



## Environmental report on the revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan

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This Environmental Report is a consultation document on the likely significant environmental effects of revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (the regional strategy in force for Yorkshire and the Humber). Responses on any aspect of the report are invited by Friday 20 January 2012.

A summary of responses to this consultation paper will be published on the DCLG website. Unless you specifically state that your response, or any part of it, is confidential, we shall assume that you have no objection to it being made available to the public and identified on the DCLG website. Confidential responses will be included in any numerical summary or analysis of responses.

Responses and comments about this consultation may be sent by email to [SEAConsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SEAConsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to:

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# **Environmental Report on the revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan**

## **Non-technical summary**

This is a summary of the Environmental Report on the proposed revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Strategy (“the Plan”), published in 2008.

## **Content and objectives and relationship to other plans and programmes**

The Plan was introduced under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and, in accordance with Government policy at the time, provides a broad development strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber for 15 to 20 years. It includes policies to address housing, environmental protection, transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, minerals, energy and waste, as well as sub regional policies.

Its revocation is proposed using powers being provided by the Localism Bill, currently before Parliament, in order to give authorities at local level more freedom in their decisions, both through development plans and decisions on planning applications, in the light of local needs and preferences.

Revocation of the Plan should be seen in the wider context of Government policies and legislation to protect and enhance the natural and historic environment, tackle climate change and secure the sustainable use of natural resources.

## **Environmental conditions, trends and problems and areas likely to be affected**

The Environmental Report, including the regional commentary, is largely based on the data and evidence provided in the Plan and the assessments produced to support its preparation. Where possible the data has been updated and from the data available it is considered unlikely that the overall state of the environment in Yorkshire and the Humber has changed significantly since publication of the Plan.

Yorkshire and the Humber is multi-centred, with numerous large urban centres, smaller towns and villages creating a dispersed settlement pattern. It is characterised by diverse landscapes and historic urban and rural environments and heritage.

Yorkshire and the Humber has diverse landscapes and topography. National Parks cover 21 per cent of the Region's area, 6 per cent is designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and there are over 90,000 hectares of woodland. Over half of the coastline is designated as Heritage Coast but coastal erosion is a major issue. It hosts many internationally designated sites, including Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. Sites of Special Scientific Interest cover 11 per cent of the Region's land area

Yorkshire and the Humber is rich in biodiversity, with 35 national priority habitats and 105 national priority species. Key habitats include upland moorland and heathland, limestone pavements, lowland raised bogs, wetlands of national importance, and ancient woodland.

Yorkshire and the Humber is also characterised by historic environments, including prehistoric and medieval landscapes and settlements on the Humber, North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales, and the industrial revolution heritage throughout South and West Yorkshire and in the east coast ports. Archaeological assets are found at these and many other locations. There is a substantial urban and architectural heritage including historic castles, abbeys, country houses, medieval buildings, and the City of York years of dense and complex settlement. There are World Heritage Sites at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal near Ripon and Saltaire Village near Bradford.

There are 4,000 kilometres of rivers and the Humber catchment is the largest in England. River water quality is improving but only 20 per cent has good ecological status. Average sea levels are rising and summers are getting warmer and winters wetter. The coast faces rapid erosion and extensive low-lying areas present flood risks.

Yorkshire and the Humber has high levels of multiple deprivation, particularly in urban areas. Life expectancy is below the national average, the incidence of long-term health issues is rising, and the environmental aspects of inequality are apparent across the Region.

## Environmental protection objectives

Environmental objectives reflected in the Plan include obligations under international commitments such as on climate change under the Kyoto Protocol and from European Directives including those aimed at protecting the natural environment and from domestic policy.

## Likely significant effects on the environment

The revocation of the Plan would decentralise planning powers to local authorities, freeing them to work with their local communities to deliver sustainable development. To support them in both delivering for their local

communities and addressing strategic cross-border issues, the Government is proposing a duty on public bodies to co-operate on planning concerns that cross administrative boundaries. Local authorities will be expected to work collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and clearly reflected in individual local plans. They will be expected to demonstrate that this is the case when their local plans are examined in public.

The environmental effects of revoking the Plan would reflect future decisions by local authorities, taken individually and collectively. Whilst the environmental effects cannot therefore be predicted in detail at this point, it is clear that the revocation of regional strategies and their top-down targets will provide opportunities for securing environmental benefits because their revocation would remove certain current policies which present a threat to local environments. For example, revocation would remove the top-down pressure on local authorities to review the extent of their Green Belt. Across England this would have been likely to effect more than thirty areas. Protecting the Green Belt brings many environmental benefits including safeguarding the countryside and preventing urban sprawl.

In overall terms, it is reasonable to anticipate that decisions taken locally will look to maximise positive environmental outcomes for the local area. However, even if there were circumstances where this was not the case, strong protections for the environment set out in national planning policy and, in many cases, provided for by national and European legislation means it is highly unlikely that there would be any significant adverse environmental effects resulting from the revocation.

## Methods used and difficulties encountered in assessment

This assessment has been carried out on a voluntary basis, and in line with the process laid down in the Regulations which transpose the European “Strategic Environmental Assessment” Directive into domestic law.

The assessment has taken as a starting point the assessments carried out when the Plan was being prepared. A broad assessment has then been made of the Plan’s objectives, its policies and its predicted environmental effects, and how these effects might be changed if the Plan was revoked. The assessment examines those aspects of the revocation of the Plan which might be expected to lead to significant environmental effects.

## Monitoring

Local authorities will continue to be responsible for monitoring the effects of implementing their own plans, in partnership with agencies which monitor specific impacts or conditions.

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

- 1.1 The Government announced in the Coalition Agreement its intention to “rapidly abolish regional spatial strategies and return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils”. Its objective is to make local spatial plans, drawn up in conformity with national policy, the basis for local planning decisions. The Government proposes that regional targets will be replaced with a more localist planning system together with incentives to encourage local authorities and communities to increase their aspirations for housing and economic growth. Local communities will be freed to deliver sustainable development in a way that allows them to control the way in which their villages, towns and cities change. The Localism Bill therefore contains provisions to repeal Part 5 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, thereby removing the legal framework for the review of regional strategies, and to revoke the existing regional strategies by order following Royal Assent.

## Policy context

- 1.2 The revocation of regional strategies should be seen in the context of other relevant Government policies and associated legislation aimed at protecting the natural and built environment. In particular, the Government has recently published for consultation a new National Planning Policy Framework. The Government has made it clear that the Framework will maintain existing environmental protections, but will streamline and simplify existing national planning policy so as to make it accessible to all users.
- 1.3 The Framework retains protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives for local planning and development management. It maintains protection of the Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other environmental designations which protect landscape character, stop unsustainable urban sprawl and preserve wildlife.
- 1.4 The Framework also contains a new Local Green Space designation to protect locally significant green areas, and including playing fields and open space, reflecting the importance of these areas to the health and happiness of local communities. The protection of heritage and the built environment is also a stated objective of the Framework which also emphasises the importance of design of the built environment.

- 1.5 The Framework proposes new stronger controls on peat extraction, preventing the extension of existing peat extraction and the creation of new sites. Policies to support the development of renewable and low carbon energy – critical to the reduction of carbon emissions, also form a key part of the draft Framework. In addition the Framework maintains policy to ensure we can adapt to an already changing climate by ensuring that strong protections remain in place to prevent the building of inappropriate development in flood risk areas or areas subject to coastal change.
- 1.6 The new National Planning Policy Framework sits within a broader set of national policy and legislation. For instance the Natural Environment white paper, published in June 2011, sets out the Government's vision for the future of the natural environment in England, and how natural value will be protected through the planning system.
- 1.7 In addition the Government is fully committed to meeting the targets for reducing carbon emissions in the Climate Change Act 2008, and to meeting its binding renewable energy target of 15 per cent of all energy to come from renewable sources by 2020. The Annual Energy Statement, published in July 2010, and more recently the Carbon Plan, published in March 2011, set out the steps being taken to cut carbon emissions and deliver affordable, secure and low-carbon energy.
- 1.8 The Climate Change Act 2008 also created a framework for building the UK's ability to adapt to climate change. The Government is due to publish in January 2012 a UK wide climate change risk assessment, which will allow the Government to understand the level of risk posed by climate change. A national adaptation plan, setting out Government priorities for adaptation and policies and proposals for achieving those objectives, is due to be published in spring 2013.
- 1.9 Lastly there are numerous international obligations that contribute to the protection of our built and natural environment including international conventions as well as European Directives.

## Background to regional strategies

- 1.10 The background to regional strategies is as follows:
  - The Town and Country Planning Act 1947 required local planning authorities to draft local plans setting out policies for the development and use of land. Prior to the Town and Country Planning Act 1968 which introduced county structure plans to co-ordinate and guide local plans the focus of strategic planning was mainly at the regional level. A number of regional plans were prepared from the 1940s onwards and there were initiatives to link land use planning and regional economic development.

- In 1988 regional planning guidance was introduced to provide a strategic framework for county structure plans. Regional planning guidance was not statutory and therefore structure plans and local plans were not required to be in conformity with it.
- The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a two tier statutory spatial development plan system consisting of regional spatial strategies and local development frameworks. The counties retained statutory planning powers for minerals and waste plans, but county structure plans were abolished.
- Regional planning guidance was given the legal status of regional spatial strategies, and these were then reviewed, leading in most cases to publication of updated strategies, though only parts of the West Midlands strategy were reviewed, and the review of the South West plan was never completed.
- The Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 combined the existing regional spatial strategy and regional economic strategy to create a regional strategy. These came into existence on 1 April 2010 for the eight English regions outside London. The intent was for the responsible regional authority in each region to take forward a further revision of their existing regional spatial strategy and regional economic strategy combining these plans to create a single integrated regional strategy. In the interim period prior to the responsible regional authority completing the revision of the regional spatial strategy and regional economic strategy and the publication of revised regional strategy, sections 78(5) and 79 of the 2009 Act provide for the existing regional spatial strategy, renamed the regional strategy, to remain part of the formal development plan for local authorities in the region.

1.11 Regional strategies are plans for the purpose of the European Directive 2001/42/EC (the “strategic environmental assessment” Directive<sup>1</sup>) because they are land use plans, are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions and set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II of the European Directive on environmental impact assessment<sup>2</sup>. They are also subject to an appraisal of sustainability under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Both requirements were met in a single process called sustainability appraisal, as set out in guidance issued by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”, transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 no 1633) – the “Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations”.

<sup>2</sup> Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, amended by Directives 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC

<sup>3</sup> *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*, ODPM, 2005.

- 1.12 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive applies to plans and programmes whose preparation began on or after 21 July 2004, and to those whose formal preparation began before this date but which had not been adopted (in the case of regional strategies, published by the Secretary of State), by 21 July 2006. Sustainability appraisals incorporating strategic environmental assessment were carried out in all regions during the preparation of their regional strategies, but in the South West and West Midlands, where the process was partial or not completed, they could only be applied to the work which was actually done.

## The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

- 1.13 The objective of the Directive is stated in Article 1: “to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of certain plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development”.
- 1.14 Article 5 of the Directive therefore requires that
- “An environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account its objectives and geographical scope, are identified, described and evaluated. It shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan, its stage in the decision making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment”.
- 1.15 The Directive refers only to plans or programmes, or modifications of them, which are being prepared or adopted, and not to the revocation of a plan or programme. Therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the revocation of regional strategies. The Government has nonetheless decided to undertake voluntary assessments of the likely significant environmental effects of revocation of the eight strategies. These assessments are being conducted in line with the procedure set out in the Directive.

## The strategic environmental assessment process

- 1.16 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and Regulations require authorities which prepare and/or adopt a plan or programme which is subject to the Directive to:
- prepare a report on its likely significant environmental effects;
  - consult designated environmental authorities<sup>4</sup> and the public;
  - take into account the report and the results of the consultation during the preparation process and before the plan or programme is adopted; and
  - make information available on the plan or programme as adopted and how environmental considerations were taken into account.
- 1.17 An environmental report should identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan, and those of reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan. It should include the information that may reasonably be required, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan, its stage in the decision making process, and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.
- 1.18 Annex I of the Directive sets out the information to be provided. Paragraph (f) states that issues to be considered should include biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape – a wide-ranging coverage encompassing social and cultural matters.

## Methodology for assessment of revocations

- 1.19 The method adopted to assess the likely significant environmental effects of revoking the regional strategies has been to take as a starting point the environmental assessment components of the sustainability appraisals carried out when the strategies were being prepared. For those regions which had not completed an up-to-date strategy, use has been made of the more recent appraisals of the emerging strategy.
- 1.20 The assessments follow the format set out in Annex I of the Directive, taking into account that local plans<sup>5</sup> would set the framework for

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<sup>4</sup> Designated as “consultation bodies” in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations.

<sup>5</sup> Local plans in this report are the local level component of the development plan ie development plan documents and in some instances, saved plan policies.

decisions on planning applications following the proposed revocation of the regional strategies and saved structure plan policies.

- 1.21 The approaches taken in the appraisals during preparation of the strategies differed to some extent between regions, and the assessments inevitably reflect this. However, as far as possible, a broad assessment has been made of the component policies in the regional strategy, identifying their objectives and any particular issues from the sustainability appraisals, so as to identify the key environmental issues arising in assessing the likely effects of revocation. The assessment focuses on those aspects of the Plan which might be expected to lead to significant environmental effects.
- 1.22 The designated consultation bodies for strategic environmental assessment in England (the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England) were consulted on the scope and level of detail to be included in the environmental reports. The corresponding bodies for Scotland and Wales were also consulted on the reports for regions on their boundaries. Their comments on individual regions have been taken into account in the reports, while more general issues are discussed below in the context of the limitations of the assessments.

## Limitations of the assessments

- 1.23 Strategic Environmental Assessment is intended to be applied to the preparation and modification of relevant plans and programmes. This informs those preparing the plan and others consulted on it of the potential environmental effects of the proposals, and compares the effects of reasonable alternatives. There are now relatively well established processes available to make such assessments. In contrast, the assessment of the environmental effects of revoking a plan does not fit well with the process required by the Directive and there is no established practice.
- 1.24 The revocation of regional strategies is part of the Government's policy for a more localist planning system. This is supported by the proposed duty for public bodies to cooperate. Local authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having successfully cooperated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts when their local plans are submitted for examination. Alongside the Community Infrastructure Levy, the New Homes Bonus and the local retention of business rates are intended to encourage a more positive attitude to growth and allow communities to share the benefits and mitigate the negative effects of growth.
- 1.25 The environmental effects of revoking the Plan will reflect future decisions by local authorities, individually and collectively. While the environmental effects cannot be predicted for certain because they depend on these local decisions, the revocation of regional strategies

and their top-down targets will provide opportunities for securing environmental benefits because their revocation would remove threats to local environments. For example, revocation would remove the top-down pressure on local authorities to review the extent of their Green Belt. Across England this would have been likely to effect more than thirty areas. Protecting the Green Belt brings many environmental benefits including safeguarding the countryside and preventing urban sprawl.

- 1.26 The revocation of regional strategies should be seen in the context of other relevant Government policies and associated legislation aimed at protecting the natural and built environment and this is described in the section on the policy context above. This includes the National Planning Policy Framework mentioned above, published in July for consultation, which sets out the purpose of the planning system which is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It safeguards valued, national protections such as Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, re-affirms protections for wildlife, bio-diversity and cultural heritage and sets out clear expectations on tackling and adapting to climate change. Additionally, the protections for the environment set out in national planning policy and, in many cases, provided for by national and European legislation means it is highly unlikely that there would be any significant adverse environmental effects resulting from the revocation.

## Assessment of reasonable alternatives

- 1.27 The revocation of the regional strategies is the policy of the Government as set out in the Coalition's programme for Government<sup>6</sup>. The Government has introduced a clause in the Localism Bill to revoke by order individual regional strategies in whole or in part and saved structure plan policies.
- 1.28 The revocation of the eight existing regional strategies has been assessed against the reasonable alternative of not revoking them. This provides the clearest and fullest baseline scenario against which to assess the effect of revocation. Although the revocation of individual policies within each regional strategy have not been presented as separate additional reasonable alternatives, the assessment of the revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan has included the consideration of its component policies.
- 1.29 Saved structure plan policies are also included within the Environmental Report, and where any of these policies have been identified as still relevant, the environmental implications of their

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[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/coalition\\_programme\\_for\\_government.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/coalition_programme_for_government.pdf)

revocation has been included in the overall assessment of the revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan.

## Habitats Directive

- 1.30 The provisional view is that the revocation of the regional strategies will have no effects requiring assessment under the Habitats Directive<sup>7</sup>. This Directive prohibits the adoption of plans or projects which have an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites unless there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must be adopted for imperative reasons of overriding public importance. The revocation of regional strategies does not affect the legal requirement set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 that a competent authority, such as a local planning authority, in exercising any of their functions must have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (Regulation 9). Part 6 of the Regulations also contains provisions which require the assessment of implications for European sites of any plan or project, which is likely to have a significant effect on it, before it proceeds in accordance with the Habitats Directive. The views of Natural England, as the statutory nature conservation body, are being sought.

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<sup>7</sup> Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

## Chapter 2

### The Yorkshire and Humber Plan

- 2.1 The regional strategy under consideration for revocation is the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (“the Plan”), published by the then Secretary of State in 2008. It can be viewed at:  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://www.gos.gov.uk/goyh/plan/regplan/?a=42496>

### Chronology of preparation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan

- 2.2 The Plan replaced the Regional Spatial Strategy issued in 2004, which was itself based on a selective review of the former regional planning guidance for Yorkshire and the Humber (RPG12, 2001). Table 1 below shows the development of the strategy and its accompanying sustainability appraisals incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, and by an appropriate assessment under the Habitat Regulations.

**Table 1: Timetable for development of the Plan**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Consultation on Issues and draft Project Plan	Sept 2003
Consultation on draft spatial vision with sustainability appraisal	July 2004
Sustainability appraisal scoping report published	Nov 2004
Consultation on Topic Papers	Feb-Mar 2005
Public consultation on draft regional spatial strategy and sustainability appraisal report. Preparation of draft Habitat Regulations Assessment	Jan-Apr 2006
Examination in Public	Sept-Oct 2006
Panel report published – proposed changes prepared with updated sustainability appraisal report	May-Sept 2007
Public consultation on proposed changes and updated sustainability appraisal report and Habitat Regulations Assessment	Sept-Dec 2007
Regional Spatial Strategy published with final sustainability appraisal report and adoption statement, and Habitat Regulations Assessment	May 2008

## Chapter 3

# Environmental Report

- 3.1 This chapter presents the information which is required to be included, wherever relevant, in the Environmental Report in accordance with Annex I of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. The Environmental Report, including the regional commentary, is largely based on the data and evidence provided in the Plan and the assessments produced to support its preparation. Where possible the data has been updated, and from the data available it is considered unlikely that the overall state of the environment in Yorkshire and the Humber has changed significantly since publication of the Plan.

## Yorkshire and the Humber

- 3.2 Yorkshire and the Humber comprises:
- The County of North Yorkshire
  - The Cities of York and Kingston-upon-Hull
  - The metropolitan districts of South and West Yorkshire, excluding the parts of Barnsley, Kirklees and Sheffield falling within the Peak District National Park (which forms part of the East Midlands Region)
  - The East Riding of Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire districts
  - The North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks
- 3.3 The region is polycentric with the four major “regional cities” (Bradford, Hull, Leeds and Sheffield) and eleven sub-regional cities and towns (Barnsley, Doncaster, Grimsby, Harrogate, Halifax, Huddersfield, Rotherham, Scarborough, Scunthorpe, Wakefield and York). These together form the main centres for employment, shopping, health, leisure, business and public services, and about 50 per cent of households live there. A further 32 smaller Principal Towns have been identified as performing significant roles as service, employment and transport hubs for their areas.
- 3.4 However, over 80 per cent of Yorkshire and the Humber is rural, including very diverse and remote areas. Some 20 per cent of the population live in rural areas.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Annex I (a)

### **Outline of the contents and main objectives of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan**

- 3.5 The Plan provides a broad framework for development and investment in Yorkshire and the Humber up to 2023-2028. In accordance with Government policy set out in Planning Policy Statement 11 (2004), it sets out:
- the scale and distribution of provision for new housing;
  - priorities for the environment, such as countryside and biodiversity protection; and
  - policies for transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, minerals extraction, waste treatment and disposal.
- 3.6 The Plan's objectives are to help Yorkshire and the Humber become more competitive, meet its housing needs, and address environmental and transport pressures in sustainable ways. It includes a large number of policies related to seven sub-regional areas or to the themes of environment, economy, housing and transport.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Annex I (a) and I (e)

### **Relationship with other relevant plans and programmes**

#### **Environment protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level which are relevant to the Plan and the way they were taken into account during its preparation**

- 3.7 The Plan sets out the then Government's policies on development at the time of its publication and relates them to the regional context. It includes the Regional Transport Strategy and is related to the existing Regional Economic and Housing Strategies, which were reviewed to improve their consistency with the Plan, to the Northern Way Growth Strategy.
- 3.8 Policies, plans and programmes reviewed in preparing the Plan were set out in table 2.3 of the final sustainability report in April 2008, and is reproduced below (table 2). Many of these incorporate environmental protection objectives, including a number of international obligations and commitments, as appropriate.

**Table 2: Policies, plans, programmes and environmental objectives reviewed as part of the preparation of the Plan**

**International level:** Air Quality Framework Directive, Framework Waste Directive, Common Agricultural Policy reforms, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive

**National level:** Sustainable Communities Plan, Energy White Paper, Air Transport White Paper, National Air Quality Strategy, Government Response to Strategy Unit Report, 'Waste not, want not', UK Sustainable Development Strategy, UK Climate Change Programme, Rural White Paper, Environment Agency Wetlands Policy, UK Biodiversity Action Plan, relevant Planning Policy Guidance/Strategies, Flood Risk Management Strategy , CIRIA Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidance

**Regional level:** Northern Way Growth Strategy, Advancing Together and its sustainability appraisal, Regional Planning Guidance and its sustainability appraisal, Regional Economic Strategy and its sustainability appraisal, Regional Sustainable Development Framework, Regional Planning Guidance Select Review Panel Report, Regional Housing Strategy, Regional Waste Strategy, Regional Environmental Enhancement Strategy, Regional Cultural Strategy, Regional Framework for Health, Regional Forestry Framework, Humber Shoreline Management Plan, Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies

- 3.9 Two documents were particularly influential in the development of the Plan: the regional vision "Advancing Together", and the Northern Way growth strategy, which promoted economic development in the three northern Regions. The key points of these documents, set out in tables 2.4 and 2.5 of the final sustainability report in April 2008, are set out in table 3 below.

**Table 3: Key points from “Advancing together” and the Northern way Growth Strategy**

<b>Advancing Together</b>
<p><b>Vision</b> for the region: “Yorkshire and Humber will be a recognisably world class and international region where the economic, environmental, and social well being of all our region and its people advances rapidly and sustainably”.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> Yorkshire and Humber will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have a world class, prosperous and sustainable economy;</li> <li>• have physical infrastructure and communications that meet the needs of people, businesses, places and the environment;</li> <li>• have high quality natural and man-made environments;</li> <li>• have exceptional education and training, widespread learning and skills, and a healthy labour market without skills gaps and shortages;</li> <li>• be a socially cohesive and inclusive region – our people will have the capacity, resources and equitable access to quality services needed to live well;</li> <li>• possess and portray the highest standards of governance in all sectors and at all levels, and the highest levels of civic participation in decision making and community life.</li> </ul>

<b>The Northern Way Growth Strategy</b>
<p>The purpose of the strategy is to harness the untapped potential for economic growth in the North of England along key economic and transport corridors. The strategy’s key priorities are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring more people into employment and away from benefits;</li> <li>• Strengthen the North’s knowledge base and drive innovation;</li> <li>• Build a more entrepreneurial North;</li> <li>• Capture a larger share of global trade;</li> <li>• Meet employer skills needs;</li> <li>• Prepare a Northern airports priorities plan and improve surface access to key airports;</li> <li>• Improve access to the North’s sea ports;</li> <li>• Create premier transit systems in each city region and create stronger linkages between regions;</li> <li>• Create truly sustainable communities;</li> <li>• Market the North to the world.</li> </ul>

3.10 The Plan is also related in other ways to a range of other plans, programmes, policies and other initiatives, many of which include obligations or aspirations which informed both the Sustainability Appraisal and the final Plan. European Directives remain in force, as do policies set out in White Papers or other documents, Departmental and Agency strategies, and technical guidance, until they are changed or withdrawn. However, these do not have the same relevance to

revocation, and in some cases have been or may soon be superseded. They are therefore not listed here.

- 3.11 The legal and policy context applicable to the preparation of the Plan and relevant environmental protection objectives that informed its development are set out in the supporting sustainability appraisals. The way these were taken into account is explained in these appraisals and the assessment at Annex A of this Environmental Report draws out as appropriate how particular policies supported these concerns.
- 3.12 Revocation of the Plan would not mean that relevant environmental objectives are disapplied or ignored. Following its revocation, responsibility for ensuring the Town and Country Planning Act regime properly contributes to the delivery of national and international environmental protection objectives would largely fall to local authorities, working, where relevant, with the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage. New or revised development plan documents will be subject to sustainability appraisal including strategic environmental assessment and, accordingly, local authorities will need to be able to demonstrate how they have taken account of environmental objectives. They will also have to have regard to national planning policies, including objectives for sustainable development, and locally specific environmental considerations.
- 3.13 The Plan itself includes certain policies and supporting text reflecting on the requirements imposed by certain international and/or national obligations, for example:
- policies YH2, ENV5 and paragraph 2.18 contribute towards delivering national targets and international commitments in reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. This includes energy generation and supply, buildings and transport;
  - policies ENV8 reflects the requirement to protect international sites in line with the Habitats Directive and the need to contribute to national biodiversity targets;
  - policy ENV3 and paragraphs 10.17 and 10.19 assist delivery of the Water Framework directive and other relevant European legislation;
  - policies ENV 12-14 assist implementation of European Union Waste Framework and Landfill Directives.
- 3.14 Plans and strategies produced by neighbouring areas of relevance to the Yorkshire and the Humber Plan include the regional strategies for the North East of England, for the North West of England, and for the East Midlands, all of which are also under consideration for revocation.

## **STRUCTURE PLANS**

- 3.15 In 2007 the Government wrote to local authorities under the transitional provisions of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to advise them which policies from their existing structure plans would be saved after 27 September 2007. Policies were saved in the expectation that they would be replaced promptly by policies in the regional spatial strategy, or development plan documents for the relevant local authorities. Clause 97 of the Localism Bill provides for the revocation of saved structure plan policies. Where the appraisal identified saved structure plan policies as still relevant the environmental implications of their revocation has been included in the overall assessment of the revocation of the regional strategy. There were no saved structure plan policies in Yorkshire and the Humber.

## **LOCAL PLANS**

- 3.16 Regional strategies form part of the statutory development plan, under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, until such time as they are revoked. Until then, development plan documents prepared by local authorities are legally required to be in general conformity with the regional strategy.
- 3.17 On revocation of the regional strategy (and any saved structure plan policies), the statutory development plan would comprise any saved local plan policies and adopted development plan documents. The statutory development plan may in future include any neighbourhood plans that are prepared under the powers being brought forward by the Localism Bill. Revocation does not affect the statutory duty on local authorities to keep under review the matters which may be expected to affect the development of their area or the planning of its development.
- 3.18 A list of local plans in Yorkshire and the Humber and their current composition is included at Annex B.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, Annex I (b), I (c) and I (d)

**Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment of  
Yorkshire and the Humber and its likely evolution thereof without  
implementation of the Plan**

**The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be  
significantly affected**

**Existing environmental problems relevant to the Plan and its  
revocation, including in particular those relating to any areas of a  
particular environmental importance, such as European birds and  
habitats sites**

- 3.19 This section outlines the baseline economic, social and environmental conditions and main objectives driving the Yorkshire and the Humber at the time of the preparation of the Plan. The information is mostly generic to the Region rather than specific to particular parts of Yorkshire and the Humber or local areas.
- 3.20 The data is based primarily on the data and evidence provided in the Plan and from the adoption statement, sustainability appraisal and appropriate assessments produced to support its preparation. This data, therefore, mostly represents the situation when the Plan was being prepared. Additional, more up to date, data reflecting the situation post the Plan's adoption in May 2008, has been drawn on where possible.
- 3.21 The key points from the 2008 baseline assessment are summarised in paragraphs 3.22 - 3.31 below, and are compiled from various sources including the final sustainability appraisal. This section does not include a separate description of the likely evolution of the environment without the Plan as the likely significant effects on the environment of the proposed revocation is considered in the Report as whole (bearing in mind that strategic environmental assessment normally applies to plan preparation and the requirement to look at the likely evolution of the environment is to provide a frame of reference to help shape the plan's content). It is also important to acknowledge the limitations of the baseline data as this could have changed over time. But, from the data available, it is considered unlikely that the *overall* state of the environment in Yorkshire and the Humber has changed *significantly* since publication of the Plan.

### **SUMMARY OF BASELINE CONDITIONS**

- 3.22 Yorkshire and the Humber has a rich environment facing many pressures on its resources. It includes large cities such as Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield and Hull, but it also has a strong 'multi-centred'

character provided by its other cities and towns and the network of smaller towns and villages in rural, coalfield and coastal areas that create a dispersed settlement pattern. Over 80 per cent is rural in character, including remote and thinly populated areas.

- 3.23 Yorkshire and the Humber has many diverse landscapes. National Parks cover 21 per cent of the Region's area (more than any other Region) and a further 6 per cent is designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are over 90,000 hectares of woodland, covering some 5.8 per cent of the land area, but below the average of other parts of England. The coastline includes areas of great heritage value (over half is designated as Heritage Coast) but also some of the fastest eroding coastlines in North West Europe.
- 3.24 There are 4,000 kilometres of rivers and the Humber catchment is the largest in England (including the catchment of the rivers Ouse, Aire, Calder and Don). Water quality in rivers has improved but an assessment under European Water Framework Directive standards in 2008 showed only 20 per cent to have good ecological status, with 66 per cent having moderate status.
- 3.25 Average sea levels are rising and summers are getting warmer and winters wetter. Some 15 per cent of the land area lies in flood plains and the National Flood Risk Assessment in 2008 found that 400,000 people live in areas at significant or moderate risk of flooding.
- 3.26 Yorkshire and the Humber is rich in biodiversity, with 35 national priority habitats and 105 national priority species, in both designated and non-designated areas. Key habitats include:
- Upland moorland and heathland;
  - Limestone habitats, with the Yorkshire Dales containing the most extensive series of limestone pavements in the UK;
  - The largest area of lowlands raised bog in England;
  - Wetlands of national importance in the Lower Derwent Valley, Malham Tarn and the Humber Estuary (the second-largest coastal plain estuary in the UK);
  - Over 23,600 hectares of ancient woodland, and many of the largest connected woodland networks in England.
- 3.27 Yorkshire and the Humber has many internationally designated sites, including Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas on the North Pennine, South Pennine and North York Moors and the Humber Estuary, part of which is also a Ramsar site. Sites of Special Scientific Interest cover 11 per cent of the land area.
- 3.28 Yorkshire and the Humber is also characterised by historic environments, not all of which are subject to specific protection. These include the prehistoric landscapes of Ilkley and Rombalds Moors and the Vale of Pickering, medieval landscapes and settlements on the Humber, North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales, and the industrial

revolution heritage throughout South and West Yorkshire and in the east coast ports. Archaeological assets are found at these and many other locations.

- 3.29 Yorkshire and the Humber's urban and architectural heritage includes 772 Conservation Areas, 2,649 scheduled monuments and over 30,000 listed buildings, including important castles and abbeys, historic country houses, medieval buildings, and the City of York with two thousand years of dense and complex settlement. There are World Heritage Sites at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal near Ripon and Saltaire Village near Bradford.
- 3.30 Yorkshire and the Humber has high levels of multiple deprivation covering a range of issues including lack of affordable housing, low levels of educational attainment and a lack of basic skills, incomes below the national average, growing unemployment, and high levels of crime. Deprivation is particularly concentrated in areas including Hull and the Humber Ports and the Sheffield and Leeds sub-regions. Life expectancy is below the national average and the prevalence of long-term health issues such as obesity is increasing.
- 3.31 Environmental aspects of inequality are apparent, reflected in poor air quality, high rates of traffic congestion and road deaths, the risk of flooding and other indicators. Climate change related impacts are likely to have more severe effects on deprived communities, and there is evidence that due to disparities in wealth, mobility and access, some key groups such as those on low incomes, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities are less likely to participate in activities related to the natural environment.

### **EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS**

- 3.32 Drawing from the information provided by the assessments supporting the Plan the environmental concerns of strategic significance and possible relevance to revocation of the Plan are considered to be:
- Increased economic and health disparities between Yorkshire and the Humber and more affluent areas of England;
  - Long-term economic growth, particularly in transport/communications and financial/business services;
  - Increased disparities between the wealthier and poorer parts of the Region;
  - Increased car traffic;
  - Roughly a trebling of air traffic to and from the Region between 2004 and 2030, in part due to the opening of Robin Hood Airport;
  - Impact of Climate Change through:
    - by the 2080s, an increase in average annual temperature of 1.6-3.9 degrees Celsius;
    - average reduction in annual rainfall of 10-20 per cent;
    - growing season increased by 45-100 days;

- rise in sea level of 15-75 cm
- increased frequency and severity of floods;
- Limited or no increases in energy demand;
- Increased emissions to air by 1-1.5 per cent per year, mostly from transport (road fuels are more CO<sub>2</sub> intensive than natural gas, which accounts for increased emissions despite limited/no increases in energy demand);
- Reduced biodiversity, particularly due to 'coastal squeeze' of the Humber estuary;
- Increased demand for water and reduced availability of water: 0.5-0.75 per cent increase per year, mostly from households;
- Increased waste production of roughly a 1.5-2.25 per cent increase per year, dominated by an increase in mining waste;
- Large increases in waste entering landfill;
- An ageing population, with uncertainty about whether their needs will be adequately met.

# Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Annex I (f) and I (g)

## **The likely significant effects of the Plan on the environment**

### **Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce as fully as possible and offset significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Plan**

- 3.33 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires the assessment to consider the likely significant effects on the environment, including on a number of specific issues set out in Annex 1(f) of the Directive. In this case, the assessment considers whether there are likely to be significant environmental effects of revoking the Plan, but in the context of the continuing existence of local plans and national planning policies, together with applicable national and European legislation.
- 3.34 The aim of revoking the Plan is to promote 'localism' and free up local communities to shape the future of their areas through local and neighbourhood plans without top-down direction from a higher tier development plan. Revocation of the Plan would leave in place saved local plan policies and adopted development plan documents.
- 3.35 Following the proposed revocation of the Plan the expectation is that local authorities will continue to work together on cross boundary strategic issues. This will be supported by the new 'duty to co-operate' proposed in the Localism Bill. The duty will ensure that local authorities and other public bodies are involved in a continual process of constructive and active engagement which will maximise effective working on development planning in relation to strategic planning issues that cross administrative boundaries.
- 3.36 Local authorities will continue to be required to prepare their local plans with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. Plan preparation will be supported by a sustainability appraisal, which incorporates strategic environmental assessment.
- 3.37 National planning policy provides the framework for local planning and development management. The Government has recently published for consultation the new National Planning Policy Framework. Combined with existing legislation including on the need for strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal of development plans, as well as appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations, this will ensure that local plans promote sustainable development.

- 3.38 A summary of the environmental effects identified in the sustainability appraisal of the Plan are set out in Table 4 below, with an assessment of any likely significant environmental effects of its proposed revocation. This draws from the more detailed assessment of policies at Annex A. The Table is set out by reference to the issues listed in Annex 1(f), with the exception of material assets. This has been considered where relevant as part of the assessment of the other Annex 1(f) issues rather than being dealt with separately.
- 3.39 The assessment's conclusion is that revocation of the Plan is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. In reaching this conclusion the assessment has considered as appropriate the interrelationship between the Annex 1(f) issues and taken into account likely significant effects from secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, both positive and negative.

**Table 4: Summary assessment of the environmental implications of the Yorkshire and the Humber Plan policies and likely significant effects of revocation**

<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment topic</b>	<b>Implications of Plan policies</b>	<b>Likely significant environmental effects of revocation</b>
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	<p>There are a number of policies in the Plan that aim to improve or maintain the quality and/or quantity of biodiversity, fauna and flora. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy ENV8, which aims to safeguarding and enhance ecology, and ensuring it functions as an integrated network of connected corridors, thereby reversing the pattern of fragmentation, loss and decline. Particular focus is given to avoiding impacts on the Humber Estuary;</li> <li>- The Plan's sub-area policies (in particular policies RR1, C1, VTL1, Y1 and HE1) which reflect the importance of protecting and enhancing the natural environment (including undesignated areas);</li> <li>- Policy YH 8 which calls for local authorities to establish a strategic approach for the creation, protection and management of networks of green infrastructure; and</li> <li>- Policy ENV6 which seeks to safeguard, manage and enhance its existing tree and woodland resource.</li> </ul> <p>The Plan's focus on urban areas, public transport and reducing the need to travel could also have a positive</p>	<p>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effect on biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p> <p>Nationally and internationally designated sites will continue to be subject to statutory protection. Under the Habitats Regulations, where necessary, local authorities are required to undertake a habitats regulation assessment of their local plans. Other than in exceptional circumstances, they must not grant planning permission for a proposed development, unless they have certainty that it will not, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, adversely affect the integrity of the European site concerned.</p> <p>National planning policy on biodiversity will still apply and so local authorities will need to continue to have regard to policies aimed at the conservation and enhancement of the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible. Local authorities can still develop Local Biodiversity Action Plans, in co-</p>

	<p>effect.</p> <p>However, the likely positive effects of the Plan's policies could be undermined by proposed expansion of the Region's freight systems, airports and ports (policies T4, T6 and T7). Freight and ports policies could significantly impact on integrity of the Humber Special Area of Conservation.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment for the published Plan (2008) indicated that proposals for port development on the Humber, transport infrastructure to support the port development, increased transport of freight by water, regeneration in Hull and Grimsby, and increased use of regional airports could have a significant effect on the biodiversity of the Humber Estuary. These risks could be increased by existing climate change trends, particularly 'coastal squeeze' of the Humber estuary. The Appropriate Assessment also concluded that the protection policies in the Plan will mitigate the likelihood of significant effects on the integrity of European sites</p>	<p>operation with Natural England.</p> <p>Local authorities should continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment including biodiversity. Authorities will be able to continue to draw on available information, including data from partners, to address cross boundary issues, such as the provision of green infrastructure and wildlife corridors. The proposed 'duty to co-operate' will play a key role in enabling local authorities to proactively and positively address these issues.</p> <p>In addition local plans will also continue to be subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments which includes an assessment on the effects on biodiversity.</p>
Population	<p>Positive effects expected from the Plan's policies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting needs locally, with recognition of local distinctiveness, in particular Core Strategic policies YH1-YH7 and the relevant sub-area policies. Policy SY1 promotes higher growth in South Yorkshire as a regeneration priority area.</li> </ul>	<p>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on the population.</p> <p>It will be for local authorities, working collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships to determine the needs of their areas. The proposed duty to co-operate could assist with</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encouraging investment with a clear locational strategy (see in particular policies LCR1 and 2, SY1 and HE1)</li> <li>- Promoting accessible and diverse employment opportunities (such as Policies E1 and E2)</li> <li>- Improving transport and reducing the need to travel (Policies T1-T8)</li> <li>- Increasing the provision for housing in line with household projections (Policies H1-H5)</li> </ul> <p>However, transport policies for improving mobility and access to remote locations thought to counteract the aim of reducing commuting and the need to travel (for example Policies C1).The sustainability appraisal also identified concern at how the employment land strategy would address economic disparities or social inequalities.</p> <p>The Plan does not directly consider the implications of an ageing population.</p>	<p>this. Local Enterprise Partnerships can play a key role in assisting local authorities deliver the regeneration needs for their areas.</p> <p>The Government's economic white paper (published in October 2010) sets out the Government's vision for local growth, shifting power away from central government to local communities, citizens and independent providers. This means recognising that where drivers of growth are local, decisions should be made locally.</p> <p>National planning policy will still apply, including for housing supply. It will be for local authorities to establish the right level of local housing provision in their area, including affordable housing. They will also need to continue to identify a long-term supply of housing land as well as to determine their other development needs including to support sustainable transport. The proposed duty to co-operate will play a key role in enabling local authorities to proactively and positively address these issues.</p> <p>Local plans are subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environment assessment, which includes an assessment of the effects on the population.</p>
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<p>Human health</p>	<p>The Plan contains a number of policies which seek to improve human health, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy ENV11 which seeks to focus, concentrate and support economic development in and around key cities and towns (especially in Hull and in South and West Yorkshire); and ensure adequate and accessible healthcare facilities;</li> <li>- Policy T1 which promotes policies on walking and cycling;</li> <li>- Policy YH8 which calls for local authorities to establish a strategic approach for the creation, protection and management of networks of green infrastructure; and</li> <li>- Policies H1-H6 where proposed numbers and allocation of new housing, including affordable housing, would provide healthier living conditions.</li> </ul> <p>Adverse effects specifically expected only from policies on airports (policy T6) with expansion giving rise to noise and emissions. Airport expansion can give rise to some adverse effects such as air quality, noise, severance and visual intrusion.</p> <p>In addition, the proposed housing and other development may increase emissions and air pollution, affecting the quality of the local environment.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects with regard to human health.</b></p> <p>Local authorities are best placed to deliver planning policies to support the health and well-being of local communities. National planning policies will be carried forward by local authorities, other relevant bodies and communities as best fits the local area.</p> <p>National planning policy relevant to health and well-being, which underpins the concept of sustainable development, should be reflected in local plan policies for local communities. Local plans will continue to be subject to sustainability appraisals which include an assessment of the impact of options on human health.</p> <p>National planning policy will still apply including for housing supply. It will be for local authorities to establish the right level of local housing provision in their area, including affordable housing. They will also need to continue to identify a long-term supply of housing land as well as to determine their other development needs including to support sustainable transport.</p> <p>European Union and national standards for reducing air and water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions being taken forward by local authorities and other agencies should help contribute to the improved health of the population. Local authorities should</p>
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		therefore be able to contribute to the improved health of the population by contributing to the achievement of European Union and national standards for air and water quality.
Soil	<p>The Plan includes a number of policies which impact on soil, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy H2, which includes a target of 65% of housing development to be on previously developed land or conversion of existing buildings;</li> <li>- Policy ENV6, which seeks to safeguard, manage and enhance existing tree and woodland resource in line with the Regional Forestry Strategy (seeking an increase in woodland cover by 500 hectares per year)</li> <li>- Policy ENV7, which aims to protect higher quality agricultural land whilst encouraging land use changes that will help facilitate farm diversification; and</li> <li>- Policy ENV10, which sets out priorities for conserving and enhancing the quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the Region's landscape character;</li> </ul> <p>No specific negative effects identified.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on soil.</b></p> <p>Soil impacts are locally specific and appropriately considered at the local level. The revocation of the Plan should not have an effect on local authorities' capacity and responsibilities to deal with contaminated land including securing remediation as part of the redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated land.</p> <p>Local authorities are best placed to make decisions as to whether it would be appropriate to allow development on higher quality agricultural land, given their knowledge of their area and taking into account national planning policies, including policies to protect best and most versatile land to support food production.</p> <p>Local plans are subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments which includes an assessment of the effects on soil.</p>
Water	Policy ENV3 seeks to maintain high standards of water quality and provide adequate sewage treatment infrastructure and capacity.	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on water.</b></p> <p>Regulatory mechanisms exist to ensure an adequate,</p>

	<p>Policy ENV 2 looks to safeguard water resources, encourage water efficiency, and to avoid depleting the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer (Selby and Doncaster).</p> <p>However, the sustainability appraisal accompanying the Plan suggested that Policy H1 promoting housing could have a negative effect since growth would increase demand for water supply and lead to increased sewage and water pollution. Wastewater treatment capacity could be a problem, depending on location of new housing.</p>	<p>safe and sustainable water supply. National policy already gives the Environment Agency, water and sewerage companies, developers, landowners, local authorities and others an important role in taking a pro-active approach and work together to identify, characterise, plan and manage the water environment taking into account biodiversity sites of international importance. The proposed duty to cooperate will play a key role in enabling local authorities to proactively and positively address these issues.</p> <p>Statutory requirements under the Water Framework Directive will continue to apply and be implemented principally in accordance with River Basin Management Plans, supported by national planning policy. Local authorities should work co-operatively with other authorities, the Environment Agency and water companies to ensure the spatial planning aspects of River Basin Management Plans are applied.</p> <p>The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 contains provisions for regional working and co-operation such as the establishment of regional flood and coastal committees and the bringing together of lead local flood authorities, who will have a duty to cooperate, to develop local strategies for managing local flood risk. In addition, the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 impose a duty on the Environment Agency and lead local flood authorities to take steps to identify and prepare for significant flood risk.</p>
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Air	<p>Plan policies on climate change, resource use and personal travel reduction (including Policies YH2, T1) have positive impacts. Furthermore some parts of the sub-areas policies aim to improve air quality (for example, SY1 seeks to improve air quality, particularly in Sheffield), Policy T4 seeks to maximise the transport of minerals by rail and water.</p> <p>Policies on freight transport and ports likely to have significant impact on air quality. The potential for negative effects resulting from the Plan’s approach to airports (Policy T6) and from housing provision and distribution (Policy H1) is identified.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on air quality.</b></p> <p>National planning policies, including those on air quality, sustainable development and transport, will continue to apply and inform local plan policies and development management decisions. The benefits of more sustainable transport provision and infrastructure and sustainable locations for development should be supported locally through land use and transport planning.</p> <p>Furthermore, in areas of poor air quality, including those within or adjacent to an Air Quality Management Area, local authorities will need to work closely with relevant partners to ensure that development has taken proper account of air quality matters.</p>
Climatic factors; climate change	<p>The Plan contains a number of policies which seek to tackle emissions of greenhouse gases. This includes Policy YH2, which sets out how plans, strategies and investment decisions and programmes should meet reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in 2016 by 20-25%; as well as planning for the successful adaptation to the predicted impacts of climate change. These ambitions are reflected in other policies in the Plan – for example, ENV1 (development and flood risk), ENV5 (energy), ENV12 (waste management), and the sub-area policies.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant effects on climate change</b></p> <p>Through their local plans, local authorities should contribute to the move to a low carbon economy, cut greenhouse gas emissions, help secure more renewable and low cost energy to meet national targets, and to adapt to the impacts arising from climate change.</p> <p>Local authorities are expected to have regard to policies which require them to consider how their</p>

	<p>However, projected housing growth would increase carbon dioxide emissions, and is also likely to be an issue in avoiding sites at risk of flooding. Support for air travel in transport policy (Policy T6) would have a negative impact on climate change.</p>	<p>proposed provision for new development, its spatial distribution, location and design should be planned to limit carbon dioxide emissions, and ensure new development should be planned to minimise future vulnerability in a changing climate.</p> <p>It is expected that local authorities will continue to work together across administrative boundaries to plan development that properly minimises the impact of the changing climate, particularly from flooding and coastal change. For flooding matters, local authorities already have a duty to cooperate under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010. This contains provisions that cover regional working and co-operation such as the establishment of Regional Flood and Coastal Committees and the bringing together of lead local flood authorities (unitary and county councils), who will have a duty to cooperate, to develop local strategies for managing local flood risk.</p> <p>In addition, the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 imposes a duty on the Environment Agency and lead local flood authorities to determine whether a significant flood risk exists in an area and if so to prepare flood hazard maps, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans.</p> <p>In addition local plans are subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments which include an assessment of the effects on climatic factors including climate change.</p>
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<p>Cultural heritage</p>	<p>The Plan includes policies for protecting and enhancing historically and culturally important buildings, areas and archaeology and integrating these in development and regeneration (for example, ENV9). Heritage is defined widely to include ancient, mediaeval and industrial assets and locations across the Region.</p> <p>Plan includes policies for the Green Belt around York (policies YH9 and Y1), to safeguard its historic character and setting.</p> <p>However, the Plan emphasises the protection of assets and their integration into development, rather than public access, while the sustainability appraisal considered heritage in terms of access to leisure and recreation facilities. Additionally, policies on ports, airports and associated developments, and other major transport infrastructure could impact negatively on cultural heritage assets.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on cultural heritage and the historic environment.</b></p> <p>The most important heritage sites are subject to statutory protection. This is supported by national planning policy on the protection and conservation of the historic environment as a whole, which inform local plans and development management decisions.</p> <p>It is expected that local authorities will continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the heritage and historic environment. The proposed duty to co-operate will assist with this. Authorities can continue to draw on available information, including data from partners, to address cross boundary issues.</p> <p>In planning for the historic environment, local authorities should still liaise with English Heritage to identify and evaluate areas, sites and buildings of local cultural and historic importance, and explore ways for the management, enhancement and regeneration of those areas. Such proposals should inform development plans and planning decisions.</p> <p>In addition local plans are subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments which includes an assessment of the effects on cultural heritage and the historic environment.</p> <p>The revocation of top down targets will remove</p>
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		<p>pressure to review green belt to accommodate growth. It is for local authorities to review their Green Belt boundaries, have regard to government's national policy on Green Belts. Existing policy and the draft National Planning Policy Framework contain strong policies protecting the Green Belt from inappropriate development.</p>
<p>Landscape</p>	<p>The Plan recognises the distinctive landscape character of the Region, and aims to ensure the Region's countryside remains an important natural resource. It also aims to ensure that the countryside is enhanced and provides a 'functional landscape' where development draws on and sustains the natural, cultural and historic environment of the Region.</p> <p>Delivery is closely linked to a range of policies, including on green infrastructure (Policy YH8), tourism (Policy E6), rural economy (Policy E7), and walking, cycling and riding trails.</p> <p>The importance of protecting and enhancing the Region's high value landscape assets is also recognised in the various core strategic and sub-regional policies, including YH6 (local service centres and rural and coastal areas), YH3 promoting partners to work together towards effective coastal, landscape and environmental management and enhancement, RR1 on remote rural areas and C1 covering the coast.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on landscape.</b></p> <p>National planning policies provide for countryside protection, including protections for valued landscapes and nationally designated areas (which are also subject to statutory protection).</p> <p>In addition the revocation of top down targets will remove pressure to review Green Belt to accommodate growth. Protecting the Green Belt brings many environmental benefits including safeguarding the countryside and preventing urban sprawl.</p> <p>It is for local authorities to review their Green Belt boundaries, having regard to relevant national policy. Current policy in Planning Policy Guidance 2: Green Belts and the draft National Planning Policy Framework contain strong policies protecting the Green Belt from inappropriate development.</p> <p>Potential significant effects on landscapes should be identified by local authorities through the strategic</p>

	<p>The construction of new homes, new employment sites, and associated infrastructure could have a negative impact on the region's landscape, depending on how and where development occurs. However, the Plan is strongest in its protection of areas designated for their landscape value.</p> <p>Growth of freight transport, air travel and the use of the Region's ports could have significant impacts on climate change, air quality, water quality, biodiversity and the landscape.</p>	<p>environmental assessments of their local plans, environmental impact assessment and appropriate assessment of specific projects.</p> <p>Local authorities should continue to work together, and with communities, on the conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment, including the landscape.</p>
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## Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Annex I (h)

### **Outline of reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with**

- 3.40 The reasonable alternatives to revocation of the Plan and difficulties in undertaking the assessment are considered in Chapter 1.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Annex I (i)

### **Monitoring**

- 3.41 Having regard to the fact that revocation of the Plan would mean there would no longer be a plan whose implementation could be monitored, and it is not proposed to require monitoring at a regional level, this Environmental Report does not set out any envisaged measures for monitoring. This does not mean however that the effects of implementing planning policies in Yorkshire and the Humber will no longer be monitored.
- 3.42 Local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber will continue to monitor their own plans in line with the statutory expectations placed on them, including those arising from the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and the requirements in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to keep under review the matters which may be expected to affect the development of their area or the planning of its development. These matters include the principal physical, economic, social and environmental characteristics of the area and, in keeping them under review, local authorities can examine relevant matters in relation to any neighbouring area to the extent that they may be expected to affect their area.

## Annex A

### Regional Strategy policies and effects of revocation

This table sets out the policies of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan with their objectives and the sustainability issues which they raise, including environmental issues identified in sustainability appraisals of the strategy. The right-hand column provides a commentary on the key environmental issues arising in assessing the likely effects of revocation.

The commentary reflects the Government's view that the issues for sustainability identified in the assessment, where not removed by revocation of the Regional Strategy, can be mitigated by means other than through a regional strategy including through a combination of national planning policy, local authorities working collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and the protections provided for by national and European legislation. This assumption is applicable throughout the commentary and not repeated for every policy under consideration.

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
<b>Spatial Vision and Core Approach</b>			
<p><b>Policy YH1: Overall approach and key spatial priorities</b></p>	<p>Sets out the Plan key priorities for capitalising on and addressing the most strategic strengths and issues, including the economic, social and environmental conditions, particularly in relation to the strength of the ‘Leeds economy’ and potential around the Humber Ports.</p> <p>The policy also includes proposals for protecting and enhancing environmental resources, the character and qualities of the coast and countryside, and managing the risk from climate change.</p>	<p>The proposed spatial priorities aim to respond to the key sustainability issues for Yorkshire and the Humber, with the focus on transforming economic, environmental and social conditions in the Regeneration Priority areas, economic growth, and protecting and enhancing environmental resources.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Revocation of the Plan would mean that it is for local authorities to determine the priorities for their communities, addressing local issues, needs and circumstances. Local authorities will be able to address more spatial/strategic issues locally, working with neighbouring authorities and other bodies as needed (including local enterprise partnerships), supported by the proposed duty to co-operate.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.15 recognises the unique resource of the Humber Ports, and recognises its potential for growth. In delivering such growth through the local plan process, development will be subject to sustainability appraisal, strategic environmental assessment and must be</p>

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
			compliant with Habitat Regulations.
<p><b>Policy YH2: Climate change and resource use</b></p>	<p>Sets out the Plan key priorities for helping to meet the target set out in the Regional Economic Strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Region by 2016 by 20-25%, and adapting to the effects of climate change. Policy also reflects the importance of managing the unique environmental resources, including maintaining the integrity of internationally important biodiversity sites, and the increasingly important role of green infrastructure in helping urban areas adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>Specific threats to the Region from climate change identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- continued erosion of the east coast;</li> <li>- increased flood risk and loss of inter-tidal habitats in the Humber Estuary</li> <li>- increased winter flood risk in the Vale of York and Aire/Calder river catchments</li> <li>- loss of montane heathland in the Pennines;</li> <li>- loss of peat bogs in the North</li> <li>- Yorks Moors and Humberhead Levels;</li> <li>- increased pressure on urban water supply and drainage systems;</li> <li>- increased risk of depletion of Sherwood Sandstone aquifer.</li> </ul> <p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment then clarifies that under current trends, national and regional emissions reduction targets were unlikely to be met.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National policy expects local authorities to plan new development, its distribution, location and design in ways which limit carbon dioxide emissions and minimise future vulnerability in a changing climate.</p> <p>The Government's June 2011 white paper, <i>The Natural Choice</i>, sets out proposals to support the development of green infrastructure, including the establishment of a Green Infrastructure Partnership. Accordingly, local authorities may wish to continue to pursue this policy approach though their local plans, working co-operatively with others on cross-boundary networks.</p> <p>It is expected that local authorities will continue to work together</p>

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
			<p>across administrative boundaries to plan development that properly minimises the impact of the changing climate, particularly from flooding and coastal change. For flooding matters, local authorities already have a duty to cooperate under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010. This contains provisions that cover regional working and co-operation such as the establishment of Regional Flood and Coastal Committees and the bringing together of lead local flood authorities (unitary and county councils), who will have a duty to cooperate, to develop local strategies for managing local flood risk.</p> <p>In addition, the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 imposes a duty on the Environment Agency and lead local flood authorities to determine whether a significant flood risk exists in an area and if so to prepare flood hazard maps, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans.</p>

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
			<p>Local plans are also subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments, which includes an assessment of the effects on climatic factors including climate change.</p> <p>Comments on policy ENV2 below also apply.</p>
<p><b>Policy YH3: Working together</b></p>	<p>The policy identifies key issues and opportunities for joint working in and beyond the Region, particularly on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improving rail and water inter-regional links</li> <li>- supporting regeneration/housing market renewal of Tees Valley and South Yorkshire, and</li> <li>- achieving effective environmental management and enhancement, and addressing climate change.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan recognises the importance of cooperation and joint working to address key sustainability objectives.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Paragraphs 2.30 and 2.31 to Policy YH3 recognises that important transport routes, as well as National Parks, designated areas, river catchments, coastal systems and flood risk areas cross regional boundaries.</p> <p>Local authorities will be able to address more spatial/strategic issues locally, working with neighbouring authorities and other bodies as needed (including local enterprise partnerships), supported by the proposed duty</p>

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
			to co-operate.  Comments for policy YH1 apply.
<b>Policy YH4: Regional cities and sub-Regional cities and towns</b>	Policy YH4 applies to the four proposed regional cities (Bradford, Hull, Leeds and Sheffield) and eleven sub-regional cities and towns. These places are intended to provide the main focus of employment, shopping, health, leisure, business and public services in the Region.	The Plan states that focusing development, investment and activity on these regional and sub-regional cities and towns offered the greatest scope to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- re-use land and buildings;</li> <li>- make the most of existing infrastructure and investment;</li> <li>- reduce greenhouse gas emissions and related impacts by reducing the need to travel and maximise accessibility between homes, services and jobs.</li> </ul>	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on policies YH1 and YH2 apply.
<b>Policy YH5: Principal towns</b>	The Plan identifies 32 principal towns (listed in the key diagram, fig. 2.3) to act as focal point for services, facilities and employment – complementing and supporting the roles of the regional and sub-regional cities and towns (policy YH4).	As policy YH4.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on policies YH1 and YH2 apply.
<b>Policy YH6: Local service centres and rural and coastal areas</b>	Policy YH6 identifies the Region’s key priorities for rural and coastal areas, setting out specific considerations to be taken into	Tackling deprivation and exclusion in terms of income, health, education and environment.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
	account in developing Local Development Frameworks.	The policy provides for needs to be met locally – including market and affordable housing - so reducing the need to travel, with associated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.	Comments on policies YH1 and YH2 apply.
<b>Policy YH7: Location of development</b>	Policy YH7 provides a framework for distributing development between the cities and towns identified in policies YH4, YH5 and YH6. The policy advocates a sequential approach in the allocation/release of sites. It places an emphasis on public transport (planned or existing routes) as a key factor for locating or intensifying development.	<p>As policies YH4, YH5 and YH6.</p> <p>Policy’s urban focus aims to help preserve biodiversity and the natural environment outside urban areas.</p> <p>Tackling climate change by improving public transport and reducing need to travel to result on less greenhouse gases emission.</p> <p>General concerns regarding water supply and availability.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.54 recognises the importance of retaining valuable habitats and open space within settlements; and that avoiding significant adverse environmental impacts and promoting the integration of transport and land use are key factors in achieving more sustainable development.</p> <p>Removing the phasing of development gives local authorities greater flexibility to deliver a wide range of housing sites to meet their requirements. The proposed duty to co-operate in the Localism Bill will encourage strategic approaches to considering long-term</p>

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
			<p>infrastructure provision.</p> <p>Comments on policy YH1 also apply.</p>
<p><b>Policy YH8: Green infrastructure (GI)</b></p>	<p>Policy YH8 sets out priorities for the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure, and considerations to be taken into account in implementing the policy at the local level through the local plan-making process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mitigating/adapting to climate change</li> <li>- Improve quality of life/well-being</li> <li>- contribute towards regional economic regeneration</li> </ul>	<p>This policy could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>This policy objective could be delivered through local plans and partnerships – for example Leeds and South Yorkshire have green infrastructure strategies.</p> <p>Delivery of policy YH8 to be informed, developed and protected by other policies in the Plan (ENV 6, 8, 9, and 10).</p> <p>Local authorities will still need to have regard to national policy to support the delivery of sustainable development; and reflect the needs and wishes of their local communities. The Government’s June 2011 White Paper, <i>The Natural Choice</i>, sets out proposals to support the development of green</p>

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
			<p>infrastructure, including the establishment of a Green Infrastructure Partnership.</p> <p>Comments for policy YH2 also apply.</p>
<p><b>Policy YH9: Green Belt</b></p>	<p>Policy YH9 identifies that localised reviews of Green Belt boundaries may be necessary in some places to deliver the Core Approach and Sub Area policies, although general extent of the Green Belt will not change. There is a specific issue about the inner boundaries of the Green Belt around York which should be defined to establish long term development limits that safeguard the special character and setting of the historic city.</p>	<p>Potential impacts on urban/rural landscape quality, biodiversity and flood risk, although these issues would be addressed by other Plan policies.</p>	<p>The revocation of the Plan removes top down pressure on local authorities to review their green belt boundaries. The boundaries of Green Belts are set out in local plans and local authorities are responsible for defining the extent of the Green Belt in their localities consistent with national planning policy. The proposed National Planning Framework, published in July for consultation, maintains strong protection for the Green Belt.</p> <p>Development coming through the local plan process will be subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment.</p>

<b>Sub-area sections</b>			
<b>LCR1-2: Leeds City Region</b>	<p>Policy LCR1 provides the general policy framework for the sub-region, while LCR2 provides the framework for the package of initiatives needed in different locations within the Leeds City Region to accommodate growth, particularly in housing provision, during the life of the Plan.</p> <p>The strategic areas proposed for development and investment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leeds City Centre</li> <li>- Airedale (Bradford city centre to Skipton)</li> <li>- Bradford-Leeds Corridor</li> <li>- Coalfield Regeneration Area/ Green Corridor in Wakefield</li> <li>- Aire Valley south of Leeds and east Leeds</li> <li>- South Dewsbury/North Kirklees</li> <li>- York North West</li> </ul>	<p>Delivering regional economic prosperity: Leeds City Region is identified in the Northern Way growth strategy as being critical in terms of improving economic performance within the Region, whilst spreading prosperity and improving quality of life.</p> <p>Addressing issues around social inequalities: particular concentrations of deprivation in the southern parts of the main urban core areas and the industrial towns to the south east</p> <p>Climate change: particular issues of flooding affecting this sub-area.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 3.16-3.24 highlight the environmental issues in delivering Policy LCR1.</p> <p>Any potential impact arising from any development or investment proposals within LCR 1 and LCR2 would be covered through local plans, which require a strategic environmental assessment, sustainability appraisal and, where appropriate, compliance with Habitat Regulations.</p> <p>National planning policy on biodiversity, landscape and heritage will apply. Following the abolition of regional strategies, local authorities should continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment – including biodiversity, geo-diversity and landscape interests.</p> <p>Comments on policy YH1 also apply.</p>

<p><b>SY1: South Yorkshire</b></p>	<p>The strategic areas proposed for development and investment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sheffield and the sub-regional towns of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham</li> <li>- Regeneration Area / Green Corridor in South Yorkshire</li> <li>- Coalfield regeneration in the Dearne Valley</li> <li>- rural development in western area adjoining the Peak District National Park and the Pennine fringe</li> <li>- operational and related development at Robin Hood airport</li> </ul>	<p>Delivering regional economic prosperity: to improve the economic performance of the sub-region</p> <p>Addressing issues around social inequalities: The sub area has some of the Region's worst levels of multiple exclusion, including: poor health, disability, limiting long term illness, fuel poverty and crime.</p> <p>Climate change: Parts of the sub-region are subject to high flood risk. Areas alongside the M1 and M18 have the poorest air quality levels in the Region.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>The sustainability appraisal identified some concerns from viewing Robin Hood International airport as a regionally significant investment area, and with Doncaster's proposed economic growth in storage and distribution.</p> <p>Any proposed operational and related development at airports, and proposed distribution centres, should be set out in local plans. Any significant effects from such development should be identified by local authorities through the strategic environment assessment of their local plans, and environmental impact assessment and habitat assessments of specific impacts.</p> <p>The Government's economic white paper (published in October 2010) sets out its vision for local growth, shifting power away from central government to local communities, citizens and</p>
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		<p>independent providers. This means recognising that where drivers of growth are local, decisions should be made locally.</p> <p>The <i>Plan for Growth</i> document (included in Budget 2011) confirms the Government's commitment to ensuring that the planning system supports economic growth. National planning policy requires local authorities to have regard and consider the contribution of the natural environment when setting out the economic vision and strategy for their areas.</p> <p>The proposed duty to co-operate and local enterprise partnerships can play key roles in ensuring economic strategic priorities and infrastructure delivery is properly co-ordinated.</p> <p>National planning policy on biodiversity, landscape and heritage will apply. Following the abolition of regional strategies, local authorities should continue to work together, and with</p>
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			communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment – including biodiversity, geo-diversity and landscape interests.
<b>Y1: York</b>	<p>The strategic areas proposed for development and investment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- focus development on the city of York</li> <li>- promote development to foster regeneration at Selby and Malton to address social/economic inequalities</li> <li>- manage flood risk along the Ouse at York and Selby, in the Derwent Valley, and in the Humberhead Levels area</li> </ul>	<p>Delivering regional economic prosperity: to improve the economic performance of the sub-region.</p> <p>Addressing issues around social inequalities: need to manage increased housing need affordability issues</p> <p>Environment: management of the Green Belt around York. Need to safeguard the sub-region's natural, cultural and historic environment. Protecting the sandstone aquifer.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policies YH1 and YH2 also apply.</p> <p>The revocation of the Plan removes top down pressure on Local Authorities to review their Green Belt boundaries. The boundaries of Green Belts are set out in local plans and local authorities are responsible for defining the extent of the Green Belt in their localities consistent with national planning policy. The proposed National Planning Framework published in July for consultation maintains strong protection for the Green Belt.</p> <p>National planning policy on biodiversity, landscape and heritage will apply. Following the abolition of regional strategies,</p>

			<p>local authorities should continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment – including biodiversity, geo-diversity and landscape interests.</p> <p>National policy already gives the Environment Agency, water and sewerage companies, developers, landowners, local authorities and others an important role in taking a proactive approach and work together to identify, characterise, plan and manage the water environment taking into account biodiversity sites of international importance.</p>
<b>HE1: Humber Estuary</b>	<p>The strategic areas proposed for development and investment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- urban renaissance at Hull, Scunthorpe, Grimsby/Cleethorpes Goole, Beverly and Driffield</li> <li>- manage flooding risk from the Humber to the Hull</li> <li>- improve the potential of the Humber ports</li> </ul>	<p>Delivering regional economic prosperity: Diversify and develop the sub area's economy.</p> <p>Addressing issues around social inequalities: there are serious levels of social and economic deprivation, high crime levels, fuel poverty, poor health and worklessness concentrated in parts of Hull and Grimsby and, to</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National planning policy on flooding and biodiversity will apply. Development coming through the local plan process will be subject to sustainability appraisal, strategic environmental assessment and must be</p>

	<p>The policy promotes the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity and landscape character of the Humber Estuary and the Wolds area along with improvement to green infrastructure and the protection of the integrity of the internationally important biodiversity sites.</p>	<p>a lesser extent, in a number of smaller settlements north and south of the Humber Estuary. Hull is the 6th most deprived district in England.  Climate change: Sea level rise would have a particularly marked effect on the Humber Estuary.</p>	<p>compliant with Habitat regulations.</p> <p>On flooding matters, local authorities already have a duty to cooperate under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010. National planning policy on flooding aims to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages of the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and to direct development away from areas of highest risk. Local authorities must consult the Environment Agency on most development proposals at risk from flooding under changes to the General Development Procedure Order.</p> <p>The <i>Plan for Growth</i> document (included in Budget 2011) confirms the Government's commitment to ensuring that the planning system supports economic growth. National planning policy requires local authorities to have regard and consider the contribution of the</p>
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			<p>natural environment when setting out the economic vision and strategy for their areas.</p> <p>Comments on policies YH1 and YH2 also apply.</p>
<b>VTL1: Vales and Tees Links</b>	<p>The strategic areas proposed for development and investment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- overall priority to the renewal and regeneration of the Tees Valley City Region and the main urban areas of the Leeds City Region</li> <li>- concentrate development in the sub-region's principal towns (Richmond, Ripon, Thirsk and Northallerton)</li> </ul>	<p>Delivering regional economic prosperity: Diversify the sub area economy to lessen dependency on the agricultural sector and reduce out- commuting</p> <p>Addressing issues around social inequalities: Strong pressure for new (affordable) housing</p> <p>Climate change: flooding issues in low lying areas within the Vale of Mowbray and Tees Lowlands.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Policy VTL1 of the Plan addresses a major sustainability challenge by supporting housing provision to support the regeneration of Leeds and Tees Valley City Region and reduce long distance commuting.</p> <p>Local authorities are required to undertake sustainability appraisals of their development plan policies.</p> <p>Comments on policies YH1 and YH2 also apply.</p>
<b>Policy C1: Coastal sub-area policy</b>	<p>The strategic areas proposed for development and investment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- main focus on Scarborough, with development at Bridlington and Whitby to assist regeneration and support their</li> </ul>	<p>Delivering regional economic prosperity: Diversify and develop the sub area's economy.</p> <p>Climate change: Flood risk along the Humber and significant</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Shoreline Management Plans and Integrated Coastal Zone</p>

	<p>role as Local Service Centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flood risk avoidance, coastal erosion and landslips explicitly covered by policy – together with ‘roll back’ approaches to relocation. Plus need to improve marine water quality.</li> </ul>	<p>coastal erosion (with managed retreat practised in some areas).</p>	<p>Management (ICZM (2002/413/EC), as well as Heritage Coast Management Plans still apply and would assist to minimise conflict and maximise cooperation, to sustain and realise the value of coastal areas.</p> <p>On flooding matters, local authorities already have a duty to cooperate under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010. National planning policy on flooding aims to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages of the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and to direct development away from areas of highest risk. Local authorities must consult the Environment Agency on most development proposals at risk from flooding under changes to the General Development Procedure Order.</p>
<p><b>Policy RR1: Remoter rural and sub-area policy</b></p>	<p>Main objectives for these sub-area are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to safeguard the area’s environmental and built quality</li> <li>- to facilitate complimentary</li> </ul>	<p>To improve accessibility and maintain/enhance biodiversity are key concerns.</p> <p>Delivering regional economic</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National planning policy on</p>

	<p>diversification of the local economy          – enable accessibility to (job) opportunities and facilities</p>	<p>prosperity: Diversification and fostering small scale enterprise</p> <p>Addressing social issues around housing need and affordability.</p> <p>Environment: the need to safeguard and enhance a number of prehistoric and historic industrial landscapes.</p>	<p>biodiversity, landscape and heritage will apply. Following the abolition of regional strategies, local authorities should continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment – including biodiversity, geo-diversity and landscape interests.</p> <p>Any significant effects from such development should be identified by local authorities through the strategic environment assessment of their local plans, and environmental impact assessment and habitat assessments of specific impacts.</p>
<b>Environment</b>			
<b>ENV1 Development &amp; Flood Risk</b>	<p>Policy ENV1 sets out the approach for managing the risk of flooding to development in spatial terms.</p> <p>Part C of the policy provides a range of regional and sub-regional initiatives for managing flood risk.</p>	<p>To mitigate/adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires local authorities to cooperate on strategies for managing flood risk, and Flood Risk Regulations 2009 require authorities and Environment Agency to determine flood risks</p>

			<p>and prepare risk management plans. Some authorities have already done so collaboratively (e.g. in Calder Valley).</p> <p>National planning policy on flooding aims to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages of the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and to direct development away from areas of highest risk.</p>
<p><b>ENV2 Water Resources</b></p>	<p>Policy ENV2 aims at ensuring the availability of sufficient water resources to meet the needs of the Region.</p> <p>Particular reference to avoid depleting the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer in Selby and Doncaster.</p>	<p>To mitigate/adapt to climate change: general concerns regarding the increase on water demand and the already noticeable effects on the Region's capacity.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National policy already gives the Environment Agency, water and sewerage companies, developers, landowners, local authorities and others an important role in taking a proactive approach and work together to identify, characterise, plan and manage the water environment taking into account biodiversity sites of international importance. Joint / partnership working between the Environment Agency, water industry bodies,</p>

			<p>local authorities and others should continue without the regional strategy, in order to deliver water efficiency, management and infrastructure benefits.</p> <p>Building Regulations already encourage water conservation measures, and the Environmental Agency's Water Resources Strategy (and derived regional action plans) would assist in identifying water sensitive areas and providing for appropriate development accordingly.</p>
<b>ENV3 Water Quality</b>	<p>Policy ENV3 aims to maintain high water quality standards by ensuring an adequate sewage and waste treatment system in line with the Water Framework Directive, and raise quality standards of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bathing water at Staithes and Flamborough Head North</li> <li>- coastal water at Whitby, Scarborough, Filey, Bridlington, Hornsea and Cleethorpes;</li> <li>- improve and protect water quality at internationally important biodiversity sites at</li> </ul>	<p>To mitigate and adapt to climate change, including management of water resources.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National planning policy refers to existing statutory frameworks regulating water quality, and provides for local authorities to minimise pollution from land uses accordingly.</p> <p>Statutory requirements under the EU Water Framework Directive will apply and be implemented principally in accordance with</p>

	Denby Grange Colliery Ponds, - Hornsea Mere, Kirk Deighton and the Humber Estuary.		<p>river basin management plans. Local authorities should work co-operatively with other authorities, the Environment Agency and water companies to ensure the spatial planning aspects of river basin management plans are applied, to contribute to the achievement of the required standards of water quality.</p> <p>The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) is being implemented progressively from 2004. The Environment Agency's river basin management plans would provide the main machinery for protecting and enhancing water quality in the future.</p>
<b>ENV4 Minerals</b>	Policy ENV4 aims to maximise the use of secondary aggregates before primary aggregates, while ensuring sufficient supply of materials to meet the Region's needs.	Ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	<p>The policy objective promoted by this policy could be delivered by means other than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National planning policy already provides for development control related considerations. Technical advice provided by the Aggregate Working Parties, including their current work in sub-apportioning</p>

			<p>the Department for Communities and Local Government's guidelines for 2005-2020 to planning authority level, will still apply. Mineral planning authorities can choose to use alternative figures for preparing their plans if they have new or different information and a robust evidence base.</p> <p>Mineral planning authorities will have responsibility for continuing to plan for an adequate and steady supply of aggregate minerals to support economic growth, and they should do this within the longstanding arrangements for minerals planning. This includes receiving technical advice from Aggregate Working Parties, whose members include officers from mineral planning authorities and the minerals industry.</p> <p>The proposed duty to co-operate should assist in ensuring minerals planning authorities work together with the industry to maximise the use of secondary and recycled</p>
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			sources of aggregates.
<b>ENV5 Energy</b>	<p>Policy ENV5 objective is to increase energy efficiency through passive design, better use of existing power sources, and to increase installed renewable energy capacity in the Region. The policy proposes renewable energy targets to provide 9.4% of the Region's electricity consumption by 2010 and 22.5% by 2021.</p> <p>It also proposes an interim target for certain new developments to secure at least 10% of their energy from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon sources</p>	<p>To mitigate and adapt to climate change: the Plan stated that delivery of the proposed targets would have led to wider economic and environmental benefits from a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, provision of a diverse energy supply and reduced incidence of fuel poverty.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Sub-regional renewable energy targets were informed by individual local authority figures, with the Yorkshire and Humber Local authorities are expected to continue contributing to national renewable energy target.</p> <p>National policies also expect local authorities to provide a supportive framework for renewable and low carbon energy generation, and to understand feasibility and potential for renewable and low-carbon technologies for new development in their area.</p> <p>Local authorities may find it useful to draw on data compiled by regional authorities, including assessments of the potential for renewable and low carbon energy. The proposed duty to cooperate and local enterprise partnerships can play key roles in ensuring economic strategic priorities and infrastructure delivery is properly coordinated.</p>

<p><b>ENV6 Forestry, Trees &amp; Woodlands</b></p>	<p>Policy ENV6 aims to safeguard, manage and enhance the existing woodland resource in line with the Regional Forestry Strategy.</p>	<p>Ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National planning policy on biodiversity, landscape and heritage will apply. Following the abolition of regional strategies, local authorities should continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.</p>
<p><b>ENV7 Agricultural Land</b></p>	<p>Policy ENV7 aims to protect higher quality agricultural land, while encouraging land use changes to assist rural diversification. It included specific spatial proposals for diversification, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- renewable energy crops (Selby area)</li> <li>- Tourism (Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds, Humberhead levels and the coast)</li> <li>- Woodland (E/S/W Yorkshire)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including better use of resources;</li> <li>- Benefits from protecting good quality land and promoting self-sufficiency.</li> </ul>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Local authorities are best placed to make decisions as to whether it would be appropriate to allow development on higher quality agricultural land, given their knowledge of their area and taking into account national planning policies, including policies to protect best and most versatile land to support food production.</p> <p>Furthermore local authorities are also required to undertake</p>

			<p>sustainability appraisals of their local plan policies. This should consider the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the plan and will be able to act upon any likely effects identified with the plans proposed policies relating to the conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.</p>
<b>ENV8 Biodiversity</b>	<p>Policy ENV8 aims to safeguard and enhance the Region's ecology, ensuring that this functions as an integrated network of connected habitats. Positive effects envisaged on four sustainability objectives.</p>	<p>Ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to safeguard and enhance biodiversity and geological heritage.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Biodiversity is roughly holding steady after a historic downward trend, and the Plan would have had little effect on this. National planning policies provide for countryside protection, including protections for valued landscapes and nationally designated areas (which are also subject to statutory protection). Under the Habitats Regulations, where necessary, local authorities are required to undertake a habitats regulation assessment of their local plans.</p> <p>National planning policy on</p>

			<p>biodiversity will still apply and so local authorities will need to continue to have regard to policies aimed at the conservation and enhancement of the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible. In addition, local authorities will still be required to develop Local Biodiversity Action Plans, in co-operation with Natural England and other biodiversity partnerships.</p> <p>Local authorities should continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment including biodiversity. Authorities will be able to continue to draw on available information, including data from partners, to address cross boundary issues, such as the provision of green infrastructure and wildlife corridors. The proposed 'uty to co-operate will play a key role in enabling local authorities to</p>
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			<p>proactively and positively address these issues.</p> <p>In addition local plans will also continue to be subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments which includes an assessment on the effects on biodiversity.</p>
<b>ENV9 Historic Environment</b>	<p>Policy ENV9 aims to conserve the historic environment of a number of key areas in the Region, enhancing their character and reinforcing their distinctiveness. Specific spatial proposals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- world heritage sites at Saltaire, Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal;</li> <li>- prehistoric landscapes at the Wolds, the Southern Magnesian Limestone Ridge, the Vale of Pickering, and Ilkley and Rombalds Moors;</li> <li>- medieval settlements at Lincolnshire Coversands, Humber, North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales;</li> <li>- roman settlements at north Yorkshire</li> <li>- maritime historic assets at the</li> </ul>	<p>Appraisal did not address conservation as such, but referred only to access to historic assets.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National planning policy on heritage applies. Local authorities should continue to liaise with English Heritage to identify and evaluate areas, sites and buildings of local cultural and historic importance, and explore ways to manage, enhance and regenerate them via local plans.</p>

	East Coast and the Humber; - industrial landscapes in West and South Yorkshire		
<b>ENV10 Landscape</b>	Policy ENV10 aims to recognise and build on the distinctive landscape character of the Region, and help parts of the countryside remain an important natural resource.	Protecting urban and rural landscapes; adapting to and managing the effects of climate change.	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>The sustainability appraisal indicated the potential for some significant (adverse) effects on the quality of the environment, because of the level of housing and infrastructure growth proposed. However, national planning policy on biodiversity, landscape and heritage will apply. Following the abolition of regional strategies, local authorities should continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment – including biodiversity, geo-diversity and landscape interests</p> <p>National planning policy provides for building design and materials in line with local distinctiveness which should help protect urban landscapes.</p>

			There seems no reason why the impacts of policy ENV10 cannot be delivered at the local level.
<b>ENV11 Health and Recreation</b>	Policy ENV11 aims to assist delivery of adequate health care facilities in accessible locations and to help improve public health by, for example, providing more green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.	Addressing health inequalities and lifestyle and related transport issues.	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Local authorities are best placed to deliver planning policies to support the health and well-being of local communities. National planning policies will be carried forward by local authorities, other relevant bodies and communities as best fits the local area.</p> <p>The Government's June 2011 white paper, <i>The Natural Choice</i>, sets out proposals to support the development of green infrastructure, including the establishment of a Green Infrastructure Partnership. Accordingly, local authorities may wish to continue to pursue this policy approach through their local development documents, working co-operatively with others on cross-boundary networks.</p>

			<p>The policy objectives can therefore be delivered through local plans, as informed by national planning policy, which are subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment.</p> <p>Comments on policy YH8 also apply.</p>
<p><b>ENV12 Regional Waste Management Objectives</b></p>	<p>Policy ENV12 aims to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover as much waste as possible, by ensuring the integration of strategies and proposals for sustainable waste management.</p> <p>Local authorities should support the urgent provision of a combination of facilities and other waste management initiatives which best meets environmental, social and economic needs for their areas.</p>	<p>Need to manage the expected trend of increased waste generation and disposal to landfill, through sustainable waste management.</p>	<p>These objectives can be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>The European Union Waste Framework Directive sets the overall statutory requirements. Revoking the regional strategy will not impact on these requirements. The focus for delivering spatial waste plans and implementing the directive lies at the local authority level. Waste planning authorities are expected to continue to take forward their waste plans to provide land for waste management facilities, to support the sustainable management of waste. Data and other information prepared by partners, including the</p>

			<p>Environment Agency and other waste planning authorities will continue to assist in this process.</p> <p>Comments on policy YH2 also apply.</p>
<p><b>ENV13 Provision of Waste Management &amp; Treatment Facilities</b></p>	<p>Policy ENV13 provides a strategy for waste management in the Region by setting out the broad pattern of waste management facilities that are required.</p> <p>Additionally, Policy ENV13 aims to support the provision of additional recycling infrastructure and businesses in Yorkshire and the Humber.</p>	<p>See policy ENV 12.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policy ENV12 apply.</p>
<p><b>ENV14 Strategic Locational Criteria for Waste Management Facilities</b></p>	<p>Policy ENV14 sets out broad strategic locational criteria for waste management facilities, which should be considered when WPAs chose site-specific site allocations.</p>	<p>See policy ENV 12.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policy ENV12 apply.</p> <p>Development of new waste management facilities also has the potential to improve the local environment (through better designed facilities, and reduced carbon emissions), and the economy (through the generation</p>

			of employment and gross value added).
<b>Economy</b>			
<b>E1 Creating a Successful and Competitive Regional Economy</b>	Policy E1 seeks to supplement the Core Approach, with guidance on more region-wide economic issues necessary for creating a modern and successful economy.	Delivering regional economic prosperity; addressing issues around social inequalities.	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>This policy set out the vision for delivering a more successful and competitive regional strategy. It does not include specific spatial proposals.</p> <p>The Government's economic white paper (published in October 2010) sets out its vision for local growth, shifting power away from central government to local communities, citizens and independent providers. This means recognising that where drivers of growth are local, decisions should be made locally.</p> <p>The Plan for Growth document (included in the Budget 2011) confirms the Government's commitment to ensuring that the planning system supports growth. National planning policy requires</p>

			<p>local authorities to have regard and consider the contribution of the natural environment when setting out the economic vision and strategy for their areas.</p> <p>The proposed duty to cooperate and local enterprise partnerships can play key roles in ensuring economic strategic priorities and infrastructure delivery is properly coordinated.</p>
<b>E2 Town Centres and Major Facilities</b>	Policy E2 aims to strengthen the role and performance of the Region's main towns and city centres.	Delivering regional economic prosperity; protecting urban landscapes and promoting better use of land.	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National planning policy addresses economic impact issues, including town centre hierarchies and sustainable patterns of economic growth and employment. These will continue to inform the preparation of local plans and the development management process. Local plans will continue to be subject to sustainability appraisal which will assess how sustainable development has been integrated into plans, and the impact of policy options.</p>

			Comments on policies YH4, YH5 and E1 also apply.
<b>E3 Land and Premises for Economic Development</b>	Policy E3 provides a framework for the location of employment sites in the Region, taking account of expected changes to the economy in different parts of the Region.	Delivering regional economic prosperity; promoting better use of land, and tackling social inequalities.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on policies E1 and E2 apply.
<b>E4 Regional Priority Sectors and Clusters</b>	Policy E4 provides a supportive framework to facilitate 'cluster' growth.	Delivering regional economic prosperity.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on policies E1, E2 and YH4 and YH5 apply.  The proposed duty to co-operate and local enterprise partnerships can play key roles in ensuring economic strategic priorities and infrastructure delivery is properly co-ordinated.
<b>E5 Safeguarding Employment Land</b>	Policy E5 provides criteria to guide local authorities to safeguard employment land in specified areas where employment sites are being lost to other uses, principally housing.	Delivering regional economic prosperity and promoting better use of land.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on policies E1 and E2 apply.
<b>E6 Sustainable Tourism</b>	Policy E6 sets out general principles and objectives for promoting, supporting and	Delivering regional economic prosperity, whilst addressing social/economic inequalities;	This policy could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.

	<p>encouraging tourism in the following priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coastal resorts;</li> <li>- Rural areas;</li> <li>- Waterways; and</li> <li>- Cities and Towns.</li> </ul>	<p>protecting urban/rural landscapes and addressing environmental concerns.</p>	<p>Local authorities may wish to continue to plan to support and develop (as appropriate) tourism, with particular attention to existing historic, cultural, landscape and other attractions, broadly as set out in policy E6, and informed by other tourism strategies and national planning policies. Local plans will be subject to strategic environment assessment, sustainability environmental appraisal and appropriate assessment.</p>
<b>E7 Rural Economy</b>	<p>Policy E7 allows for rural diversification and essential development for agriculture/forestry purposes in the countryside.</p>	<p>Protecting urban and rural landscapes; promoting regional economic prosperity and tackling social inequalities.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policies ENV 7, E1 and E6 apply.</p>
<b>Housing</b>			
<b>H1 Provision &amp; Distribution of Housing</b>	<p>Policy H1 provides the proposed housing provision for the Region for 2004-2026.</p> <p>General objective: to ensure proposed level of housing is proportionate to the RSS proposals to maximise regional economic growth, competitiveness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve quality of life by tackling social inequalities;</li> <li>- Assist delivery of regional economic growth;</li> <li>- Delivering sustainable transport;</li> <li>- Adapting to climate change (especially on water efficiency and capacity, flood risk and</li> </ul>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. The assessment identified concerns arising from the proposed level of development in the Plan, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- unsustainable impacts that could be associated with</li> </ul>

	<p>and diversification of employment.</p>	<p>waste)  - responding to demographic trends;</p>	<p>greenfield releases  - pressure on already stressed water resources  - increased pollution arising from a significant increase in sewage  - waste management issues  - added pressures on the Region's transport network.</p> <p>The assessment indicated that the housing distribution was based largely on linking need to opportunities across the Region. But improvements in social inclusion and equity would have depended on the location, type, affordability and access of the housing accommodated at the local level.</p> <p>The policy objectives promoted by this policy could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Revocation of the Plan will mean that it is for local authorities to determine the priorities for their communities, addressing local issues, needs and circumstances. Local authorities will be able to</p>
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			address more spatial/strategic issues locally, working with neighbouring authorities and other bodies as needed. (including local enterprise partnerships). The proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill will encourage strategic approaches to considering long-term infrastructure provision. The Community Infrastructure Levy and the New Homes Bonus will also encourage a more positive attitude to growth and allow communities to share the benefits of growth.
<b>H2 Managing and Stepping Up the Supply and Delivery of Housing</b>	<p>Policy H2 sets out an approach to monitoring and managing the significant step up in delivery of housing.</p> <p>Policy H2 includes a regional target for 65% of housing development to be on previously developed land and through the conversion of existing buildings.</p>	Making better use of land. See also policy H1	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policy H1 apply.</p>
<b>H3 Managing the Release of Land in Support of Interventions to Address Failing</b>	<p>Policy H3 aims to ensure the release of land for housing supported delivery of the RSS' core approach.</p> <p>Part B of the policy identifies</p>	See policy H1	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National planning policy already</p>

<p><b>Housing Markets</b></p>	<p>specific areas where interventions are already in place to tackle low demand.</p>		<p>requires local authorities to plan for the housing needs of their communities, and that any policies are informed by a robust evidence base through a strategic housing market assessment and land availability through a strategic housing land availability assessment.</p> <p>Removing the phasing of development gives local authorities greater flexibility to deliver a wide range of housing sites to meet their requirements.</p> <p>Comments on policy H1 also apply.</p>
<p><b>H4 The Provision of Affordable Housing</b></p>	<p>Policy H4 aims to increase the provision of affordable housing within the Region, with an average target of 30%.</p>	<p>Addressing social inequalities</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Revocation of the policy has limited impact as current national planning policy already requires local authorities to plan for the housing needs of their communities, including for affordable housing and a suitable mix of housing.</p>

<b>H5 Housing Mix</b>	Policy H5 promotes the provision of homes for a mix of households that reflect the needs of the area.	Addressing social inequalities and better used of land.	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policies H1 and H4 apply.</p>
<b>H6 Provision of Sites for Gypsies &amp; Travellers</b>	Policy H6 provides a breakdown of number of sites required in each sub-region to meet existing needs.	Addressing social inequalities	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>The Government considers that local authorities are best placed to determine how to meet their housing needs – including the right level of site provision for travelling sites. Local authorities have a statutory duty to assess accommodation needs of travellers as part of their wider housing needs assessments. There is national planning policy for the provision of traveller sites. The Government has consulted on a new planning policy for traveller sites. Under this Local Authorities are expected to assess the needs for traveller sites and to use this to identify land in their development plan documents.</p>

<b>The Regional Transport Strategy</b>			
<p><b>T1 Personal Travel Reduction and Modal Shift</b></p>	<p>Policy T1 sets out the specific contribution which transport planning could make to affect modal shift, including demand management mechanisms.</p>	<p>Improving accessibility of and connectivity to transport networks – important to support and develop the Yorkshire and Humber economy, people’s social well being and quality of life, and to reducing climate change (by a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions).</p>	<p>The policy objectives could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>The Local Transport white paper (published in January 2011) sets out the Government’s vision for a sustainable local transport system that supports the economy and reduces carbon emissions. It explains how the Government is placing localism at the heart of the transport agenda, taking measures to empower local authorities when it comes to tackling these issues in their areas. The white paper also underlines central government’s direct support to local authorities, including through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.</p> <p>National planning policy on transport applies. The proposed duty to co-operate should assist local authorities to work across boundaries on strategic transport issues including for integrated networks for walking and cycling.</p>

<p><b>T2 Parking Policy</b></p>	<p>Policy T2 sets out the Region's approach to parking, as a means to encouraging modal shift.</p>	<p>See policy T1.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Local authorities already have a range of powers to control parking provision and enforcement, through national planning policy and powers under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.</p> <p>Comments on policy T1 also apply.</p>
<p><b>T3 Public Transport</b></p>	<p>Policy T3 explores the specific contribution that public transport could make in promoting modal shift.</p> <p>Section B identifies spatial priorities for developing public transport schemes.</p>	<p>See policy T1.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>The Transport Act 2000 makes the preparation of local transport plans a statutory requirement. Local authorities should continue to ensure their land use and local transport plans are mutually consistent, and deliver the most sustainable and effective development for their area. The proposed 'duty to cooperate' should assist in ensuring that local authorities work in partnership with relevant public authorities to improve the quality</p>

			and provision of public transport services.
<b>T4 Freight</b>	Policy E4 aims to develop an integrated freight distribution system that made the most efficient and effective use of all modes of transport subject to environmental considerations.	See policy T1.  The assessment identified some concerns regarding the proposed expansion of the Humber ports, and how this could affect internationally important biodiversity sites along the Humber Estuary.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  The Plan has limited influence over major freight growth, where key decisions are taken at the national level. Major transport infrastructure projects will be guided by national policy statements and most likely subject to environmental impact assessment and assessment under the Habitats Regulations.  It will be for local authorities to consider the transport needs of their communities and work strategically with partners to meet wider objectives. The proposed duty to co-operate should assist in delivering wider objectives.  Proposals and plans related to freight movement will be set out in local plans, which will be subject to strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment and will need

			to comply with the Habitats Regulations.
<b>T5 Transport and Tourism</b>	Policy T5 seeks to improve access to all the Regions main tourist destinations, including National Parks and coastal resorts.	Need to promote sustainable tourism and policies in T1 and T3 also apply to those on a tourist trip.	The policy objectives could be delivered by means other than through a regional strategy  Comments on policies T1 and T3 also apply.
<b>T6 Airports</b>	Policy T6 promotes the reduction of travel distances to airports, and improving surface access by public transport.	See policy T1  Additional concerns about impact on air quality, noise, odour, and carbon emissions affecting the quality of life and health of neighbouring communities.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  As with policy T9, major transport infrastructure projects will be guided by national policy statements and most likely subject to environmental impact assessment and assessment under the Habitats Regulations. Proposals related to ports development set out in local plans would be subject to strategic environmental assessment.  Any potential significant effects on the environment resulting from airport expansion and development, including transport to and from the airport, should be identified by local authorities through the strategic

			environmental assessment of their local plans, and environmental impact assessment and habitat assessments of specific projects.
<b>T7 Ports and Waterways</b>	Policy T7 aims to optimize the use of the Region's ports and waterway assets whilst protecting the environment and in particular the integrity of the Humber estuary's internationally important biodiversity.	See policy T1	The policy objectives could be delivered by means other than through a regional strategy.  As with policy T4, proposals and plans related to port development will be set out in local plans which would be likely to have a significant effect on the environment will be subject to strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment and will need to comply with the Habitats Regulations.
<b>T8 Rural Transport</b>	Policy T8 aims to support and improve transport provision in the rural and coastal areas of the Region reflecting their geographical isolation and remoteness.	See policy T1	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on T1 and T3 apply.
<b>T9 Transport Investment and Management Priorities</b>	Policy T9 sets out the framework for delivering the transport investment and management priorities for the Region.	See policy T1	The policy objectives could be delivered by means other than through a regional strategy  The management of strategic

			<p>transport priorities and proposals are to be developed through local transport plans, which should inform the local plan process.</p> <p>Projects promoted by the Plan would support some long-distance inter-regional travel (particularly in relation to rail policies), with associated environmental effects related to congestion and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions.</p> <p>Development proposals and plans related to transport management and investment set out in local plans which would be likely to have a significant effect on the environment will be subject to strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment and will need to comply with the Habitats Regulations.</p>
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## Annex B

### Yorkshire and the Humber: Local plans (as at August 2011)

The following lists the development plan documents (including mineral and waste development plan documents) and saved local plan policies, which would form the relevant development plan for the areas in question in Yorkshire and the Humber, if the regional strategy and saved structure plan policies were revoked.

#### **Adopted Waste & Minerals Plans (Local Plans and DPDs)**

Wakefield Waste Development Plan Document (2009) - Saved Local Plan Policies
North Yorkshire Minerals Local Plan (1997) - Saved Local Plan Policies
North Yorkshire Waste Local Plan (2006) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Yorkshire Dales Minerals and Waste (1998) - Saved Local Plan Policies
East Riding and Hull Joint Minerals Local Plan (2004) - Saved Local Plan Policies
East Riding and Hull Joint Waste Local Plan (2004) - Saved Local Plan Policies

### Adopted Core Strategies, DPDs and Saved Local Plan Policies

Sheffield UDP (1998) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Sheffield Core Strategy (2009) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Rotherham UDP (1999) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Barnsley UDP (2000) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Barnsley Education Sites Development Plan Document (2009)
Doncaster UDP (1998) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Wakefield UDP (1994 , 2003 alteration) - Saved Local Plan Policies (Until all elements of the Local Development Framework are adopted some of the policies 'saved' from the Local Plans by the Secretary of State remain in use (extant) for determining applications).
Wakefield Core Strategy and Development Policies (2009) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Central Wakefield Area Action Plan (2009) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Kirklees UDP (1999) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Calderdale UDP (2006) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Bradford IDP (2005) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Leeds UDP (2001, 2006 review) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Selby Local Plan (2005) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Harrogate Local Plan (2001, 2004 alteration) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Harrogate Core Strategy (2009)
Craven Local Plan (1999) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Richmondshire Local Plan (2002) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Hambleton Core Strategy (2007)
Hambleton Development Policies DPD (2008)
Hambleton Allocations DPD (2010)
Ryedale Local Development Plan (2002, 2004 alteration) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Scarborough Local Plan (1999) - Saved Local Plan Policies
North York Moors Local Plan (2003) - Saved Local Plan Policies
North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies (2008)

City of York Local Plan (2005) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Beverley Local Plan (1996) - Saved Local Plan Policies
East Yorkshire Local Plan (1997) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Holderness Local Plan (1999) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Hull Local Plan (2000) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Holderness Road Corridor Area Action Plan Adoption (2011)
Newington and St. Andrew's Area Action Plan (2010)
North Lincolnshire Core Strategy (2011)
North East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2003) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Boothferry Local Plan (1999) - Saved Local Plan Policies
City of York Development Control Local Plan (2005) - Saved Local Plan Policies