



## Environmental report on the revocation of the South East Plan

Department for Communities and Local Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London  
SW1E 5DU  
Telephone: 030 3444 0000  
Website: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

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

Environmental Assessment Team  
Department of Communities and Local Government  
Zone 1/J6, Eland House, Bressenden Place  
London, SW1E 5DU  
Tel: 0303 444 1697

# **Environmental Report on revocation of the South East Plan**

## **Non-technical summary**

This is a summary of the Environmental Report on the proposed revocation of the South East Plan (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 South East 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 under 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 South East 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 South East has changed significantly since publication of the Plan.

The South East has strong links with London, but also with numerous large urban centres, smaller towns and villages creating a dispersed settlement pattern. It is characterised by diverse landscapes and historic urban and rural environments and heritage.

The environmental conditions of strategic significance at the time the Plan was in preparation included:

- Water resources throughout much of the South East;
- Water quality in the Solent area, and possibly elsewhere due to constraints on wastewater treatment;
- Air quality near roads and airports;
- Increased flooding due to climate change.

## Environmental protection objectives

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

## Likely significant effects on the environment

The revocation of the Plan would decentralise planning powers to local authorities, freeing them to work with their local communities to deliver sustainable development. To support them in both delivering for their local communities and addressing strategic cross-border issues, the Government is proposing a duty on public bodies to co-operate on planning concerns that cross administrative boundaries. Local authorities will be expected to work collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and clearly reflected in individual local plans. They will be expected to demonstrate that this is the case when their local plans are examined in public.

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

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

highly unlikely that there would be any significant adverse environmental effects resulting from the revocation.

## Methods used and difficulties encountered in assessment

This assessment has been carried out 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 Plan which might be expected to lead to significant environmental effects.

## Monitoring

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

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

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

## Policy context

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

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

## Background to regional strategies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

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

## The strategic environmental assessment process

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

## Methodology for assessment of revocations

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

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

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

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

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

## Limitations of the assessments

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

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

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

## Assessment of reasonable alternatives

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

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

revocation has been included in the overall assessment of the revocation of the South East 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 South East Plan

- 2.1 The regional strategy under consideration for revocation is the South East Plan, (the 'Plan') published by the then Secretary of State in 2009. It can be viewed at:  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://www.gos.gov.uk/gose/planning/regionalPlanning/815640/>

### Chronology of preparation of the South East Plan

- 2.2 The Plan superseded the initial regional spatial strategy which comprised the former regional planning guidance for the South East (known as RPG9), together with its subsequently amended chapters comprising:
- Chapter 9: Regional Transport Strategy
  - Chapter 10 (part): Energy Efficiency
  - Chapter 10 (part): Waste
  - Chapter 11: Minerals
  - Chapter 12: Ashford Growth Area
  - Chapter 14: Tourism and Related Sport and Recreation
  - Milton Keynes & South Midlands Sub-Regional Growth Strategy
- 2.3 A summary of the Plan preparation process is provided in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: South East Plan preparation**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Sustainability Appraisal</b>	<b>Habitats assessments</b>
2003-2006	Draft Regional Spatial Strategy prepared by the South East England Regional Assembly	Sustainability Appraisal of Draft Regional Spatial Strategy	
March 2006	Publication of Draft Regional Spatial Strategy	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal of Draft Regional Spatial Strategy	

May-Oct 2006			Habitats Regulation Assessment/ Appropriate Assessment of Draft Regional Spatial Strategy
Nov 2006 – March 2007	Examination in Public		
August 2007	Publication of Panel Report		
Sept 2007 – July 2008	Proposed Changes prepared by the Government Office for the South East	Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment/ Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Changes	
July 2008	Publication of Proposed Changes	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment/ Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Changes	
July – Oct 2008	Consultation on Proposed Changes and the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment/ Appropriate Assessment report		
Nov 2008 – April 2009	Final Revisions and Final South East Plan prepared by Government Office for the South East	Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment/ Appropriate Assessment of Final Revisions and Final South East Plan	
May 2009	Publication of Final South East Plan	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment/ Appropriate Assessment of Final Revisions and Final South East Plan	

2.4 The Plan was issued by the Secretary of State in May 2009. A number of legal challenges were received. One was conceded (relating to bullet point (i) of Policy H2 which was deleted from the Plan). None of the remaining legal challenges reached the Courts, as they were withdrawn because of the change in administration in May 2010.

## Chapter 3

# Environmental Report

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

## The South East

- 3.2 The South East stretches around London, from Thanet in the south-east to the New Forest in the south-west and to Aylesbury Vale and Milton Keynes in the north-west, comprising Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex, Hampshire, Surrey, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.
- 3.3 It is affluent: gross disposable household income in the South East in 2006 was higher than that of any other region. There is a strong research presence, and a strong service sector based economy with better paid and higher skilled jobs. The South East has historically had the highest employment rate in the UK and the lowest unemployment rate.
- 3.4 The South East has a comparatively low percentage of people with limiting long term illness. However, apart from London, the South East also has the widest range of social deprivation and economic disparities. Over 400,000 people were classed as deprived (the worst 20 per cent of the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation) in the South East<sup>8</sup>.
- 3.5 80 per cent of the South East is 'rural'<sup>9</sup> and it is home to almost a third of all England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in turn covering a third of the South East. It contains the New Forest National Park and South Downs National Park. 16 per cent of its area is designated as Green Belt<sup>10</sup>, and the South East contains 40 per cent of the nation's ancient woodland<sup>11</sup>. South East residents have an ecological footprint

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<sup>8</sup> The profile of the South East, SEEDA, February 2005

<sup>9</sup> ONS classification derived from Census 2001 data

<sup>10</sup> DEFRA, 2007

<sup>11</sup> Environment Agency, South East State of the Environment Report, 2007

17 per cent above the national average<sup>12</sup>. Per capita production of pollutants, greenhouse gases and CO<sub>2</sub> is higher than in other parts of England as is per capita water consumption.

- 3.6 The South East and London are strongly inter-linked. There are large commuter flows, with substantial South East residents travelling to London each day with significant numbers of Londoners travelling outwards to jobs in the South East. The South East also has a number of nationally significant centres such as Reading and Oxford that generate their own wealth and jobs and in turn their own commuting flows.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Annex I (a)

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

- 3.7 The Plan provides a broad framework for development and investment in the South East over the years 2006-2026. In accordance with the then Government's policy set out in the applicable national planning policy, it sets out the intended strategic planning context for decision-makers in the South East of England and includes spatial policies for:
- the scale and distribution of new housing;
  - priorities for new infrastructure and economic development;
  - the strategy for protecting countryside, biodiversity and the built and historic environment;
  - tackling climate change and safeguarding natural resources, for example water and minerals.
- 3.8 The Plan also provides a spatial policy framework for nine sub-regions: South Hampshire, Sussex Coast, East Kent and Ashford, Kent Thames Gateway, London Fringe, Western Corridor and Blackwater Valley, Central Oxfordshire, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury Vale, and Gatwick Area.
- 3.9 The Plan reflects national policies on development at the time of its publication. It incorporates the Regional Transport Strategy, and also takes account of the Regional Economic Strategy produced by the South East England Development Agency and the Regional Sustainable Development Framework.

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<sup>12</sup> SEERA – The South East Regional Sustainability Framework, June 2008

3.10 The Plan was developed to help deliver the following vision for the South East, as set out in the Regional Sustainability Framework: “A socially and economically strong, healthy and just South East that respects the limits of the global environment. Achieving this will require the active involvement of all individuals to deliver a society where everyone, including the most deprived, benefits from and contributes to a better quality of life. At the same time the impact of current high levels of resource use will be reduced and the quality of the environment will be maintained and enhanced.”

3.11 The Plan’s core objectives are as follows:

- a sustainable balance between planning for economic, environmental and social benefits will be sought, to help improve quality of life for everyone in the South East;
- economic growth and competitiveness in the region will be sustained, with Gross Value Added (GVA) in the region increased by 3 per cent per annum over the period 2006-2016;
- new initiatives to tackle skills deficits will be promoted;
- a closer alignment between jobs and homes growth will be pursued;
- economic and social disparities within the region will be reduced;
- a sufficient level of housing development will be delivered;
- a substantial increase in the supply of affordable housing will be pursued, through a package of measures to deliver this goal;
- adequate infrastructure will be provided in a way that keeps pace with development;
- key transport links will be improved, providing access for all, especially disadvantaged groups;
- health provision and access will be improved;
- spatial planning in the region will take into account the needs of an ageing population and its implications;
- crime and the fear of crime will be reduced;
- better natural resource management and efficiency will be pursued, leading to reductions in the consumption of water and energy and the production of waste;

- new development will be delivered in a manner which mitigates the effects of, and adapts to, climate change;
- the best of the region's historic, built and natural environment will be protected and where possible enhanced, both for its own sake and to underpin the social and economic development of the region;
- new development will be of high quality sustainable design and construction, and be an asset to the region.

3.12 The following plans, programmes and other strategic documents were identified as relevant to the sustainability appraisal of the draft Plan:

International and European:

- Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)
- Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)
- Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)
- EU Sixth Environmental Action Programme
- EU Strategy for Sustainable Development
- European Strategy for South East England 2001-2006 (2001)
- Waste to Landfill Directive (99/31/EEC)
- Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC)
- Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
- Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)

National (UK or England):

- *Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005*
- *Our Towns and Cities: the Future* (the urban white paper, 1999)
- *Quality and Choice: a decent home for all* (the housing green paper, 2003)

- Energy white paper
- Transport white paper 2004
- The Communities Plan 2003
- Rural Strategy 2004
- *Working with the Grain of Nature: a Biodiversity Strategy for England* (2002)
- Waste Strategy 2000

South East:

- Harnessing the Elements – Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: Proposed Alterations to RPG9
- From Crises to Cutting Edge - Draft Regional Transport Strategy: Proposed Alterations to RPG9
- Regional Minerals Strategy: Proposed Alterations to RPG9
- No Time to Waste – Regional Waste Management Strategy: Proposed Alterations to RPG9
- The Regional Spatial Planning Strategy for Tourism: Proposed Alterations to Regional Planning Guidance, South East (RPG9)
- The Milton Keynes & South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy (2005)
- England Rural Development Programme 2000-2006, Appendix A7 South East Region
- Infrastructure in the South East 2005
- South East Regional Housing Strategy
- Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change: Summary of the South East Climate Threats and Opportunities Research Study
- Action for Biodiversity in South East England
- Water Resources for the Future – A Strategy for Southern Region / A Strategy for Thames Region
- Health Priorities for the South East (South East Public Health Observatory)

- Farming and Food: Our Healthy Future: Delivery plan for sustainable farming and food in the South East and London
  - Integrated Regional Framework 2004: A Better Quality of Life in the South
  - A Regional Forestry framework for the South East Region
  - Valuing Culture in South East (August 2005)
  - The Cultural Cornerstone Regional Cultural Strategy
  - Heritage Counts, South East, 2005. English Heritage
  - Joining Forces – An Integrated Framework for Business Support in the South East (2005)
- 3.13 Neighbouring strategies include the regional strategy for the East of England, South West, East Midlands, which are also under consideration for revocation, and the London Plan which will remain in place. The policies for the Milton Keynes and Aylesbury Vale sub-region relate to the wider growth area which also covers parts of the East of England and East Midlands regions.

#### **STRUCTURE PLANS**

- 3.14 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 their revocation has been included in the overall assessment of the revocation of the Plan.
- 3.15 Only three structure plan policies were saved in the South East, all from the Oxfordshire Structure Plan. Details are set out in Annex B.

#### **LOCAL PLANS**

- 3.16 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.

- 3.17 On revocation of the regional strategy (and any saved structure plan policies) the statutory development plan would comprise any saved local plan policies and adopted development plan documents. The statutory development plan may in future include any neighbourhood plans that are prepared under the powers being brought forward by the Localism Bill. Revocation does not affect the statutory duty on local authorities to keep under review the matters which may be expected to affect the development of their area or the planning of its development.
- 3.18 A list of local plans in the South East and their 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 South East region and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the Plan**

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

- 3.19 An assessment of the baseline environmental situation and its likely evolution without the Plan (i.e. with continuation of the policies in the Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9)) was set out in the 2009 sustainability appraisal report. This and the earlier sustainability appraisal of the draft Plan provide comprehensive coverage of the then environmental characteristics of the region. These can be viewed at:
- [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/key/sustainability/Sustainability\\_Appraisal\\_Report.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/key/sustainability/Sustainability_Appraisal_Report.pdf)
- [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://www.gos.gov.uk/497648/docs/171301/815607/fSA\\_and\\_HRA\\_Assessment.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://www.gos.gov.uk/497648/docs/171301/815607/fSA_and_HRA_Assessment.pdf)
- 3.20 The key points from the 2009 baseline assessment are summarised in Table 2 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 it is considered unlikely that the

overall state of the environment in the South East has changed significantly since publication of the Plan.

**Table 2: Summary of key points of baseline assessment from 2009 sustainability report**

<b>State of the environment</b>
<b>Air quality and causes of climate change</b> Air pollution problems, particularly near some major roads; existing CO2 emissions 60% above 2050 target.
<b>Biodiversity and open space</b> Significant past declines. Some aspects currently declining, others improving.
<b>Community wellbeing and health</b> The region's population is aging with over 65s expected to exceed those under 16. Clustering of over 65's occurs on the coast, but expected to lessen and spread throughout the South East. Has the highest healthy life expectancy, health levels above the national average and health has improved. However, pockets of high deprivation exist. Also pockets of high levels of crime and there is fear of crime.
<b>Flood risk</b> Roughly 300,000 homes in the region are already at risk of flooding.
<b>Land use landscape and the historic environment</b> Three-quarters of new housing built on previously developed land, though to a slightly lower density than the English average. The South East makes a significant contribution to England's stock of ancient woodland, includes areas of outstanding natural beauty, two national parks and the London (part) and Oxford Green Belts. Has a rich historic environment with more registered historic parks and gardens than other parts of England, and more conservation areas. Housing developments in nature conservation areas, areas of outstanding natural beauty and national parks have increased.
<b>Transport and accessibility</b> Over 80% of all the distance travelled in the South East is by car, and over 70% of residents travel to work by car. Residents of the South East are the least likely to use the bus. Average daily motor vehicle flows second only to those in London. Road network under stress in many locations and congestion acting as a brake on new development.
<b>Water quality</b> Water quality has improved over time. There are problems in the Solent area.
<b>Water resources</b> Water consumption an issue in some parts of the South East but within environmental limits overall.

# 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**

- 3.21 Drawing from the information provided by the assessments supporting the Plan, the environmental concerns of strategic significance and possible relevance to revocation of the Plan are considered to be:

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

- Carbon dioxide emissions would have to be reduced to reflect national ambitions on climate change.
- Climate change could give rise to more frequent and severe floods, droughts and heat stress requiring adaptation to these impacts taking account of a long-term view and specific vulnerable areas and population groups such as the elderly.
- Increasing demand for travel affecting gains from modal shift and improvements in technology.

## **ENERGY**

- Changes in behaviour if reductions in energy consumption are to be achieved (but these can only in part be facilitated by planning).
- Significant scope for the development of additional low-carbon and renewable energy sources, but barriers to delivery.

## **FLOODING AND WATER MANAGEMENT**

- Flooding (fluvial, coastal, surface and sewer/drainage) could increase as a result of climate change. This will need to influence the future scale and pattern of development and adaptation strategies.
- Water to be extracted and treated in ways that protect the environment (including the capacity of the receiving waters) and meet tightening quality standards.
- The demands of the current population and future growth to put pressure on water supply and demands for sustainable consumption, in particular in the light of risk of drought due to climate change.

## **BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE**

- Environmental designations may limit the ability of some areas to accommodate additional growth. Significant future growth in some locations could risk compromising landscape and townscape. Green infrastructure could play a key role in the enhancement of the natural environment.
- Biodiversity is declining outside protected areas. Need to expand and improve habitats to meet national targets, mitigate effects of development and to ensure ecological viability into the future including providing for resilience to climate change.

## **AIR QUALITY**

- Increasing demand for travel and longer journeys could mean that air pollution likely to remain a challenge. Poor air quality affects human health as well as important wildlife.

## **WASTE AND MINERALS**

- Risk of inadequate waste disposal and management capacity.
- Extraction of primary land-won aggregates likely to continue but at a slower rate than in the past due to changing construction techniques and substitution with recycled/secondary and marine dredged aggregates.

## **POPULATION, HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE**

- South East has had one of highest employment rates in the country but is not immune to job losses.
- The proportion of elderly people in the population is forecast to increase.
- Pockets of deprivation and inequalities persist.
- Child obesity and alcohol-related hospital stays of concern, and people's lifestyle can be a significant barrier to health improvement.
- Projections indicate an increase in the number of households. The scale of the overall increase is uncertain, but there are expected to be more one-person households resulting in a lower average household size.

## **TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY**

- Growing number and length of vehicle trips on the road network with challenges for modal shift to sustainable transport.
- Availability of public transport provision and accessibility to community facilities is a concern in some rural areas.

## 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. This draws from the more detailed assessment of policies set out at Annex A. The Table is set out by reference to the issues listed in Annex 1(f), with the exception of material assets. This has been considered where relevant as part of the assessment of the other Annex 1(f) issues rather than being dealt with separately.
- 3.30 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 South East Plan policies compiled from the sustainability appraisal and likely significant environmental effects of revocation**

<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment topic</b>	<b>Implications of Plan Policies</b>	<b>Likely significant environmental effects of revocation</b>
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	<p>Policies on the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, including non-designated sites and green infrastructure would have positive effects. These include NRM5 which promotes the conservation and improvement (net gain) of biodiversity across the region and specific measures (NRM6) to protect the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area from new residential development. CC8 seeks to promote the development of green infrastructure, including for the benefit of biodiversity.</p> <p>Other policies protect and/or enhance the water and coastal environment (including Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites); ancient and other woodlands; and seek to prevent or mitigate adverse effects on biodiversity from pollution and disturbance.</p> <p>However, the sustainability appraisal noted at best the Plan would probably only maintain current levels of biodiversity due to population growth and development and biodiversity is still likely to be affected by land take, increased disturbance, impact on water levels etc.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on biodiversity, flora or 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 local biodiversity action plans, in cooperation with Natural</p>

Strategic Environmental Assessment topic	Implications of Plan Policies	Likely significant environmental effects of revocation
		<p>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. Local 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 are expected from a range of policies including employment, housing, transport, community safety and crime, social capital, skills, etc. The overall direction was expected to be a widening gap between housing provision in the Plan and the level of need. The social aspects of the cumulative shortfall in housing thought to be significant. The Plan only has a limited influence on improving community well-being.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on population.</b></p> <p>There is no reason why positive effects cannot ensue through a combination of local authority intervention, third sector action and responses from the market outside the Plan's scope.</p> <p>It will be for local authorities, working collaboratively with their local communities, neighbouring</p>

Strategic Environmental Assessment topic	Implications of Plan Policies	Likely significant environmental effects of revocation
		<p>authorities and local enterprise partnerships to determine the development and infrastructure needs of their areas. The proposed duty to co-operate will assist with this.</p> <p>National policy expects local authorities planning for housing to reflect the needs of their communities, including for affordable housing. It will be for local authorities 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>The Government's economic white paper (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>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	Policies assessed as generally positive, particularly green infrastructure, countryside accessibility, sports and recreation and infrastructure provision. Some potential adverse effects on health from increased air pollution through growth in housing and traffic, though NRM9 on air quality seeks to counter these. No other adverse effects specifically identified however, the Plan only has a limited affect as most aspects determined by other factors	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects 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 policy relevant to health and well-being, which underpins the concept of sustainable development, should be reflected in local plan policies for local communities and be carried forward by local authorities, other relevant bodies and communities as best fits the local area. 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>
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Soil	Promotion of measures to protect soil resources as part of policy (NRM5) on biodiversity. Waste plans to include policies for the treatment and remediation of contaminated soils. Support for positive land management, including of farmland. No specific adverse effects identified but new development has implications for land take.	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on soil.</b></p> <p>Soil impacts are locally specific and appropriately considered at the local level. The revocation of the Plan should not have an effect on local authorities' capacity and responsibilities to deal with contaminated land including securing remediation as part of the redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated land. For development on agricultural land, local authorities should continue to have regard to 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. Local plans are subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments which includes an assessment of the effects on soil.</p>
Water	Water policies likely to have a positive influence impact on water resources and quality. Housing growth would increase demand for water supply. Wastewater treatment capacity could come under stress, depending on location of housing and growth. Areas of high flood risk, especially in the London Fringe, Milton Keynes, Kent Thames Gateway and Shoreham Harbour.	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects 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</p>

		<p>and working together to identify, characterise, plan and manage the water environment taking into account biodiversity sites of international importance. The proposed duty to cooperate will play a key role in enabling local authorities to proactively and positively address these issues.</p> <p>Statutory requirements under the Water Framework Directive will continue to apply and be implemented principally in accordance with River Basin Management Plans, supported by national planning policy. Local authorities should work co-operatively with other authorities, the Environment Agency and water companies to ensure the spatial planning aspects of River Basin Management Plans are applied.</p> <p>The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 contains provisions for regional working and co-operation such as the establishment of regional flood and coastal committees and the bringing together of lead local flood authorities, who will have a duty to cooperate, to develop local strategies for managing local flood risk. In addition, the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 impose a duty on the Environment Agency and lead local flood authorities to take steps to identify and prepare for significant flood risk.</p> <p>Water Company Water Resource Management Plans set out how water companies aim to ensure</p>
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		<p>there will be sufficient water to meet potable demand without environmental consequences during the plan period. Water companies have therefore already considered future supply and demand in terms of planning water consumption for the region in their existing plans.</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 implications as part of local plan preparation.</p> <p>The location of development will be a critical component of this. River Basin Management Plans 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> <p>Policy NRM4 notes that new development should</p>
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		<p>provide for sustainable drainage and management of flood water including reducing waste and pollution. On revocation, sustainable drainage systems would continue to be encouraged by national policy. In terms of managing pollution into watercourses, point source discharges into a water course require a consent from the Environment Agency, they take into account within the determination process whether proposals are likely to cause deterioration in water quality.</p>
Air	<p>Policy (NRM9) seeking to counter the effect of development and growth on air quality could have positive impact but there could be increased air pollution from new development and associated traffic.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects 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 has taken proper account of relevant air quality matters.</p>

<p>Climate factors, climate change</p>	<p>Climate change policies could have a positive effect on emissions, pollution, resource use and avoiding flood risk but projected housing growth would increase carbon emissions where not mitigated through design and could be increased flooding due to climate change and the location of some new development in areas of flood risk. Overall the Plan has limited direct influence over the key causes of climate change.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on climatic factors, including climate change.</b></p> <p>National planning policy expects local authorities to plan for new development in locations and ways that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and minimise future vulnerability in a changing climate. Local authorities are expected to support the delivery of renewable and low-carbon energy. It is expected that local authorities will continue to work together across administrative boundaries to plan development that properly minimises the impact of the changing climate, particularly from flooding and coastal change. For flooding matters, local authorities already have a duty to cooperate under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010. This contains provisions that cover regional working and co-operation such as the establishment of Regional Flood and Coastal Committees and the bringing together of lead local flood authorities (unitary and county councils), who will have a duty to cooperate, to develop local strategies for managing local flood risk.</p> <p>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</p>
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		<p>hazard maps, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans.</p> <p>In addition local plans are subject to sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessments which include an assessment of the effects on climatic factors including climate change.</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>Specifically, BE6 to protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment. Other policies (e.g. rural towns, tourism) to support, protect and enhance local historic character and heritage. A policy of urban concentration, while generally protecting historic rural landscapes, could place the historic cores of the region's settlements at greater risk. The construction of new homes, new employment sites, and associated infrastructure at planned levels would have a negative impact on the region's landscape and historic environment.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on cultural heritage.</b></p> <p>The most important heritage sites are subject to statutory protection. This is supported by national planning policy on the protection and conservation of the historic environment as a whole, which inform local plans and development management decisions.</p> <p>It is expected that local authorities will continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the heritage and historic environment. The proposed duty to co-operate will assist with this. Local 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</p>

		<p>inform local plans and planning decisions. 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>Policies (specifically, CC1-7) to protect and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of the region’s landscape, including protection of non-designated sites and green infrastructure. But growth at planned levels would increase pressure on greenfields; and inevitably have a negative impact on the landscape and result in further urbanisation. Selective reviews of Green Belt to accommodate growth.</p>	<p><b>Revocation is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on landscape.</b></p> <p>National planning policies provide for countryside protection, including protections for valued landscapes and nationally designated areas (which are also subject to statutory protection). In addition the revocation of top down targets will remove pressure to review Green Belt to accommodate growth. Protecting the Green Belt brings many environmental benefits including safeguarding the countryside and preventing urban sprawl.</p> <p>It is for local authorities to review their Green Belt boundaries, having regard to relevant national policy. Current 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>

## 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 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 South East will no longer be monitored.
- 3.33 Local authorities in the South East 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 effects of revocation

This table sets out the policies of the South East 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.

Policy		Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
<b>Spatial Strategy</b>				
SP1	Sub-regions in the South East	Identifies the sub-regions that will be the focus for growth and regeneration.	A range of potential environmental issues and impacts are raised by the Plan policies for growth. The 2009 sustainability appraisal noted that the final version of the Plan includes mitigation	A high-level policy – detailed policies are set out in the sub-regional section of the Plan (and covered further below in this table). Revocation of the Plan would mean that local authorities in preparing local plans would determine how they best met development and infrastructure

Policy		Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
			measures to address many of the potential adverse environmental impacts – though some remain (see comments below).	needs in their area, working with neighbouring authorities, business partners and their communities, and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill in relation to the planning of sustainable development. Any significant environmental effects should be identified and addressed through sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment of local authority local plans. See also comments below in relation to policies CC1 and RE1-6.
SP2	Regional Hubs	Requires plans to have policies that support the development of regional hubs for the promotion of accessibility and sustainable transport.	See comments for policy SP1.	See comments in relation to policies SP1, CC1 and T1-2.
SP3	Urban focus and urban renaissance	Focuses development in urban areas. Local authorities to formulate policy, e.g. to achieve 60% brown field target.	See comments for policy SP1.	See comments in relation to policies SP1 and CC1. Local authorities will need to determine the priorities and policies appropriate for their communities, addressing local issues, needs and circumstances reflecting expectations in national policy.

<b>Policy</b>		<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Sustainability appraisal issues</b>	<b>Revocation – key environmental issues</b>
SP4	Regeneration and social inclusion	Local authorities and others to align policies and programmes to reduce spatial disparities and socio-economic deprivation.		See comments in relation to policies SP1 and CC1.
SP5	Green Belts	Retention of Green Belt, but proposed 'selective reviews' north east of Guildford, possibly south of Woking, south of Oxford, at the former DERA site at Chertsey, and possibly elsewhere such as around Redhill-Reigate.	Green Belt at risk from housing and other growth, impacts include those on biodiversity.	The revocation of the Plan would remove 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 Policy Framework published in July for consultation maintains strong protection for the Green Belt.
<b>Cross Cutting</b>				
CC1	Sustainable development	To achieve and maintain sustainable development in the region.	The 2009 sustainability appraisal noted that the South East had the highest ecological footprint of all the then government regions and an environment already under stress.	National planning policy underlines planning's important contribution to delivering sustainable development. There is an existing duty on those preparing local authority local plans to do so "with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development" and the Localism Bill includes a proposed duty to

Policy		Objectives	Sustainability appraisal issues	Revocation – key environmental issues
				cooperate in relation to the planning of sustainable development. The policy objectives can therefore be delivered through local plans, as informed by national planning policy, which are subject to sustainability appraisal including strategic environmental assessment.
CC2	Climate change	To mitigate and adapt to climate change implemented through the application of local planning policy and other mechanisms.	Although the Plan sets housing numbers, renewable energy targets and transport policies, it has little direct influence over the key causes of air pollution and climate change.	On the basis that with or without the Plan growth is likely to continue in the region, revocation would be likely to have minimal impact on the causes of climate change. National planning policy on climate change will continue to expect local authorities to plan positively to secure reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and support the delivery of renewable and low-carbon energy.
CC3	Resource use	Where the policies in the plan run the risk of increasing the regions ecological footprint put measures in place to offset and ideally reduce the impact.	See comments for policy CC1.	Local authorities are expected to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in preparing local plans, which includes the prudent use of natural resources. Policy objectives can be delivered through local plans, as informed by national planning policy, which are subject to

<b>Policy</b>		<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Sustainability appraisal issues</b>	<b>Revocation – key environmental issues</b>
				sustainability appraisal including strategic environmental assessment.
CC4	Sustainable design and construction	To adopt and incorporate sustainable construction standards and techniques.	Part of the climate change mitigation strategy.	These objectives can be achieved through local plans informed by national planning policy, and in accordance with the priorities identified by local authorities.
CC5	Supporting an ageing population	To ensure that policies and programmes assess and plan for the needs of an increase in the proportion of older people in the region.	Included because of aging population in South East.	Local authorities are expected to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development through their local plans (see comments for policy CC1). Plan policies should seek to take into account the needs of all the community.
CC6	Sustainable communities and character of the environment	To develop and implement local shared vision which respects and enhances settlements and landscapes, and use innovative design processes to create a quality built environment.		Local authorities are expected to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development through their local plans (see comments for policy CC1). Plan policies should seek to take into account the needs of all the community.
CC7	Infrastructure and implementation	To ensure that there is sufficient infrastructure to meet the needs of new development.	Adequate infrastructure a key issue.	The proposed duty to cooperate and local enterprise partnerships can play key roles in ensuring economic strategic priorities and infrastructure delivery is properly coordinated.

CC8	Green Infrastructure	Local authorities and partners to work together to plan, provide and manage connected and substantial networks of accessible multi-functional green space.	Linked to concerns about changes to landscape arising from new development.	Local authorities will continue 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. Local authorities can continue to pursue this policy approach through their local plans, working co-operatively with other authorities and bodies on cross-boundary networks.
CC9	Use of public land	Requires Government Departments and public landowners to carry out strategic reviews of public land holdings, taking account of the Plan and seeking to identify land for housing.		The Homes and Communities Agency maintains the Government's Register of Surplus Public Sector Land, providing full information on surplus land throughout England. Any proposals to develop surplus land will continue to be subject to the requirements for environmental impact assessment and Habitats Regulations assessment, as appropriate.

<b>Sustainable Economic Development</b>				
RE1	Contributing to the UK's long term competitive-ness	Local plans to be sufficiently flexible to respond positively to changes in the global economy.	The appraisal commented on a need for co-ordinated effort and cross-boundary working to better align economic and housing growth, deliver adequate infrastructure, and planning for sustainable development.	The Government's economic white paper (published 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.  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.
RE2	Supporting nationally and regionally important sectors and clusters	Local plans, where appropriate, to include policies to ensure land is available to meet the specific requirements of nationally and regionally important sectors and clusters.		
RE3	Employment and land provision	Local plans should have regard to local business needs.		
RE4	Human resource development	Local authorities to work jointly with business sectors and education and training providers.		
RE5	Smart growth	To increase region's prosperity while reducing its ecological footprint – through considering business needs for land and premises, movement, housing and ICT.		
RE6	Competitive-ness and addressing structural economic weakness	To maintain and enhance competitiveness and development of a dynamic knowledge-based economy.		

				<p>development management. Local plans will continue to be subject to sustainability appraisal which will assess how sustainable development has been integrated into plans, and the impact of policy options.</p> <p>The proposed duty to cooperate and local enterprise partnerships can play key roles in ensuring economic strategic priorities and infrastructure delivery is properly coordinated.</p>
<b>Housing</b>				
H1	Regional Housing provision 2006-2016	Local authorities to allocate sufficient land and facilitate the delivery of 654,000 net additional dwellings between 2006 and 2026.	The appraisal commented on housing need increasing at a greater rate than housing provision. Levels of housing completions on previously developed land seen as likely to remain high in the short-term but to fall off as the supply of land in urban areas declined. The appraisal saw this as potentially placing urban fringe landscapes and, in	Removing the policy would give local authorities greater flexibility. 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 help in communities sharing the benefits of growth.
H2	Managing the delivery of the Regional Housing Provision	Local authorities to allocate and manage a land supply to deliver both the district housing provision and the sub-regional and the rest of the sub-regional area housing provision while ensuring appropriate regard to environmental and infrastructure issues.		

			<p>particular, those around regional hubs and other growth areas, at risk. The appraisal also identified a series of concerns arising from the proposed level of development.</p>	
H3	Affordable housing	Requires substantial increase in affordable housing and the setting of targets.	<p>The sustainability appraisal noted low levels of affordable housing provision and raised concerns about the links between housing and jobs in the Plan. It identified affordable housing as being vital to the South East's economy and the development of balanced, sustainable communities, and highlighted the potentially significant economic impacts that could arise from not meeting the affordable housing targets.</p>	<p>Revocation of the policy would have limited impact as national policy requires local authorities to plan for the housing needs of their communities, including for affordable housing.</p>

H4	Type and size of new housing	Local authorities to identify the full range of housing needs required in their area.	The sustainability appraisal noted that local plans should provide opportunities for improving social cohesion through provision of mixed development including accessible community facilities, ensuring local communities are fully involved in the design process of new development.	Under national planning policy, local plans should promote development that creates inclusive communities, including suitable mixes of housing, and make good use of the existing stock.
H5	Housing design and density	Measures to raise the quality of new housing. Sets regional density target (40 dwellings per hectare).		
H6	Making better use of existing stock	Local authorities should implement measures to reduce the number of vacant, unfit and unsatisfactory dwellings.		
<b>Transport</b>				
T1	Manage and invest	Relevant regional strategies, local plans and local transport plans to ensure their management policies and proposals address a range of transport related issues.	Accommodating further growth and development in the South East thought to increase capacity issues on the regions transport network, particularly in locations where transport capacity already reached its maximum. Adverse impacts from traffic congestion and increased air pollution observed.	The proposed duty to cooperate should assist in ensuring local authorities and public authorities work together to make good use of South East transport networks spanning administrative boundaries including for integrated networks for walking and cycling. 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 placing localism at the heart of the
T2	Mobility management	Local plans and local transport plans to include policies to rebalance transport systems in favour of sustainable modes.		

				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.
T3	Charging	Local transport authorities to consider using legal powers to test new charging initiatives.		This will be a matter for local authorities to consider in consultation with their communities and business partners. The legal powers available under the Transport Acts would not be affected by the revocation of the Plan.
T4	Parking	Local plans and local transport plans to set parking standards and increase provisions of parking at stations and cycle parking in dwelling lacking garages.		Local authorities already have a range of powers to control parking provision and enforcement.
T5	Travel Plans and advice	Local plans/local transport plans to identify those categories of major travel generating developments, for which travel plans should be developed.		Local authorities should continue to ensure that land use and local transport policies are mutually consistent, and deliver the most sustainable and effective development for their area.
T6	Communications technology	To invest in communications technology to increase access to goods without increasing need to travel.		Investment decisions are likely to depend more on financial conditions.

T7	Rural transport	Local transport plans to support transport including public transport in rural areas.		Comments for policies T1, 2 and 5 apply.
T8	Regional spokes	Relevant regional strategies, local plans and local transport plans to include policies that support and develop the role of regional spokes.		Comments for policies T1, 2 and 5 apply.
T9	Airports	Support the development of Gatwick and Heathrow Airports and safeguard land at Gatwick for a possible new runway after 2019 – and support an enhanced role for other regional airports.	<p>The appraisal noted potential harm to protected European sites through production of atmospheric pollutants (NO<sub>2</sub>) through increased traffic movements and investment in ports and regional airports.</p> <p>The significant increase in homes in the Gatwick area would mean more people affected by Gatwick Airport.</p>	<p>The Plan has limited influence over major airport 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>Any proposed revision of boundaries for airport expansion would be set out in local plans and any potential significant effects on the environment resulting from airport expansion identified through strategic environmental assessment.</p>
T10	Ports and short sea shipping	Relevant regional strategies, local plans and local transport plans to include policies and proposals for infrastructure that maintains and enhances the role of listed gateway ports and regionally significant ports.	Emissions from transport, both of goods and people.	As with policy T9, major transport infrastructure projects will be guided by national policy statements and most likely subject to environmental impact assessment and assessment

				under the Habitats Regulations. Proposals related to ports development set out in local plans would be subject to strategic environmental assessment.
T11	Rail freight	Railway system should be developed to carry an increasing share of freight movements. Priority to be given to enhancing capacity for the movement of freight by four corridors, e.g. Southampton to West Midlands.		Comments for policies T9 and 10 apply.
T12	Freight and site safeguarding	To safeguard wharves, depots and other sites related to freight movement.		
T13	Intermodal interchanges	Regional planning board to work jointly with Department for Transport, Network Rail, local authorities etc. to identify broad locations within the region for up to three inter-modal interchange facilities.		
T14	Transport investment and management priorities	Requires collaborative working to produce an Implementation Plan. Development plans should include policies that safeguard the delivery of specific investment proposals and other major projects.	See comments for policy T1.	

<b>Natural Resource Management</b>				
NRM1	Sustainable Water Resources and Groundwater Quality	To maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers, ground waters and coasts, and to achieve sustainable water resources management	<p>Considered the Plan would lead to increased water use because of proposed level of housing and employment.</p> <p>Changes to the final Plan, including slightly lower housing numbers, help to reduce impacts on water quality. But some impacts were still expected to occur, for example, in the Solent, due to constraints on waste water treatment.</p>	<p>Water Company Water Resource Management Plans set out how water companies aim to ensure there will be sufficient water to meet potable demand without environmental consequences during the plan period. Water companies have therefore already considered future supply and demand in terms of planning water consumption for the region in their existing plans.</p> <p>In the future, housing numbers would be identified through the local plan process. 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 implications as part of local plan preparation.</p>
NRM2	Water Quality	See above		
NRM3	Strategic Water Resources Development	See above		

				<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. Local authorities can be expected to continue to work together on cross boundary strategic issues where they need to do so.</p>
NRM4	Sustainable flood risk management	To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment	The appraisal considered the Plan likely to increase flood risk, especially in the London Fringe, Milton Keynes, Kent Thames Gateway, and Shoreham Harbour.	<p>In line with national planning policy, local authorities should continue to take advice from the Environment Agency and other relevant bodies (including adjacent local authorities), when preparing policies in their planning documents on flood risk management and in relation to areas potentially identified as at risk of flooding.</p> <p>Sustainability appraisals, land allocations and development control policies should all be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment carried out in liaison with the Environment Agency. In addition local authorities are required to consult the</p>

				<p>Environment Agency on all applications for development in flood risk areas (except minor development), including those in areas with critical drainage problems and for any development on land exceeding 1 hectare outside flood risk areas.</p> <p>River catchments can cover many local authorities. Development decisions in one local authority can impact on flood risk many miles down stream but local authorities already work together, and with other bodies, on strategic issues that cross local authority boundaries. It is expected that they would continue to do this and the proposed duty to cooperate will assist with this.</p>
NRM5	Conservation and improvement of biodiversity	To avoid a net loss of biodiversity and pursue opportunities to achieve a net regional gain.	The appraisal notes the mitigation measures in final Plan but comments that biodiversity will continue to be affected by land take, increased disturbance, impacts on water levels etc., through housing and other growth.	Revocation of this policy would not have an adverse effect on European sites. The housing allocation policies it seeks to mitigate will also be revoked, leaving it to local authorities to determine housing provision and location in their area. The statutory requirement for local authorities to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessments of their

			<p>Overall, despite the protective policies, thought likely that Plan would have a negative impact on biodiversity. The Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations shows that increases in the South East's population would indirectly lead to increasing recreational pressure, increasing air pollution, and changes to water levels and water quality which would affect nature conservation sites sensitive to these impacts.</p>	<p>plans and appropriate assessment of relevant projects will remain. National planning policy will continue to expect the planning system to conserve and enhance the natural environment. The overarching legislative framework (national and international) remains unchanged. Local authorities should continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment – including biodiversity.</p>
NRM6	Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area	New residential development which is likely to have a significant effect on the ecological integrity of Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) will be required to demonstrate that adequate measures are put in place to avoid or mitigate any potential adverse effects.	Intended to mitigate adverse impacts on biodiversity and European Special Protection Area.	Revocation of this policy would not have an adverse effect on European sites. The policy requires the principles set out in the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework to be incorporated into local authorities' local plans. The policy provides one of a number of possible mechanisms

				for protecting European sites. The revocation of the policy would not affect the legal or national planning policy requirement to protect the Special Protection Area.
NRM7	Woodlands	Local plans to support the implementation of the Regional Forestry and Woodland Framework.	The South East contains 40% of the ancient woodland remaining in England.	Can be taken forward through local plans. National planning policy on biodiversity and landscape will continue to apply. The Government's white paper, <i>The Natural Choice</i> , recognises and supports the protection and improvement of woodland and forests.
NRM8	Coastal management	Requires an integrated approach to management and planning in coastal areas. Local authorities and other agencies should e.g. ensure that development does not compromise the ability to preserve the interest features of Natura 2000 sites through managed retreat of coastal habitats in response to sea level rise, and realise opportunities for sustainable coastal defence which enhances the region's wildlife and helps meet the requirements of the habitats directive.	The coast contains a significant share of the designated wildlife sites in the South East, as well as nationally designated landscapes. Thought that coastal change will continue to occur through the impacts of climate change and rising sea levels.	National planning policies on flooding and coastal change will apply.  The Environment Agency's flood and coastal risk management investment strategy (2010-2035) will apply.  Shoreline Management Plans and Catchment Flood Management Plans remain in place and 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.

NRM9	Air quality	Strategies, plans and programmes should contribute to sustaining the current downward trend in air pollution in the region.	<p>The appraisal noted increased air pollution from 32,700 new homes per year and associated traffic, though policies on air quality and others seek to counter these effects.</p> <p>Potential adverse effects on human health.</p>	<p>This is a generic policy which could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy</p> <p>The 2009 report on sustainability appraisal stated that although the Plan sets housing numbers, renewable energy targets and transport policies, it has little direct influence over the key causes of air pollution.</p> <p>On the basis that with or without the Plan growth is likely to continue in the region, revocation is likely to have minimal impact on air quality. Local authorities will continue to need to consider the potential impacts of new development and increased traffic levels on air quality and where appropriate through a Habitats Regulation Assessment.</p>
NRM10	Noise	Measures to address and reduce noise pollution to be developed at regional and local level.		National planning policy on noise would apply in the absence of local plan policy.
NRM11	Development design for energy efficiency and renewable energy	Local authorities to promote and secure greater use of decentralise and renewable low-carbon energy etc.	The 2009 sustainability appraisal noted that while the Plan sets renewable energy targets etc, it has little direct influence over	National planning policy requires local authorities through their local plans to plan positively for renewable and low-carbon technologies. National planning policy expects local authorities to

NRM12	Combined heat and power	To encourage the integration of combined heat and power in all developments and district heating infrastructure in large scale developments in mixed use.	the key causes of climate change. Emissions per home were expected to reduce through tighter Building Regulations, increased production of renewable energy, etc., but this would be countered by growth in homes and traffic.	actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings and the delivery of low carbon and renewable energy.
NRM13	Renewable energy targets	Sets minimum regional targets for electricity generation from renewable sources.	Building Regulations, increased production of renewable energy, etc., but this would be countered by growth in homes and traffic.	National planning policies protect biodiversity and valued landscapes.
NRM14	Sub-regional targets for land-based renewable energy	Policies and development proposals as far as practicable to contribute to sub-regional land based targets.		
NRM15	Location of renewable energy development	To encourage the development of renewable energy to achieve the set targets. Development should be located and designed to minimise adverse impacts on landscape, wildlife etc	Contribution to climate change mitigation.	
NRM16	Renewable energy development criteria	Through their plans and decisions, local authorities should in principle support the development of renewable energy, and include criteria-based policies set out in the Plan.		

<b>Waste and Minerals</b>				
W1	Waste reduction	Seeking to reduce growth of waste arising.	The appraisal noted large amounts of waste exported from London and landfills filling up with only a few years capacity left. Housing growth thought to increase waste arisings.	The European Union Waste Framework Directive sets the overall statutory requirements for waste, while the National Waste Strategy for England sets the national policy context for waste management, including revised targets for household waste recycling, household residual waste, municipal waste recovery, and commercial and industrial waste disposed.  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. The proposed duty to cooperate should assist in ensuring waste planning authorities work together on cross-boundary planning. Data and other information prepared by partners, including the Environment Agency and other waste planning
W2	Sustainable design, construction and demolition	Local plans to promote increased use of construction and demolition materials and promote layouts and designs that provide adequate space for recycling etc., to minimise waste production.		
W3	Regional self-sufficiency	Seeks waste management capacity equivalent to waste arisings in the region.		
W4	Sub-regional self sufficiency	Waste planning authorities will plan for net self-sufficiency in waste management.		
W5	Targets for diversion from landfill	Sets regional targets for the diversion of waste from landfills to 2025.		
W6	Recycling and composting	Sets regional targets for recycling and composting to 2025.		
W7	Waste management capacity requirements	Requires Waste Planning Authorities to provide an appropriate mix of development opportunities to support the waste management facilities to achieve benchmark targets set out in strategy.		
W8	Waste separation	Requires separate collection of recyclable and compostable materials		
W9	New markets	Requires collaborative working to establish regional and local		

		programmes to develop markets for recycled and recovered materials.		authorities will continue to assist in this process.
W10	Regionally significant facilities	Collaborative working to encourage provision of appropriate new or expanded regional and pan-regional scale recovery and processing facilities.		
W11	Biomass	Encourages separation of biomass waste.		
W12	Other recovery and diversion technologies	Collaboration to promote and encourage the development and demonstration of anaerobic digestion and other technologies.		
W13	Landfill requirements	Sets regional landfill capacity requirements to 2025.		
W14	Restoration	Local plans to secure high quality restoration and aftercare of waste management sites		
W15	Hazardous and other specialist waste facilities	Waste development documents to identify and safeguard sites, identify criteria for the determination of large scale specialist hazardous waste facilities and access available landfill provision.	As noted above	
W16	Waste transport infrastructure	Waste development documents to identify and safeguard sites for waste transfer and bulking facilities.		
W17	Location of waste management facilities	Waste development documents in identifying locations for waste management facilities give priority to safeguarding and expanding suitable sites with existing waste		

		management use and good transport connections.		
M1	Sustainable construction	Collaborative work to encourage the development of sustainable construction practices.		These policies could be delivered by other means than through a regional strategy.
M2	Recycled and secondary aggregates	Sets mineral planning authority apportionment figures for recycled and secondary aggregates and requires mineral development frameworks to enable provision to be met.		The proposed duty to cooperate should assist in ensuring minerals planning authorities work together and alongside the industry to maximise the use of secondary and recycled sources of aggregates.
M3	Primary aggregates	Requires mineral planning authorities to plan to maintain a seven year landbank for land-won sand and gravel and sets apportionment figures including for crushed rock.	As with waste policies, possible affects on air quality by increasing the number of heavy vehicles on major roads within South East.	National planning policy already provides for development control related considerations. Mineral planning authorities will have responsibility for continuing to plan for an adequate and steady supply of aggregate minerals to support economic growth. Technical advice provided by the Aggregate Working Parties, including their work in sub-apportioning the Department for Communities and Local Government's guidelines for 2005-2020 to planning authority level can be drawn on or mineral planning authorities can choose to use alternative figures for preparing their plans if they have
M4	Other minerals	Future provision should be made in local plans for other minerals of national importance.		
M5	Safeguarding of mineral reserves, wharves and rail depots	Mineral planning authorities should assess the need for wharf and rail facilities and identify and safeguard strategic sites in local plans.		

				new or different information and a robust evidence base.
<b>Countryside and Landscape Management</b>				
C1	The New Forest National Park	Local authorities and other partners should develop supportive sustainable land management policies. In considering proposals for development, the emphasis should be on small-scale proposals that are sustainably located and designed.	The appraisal noted the policies to protect designated landscapes and emphasis on small scale development to avoid compromising the designations.	Nationally important landscapes (national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty) continue to be subject to statutory protection and national planning policies.
C2	The South Downs	Pending final approval of the proposed National Park, the purposes of its designation should be a material consideration in the making of any planning decision that may significantly affect the Park.	However, it was thought that the construction of 654,000 new homes, new employment sites, and associated infrastructure would inevitably have a negative impact on the region's landscape and historic environment, and further urbanise the region.	
C3	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Gives high priority to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in the region's Areas of outstanding natural beauty. In drafting local plans, local authorities should have regard to statutory Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans.		
C4	Landscape and countryside management	Planning authorities and other agencies in their plans and programmes should recognise and aim to protect and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of		

		<p>the region's landscape.</p> <p>Local authorities should develop criteria-based policies to ensure that all development respects and enhances local landscape character.</p>		<p>enhancement of the environment.</p> <p>National planning policy on biodiversity and landscape will apply and local authorities should continue to work together, and with communities, on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment – including landscape, biodiversity and geo-diversity interests.</p>
C5	Managing the rural-urban fringe	Requires local plans to identify issues and opportunities that require actions to deliver a sustainable multi-functional urban fringe.	As above	<p>Local authorities will still be able to pursue this approach, encouraged by the proposed duty to cooperate, and taking account of the Thames River Basin Management Plan.</p>
C6	Countryside access and rights of way management	Local authorities should encourage access to the countryside taking full advantage of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.		
C7	The River Thames Corridor	Riparian local authorities should work together to coordinate a coordinated policy framework for the river and its valley corridor.		
<b>Management of the Built Environment</b>				
BE1	Management for urban renaissance	Seeks to ensure new development helps provide significant improvements to the built environment.	Appraisal noted that a policy of urban concentration would generally protect historic rural landscapes but place the historic cores of the region's settlements at greater risk.	Comments in relation to policy CC1 (Sustainable Development) apply. It will be for local authorities, working with adjoining authorities, business partners and communities, as appropriate, to determine the environmental priorities and improvements required in each urban area, taking account of national policies. The

				proposed duty to co-operate will require local authorities to work across boundaries on strategic planning issues, including protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment. In addition, local plans are subject to sustainability appraisal including strategic environmental assessment.
BE2	Suburban intensification	Local plans should identify locations where intensification could assist wider planning objectives.		It will be for local authorities, working with their communities and business partners, and adjoining authorities as appropriate, to determine development needs and locations and environmental improvements for any intensification or renewal of suburban areas. See also comments for policy BE1.
BE3	Suburban renewal	Local authorities should identify neighbourhoods in need of renewal and should work with partners to develop Neighbourhood Management Plans.		It will be for local authorities, working with their communities and business partners, and adjoining authorities as appropriate, to determine and plan for the development needs of rural towns and villages, taking account of national policies. See also comments for policy BE1.
BE4	The role of small rural towns ('market towns')	Local authorities should encourage and initiate schemes and proposals that help strengthen the viability of small rural towns.		National planning policy on the historic environment will apply. In planning for the historic
BE5	Village management	Local authorities should positively plan to meet the defined needs of their rural communities.		
BE6	Management of the historic environment	Local authorities required to adopt policies and support proposals which protect, conserve and, where		

		appropriate, enhance the historic environment.		environment local authorities should work cooperatively with English Heritage and other knowledgeable groups and communities to identify and ensure the protection, appropriate use and management of historic and cultural assets. Designated areas and important sites receive statutory protection.
<b>Town Centres</b>				
TC1	Strategic network of town centres	Requires a network of strategic town centres to be developed.		National planning policy addresses economic impact issues, including town centre development and sustainable patterns of economic growth and employment. These will continue to inform the preparation of local plans and the development management process. The proposed duty to cooperate and local enterprise partnerships are expected to play a key role in ensuring economic strategic priorities and infrastructure delivery is properly coordinated. Local authorities will still assess the need for retail developments, reflecting national planning policy and its emphasis on promoting the vitality and viability of town centres.
TC2	New development and re-development in town centres	Sets out factors that local authorities need to consider when preparing their local plans.		
TC3	Out-of-centre regional/sub-regional shopping centres	States no need identified for any further out-of-centre shopping centres		

<b>Tourism, Sport &amp; recreation</b>				
TSR1	Coastal resorts	Seeks opportunities to diversify the economic base of the region's coastal resorts.		Local authorities can plan to meet these objectives through their local plans, working collaboratively with partners and other authorities, and through local enterprise partnerships if they wish. Local authorities are expected to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development through their local plans (see comments for policy CC1). Plan policies should seek to reduce and mitigate any likely negative effects on the environment.
TSR2	Rural tourism	Encourages opportunities to promote tourism and recreation-based rural diversification where they provide jobs for local residents.		Local authorities are required to undertake sustainability appraisals of their local plan policies.
TSR3	Regionally significant sports facilities	Seeks opportunities to protect, upgrade and develop new regionally significant sports facilities.		It will be for local authorities working collaboratively with Sport England and other authorities and partners to plan to meet these objectives. See also comments for policies TSR 1 and 2.
TSR4	Tourism attractions	Priority should be given to improving the quality of all existing attractions to meet changing consumer demand and high environmental standards in terms of design and access.	Tourism seen as a South East economic strength.	See comments for policies TSR 1 and 2

TSR5	Tourist accommodation	Requires the diversity of the accommodation sector to be positively reflected in tourism and planning policies.		
TSR6	Visitor management	Provides policies to address the potential environmental pressures associated with high levels of visitor activity.		
TSR7	Priority areas for tourism	Sets out sub-regional priorities for tourism/cultural strategies and transport plans.		
<b>Social and Community Infrastructure</b>				
S1	Supporting healthy communities	Local plans should embrace preventative measures to address causes of ill health.	The appraisal noted that the Plan has only a limited remit for improving community wellbeing and health and aspects of community wellbeing and health are determined by other factors (e.g. national government policy).	Through their local plans local authorities are well placed to address local issues, needs and circumstances (to the extent they are addressable through planning policies), working with neighbouring authorities and other bodies as needed, supported by the proposed duty to cooperate.
S2	Promoting sustainable health services	To ensure provision of health and social care facilities to meet local needs		
S3	Education and skills	To ensure adequate provision of school facilities		
S4	Higher and further education	To ensure sector's needs for facilities are addressed in local plans.		
S5	Cultural and	Local authorities and others to		
				See comments for policy S1 which will apply.

	sporting activity	encourage increased and sustainable participation in sport, recreation and cultural activity.		
S6	Community infrastructure	Collaborative working to increase investment in physical and social infrastructure.		
IMR1	Monitoring	Sets out scope of expected monitoring.		See discussion in chapter 3.
<b>Sub-Regional</b>				
<b>Hampshire SH1-SH9</b>				
SH1	Core policy	Sets out the vision for the sub-area. It identifies Portsmouth and Southampton as focal areas for investment and development.	The assessment of flood risk informing the Plan noted: “When assessed at the local planning authority area scale, some of the housing targets may not be feasible due to the extent of the Flood Zones 2 and 3 within some local planning areas; in particular, the administrative areas of Portsmouth, Southampton and Gosport are significantly	The precise form and location of strategic development areas was expected to be established in local plans. On revocation, local authorities working with their communities, neighbouring authorities, business, national and local partners and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill would be able to shape sustainable development in their areas, taking account of national planning policy and work on the sustainability appraisal and other assessments supporting plan preparation.
SH2	Strategic development areas	Strategic development areas to be allocated in close proximity to broad locations within Fareham Borough and north-east of Hedge End. Areas of open land to be maintained between these two cities and neighbouring settlements.		
SH3	Scale, location and type of employment development	Provision will be made for two million square metres between the south east and south west areas.		

			<p>constrained. Consideration may need to be given to revising the distribution of dwellings within and across the local planning authorities' areas."</p> <p>There were also comments on water supply in some parts of the sub-area and further development of water infrastructure.</p>	
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SH4	Strategy for the main town centres	Aims to develop their individual character and complementary roles through proactive programme of high quality mixed use etc.		
SH5	Scale and location of housing development 2006-2026	Local plans to allocate sufficient land and facilities to deliver 80,000 net additional dwelling between 2006 and 2026, – with figures set for each district.		
SH6	Affordable housing	Sets out an average 30-40% target for affordable housing.		
SH7	Sub-regional transport strategy	Requires collaborative working to reduce the need for travel and manage the strategic transport network.		
SH8	Environmental sustainability	Sets out common standards for local authorities across the sub-region to deliver sustainable and environmentally sensitive development		
SH9	Implementation agency	An implementation agency will be created for South Hampshire with the responsibility and necessary powers to implement the sub-regional strategy.		

<b>Sussex Coast SCT1 – SCT6</b>				
SCT1	Core Strategy	Sets out the vision for the sub-area to promote the economic growth and regeneration of the Sussex Coast.	Commented on the risk of flooding affecting employment sites and the need for further assessment. Concerns were raised by Adur and Worthing councils and the Environment Agency.	On revocation, local authorities working with their communities, neighbouring authorities, business, national and local partners and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill would be able to shape sustainable development in their areas, taking account of national planning policy and work on the sustainability appraisal and other assessments supporting plan preparation.
SCT2	Enabling economic regeneration	Sets out key objectives to economic regeneration of the Sussex Coast.		
SCT3	Management of existing employment sites and premises	Identifies a number of locations – such as Shoreham Harbour, Airport and Cement works which persistently remain undeveloped.		
SCT4	Employment priority in new land allocations	New employment allocations should be included as appropriate within sustainable urban extensions in Arun, Chichester, Rother and Wealden districts.		
SCT5	Housing distribution	Local plans to allocate sufficient land and facilities to deliver 69,300 net additional dwellings in the South Coast between 2006 and 2026.		
SCT6	Affordable housing	Sets out a target of 40% affordable housing.		
SCT7	Implementation and delivery	Requires collaborative working to agree a long-term vision and develop joint, multi-agency plans and frameworks as a focus for delivering economic and social regeneration for five named areas.		

<b>East Kent and Ashford EKA1 – EKA8</b>				
EKA1	Core strategy	The sub-region should exploit the potential for housing and business at locations served by the Channel Tunnel Rail Link domestic services, especially at Ashford.	<p>Identified issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fluvial flood risk in Ashford and Stour Valley, Shepway and Thanet;</li> <li>- air quality impacts arising from the proposed expansion of Manston airport and the port of Dover;</li> <li>- significant amounts of greenfield land required to support the proposed level of development.</li> </ul>	<p>On revocation, local authorities working with their communities, neighbouring authorities, business, national and local partners and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill would be able to shape sustainable development in their areas, taking account of national planning policy and work on the sustainability appraisal and other assessments supporting plan preparation.</p>
EKA2	Spatial framework for Ashford Growth Area	New development to be delivered through urban intensification and the development of new sustainable urban extensions.		
EKA3	Amount and distribution of housing	Local plans to allocate sufficient land and facilities to deliver 56,700 net additional dwellings between 2006 and 2026, – with figures set for each district.		
EKA4	Urban renaissance of the coastal towns	Local authorities and development agencies will work together to encourage new economic impetus throughout the coast towns.		
EKA5	The gateway role	The growth of the gateways will be supported as catalysts for economic development, including that associated with freight handling and tourism.		
EKA6	Employment locations	Local plans to confirm the broad scale of new business and related developments and give priority to completion of major employment sites at named locations.		

EKA7	Integrated coastal management and natural park	The development, management and use of the coastal zone will be coordinated through a joint policy framework.		
EKA8	Effective delivery	Sets out the structure of the Ashford Delivery Board.		
<b>Kent Thames Gateway KTG1 – KTG7</b>				
KTG1	Core strategy	Set out the core objectives for delivering sustainable regeneration and growth.		On revocation, local authorities working with their communities, neighbouring authorities, business, national and local partners and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill would be able to shape sustainable development in their areas, taking account of national planning policy and work on the sustainability appraisal and other assessments supporting plan preparation.
KTG2	Economic growth and employment	The roles of the main economic locations will be promoted and developed as set out in the policy.		
KTG3	Employment locations	Local plans to confirm the broad scale of new business and related developments and give priority to completion of major employment sites at e.g. Dartford and Ebbsfleet.		
KTG4	Amount and distribution of housing development	Local plans to allocate sufficient land and facilities to deliver 52,140 net additional dwellings between 2006 and 2026 in the Thames gateway.		
KTG5	The role of retail centres	Policy states a network of retail and service centres to be developed – and their role.		
KTG6	Flood risk	To accommodate the growth levels proposed it will be necessary to implement co-ordinated measures	Issues included significant risk of flooding affecting part	

		for flood protection and surface water drainage associated with the Rivers Thames, Medway and Swale.	of the Kent Thames Gateway and even with mitigation the need for additional investment.	
KTG7	Green initiatives	Sets out proposals to take forward the Thames Gateway Parklands aim of transforming the environment and image of the Gateway.		
<b>London Fringe LF1 – LF9</b>				
LF1	Core strategy	Sets out the vision to support the sustainable economic growth of the sub-region, while conserving and enhancing its environmental assets.	<p>Concerns included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the significant risk of flooding affecting areas of the Lower Thames Valley and Mole and Wey Valleys;</li> <li>- phasing housing delivery in the vicinity of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area in order to ensure that appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures were secured in</li> </ul>	<p>On revocation, local authorities working with their communities, neighbouring authorities, business, national and local partners and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill would be able to shape sustainable development in their areas, taking account of national planning policy and work on the sustainability appraisal and other assessments supporting plan preparation.</p>
LF2	Economic development	Requires joint working on employment land reviews between neighbouring authorities.		
LF3	Broad amount and distribution of future housing development	Local plans to allocate sufficient land and facilities to deliver 47,880 net additional dwellings between 2006 and 2026 – with figures set for each district.		
LF4	Affordable housing	40% of all new housing should be affordable.		
LF5	Urban areas and regional hubs	Focus of development will be within existing built-up areas. Reference to the expansion of		

		<p>Guildford and Woking and impacts on Green Belt. A smaller scale review of the Green Belt boundary should be undertaken as required at Redhill/Reigate.</p>	<p>advance of development being occupied and the need to monitor impacts.</p>	
LF6	<p>Development of the former DERA site at Chertsey</p>	<p>Proposes large scale mixed use development on the former DERA site at Chertsey during the Plan period to meet wider regional needs. The policy identifies the need to review the metropolitan Green Belt status of the site in accordance with Policy SP5. Joint working between the local authorities and other stakeholders will be required.</p>		
LF7	<p>Town Centres</p>	<p>The polycentric pattern of the settlement structure will be maintained with town and district centres being the focus for retailing etc.</p>		
LF8	<p>Sub-regional transport hubs and spokes</p>	<p>Local transport authorities should give consideration to sub-regional hubs and spokes that link sub-regional hubs with each other.</p>		
LF9	<p>Green Belt management</p>	<p>Promotes the Green Arc (South West) initiative to manage and enhance Metropolitan Green Belt countryside as a multi-functional resource, integrated with green space strategies in urban areas. It also supports the management</p>		

		plans for the Surrey Hills, Kent Downs and High Weald Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.		
LF10	Small scale site tariff	Contributions from new development will be secured to support delivery of the infrastructure and services required to mitigate the impact of cumulative development and to maintain quality of life in the area.		
<b>Western Corridor and Blackwater Valley WCBV1 – WCBV5</b>				
WCBV 1	Core strategy	Identifies settlements as regional hubs – to be the main focus for transport investment and development. These are: Basingstoke, High Wycombe, Reading, Slough. A second tier of sub-regional hubs comprises: Bracknell, Maidenhead and Newbury.	<p>Concerns included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- likely effects of the proposed growth and housing levels on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area;</li> <li>- water supply and treatment; and</li> <li>- flooding issues affecting areas around Reading.</li> </ul>	<p>On revocation, local authorities working with their communities, neighbouring authorities, business, national and local partners and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill would be able to shape sustainable development in their areas, taking account of national planning policy and work on the sustainability appraisal and other assessments supporting plan preparation.</p>
WCBV 2	Employment land	Priority to the retention of existing employment land in employment areas.		
WCBV 3	Scale and distribution of housing development	Local plans to allocate sufficient land and facilities to deliver 102,100 net additional dwellings between 2006 and 2026 – with figures set for each district.		

WCBV 4	The Blackwater Valley	It calls on the Blackwater Valley authorities to work together to facilitate and co-ordinate the delivery of development while complying with the Habitats Regulations in connection with designated European sites such as the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.		
WCBV 5	The Colne Valley Park	It calls on local authorities to work together and with other agencies in pursuance of the agreed aims of the Colne Valley Park including conservation of habitats and species.		
<b>Central Oxfordshire CO1 – CO5</b>				
CO1	Core strategy	Strategy for Central Oxfordshire is to strive to be a world leader in education, science and technology by building in the sub-region's economic strengths.	Concerns included flood risk.	On revocation, local authorities working with their communities, neighbouring authorities, business, national and local partners and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill would be able to shape sustainable development in their areas, taking account of national planning policy and work on the sustainability appraisal and other
CO2	Economy	Sets out objectives to support economic growth within the sub-area, including supporting the needs of established and emerging clusters within the county.		
CO3	Scale and distribution of housing	Local plans to allocate sufficient land and facilities to deliver 40,680 net additional dwellings in Central		

		Oxfordshire between 2006 and 2026.		assessments supporting plan preparation.
CO4	Green Belt	Maintains Green Belt around Oxford, and states that a selective review of the Green Belt review will take place on the southern edge of Oxford.		
CO5	Transport	Collaborative working to provide a co-ordinated approach to effective management and development of transport networks.		
<b>Milton Keynes and Aylesbury Vale MKAV1 – MKAV4</b>				
MKAV1	Housing distribution by District 2006-2026	Local plans to allocate sufficient land and facilities to deliver 41,360 dwellings between 2006 and 2026.	The sustainability appraisal indicated that there were areas of flood risk around both Milton Keynes and Aylesbury and a need to upgrade wastewater treatment facilities. It noted that 'Treatment of waste water is a major problem, with potential for river pollution in future'.	On revocation, local authorities working with their communities, neighbouring authorities, business, national and local partners and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill would be able to shape sustainable development in their areas, taking account of national planning policy and work on the sustainability appraisal and other assessments supporting plan preparation.
MKAV2	Spatial framework for Milton Keynes Growth Area	Sets out the framework to enable Milton Keynes to embrace its growth potential as a major regional centre. The policy provides for Milton Keynes to accommodate an additional 44,350 dwellings over the period 2006-2026,		
MKAV3	Spatial framework for Aylesbury Growth Area	Sets out the framework to enable Aylesbury to grow through strengthening and extending its traditional role as a county and market town. The policy provides for 16,800 new dwellings over the period 2006-2026		

MKAV4	Effective delivery	Sets out the institutional arrangement for delivery of the sub-regional strategy.		
<b>Gatwick GAT1-3</b>				
GAT1	Core Strategy	Strategy is based on maximising the opportunities arising from the Gatwick-Crawley area, recognising the need to maintain the importance of Gatwick Airport as an international gateway and the links between the sub-region and London and the South Coast.	The main concern identified by the sustainability appraisal arose from policy GAT2 and the development of Gatwick Airport (including pressure on surface transport infrastructure and air quality). Other concerns were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- risk of flooding affecting the Horley area;</li> <li>- water supply concerns (without the development of new infrastructure);</li> <li>- new large scale wastewater treatment capacity required at Crawley and possibly Harley and Horsham.</li> </ul>	On revocation, local authorities working with their communities, neighbouring authorities, business, national and local partners and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill would be able to shape sustainable development in their areas, taking account of national planning policy and work on the sustainability appraisal and other assessments supporting plan preparation.  And see comment for T9.
GAT2	Economic development	Aims to promote economic growth and regeneration through 'smart growth' alongside the provision of new sites and premises in appropriate locations		
GAT3	Housing distribution	Local plans to allocate sufficient land and facilities to deliver 36,000 dwellings between 2006 and 2026.		

<b>The Isle of Wight IW1 – IW5</b>				
IW1	Enabling economic regeneration	Collaborative working to help realise a step-change in the Isle of Wight's economic performance, to actively support economic regeneration and renewal, an improved quality tourism product and inward investment..	Housing levels within the Solent area could have adverse effects principally due to increased recreational pressure and deteriorating water quality and reduced water flows from development.	On revocation, local authorities working with their communities, neighbouring authorities, business, national and local partners and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill would be able to shape sustainable development in their areas, taking account of national planning policy and work on the sustainability appraisal and other assessments supporting plan preparation.
IW2	Housing development	Local plans to allocate sufficient land and facilities to deliver 10,400 dwellings between 2006 and 2026.		
IW3	Rural areas	The quality and character of the rural environment and its biodiversity will be maintained and enhanced.		
IW4	Strategic transport links	Aims to maintain the strategic cross-Solent links.		
IW5	Infrastructure	Schemes, projects and long term issues identified in the Regional Implementation Plan will need to be considered as part of the Isle of Wight's Core Strategy Development Plan Document.		
<b>Areas outside sub-regions AOSR1 – AOSR8</b>				
These policies set out the scale and location of housing development between 2006-2026 in the following areas: – Rest of Buckinghamshire,			Waste water constraints identified for parts of Test Valley.	On revocation, local authorities working with their communities, neighbouring authorities, business, national and local partners and supported by the proposed duty to cooperate in the Localism Bill would be able to shape

<p>Oxfordshire and Berkshire: 19,220 dwellings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rest of Hampshire: 18,900 dwellings;</li> <li>- East Hampshire – new strategic development area at Whitehill/Bordon</li> <li>- Rest of Surrey: 5,000 dwellings</li> <li>- Rest of East and West Sussex: 13,200 dwellings</li> <li>- Rest of Kent: 13,200 dwellings</li> <li>- Maidstone Hub</li> <li>- Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells Hub</li> </ul>			<p>sustainable development in their areas, taking account of national planning policy and work on the sustainability appraisal and other assessments supporting plan preparation.</p>
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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 policies for the South East and where they remain relevant considers the environmental implications of their revocation.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Policy has been implemented or expired</b>	<b>Generic policy</b>	<b>Applicable national policy in place</b>	<b>Superseded by local plan policy</b>	<b>Still relevant – environmental implications of revocation</b>
Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016: Policy T7 (Service Areas)		X			
Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016: Policy M2 (Sand & Gravel)		X			
Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016: Policy H2 (Upper Heyford)	X				

## Annex C

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

#### **Adopted waste and minerals development plan documents and saved local plan policies**

Berkshire Joint Waste Local Plan saved policies
Buckinghamshire Waste Local Plan saved policies
East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Waste Local Plans saved policies
Hampshire Minerals & Waste Core Strategy adopted July 2007
Kent and Medway Waste & Minerals Local Plans saved policies
Milton Keynes Waste Core Strategy adopted February 2008
Oxfordshire Waste Local Plan saved policies
Surrey County Council Waste Core Strategy, Waste DC Policies & Waste Development DPDs adopted May 2008

#### **Adopted development plan documents and saved local plan policies**

Adur District Local Plan saved policies
Arun District Local Plan saved policies
Ashford Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted 10/07/08); Ashford Town Centre Area Action Plan (Adopted 18/02/10); Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD (Adopted 21/10/10); District Local Plan saved policies

Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan saved policies
Basingstoke and Deane District Local Plan saved policies
Bracknell Forest Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted 07/02/08); District Local Plan saved policies
Brighton & Hove City Local Plan saved policies
Canterbury City District Local Plan saved policies (ILO Core Strategy); Herne Bay Area Action Plan Adopted 22/04/10
Cherwell District Local Plan saved policies
Chichester District Local Plan saved policies
Chiltern District Local Plan saved policies
Crawley Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted 28/11/07); District Local Plan saved policies
Dartford Borough District Local Plan saved policies
Dover District Council Core Strategy (Adopted 24/02/10); District Local Plan saved policies
East Hampshire District Local Plan saved policies
Eastbourne District Local Plan saved policies
Eastleigh District Local Plan saved policies
Elmbridge Borough Council Core Strategy (adopted 20/7/2011), Local Plan saved policies
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted 24/07/07); District Local Plan saved policies
Fareham Borough District Local Plan saved policies
Gosport District Local Plan saved policies
Gravesham Borough District Local Plan saved policies
Guildford District Local Plan saved policies

Hart District Local Plan saved policies
Hastings District Local Plan saved policies
Havant Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted 01/03/11); District Local Plan saved policies
Horsham District Council Core Strategy 2007 (Adopted 02/02/07); Site Specific Allocations of Land development plan document (Adopted 02/11/07); Land West and North-west of Crawley Area Action Plan (Adopted 31/07/09); General Development Control Policies (Adopted 21/12/07)
Isle of Wight Unitary District Local Plan saved policies
Lewes District Local Plan direction letter
Maidstone Borough Council District Local Plan saved policies (ILO Core Strategy); Open Space Standards development plan document (Adopted 13/12/06); Affordable Housing development plan document (Adopted 13/12/06)
Medway Unitary District Local Plan saved policies
Mid Sussex District Council District Local Plan saved policies (ILO Core Strategy); Small-Scale Housing Sites development plan document (Adopted 16/04/08)
Milton Keynes District Local Plan saved policies
Mole Valley District Council Core Strategy (Adopted 01/10/09); District Local Plan saved policies
New Forest District Council Core Strategy (Adopted 26/10/09); Local Plan First Alteration saved policies; Local Plan saved policies
New Forest National Park Authority Core Strategy (Adopted 09/12/10); Local Plan First Alteration saved policies; Local Plan saved policies; (Test Valley) District Local Plan saved policies
Oxford City Council Core Strategy (Adopted 14/03/11); West End Action Area Plan (Adopted 30/04/08); District Local Plan saved policies
Portsmouth City Local Plan saved policies (ILO Core Strategy); Southsea Town Centre Area Action Plan (Adopted 17/07/07)
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Local Plan saved policies

Reading Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted 31/01/08); Central Area Action Plan (Adopted 27/01/09); Local Plan saved policies
Reigate & Banstead District Local Plan saved policies
Rother District Local Plan saved policies
Runnymede District Local Plan saved policies
Rushmoor District Local Plan saved policies
Sevenoaks District Council Core Strategy Adopted 22/02/11); Local Plan saved policies
Shepway District Local Plan saved policies
Slough Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted 16/12/08); Site Allocations (Adopted 30/11/10); Local Plan saved policies
South Buckinghamshire District Council Core Strategy (Adopted 22/02/11); District Local Plan saved policies
South Oxfordshire District Local Plan saved policies
Southampton City Council Core Strategy (Adopted 20/01/10); Southampton City Local Plan saved policies
Spelthorne Borough Council Core Strategy and Policies (Adopted 26/02/09); Development Plan Allocations (Adopted 17/12/09); District Local Plan saved policies
Surrey Heath District Local Plan saved policies
Swale District Local Plan saved policies
Tandridge District Council Core Strategy (Adopted 15/10/08); Local Plan saved policies
Test Valley District Local Plan saved policies
Thanet District Council Cliftonville Area Action Plan (Adopted 25/02/10); Thanet District Local Plan saved policies
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted 25/09/07); Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan (Adopted 22/04/08); Development Land Allocations development plan document (Adopted 22/04/08); and Managing Development and the Environment development plan document (Adopted 20/04/10); District Local Plan saved policies

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted 17/06/10); Local Plan saved policies
Vale of White Horse District Local Plan saved policies
Waverley Local District Local Plan saved policies
Wealden District Local Plan saved policies
West Berkshire Unitary District Local Plan saved policies
West Oxfordshire District Local Plan saved policies
Winchester City District Local Plan saved policies
Woking District Local Plan saved policies
Wokingham District Council Core Strategy (Adopted 29/01/10); Local Plan saved policies
Worthing Borough Council Core Strategy (Adopted 12/04/11); Local Plan saved policies
Wycombe District Council Core Strategy (Adopted 07/07/08); Local Plan saved policies