



## Environmental report on the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Plan

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This Environmental Report is a consultation document on the likely significant environmental effects of revocation of the East Midlands Regional Plan (the regional strategy in force for the East Midlands). 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 revocation of the East Midlands Plan**

## **Non-technical summary**

This is a summary of the Environmental Report on the proposed revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy (the “Plan”), published in 2009.

## **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, to provide a broad development strategy for the East Midlands region for 15 to 20 years. It covers 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 East Midlands Plan and the assessments produced to support its preparation (in particular, the Consolidated Sustainability Appraisal Report published by Government Office for the East Midlands in March 2009). Where possible the data has been updated and from the data available it is considered unlikely that the overall state of the environment in the East Midlands has changed significantly since publication of the Plan.

At the time the plan was in preparation, the East Midlands was characterised as:

- Containing a number of urban centres but rural overall, with about 30 per cent of its 4 million population in towns and villages of fewer than 10,000 people.
- Comprising a significant proportion of high grade agricultural land predominantly used for intensive farming, particularly in the east.
- Having among the lowest biodiversity levels in England and fragmentation of habitats is an issue. However, the east coast, including The Wash, includes a number of sites of international significance for nature conservation, and there are important biodiversity assets in upland Derbyshire.
- Having a number of designated landscapes including the Peak District National Park and the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Possessing woodland cover below the UK average although there are initiatives to increase this, notably the National Forest which is being developed in Derbyshire and Leicestershire and will link ancient forests.
- Having significant historic and cultural heritage, including buildings from mediaeval to industrial times and important archaeological sites.
- Air quality appears to be better than the national average but is less good along main roads.
- Water quality is generally good although pollution from agriculture is an issue in some areas. There are seasonal water shortages, particularly in, parts of Lincolnshire.
- A significant part of the East Midlands is at risk of flooding, including low-lying areas in the east and near the River Trent. Flood defences protect the most vulnerable areas but flood risks are likely to increase with climate change.
- Social conditions, health and deprivation vary across the region. Areas such as Rutland, Northamptonshire and Rushcliffe are among the 10 per cent least deprived in England, while Nottingham and Leicester are among the 10 per cent most deprived. Deprivation is concentrated in pockets in these centres and is also found in disadvantaged parts of the region, including the Lincolnshire coast and former coalfield areas. The overall health of the population is close to the national average but differences within the region reflect the pattern of deprivation.

## 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 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

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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

appraisal, as set out in guidance issued by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005<sup>3</sup>.

- 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.

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

## 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 East Midlands 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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<sup>6</sup>

[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 East Midlands 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 East Midlands Regional Plan

- 2.1 The regional strategy under consideration for revocation is the East Midlands Regional Plan (the “Plan”), published by the then Secretary of State in March 2009. It can be viewed at:  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/planning/regional-planning/?a=42496>

### Chronology of preparation of the East Midlands Regional Plan

- 2.2 The Plan supersedes an initial Regional Spatial Strategy which comprised the former regional planning guidance for the East Midlands (Regional Planning Guidance 8, 2005) together with relevant sections of the former Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy.
- 2.3 The Plan is based on a draft revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy prepared by the East Midlands Regional Assembly and submitted to the Secretary of State in September 2006. This was subject to an examination in public in May and June 2007 and a Panel Report was published. In response to this, the Government Office for the East Midlands prepared Proposed Changes for consultation. After considering the results of the consultation, the original proposals were amended through the Secretary of State’s Proposed Changes, July 2008. Table 1 below sets out the detailed timetable for the development of the Plan.
- 2.4 Preparation of the Plan was informed by sustainability appraisal, incorporating strategic environmental assessment, at both the draft submission and proposed changes stages. The Secretary of State’s Proposed Changes were also assessed against the requirements of the European Habitats Directive.

**Table 1: East Midlands Plan preparation**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>
Options consultation	May 2005
Options appraisal report	October 2005
Submission draft Regional Spatial Strategy revision	September 2006
Sustainability appraisal report	September 2006
Examination in public panel report	November 2007
Secretary of State proposed changes	July 2008
Proposed changes sustainability appraisal report	July 2008
Final East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy	March 2009
Consolidated sustainability report	March 2009

## 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 East Midlands 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 the East Midlands has changed significantly since publication of the Plan.

## The East Midlands

- 3.2 The East Midlands comprises the counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland (Unitary Authority). There are 46 local authorities, including the Peak District National Park.
- 3.3 The East Midlands is large and diverse. It has a distinctive polycentric settlement structure based on the three major cities of Nottingham, Derby and Leicester and the growing centres of Lincoln and Northampton. However, 88 per cent of the land area is rural.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Annex I (a)

### **Outline of the contents and main objectives of the East Midlands Regional Plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes**

- 3.4 The Plan covers the period to 2026. 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.

3.5 The Plan's main objectives are to:

- Ensure that the existing housing stock and new affordable and market housing address need and extend choice in all communities
- Reduce social exclusion
- Protect and enhance the environmental quality of urban and rural settlements
- Improve the health and mental, physical and spiritual well being of residents
- Improve economic prosperity, employment opportunities and competitiveness
- Improve accessibility to jobs, homes and services
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Achieve a step change increase in the level of biodiversity
- Reduce the causes of climate change
- Reduce the impacts of climate change
- Minimise adverse environmental impacts of new development and promote optimum social and economic benefits

3.6 The main aim of the Plan is to locate new growth and regeneration in the areas which can most sustainably provide good sites for development. To maximise the development of key elements of the economy and to build on the existing infrastructure, a policy of urban concentration was adopted and a major proportion of the new growth in the East Midlands aimed at regenerating the urban areas, including promoting a closer alignment between jobs and homes in order to reduce the need to travel. The Plan includes a housing target of 324,100 net additional dwellings covering the period 2006 to 2026.

3.7 The Plan contains:

- A core strategy with generic policies that provide a framework for sustainable development
- A spatial strategy with policies on the distribution of new development, priorities for rural communities and sub-area priorities
- Topic based priorities with policies on housing, economy and regeneration, natural and cultural resources, transport and monitoring
- Sub-regional strategies with more location-specific policies on a number of sub-areas and key centres for change

# Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Annex I (a)

## Relationship with other relevant plans and programmes

- 3.8 The Plan reflects the Government's policies on development at the time of its publication and relates them to the regional context. It incorporates the Regional Transport Strategy, and also takes account of and builds on the Regional Economic Strategy produced by the East Midlands Development Agency and the Regional Sustainable Development Framework, which provides a high level statement of the vision for achieving sustainable development.
- 3.9 The policies of the Plan complement policies in the Milton Keynes/ South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy which also covers parts of the East of England and South East government regions.
- 3.10 The 2006 sustainability appraisal of the draft strategy considered the relevance of various plans, programmes and strategies. This was reviewed and updated in the 2008 sustainability appraisal report on the proposed changes, which noted the following relevant strategies:

### **NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES:**

- National planning policy 10: *Planning for Sustainable Waste Management* (2005)
- *Securing the Future* – Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)
- Climate Change: The UK Programme (2006)
- Planning Policy Statement 3: *Housing* (2006)
- Planning Policy Statement 25: *Planning and Flood Risk* (2006)
- *Meeting the Energy Challenge: a white paper on energy* (2007)
- Heritage white paper – *Heritage Protection for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (2007)
- *Planning and Climate Change* – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (2007)
- *Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable* – Housing green paper (2007)
- *Consultation Paper on new Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development* (2008)

### **REGIONAL PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES:**

- A Water Resource Strategy for the East Midlands (2006)
- East Midlands Innovation Strategy (2007-2010), Innovation East Midlands
- Regional Energy Strategy Framework for Action (2007)

- 3.11 Neighbouring strategies include those for the East of England, South East, West Midlands, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber, all of which are also under consideration for revocation.

### **STRUCTURE PLANS**

- 3.11 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 at Annex B identified saved structure plan policies as still relevant the environmental implications of its revocation have been included in the overall assessment of the revocation of the Plan. There was only one structure plan policy was saved in the East Midlands (Policy SDA1 Northamptonshire Structure Plan Policy).

### **LOCAL PLANS**

- 3.12 Regional strategies form part of the statutory development plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, until such a time as they are revoked. Until then, development plan documents prepared by local authorities are required to be in general conformity with the regional strategy.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 A list of local plans in the East Midlands and their current composition is included at Annex C.

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

### Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment of the East Midlands and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the Plan

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

- 3.15 An assessment of the baseline environmental situation and its likely evolution without the East Midlands Plan (i.e. with continuation of the policies in the Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands (RPG8)) was set out in the 2006 sustainability appraisal report and updated during the preparation of the plan.
- 3.16 The key points from the 2009 baseline assessment are summarised below. 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 the East Midlands has changed *significantly* since publication of the Plan.
- 3.17 The environmental characteristics of the East Midlands were summarised in the Sustainability Appraisal as set out in Table 2.

**Table 2: Summary of baseline conditions in the East Midlands (compiled from the Consolidated Sustainability Appraisal Report)**

<b>Sustainability Issues</b>	<b>Summary of baseline conditions</b>
<b>Economy</b>	<p>The East Midlands had historically relied heavily on manufacturing which, although reducing, is still a major employer.</p> <p>The economy of the East Midlands was assessed as performing well with strong overall growth in Gross Value Added since 1995.</p> <p>Around half of the economy was in and around the three cities of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham. The eastern part, particularly the Lincolnshire coast, was poorly performing, and suffered from poor</p>

	<p>access.</p> <p>The former coalfields to the north had undergone a major economic restructuring and were still performing relatively poorly, in contrast to the southern part which had generally been performing well.</p>
<b>Transport</b>	<p>The East Midlands continued to see significant increases in motor vehicle traffic including heavy goods vehicles. Being predominantly rural, especially in the east, many settlements were lacking in services and adequate public transport infrastructure. Poor east-west links further isolated communities in the more rural east. Congestion was a problem on the major north-south routes. The East Midland's rail infrastructure was poor, particularly along the east-west routes.</p>
<b>Biodiversity, fauna, flora<sup>8</sup></b>	<p>Biodiversity levels were the lowest in England, largely reflecting the significant proportion of high-grade agricultural land and associated intensive farming. The trend was particularly apparent in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire where 70% of scarce plant species had become extinct since 1970. There had also been significant declines in numbers of farmland and woodland birds.</p> <p>Key habitats included lowland wood pasture, lowland hay meadows, saltmarsh and mudflats. The rivers support internationally important wetland habitats, and former industrial sites represent some of the best sites for limestone grassland, dragonflies and ground-nesting birds.</p> <p>There were initiatives to increase woodland cover, which was below the UK average - notably the National Forest being developed in Derbyshire and Leicestershire linking ancient forests.</p>
<b>Population</b>	<p>The East Midlands has a number of urban centres but is relatively rural overall, with about 30% of its 4 million population in towns and villages of fewer than 10,000 people. The population in rural areas was growing rapidly with implications for land-use planning, service provision and the character of the areas concerned.</p> <p>Social conditions, health and deprivation varied across the region. Areas such as Rutland, Northamptonshire and Rushcliffe being among the</p>

<sup>8</sup> *State of the natural environment in the North West*, Natural England, 2008



	<p>10% least deprived in England, while Nottingham and Leicester being among the 10% most deprived. Deprivation was concentrated in pockets in these centres and also found in disadvantaged parts of the region, including the Lincolnshire coast and former coalfield areas.</p>
<b>Human health</b>	<p>The overall health of the population was close to the national average but differences within the region reflect the pattern of deprivation. Male life expectancy was 76.5 years while for women 80.7 years, both very close to the national average.</p> <p>Death rates from coronary heart disease and cancer were among the worst in England, and the East Midlands had one of the highest rates of obesity in the country.</p>
<b>Soil</b>	<p>The East Midlands represented a significant proportion of UK agriculture production. There was a large area of high-grade agricultural land with associated intensive farming, particularly in the east.</p>
<b>Water</b>	<p>Water quality was generally good although pollution from intensive agricultural practices in some areas had affected the water quality in some of the inland waterways. Seasonal water shortages were identified, particularly in parts of Lincolnshire, with little potential for additional supplies from surface water.</p> <p>Climate change could have repercussions for the East Midlands' water resources – for example, due to declining summer flows and increasing flooding both from sea level rise and heavier storms. This could have an impact on the region's biodiversity and historical heritage, health and the economy.</p>
<b>Air and climatic factors (including climate change)</b>	<p>Air quality appeared to be better than the national average. Pollutant emissions from road transport and industry were the main causes of poor air quality. East Midlands Airport was of significant economic importance but also poses environmental concerns, affecting local air quality.</p> <p>A significant part of the East Midlands is at risk of flooding, including low-lying areas in the east and near the River Trent. Flood defences protect the most vulnerable areas but flood risks are likely to increase with climate change.</p>
<b>Culture and historic</b>	<p>The East Midlands had significant historic and cultural heritage, including historic market towns</p>

<b>environment</b>	<p>such as Stamford, many buildings from mediaeval to industrial times and important archaeological sites. Pressures for development in some archaeologically sensitive areas were identified as an issue, particularly in the south of the region and priority regeneration areas such as Nottingham and Derbyshire.</p> <p>There were 137 registered parks and gardens, 1013 conservation areas and 5 historic battlefields.</p> <p>There was a large concentration of previously developed land across the East Midlands, which was varied in character and included important historic remains. For example, Lincolnshire had many former military bases and Nottinghamshire had many former mining sites.</p>
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>The East Midlands landscape is both varied and retains a great deal of local distinctiveness, although the landscape has been affected by factors such as industrial development pressure and agricultural intensification.</p> <p>There is one National Park, the Peak District and one Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Lincolnshire Wolds.</p>
<b>Waste</b>	<p>The region's household recycling rates were higher than the national average and improving. There was limited landfill capacity to manage waste disposal.</p>
<b>Energy</b>	<p>Energy consumption in the area was predicted to increase by over 15% in the next 15 years, at the same time as national carbon emissions were to be cut by 60% over the next 45 years.</p>

3.18 The Plan divides the East Midlands into five sub-areas, whose key characteristics as given in the East Midlands Regional Plan Consolidated Sustainability Appraisal Report are:

**Northern Sub-Area**, comprising the former coalfields of north Derbyshire and north Nottinghamshire

- The sub-area has experienced major industrial change as a result of the decline of the coal industry; 9 per cent of wards are within the 10 per cent most deprived in the country.
- There is an oversupply of poor quality housing due to the legacy of declining industries.
- The sub-area has undergone a rapid decline in biodiversity and 70 per cent of scarce plant species have become extinct since 1970.

However, there are areas of importance for landscape and biodiversity, such as Sherwood Forest.

- There is a notable historic heritage, including Creswell Crags and Bolsover Castle.

**Southern Sub-Area**, including the principal urban area of Northampton and the sub-regional centres of Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and Daventry

- The sub-area has experienced particularly rapid growth since the 1960s. It has generally been performing well economically due to its proximity to London and the South East. Corby has experienced severe economic and social problems resulting from the decline of the steel industry, but is now starting to show signs of growth and regeneration.
- The lack of affordable housing is a key issue.
- There has been a rapid decline in biodiversity. Northamptonshire contains significant areas of ancient woodland, such as Rockingham Forest.
- There are many historical assets, particularly large estates and country houses.

**Three Cities Sub-Area**, includes Derby, Leicester and Nottingham, and is the most urbanised part of the East Midlands.

- Unemployment rates are still relatively high, with an increasing level of social exclusion.
- The cities have relatively high levels of poor quality housing.
- There is a significant risk of flooding in the River Trent floodplain.
- The urban centres include significant historic heritage. Leicester has significant Roman archaeology.

**Eastern Sub-Area**, including Lincolnshire and Rutland, and characterised by dispersed towns with predominantly rural hinterlands.

- The Lincolnshire coast is an area of economic disadvantage with towns suffering from high levels of deprivation, mostly due to a decline in traditional tourism.
- There are affordable housing gaps and deprivation in the more inaccessible rural areas. The sub-area is characterised by an ageing rural population and experiences relative isolation and poor transport infrastructure.
- The area has a significant proportion of high quality Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land. It is generally characterised by relatively low levels of biodiversity. However, the water environments of the Lincolnshire Coast, The Wash and Rutland Water have been recognised as outstanding in biodiversity terms. The chalk grasslands of the Lincolnshire Wolds are also important.
- The sub-area has the highest number of listed historic buildings and Lincoln is one of its finest historic settlements.

**Peak Sub-Area**, comprising the Peak District National Park and adjacent areas, which are predominantly rural.

- This sub-area has pockets of deprivation, some of which is due to a decline in hill farming.
- The tourism and visitor economy is important, but high visitor numbers can place heavy pressure on infrastructure and the natural environment.
- The area is desirable for retirement homes and second homes.
- The Peak District National Park consists of dramatic upland moorland and limestone dales landscapes and is important for its historic interest. There are high levels of biodiversity associated with the National Park.
- Over a third of the land area is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Annex I (d)

**Existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Plan, including in particular those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC**

- 3.19 A detailed review of baseline conditions and trends, including information on specific areas and problems in the region, was presented in the sustainability appraisal of the draft Plan, and was updated in the sustainability appraisal of the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the draft Plan. The Plan intends to address these issues in various ways. It is not, however, envisaged that they could be avoided or resolved solely through the Plan, and it is not expected that the revocation of the Plan will result in their inevitable occurrence or that no action will be put in place locally to mitigate them.
- 3.20 Drawing from the information provided by the sustainability appraisal supporting the Plan the environmental concerns of strategic significance and possible relevance to the revocation of the Plan are considered to be:
- A significant decline in biodiversity, habitat loss and fragmentation, in part owing to the heavy intensification of agriculture.
  - Pressure on the availability of water resources, especially in the East Midlands (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire) and Lincolnshire Fens water resource zones. The largest use of water is for public supply, with over 50 per cent for household use. Abstraction from some aquifers has depleted available supplies, leading to low groundwater levels and adverse effects on associated habitats. If suitable efficiency measures and/or new sources of supply were not identified, the situation would probably worsen due to climate change and additional development.

- The capacity of sewage treatment works to accommodate further development without adverse effects on water quality, especially in the Northern and Three Cities Sub-Areas. Intensive agricultural practices are widespread in the region and have damaged water quality in some rivers and aquifers.
- Flood risk in the Southern and Three Cities Sub-Areas, and possibly parts of the coast.
- The achievement of air quality and greenhouse emissions targets, especially with respect to transport. High levels of pollution are concentrated along transport corridors such as the M1 and in urban areas. Poor air quality in already congested urban areas is exacerbating respiratory diseases and the generally poorer quality of life of local residents.
- The potential permanent loss of best and most versatile agricultural land to development, for example around Boston.
- Threats to the historic environment from development, including road building and mineral extraction, poor or inappropriate management, and agricultural practices. In particular, concerns over the capacity of historic settlements to accommodate further development, especially Lincoln, but also smaller settlements such as Stamford.

3.21 The final (consolidated) sustainability appraisal noted that ongoing action was needed in future reviews of the Plan to ensure that the amount of housing proposed was sustainable with regards to water consumption and sewage treatment.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Annex I (e)

### **Environmental 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**

- 3.22 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.
- 3.23 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.

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

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

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

- 3.24 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.
- 3.25 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.
- 3.26 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.
- 3.27 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.

- 3.28 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.
- 3.29 A summary of the environmental effects identified in the sustainability appraisal of the Plan are set out in Table 3 below, with an assessment of any likely significant environmental effects of its proposed revocation. 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.
- 3.30 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 3: Summary assessment of the environmental implications of the East Midlands Plan policies compiled from the sustainability appraisal and likely significant environmental effects of revocation.**

<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment Topic</b>	<b>Implications of the 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. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy 26 sets out principles that should be applied to ensure the protection management and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of the East Midlands. This includes; giving the highest level of protection to internationally and nationally designated natural and historic assets; not permitting direct or indirect damage to EU designated Natura 2000 sites.</li> <li>- Policy 29 set out priorities for enhancing biodiversity including working collaboratively to contribute towards the UK Biodiversity Action Plans targets, establish large scale habitat creation projects, create , protect and enhance networks of semi-natural green-spaces in urban areas.</li> <li>- Policy 30 sets out priorities for managing and increasing woodland cover, and the protection</li> </ul>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effect on biodiversity, flora and fauna.</b></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 habitats regulation assessment of their local plans. Other than in exception 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</p>



	<p>of ancient semi-natural woodlands, veteran trees and other woodlands of acknowledged importance. Policy 31 (landscape) also has implications for biodiversity.</p>	<p>local biodiversity action plans, in cooperation with Natural England.</p> <p>Local authorities are expected to 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 cooperate' will play a key role in enabling local authorities to proactively and positively address these issues.</p> <p>In addition local plans are subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments which includes an assessment of the effects on biodiversity.</p>
Population	<p>Positive effects expected from a range of policies including employment, transport, housing, community safety and crime, social capital and access to local jobs and services</p> <p>No adverse effects identified.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effect on population.</b></p> <p>It will be for local authorities, working collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships to determine the regeneration needs of their areas. The proposed duty to co-operate could assist with 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</p>

		<p>(published 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, and local authorities will need to have regard to policies on housing supply and transport. In addition 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 are subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments which includes an assessment of the effects on the population.</p>
Human health	<p>Policies assessed as generally positive, although few of the effects were likely to be significant and many have uncertainties with them. Many of the area-specific policies aim to reduce deprivation. Additionally, those policies that encourage walking, cycling, a reduction in private car use and the creation of green infrastructure are likely to have a positive influence.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effect on 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 will still apply including for housing supply. It will be for local authorities to establish the right level of local housing provision</p>

		<p>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>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>Also the various 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 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.</p>
Soil	<p>No specific effects identified.</p> <p>Policy 26 includes the general principle that the best and most versatile agricultural land should be protected from permanent loss or damage.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effect 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</p>

		<p>contaminated land including securing remediation as part of the redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated land.</p> <p>Local authorities are best placed to take 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 the best and most versatile land to support food production. Policies to reduce urban sprawl including Green Belt will also help protect soils.</p> <p>Local plans are subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments which includes an assessment of the effects on soil.</p>
Water	<p>The sustainability assessment concluded that there were likely to be positive impact on water resources and quality</p> <p>Policy 32 sets out the approach to water resources and water quality, including: ensuring timely provision of appropriate additional infrastructure for water supply and wastewater treatment to cater for the levels of development provided for in the plan; promoting improvements in water efficiency in new development; and protecting and improving water quality and reducing the risk of pollution especially to vulnerable groundwater.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effect on water.</b></p> <p>Regulatory mechanisms exist to ensure an adequate, 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</p>

		<p>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> <p>Local authorities should continue to plan for and address water infrastructure implications of development through policies in their local plans, reflecting local circumstances and priorities and to actively engage with interested parties. Water companies will have an opportunity to work with local authorities on water infrastructure</p>
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		<p>implications as part of local plan preparation.</p> <p>The location of development will be a critical component of this. River Basin Management Plans for the region identify the pressures that the water environment faces and include action plans requiring cross boundary and input from a range of organisations. The proposed duty to co-operate will play a key part in supporting local authorities to address these issues.</p> <p>Local plans are subject to sustainability appraisal, strategic environmental assessments and, where appropriate, habitats regulation assessment of their local plans which includes an assessment of water issues.</p>
Air	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal concluded that the Plan policies were positive on emissions, pollution, resource use and safety and security. Policy 36, in particular, requires collaborative working to reduce air pollution, to consider the potential effects of new development and increased traffic levels on air quality and to consider the impacts on internationally designated nature conservation sites.</p> <p>Green infrastructure and locational policies are positive.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effect on air.</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. 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</p>

		takes proper account of relevant air quality matters.
Climatic factors	<p>Climate change policies were considered in the Sustainability Appraisal to be positive on emissions, pollution, resource use and safety. This includes Policy 26 which included the principle that there should be a net increase in the quality and active management of natural and historic assets in ways that promote adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>Strategic policies on flood risk and the Lincolnshire coastal study are identified in the sustainability appraisal as positive, although the projected housing growth would increase carbon emissions and support for air travel in transport policy was assessed as negative.</p> <p>Policy 40, however, set out priorities for low carbon energy generation.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effect on climatic factors and climate change.</b></p> <p>Through their local plans, local authorities should contribute to a move towards 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 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</p>

		<p>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 includes an assessment of the effects on climatic factors including climate change.</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>Some aspects of housing provision policy and transport policies were considered in the sustainability appraisal as likely to put increased pressure on cultural assets and maintaining and developing cultural distinctiveness.</p> <p>However, in additional to Policy 26 (see comments on biodiversity above), Policy 27 sets out priorities for the historic environment. This requires that across the East Midlands and particularly in areas where growth or regeneration is a priority, development should promote sensitive change to the historic environment.</p> <p>Policy 34 includes measures to protect and</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effect 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</p>



	<p>enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Lincolnshire Coast.</p>	<p>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>
Landscape	<p>Generally positive policies, including protection of non-designated sites and green infrastructure.</p> <p>Policy 28 requires local authorities to work with others to, for example, ensure that the provision and design of new Environmental Infrastructure is considered and delivered through environmental capacity analysis, and within Local Plans develop 'green infrastructure plans' based on character assessments of existing natural, cultural and landscape assets.</p> <p>Policy 29 seeks to create, protect and enhance</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effect 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</p>

	<p>features of the landscape which act as corridors and stepping stones as aids to species migration.</p> <p>Policy 31 seeks to protect natural and heritage landscapes, while Policy 33 seeks collaborative working to protect and enhance the multi-functional importance of strategic river corridors as part of the green-infrastructure.</p> <p>A number of sub-regional policies also provide for green infrastructure, particularly in relation to urban extensions (e.g. Policy MKSM SRS Northamptonshire 4) and regeneration (e.g. Policies Northern SRS 3 and 4).</p>	<p>urban sprawl.</p> <p>It is for local authorities to review their Green Belt boundaries, having regard to relevant national policy. Current planning policy 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 environmental assessments of their local plans, environmental impact assessment and appropriate assessment of specific projects.</p>
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## Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Annex I (h)

### **Outline of reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information**

- 3.31 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)

### **Description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring**

- 3.32 Having regard to the fact that the 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 the East Midlands will no longer be monitored.
- 3.33 Local authorities in the East Midlands 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 policy and the effects of revocation

This table sets out the themes and policies of the East Midlands Regional Plan with their objectives and the sustainability issues which they raise, including environmental issues identified in the sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment 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>Core strategy</b>			
Policy 1 Regional Core Objectives	<p>To translate the broad policy context for the East Midlands into a spatial strategy that will deliver sustainable development, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Social exclusion</li> <li>• Environmental protection</li> <li>• Health and mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing</li> <li>• Economic prosperity, employment opportunities and regional competitiveness</li> <li>• Access to jobs, homes and services</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate change</li> </ul>	<p>The overall spatial strategy issues identified in the sustainability appraisal of the draft Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of water resources, especially in the East Midlands (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire) and Lincolnshire Fens water resource zones.</li> <li>• The capacity of sewage treatment works to accommodate further development without adverse effects on water quality, especially in the Northern and Three Cities Sub-Areas.</li> <li>• The achievement of air quality and greenhouse emissions targets, especially with respect to transport.</li> <li>• The potential permanent loss of best and most versatile land to development, for example around Boston.</li> <li>• Flood risk in the Southern and Three Cities Sub-areas, and possibly parts of the coast.</li> <li>• The capacity of historic settlements</li> </ul>	<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 strategic spatial issues locally, working with neighbouring authorities and other bodies as needed, supported by the proposed duty to cooperate.</p>

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
		<p>to accommodate further development, especially Lincoln, but also smaller settlements such as Stamford.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite the relatively small amount of development to be accommodated in the Peak Sub-area, there could be some capacity issues with respect to landscape and biodiversity.</li> <li>• Possible capacity issues with respect to biodiversity more generally, bearing in mind that the biodiversity interest is already comparatively low.</li> <li>• The East Midlands has a number of ecological sites of international, national, regional and local importance. However, only 2% comprises designated nature conservation or geological sites, compared to the national average of 7.5%. Evidence indicates that these losses are continuing, and that remaining wildlife habitats are increasingly small, isolated and fragmented.</li> </ul>	

<b>Plan policies</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Sustainability appraisal issues</b>	<b>Revocation – key environmental issues</b>
Policy 2 Promoting better design	To promote better layout, design and construction of new development.	The sustainability appraisal identified that whilst this policy aims to address the need for sustainable design and construction, the scale of development is likely to significantly affect the character of parts of the East Midlands (which is renowned for the diverse character of its built environment, due to the use of traditional materials in many local areas). However, many new developments have been of a poor quality, having suffered from both lack of integrated urban design and a shortage of high quality architecture.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. National planning policy on design applies.
<b>Spatial Strategy</b>			
Policy 3 Distribution of new development	To provide the basis for the distribution of new development, including concentration in the Principal Urban Areas, and to set a target for the use of previously developed land.		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Revocation of the Plan will mean that it will be for local authorities to determine the priorities for growth and regeneration, working with neighbouring authorities, business partners and their communities, and supported by the proposed duty to

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
			<p>cooperate. Local authorities will need to determine the priorities and policies appropriate for their communities, addressing local issues, needs and circumstances.</p> <p>Any significant environmental effects should be identified and addressed through sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment of local authority plans.</p>
Policy 4 Development in the Eastern Sub-area	To provide the policy for development in the sub-area.	The impact of agricultural intensification, residential development and recreation on the Lincolnshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on policies 3 and 29 apply.
Policy 5 Strategy for Lincolnshire Coastal Districts	To develop a strategy to be agreed between the Regional Planning Body, the three Lincolnshire coastal districts and other bodies which will form part of the next review of the Plan. If agreed before the adoption of the next review it would guide the preparation of local development documents		



<b>Plan policies</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Sustainability appraisal issues</b>	<b>Revocation – key environmental issues</b>
	in the three districts until the regional strategy is moved forward.		
Policy 6 Overcoming peripherality in the Eastern Sub-area	To deal with a lack of accessibility in the central and eastern parts of the sub-area through, for example, a programme of infrastructure improvements that concentrate public transport and road improvements in existing key transport corridors.	As identified by the Plan (paragraph 2.4.18) the west and south of this sub-area might be experiencing significant development pressure due to an attractive environment and accessibility as a commuting base for surrounding areas.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. Comments on policy 3 apply.
Policy 7 Regeneration of the Northern Sub-area	To achieve the economic, social and environmental regeneration of the Northern Sub-area as a regional priority.	Paragraph 2.4.23 of the Plan indicates that given the degradation of the environment in this sub-area due to its past industrial activity and largely rural character, development proposals need to be informed by an analysis of key environmental constraints and opportunities.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. Comments on policy 3 apply.
Policy 8 Spatial Priorities in and around the Peak Sub-	To provide the priorities for policies and programmes in and around the sub-area.	The impact of agricultural intensification, residential development, and recreation in the Peak District	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. Comments on policies 3 and 29

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
area			apply.
Policy 9 Spatial Priorities outside the Peak District National Park	To provide the priorities for policies and programmes outside the National Park – including retaining and generating local employment and restraining new housing development.	Paragraph 2.4.27 of the Plan states that ' <i>planning policies will continue to be applied to protect the National Park whilst addressing the social and economic needs of the Park's communities and supporting the regeneration of the surrounding sub-areas</i> '.	
Policy 10 Managing Tourism and Visitors in the Peak Sub-area	To manage tourism in accordance with principles of sustainable development.		
Policy 11 Development in the Southern Sub-area	To concentrate development in, or in planned extensions to existing urban areas and to set out spatial priorities for the Sub-area.		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on policy 3 apply.
Policy 12 Development in the Three Cities Sub-area	To identify the requirements for development particularly in Derby Leicester and Nottingham. Outside these cities, housing and	The sustainability appraisal of the draft plan identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>concerns over the capacity of sewage treatment works to accommodate further development without adverse effects on water</li> </ul>	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on policy 3 apply.

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
	development should be in scale with the size of those settlements, in locations that respect environmental constraints.	quality; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flood risk, particularly significant in the River Trent floodplain</li> </ul>	
<b>Housing</b>			
Policy 13a Regional Housing Provision (excluding Nottinghamshire )  Policy 13b Housing Provision (Nottinghamshire)	Sets out housing figures for each local authority. The policy allows for local authorities to test higher figures through their development plan documents provided that they are consistent with the principles of sustainable development and tested through sustainability appraisal.	The sustainability appraisal stated that many aspects of the Plan score well in relation to housing provision, including sub-area policies which aim to reduce or reverse unsustainable patterns of commuting through a better balance of jobs and homes, housing provision and affordable housing policies which help to meet housing needs. Some environmental capacity issues to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water resources: Relatively low rainfall levels in the East Midlands could create a significant shortfall in terms of supply and demand and population increases may place further pressure on the resources..</li> <li>• Water quality: Intensive agricultural practices in the area have damaged the water quality in some of the</li> </ul>	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  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 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  Removing the phasing of

Plan policies	Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
		<p>inland waterways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor quality housing and transport issues affecting mainly the Northern and Peak sub-areas.</li> <li>• Urban characteristics such as light, noise and traffic pollution are beginning to encroach on rural areas and the urban fringe due to development pressure.</li> </ul>	<p>development gives local authorities greater flexibility to deliver a wide range of housing sites to meet their requirements. 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.</p>
Policy 14 Regional Priorities for Affordable Housing	To provide policy and targets for affordable housing.		<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 policy already requires local authorities to plan for the housing needs of their communities, including for affordable housing.</p>

<p>Policy 15 Regional Priorities for Affordable Housing in Rural Areas</p>	<p>To provide policy for affordable housing in rural areas – including addressing affordability and creating sustainable communities.</p>		<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on policy 14 apply.</p>
<p>Policy 16 Regional Priorities for Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople</p>	<p>Sets out requirement for local authorities and other bodies to identify land for additional pitch provision based on clearly evidenced assessments.</p>		<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  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>

<p>Policy 17 Regional Priorities for Managing the Release of Land for Housing</p>	<p>To ensure that the release of sites for housing is managed to achieve a sustainable pattern of development.</p>	<p>The sustainability appraisal identified that there is a large concentration of previously developed land across the region, which varies in character and can have important historic remains. For example Lincolnshire has a high proportion of former military bases and Nottinghamshire has a high level of mining extraction sites. However, there is a need to consider that some derelict sites are important sites for nature conservation.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on policy 13a apply.</p>
<p><b>Economy and regeneration</b></p>			
<p>Policy 18 Regional Priorities for the Economy</p>	<p>To implement the Regional Economic Strategy through cooperative working</p>	<p>The sustainability appraisal indicated that the Plan's policies are generally supportive of the objective to provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure and of the objective to create high quality employment opportunities. Structural change, the knowledge economy and expansion of office based activity implies that existing settlements are well suited.  The appraisal identified that the largest impacts are likely to be in the three cities sub-region and to a lesser</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  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>extent in the northern sub-region where the focus of housing development should support wider economic development and regeneration objectives. The policies also seek to accommodate, rather than restrict, growth in the southern region where substantial growth might be expected in the long-term from the planned expansion of the MKSM area.</p>	<p>The <i>Plan for Growth</i> document (included in the Budget 2011) confirms the Government's commitment to ensuring that the planning system supports 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>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. The proposed duty to cooperate and local enterprise partnerships can play key roles in ensuring economic strategic priorities and infrastructure delivery</p>
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			is properly coordinated.
Policy 19 Regional Priorities for Regeneration	To focus regeneration activity on the priority areas identified in the Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy.		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. Comments on policy 18 apply.
Policy 20 Regional Priorities for Employment	To undertake and keep up to date employment land reviews.		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. Comments on policy 18 apply.
Policy 21 Strategic Distribution	To bring forward sites for strategic distribution use with preference to sites in named broad locations.		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. Comments on policy 18 apply.
Policy 22 Regional Priorities for Town Centres and Retail Development	To promote the vitality and viability of existing town centres.		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. Comments on policy 18 apply.
Policy 23 Regional Priorities for Casino Development	To ensure proposals for new casinos benefit the regeneration of priority areas (as identified in policy 19).	The policy requires that any new proposal is subject to a full assessment of social, economic and environmental impact.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. Comments on policies 3 and 18 apply.



<p>Policy 24 Regional Priorities for Rural Diversification</p>	<p>To promote the continued diversification and further development of the rural economy.</p>	<p>The East Midlands has a strong agricultural sector, which represents a significant proportion of UK agricultural production. But there are reinvestment problems within the farming business which threatens the future sustainability of the industry. A future shift towards crop production for bio-fuels is likely.</p> <p>The sustainability appraisal identified that the East Midlands has the poorest biodiversity of all the regions partly as result of the intensification of agriculture. Furthermore, the East Midlands landscape is under pressure from development, agriculture and poor management and this has led to a reduction in heather, flower rich hay meadows, hedgerows, heathland and ancient semi natural woodland.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policies 3 and 18 apply.</p>
<p>Policy 25 Regional Priorities for ICT</p>	<p>To improve access to information and communications technology.</p>	<p>The sustainability appraisal identified issues of poor access to broadband which hampers information and communications technology usage and could still significantly hamper competitiveness of rural businesses in the Region. Rural areas, such as Lincolnshire, perform worst for</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policy 18 apply.</p>

		employment in knowledge intensive sectors.	
<b>Natural and cultural resources</b>			
Policy 26 Protecting and Enhancing the Region's Natural and Cultural Heritage	Sets out principles to ensure protection, appropriate management and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of the East Midlands.	The sustainability appraisal identified that there are a number of locations where large amount of development is planned which is likely to result in changes to urban locations and market towns.	<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 – including biodiversity, geo-diversity and landscape interests.</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>

<p>Policy 27 Regional Priorities for the Historic Environment</p>	<p>Aims to conserve and enhance the historic environment. In areas where growth and regeneration is a priority, the policy promotes sensitive change of the historic environment.</p>	<p>The sustainability appraisal identified concerns over the capacity of historic settlements to accommodate further development, especially Lincoln, but also smaller settlements such as Stamford.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>The most important historic and heritage sites are subject to statutory protection. National planning policy relevant to cultural heritage and the historic environment will still apply. In planning for the historic environment, local authorities should still liaise with English Heritage</p> <p>Comments on policy 26 apply.</p>
<p>Policy 28 Regional Priorities for Environmental and Green Infrastructure.</p>	<p>To ensure the delivery, protection and enhancement of environmental infrastructure across the region.</p>	<p>The sustainability appraisal identified that there are a number of policies which directly address the need to improve energy efficiency, reduce the need to travel and promote green infrastructure, particularly in the sub-regional strategies, which is likely to have positive effects.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</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 infrastructure, including the establishment of a Green Infrastructure Partnership.</p>

			Accordingly, local authorities may wish to continue to pursue this policy approach through their local plans, working co-operatively with other authorities and bodies on cross-boundary networks. The proposed duty to cooperate is expected to support this.
Policy 29 Priorities for Enhancing the Region's Biodiversity	To implement the Regional Biodiversity Strategy and to deliver a major step change increase in the level of biodiversity.	Key biodiversity issues identified in the sustainability appraisal which the Plan aims to address include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity loss in the region, including the highest rate of plant extinction in England;</li> <li>• Habitat loss and fragmentation;</li> <li>• Impact of intensification of agriculture on biodiversity, especially in the Milton Keynes South Midlands Growth Area;</li> <li>• Safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity in specific areas.</li> </ul>	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  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. Local authorities will still be required to develop local biodiversity action plans, in cooperation with Natural England. Authorities will be able to continue to draw on available information, including data from partners, to address cross boundary issues.

<p>Policy 30 Regional Priorities for Managing and Increasing Woodland Cover</p>	<p>To deliver a significant increase in woodland cover in the East Midlands.</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.3.19 of the Plan identifies a number of ongoing initiatives to increase woodland cover, which is below the UK average.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. Comments on policy 26 apply.</p>
<p>Policy 31 Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region's Landscape</p>	<p>To protect and enhance the natural and heritage landscapes.</p>	<p>The sustainability appraisal indicated that increasing development throughout the region is likely to have significant cumulative effects on the region's built character along with its landscape.  This will be particularly relevant in areas such as the Peak District and the Lincolnshire Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. Comments on policy 26 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 landscapes.</p>
<p>Policy 32 A Regional Approach to water Resources and Water Quality</p>	<p>To ensure timely provision of appropriate additional infrastructure for water supply and waste water treatment to cater for the levels of development provided for in the Plan, whilst meeting surface and groundwater quality</p>	<p>The sustainability appraisal identified that housing growth would increase demand for water supply and waste water treatment. Diffuse pollution from urban areas is a significant and ongoing water quality issue.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy. Regulatory mechanisms exist to ensure an adequate, safe and sustainable water supply. National policy already gives the Environment Agency, water and sewerage companies, developers, landowners,</p>

	standards and avoiding adverse impacts on designated sites of nature conservation of international importance		<p>local authorities and others an important role in taking a pro-active approach and working together to identify, characterise, plan and manage the water environment taking into account biodiversity sites of international importance.</p> <p>In achieving integrated water management and delivery of the European Union's Water Framework Directive, plans and strategies should have regard to River Basin Management Plans and water companies' asset management plans.</p>
Policy 33 Regional Priorities for Strategic River Corridors	To protect and enhance the multi-functional importance of strategic river corridors as part of the East Midlands' Green Infrastructure.	The sustainability appraisal noted the East Midlands Regional Assembly Strategic River Corridors Guidelines observation that: "characteristic riverside landscape has been lost and biodiversity has suffered through the resultant loss of habitat". The sustainability appraisal also noted that protecting and enhancing strategic corridors is likely to lead to an increase in biodiversity levels in the region.	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policies 26, 28 and 32 apply.</p>

<p>Policy 34 Priorities for the Management of the Lincolnshire Coast</p>	<p>To promote the development of coastal zone management plans, and ensure any development requiring a coastal location is located primarily in existing urban areas and in ways that protect and enhance the natural and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.3.37 of the Plan identifies as a key sustainability issue for this sub-area the need to effectively manage the interaction between development, coastal erosion, flood protection and defence, and enhancement of the natural environment. Considerable inter-agency cooperation and an integrated approach to coastal management will be essential.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National planning policies on flooding and coastal change will apply.</p> <p>The Environment Agency's flood and coastal risk management investment strategy (2010-2035) will apply.</p> <p>Shoreline Management Plans and Catchment Flood Management Plans will provide a strategic approach to the assessment of options within a broader planning matrix which will include River Basin Management Plans and Integrated Coastal Zone Management strategies.</p>
<p>Policy 35 A Regional Approach to Managing Flood Risk</p>	<p>To take account of the potential impact of climate change on flooding and land drainage. To set out criteria under which development should not be permitted.</p>	<p>The region is at significant risk of flooding from fluvial, pluvial and tidal sources. There is a significant risk of flooding in the River Trent floodplain, and in the Southern and Three Cities Sub-Areas, and possibly parts of the coast.</p> <p>Although the level of flood defences</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</p>

		<p>means the most vulnerable areas are protected, the risk of flooding is likely to increase with climate change. The sustainability appraisal also noted that large areas of the East Midlands are in zone 2 or 3 flood risk, although there are many areas which are adequately defended.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Coastal Study addresses coastal flooding issues and puts forward a set of principles and options for spatial development in the East Midlands.</p>	<p>and Environment Agency to determine flood risks and prepare risk management plans</p> <p>National planning policy on flooding aims to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages of the planning process, taking account of climate change, to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and to direct development away from areas of highest risk.</p>
Policy 36 Regional Priorities for Air Quality	To contribute to reducing air pollution including from new development and increased transport.	The Habitats Regulations Assessment on the Proposed Changes identified possible impacts on three sites from traffic and land uses, and possibly from future developments. These are Birklands and Bilhaugh Special Area of Conservation, Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation and South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area and Phase I and II Special Protection Areas. To mitigate these effects, the Plan requires local authorities to ensure that Habitats Regulations Assessments required for local plans and local transport plans will also need to consider air quality	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National planning policy relevant to air will still apply.</p> <p>Comments on policy 26 apply.</p>



		effects on sensitive European sites even when the plan does not contain proposals directly adjacent to these sites.	
Policy 37 Regional Priorities for Minerals	To maintain an appropriate supply of minerals and identify and mitigate any likely adverse impact on habitats.	The sustainability appraisal indicates that development is planned in a large number of areas that contain mineral reserves, and in close proximity to best and most versatile land, where it may encroach on such land.	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means 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 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.</p>

			This includes receiving technical advice from Aggregate Working Parties, whose members include officers from mineral planning authorities and the minerals industry
Policy 38 Regional Priorities for Waste Management	Sets out a framework for waste management for each of the region sub-areas.	<p>Key waste issues identified in the sustainability appraisal are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landfill: Urgent alternative options to landfill are required (landfill facilities will run out within the next eight years).</li> <li>• Commercial and Industrial Waste: This makes up nearly half of the controlled waste produced in the region, which is a significant problem in terms of disposal.</li> <li>• Additional Waste: The designation of the Milton Keynes/South Midlands Growth Area and increased housing generally in the region will further increase the amount of waste produced by the region.</li> </ul>	<p>The policy objective could 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 Environment Agency and other waste planning authorities will continue to assist in this process.</p>

<p>Policy 39 Regional Priorities for Energy Reduction and Efficiency</p>	<p>To reduce energy use through the location of development, site layout and building design.</p>	<p>Key energy issues identified in the sustainability appraisal include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of sites for renewable electricity generation: The number of sites generating electricity from renewable energy needs to be increased if the region wants to expand its use of renewable sources.</li> <li>• Reliance on coal-fired power: may be at odds with the renewable energy objectives of the relevant plans and programmes.</li> <li>• Energy consumption increases: Energy consumption in the area is predicted to increase by over 15% in the next 15 years, at the same time as national carbon emissions are to be cut by 60% over the next 45 years.</li> </ul>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>National planning policy requires local authorities through their local plans to assess and set out policies to maximise their area's potential for accommodating renewable and low-carbon technologies. National planning policy expects local authorities to actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings and the delivery of low carbon and renewable energy.</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>Policy 40 Regional Priorities for Low Carbon Energy Generation</p>	<p>To promote the development of more low carbon energy infrastructure. Requires the establishment of criteria for onshore wind energy which should give particular consideration to, for example, the effect on the natural and cultural environment (including biodiversity, the integrity of designated nature conservation sites of international importance, and historic assets and their settings).</p>		

Policy 41 Regional Priorities for Culture, Sport and Recreation	To develop 'cultural infrastructure plans' to inform Local Development Frameworks.	Need to manage the adverse impacts that high visitor numbers can place on infrastructure and the natural environment, particularly in the Peak District National Park and surrounding areas.	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  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 address more spatial/strategic issues locally, working with neighbouring authorities and other bodies as needed, supported by the proposed duty to cooperate.
Policy 42 Regional Priorities for Tourism	To identify areas of potential for tourism growth which maximise economic benefit whilst minimising adverse impacts on the environment and local amenity.		
<b>Regional transport strategy</b>			
Policy 43 Regional Transport Objectives	Sets out key objectives for the development of transport infrastructure and services in the region.	The objectives identified in policies 43 and 44 are intended to respond to the key transport and accessibility issues for the East Midlands. The sustainability appraisal identified these issues as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant increases in motor vehicle traffic including heavy goods vehicles. Congestion is a problem on the major north-south routes.</li></ul>	The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  The Local Transport White Paper (published 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
Policy 44 Sub-regional Transport Objectives	Provides transport policies for each of the five sub-regions		
Policy 45 Regional	To achieve a progressive reduction in		

Approach to Traffic Growth Reduction	the rate of traffic growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor rail infrastructure, particularly along east-west routes.</li> <li>• Poor east-west links further isolate communities in the more rural east of the region.</li> </ul>	<p>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>
Policy 46 A Regional Approach to Behavioural Change	To encourage a reduction in travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Midlands Airport is of significant economic importance but also poses environmental concerns likely to contribute to the effects of climate change.</li> </ul> <p>Key concerns identified by the sustainability appraisal are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road and air-based schemes are highly likely to have a continuing negative effect on the environment, despite policy safeguards in Plan;</li> <li>• Although the Plan introduces policies that encourage walking, cycling and a reduction in private car use, these are not as positive as they could be in delivering air quality benefits.</li> <li>• The impacts of transport development may adversely affect the landscape and historic and natural environment of the region;</li> <li>• Increasing traffic, road improvements and new transport infrastructure can introduce noise</li> </ul>	<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.</p> <p>The proposed 'duty to cooperate' should assist in ensuring that local authorities work in partnership with relevant public authorities to improve the quality and provision of public transport services, working together to deliver the most efficient management, operation and improvement required by the East Midlands transport networks, and across boundaries where appropriate on strategic transport</p>

		and light pollution into otherwise rural landscapes.	issues, including for integrated networks for walking and cycling.
Policy 47 Regional Priorities for Parking Levies and Road User Charging	To reduce car usage.		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  This will be a matter for local authorities to consider in consultation with their communities and business partners. The legal powers available under transport legislation are not affected by the revocation of the Plan.
Policy 48 Regional Car Parking Standards	Local planning authorities should apply the maximum amounts of vehicle parking for new development as set out in PPG13.		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  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.
Policy 49 A Regional Approach to Improving Public Transport Accessibility	Seeks to promote improvements in public transport accessibility		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments for policy 43 apply.  The Transport Act 2000 makes the

			<p>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 and provision of public transport services.</p>
<p>Policy 50 Regional Heavy Rail Priorities</p>	<p>Collaborative working required to achieve improvements in rail passenger services.</p>		<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policy 43 apply.</p> <p>Local authorities can continue to work with other bodies, including network rail, train operators and community rail partnerships to improve rail passenger services.</p>
<p>Policy 51 Regional Priorities for Bus and Light Rail Services</p>	<p>Collaborative working required to increase the level of bus and light rail use.</p>		<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policies 43 and 49 apply.</p>

Policy 52 Regional Priorities for Integrating Public Transport	Collaborative working required to promote a more integrated approach to public transport.		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Comments on policies 43 and 49 apply.
Policy 53 Regional Trunk Road Priorities	Highways Agency working closely with regional bodies, transport authorities and local planning authorities should work to identify and implement trunk road investment policies etc.		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Revocation of the Plan does not change the Highways Agency's responsibilities.
Policy 54 Regional Major Highway Priorities	Local Transport Authorities, working closely with local planning authorities and national and regional bodies should, for example, work to identify and implement trunk road investment policies		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  Revocation of the Plan does not change the responsibilities of local transport authorities for the road network.
Policy 55 Implementation of the Regional Freight Strategy	Collaborative working to implement the Regional Freight Strategy		The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.  The Plan has limited influence over



			<p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Comments on policy 43 apply.</p>
Policy 56 Regional Priorities for Air Transport	Sets out policies which local plans in the Three Cities sub-area should contain relating to East Midlands Airport and support for the existing roles of smaller airports/aerodromes where this is consistent with local amenity.	The sustainability appraisal identified that expanding the East Midlands Airport is likely to have significant implications for energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Major transport infrastructure projects, such as major airport expansion, will be guided by national policy statements and most likely subject to environmental impact assessment and assessment under the Habitats Regulations. Any proposed revision of boundaries for airport expansion should be set out</p>

			in local plans. Any potential significant effects on the environment resulting from airport expansion should be identified by local authorities through the strategic environmental assessment of their local plans.
<b>Implementation and monitoring</b>			
Policy 57 Regional Priorities for Implementation, Monitoring and Review	Local authorities should work with developers, statutory agencies and other local stakeholders to produce delivery plans outlining the infrastructure requirements needed to secure the implementation of Local Development Documents.		
Sub-regional strategies			
Milton Keynes and South Midlands			

<p>Policy MKSM SRS 1-4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The spatial framework</li> <li>• Implementation area</li> <li>• Northampton central area</li> <li>• Corby, Kettering and Wellingbough</li> </ul>	<p>Sets out housing figures for the sub-region.</p> <p>Local authorities in the sub-region to work with other relevant bodies, to prepare a long-term framework for the sub-area, including making appropriate provision for green infrastructure, and enhancing important existing environmental assets such as Rockingham Forest and promote the provision of Green Infrastructure such as the Nene Valley Regional Park.</p>	<p>The sustainability appraisal noted that designation of the Milton Keynes/ South Midlands Growth Area and increased housing generally in the region will further increase the amount of waste produced by the region.</p>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments for policies 1-3 and 13a apply.</p>
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<b>Three Cities</b>			
<p>Policy Three Cities SRS 1-5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of principal urban areas</li> <li>• Sub-regional priorities for Green Belt areas</li> <li>• Housing provision</li> <li>• Employment land</li> <li>• Green infrastructure and national forest</li> </ul>	<p>Policy SRS1 identifies the key Principal Urban Areas in each of the three cities. Policy SRS2 requires the review of parts of the Green Belts with the Nottingham Core Housing Market Area and Hucknall.</p> <p>Policy SRS3 sets out housing figures for the various areas.</p> <p>Policy SRS4 sets out objectives to inform the allocation of employment land.</p> <p>Policy SRS5 requires local authorities to work collaboratively with others to coordinate the provision of enhanced and new Green Infrastructure.</p>	<p>The sustainability appraisal noted concerns over</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the capacity of sewage treatment works to accommodate further development without adverse effects on water quality; and</li> <li>• flood risk, particularly significant in the River Trent floodplain</li> </ul>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policies 1-3 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>

<b>Northern</b>			
<p>Policy Northern SRS 1 – 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-Regional development priorities;</li> <li>• Supporting the roles of Town and Village Centres;</li> <li>• Sub-Regional Employment Regeneration Priorities;</li> <li>• Enhancing Green Infrastructure Through Development;</li> <li>• Sherwood Forest Regional Park</li> </ul>	<p>Policy SRS1 identifies main areas where growth will be directed.</p> <p>Policies SRS2 sets out the town centre hierarchy for the sub-area.</p> <p>Policy SRS3 sets out principles to assist regeneration in certain parts of the sub-area.</p> <p>Policy SRS4 requires local authorities to give consideration to the provision of green infrastructure. For example, through policy SRS5. This requires local authorities and other agencies to work to promote the creation of a Sherwood Forest Regional Park.</p>	<p>The sustainability appraisal identified the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns over the capacity of sewage treatment works to accommodate further development without adverse effects on water quality, especially in the Northern sub-area;</li> <li>• Housing provision issues in the Northern sub-areas due to poor quality housing and transport problems;</li> <li>• Need to conserve the distinctive relationships between physical character/biodiversity/cultural heritage/historic assets in the Sherwood Forest; and</li> <li>• Need to address concentrations of deprivation and economic disadvantage in the coalfields area.</li> </ul>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policies 1-3 apply.</p> <p>On policy SRS4 comments on policy 28 apply.</p> <p>On policy SRS5 comments on policies 26 and 28 apply.</p>

<b>Lincoln</b>			
<p>Policy Lincoln Policy Area SRS 1-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial priorities for the Lincoln policy area</li> <li>• Site selection in the Lincoln policy area - Protection of Lincoln's urban fringe</li> <li>• Housing provision</li> <li>• Employment density</li> <li>• Tourism culture and education</li> <li>• Deprivation and exclusion</li> <li>• Flood risk and water management</li> <li>• Sub-Regional Country Park</li> </ul>	<p>These policies set out the spatial priorities for the Lincoln area. In making provision for housing and growth, sub-area policies should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure the protection of Lincoln's urban fringe through the designation of Green Wedges;</li> <li>• promote the role of Lincoln as a centre for tourist, cultural and educational development;</li> <li>• seek the development of more sustainable communities;</li> <li>• work collaboratively to adopt a strategic approach to sustainable water and flood risk management;</li> <li>• promote the development of a Sub-</li> </ul>	<p>The sustainability appraisal identified the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns over whether additional growth will increase pressure on Lincolnshire's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These are currently being threatened by development in the form of agricultural intensification, residential development, and recreation;</li> <li>• Availability of water resources, particularly in the Lincolnshire Fens water resource zones. The sub-area is already suffering seasonal water shortages, and there is little potential for additional supplies from surface water;</li> <li>• Concerns over the capacity of historic settlements to accommodate further development, especially Lincoln;</li> <li>• Flooding issues. The Lincolnshire Coastal Study addresses coastal flooding issues and puts forward a set of principles and options for spatial development in the East Midlands.</li> </ul>	<p>The policy objective could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.</p> <p>Comments on policies 1-3, 26, 28, 32, 35 and 43 apply.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lincoln Cathedral</li><li>• Sub-Regional Transport Policies</li></ul>	Regional Country Park; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• prohibit development which would adversely affect the Cathedral.</li></ul>		
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## Annex B

### Saved structure plan policies

County level structure plans were abolished under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, but the policies in them remained in force until the new regional spatial strategies were published. In 2007 the Government wrote to local authorities to advise them which policies would be saved after 27 September 2007. Some of these policies remain in force as they have not been replaced by policies in either in regional spatial strategies or development plan documents. This annex lists the only saved structure plan policy in the East Midlands which remains relevant and considers the environmental implications of its revocation.

Policy	Policy has been implemented or expired	Generic policy	Applicable national policy in place	Superseded by local plan policy	Still relevant – environmental implications of revocation
Policy SDA1 Northamptonshire Structure Plan				<b>In part</b> The policy has in part been superseded by the adopted North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (2006), which includes urban extensions within Kettering Borough and the Borough of Wellingborough.	Although this policy supports urban extensions in specific locations, there is no reason why employment, housing, community facilities, industrial and commercial development etc. could not be delivered through local plans and master planning.  The 'duty to co-operate', as



					<p>proposed in the Localism Bill will ensure that local authorities continue to work together on cross boundary strategic issues where they need to do so. And can continue to share best practice and consider the impact of an urban extension in one area on another area.</p> <p>However, the pre-submission consultation on the Joint Core Strategy for West Northamptonshire did include the urban extensions within Daventry and Towcester. The remaining part of the structure plan policy will shortly be superseded.</p>
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## **Policy SDA1** Northamptonshire Structure Plan

Provision will be made for mixed-use urban extensions, termed strategic development areas. These are:

- Daventry (in Daventry District);
- Desborough/Rothwell (in Kettering Borough);
- Towcester (in South Northamptonshire District); and
- East of Wellingborough (in the Borough of Wellingborough)

Development within these areas will:

- Be adjacent to and integrated with the existing urban areas;
- Be large enough to support a wide range of facilities and services, based on a minimum size of 1,000 dwellings and about 20 hectares of industrial and commercial development;
- Provide a broad balance and range of housing and employment;
- Incorporate a local centre with attractive civic spaces, a community centre, local employment, shops and retail services including a small supermarket, and other facilities;
- Include schools, nurseries, local open spaces and children's play areas; and
- Include local waste management facilities.

Transport choice will be a key feature of these areas. Various measures will be incorporated to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport and reduce dependency on the private car. These measures will include:

- Priority routes for public transport and a network of interchanges serving these routes;
- Locating development in easy walking distance of public transport interchanges;
- A network of safe and convenient pedestrian and cycle routes, segregated where necessary; and
- 20 mph home and local centre zones.

The boundaries of these areas will be drawn to include areas of countryside, equivalent to about one third of the development area, within and around the area proposed for built development to provide for:

- Large-scale advanced landscaping;
- The conservation, and where possible enhancement, of important environmental assets and natural resources;
- Flood prevention measures, and where possible a reduction in existing levels of flood risk; and
- Formal and informal recreation areas (such as playing fields, green corridors and country parks).

The precise location, layout and form of development will be established in local plans.

## Annex C

### East Midlands: 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 the East Midlands, if the regional strategy and saved structure plan policies were revoked.

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

Derby & Derbyshire Local Plan (2005) – Waste - Saved Local Plan Policies
Derby & Derbyshire Local Plan (2000, alterations 2002) – Minerals - Saved Local Plan Policies
Leicestershire Minerals Local Plan Review (1995)
Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework Core Strategy & Development Control Policies (October 2009)
Leicestershire Minerals Local Plan - 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.)
Leicestershire & Leicester Waste Development Framework: Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (October 2009)
Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Waste Local Plan (2002) - Saved Local Plan Policies (Until all elements of the Local Development Framework is adopted some of the policies 'saved' from the Local Plans by the Secretary of State remain in use (extant) for determining applications.)
Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan (1991) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy (May 2010) (Site specific elements adopted March 2011)

Nottingham Waste Local Plan (2002) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Leicestershire Minerals Local Plan Review (1995) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Nottinghamshire & Nottingham Waste Local Plan (2002) – Saved Local Plan Policies
Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan ( 2005) - Saved Local Plan Policies

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

Amber Valley Local Plan (2006) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Bolsover Local Plan (2000) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Derby Local Plan (2006) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Derby and Derbyshire joint plan (2001) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Derbyshire Dales Local Plan (2005) – Saved Local Plan Policies
Erewash Local Plan (2005) - Saved Local Plan Policies
High Peak Local Plan (2005) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Peak District National Park Local Plan (2001) - Saved Local Plan Policies
South Derbyshire Local Plan (1998) -Saved Local Plan Policies
Blaby Local Plan (1999) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Charnwood Local Plan (2004) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Harborough Local Plan (2001) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy (December 2009)
Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan (March 2011)
Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan (2001) - 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.)
Leicester City Core Strategy (November 2010)
Leicester Local Plan (2006) - 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.)
Melton Local Plan (1999) - Saved Local Plan Policies
North West Leicestershire District Council Local Plan (2003, with alterations) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy (September 2010)
Oadby & Wigston District Council (1999) - 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.)
Boston Borough Local Plan (1999) - Saved Local Plan Policies
East Lindsey Local Plan (1995, alterations 1999) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Lincoln City Local Plan (1998) - Council Saved Local Plan Policies
South Holland Local Plan (2006) - District Council Saved Local Plan Policies
South Kesteven Core Strategy (July 2010)
South Kesteven Local Plan (1995) - 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.)
West Lindsey Local Plan (2006) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Corby Local Plan (1997) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Daventry Local Plan (1997) - Saved Local Plan Policies
East Northamptonshire Local Plan (1996) - Saved Local Plan Policies

Kettering Local Plan (1995) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Northampton Local Plan (1997) - Saved Local Plan Policies
South Northamptonshire Local Plan (1997) Saved Local Plan Policies
Wellingborough Local Plan (1999, alterations 2004) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Wellingborough Town Centre Area Action Plan (July 2009)
Ashfield Local Plan (2002) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Broxtowe Local Plan (2004) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Gedling Local Plan (2005) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Mansfield Local Plan (1998) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Newark and Sherwood Local Plan (1999) - Core Strategy (March 2011)
Newark & Sherwood Local Plan (1999) - 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.)
Nottingham Local Plan (2005) - Saved Local Plan Policies
Rushcliffe Local Plan (1996) – Saved Local Plan Policies
Rutland Core Strategy (July 2011)
North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (June 2008)
The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (July 2009)