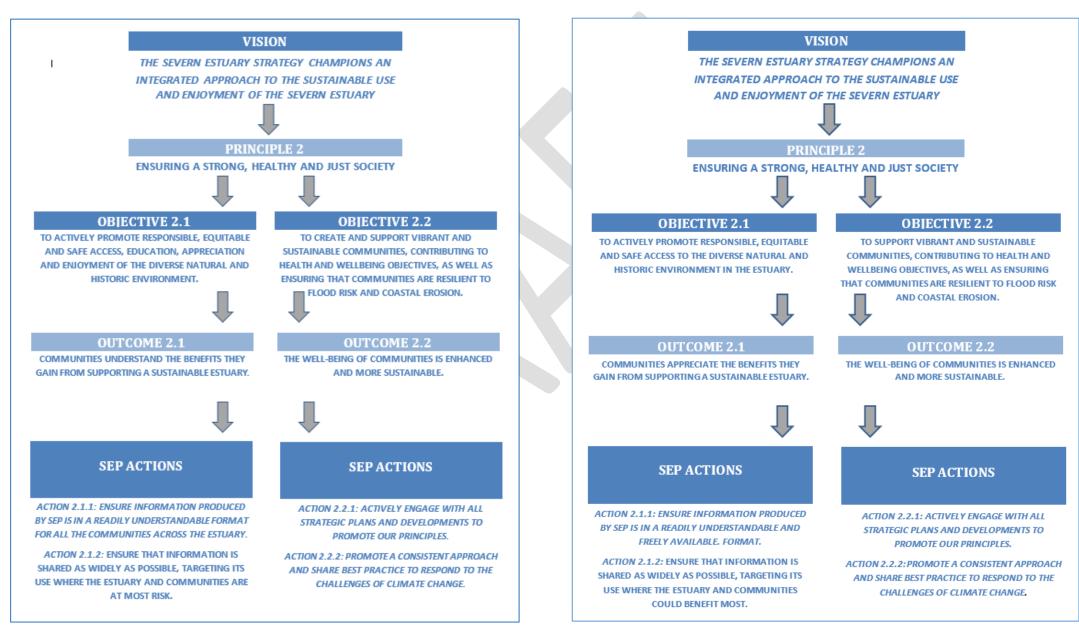
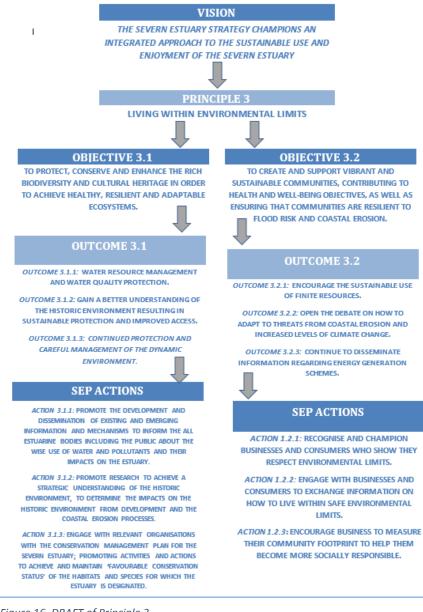


Figure 14. Revised draft of Principle 2 following the workshop.

3 Living within environmental limits



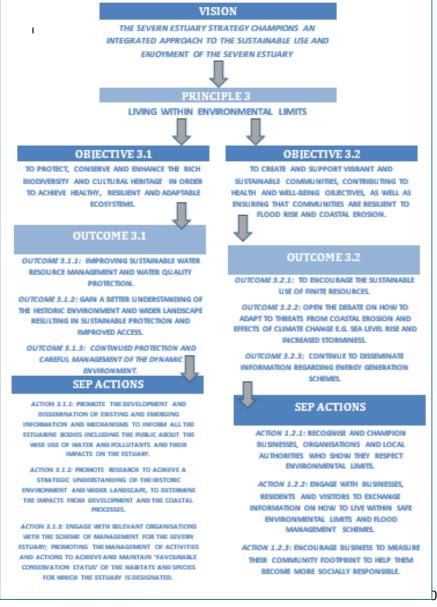
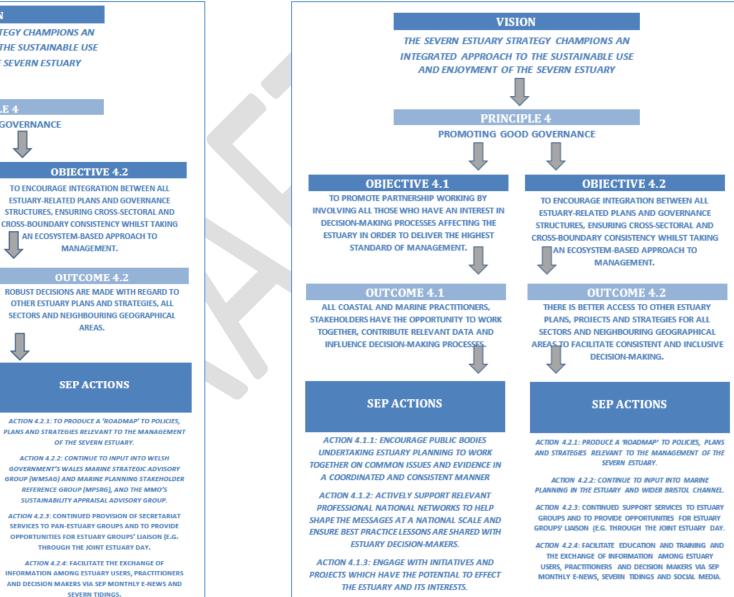


Figure 15. Revised draft of Principle 3 following the workshop.

4 Promoting good governance



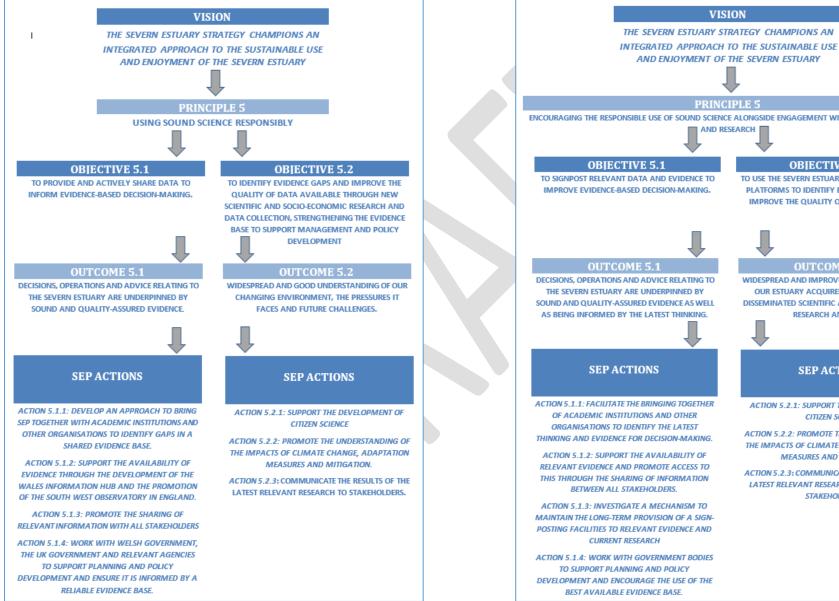
VISION THE SEVERN ESTUARY STRATEGY CHAMPIONS AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF THE SEVERN ESTUARY PRINCIPLE 4 PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE **OBJECTIVE 4.1** TO PROMOTE PARTNERSHIP WORKING BY INVOLVING ALL THOSE WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AFFECTING THE ESTUARY IN ORDER TO DELIVER THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF MANAGEMENT. **OUTCOME 4.1** ALL COASTAL AND MARINE PRACTITIONERS, COMMUNITIES AND OTHER INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER AND INPUT INTO DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES. SEP ACTIONS ACTION 4.1.1: ENCOURAGE THE MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION (MMO), WELSH **GOVERNMENT (WG) AND OTHER KEY BODIES** UNDERTAKING ESTUARY-WIDE PLANNING TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER ON COMMON ISSUES AND EVIDENCE IN A COORDINATE CROSS-**BORDER MANNER** ACTION 4.1.2: ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE COASTAL

PARTNERSHIP NETWORK AND HELP SHAPE THE MESSAGES AT A NATIONAL SCALE AND ENSURE BEST PRACTICE LESSONS FROM CPN ARE SHARED WITH ESTUARY DECISION-MAKERS.

ACTION 4.1.3: TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE WITH AND SUPPORT NEIGHBOURING INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS, AS APPROPRIATE.

Figure 17. Revised draft of Principle 4 following the workshop.

5 Using sound science responsibly



PRINCIPLE 5 ENCOURAGING THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF SOUND SCIENCE ALONGSIDE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LATEST THINKING AND RESEARCH **OBJECTIVE 5.2** TO USE THE SEVERN ESTUARY FORUM AND OTHER PLATFORMS TO IDENTIFY EVIDENCE GAPS AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF DATA AVAILABLE **OUTCOME 5.2** WIDESPREAD AND IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF OUR ESTUARY ACQUIRED THROUGH BETTER DISSEMINATED SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND DATA SEP ACTIONS

VISION

ACTION 5.2.1: SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CITIZEN SCIENCE

ACTION 5.2.2: PROMOTE THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ADAPTATION MEASURES AND MITIGATION.

ACTION 5.2.3: COMMUNICATE THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST RELEVANT RESEARCH AND THINKING TO STAKEHOLDERS.