



## Creating a Sustainable City Region

### Introduction

It is 30 years since the Club of Rome published *The Limits to Growth* (Meadows, 1972) warning us of the consequences of continuing to deplete the world's resources at the present rate. That warning was repeated in a sequel report entitled *Beyond the Limits* (Meadows and Randers, 1992) calling upon us again to constrain growth to within the capacity of the world's resources. The threat to the global environment has focused opinion upon both waste in the 'West' and poverty in the 'North' and 'South', as Brandt described the division between the rich and poor nations (1980).

Global conferences in Rio de Janeiro (The Earth Summit) and Johannesburg (e.g. United Nations, 1992) set the agenda of responsibilities that must successfully be met to reduce both the demand for non-renewable resources and levels of pollution. In Europe our cities continue to make unacceptable demands on the natural environment and we are still struggling to find ways in which cities may evolve sustainably.

In Britain the Government, aided and abetted by some environmental groups, architects and planners, believes that the policy of building at least 60% of new housing on re-usable