

Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy

Environmental Report



AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited

October 2012

This Environmental Report is a consultation document on the likely significant environmental effects of revocation of the East Midlands Regional Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy (which together form the Regional Strategy in force for the East Midlands). **Responses on any aspect of the report are invited by Wednesday 19 December 2012.**

This report succeeds the previous Environmental Report for the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy which was consulted on between October 2011 and January 2012. It is a stand-alone document the intention of which is to provide the reader with an up-to-date comprehensive assessment of the environmental effects of the revocation of East Midlands Regional Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy without the need to refer back to the previous Environmental Report. Any reader who has also read the previous Environmental Report should note that, insofar as there is any difference between the two documents, this Environmental Report is to be preferred.

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the DCLG website in due course. 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:

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Non Technical Summary

This **Non-Technical Summary** presents the findings of the **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the plan to revoke the East Midlands Regional Strategy** contained in the accompanying Environmental Report. The assessment, Environmental Report and Non Technical Summary have been completed by AMEC E&I UK Ltd on behalf of DCLG.

The following sections:

- explain what the plan is and its implications for the East Midlands Region by revoking the East Midlands Regional Strategy;
- provide a summary of the environment within the Region;
- outline the likely significant environmental effects of the plan, along with the reasonable alternatives;
- propose mitigating measures for likely significant environmental effects identified;
- propose monitoring measures; and
- provide an indication of the next steps.

The plan to revoke Regional Strategies

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*”. The objective was to make Local Plans, and where desired neighbourhood plans, the basis for local planning decisions.

The Localism Act 2011 repealed Part 5 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, thereby removing the legal framework for the review of Regional Strategies or the adoption of new or revised Regional Strategies, and gave the Secretary of State powers to revoke in full or in part the existing strategies by order.

The Government’s proposal is to replace the eight Regional Strategies outside London with a more localist planning system, together with incentives such as the New Homes Bonus, to encourage local authorities and communities to increase their aspirations for housing and economic growth.

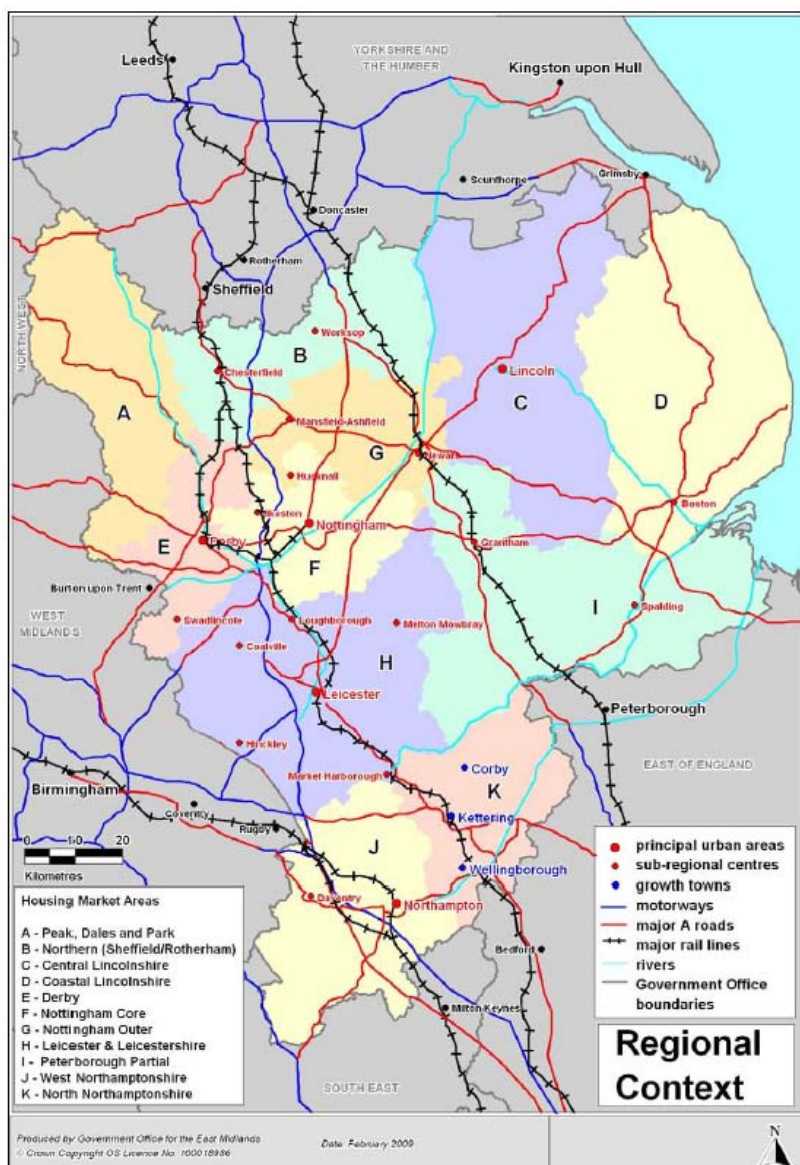
The East Midlands Regional Strategy

The East Midlands Regional Strategy combines the contents of the **East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy** and the **East Midlands Regional Economic Strategy**.

The **East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy** (published as the East Midlands Regional Plan in March 2009) was introduced under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and, in accordance with Government policy at the time, provides a broad development strategy for the region for 15 to 20 years. In particular, it has sought to reduce the region's impact on, and exposure to, the effects of climate change and to put in place a development strategy with the potential to support continued sustainable growth up to and beyond 2021.

It includes policies to address housing, environmental protection, transport and other infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, minerals, energy and waste, as well as sub-regional policies.

Figure NTS 1 The area covered by the East Midlands Regional Strategy



The East Midlands Regional Plan sets out policies and proposals for the East Midlands providing the framework for meeting the Region's development needs in a way that promotes a more sustainable pattern of development. The Spatial Strategy outlines regional priorities for both urban and rural communities. The main aim of the East Midlands Regional Plan is to locate new growth and regeneration in the areas which can most sustainably provide good sites for development. To maximise the development of key elements of the economy and to build on the existing infrastructure, a policy of urban concentration was adopted and a major proportion of the new growth in the East Midlands aimed at regenerating the urban areas, including promoting a closer alignment between jobs and homes in order to reduce the need to travel. The East Midlands Regional Plan includes a housing target of 324,100 net additional dwellings covering the period 2006 to 2026.

The East Midlands Regional Plan's main objectives are to:

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

The East Midlands Regional Plan reflects the national policies on development at the time of its publication. It incorporates the regional transport strategy and also takes account of and builds on the regional economic strategy produced by the East Midlands Development Agency and the Regional Sustainable Development Framework, which provides a high level statement of the regional vision for achieving sustainable development.

The **East Midlands Regional Economic Strategy** (RES) was produced in compliance with the Section 7 of the Regional Development Act 1998. It provides a vision for the East Midlands economy to 2020. This includes the vision that the East Midlands will be “a flourishing region - with growing and innovative businesses, skilled people in good quality jobs, participating in healthy, inclusive communities and living in thriving and attractive places.” This is to be achieved through attention on three main themes:

- **Raising productivity:** enabling our people and businesses to become more competitive and innovative.
- **Ensuring sustainability:** investing in and protecting our natural resources, environment and other assets such as infrastructure.
- **Achieving equality:** helping all people to realise their full potential and work effectively together to enrich our lives and our communities.

In turn, there are 10 strategic priorities and associated aims:

- **Employment, learning and skills** - To move more people into better jobs in growing businesses.
- **Enterprise and business support** - To become a region of highly productive, globally competitive businesses.
- **Innovation** - To develop a dynamic region founded upon innovative and knowledge focused businesses competing successfully in a global economy.
- **Transport and logistics** - To improve the quality of regional infrastructure to enable better connectivity within and outside the region.
- **Energy and resources** - To transform the way we use resources and use and generate energy to ensure a sustainable economy, a high quality environment and lessen the impact on climate change.
- **Environmental protection** - To protect and enhance the region's environment through sustainable economic growth.
- **Land and development** - To ensure that the quality and supply of development land, and balance between competing land uses, contributes towards sustainable growth of the regional economy.
- **Cohesive communities** - To increase life chances for all leading to stronger and more cohesive communities, a dynamic society and a stronger economy.
- **Economic renewal** - To ensure all people and communities have the opportunity to create new and sustainable economic futures.
- **Economic inclusion** - To help overcome the barriers, or market failures, that prevent people from participating fully in the regional and local economy.

The RES was developed with regional partners and was subject to a formal consultation and SEA process. There is a strong and complementary relationship between the East Midlands Regional Plan and the East Midlands RES:

- a shared focus on themes such as land and development, transport, economic renewal and environmental protection;
- the RES taking the lead from the East Midlands Regional Plan for the provision of high quality employment land and associated infrastructure;
- recognising that sustainable growth is critical to the future of the Region, expressed through high quality development which benefits all people and communities; and
- a partnership-based approach to delivery which uses the five sub-areas of the East Midlands Regional Plan as the basis for action.

The relationship between the RES and the East Midlands Regional Plan is set out in more detail in **Appendix H**.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the plan to revoke the East Midlands Regional Strategy

SEA became a statutory requirement following the adoption of European Union Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The objective of SEA, as defined in Directive 2001/42/EC is: *'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 plans and programmes with a view to contributing to sustainable development'*.

As part of its stated commitment to protecting the environment, the Government decided to carry out an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the revocation of the 8 Regional Strategies, on a voluntary basis. A 12 week consultation on the Environmental Reports of these assessments commenced on 20 October 2011 and ended on 20 January 2012. There were 103 responses to the consultation process.

Since the completion of the consultation, the Government has published the final version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and a planning policy on Travellers sites, has commenced provisions in the Localism Act and introduced a Duty to Co-operate in the Localism Act which contains strong measures for local co-operation¹. In addition, in a judgment² by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), the Court held that 'in as much as the repeal of a plan may modify the state of the environment as examined at the time of adoption, it must be taken into consideration with a view to

¹ S110 of the Localism Act 2011 Duty to Co-operate in relation to planning for sustainable development

² The judgment in Case C-567/10 *Inter-Environnement Bruxelles ASBL v Région de Bruxelles-Capitale*

subsequent effects that it might have on the environment'. The Government therefore decided to use the additional information gained through the public consultation process, as well as the developments in policy and recent CJEU case law, to update and build on the assessments which were described in the previous Environmental Reports. This assessment is the result in relation to the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy - it is a stand-alone document and there is no requirement to refer back to the previous report on the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy published on 20 October 2011.

The East Midlands environment

To provide the context for the assessment, the SEA Directive requires that the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its evolution without the plan are considered, along with the environmental characteristics likely to be significantly affected. This information is presented in detail for each SEA Topic considered in this assessment in **Appendix E**. Table NTS 1 provides a brief summary.

Table NTS 1 Summary of State of the Environment in the East Midlands

SEA Topic	Summary of the Environment and Key Characteristics in the East Midlands
<p>Biodiversity and Nature Conservation (which includes flora and fauna, and the functioning of ecosystems)</p>	<p>The region has 392 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), covering an area of 165,000ha. Nearly 40 per cent (62,046ha) is located in The Wash. The Wash is the largest SSSI in England, containing 14 per cent of England's coastal SSSI habitat. It is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Ramsar site, and a Special Protection Area (SPA). It holds the largest colony of common seals in the UK - about 90 per cent of the English population. Nationally significant heathlands occur in Nottinghamshire and the Lincolnshire Cover Sands (10,536ha designated as SSSI).</p> <p>In September 2010, 98 per cent of the SSSI areas in the East Midlands were in favourable condition which is a slight increase from 96 per cent in 2009 and 93 per cent in 2008 and means the 2010 target (of 95 per cent being in favourable condition) has been achieved.</p> <p>The East Midlands is the least wooded region in the country with around 5% cover (80,000 hectares), below the national average of 8%. Over 60% of this is broadleaf, less than 20% is conifer and the remainder is mixed woodland and associated habitats.</p>
<p>Population (including socio-economic effects and accessibility)</p>	<p>The East Midlands had a population of 4.5 million in mid-2009, an increase of 3.7 per cent since 2004. This compares with an overall increase of 3.3 per cent for the UK over the same period. People aged 65 and over in the East Midlands in 2009 made up 16.8 per cent of the population, compared with 18.3 per cent for the under-16s. This compares with averages for the UK of 16.4 per cent and 18.7 per cent respectively. In the East Midlands men aged 65 in 2007–09 could expect to live another 17.8 years and women 20.4 years. This is the same as the average for the UK.</p> <p>The East Midlands housing situation reflects the national polarising of north and south; with lower demand and the need for regeneration in the north due to declining traditional industries and high house prices and growth pressures in the south due to good transport links and proximity to London and the South East. The most pressing affordable housing gaps are in the Eastern and Southern sub-regions.</p> <p>Deprivation in the East Midlands is highly concentrated in the cities and coalfield areas as well as some parts of the Lincolnshire coast. Deprivation is also found in rural areas, where opportunities for employment and access to key, basic services are limited. Rural East Midlands has a higher proportion of rural parishes without a post office, pubs</p>

SEA Topic	Summary of the Environment and Key Characteristics in the East Midlands
	<p>and banks/building societies than is the case nationally.</p> <p>In 2009, resident based Gross Value Added (GVA) per head in the East Midlands was 86.8 per cent of the UK average. GVA per head in the region had previously fallen marginally from 89.7 per cent of the UK average in 2002 to 88.0 per cent in 2008. In 2009, the East Midlands' share of UK total GVA was 6.3 per cent. Tourism generates approximately £6.05 billion per annum for the East Midlands economy, including both direct and indirect revenue.</p>
Human Health	<p>Overall, the health of the population in the East Midlands is similar to that of the UK as a whole, but this masks wide inequalities in health levels. Male life expectancy across the region is around 78 years which is very close to the national average. Life expectancy for women across the region is around 82 which is also very close to the UK average. Male life expectancy in the most deprived tenth of East Midlands' wards averages about six years less than in the least deprived tenth of wards.</p> <p>The most unfavourable local environments as measured by the Environmental Quality Index occur in the region's cities: Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, and Nottingham. These unfavourable environments are often in places with the most deprived communities as measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation. The Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that 17 per cent of East Midlands Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs - areas of approximately 1,500 people) are in the worst fifth of nationally deprived communities.</p>
Soil and Geology (including land use, important geological sites, and the contamination of soils)	<p>Agriculture occupies nearly 80% of the land area in the East Midlands. Over 1.2 million hectares of land are used for agriculture with over 22,000 farms in the region; 43 per cent of these are small farms with less than 5ha of land. Lincolnshire accounts for over 85 per cent of the region's horticulture and around half of the region's arable crops and fallow area.</p> <p>Approximately 80% of the agricultural land in the East Midlands is classified as Grade 3 land, 10% is Grades 1 and 2 and the remaining 10% is Grades 4 and 5.³ The majority of Grade I and II agricultural land is located in low-lying coastal areas. The lower grade agricultural land is concentrated in the uplands of the Peak District.</p> <p>In 2007 the East Midlands had 10.2% of the total derelict land and buildings in England, which was the fifth highest figure. In the same year, the East Midlands had 6,360ha of previously developed land (PDL) that was unused or may be available for redevelopment, 39% of which was suitable for housing.</p>
Water Quality and Resources (including as inland surface freshwater and groundwater resources, and inland surface freshwater, groundwater, estuarine, coastal and marine water quality)	<p>Parts of the East Midlands are among the driest in England with average annual rainfall of less than 600mm in some places. Surface water across the majority of the East Midlands is already fully committed to existing abstractions so no significant additional resource is reliably available - with the possible exception of the River Trent and the River Soar. Water in some specific sub-areas is currently over-abstracted, for example around Worksop, Louth and between Leicester and Corby. However, there is water available (combined groundwater and surface water) in the centre of the region in the Three Cities area. The largest use of water is for public supply. The public supply is broken down into household use (53%), non-household use (27%) and leakage (20%). Industries and farmers both abstract water, although farmers abstract for spray irrigation, mainly in summer months when the river flows are at their lowest and very little irrigation water is returned, so its potential impact on the water environment is heightened.</p> <p>The East Midlands has some of the best quality beaches in England and Wales. All seven testing sites met bathing water standards in 2008.</p>

³ Report for the East Midlands Regional Assembly - Project ENV002/AH. East Midlands Soil and Environmental resource Review. June 2006.

SEA Topic	Summary of the Environment and Key Characteristics in the East Midlands
	<p>Approximately 17% of the region's land area is at risk of flooding. This affects over 350,000 people in 143,000 homes and a significant number of businesses. Flood defences reach the desired standards in every location in the region.</p>
Air Quality	<p>Within the East Midlands, air quality issues can be linked to two main sources of pollutants: transport and industry. Several important transport corridors (e.g. A1, M1, A14) run through the region with industry concentrated towards the north. Transport is currently the most important source of pollution as nitrogen dioxide from traffic is the main reason for failing to meet air quality standards in the region. Road traffic grew in the East Midlands by 22.7% between 1993 and 2002 with consequent detrimental effects on air quality. Poor air quality in rural areas, in terms of nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide is most frequently recorded at locations close to the urban industrial areas and the transport corridors. Air passenger traffic is an important factor in the East Midlands. The most important emissions from aircraft engines are of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulates (PM₁₀).</p>
Climate Change (including greenhouse gas emissions, predicted effects of climate change and the ability to adapt)	<p>According to the Environment Agency in 2007, on average each person in the East Midlands was responsible for the emission of 8.9 tonnes of CO₂ (excluding emissions from air and marine transport, offshore emissions and direct emissions from waste). The UK average was 8.4 tonnes per capita and the East Midlands had the third highest figure of the English regions.</p> <p>In per capita terms, road transport end user emissions in the East Midlands also exceeded the national average, at 2.4 tonnes in 2005 compared to 2.1 tonnes in 2008. Road transport emissions in the East Midlands decreased at the same rate as the national average between 2005 and 2008, by only -0.2 percentage points. Since 2006 the chosen mode of transport to work has remain largely unchanged, with 77% of travel by car, 7% using public transport and 11% walking. This extent of car dependency is above and use of public transport is below the national average.</p> <p>In 2010, there were 137 sites producing renewable energy (excluding photovoltaic solar energy) with installed capacity of 447.7MWe, compared to 99 sites with 402.6MWe installed capacity in 2008. In 2010, the region had 17% of the national capacity of onshore wind power. In 2008, 947 Gigawatt Hours (GWh) of renewable energy were generated in the East Midlands out of the UK total of 21,578GWh. The highest generation from an English region was the East of England with 2,164GWh.</p>
Waste Management and Minerals	<p>Landfill capacity for waste in the East Midlands fell from over 87 million cubic metres in 2007 to under 68 million cubic metres in 2009. During 2009/10, 2.3 million tonnes of municipal waste was collected in the East Midlands. 2.1 million tonnes of this was household waste. Regional household waste sites received 622 thousand tonnes of waste in 2009/10. Household recycling rates have risen consistently since 2000/01 from 13% to over 45% in 2009/10. This is consistently above the national average. Currently 44.2 per cent of municipal waste in the East Midlands is recycled or composted and 48.1 per cent goes to landfill.</p> <p>By the end of 2009, total rock reserves for aggregate purposes in the East Midlands were 1,304 million tonnes and sand and gravel reserves for aggregate purposes stood at 81 million tonnes. During 2009 a total of 22 million tonnes of rock was sold for aggregate use, alongside sales of 6 million tonnes of sand and gravel. Limestone/dolomite reserves for aggregate purposes show little change since 2005 so that by the end of 2009 reserves stood at 982.6 million tonnes. During 2009 a total of 22 million tonnes of rock was sold for aggregate use, alongside sales of 6 million tonnes of sand and gravel.</p>
Cultural Heritage (including architectural and archaeological)	<p>The East Midlands played a leading role in the industrial revolution, as reflected in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Sites, the only WHS in the region. A legacy of ancient road networks, the Civil War, and historic wealth from sheep farming, leaves the</p>

SEA Topic	Summary of the Environment and Key Characteristics in the East Midlands
heritage)	<p>East Midlands with a considerable range of heritage assets. This is reflected in the high number of designated places of archaeological, architectural and historic importance, on a region wide, per capita basis. Waterways such as the Grand Union Canal are an integral part of the region's heritage. The region contains many historic market towns such as Stamford. In 2011, the region had the following cultural heritage assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Sites 1 • Scheduled Monuments 1,512 • Listed Buildings Grade I 1,993 • Listed Buildings Grade II* 1,868 • Listed Buildings Grade II 26,762 • Total Listed Buildings 29,631 • Registered Parks and Gardens 138 • Registered Battlefields 5 • Conservation Areas 1,101 • Designated Collections 7 • Accredited Museums 103
Landscape and Townscape	<p>The East Midlands has two areas designated for their landscape value: the Peak District National Park and the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which together cover 9% of the region. This is the lowest percentage of designated landscape coverage in any region. The 89,519ha of the Peak District National Park which falls within the East Midlands accounts for 6 per cent of the region's land area. The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is the only designated AONB in the region, accounting for 3 per cent of the land area in the East Midlands, compared with a national average of 15 per cent AONB coverage. Outside the designated landscapes, the character of much of the region's landscape is classified as changing or in a neglected state. The landscape is classified as having been enhanced across the Fens, Melbourne Parklands and the Leicestershire and Derbyshire coalfields. The East Midlands region has just 0.3 per cent of England's common land.</p>

A more detailed description of issues and existing environmental problems that relate to sites designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EC) is set out in **Appendix G**.

The evolution of the environmental baseline without the plan to revoke the East Midlands Regional Strategy would include changes anticipated to arise from retaining the Regional Strategy. To provide an informed understanding of this, the assessment has used the findings of the 2009 Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment⁴ of the East Midlands Regional Plan. Key capacity issues noted include:

- availability of water resources, especially in the East Midlands (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire) and Lincolnshire Fens water resource zones;

⁴ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/planning/regional-planning/?a=42496>

- the capacity of sewage treatment works to accommodate further development without adverse effects on water quality, especially in the Northern and Three Cities Sub-Areas (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire);
- the achievement of air quality and greenhouse emissions targets, especially with respect to transport;
- the potential permanent loss of best and most versatile land to development, for example around Boston;
- flood risk in the Southern and Three Cities Sub-Areas, and possibly parts of the coast;
- the capacity of historic settlements to accommodate further development, especially Lincoln, but also smaller settlements such as Stamford;
- despite the relatively small amount of development to be accommodated in the Peak Sub-Area, there could be some capacity issues with respect to landscape and biodiversity; and
- it is uncertain at this stage whether there are capacity issues with respect to biodiversity more generally, although it should be borne in mind that the biodiversity interest of the region is already comparatively low.

Appendix E contains more detailed information on the evolution of the baseline.

The relationship of the plan to revoke the East Midlands Regional Strategy with other policies, plans and programmes

Consistent with the SEA Directive requirements, this assessment has identified and reviewed other relevant policies, plans and programmes at an international (European), national, regional and local level. The review has identified how these other policies, plans and programmes could influence the plan to revoke the Regional Strategy. It also identifies how the plan to revoke could contribute to the achievement of any environmental or sustainability objectives set out in these other policies, plans and programmes. Of particular relevance is the National Planning Policy Framework, as well as the 42 Local Plans and 5 Plans that contain mineral and waste policies in the region. The relevant policies from the Local Plans and Mineral and Waste Plans are presented in **Appendix C**.

The relevant environmental protection objectives are reviewed and provided in **Appendix E** to the Environmental Report. Examples include:

- protection and enhancement of the levels and variety of biodiversity, including designated sites, priority species and habitats;
- protection and enhancement of soil quality and landscape character;
- protection and enhancement of water supplies and resources; and

- promoting the efficient use of water.

The review also helped to inform the development of the baseline, aid the determination of the key issues and provide the policy context for the assessment.

Which environmental topics has the plan to revoke the East Midlands Regional Strategy been assessed against?

The plan to revoke the Regional Strategy has been assessed against the 12 topic areas, identified below. These include all of the topics set out in the SEA Directive. The methodology used within the assessment is in **section 3** of the Environmental Report.

1. Biodiversity	8. Air quality
2. Fauna	9. Climatic Factors including climate change and adaptation
3. Flora	10. Material Assets including waste management and minerals
4. Population including demographics, socio-economics	11. Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage
5. Human health	12. Landscape
6. Soil including geology and land use	
7. Water quality and resources including surface and ground water quality and availability	

The baseline data and information required under the SEA Directive for each of these topics is presented in **Appendix E** to the Environmental Report.

What reasonable alternatives were identified and assessed?

Consideration of the reasonable alternatives for a proposed policy or plan is a fundamental aspect of policy and planning development and a pre-requisite for the preferred direction to gain wider and long term support. In turn, recording the reasons for the selection of the preferred option can also aid subsequent review, particularly if the assumptions that underpin any alternatives change over time.

Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive requires the identification, description and evaluation of reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. On this basis, the starting point for identifying alternatives to the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy has been the scope of the powers of the Secretary of State to revoke, partially revoke or fully revoke the Regional Strategies. Responses to the consultation suggested a number of other alternatives (see **Appendix F** and section 2.4 of the main report) including partial revocation.

Following the application of the reasonableness test in compliance with Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive, the following alternatives have been taken forward for assessment within the SEA:

- **Revocation** of the entire East Midlands Regional Strategy.
- **Retention** of the East Midlands Regional Strategy but not updating it in the future.
- **Partial revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy either by:**
 - revoking all the quantified and spatially specific policies (for instance where a quantum of development, land for development or amounts of minerals to be extracted or waste disposal is allocated to a particular location in the region) and retaining for a transitional period the non spatial policies; or
 - retaining for a transitional period all the spatially specific policies where a quantum of development or land for development is allocated to a particular location in the region and revoking the non spatial policies, ambitions and priorities; or
 - retention of policies, ambitions and/or priorities in the short and medium term for a transitional period, the revocation of which may lead to likely significant negative environmental effects.

Under either revocation or retention local authorities will need to prepare and implement their local plans and other planning policy documents and to take planning decisions having due regard to the NPPF. The importance placed on the retained Regional Strategy and the NPPF may change over time, particularly when the Regional Strategy is not revised and so becomes out of date and less relevant to local community circumstances. Revocation of the Regional Strategy also has the potential to affect Local Plans and planning decisions more immediately as in some cases, removing the Regional Strategy will remove a regional policy that the local planning authority used to make local development decisions and local policy. The implications and effects on relevant Local Plan policies have therefore also been considered in the assessment.

What are the likely significant effects⁵ of the plan to revoke the East Midlands Regional Strategy and the reasonable alternatives?

The assessment of the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy has shown that **there will be significant positive environmental effects**, although these will be largely similar to those if the Regional Strategy were retained.

The areas where revocation of the Regional Strategy would lead to **significant negative effects is in relation to** the potential effects of road and air transport development on biodiversity, air quality, climate

⁵ This includes consideration of the effects in the short, medium and long term permanent and temporary and positive and negative effects. Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are also specifically considered in Table NTS3.

and landscape. However, it should be noted that a similar policy performance is recorded for the retention alternative.

The assessment has also shown that negative effects similar to those if the Regional Strategy were retained will occur in the short-long term in respect of impacts on all elements of the environment due to the quantum of housing and employment development and the expansion of airport facilities in the region. However, the effects will be minimised as far as possible through the application of policies in the NPPF and other statutory duties which seek to ensure development is designed and located to minimise its environmental impact.

For the majority of policies, it is difficult to identify clear differences between the effects of retention and revocation. This reflects the broad strategic nature of the Regional Strategy policies and the degree to which responsibilities are already devolved to local authorities to reflect the principles in their Local Plans. It also reflects the provisions of the NPPF which mean that the basic framework for the delivery of sustainable development is in place and which are also compatible with the sustainable development principles employed in the East Midlands Regional Strategy.

Where it occurs, differences between retention and revocation are most clear in respect of housing and employment development. Whilst the benefits to communities of housing and employment opportunities and the impacts on biodiversity, air quality, soils, water and material assets will be similar, a locally-led approach could ensure that the adverse effects are more effectively mitigated. This could be through a more detailed understanding of local environmental capacity issues and possibly more diverse and locally-specific spatial distributions of development. . In the case of revocation, it is AMEC's view that there is some uncertainty about whether the benefits will be realised in the short to medium term for those local authorities that need to establish Local Plan policies for housing and economic development that reflect the objectively assessed and up to date needs of their respective local communities.

Where a Regional Strategy policy provides a strategic direction whose requirements extend beyond the boundaries of a single authority, such as strategic employment sites, there may also be a difference in the short and medium term between retention and revocation. Retention of the policy and the resulting development is likely to have significantly positive effects on the community and negative effects on biodiversity, air, water and material assets, in part because of the clarity and certainty provided by the retained policy. In the case of revocation, it is AMEC's view that there may be more uncertainty about impacts in the short and medium term due to the transition period for those authorities where plans are out of date or who need to establish arrangements under the Duty to Co-operate to deliver strategic policies and then reflect them in their adopted Local Plans. The application of the NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development will lead to the approval of development which is sustainable without delay will help where plans or policies are absent, silent or out of date.

Many of the benefits of retention relate to spatial planning issues that cross local authority boundaries (for example, green infrastructure) and require direction and co-operation from a number of stakeholders

including local authorities to be realised. Therefore, in the case of revocation there is more uncertainty about benefits coming forward in the short to medium term where local authorities need to establish the arrangements under the Duty to Co-operate to deliver such strategic policies and then reflect these arrangements in their adopted Local Plans. So, whilst the Duty to Co-operate could well address a wide range of strategic issues, such as the delivery of green infrastructure, it is AMEC’s opinion that there is uncertainty as to how this might work, particularly in the short to medium term, both by topic and geographically. Some issues such as renewable energy, biodiversity enhancement or landscape conservation, which typically benefit from being planned at a wider geographical scale, may not have their full potential realised.

The plan to revoke the Regional Strategies is national in scope as well as applying to the eight regions. In consequence the national implications and effects of the plan have also been considered in the cumulative assessment. In respect of setting local housing targets, over the medium and longer term, the wider effects could yield increasing differences between regions with growth concentrated in those areas of greatest demand with consequential effects for infrastructure and environmental assets.

It should be noted that the effects of the recent Government housing and planning package changes have not been considered in detail in the assessment as policy detail is still being developed; however, it may prove that the increased emphasis on growth and development given by these proposals addresses some of the effects in the short and medium term arising from the uncertainties in those 28 authorities without Local Plans in conformity with the Regional Strategy.

Table NTS 2 presents a summary of the environmental effects of revocation, retention and partial revocation on each of the policy areas contained in the East Midlands Regional Strategy. It includes consideration of the short, medium and long term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. These cover a broad range of policy issues and encompass those contained in the Regional Economic Strategy.

Table NTS 2 Summary of the Effects of Revocation, Retention and Partial Revocation by Topic

East Midlands Regional Plan Policy Area	Revocation	Retention	Partial Revocation		
			Revoke quantified and spatially-specific policies	Revoke non quantitative and non-spatially specific policies	Policies with significant negative effects
Core Strategy (Policies 1-2)	There are no areas where revocation of those policies which make up the Core Spatial Strategy would have any negative effects. There may be a delay in	There would be a similar range of effects to revocation. Effects in the short and medium term will be more pronounced as there would be no delay in	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.

East Midlands Regional Plan Policy Area	Revocation	Retention	Partial Revocation		
			Revoke quantified and spatially-specific policies	Revoke non quantitative and non-spatially specific policies	Policies with significant negative effects
	realising the benefits in the short and medium term due to the time required to put in place up to date local plans and implement the Duty to Co-operate.	implementation.			
Spatial Strategy (Policies 3-12)	The revocation of these policies is unlikely to affect local authorities' provision and planning for growth. There are expected to be similar benefits to the population as with retention of the policies. Adverse effects (for example on future water resources where effects would be significant) would be similar to those of retention.	There would be a similar range of effects to revocation. Effects in the short and medium term will be more pronounced than revocation. The effects would be unaffected by delays arising from the implementation arrangements needed for revocation.	There would be a similar range of effects to revocation.	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.
Housing (13a-17)	The revocation of the policies is unlikely to affect local authorities' provision and planning for housing. The NPPF requires all authorities to objectively assess their own housing markets and make provision accordingly. The negative effects on the region's water resources, noted above, have been identified as being significant. The effects could be lessened or delayed due to some authorities needing to update and revise their Local Plans.	There would be a similar range of effects to revocation. Effects in the short and medium term will be more pronounced as there would be no delay in implementation.	There would be a similar range of effects to revocation.	There would be a similar range of effects to revocation although it might result in some confusion with the intent of the NPPF and how the retained policies are to be applied.	No significant effects identified.
Economic Development (Policies 18-25)	The revocation of the policies is unlikely to affect local authorities	There would be a similar range of effects to revocation. Effects in the short	There would be a similar range of effects to	There would be a similar range of effects to revocation	No significant effects identified.

East Midlands Regional Plan Policy Area	Revocation	Retention	Partial Revocation		
			Revoke quantified and spatially- specific policies	Revoke non quantitative and non-spatially specific policies	Policies with significant negative effects
	planning for growth and in providing for these needs, there are expected to be significant benefits to the population in the long term. Adverse effects (for example on future water resources where effects would be significant) would be similar to those of retention.	and medium term will be more pronounced as there would be no delay in implementation.	revocation.	although it might result in some confusion with the intent of the NPPF and how the retained policies are to be applied.	
Environmental Protection and Enhancement (Policies 26-31)	The revocation of these policies is unlikely to affect local authorities' provision and planning for the environment. There will be benefits across virtually all of the SEA topic areas with many of the effects being significant due to a combination of existing statutory environmental protection and the application of the NPPF policies.	Similar effects to revocation.	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.
Water & Coastal Issues (Policies 32-35)	The revocation of these policies is unlikely to affect local authorities' planning policy for water resources and coastal issues.	Similar effects to revocation.	There would be a similar range of effects to revocation.	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.
Air Quality (Policy 36)	The assessment has identified positive benefits under biodiversity/flora/fauna, population/health, air, climatic factors and cultural heritage reflecting the approach to air quality management in the NPPF.	Similar effects to revocation.	There would be a similar range of effects to revocation.	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.
Minerals & Waste	The assessment has	Similar effects to	No significant	Similar effects	No significant

East Midlands Regional Plan Policy Area	Revocation	Retention	Partial Revocation		
			Revoke quantified and spatially- specific policies	Revoke non quantitative and non-spatially specific policies	Policies with significant negative effects
(Policies 37-38)	<p>identified positive benefits under biodiversity/flora fauna, population health, material assets and these reflect the sustainable approach to mineral extraction and supply which is presented in the NPPF.</p> <p>The revocation of the policies is unlikely to affect local authorities' planning policy for waste management.</p>	revocation.	effects identified.	to revocation.	effects identified.
Energy (Policies 39-40)	<p>The revocation of these policies is unlikely to affect local authorities' planning policy responses to the effects of climate change. There will be significant positive effects on the climatic factors topic with other benefits for population/health and water due to a combination of measures from existing statutory requirements and the application of NPPF policies at the local level. However, a minor difference in carbon reduction was identified.</p>	Similar effects to revocation.	No significant effects identified.	There would be significant positive effects on climatic factors although it might result in some confusion with the intent of the NPPF and how the retained policies are to be applied.	No significant effects identified.
Recreation & Tourism (Policies 41-42)	<p>The revocation of these policies is unlikely to affect local authorities' provision and planning for cultural heritage and tourism. There will continue to be positive effects on population, although effects on cultural heritage and landscape are uncertain over the medium and longer term.</p>	Similar effects to revocation.	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.

East Midlands Regional Plan Policy Area	Revocation	Retention	Partial Revocation		
			Revoke quantified and spatially-specific policies	Revoke non quantitative and non-spatially specific policies	Policies with significant negative effects
Transport (Policies 43-56)	Revocation of these policies is likely to have a range of effects including potentially significant negative effects on biodiversity in the long term for the region and sub-areas as infrastructure development is promoted and on air and climatic factors in respect of the promotion of the development of the East Midlands airport.	Similar effects to revocation.	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.	Potentially significant negative effects associated with sub-area transport objectives and regional air priorities for air transport.
Implementation & Review (Policy 57)	The revocation of the policy is unlikely to affect local authorities' monitoring proposals.	Similar effects to revocation.	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.	No significant effects identified.
Sub-Areas (Policies: MKSM SRS Northamptonshire 1-4; Three Cities SRS 1-5; Northern SRS 1-5; Lincoln Policy Area SRS 1-11)	Revocation of these policies will leave decisions to local authorities collaborating under the Duty to Co-operate to bring forward the necessary development across the sub-region in line with the policies in the NPPF. Specific effects and uncertainties have been identified where there is a difference between local authority and Regional Strategy policy e.g. North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy; Rushcliffe Core Strategy.	There would be a similar range of effects to revocation. Effects in the short and medium term will be more pronounced as there would be no delay in implementation.	No significant effects identified.	There would be a similar range of effects as revocation although it might result in some confusion with the intent of the NPPF and how the retained policies are to be applied.	No significant effects identified.

What are the secondary, cumulative and synergistic⁶ effects of the plan to revoke the East Midlands Regional Strategy?

In determining the significance of effects of a plan or programme, the SEA Directive requires that consideration is given to the secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects on the environment. Table NTS 3 summarises these by assessment topic.

Table NTS 3 Summary of Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

Assessment Topic	Summary Cumulative Effects
<p>Biodiversity and Nature Conservation (which includes flora and fauna, and the functioning of ecosystems)</p>	<p>Revocation will not affect the maintenance of favourable condition status as existing legislation protecting SAC, SPA, SSSI and protected species remains in place, strengthened by the commitments in the NPPF in relation to protecting biodiversity resources and enhancing green infrastructure.</p> <p>Achievement of legally binding targets for water and air quality (under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010) will also be significant contributory factors in improving the quality of areas important for wildlife, while enhanced provisions on aspects such as the delivery and protection of green infrastructure will play an important role in increasing the overall area with significant biodiversity value.</p> <p>The NPPF together with legislation and wider national policies on biodiversity provides a strong framework to maintain the current high level of protection for the existing biodiversity resource; however, there may be some uncertainties associated with the implementation of the Duty to Co-operate.</p> <p>There will, however, be some development anticipated on greenfield sites, and where this occurs, this will lead to some local loss of biodiversity (either directly through land take or indirectly through effects associated with disruption and disturbance of habitats adjacent to the developed sites, from construction, traffic and recreational activity). The local effects however, will depend on decisions taken by local authorities in consultation with their communities, and by businesses and other partners, on the future scale, nature and location of housing and other development in order to meet identified need.</p> <p>There may also be gradual change to biodiversity resources over time due to factors, such as, climate change and coastal erosion.</p>
<p>Population (including socio-economic effects and accessibility)</p>	<p>There are a range of significant direct and indirect positive benefits anticipated to accrue to communities from the provision of employment and housing land (including provision for gypsy and traveller sites), improvements in local facilities and enhancement from local environmental quality. Revocation is unlikely to affect this due to the presence of the NPPF together with legislation and a range of Local Economic Partnerships with clear commitments and visions to address issues in their respective areas.</p>
<p>Human Health</p>	<p>There are a range of direct and indirect benefits to human health of increasing the quality and quantity of new housing, addressing local deprivation and improving local environmental quality.</p> <p>Revocation will still enable positive benefits to be delivered as local authorities are expected to work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships to determine the socio-economic needs of their area (e.g.</p>

⁶ This includes consideration of the effects in the short, medium and long terms, permanent and temporary and positive and negative effects.

Assessment Topic	Summary Cumulative Effects
	employment and housing quality) and protect and enhance green infrastructure. New homes are to be in locations accessible by sustainable means of transport, walking and cycling in particular are healthy activities and the NPPF is complementary to national initiatives such as the cycle to work scheme all of which will result in positive secondary effects on health.
Soil and Geology (including land use, important geological sites, and the contamination of soils)	At this stage the cumulative effects remain uncertain although are likely to be negative given the demand for greenfield land for future development. However, given the target in the Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) that by 2030 all of England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully along with further research, there remains the potential for this to be addressed in the long term.
Water Quality and Resources (including as inland surface freshwater and groundwater resources, and inland surface freshwater, groundwater, estuarine, coastal and marine water quality)	Potentially negative effects have been identified against this topic (arising from the cumulative effects of future development and increased demand for water, particularly in already stressed areas). These issues are likely to be compounded by the effects of climate change. Legislation and policy for water companies, the Environment Agency, developers and local authorities along with the NPPF policy will continue to ensure water resources are considered and sustainably managed.
Air Quality	Revocation is not considered to affect the achievement of good air quality across the region as it will be delivered by other policy and legislation by a range of organisations. As development will increase the amount of traffic generated the cumulative effect is considered to be neutral as it will not alter current trends.
Climate Change (including greenhouse gas emissions, predicted effects of climate change and the ability to adapt)	Revocation will not affect the direction of movement towards a low carbon economy as it will be delivered by other climate change policy and legislation but as development will increase the amount of traffic generated the cumulative effect of revocation on climate change is considered to be neutral.
Waste Management and Minerals	<p>Ensuring timely provision of appropriate waste management facilities will have significant benefits on human health while reducing the amount of waste imported into the region should reduce traffic levels and have benefits for air quality. The reduction in the amount of waste disposed of to landfill will reduce the risk of water contamination and emission of greenhouse gases (i.e. methane).</p> <p>Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy will not affect waste management in the region. The combination of European Directives (notably the Landfill Directive) and PPS10 will ensure that waste management is undertaken in a manner consistent with the waste management hierarchy and with the intent to increase resource efficiency with a continued reduction in waste requiring disposal in landfill. Therefore, cumulative effects are likely to be negative due to the ongoing demand for resources and waste generated.</p>
Cultural Heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)	Direct or secondary effects (in relation to the setting of heritage assets) could result from development under either retention or revocation. However, revocation will not affect the protection given to designated heritage assets as existing legislation protecting World Heritage Sites, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas and registered parks and gardens remains in place, strengthened by the NPPF's requirements. Therefore, long term, revocation is likely to have a positive cumulative effect.
Landscape and Townscape	Revocation will not affect the protection given to the East Midlands' designated landscapes as existing legislation protecting National Parks and AONBs remains in place, strengthened by the NPPF's requirements. There may be gradual change to landscapes over time due to factors, such as, climate change, change in agricultural practices and economic conditions. However, long term, revocation is likely to have a positive cumulative impact due to the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure across the region.

Proposed Mitigation Measures

A number of mitigation measures have been identified in the detailed assessment in **Appendix D**.

Monitoring Proposals

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive to establish how the significant effects of revoking the Regional Strategy will be monitored. As set out in ODPM Guidance⁷, “*it is not necessary to monitor everything or monitor an effect indefinitely. Instead, monitoring needs to be focused on significant sustainability effects.*”

CLG’s Business Plan⁸ under section 5 ‘Put Communities in charge of planning’ includes specific monitoring actions for the department regarding the local plan making progress by authorities and on compliance with the Duty to Co-operate. The results of this monitoring will provide clarity over the extent of any delay in adoption of revised Local Plans. When reviewing the environmental effects of the final decision on revocation, it is proposed that CLG will make periodic reference to the following metrics and sources of information contained in Table NTS 4. Any resulting analysis of long term trends will be used to consider whether any further mitigation or intervention is needed for:

- the significant effects identified in the assessment that may give rise to irreversible damage where it is appropriate to implement relevant mitigating measures before such damage is caused; and
- uncertain effects where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigating measures to be undertaken.

Taking this into account, of the 12 topics considered in this SEA, it is proposed that monitoring should focus on the following:

Table NTS 4 Proposed Monitoring Indicators and Sources of Information

SEA Topics	Proposed Monitoring Indicators	Source(s) of Information
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition reports for designated sites • Threatened habitats and species • Populations of countryside birds 	JNCC report under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (completed every 6 years) on the conservation status of protected habitats Joint Nature Conservation Committee http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4241)

⁷ ODPM, September 2005: Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

⁸ CLG May 2012, Business Plan 2012-2015

SEA Topics	Proposed Monitoring Indicators	Source(s) of Information
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface water biological indicators 	http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4239 http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4238 http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4235 http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/report.cfm?category=R,RF Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/environment/land-water/ The Environment Agency (EA) are responsible for monitoring water quality under the Water Framework Directive
Population	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment Information Population Housing and additional net dwellings 	Office of National Statistics reports, specifically Regional Trends and Regional Gross Value Added Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) statistics Annual net additional dwellings, Housebuilding: permanent dwellings completed by tenure and region
Human Health	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Statistics – Long term illness, etc. Crime Deprivation 	Office of National Statistics (ONS) on health Home Office, Crime Survey for England and Wales DCLG statistics: Indices of Deprivation
Soil and Geology	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land classification Land use 	Defra: Agricultural land classification DCLG statistics
Water	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of catchments with good ecological status Water resource availability Per capita water consumption 	EA & Defra http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/environment/land-water/ Severn Trent Water
Air	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of AQMAs Number of AQMAs where exceedances occurred. 	Defra
Climatic factors	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emission of greenhouse gases Number of properties at risk of flooding 	Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Statistical Release: Local and regional CO ₂ emissions EA

SEA Topics	Proposed Monitoring Indicators	Source(s) of Information
Material Assets	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of construction waste and proportions recycled • Volume of hazardous waste • Volume of controlled wastes and proportions recycled • Volume of minerals extracted 	EA East Midlands Mineral Planning Authorities
Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of historic assets 	English Heritage 'Heritage at risk report'
Landscape and Townscape	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in AONBs • Changes in Conservation Areas 	National Association of AONBs English Heritage (if 2003 survey repeated) ONS (proposed measures of wellbeing) DCLG http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1815794.xls

What were the challenges faced in completing this Report?

A number of technical difficulties were incurred in carrying out the assessment. These reflect a number of factors, principally that undertaking an assessment of the effects of revocation is a new requirement and that there are some uncertainties over future effects. The environmental effects of revoking the Regional Strategy will clearly be dependent on future decisions by local authorities, individually and collectively. The uncertainty arising from local decisions has been reflected as appropriate in the assessment of the individual policies in **Appendix D** and in the consideration in the topic chapters contained in **Appendix E**.

The next steps

This Environmental Report will be presented for consultation until Wednesday 19 December 2012. Feedback received from consultees in relation to the SEA will be documented and considered in reviewing the proposals to revoke the Regional Strategies. A Post Adoption Statement will summarise how the SEA and the consultation responses have been taken into account and how environmental considerations have been integrated into the final decisions regarding the proposals to revoke the Regional Strategies.

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Plan to Revoke Regional Strategies

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*”. The objective was to make local plans, and where desired neighbourhood plans, the basis for local planning decisions.

The Localism Act 2011 repealed Part 5 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, thereby removing the legal framework for the review of Regional Strategies or the adoption of new or revised Regional Strategies, and gave the Secretary of State powers to revoke in full or in part the existing strategies by order.

The Government’s proposal is to replace the eight Regional Strategies (comprising the relevant regional spatial strategies and regional economic strategies) outside London with a more localist planning system. Together with incentives such as the New Homes Bonus it aims to encourage local authorities and communities to realise their aspirations for housing and economic growth.

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

SEA became a statutory requirement following the adoption of European Union Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. This was transposed into UK legislation on the 20 July 2004 as The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI2004/1633). The objective of SEA, as defined in Directive 2001/42/EC is:

“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 plans and programmes with a view to contributing to sustainable development”.

Throughout the course of the development of a plan or programme, the SEA should seek to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and to propose measures to avoid, manage or mitigate any significant adverse effects and to enhance any beneficial effects.

1.2.1 Applying SEA to the Revocation of the Regional Strategies

Regional Strategies are plans for the purpose of the European Directive 2001/42/EC 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. 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.

As part of its stated commitment to protecting the environment, the Government decided to carry out an environmental assessment of the revocation of the existing Regional Strategies, on a voluntary basis. These assessments were prepared to be compliant with the procedure set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. A 12 week consultation on the Environmental Reports of these assessments commenced on 20 October 2011 and ended on 20 January 2012.

Since the start of the consultation on the assessments there have been a number of developments that are relevant to assessing the likely significant environmental effects of the proposal to revoke the Regional Strategies. These are:

- The **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** was published in March 2012, which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and provides a framework within which local communities can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans reflective of the needs and priorities of their communities. It includes Government's expectations for planning strategically across local boundaries and within that the role of the planning system in protecting the environment.
- The **planning policy for Traveller sites** was published in March 2012 (to be read in conjunction with the NPPF).
- The provisions which create a **new Duty to Co-operate** were commenced when the Localism Act received Royal Assent on the 15th November 2011. They require local planning authorities to work collaboratively to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and clearly reflected in local plans.

Additionally, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) gave judgment in March 2012 on the applicability of the SEA Directive to a procedure for the total or partial revocation of a land use plan⁹. It held that such a procedure in principle falls within the scope of the Directive and is subject to the rules relating to the assessment of effects on the environment as laid down by the Directive.

The public consultation on the Environmental Reports generated many helpful and informative responses. Some of these provided additional information and suggested other analysis to help improve the assessments. The Government has therefore decided to use the additional information gained through the public consultation process, as well as the developments in policy and CJEU jurisprudence, to update and build on the earlier assessments. Details of this additional analysis are given in **Section 3.1**. This Environmental Report reflects this decision and, in line with the requirements of the SEA Directive, is subject to consultation. As this is further to the consultation in 2011 on the environmental assessments, the Government considers it reasonable for the consultation period for this subsequent consultation to run for eight weeks.

⁹ The judgment in Case C-567/10 *Inter-Environnement Bruxelles ASBL v Région de Bruxelles-Capitale*

The assessment in this Environmental Report can be considered to stand alone and has been intentionally written to provide sufficient information for consultees to consider whether the likely significant environmental effects have been identified of the plan to revoke the East Midlands Regional Strategy (and reasonable alternatives) without recourse to the previous Environmental Report. Any reader who has also read the previous environmental report should note that, insofar as there is any difference between the two documents, this Environmental Report is to be preferred.

All responses to this consultation will be given careful consideration alongside those received in response to the earlier consultation. The Government would particularly welcome responses on:

- whether there is any additional information that should be contained with the baseline or review of plans and programmes;
- whether the likely significant effects on the environment from revoking the East Midlands Regional Strategy¹⁰ have been identified, described and assessed;
- whether the likely significant effects on the environment from considering the reasonable alternatives to revoking the East Midlands Regional Strategy have been identified, described and assessed; and
- the arrangements for monitoring.

1.3 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

- present relevant environmental baseline information, including a review of plans and programmes;
- identify, describe and assess the likely significant environmental effects associated with the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies and reasonable alternatives;
- propose measures to avoid, reduce and/or offset any potentially significant adverse effects and, where appropriate, to enhance any potential positive effects from the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies;
- outline and describe the measures envisaged for monitoring any significant effects identified by the Environmental Report; and
- demonstrate that the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies has been developed in a manner consistent with the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

¹⁰ For the purposes of this Environmental Report the Regional Strategy means the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands and the Regional Economic Strategy for the East Midlands.

1.4 Habitats Directive Assessment

The Habitats 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 interest.

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.

Where a competent authority other than the Secretary of State proposes to agree to a plan or project despite a negative assessment of the implications for a European site, they must notify the Secretary of State and they must not approve the plan or project. The Secretary of State may give directions to the competent authority in any such case prohibiting them from agreeing to the plan or project, either indefinitely or for a specified period (Regulation 62).

Given these safeguards, the Government's view is that the revocation of the Regional Strategies will therefore have no effects requiring assessment under the Habitats Directive.

1.5 Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

1.5.1 Overview

As part of the environmental assessment of the revocation of the Regional Strategies, there has been consultation with the statutory consultation bodies on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Reports, followed by a public consultation on the Environmental Reports on the effects of revoking each of the eight Regional Strategies.

Detailed responses to the Environmental Reports published in October 2011 were provided by consultees, and in the intervening period several key pieces of planning policy and legislation have been put in place. The Government has therefore decided to further consult on the Environmental Reports to allow the developments in policy and legislation, as well as the comments from respondents to be taken into account in the assessment of the likely significant environmental impacts of revocation of the Regional Strategies.

1.5.2 Scoping Consultation

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 in May 2011 for five weeks. 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 Environmental Reports.

They were consulted on the method proposed to assess the likely significant environmental effects of revoking the Regional Strategies which was to take as a starting point the environmental assessment components of the sustainability appraisals carried out when the Regional Strategies were being prepared. For those regions which had not completed an up-to-date Regional Spatial Strategy, use was also made of the more recent appraisals of the emerging strategy. The assessments followed the format set out in Annex I of the Directive, assessing impacts taking into account that local plans would set the framework for decisions on planning applications following the proposed revocation of the Regional Strategies and saved structure plan policies.

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 was 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 focused on those aspects of the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies which might be expected to lead to significant environmental effects.

The Environment Agency agreed that the scope and level of detail proposed for the analysis of the environmental effects of revocation of the Regional Strategies was appropriate. Natural England recognised that the SEA was unusual in that it applied to the revocation, rather than the creation of a plan, and that therefore many of the usual aspects of SEA did not apply. English Heritage focussed their comments on the implications for heritage on the proposed revocation. Scottish Natural Heritage considered that the implications for strategic planning for green infrastructure and the interface with the marine environment should be considered.

In addition, since this is the first time an environmental assessment has been undertaken for the revocation (rather than the creation) of a plan, a draft of the previous Environmental Report was also sent to the statutory consultation bodies for their comments. Their comments on the previous draft reports are presented in summary in **Appendix F**, together with a response.

1.5.3 Public Consultation on the previous Environmental Reports

As part of the assessment of the revocation of the Regional Strategies a public consultation on the Environmental Reports on the effects of revoking each of the eight Regional Strategies was undertaken. Consultation on the Environmental Reports was announced in both Houses of Parliament through a Written Ministerial Statement and copies were sent by email to the statutory consultation bodies, the equivalent organisations in the devolved administrations, all local planning authorities and organisations thought to have an interest in the process. Copies of the reports were also published on the DCLG website. The consultation ran from 20 October 2011 to 20 January 2012.

A total of 103 responses were received, of which 24 contained comments that were common to all the reports. The remaining responses made specific comments on the Environmental Reports for particular regions. The Woodland Trust provided individual responses for each of the eight regions as did the Scottish Government SEA Gateway (enclosing responses from Scottish Heritage, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage). Five responses were received from local planning authorities within the East Midlands. A further 64 dealt solely with Environmental Reports for regions other than the East Midlands. A summary of the consultation responses relevant to the East Midlands Environmental Report is set out at **Appendix F**.

The main issues raised by respondents on the previous Environmental Reports, which were relevant to the East Midlands, are grouped into six broad themes as follows:

- The Overall Approach to SEA;
- Assessment;
- Reliance on the NPPF;
- Policy Change;
- Reliance on the Duty to Co-operate;
- Individual Topics (covering data availability, Green Belt, gypsy and travellers, housing supply, waste, biodiversity, renewable energy, transport, water, brownfield land, the coast, flooding and managed woodland, countryside).

A high level summary of the issues raised and the response to them is set out below. A more detailed summary of the responses is presented in **Appendix F**.

Table 1.1 Summary of consultation responses

Issue	Summary of consultation responses to the previous Environmental Report	Response
The Overall approach taken to SEA	The Statutory Consultees supported the broad approach to the analysis presented in the October 2011 Environmental Reports. English Heritage however had concerns about the potential impacts of the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy on heritage assets. Other respondents thought the analysis was undertaken too late in the plan making process and was not consistent with the requirements of the Directive.	Chapter 1 of the Environmental Report sets out how the report meets the requirements of the SEA Directive. The impacts of revoking, retaining or partially revoking the East Midlands Regional Strategy have been assessed in detail in the short, medium and long term against the 12 SEA topics. This includes Cultural Heritage – including architectural and archaeological heritage.
Assessment	The Statutory Consultees drew attention to more up to date data that could be included in the Environmental Report, for instance in River Basin Management Plans. Other respondents asked	The Environmental Report updates the baseline evidence and provides a detailed analysis of the retention, partial revocation and revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy in the short,

Issue	Summary of consultation responses to the previous Environmental Report	Response
	for a revised non-technical summary, for baseline data to be updated, for a more extensive analysis of the potential effects taking into account the content of local plans, the reconsideration of the likelihood of effects and, where significant effects were identified, to set out mitigation measures and give more consideration to monitoring the impacts.	medium and long term against all 12 SEA topics, taking into account the content of local plans. Mitigation measures are proposed where significant impacts are predicted. Arrangements for monitoring possible effects are set out and a non-technical summary is provided.
Reliance on the NPPF	A number of respondents thought that it was difficult to assess the impact of revocation of the Regional Strategies before the National Planning Policy Framework was finalised.	The Government published the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012. The analysis presented in this Environmental Report takes account of the policies set out in the NPPF.
Policy Change	Several respondents thought that the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy would weaken certain policies particularly the delivery of strategic policies.	The National Planning Policy Framework states that local planning authorities should set out the strategic priorities for their area in their Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver homes and jobs and other development needed in the area, the provision of infrastructure, minerals and energy as well as the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.
Reliance on the Duty to Co-operate	Some respondents thought that it was unlikely that the Duty to Co-operate would be able to provide a framework robust enough to enable strategic planning across local government boundaries at a sufficiently large scale.	The Government has introduced a new Duty to Co-operate and supporting regulations are now in place. Councils which cannot demonstrate that they have complied with the Duty may fail the local plan independent examination. In addition, the NPPF sets out the strategic priorities on which the Government expects joint working to be undertaken by local authorities. The NPPF also sets out the requirements for sound local plans, including that plans are deliverable and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.
Individual Topics	Respondents raised a number of questions about individual topics. In particular, respondents thought that the impact of the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy could impact on Green Belt, the provision of gypsy and traveller pitches, housing allocations, heritage, waste management, biodiversity, renewable energy, transport, water, brownfield land, coast, flooding and managed woodland.	Individual policies for the planning of individual topics are described in the Environmental Report, drawing on the policies set out in the NPPF.

1.6 Structure of this Report

The assessment in this Environmental Report builds on the earlier assessment that was published for consultation in October 2011 and in particular includes further work in response to consultees'

comments. This includes additional work to revise and update the baseline and contextual information used in the assessment, a necessary strengthening of the evidence base used as well as providing greater detail in the assessment itself. The approach that has been undertaken is set out in **section 3.1** with the resulting information presented in **Appendices C, D, E, G and H**.

Table 1.2 sets out how the information requirements of Annex I of the SEA Directive are met in this Environmental Report. Reasonable alternatives are considered in Section 2 and the approach taken to the assessment is explained in section 3. Section 4 summarises the likely significant effects of revoking the East Midlands Regional Strategy along with reasonable alternatives, where identified, including any secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. Section 5 provides a summary of the key findings along with proposed monitoring measures.

Table 1.2 SEA Directive Requirements and where they are covered in the Environmental Report

SEA Directive Requirements	Where covered in the Environmental Report?
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):	
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Section 2 outlines the contents and main objectives of the plan. Section 3 presents a summary of the relationship with other relevant plans and programmes. Appendix E (the SEA topic information chapters) presents greater details the other plans and programmes that are relevant to the plan.
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Appendix E (the SEA topic information chapters) outlines the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Appendix E (the SEA topic information chapters) outlines the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme 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.	Appendix E (the SEA topic information chapters) outlines any existing environmental problems.

SEA Directive Requirements	Where covered in the Environmental Report?
e) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Appendix E (the SEA topic information chapters) outlines the relevant environmental protection objectives.
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects).	Appendix D, Appendix E and Section 4 outline the likely significant effects of the plan on the SEA issues.
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Appendix E and Section 4 outline the mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the plan.
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a 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.	Section 2 outlines the reasons for selecting the alternatives. Section 3 contains and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered.
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art.10.	Section 5 presents proposals for monitoring.
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	A non-technical summary is provided.

2. The Plan to Revoke the Regional Strategies

2.1 Overview

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*”¹¹. The objective was to make local plans, and where desired neighbourhood plans, the basis for local planning decisions. The Government’s proposal is to replace the eight Regional Strategies outside London with a more localist planning system, together with incentives such as the New Homes Bonus, to encourage local authorities and communities to realise their aspirations for housing and economic growth.

The Localism Act 2011 repealed Part 5 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, thereby removing the legal framework for the review of Regional Strategies or the adoption of new or revised Regional Strategies, and gave the Secretary of State powers to revoke in full or in part the existing strategies by order.

The Regional Strategy under consideration for revocation comprises the East Midlands Plan published by the then Secretary of State in 2008 and the Regional Economic Strategy published by the East Midlands Development Agency finalised in 2009.

The individual policies from the East Midlands Regional Plan are presented in **Appendix A**. The whole Plan can be viewed at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/planning/regional-planning/?a=42496>

The vision, ambitions, priorities and implementation priorities from the East Midlands Regional Economic Strategy are presented in **Appendix H** and can be viewed at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100512150204/emda.org.uk/res/>

This section sets out the key aspects of the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies, the implications for the East Midlands Region and the alternatives considered.

2.2 Key Aspects of the Plan to Revoke the Regional Strategies

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27 March 2012. This followed extensive consultation during 2011 and replaces government planning policy and mineral policy guidance for England. It provides ‘*a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of*

¹¹ HM Government (2010), The Coalition: our programme for government

their communities.' Accordingly, local planning authorities and communities will continue to determine the quantum and location of development, albeit without the additional tier of regional direction. It does not contain waste planning policy and nationally significant infrastructure and Gypsy and Traveller policies, all of which are in separate policy documents but to be read in conjunction with the NPPF.

In the absence of the East Midlands Regional Strategy, strategic and cross-authority working will be delivered in the East Midlands Region through a variety of legislative and non-legislative means. This includes: the preparation of joint plans under the powers set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; through the new Duty to Co-operate under the powers set out in section 33A of the PCPA 2004 (as inserted by section 110 of the Localism Act); and through the establishment of non-legislative Local Enterprise Partnerships. This combination of measures aims to ensure that strategic planning operates effectively in the absence of the Regional Strategies. The sections below describe some of the partnership working that is already taking place across the East Midlands Region.

2.2.1 Partnership Working on Strategic Planning Issues

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 provides for two or more councils to prepare joint local plans either through joint working under section 28 or through the establishment of a joint committee under section 29.

The NPPF sets out the Government's policy on strategic planning priorities, including the priorities on which authorities should work jointly. It makes clear that local planning authorities should work collaboratively to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly coordinated and clearly reflected in local plans, resulting in a final position where plans are in place to provide the infrastructure necessary to support current and projected future levels of development.

2.2.2 Duty to Co-operate

Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 inserts new section 33A into the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: the Duty to Co-operate. The Duty is a new requirement¹² on local authorities and other public bodies to work together constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in relation to planning for strategic, cross-boundary matters in local and marine plans. Local plans should include strategic policies on certain issues; however, the list is not exhaustive and it is for authorities to determine whether there are additional strategic priorities in their areas and what strategic policies should cover.

The Localism Act requires authorities to demonstrate to an independent inspector how they have met the Duty when their plans are submitted for examination in public. There is no prescribed way to meet the Duty to Co-operate, but compliance could for example be demonstrated by plans or policies prepared as

¹² Through Regulations made under Section 33A of the PCPA 2004, which came into force on 6th April 2012, the duty to co-operate is extended to bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England.

part of a joint committee, informal strategies such as joint infrastructure and investment plans, or a memorandum of understanding which is presented as evidence of an agreed position. Failure to demonstrate compliance will mean that authorities may not pass the examination process.

Over time, it is expected that the Duty to Co-operate will become an integral part of the preparation of sound local plans that are effective and deliverable in relation to strategic cross boundary matters. Ongoing engagement and joint working, for example in the form of strategic infrastructure assessments done in consultation with others, memorandums of understanding and statements of common ground should become much more common place in the evidence base to demonstrate how co-operation is securing delivery of objectively assessed plan needs.

2.2.3 Local Development Orders (LDOs)

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 allows for the establishment of local development orders. These allow local authorities to extend permitted development rights for certain forms of development with regard to a relevant local development document. The establishment of an LDO potentially speeds up the planning process and provides greater certainty to developers. LDOs are being used extensively across Enterprise Zones as the main means by which to simplify the planning process. There is currently one LDO in place in the region (Northampton Waterside) with more in preparation for the region's three Enterprise Zones (Nottinghamshire Boots Campus, Leicester and Leicestershire Mira Technology Park, South East Midlands Northampton Waterside)¹³. Where Enterprise Zones straddle more than one local authority area local planning authorities have been working in partnership to create a planning framework for the zone and to simplify planning.

2.2.4 Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Government has facilitated the establishment of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). These are business led locally-owned partnerships between local authorities and businesses providing strategic leadership in driving private sector growth and job creation in their area. There are 39 LEPs now in place covering the whole of the country. These are based around a locally determined economic geography which makes sense to the local business community. All are playing a central role in determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and the creation of local jobs. LEPs are non-statutory and hold no statutory powers, but they are able to draw upon the powers held by their constituent public bodies.

LEPs and local planning authorities are able to work together to ensure economic activity and infrastructure delivery is co-ordinated across local authority boundaries. The Duty to Co-operate also requires local authorities and other public bodies to have regard to the activities of LEPs when they are preparing strategic policies in their local and marine plans and undertaking related activities. This is intended to strengthen strategic planning on economic activity and infrastructure delivery.

¹³ <http://www.insidermedia.com/insider/midlands/68993-enterprise-zone-tax-breaks-now-available-pickles/>

The Government has allocated £730m of Growing Places Fund to LEPs. The Growing Places Fund will enable targeted investment in pieces of infrastructure which unlock viable schemes that are not able to proceed because capital constraints have reduced the flow of investment in the physical infrastructure which enables development (e.g. transport, utilities and flood defence). The fund should also be used to establish revolving funds.

Beyond these broad parameters LEPs are free to decide for themselves how their allocation is best invested and where.

2.2.5 Examples of Cross-Authority Working in the East Midlands Region

Local Enterprise Partnerships

There are four LEPs in the East Midlands (**Table 2.1**).

Table 2.1 East Midlands LEPs

LEP	Constituent Local Authorities	Key Actions
Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	Derby (unitary), Derbyshire (all), Nottingham (unitary), Nottinghamshire (all)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the area's reputation for internationally competitive science, manufacturing, engineering and creative industries, driving better productivity and growth to develop a low carbon economy. • Develop a distinctive cultural, sport and tourism offer to world class standards. • Share the benefits of economic growth across cities, towns and rural communities. • Meet employers' current and future skills demands through highly rated and ambitious education partners. • Secure investment in regeneration and infrastructure projects that stimulate private sector growth.
Greater Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire (all), North Lincolnshire (unitary), North East Lincolnshire (unitary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Rural Communities: Greater Lincolnshire is largely rural, with much of the population living in market towns, coastal communities and isolated rural settlements. Individuals and businesses looking to grow in these areas face particular challenges, and the LEP will work with partners and local businesses and entrepreneurs to provide support they need to thrive. • Greater Lincolnshire Resource Strategy: Greater Lincolnshire has considerable assets in land, heritage and built environment. The LEP will look for ways to make the best use of these assets to drive the economy forward, for example developing agri-food and tourism industries. It will also explore how to make the County more resilient in the face of the challenges from climate change. • Sub Regional Economic Driver: The western side of the County includes the city of Lincoln and the towns of Gainsborough and Grantham. These areas of growth, along with other market towns such as Sleaford and their hinterland, provide an opportunity to grow the economy on the back of existing industries and the potential of the A1/A46 road network and East Coast railway line.

LEP	Constituent Local Authorities	Key Actions
Leicester and Leicestershire	Leicester (unitary), Leicestershire (all)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve productivity, increase wealth creation and encourage sustainable private sector growth. • Create a balanced, sustainable and competitive knowledge-based economy. • Address the physical requirements for success. • Improve skills levels and educational attainment. • Provide effective business support. • Increase inward investment. • Promote sustainable communities and environmental sustainability.
South East Midlands	Buckinghamshire (part): Aylesbury Vale, Oxfordshire (part): Cherwell, Northamptonshire (part): Corby, Daventry, Kettering, Northampton, South Northamptonshire, Bedford (unitary), Central Bedfordshire (unitary), Luton (unitary), Milton Keynes (unitary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance housing development and planning with employment growth. • Promote access to next generation digital communications. • Target enterprise support to grow diverse and successful businesses. • Place locally-provided higher and further education at the heart of the future growth. • Align area-wide strategic transport and infrastructure planning. • Support the transition to a low carbon economy. • Develop LEP-wide apprenticeship schemes, and an adult skills strategy to direct funding. • Develop social enterprises and community organisations as important local employers.

Environmental Partnerships in the East Midlands

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are a key initiative in the Natural Environment White Paper and their importance is identified in the National Planning Policy Framework. The ambition for LNPs is that they will help their local area to manage the natural environment as a system and to embed its value in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy. To do this effectively they will need to be self-sustaining strategic partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people with the credibility to work with and influence other local strategic decision makers. Applications to become a Government-recognised LNP opened on 02 April 2012 and closed on 06 June 2012. Fifty applications were made, including several in the East Midlands Region. The Government published a list of the first partnerships to gain LNP status in July 2012. The Natural Environment White Paper committed Government to assist partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new **Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)**, based on a local assessment of opportunities for restoring and connecting nature on a significant scale. The importance of NIAs is recognised in the National Planning Policy Framework and local authorities will be able to support them in their Local Plans. In February 2012 the Government announced 12 initial NIAs in England that will receive government funding. One of them is these Humberhead Levels which is part of the vast flatlands straddling the borders of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. The area offers the best opportunity in England to develop a major multi-functional wetland landscape in a largely unrecognised biodiversity hotspot. The NIA covers 49,700ha within the Humberhead Levels National

Character Area. The NIA will be administered and driven by the Humberhead Levels Partnership which was established in 2001.

Evidence Gathering and Policy Development

There are several examples of local authorities in the East Midlands working together on local plan evidence gathering and policy development:

Nottingham Housing Market Areas (HMA) aligned core strategies

Nottingham City, Erewash, Gedling, Ashfield, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe authorities are working together with the support of Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire County Councils to produce aligned core strategies through a joint advisory committee of members and officers.

Nottinghamshire SA evidence base

Authorities in Nottinghamshire have worked together to provide a common approach to monitoring and collecting baseline information for the sustainability appraisal/ strategic environmental assessment (SA/SEA) processes.

Derby HMA Aligned Core Strategies

Authorities covering Derby City, South Derbyshire and Amber Valley, with support from the County Council, are working together to produce adopted core strategies with joint working at officer level.

East Midlands Energy Opportunities Mapping Study

East Midlands Councils used funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change to undertake renewable energy and heat mapping for each local planning authority and joint planning unit areas to provide a common basis to inform local plan policies.

Leicester & Leicestershire Housing Requirements Project

The councils in Leicester and Leicestershire jointly commissioned a range of household and population projections under different scenarios. The study is being used as one of a number of factors to inform housing requirements in the development of local plans across the county.

East Midlands Airport Joint Working Group

The County Council has set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) made up of local District Councils in Leicestershire and with councils from outside of Leicestershire. The JWG is made up of the following organisations:

- Leicestershire County Council
- Blaby District Council

- Charnwood Borough Council
- Harborough District Council
- Hinckley and Bosworth District Council
- Melton Borough Council
- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
- North West Leicestershire District Council
- South Derbyshire District Council
- Erewash District Council
- Rushcliffe Borough Council; and
- East Staffordshire Borough Council.

The JWG first met in July 2004 to see what can be done to persuade the airport to have better controls over noise impacts. It has met with the airport and other interested parties to discuss the issues, and provided evidence to the House of Commons Transport Committee on their inquiry into the work of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

2.3 **Background and Description of the East Midlands Regional Strategy to be Revoked**

2.3.1 **Legislative Background to Regional Strategies**

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.

Initially, the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for each Region consisted of existing regional planning guidance. 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. In revising their RSS, regional planning bodies were required to have regard to the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) for the Region.

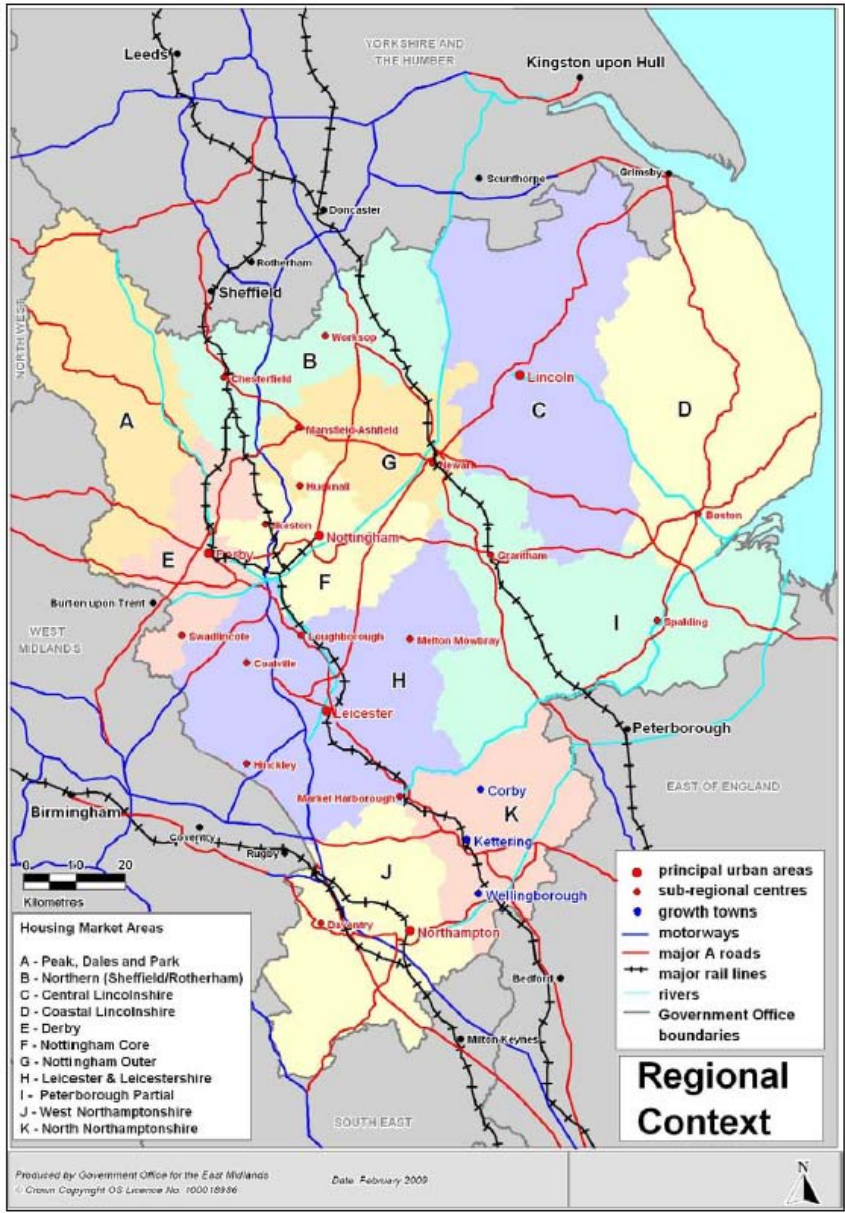
Regional Economic Strategies were introduced by the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998. Until 01 April 2010, each Regional Development Agency (RDA) was required to formulate, and keep under review, a strategy in relation to its purposes, and have regard to the strategy in exercising its functions. The purpose of RDAs included furthering the economic development and the regeneration of its area, promoting business efficiency and investment and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development where it is relevant to its area to do so.

The Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 introduced Regional Strategies (RS). These came into existence on 01 April 2010 for the eight English regions outside London. The intent was that each RS would initially consist of the existing RSS and the RES for the region but for the responsible authority in each region to bring forward a revised RS. However, no revised RS were adopted so each RS continues to consist of the existing RSS and the RES.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 was amended so that local development documents were required to be in general conformity with the RS and the RS became part of the statutory development plan for the purposes of determining planning applications. For the purposes of the development plan however, the RS for a region consists of only the existing RSS and not the RES. This was originally intended to be for an interim period prior to adoption of a revised RS.

The Localism Act 2011 made significant changes to the 2009 Act repealing the requirement for there to be a RS in each region outside London and confirming that the RS for the purposes of the development plan includes only the existing RSS.

Figure 2.1 The area covered by the East Midlands Regional Strategy



2.3.2 The Development of the East Midlands Regional Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy)

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

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

2.3.3 The Content of the East Midlands Regional Plan

The East Midlands Regional Plan sets out policies and proposals for the East Midlands, providing the framework for meeting the Region's development needs in a way that promotes a more sustainable pattern of development. The East Midlands Regional Plan outlines regional priorities for both urban and rural communities. The main aim of the East Midlands Regional Plan is to locate new growth and regeneration in the areas which can most sustainably provide good sites for development. To maximise the development of key elements of the economy and to build on the existing infrastructure, a policy of urban concentration was adopted and a major proportion of the new growth in the East Midlands aimed at regenerating the urban areas, including promoting a closer alignment between jobs and homes in

order to reduce the need to travel. The East Midlands Regional Plan includes a housing target of 324,100 net additional dwellings covering the period 2006 to 2026.

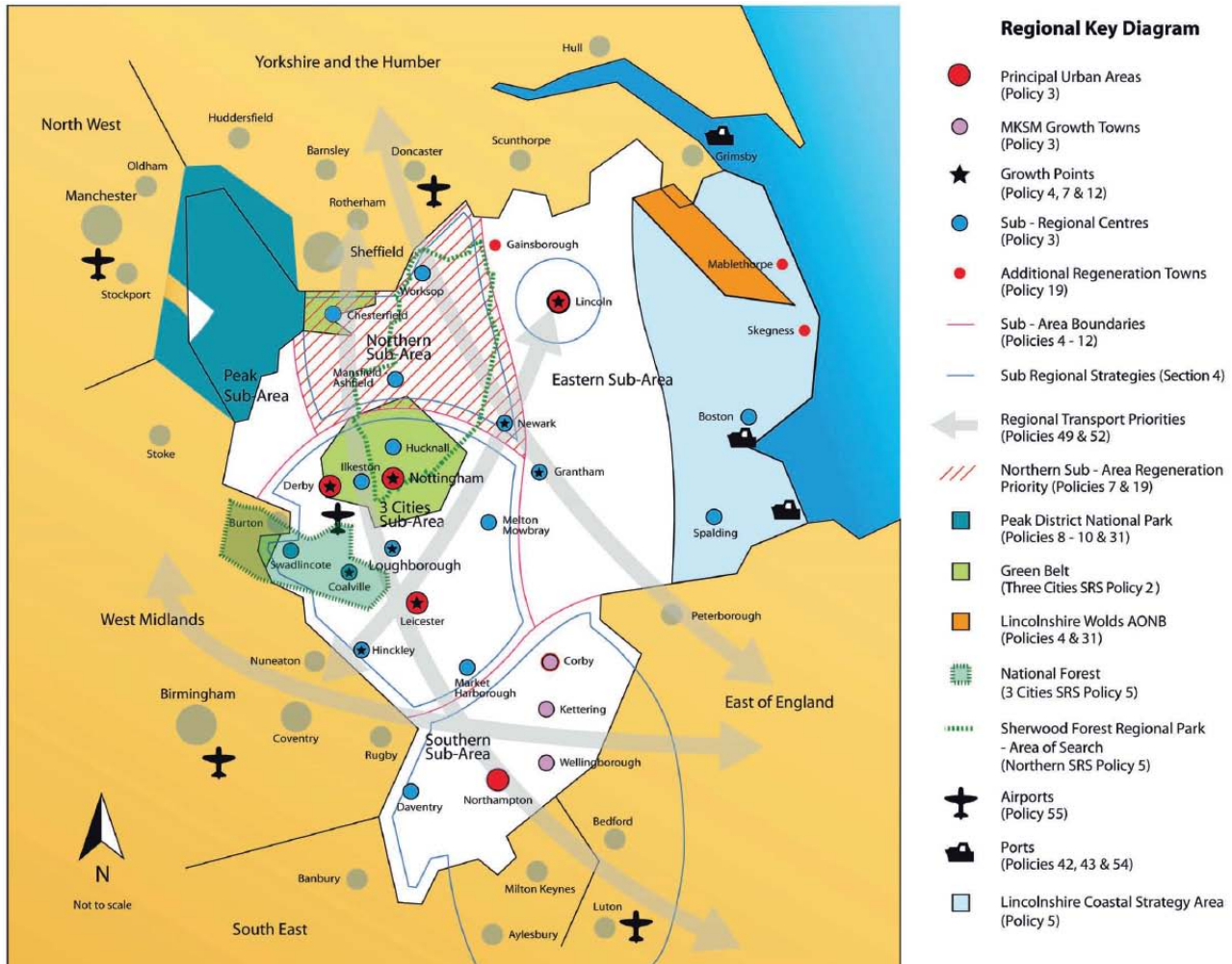
The East Midlands Regional Plan's main objectives are to:

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

The East Midlands Regional Plan identifies Principal Urban Areas (PUA) and Sub-Regional Centres (SRC), and outlines priorities for their development, and contains policies in respect of the Region's five Sub-areas: Eastern Sub-area; Northern Sub-area; Peak Sub-area; Southern Sub-area; and Three Cities Sub-area.

The East Midlands Regional Plan contains topic-based priorities relating to: housing; economy and regeneration, natural and cultural resources, and the regional transport strategy. There are four sub-Regional Strategies within the East Midlands Regional Plan: *MKSM Sub-Regional Strategy* which contains policies and proposals for sustainable growth in Northamptonshire as part of the MKSM Growth Area. The *Three Cities Sub Regional Strategy* contains policies and proposals to create more sustainable patterns of development and movement within (and between) Derby, Leicester & Nottingham and their hinterlands, and to promote overall economic competitiveness. It also covers the Nottingham/ Derby Green Belt. The *Northern Sub-Regional Strategy* contains policies and proposals to provide a clear vision for regeneration following the decline of the coal mining industry, and takes account of the delivery of the 'Northern Way' initiative. The *Lincoln Area Sub-Regional Strategy* contains policies and proposals to strengthen the regional role of Lincoln within its rural hinterland (**Figure 2.2**).

Figure 2.2 The Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands



The East Midlands Regional Plan reflects the national policies on development at the time of its publication. It incorporates the regional transport strategy and also takes account of and builds on the Regional Economic Strategy produced by the East Midlands Development Agency and the Regional Sustainable Development Framework, which provides a high level statement of the regional vision for achieving sustainable development.

2.3.4 The Content of the East Midlands Regional Economic Strategy

The East Midlands Regional Economic Strategy (RES) was produced in compliance with the Section 7 of the Regional Development Act 1998. It provides a vision for the East Midlands economy to 2020. This includes the vision that the East Midlands will be “a flourishing region - with growing and innovative businesses, skilled people in good quality jobs, participating in healthy, inclusive communities and living in thriving and attractive places.” This is to be achieved through attention on three main themes:

- **Raising productivity:** enabling our people and businesses to become more competitive and innovative.
- **Ensuring sustainability:** investing in and protecting our natural resources, environment and other assets such as infrastructure.
- **Achieving equality:** helping all people to realise their full potential and work effectively together to enrich our lives and our communities.

In turn, there are 10 strategic priorities and associated aims:

- **Employment, learning and skills** - To move more people into better jobs in growing businesses.
- **Enterprise and business support** - To become a region of highly productive, globally competitive businesses.
- **Innovation** - To develop a dynamic region founded upon innovative and knowledge focused businesses competing successfully in a global economy.
- **Transport and logistics** - To improve the quality of regional infrastructure to enable better connectivity within and outside the region.
- **Energy and resources** - To transform the way we use resources and use and generate energy to ensure a sustainable economy, a high quality environment and lessen the impact on climate change.
- **Environmental protection** - To protect and enhance the region's environment through sustainable economic growth.
- **Land and development** - To ensure that the quality and supply of development land, and balance between competing land uses, contributes towards sustainable growth of the regional economy.
- **Cohesive communities** - To increase life chances for all leading to stronger and more cohesive communities, a dynamic society and a stronger economy.
- **Economic renewal** - To ensure all people and communities have the opportunity to create new and sustainable economic futures.
- **Economic inclusion** - To help overcome the barriers, or market failures, that prevent people from participating fully in the regional and local economy.

2.3.5 The Relationship Between the East Midlands Regional Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy

The RES was developed with regional partners and was subject to a formal consultation and SEA process. There is a strong and complementary relationship between the East Midlands Regional Plan and the East Midlands RES:

- a shared focus on themes such as land and development, transport, economic renewal and environmental protection;
- the RES taking the lead from the East Midlands Regional Plan for the provision of high quality employment land and associated infrastructure;
- recognising that sustainable growth is critical to the future of the region, expressed through high quality development which benefits all people and communities; and
- a partnership-based approach to delivery which uses the five sub-areas of the East Midlands Regional Plan as the basis for action.

The relationship between the RES and the East Midlands Regional Plan is set out in more detail in **Appendix H**.

2.3.6 Structure Plans

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 relevant regional spatial strategy, or development plan documents for the relevant local authorities. Section 109(5) of the Localism Act provides for the revocation of saved structure plan policies.

The one saved policy for the East Midlands region is in the Northamptonshire Structure Plan. The policy is listed in **Appendix B**.

The Government is proposing to revoke the remaining saved structure plan policy.

2.3.7 Local Plans

In relation to plan-making, development plan documents prepared by local authorities are required to be in general conformity with the Regional Strategy.

Regional Spatial Strategies¹⁴ form part of the statutory development plan.

Local Development Plan Documents developed in accordance with the PCPA 2004 include Core Strategies, Area Action Plans and Site Allocation Plans. Core Strategies set out the spatial planning vision, principles and key planning policies for an area. This portfolio of documents is known collectively as the Local Development Framework.

¹⁴ By virtue of section 82(2) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development Act 2009 as amended by the Localism Act references to Regional Strategy in relation to the component of the development plan are to the regional spatial strategy that subsisted for that region immediately before 01 April 2010.

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 adopted neighbourhood plans that are prepared under the powers brought forward by the Localism Act. 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.

A list of local plans in the East Midlands region and their current composition is included at **Appendix C**. There are a total of:

- twenty eight Local Plans adopted by May 2008¹⁵;
- thirteen Core Strategies adopted shortly before or after May 2008, when the East Midlands Regional Plan was adopted; and
- five Mineral and Waste Plans, of which two were adopted after May 2008.

2.4 Reasonable Alternatives to the Plan to Revoke the Regional Strategies

Regional Strategies set targets such as housing numbers for local authorities. In some areas this proved highly controversial, generated thousands of objections and is not consistent with the principles of localism. This Government believes that democratically elected local authorities working with their local people are better placed to assess and plan for the needs of their community, and make planning decisions, rather than unelected regional bodies. The Government therefore proposes revoking the East Midlands Regional Strategy.

Consideration of the reasonable alternatives to a proposed policy or plan is a fundamental aspect of policy and planning development. Providing clear, reasoned justification for selection of a preferred planning policy following assessment of the alternatives is a pre-requisite for the preferred direction to gain wider and long term support. Recording the reasons for the selection of the preferred option can also aid any subsequent review, particularly if the assumptions that underpin any alternatives change over time.

In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive and the relevant UK transposing regulations, the Government is also required to present specific information concerning reasonable alternatives. Article 5 (1) of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC 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 the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme,*

¹⁵ Core Strategies adopted from around this time onwards will have been drafted either in parallel with preparation of the Regional Strategy or after the Regional Strategy was published, and so will be in general conformity with the Regional Strategy and for the purposes of this assessment can be considered up to date.

are identified, described and evaluated". Information to be provided includes "an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with" (Annex I (h)).

The European Commission guidance on the SEA Directive discusses possible interpretations of handling 'reasonable alternatives' as required by Article 5(1). It states that "*The alternatives chosen should be realistic. Part of the reason for studying alternatives is to find ways of reducing or avoiding the significant adverse effects of the proposed plan or programme...*"

On this basis, the starting point for identifying alternatives to the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy has been the powers of the Secretary of State in regard to the Regional Strategies. As previously stated, the Secretary of State has the power to partially revoke or fully revoke the Regional Strategies by Order.

The previous Environmental Report on the proposed revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy, published for consultation in October 2011, suggested two alternatives - either to revoke the East Midlands Regional Strategy entirely, or to retain it. Responses to the consultation suggested a number of other alternatives (see **Appendix F**) including partial revocation. These were:

- reviewing the Regional Strategies;
- revoking the Regional Strategies but saving key policies;
- the retention of the Regional Strategy system with regional groupings of local authorities responsible for drafting them and adoption by the Secretary of State;
- maintaining the strategies and revising certain policies in order to make the strategies more acceptable, as well as the possibility of local authorities producing joint development plans to cover specific issues; and
- revoking certain chapters or parts of the strategies and introducing transitional arrangements.

A number of alternatives are therefore considered as follows:

- **Retention**
 - Retention of the East Midlands Regional Strategy but not updating it in the future.
 - Retention of the East Midlands Regional Strategy and updating and maintaining it in the future. This would be done either by the Secretary of State; or regional groupings of local authorities followed by adoption by the Secretary of State; or by groups of local authorities working together to produce joint development plans to cover specific issues.
- **Partial revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy either by:**
 - revoking all the quantified and spatially specific policies (for instance where a quantum of development, land for development or amounts of minerals to be extracted or waste disposal is allocated to a particular location in the region) and retaining for a transitional period the non spatial policies; or

- retaining for a transitional period all the spatially specific policies where a quantum of development or land for development is allocated to a particular location in the region and revoking the non spatial policies, ambitions and priorities; or
 - retention of policies, ambitions and/or priorities in the short and medium term for a transitional period, the revocation of which may lead to likely significant negative environmental effects.
- **Revocation** of the entire East Midlands Regional Strategy.

Each alternative is discussed below in regard to its reasonableness.

2.4.1 Retention

Retention of the East Midlands Regional Strategy but not updating it in the future

This option would mean that the East Midlands Regional Strategy was not revoked, that all the policies within the East Midlands Regional Strategy would remain part of the development plan for the purposes of determining planning applications and that local plans would continue to need to be in general conformity with the Regional Strategy, but that the Strategy would not be updated in the future. It is assumed that the policies, ambitions and priorities would not be revoked when the existing lifetime of the Regional Strategy was reached.

Some policies in the East Midlands Regional Strategy are potentially in conflict with the intent of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which sets the Government's planning policies for England and how these are to be applied e.g. East Midlands Regional Plan Policy 13a on sub-regional housing provision policies.

The NPPF must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF intends to ensure that the Local Plan is at the heart of the plan-led system and in preparing Local Plans local authorities should plan to meet objectively assessed needs for housing and other forms of development which should include collaboration with other bodies where appropriate. Since Local Plans are required to be in general conformity with the Regional Strategy, and planning decisions need to be in accordance with the East Midlands Regional Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise, this also adds potential conflict with the policies set out in the NPPF.

Since there is no statutory power available for the Secretary of State to update the East Midlands Regional Strategy, over time the policies would become increasingly out of date. Therefore it is expected that retention of the policies in the East Midlands Regional Strategy, without update, would gradually lead to a decline in the positive effects that the plan aimed to deliver and potential conflicts with policies that local communities wish to pursue will increase. Nevertheless, since the retention of the East Midlands Regional Strategy forms an alternative approach to strategic planning across the Region **it is considered to be a reasonable alternative.**

Retention, maintenance and updating of the East Midlands Regional Strategy

This option would mean that the East Midlands Regional Strategy was not revoked, that the East Midlands Regional Strategy would remain part of the development plan for the purposes of determining planning applications, that local plans would continue to need to be in general conformity with the Regional Strategy, and that it would continue to be maintained and updated in the future. However, the Localism Act has removed the regional planning tier and revoked the power to update the existing Regional Strategies. This means that the Secretary of State does not have the statutory powers to maintain or update the East Midlands Regional Strategy and therefore, **the amendment of the Regional Strategies by the Secretary of State is not considered to be a reasonable alternative because there is no power to do it.**

The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act does provide for joint working by local authorities and county councils. In addition the Localism Act sets out the Duty to Co-operate, which requires local planning authorities to work together when preparing strategic cross boundary policies in their local and marine plans. This means that groups of local authorities can work together and formally adopt a statutory local plan covering their joint areas and could choose to work together to adopt and maintain a plan over the region. Whilst there is substantial evidence of local authorities already working at the regional scale on specific issues of responsibility and mutual benefit (such as waste management), it seems highly unlikely that all local authorities within a region, irrespective of background, circumstance and political composition would work in unison to update the East Midlands Regional Strategy, particularly where such a position would place them in conflict with national government policy. **In consequence, this is not considered to be a reasonable alternative.**

2.4.2 Partial Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy

Revocation of all the quantified and spatially specific policies

This option would mean that all quantified policies (such as for a renewable energy target) or policies that are spatially specific and which allocate a quantum of development or land for development to a particular location and/or local authority in the region (i.e. within the East Midlands Regional Plan policies for housing allocations; pitches for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people; employment (both land and jobs), mineral allocations; waste disposal) would be revoked, but that the non-spatial policies would be retained. This would leave the policies in place which would set out a spatial vision for the Region as well as policies that encourage particular types of development or seek to protect environmental resources and services as well as seeking wider sustainability objectives. These policies would not be updated in the future as the Secretary of State no longer has the statutory powers to do this. These policies would therefore be retained but would become increasingly obsolete as local authorities in the region update their plans to reflect these issues in their own local plans. **This is considered to be a reasonable alternative.**

Revocation of all the non quantitative and spatially specific policies

This option for partial revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy would mean that all or some of the spatially specific policies which allocate a quantum of development or land for development to a particular location and/or local authority in the region (i.e. housing allocations; pitches for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people; employment land and/or jobs, mineral allocations; waste allocations) would be retained and the non-spatially specific policies, ambitions and priorities would be revoked (such as protection and enhancement of biodiversity, the historic environment, the quality of the built environment).

As set out above, the policies in the East Midlands Regional Plan that establish a quantum of development or land for development to a particular location and/or local authority in the East Midlands Region may result in some confusion with the intent of the National Planning Policy Framework which sets the Government's planning policies for England and how these are to be applied. Regard must be had to the NPPF in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and the NPPF is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF intends to ensure that the local plan is at the heart of the plan-led system and expects local authorities and communities to plan to meet objectively assessed needs for housing and other forms of development for their areas, working collaboratively with other bodies where appropriate. Since local plans need to be in general conformity with the East Midlands Regional Strategy, and planning decisions need to be made in accordance with the Regional Strategy unless material considerations indicate otherwise, this could create confusion and potential conflict in the planning system.

Nevertheless, the retention of the quantified policies or the spatially specific policies which allocate a quantum of development or land for development to a particular location and/or local authority in the Region provides an alternative approach to strategic planning, particularly where local plans are out of date, and do not contain up-to-date quantified policies such as for housing. These quantified policies could therefore be retained for a transitional period, in the short and medium term, until updated local authority plans are put in place. **This is considered to be a reasonable alternative.**

Revoking all regional policies, ambitions and priorities and retaining all sub-regional policies, ambitions and priorities

This option for partial revocation would retain the sub-regional policies, ambitions and priorities and revoke the rest of the strategy. However, as for the option above which considered retention of policies that set out a quantum of development to be delivered in a broad location or within a local planning authority area, this is in conflict with the intent of the National Planning Policy Framework. Since local plans need to be in general conformity with the Regional Strategy, and planning decisions need to be in accordance with the East Midlands Regional Strategy (as part of the development plan) unless material considerations indicate otherwise, this could create confusion and potential conflict in the planning system.

Furthermore, it is questionable whether the sub-regional policies would function correctly in the absence of the high level apportionment policies on housing due to the integrated nature of the East Midlands Regional Strategy. In addition, over time the Regional Strategy policies are becoming increasingly out of date as the regional tier of planning has been removed and the regional strategies are not being kept up to date. **This is not therefore considered to be a reasonable alternative.**

Revoking all policies, ambitions and priorities except those where revocation would lead to significant negative environmental effects

The NPPF sets out national planning policies which support and protect the environment (for example: Green Belt land, meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change and those policies conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, including policies to minimise impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity).

This option for partial revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy would mean that individual policies, ambitions and/or priorities would be retained if revoking them may lead to likely significant negative environmental effects once mitigating measures have been taken account.

This alternative would lead to the retention of individual policies in the East Midlands Regional Plan which are not likely to be in conflict with the National Planning Policy Framework, do not undermine the localist approach to plan making and decision making and, if removed, would result in a significant environmental impact taking account of mitigation. These policies could therefore be retained for a transitional period to allow local authorities in the region to have updated their plans. **This is considered to be a reasonable alternative.**

2.5 Summary

Following the application of the reasonableness test in compliance with Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive, the following have been taken forward for assessment within the SEA:

- **Revocation** of the entire East Midlands Regional Strategy.
- **Retention** of the East Midlands Regional Strategy but not updating it in the future.
- **Partial revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy either by**
 - revoking all the quantified and spatially specific policies (for instance where a quantum of development, land for development or amounts of minerals to be extracted or waste disposal is allocated to a particular location in the region) and retaining for a transitional period the non spatial policies; or
 - retaining for a transitional period all the spatially specific policies where a quantum of development or land for development is allocated to a particular location in the region and revoking the non spatial policies, ambitions and priorities; or

- retention of policies, ambitions and/or priorities in the short and medium term for a transitional period, the revocation of which may lead to likely significant negative environmental effects.

Each alternative has been assessed using the approach outlined in **Section 3**. The results of the assessment are presented in **Section 4**, with the detailed assessment contained in **Appendix D** and **E**.

3. SEA Methodology

3.1 Overview

This section sets out how the SEA has been carried out. This includes the steps in the SEA process, when it was undertaken and by whom (**Section 3.1**), the scope of the assessment and the topics considered (**Section 3.2**), the baseline and contextual information used (**Section 3.3**) and the approach taken to completing the assessment (**Section 3.4**). Technical difficulties encountered during the assessment are also summarised (**Section 3.5**).

The approach to this assessment builds on the methodology employed in the Environmental Report published in October 2011. The steps that have been undertaken to-date and their relationship to the requirements of the SEA Directive are summarised in **Table 3.1**.

Table 3.1 The SEA process and key steps undertaken during the environmental assessment of the proposed revocation of the Regional Strategies

SEA process	Key steps in the environmental assessment of the revocation of the Regional Strategies
<p>Article 3 (1) requires that an environmental assessment shall be carried out for certain plans (as defined in Article 3 paragraphs 2-4) which are likely to have significant environmental effects.</p> <p>Member States are required to determine whether these plans are likely to have significant environmental effects either through case-by-case examination and/or by specifying types of plans in order to ensure that plans with likely significant effects on the environment are covered by the Directive (Article 3(5)).</p> <p>Member States must make their conclusions under Article 3(5), including the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, available to the public (Article 3(7)).</p>	<p>The Government announced its intention to carry out an environmental assessment of the revocation of the Regional Strategies in a Written Ministerial Statement on 5 April 2011. The requirements of Articles 3(5) and (7) did not therefore apply.</p>
<p>Article 5 (4) requires that 'designated environmental authorities' for strategic environmental assessment are consulted when deciding the scope and level of detail which must be included in the environmental reports.</p> <p>The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 define these "Consultation Bodies" for plans that relate to England as the Countryside Agency and English Nature (now amalgamated to form Natural England), the Environment Agency and English Heritage.</p>	<p>The Consultation Bodies in England¹⁶ were consulted on the scope and level of detail of the environmental reports on 6 May 2011, and were given five weeks as required by regulations to respond. The equivalent bodies in the Devolved Administrations were also consulted.</p> <p>Their comments were used as the basis for deciding the scope and level of detail of the material included in the environmental reports. Consideration was also given to more detailed textual comments provided by the consultation bodies.</p>
<p>Article 5 (1) states that where an environmental assessment is required under Article 3(1), an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan, are identified, described and evaluated.</p> <p>The environmental report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and</p>	<p>An Environmental Report was prepared for each region. Each considered the likely significant effects of revoking the Regional Strategy within the context of wider reforms to the planning system. This included the publication of the NPPF, decentralising planning powers to local authorities, and introducing a Duty to Co-operate to support local authorities in both delivering for their local communities and addressing strategic cross-boundary issues.</p>

¹⁶ The Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England

SEA process	Key steps in the environmental assessment of the revocation of the Regional Strategies
methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail of 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 to avoid duplication.	
Article 6 requires that the draft plan and the environmental report shall be made available to the designated consultation bodies and to the public.	The completed Environmental Reports were sent to the Consultation Bodies in England and the equivalent bodies in the devolved administrations and simultaneously published for public consultation on 20 October 2011. The consultation period ended on 20 January 2012. As the Environmental Reports dealt with the effects of the revocation and not the adoption of plans, there were no draft plans to consult on.
Article 7 sets out provisions for consulting on draft plans which are likely to have a significant effect on the environment in another member State.	The Government did not consult any other Member State. The revocation of the Regional Strategies was not considered likely to have a significant effect on the environment of any other Member State, and no other Member States indicated otherwise.
Article 8 states that the environmental report prepared pursuant to Article 6 and the results of any trans boundary consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan and before its adoption or submission to the legislative procedure.	A total of 103 comments were received in response to the previous consultation. Annex F provides a summary of the responses that are relevant to the revocation of the Regional Strategy for [the East Midlands]. Each response has been carefully considered and as appropriate informed this updated environmental assessment.

As a result of considering the responses received, the changes made to the approach to this assessment have included:

- Providing additional contextual information for the assessment including the review of plans and programmes and updated baseline for each of the 12 SEA Annex I(f) topics and presenting this in separate topic chapters.
- Providing additional information on the details of the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies and the reasonable alternatives to them, including reasons for the selection of some alternatives and the discontinuation of others.
- Providing additional information in the assessment of revocation and retention of each Regional Strategy policy explicitly against all 12 of the SEA Annex I(f) topics.
- Identifying, characterising and assessing any likely significant effects of the plan and the reasonable alternatives, based on a common interpretation of what constitutes a significant effect for each topic and reflecting the possible timing effects.
- Providing additional information on likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies.
- Assessing the likely significant effects at a number of geographic levels (national, regional, sub-regional and local) depending on the content, intent and specificity of the individual policy.
- Providing further information that includes proposals to mitigate effects including more sub-regional information on an understanding of the Duty to Co-operate.

- Providing further information that includes proposals to monitor any significant effects.

This SEA of the plan to revoke the East Midlands Regional Strategy was undertaken in 2012 by AMEC on behalf of DCLG.

3.2 Scope of the Assessment

The scope of this assessment reflects the potential environmental effects of revoking the Regional Strategies. **Section 3.2.1** sets out the core topics required for consideration by the SEA Directive and their interpretation for the purposes of the assessment. **Section 3.2.2** sets out the geographic scope of the SEA.

3.2.1 Environmental Categories Included in the Scope of the Assessment

The range of potential environmental effects under consideration has been informed primarily by the SEA Directive and Regulations, using published government guidance¹⁷. Annex I of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulation requires that the assessment includes information on the “*likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as: biodiversity; population; human health; fauna; flora; soil; water; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; landscape; and the inter-relationship between the issues referred to*”. These environmental categories have been used throughout this report.

In the absence of detailed guidance on their content, a number of these environmental categories (e.g. population, human health and material assets) can be subject to varying interpretation. Within this report:

- ‘population’ includes information on demographics and generic social and socio-economic issues including accessibility issues;
- ‘human health’ includes information on mortality, illness and indices of perceived well-being;
- ‘material assets’ includes information on waste management and minerals.

Land use is not explicitly identified in the list of 12 SEA topics; however, for the purposes of this assessment and in particular given that these are assessments of strategies whose primary objectives include the determination of the location of development, it is included under the topic of soil. The soil topic has also been expanded to include consideration of geology.

Table 3.2 shows how the categories in this report reflect those in the SEA Regulations.

¹⁷ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005). A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

Table 3.2 Categories of Effects Considered by the SEA of the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies

Categories in the SEA Regulations	Categories used in the SEA of the revocation of Regional Strategies
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation (which includes flora and fauna, and the functioning of ecosystems)
Population	Population (including socio-economic effects and accessibility)
Human Health	Human Health
Soil	Soil and Geology (including land use, important geological sites, and the contamination of soils)
Water	Water Quality and Resources (including as inland surface freshwater and groundwater resources, and inland surface freshwater, groundwater, estuarine, coastal and marine water quality)
Air	Air Quality
Climatic factors	Climate Change (including greenhouse gas emissions, predicted effects of climate change and the ability to adapt)
Material assets	Material Assets (including waste management and minerals)
Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage	Cultural Heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)
Landscape	Landscape and Townscape

3.2.2 Geographic Scope of the Assessment

The SEA considers the effects revocation, partial revocation or retention of the East Midlands Regional Strategy. In so doing, it examines the effects of each alternative for each policy contained in each Regional Strategy. Consideration of these effects therefore occurs at a number of geographic levels, dependent on the content, intent and specificity of the individual policy. This is at one (or more) of the following levels:

- **The national level** - the cumulative assessment includes consideration of the effects of the plan to revoke all eight Regional Strategies across England. This draws together the effects of the individual regional assessments and provides a view at the broader geographic scale.
- **The regional level** - the assessment includes the consideration of the effects of the plan to revoke individual Regional Strategy policies that apply at a regional level e.g. policies that encourage an integrated approach to conserving and enhancing the landscape, natural environment and historic environment.
- **The sub-regional level** - the assessment includes consideration of the effects of the plan to revoke individual Regional Strategy policies that apply to an identified sub-region or area e.g. policies that seek to promote economic regeneration of a sub-region, recognised as having a specific identity or character.
- **The local level** - the assessment includes consideration of the effects of the plan to revoke Regional Strategy policies that will have a specific effect at a local planning authority level, or will affect a specific designated area or identified infrastructure project.

The range of effects considered by the assessment therefore span from the national to the local. To ensure comprehensive geographic coverage of the potential effects, contextual information has been collated at the appropriate levels; one at national level (England) and the other at the regional level that includes reference to specific local information and sites where relevant and appropriate to do so.

Notwithstanding this, the SEA is strategic, and does not assess the detailed local or site specific issues in the same degree of detail that would typically be required for an SEA of a local plan document (in line with Articles 4(3) and 5(2) of the SEA Directive).

3.2.3 Short, Medium and Long Term Timescales

When considering the timing of potential effects of the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies, the commentary classifies effects as 'short,' 'medium' or 'long term.' This reflects an intention to capture the differences that could arise from the plan to revoke Regional Strategies due to timing. For example, if the plan leads to the revocation of a specific policy that does not have an immediate equivalent (such as suitable piece of legislation or an alternate national policy) to effect ongoing delivery of the policy intent, there could be transitory effects until an alternative mechanism (such as additional policy guidance) was identified and implemented. It is also consistent with the direction contained in Annex II (2) of the SEA Directive where the characteristic of the effects should have regard to 'the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects'.

Annex 1, paragraph 214 of the NPPF identifies a 12 month implementation period in which 'decision-takers may continue to give full weight to relevant policies adopted since 2004 even if there is a limited degree of conflict with this Framework.' The period began when the NPPF was published in March 2012 and will end in March 2013.

Given the time to prepare, consult and update a Local Plan, it is assumed that all local planning authorities in England will have adopted a Local Plan within five years of the NPPF being published. This is a pragmatic judgement (informed by the progress of local planning authorities to produce Core Strategies in compliance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) and has been made solely for the purposes of this assessment.

Finally, for the purposes of this assessment, the overall duration of the Regional Strategy to be revoked provides a defined limit to the duration of the assessment (i.e. approximately out to 2026).

Using this as the basis, 'short term' is defined as the remaining time in the transition period (9 months or 0.75 years), 'medium term' as more than 0.75 and no more than five years and 'long term' as over five years to the end of the Regional Strategy lifetime.

It should be noted that in practice when applying the definitions of the different terms within the assessment, the boundaries between terms are more flexible than a strict reading of the definitions implies. There are for example, instances where effects in the short term extend for a limited period into the medium term. Where this occurs, it is recorded in the assessment commentary although it will still be only assessed as short term in the assessment matrix itself (see section 3.4 for an explanation of the approach to the assessment).

3.3 Context and Baseline

3.3.1 Review of Plans and Programmes

The SEA Regulation requires a review of the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies “*relationship with other relevant plans and programmes*”. One of the first steps in undertaking the SEA is to identify and review other relevant plans, programmes, policies and strategies (herein after referred to as ‘plans and programmes’) that could have an effect on the plan to revoke Regional Strategies. These may be plans and programmes at an international/ European, national, regional or sub-regional level, as relevant to the scope of the revocation plan. The summary within each topic section in **Appendix E** identifies the relationships between the revocation plan and these other documents; i.e. how the plan could be affected by the other plans’ and programmes’ aims, objectives and/or targets, or how it could contribute to the achievement of any environmental and sustainability objectives and targets set out in these plans and programmes.

The review of plans and programmes also helped complete the environmental baseline and help determine the key issues. The review also provided the policy context for the assessment.

3.3.2 Collecting Baseline Evidence

An essential part of the SEA process is to identify the current state of the environment and its likely evolution under a ‘business as usual’ scenario. Only with sufficient knowledge of the existing baseline conditions can the likely significant effects of the revocation plan be identified and assessed. The SEA also requires that the actual effects of implementing the revocation plan on baseline conditions are monitored.

All the environmental topics listed in the SEA Directive and Regulations have been found to be relevant for the revocation plan (see **Table 3.2**). These were consulted upon at the scoping stage and have been amended to reflect the views of the Statutory Consultees.

A primary source of information has been the published sustainability appraisals, completed to accompany the consultation on the draft East Midlands Regional Strategy to provide information regarding the likely evolution of the current state of the environment without the implementation of the revocation plan. However, it is recognised that such information reflects data collected a number of years past and as such has been supplemented with more recent information from a variety of sources, including (amongst others) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Environment Agency, English Heritage, Natural England and the Office of National Statistics.

3.3.3 Presenting the Context and Baseline Information

Appendix E sets out the collated contextual and baseline information, on a topic-by-topic basis, for each of the 10 assessment topics (see **Table 3.2**), structured as follows:

- **introduction** - provides an overview and definition of the topic;

- **summary of national and regional plans and programmes** - provides an overview of the policy context in which the revocation plan sits;
- **relevant aspects of the current state of the environment at a national and regional level** - provides an overview of the baseline and the key topic specific baseline factors which will need to be considered as part of the assessment;
- **the likely evolution of these baseline conditions without the implementation of the revocation plan** - provides an overview of how the baseline is likely to change in the absence of the revocation plan, an understanding of this is key to understanding the effects of the revocation plan on the topic area;
- **the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;**
- **current problems in areas of particular environmental importance** (such as those designated under the Wild Birds and Habitats Directives).
- **guidance as to how the significance of potential effects has been determined;**
- **the assessment of likely significant effects arising from the revocation plan** - including information on the potential nature and scale of effects, proposed mitigation measures (where appropriate) and measures for enhancement, assumptions and uncertainties and additional information that may be required;
- **proposed mitigation measures** - including an expansion of those measures identified including more detailed commentary on, for example, greater reliance on Water Resource Management Plans and co-operation between interested parties (under the Duty to Co-operate) in determining appropriate quantum of development;
- **proposed measures to monitor** the effects of the revocation plan.

3.4 Approach to Assessing the Effects

3.4.1 Prediction and Evaluation of Effects

In line with the SEA Directive and taking into account the ODPM (now CLG) *Practical Guide to the SEA Directive*¹⁸, the assessment process seeks to *predict the significant environmental effects of the plan or programme*. This is done by identifying the likely changes to the baseline conditions as a result of the implementing the proposed plan (or reasonable alternative). These changes are described (where possible) in terms of their geographic scale, the timescale over which they could occur, whether the effects would be temporary or permanent, positive or negative, likely or unlikely, frequent or rare. Where numerical information has not been available, the assessment has been based on professional judgement and with reference to relevant legislation, regulations and policy.

¹⁸ ODPM (2005) *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*. Available online at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/practicalguidesea>

To reflect the specific nature of the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies, the assessment has been completed in two stages:

- **a high level (or screening) assessment** of the effects of the proposals for each Regional Strategy policy against all SEA topics to identify those where there could be a likely significant effect (using definitions as outlined in **Table 3.4**) under retention or revocation; and
- **a detailed assessment of the likely significant effects** (both positive and negative) that were identified through the high level assessment of each Regional Strategy policy, as detailed above, presented by SEA topic and considering retention, revocation and partial-revocation.

The high level assessment is presented in **Appendix D** in an assessment matrix (see **Table 3.3**) and the detailed assessment is presented in **Appendix E** at the end of each topic chapter and summarised in **Section 4**, and **5** of this report.

The high level assessments record the following in the associated commentary:

- the identification and description of the potential effects;
- when the effect(s) could occur, and how long they could last (e.g. short, medium or long term);
- the assumptions and uncertainties that underpin the assessment (and any information needed to address uncertainties);
- potential avoidance or mitigation measures for any likely significant negative effects; and
- possible enhancement measures where positive effects are identified.

Table 3.3 High Level Assessment Matrix

Alternative	Biodiversity, flora and fauna			Population & human Health			Soil and Geology			Water Quality and Resources			Air Quality			Climatic Change			Material assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape and Townscape			Commentary
Retention																												Likely Significant Effects of Retention Mitigation Measures Assumptions Uncertainty
Revocation																												Etc.

Score Key:	++ Significant Positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No overall effect	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	? Score uncertain
<p>NB: where more than one symbol is presented in a box it indicates that the SEA has found more than one score for the category. Where the scores are both positive and negative, the boxes are deliberately not coloured. Where a box is coloured but also contains a ?, this indicates uncertainty over whether the effect could be a minor or significant effect although a professional judgement is expressed. A conclusion of uncertainty arises where there is insufficient evidence for expert judgement to conclude an effect.</p>						
<p>S – short term (less than 0.75 year), M – medium term (between 0.75 and 5 years) and L – long term (> 5 years)</p>						

3.4.2 Determining Significance

Topic-specific definitions have been developed for what constitutes a significant effect, a minor effect or a neutral effect for each of the 10 environmental issues; these can be found in the relevant topic chapters in **Appendix E**. **Table 3.4** shows an example of these definitions along with the symbols used to record the effects within the assessment.

Table 3.4 Illustrative Guidance for the Assessment of Significance for Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

Effect	Description	Illustrative Guidance
++	Significant positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative would have a significant and sustained positive impact on European or national designated sites and/or protected species. (e.g. – fully supports all conservation objectives on site, long term increase in population of designated species) Alternative would have a strong positive effect on local biodiversity (e.g. – through removal of all existing disturbance/pollutant emissions, or creation of new habitats leading to long term improvement to ecosystem structure and function). Alternative will create new areas of wildlife interest with improved public access in areas where there is a high demand for access to these sites.
+	Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative would have a minor positive effect on European or national designated sites and/or protected species (e.g. – supports one of the conservation objectives on site, short term increase in population of designated species). Alternative may have a positive net effect on local biodiversity (e.g. – through reduction in disturbance/pollutant emissions, or some habitat creation leading to temporary improvement to ecosystem structure and function). Alternative will enhance existing public access to areas of wildlife interest in areas where there is some demand for these sites.
0	No (neutral effects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative would not have any effects on European or national designated sites and/or any species (including both designated and non-designated species). Alternative would not affect public right of way or access to areas of wildlife interest.
-	Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative would have minor short-term negative effects on non-designated conservation sites and species (e.g. – through a minor increase in disturbance/pollutant emissions, or some loss of habitat leading to temporary loss of ecosystem structure and function). Alternative will decrease public access to areas of wildlife interest in areas where there is some demand for these sites.
--	Significant negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative would have a negative and sustained effect on European or national designated sites and/or protected species (e.g. – prevents reaching all conservation objectives on site, long term decrease in populations of designated species). These impacts could not reasonably be compensated for. Alternative would have strong negative effects on local biodiversity (e.g. – through an minor increase in disturbance/pollutant emissions, or considerable loss of habitat leading to long term loss of ecosystem structure and function).
?	Uncertain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the level of information available the impact that the Alternative would have on this objective is uncertain.

3.4.3 Specific Issues Considered When Assessing the Effects of the Plan to Revoke the Regional Strategies

When considering the effects of retention of a Regional Strategy policy, we have used the prediction of effects contained in the relevant sustainability appraisal (for this report for the East Midlands Regional Plan) completed to accompany the Regional Strategy. Using this information does have limitations (in

that the effects identified use an evidence base of varying age, are presented in differing forms and assess effects over differing timeframes) and where these occur, additional information has been identified to supplement the assessment; however, the principle remains consistent with the requirements of Article 5(3) of the SEA Directive, '*relevant information available on environmental effects of the plans and programmes and obtained at other levels of decision making ... may be used*'.

When assessing the effects of revocation, the following has been considered:

- **Whether the purpose, intent or specific target could be delivered by other existing legislation or government policy?** Where the answer to this question is yes, the relevant legislation, policy or guidance has been identified, along with any relevant regionally specific evidence to substantiate the conclusion. In many instances, particularly for policies of a pervasive and non-spatially specific nature, the specific paragraphs of the NPPF have been referenced in the individual policy assessments to provide a substantial alternative source of planning policy relevant to the Local Plan. For a number of Regional Strategy policies it has also been considered relevant to reference the Duty to Co-operate. Where this is the case, specific local examples of current cooperation are also cited where available. Revocation of the Regional Strategy and the reliance on the NPPF creates a situation where there will be a delay, as some authorities will need to review and update their Local Plan to reflect NPPF policies and the needs of their local communities. In these instances where there is a lack of an up to date Local Plan, it is the opinion of AMEC that the uncertainty over policy, including the quantum and preferred location of development, is likely to affect whether developers submit planning applications for new development. As a result, it is expected that there will be a lessening in the short and medium term on development activity and the resulting effects occurring; although it is noted that the application of the NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development and its policies to boost the supply of housing will help where plans or policies are absent, silent or out of date.
- **If the purpose, intent or specific target of the Regional Strategy policy is not likely to be sustained beyond revocation, the effects have been identified, described and assessed.** Where such policy changes are determined, the effects identified, described and assessed will also be proportionate to the scope of the policy considered. For example, where the Regional Strategy policy applies uniformly across the region e.g. priorities to increase more sustainable modes of transport for passengers and freight, the promotion of agri-environment schemes or the provision of regional renewable targets, such effects will be described at the regional level. However, there are Regional Strategy policies that do have a direct and explicit consequence for local authorities such as housing, infrastructure projects, pitches for gypsies and travellers, and mineral and waste. In these instances, we have also considered the implications and effects on individual Local Plans.

Considering Effects on Local Plans

Where we have identified that revocation of a Regional Strategy policy will have an effect on the environment and that this will have a consequence for Local Plan policies and/or local areas, we have examined these effects in more detail. We have compared the policies in the East Midlands Regional Plan on housing allocations, allocations of pitches for gypsies, travellers and showpeople, employment (both jobs and employment land) and renewable energy with the equivalent policies in local plans and /or core strategies in the Region. This analysis is set out in **Appendix C** and has then been reflected, where relevant, in the assessment of individual Plan policies (**Appendix D**).

It is also noted that the plans adopted after July 2006 are also highly likely to have been subject to SEA, given that the SEA regulation came into effect in July 2004 with a two year transitional arrangement. Where SEA has been undertaken of Local Plans and the information is in the public domain, the assessments (usually presented as a combined Sustainability Appraisal and SEA) have been reviewed when relevant to provide additional information and evidence within the assessment presented in **Appendix D**.

Considering the Effects of the Regional Economic Strategy

The vision, targets, priorities, implementation priorities and growth areas of the former Regional Economic Strategy (RES) have been presented in **Appendix H**. The vision, targets, priorities, implementation priorities have been mapped onto the policies of the former Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East Midlands. The mapping demonstrates that the RES and RSS are inextricably linked and in many instances the policies in the RSS are the same as the commitments in the RES. Where this occurs and in order to avoid duplication of assessment, the mapping demonstrates how the effects of both have been considered in detail in **Appendix D**.

3.4.4 Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects Assessment¹⁹

SEA also requires that secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects of the options are assessed. These terms are explained in **Table 3.5**.

Table 3.5 Definitions of Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

Type of Effect	Definition*
Secondary (or indirect)	Effects that do not occur as a direct result of the plan to revoke the Regional Strategy, but occur at distance from the direct impacts or as a result of a complex pathway. Examples of a secondary effect of the plan to revoke could include the materials (and embedded carbon) used in any development or infrastructure project identified.
Cumulative	Effects that occur where the revocation or retention of several individual Regional Strategy policies which each may have an insignificant effect, combine to have a significant effect. Examples of a cumulative effect of the plan to revoke a Regional Strategy could include the potential effects on a European designated site, where a habitat or species is vulnerable and the cumulative effects of disturbance arising from uncoordinated development occurring simultaneously in adjacent local authorities causes a significant impact. Cumulative effects could also occur across a region or across more than one region.
Synergistic	Effects that interact to produce a new total effect that could be greater than the sum of the individual effects.

*Adapted from SEA guidance, ODPM (2005)

For the assessment of secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects to be effective, they should be considered as part of each assessment, rather than to being seen as a separate assessment. For the purposes of brevity, these effects which tend to be grouped together are captured subsequently under the heading of cumulative effects.

¹⁹ This includes consideration of the effects in the short, medium and long terms; permanent and temporary and positive and negative effects.

3.4.5 Assumptions used in the Assessment

The assumptions that have been used in the assessment are as follows:

- **The effects and findings of the relevant Sustainability Appraisal are valid over the lifetime of the relevant Regional Strategy; however, that there may be some variation in the short term.** For example, all Regional Strategies contain housing allocations, quantified on an annual basis and over the lifetime of the plan at the region and local authority level. It is evident that since adoption of the Regional Strategies, actual housing completions per annum are below the levels expected in each strategy. In consequence, when considering the quantum of growth in the short term, based on the actual figures to date, retention may lead to a lessening of some effects identified in the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (both benefits of increased housing provision and any negative effects arising from land take and loss of any natural resources); however, we have assumed that over the lifetime of the Regional Strategy that the housing policy will still be delivered and that the medium and long term effects would remain unchanged by the short term deviation. It is appreciated that whilst this appears to be reasonable assumption, it could be affected by the health of the economy or market changes. However, determining alternative credible views on the likely future outcome of Regional Strategies and their expectations for new development risks adding an extra layer of subjectivity to a process that is already relying heavily on judgements about future impacts in an uncertain world.
- **For revocation, the assessments anticipate that local plans will be put in place consistent with the principles and policies set out in the NPPF.** This includes the presumption in favour of sustainable development and the expectation that *“to achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system”* and that *“the planning system should play an active role in guiding development to sustainable solutions”* (NPPF, paragraph 8). These expectations are reflected in the assessment of effects at the local level. However, it will take time for local plans to be put in place which may result in some uncertainties over the effects of revocation in the short and medium terms. The application of the NPPF’s presumption in favour of sustainable development and its policies to boost the supply of housing will help where plans or policies are absent, silent or out of date.
- **It is assumed that local authorities will continue to work together on cross boundary strategic issues.** This will be supported by the new Duty to Co-operate in relation to the planning of sustainable development. 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.
- For the purposes of providing a consistent interpretation of short, medium and long term, the definitions, as set out in section 3.2.3, have been applied. The definitions of short, medium and long term reflected the assumption that for the purposes of the assessment, revocation was considered to occur concurrent with when the assessment was undertaken. This minimised the need to speculate over when exactly the regional strategies could be revoked, was compatible with the Government’s policy to rapidly abolish the Regional Strategies subject to the outcome of the consultation process, enabled the assessment to optimise the use of baseline information as evidence to inform the assessment of effects and enabled the

assessment to consider the effects during any transitional period. The approach was also consistent with current SEA guidance and practice.

- It should be noted that the effects of the recent Government housing and planning package changes have not been considered in detail in the assessment as policy detail is still being developed; however, it may prove that the increased emphasis on growth and development given by these proposals addresses some of the effects in the short and medium term arising from the uncertainties in those 28 authorities without Local Plans in conformity with the Regional Strategy.

3.5 Technical Difficulties

3.5.1 Assessing the Effects of Revocation is a New Requirement

Until the European Court judgment²⁰ in March 2012 the legal understanding was that SEA was applied to the preparation and modification of relevant plans and programmes. The ruling confirms the application to the revocation of land use plans. Whilst there is guidance and relatively well established processes available to assess the effects of a plan's preparations, there is no equivalent for revocation and no established practice on how to undertake such an assessment. Necessarily then, this assessment is part of a body of emerging practice and is the first such that is in compliance with the SEA Directive requirements in the UK.

The method adopted to assess the likely environmental effects of revoking the Regional Strategies has therefore had to take account of this lack of practice. The approach taken builds on the previous voluntary approach contained in the previous assessment of the plan to revoke the Regional Strategies published in October 2011 as well as the advice and comment received from consultees.

3.5.2 Ensuring Consistency

The assessment of effects, in particular of retention of the Regional Strategy has used information from the relevant sustainability appraisal of each Regional Strategy. Whilst each sustainability appraisal has been completed in a manner consistent with government guidance, they are different in approach, format and assessment of effects which has created difficulties in ensuring that the assessment of the plan to revoke Regional Strategies is consistent across all eight regions. For example, some appraisals have assessed the effects of each proposed policy (South East Plan, East of England Plan) whilst others present the assessment findings thematically (the North East). Furthermore, the SEA topics considered vary in depth and detail, and their assessment (through differing assessment frameworks comprising of assessment objectives which number from 14 to 25) is also marked different. Lastly, the sustainability appraisals were completed iteratively at different times between mid 2004 and mid 2009 and so used differing baselines to provide context for the respective assessments.

The Sustainability Appraisal of the East Midlands Plan was undertaken iteratively reflecting the stages in the Plan's development (Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, Proposed Changes and Final Revisions). To

²⁰ The judgement in Case C-567/10 Inter-Environnement Bruxelles ASBL v Région de Bruxelles-Capitale

support this assessment we have used information from the Consolidated Sustainability Appraisal Report 2009, a copy of which can be found at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100528142817/http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/planning/regional-planning/?a=42496>

3.5.3 Varying Age and Status of the East Midlands Regional Strategy

The Regional Strategy considered in this assessment is not a single discrete document, but in fact reflects various revisions, post adoption. The East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy was published as RSS8 in 2005 and was subsequently revised and published as the East Midlands Regional Plan in March 2009.

3.5.4 Uncertainty and Future Effects

The assessments inevitably reflect the fact that until adopted local plans are in place there must be some uncertainty as to their likely effects, notwithstanding the expectation that they will be drawn up to be consistent with national policy and subject to rigorous environmental assessment through sustainability appraisal. The environmental effects of revoking the Regional Strategies will clearly be dependent, to a greater or lesser extent depending on the impact under consideration, on future decisions by local authorities, individually and collectively. The uncertainty arising from local decisions has been reflected as appropriate in the assessment of the individual policies in **Appendix D** and in the consideration in the topic chapters contained in **Appendix E**.

4. Assessment of Effects of Revoking the East Midlands Regional Strategy and the Reasonable Alternatives

4.1 Overview

This chapter presents the results of the assessment which has been carried out with specific sections below dealing with the effects of revocation, retention and partial revocation. The assessment has been carried out using the methodology described in **Section 3**.

This chapter draws in particular on detailed evidence in **Appendices D** and **E**. **Appendix D** presents the details of the assessment on a policy by policy basis and **Appendix E** presents detailed comments on each SEA topic including comments on significant effects where these have been identified.

4.2 Effects of Revoking the East Midlands Regional Strategy

Table 4.1 summarises the effects of revoking the East Midlands Regional Strategy against the 12 SEA topics. As noted in section 3.4.3, the Regional Economic Strategy commitments have been mapped onto the Regional Strategy policies (**Appendix H**). Due to the intentional overlap between them, the Regional Strategy policies include those of the RES and in order to avoid duplication, the assessment summarised in **Table 4.1** has focussed on the East Midlands Regional Plan policies.

The following key has been used in completing the assessment.

Score Key:	++ Significant Positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No overall effect	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	? Score uncertain
<p><i>NB: where more than one symbol is presented in a box it indicates that the SEA has found more than one score for the category. Where the scores are both positive and negative, the boxes are deliberately not coloured. Where a box is coloured but also contains a ?, this indicates uncertainty over whether the effect could be a minor or significant effect although a professional judgement is expressed. A conclusion of uncertainty arises where there is insufficient evidence for expert judgement to conclude an effect.</i></p> <p><i>The reasons for the assessment are presented in Appendix D for each policy.</i></p>						
<p>S – short term (less than 0.75 year), M – medium term (between 0.75 and 5 years) and L – long term (> 5 years)</p>						

Table 4.1 Summary of the Effects of Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy (with reference to the East Midlands Regional Plan policies)

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape					
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
1	Regional Core Objectives	Revocation	0	0	+	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	-/?	0	0	+	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+
2	Promoting Better Design	Revocation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
3	Distribution of New Development	Revocation	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
4	Distribution in the Eastern Sub-Area	Revocation	0	0	+	0	?	?	-	-	-/?	0	0	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	-	-	-/?	0	0	+	0	0	?	0	0	?
5	Strategy for Lincolnshire Coastal Districts	Revocation	?	?	?	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?
6	Peripherality in the Eastern Sub-Region	Revocation	0/?	0/?	0/?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?
7	Regeneration of the Northern Sub-Area	Revocation	0	0	?	0	+	+	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	-/?	0	0	-/?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0
8	Spatial Priorities in and around the Peak Sub-Area	Revocation	0	+	+ +/?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	+	+ +/?	0	+	+	0	+	+

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape			
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	
9	Spatial Priorities outside the Peak District National Park	Revocation	0	0	+/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	-/?
10	Managing Tourism and Visitors in the Peak Sub-Area	Revocation	0	0	-/?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?	0	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0
11	Development in the Southern Sub-Area	Revocation	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
12	Development in the Three Cities Sub-Area	Revocation	0	0	-/?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0/?	0	0	-/?	0	0	+/?	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13a, 13b, 14 & 15	Regional Housing Provision and Regional Priorities for Affordable Housing	Revocation	0	-	-/?	0	+	+	0	-	-/?	0	-	-/?	0	-	-/?	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0/?	0/?	0	-	-/?	-/?
16	Regional Priorities for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Revocation	0	0	0	0/?	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Regional Priorities for Managing the Release of Housing	Revocation	0	-/?	-/?	0	+	+	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	-/?	-/?	0	-/?	-/?	0	-/?	-/?	-/?
18	Regional Priorities for the Economy	Revocation	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
19	Regional Priorities for Regeneration	Revocation	0	0/?	0/?	0	+	+	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	0	?	?
20	Regional Priorities for Employment Land	Revocation	0	0	?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
21	Strategic Distribution	Revocation	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?
22	Regional Priorities for Town Centres and Retail	Revocation	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	+	+
23	Regional Priorities for Casino Development	Revocation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Regional Priorities for Rural Diversification	Revocation	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	-/?	-/?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?
25	Regional Priorities for ICT	Revocation	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Protecting & Enhancing the Region's Natural & Cultural Heritage	Revocation	+	+	+/?	+	+	+	+	+/?	+/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+/?	+/?	+	+/?	+/?
27	Regional Priorities for the Historic Environment	Revocation	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+/?	+/?	+	+	+

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape					
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
28	Regional Priorities for Environmental and Green Infrastructure	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
29	Priorities for Enhancing the Region's Biodiversity	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
30	Regional Priorities for Managing & Increasing Woodland Cover	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
31	Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region's Landscape	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
32	A Regional Approach to Water Resources and Quality	Revocation	+	+	/?	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Regional Priorities for Strategic River Corridors	Revocation	+	+	/?	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Priorities for the Management of the Lincolnshire Coast	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape					
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
35	A Regional Approach to Managing Flood Risk	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Regional Priorities for Air Quality	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
37	Regional Priorities for Minerals	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
38	Regional Priorities for Waste Management	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
39	Regional Priorities for Energy Reduction and Efficiency	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Regional Priorities for Low-Carbon Energy Generation	Revocation	0	?	?	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?
41	Regional Priorities for Culture, Sport and Recreation	Revocation	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?
42	Regional Priorities for Tourism	Revocation	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?
43	Regional Transport	Revocation	0	-	--	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	-	-	0	-	-

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
	Objectives				/?																								
44	Sub-Area Transport Objectives	Revocation	0	-	-- /?	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	-	-
45	Regional Approach to Traffic Growth	Revocation	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
46	Regional Approach to Behavioural Change	Revocation	0	+	+	0	+	+/ ?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
47	Regional Priorities for Parking Levies	Revocation	0	0	0	0	+	+/ ?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/ ?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	Regional Car Parking Standards	Revocation	0	0	0	0	+	+/ ?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/ ?	+/ ?	0	0	0	0	+/ ?	+/ ?	0	0	0
49	Regional Approach to Improving Transport Accessibility	Revocation	0	0	+/ ?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+/ ?	+/ ?	0	0	0
50	Regional Heavy rail Priorities	Revocation	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
51	Regional Priorities for Bus and Light Rail	Revocation	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
52	Regional Priorities for Integrating Public Transport	Revocation	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
53	Regional Trunk Road Priorities	Revocation	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
54	Regional Major Highway Priorities	Revocation	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
55	Implementation of the Regional Freight Strategy	Revocation	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
56	Regional Priorities for Air Transport	Revocation	0	-	-	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	0	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--
57	Regional Priorities for Implementation & Review	Revocation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MKSM Northants 1	The Spatial Framework	Revocation	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
MKSM Northants 2	Northamptonshire Implementation Area	Revocation	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape					
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
MKSM Northants 3	Northampton Central Area	Revocation	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
MKSM Northants 4	Corby, Kettering & Wellingborough	Revocation	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
Three Cities SRS1	Definition of Principal Urban Areas	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?			
Three Cities SRS2	Sub-Regional Priorities for Green Belt Areas	Revocation	0	-	-/?	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?			
Three Cities SRS3	Housing Provision	Revocation	0	-	-/?	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?			
Three Cities SRS4	Employment Land	Revocation	0	-	-/?	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	-	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?			
Three Cities SRS5	Green Infrastructure and the National Forest	Revocation	+	+	+/?	+	+	+/?	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+/?			

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
Northern SRS1	Sub-Regional Development Priorities	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Northern SRS2	Supporting the Role of Town and Village Centres	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Northern SRS3	Sub-Regional Employment Regeneration Opportunities	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?
Northern SRS4	Enhancing Green Infrastructure Through Development	Revocation	+	+	+/?	+	+	+/?	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+/?
Northern SRS5	Sherwood Forest Regional Park	Revocation	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
Lincoln SRS1	Spatial Priorities for the Lincoln Policy Area	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Lincoln SRS2	Site Selection in the Lincoln Policy Area	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Lincoln SRS3	Protection of Lincoln's Urban Fringe	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
Lincoln SRS4	Housing Provision	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Lincoln SRS5	Employment Density	Revocation	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln SRS6	Tourism, Culture & Education	Revocation	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
Lincoln SRS7	Deprivation and Exclusion	Revocation	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln SRS8	Flood Risk And Water Management	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln SRS9	Sub-Regional Country Park	Revocation	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
Lincoln SRS10	Lincoln Cathedral	Revocation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lincoln SRS11	Sub-Regional Transport Priorities	Revocation	0	?	?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?

4.2.1 Likely Significant Effects

Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy will lead to a range of effects across the different SEA topics and over short, medium and long terms as identified in **Appendices D and E**. A summary of the likely significant effects of revocation on the 13 Regional Plan Policy areas are presented below. Where relevant, reference is also made to the Regional Economic Strategy; however, given the duplication of policies and commitments between the two documents, it was considered appropriate to present the findings of the assessment using the broader range of policy issues presented in the East Midlands Regional Plan. The effects summarised below are for the absolute effects that will occur if the Regional Strategy were to be revoked (i.e. they are not presented as the marginal difference between retaining and revoking the Regional Strategy).

Spatial Strategy

Policy 1 Regional Core Objectives sets out the ambitions for the Regional Plan, centred on: extending housing choices through existing and new development, reducing social exclusion, improving economic prosperity and access to services, protecting environmental quality and addressing climate change. Policy 1 is supported by a series of policies concerning the design of new development and its distribution throughout the region, in turn supported by sub-area specific policies which address specific issues such as peripherality of certain sub-areas and the need for regeneration within others.

The NPPF sets out that the purpose of planning is to help achieve sustainable development. The presumption in favour of sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF and is reflected in plan making and decision taking. The strong emphasis on sustainable development which already permeates planning will continue following revocation due to the strong emphasis in the NPPF.

The assessment has revealed that revocation of the Regional Strategy would lead to positive effects across many of the SEA topics but with those positive effects being significant in relation to biodiversity/flora/fauna, population/health and climatic factors in the short, medium and long terms. This reflects in part that the NPPF provides a framework of guidance and policy that encourage balanced consideration against all three dimensions of sustainability. For biodiversity, for example, the NPPF provides for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of green infrastructure and goes beyond the requirements in the current East Midlands Regional Strategy by promoting the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations.

The revocation of policies which focus development on key centres and towns may lead to some uncertainty of effects in the short term, but as local plans come into play and as local authorities implement the Duty to Co-operate where settlement expansion is helped across local authority boundaries (where appropriate) the positive effects from this focussed approach will be felt in the medium to longer terms at least.

The assessment has not identified any areas where revocation of those policies which make up the Regional Strategy would have any significant negative effects.

Economic development

Policies 18-25 deal with economic development, aiming to ensure that the East Midlands, through a co-operative approach, delivers the Regional Economic Strategy, focusing on raising skill levels, the service sector and high value manufacturing, whilst regenerating those areas in greatest need.

The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) sets out targets and priorities to make the East Midlands an exemplar of sustainable economic growth. The RES is consistent with the East Midlands Regional Plan and Policies 18-25 in the East Midlands Regional Plan are reflected in the RES and its identified priorities. Of particular relevance to Policies 18-25 are the RES priorities for: *Raising productivity (enabling our people and businesses to become more competitive and innovative); Ensuring sustainability (investing in and protecting our natural resources, environment and other assets such as infrastructure); and Achieving equality (helping all people to realise their full potential and work effectively together to enrich our lives and our communities).*

Although the regional development agency (EMDA) has been abolished many of its functions have been transferred to successor bodies. These have included: Inward Investment activities (PA Consulting, industry partner for UK Trade and Industry) and management of the European Regional Development Fund (Department for Communities and Local Government). Four Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) have been established with the objective of enabling strategic business growth in the region. Several of these comment specifically on strategic sectors. In addition, three Enterprise Zones have been established in the region: Nottinghamshire Boots Campus (Leicester), MIRA Technology Park, (Hinkley, Leicestershire) and Northampton Waterside. These are hubs for specialist high technology development in the region.

One of the core planning principles identified in the NPPF is that planning should drive and support economic development to deliver the homes, businesses and infrastructure that the country needs. The NPPF states that “*local authorities should plan proactively to meet development needs of business and support an economy fit for the 21st century*”.

In consequence, with revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy, the strong emphasis on supporting economic development and the benefits accruing would continue under the NPPF and cascaded through local plans and through implementing the Duty to Co-operate where cross boundary approaches are required. It can be expected that the LEPs will play a significant role in facilitating this approach across the region generally and in the centres of economic activity in particular.

The assessment has identified that with the continuity of approach as indicated above, the positive effects on population and health through improved job opportunities and other socio-economic benefits including improved health would continue to be experienced. The positive effects would be less in the short term and may be uncertain as local authorities put in place their local plans and as LEPs take time

to become fully established and effective - of the 41 local authorities in the East Midlands, 13 have adopted core strategies. Amongst these approved core strategies, there is variation in terms of specific targets for jobs set (for example in Corby and East Northamptonshire) or land allocated (for example Hinckley and Bosworth, Harborough and Bassetlaw). The other 28 authorities are at varying stages in the preparation of updated plans. The majority allocate land for employment although there may be no link to the number of jobs they are intended to support. For these authorities the short and medium term impact is more difficult to determine. However the assessment has identified that overall the positive effects are likely to be significant in the medium and longer term. The application of the NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development will lead to the approval of development which is sustainable without delay will help where plans or policies are absent, silent or out of date.

Given the uncertainties over the precise location of future employment areas and specific development sites that will be identified and brought forward through local plans, the assessment of revocation has identified uncertain or neutral effects across many of the SEA topics. However, following revocation and with the continued emphasis on supporting economic development under the NPPF, economic development, wherever it occurs, is likely to have negative effects on a number of SEA topic areas including biodiversity/flora/fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors and material assets.

Paragraph 21 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should plan positively for the location, promotion and expansion of clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries. While not giving explicit examples as in the plan, the same positive population benefits would be expected following revocation, although as with the assessment of the revocation of policy E3, within those local authority areas without a core strategy which is consistent with the Regional Strategy, there may be less development in the short term following revocation which could have fewer benefits over that period for the population by also less effects on the environment. Whether at the regional level this could have a material effect is uncertain.

One of the key planning principles set out in the NPPF is to proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. However, this should be in accordance with other policies in the NPPF which seek to minimise environmental effects. This includes minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains where possible (paragraph 109), having access to high quality public transport facilities (paragraph 35) and aiming for a balance of land uses within their area so that people can be encouraged to minimise journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities (paragraph 37). This is likely to provide similar significant benefits as retention of the plan.

The revocation of the policies is therefore unlikely to affect local authority provision of an enabling context for job growth, and therefore there are expected to be similar benefits to the population as with retention of the policy. Analysis of adopted and emerging plans across the region (contained in Appendix C) indicates varying approaches to the setting of employment land targets, in part reflecting the absence of any targets within the East Midlands Regional Strategy.

The revocation of Policies 18 to 25 and the vision, ambition and priorities of the RES is unlikely to affect the need for local authorities to continue to provide for growth within the region. Providing for development and employment opportunities are expected to have significant benefits to the population. Any adverse effects arising from development will be subject to the mitigation measures set out in the NPPF and the provisions in an authority's own Local Plan.

Housing

Policies 13a-18 set out the distribution of new housing across the region, including the provision of affordable housing, and the needs of gypsies and travellers.

The assessment has identified that under revocation (as with retention) there would be significant positive effects on population and human health arising from the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy as a result of an increase in housing development where more people are housed with ensuing socio-economic benefits and benefits to health.

Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy will not remove the need for more houses within the East Midlands. It is Government policy to boost significantly the supply of new housing, for example, through initiatives such as the Community Infrastructure Levy, New Homes Bonus and the local retention of business rates, which are intended to encourage a more positive attitude to growth and allow communities to share the benefits and mitigate the negative effects of growth.

The NPPF sets out a policy approach to boost significantly the supply of housing. Paragraph 47 states that local planning authorities should use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plans meet the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area, as far as is consistent with the policies set out in the Framework, including identifying key sites which are critical to the delivery of the housing strategy over the plan period. Local authorities should consider applications for housing development in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF's transitional arrangements which are particularly relevant to housing (NPPF paragraph 214/215) give weight to plans adopted since 2004 even if there is some conflict with the NPPF. The assessment has focused on those plans adopted prior to the adoption of the Regional Strategy as these will be in most immediate need of updating their local planning policies.

Paragraph 159 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should have a clear understanding of housing needs in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period which meets household and population projections, taking account of migration and demographic change; addresses the need for all types of housing, including affordable housing and the needs of different groups in the community (such as, but not limited to, families with children, older people, people with disabilities, service families and people wishing to build their own homes); and cater for housing demand and the scale of housing supply necessary to meet this demand.

Paragraph 47 of the NPPF states that to boost significantly the supply of housing, local planning authorities should use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area, as far as is consistent with the policies set out in the NPPF, including identifying key sites which are critical to the delivery of the housing strategy over the plan period.

Meeting the future housing needs of the region as the population grows will involve substantial new areas of development and whilst the NPPF encourages local authorities to make effective use of land by re-using land that is previously developed, there will still need to be significant greenfield developments.

The assessment has indicated that this new development would be likely to have negative effects on a number of SEA topics (biodiversity/ flora/fauna, soils, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, landscape) although there will be uncertainties as the scale and location of development is unknown.

However, in the short term following revocation the impact will be uncertain in those local authorities that do not have a plan that was in conformity with the East Midlands Regional Strategy (28 of the 41 authorities in the region have local plans at different stages of development, with adopted plans put in place before the East Midlands Plan was adopted in March 2009 and therefore not necessarily consistent with the regional policies). For those authorities without an adopted plan, the Regional Strategy provided clarity on the quantum of development required; however, in the short term following its revocation, there is likely to be a temporary (short term) period where some local authorities revert to the original Local Plan whilst it develops a replacement. It is AMEC's view that the amount of development anticipated in this short period is likely to be lower than if the Regional Strategy were in place. This will mean that the negative effects associated with development (on biodiversity, water, air, material assets etc) will be lessened as would the beneficial effects (on population).

For some authorities, and groups of authorities such as those within North Northamptonshire, the housing policies and delivery figures developed under the East Midlands Regional Plan will be pursued in the Plan's absence. Whilst currently, housing delivery has clearly slowed down in light of difficult market conditions, the final delivery quantum is unlikely to be significantly different from that anticipated in the East Midlands Regional Plan. Figures for authorities such as Bassetlaw, Harborough, Leicester, South Kesteven and Newark and Sherwood, reinforce this. There are exceptions, the clearest example being that of Rushcliffe where the Borough has broken away from the Greater Nottingham aligned Core Strategy and is seeking to deliver approximately one third fewer homes than the original East Midlands Regional Plan target.

Ultimately, the environmental effects will depend on the housing delivered across the region, their location and other factors such as their design. Much of the NPPF seeks to mitigate as far as possible adverse effects on the environment. Overall, therefore the effects of revocation are uncertain, but are likely to be similar to retaining the Regional Strategy.

The assessment has not identified any areas where revocation of those policies which make up the Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands would have any significant negative effects.

Policy 16 of the East Midlands Regional Plan sets out the regional priorities for provision for gypsies and travellers, with indicative local authority allocations set out in Appendix 2. Policy 16 allows for the redistribution of these allocations in light of co-operation between authorities. The assessment has revealed that, as with housing more generally, under the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy there will be positive effects on population and human health as improved provision for gypsy and travellers is secured through the adopted and emerging core strategies. Here specific provision for gypsies and travellers will be made using local needs assessments which will replace the allocations made under the Regional Strategy. The Government's planning policy for traveller sites is to be read alongside the NPPF and provides the policy framework for these sites. The effects on all other SEA topics are assessed as having no overall effect given the small scale of these sites in a regional context, notwithstanding some potential uncertainty over provision in the short term.

The assessment has shown that the revocation of Policy 16 will result in benefits for population and human health with neutral effects on other topics.

Culture

Policy 41 of the East Midlands Regional Plan sets out the priorities for culture, sport and recreation in the East Midlands, focusing on joint working to achieve aspirations for equality of provision and funding.

The NPPF (paragraph 70) sets out policies to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs. It states that local planning authorities should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as sports venues and cultural buildings), to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments. Paragraph 28 of the NPPF sets this out for rural areas. Policies in the NPPF also seek to promote and conserve cultural heritage, designated landscapes and green infrastructure, which will also contribute to the provision of cultural facilities and the delivery of significant benefits to the population and human health as well as cultural heritage. The NPPF identifies criteria for cultural development which would help mitigate impacts.

The assessment has identified that significant positive effects on population and human health will continue following revocation of those policies due to the presence and application of the policies in the NPPF. Effects across the other factors and for other policies are largely neutral or uncertain and are the same for retention and revocation.

Regional Transport Strategy

Policies 43-56 of the East Midlands Regional Plan provide the regional framework for transport development, offering a balanced approach which seeks to promote sustainable development in urban areas, but also recognises issues of accessibility and peripherality, and the aspiration to promote inter-regional and international linkages, such as through truck road and major highway investment (Policies 53 and 54) and developing regional assets such as the East Midlands Airport where an increase in capacity is envisaged (Policy 56).

The NPPF recognises the important role that transport plays in facilitating sustainable development and in contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. It encourages solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion. Local authorities are encouraged to work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure to support sustainable developments. Managing patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling is one of the core planning principles identified in the NPPF.

In relation to airports and following revocation, future development will continue to be driven by evolving national aviation policy/strategy which is still as set out in the 2003 Aviation White Paper. The assessment has revealed that revocation of the regional policy for airports is likely to result in similar environmental effects to retention. Whilst the policy provides for increase in airport capacity leading to increased regional connectivity, increased business activity, and provision of direct and indirect employment (all bringing positive effects on population/health), it does also increase the likelihood that there will be negative effects on communities living close to airports. These negative effects could include potential increases in nuisance from noise and emissions due to increases in both air and ground traffic. These could have significant negative effects on air and climatic factors. There would also be negative effects on material assets from construction of airport infrastructure, and on water quality from run-off.

However, overall for the full suite of transport policies, the assessment has shown that revocation will generally lead to significant positive effects for population and health, air and climatic factors due to improved air quality and reduced potential for greenhouse gas emissions due to the emphasis on sustainable transport modes. This assessment reflects the positive approach to sustainable transport under the NPPF outlined in the previous paragraph which will be reflected in local plans and decisions by local authorities. Transport networks transcend local authority boundaries and thus effective networks will require local authorities to work together to achieve sustainable approaches - the Duty to Co-operate provides the mechanism for this to happen, and should prompt joint working between agencies such as the Highway Authorities and LEPs in order to target investment.

Other effects of revocation will be largely neutral or uncertain due to the uncertainty over location of particular elements of transport infrastructure. Many of the effects will depend on the ability to change travel behaviour and the demand for transport. There will also be minor negative effects on material assets due to the use of raw materials for the construction and maintenance of transport infrastructure.

The assessment identified significant negative effects associated with proposals for transport infrastructure through the strategic road network and the development of East Midlands Airport. These effects are likely to continue under the NPPF as economic development aspirations will remain the same for the region.

Environment

Policies 28-31 of the East Midlands Regional Plan set out the regional approach to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, and as with many other policies, promote a partnership approach to achieving the aspirations for environmental enhancement.

The assessment has shown that under revocation and with the application of the NPPF there will be benefits across virtually all of the SEA topic areas with many of the effects being significant.

It is assumed that local authorities will work together making use of the Duty to Co-operate and the local nature partnerships to optimise the benefits to biodiversity and that BAP partnerships continue to operate.

The legal requirement for local planning authorities to ensure that internationally and nationally designated sites are given the strongest level of protection and that development does not have adverse effects on the integrity of sites of European or international importance for nature conservation would be unchanged by revocation.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Renewable Energy

Policies 39 and 40 of the East Midlands Regional Plan address priorities for energy reduction and efficiency and the provision of renewables across the region. Detailed criteria set out the expectations for delivery by LPAs.

The NPPF recognises the key role planning plays in helping to secure radical reductions in green house gas emissions. The NPPF supports the move to a low carbon future and identifies a number of ways to help achieve this. Furthermore it puts forward policy approaches to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy.

Renewables targets have not been set in policies for the majority of adopted and emerging plans, reflecting the uncertain nature of this policy area. Whilst broad targets were set at the regional scale, these were not cascaded down to individual authorities. As such, nothing is lost through revocation, but there will be an increased need to monitor the progress of local authorities in providing for renewables, which could be a significant exercise. Equally, in the absence of the East Midlands Regional Strategy to guide policy format there could be variation in policy style and possibly effectiveness.

Generally, the assessment has shown that under revocation and with the application of the NPPF there would be positive benefits on climate change with other benefits for population/health and water.

Water

Policies 32, 33 and 35 of the East Midlands Regional Plan deal with water issues and the need to carefully plan for a scarce resource through greater efficiency and anticipation of issues of development demands and natural variability over the plan period.

The NPPF (paragraph 156) states that local planning authorities should set out the strategic priorities for their area in their Local Plan, including strategic policies to deliver the infrastructure for water supply and wastewater treatment. Paragraph 162 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should work with other authorities and providers to assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for water supply and waste water and its treatment, and its ability to meet forecast demands. Paragraph 94 of the NPPF is clear that local planning authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, water supply and demand considerations amongst others. Paragraph 99 explains that new development should be planned to avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change, taking account of factors such as water supply. Where infrastructure requirements are considered by water companies in the current 2014 water resource management planning process and if such an infrastructure option is identified as the preferred one and subsequently adopted in the final Water Resource Management Plan, the likely substantial local effects (such as land take, soil loss, material use, resource sterilisation and landscape changes) will need to be considered as part of any individual planning application, consistent with Local Plan policies and may well be subject to statutory environmental impact assessments.

The assessment has also identified that there will be significant positive effects on biodiversity/flora/fauna and landscape following revocation of those policies dealing with biodiversity (Policy 25), woodlands (Policy 30), and landscape (Policy 31). These are the same effects as under retention. The NPPF makes clear that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural environment, including by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible. The Framework underlines that pursuing sustainable development means moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature. This means that local planning policies should promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan. In particular, NPPF section 11 on conserving and enhancing the natural environment, and paragraphs 109 to 119 are particularly relevant as are NPPF policies relating to green infrastructure and planning for climate change to mitigate the effects on biodiversity. The NPPF also makes clear that planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.

River Basin Management Plans for the region identify the pressures that the water environment faces and include action plans requiring cross boundary 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. The Code for Sustainable Homes encourages higher levels of water efficiency. Local authorities can require housing developments in their area to meet specified Code levels, however, development will continue and there will continue to be the potential for significant negative effects on water resources and natural habitats.

Significant positive effects also arise in relation to flood risk due to the very positive approach to flood risk encouraged in the NPPF. For example the NPPF seeks to ensure that inappropriate development is avoided in areas at risk of flooding, but where development is necessary, that it is safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere. To this end, local plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property. Aside from water-compatible development and, exceptionally, essential infrastructure, development should not be permitted in the functional floodplain.

Waste

Policy 38 deals with waste management setting out a broad strategic approach by sub-area, but leaving the detail to waste planning authorities.

The NPPF does not have specific waste policies as national waste planning policy is to be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan for England. Until this is published, the Waste Planning Policy Statement (PPS10) will remain in place. However there are many policies in the NPPF which are relevant to the preparation of waste plans and decisions and should therefore be taken into account.

The assessment has revealed that following revocation there will be minor positive or neutral effects across many of the SEA policy areas. For example, the reduction in the disposal to landfill will have positive effects on water (less risk of water contamination), air (reduced methane), climatic factors (less greenhouse gas emissions) and material assets. These are all the same effects as under retention.

National policy approaches to move up the waste hierarchy will bring significant positive effects under air and climate as well due to the reduced distances travelled bringing significant positive effects to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Minerals

Policy 37 deals with minerals, setting out specifications for how Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) should address key issues. Of the five mineral and waste plans in the region, two are consistent with the policies set out within the East Midlands Plan since they were adopted in May 2008 or beyond and three were adopted prior to May 2008 and therefore not necessarily consistent with the Regional Plan.

Whilst excavation of primary aggregates from terrestrial sources will have an adverse impact on biodiversity, soil and landscape, and may have an adverse impact on cultural heritage, dependent on the relative location of areas of historic/archaeological interest, the national policy context is for increased use of secondary and recycled aggregates and this will result in a positive impact on material assets in the longer term. Therefore the assessment has identified positive effects under biodiversity / flora / fauna, population / health, soils and landscape reflecting the sustainable approach to mineral extraction and supply which is presented in the NPPF which sets out a policy framework to support a sufficient supply of materials to provide for the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. The NPPF sets out national policy for aggregates. It requires each minerals planning authority to

prepare a local aggregate assessment based on average sales, which gives local authorities greater control over how much mineral extraction they need to plan for, and how this should be provided. This includes secondary, recycled and marine sources. Technical advice will still be provided through Aggregate Working Parties, and the Duty to Co-operate should assist in ensuring mineral planning authorities work together with the industry to achieve provision of a steady and adequate supply of minerals in a sustainable manner.

Sub areas and Key Centres for Development and Change

Northamptonshire

Policies SRS 1-4 concern the balanced development of Northampton and surrounding towns, considering the balance to be struck between the demands for growth, regeneration and the dangers of 'overheating'. Overall, the assessment found that effects were likely to be neutral to positive, although there is a significant degree of uncertainty associated with how these proposals might be implemented at LDF level and their site-specific impacts. Equally, it is considered that there is unlikely to be any significant differences between retention and revocation, given the responsibility for delivery devolved to local authorities. The North Northamptonshire Core Strategy provides the context for development across the sub-area and as such revocation will not affect the intended growth strategy, either in scale or spatial distribution, although delivery rates are likely to be reduced in the context of current housing market.

Three Cities

Policies SRS 1-5 concern the balanced development of the Leicester-Derby-Nottingham conurbations, considering the balance to be struck between the demands for growth, regeneration and the dangers of 'overheating', including impacts on the Green Belt. Overall, the assessment found that effects were likely to be neutral to positive, although there is a significant degree of uncertainty associated with how these proposals might be implemented at LDF level and their site-specific impacts. Equally, it is considered that there are unlikely to be any significant differences between retention and revocation, given the responsibility for delivery devolved to local authorities.

For many authorities and groups of authorities the strategy developed under the East Midlands Regional Strategy will be pursued in its absence, with similar housing figures meeting identified needs. Whilst housing delivery has clearly slowed down in light of difficult market conditions, the final delivery quantum over the longer term, is unlikely to be significantly different. Figures for authorities such as Leicester and North Northamptonshire reinforce this. There are exceptions, the clearest example being that of Rushcliffe where the Borough has broken away from the Greater Nottingham aligned Core Strategy and is seeking to deliver approximately one third fewer homes than the original East Midlands Regional Plan target. The Rushcliffe Core Strategy has yet to be subject to an examination in public, however.

Northern

The focus of Policies SRS 1-5 is on the regeneration of ex-mining areas through significant new growth in housing and employment, supported by green infrastructure provision. The assessment found that the likely effects were mainly neutral or positive, with a number of uncertainties relating to soil, climatic factors and material assets, depending on the scale and location of development. No negative effects were found and there was no difference between the effects of the Regional Strategy and that of its revocation.

There is no reason to doubt that the aspirations and associated criteria of this policy cannot be provided through a local plan policy of a similar nature with similar sustainability effects. Potential impacts are therefore judged to be the same as for the Regional Strategy policy. There could be different spatial approaches to dealing with growth (e.g. less or more emphasis on urban extensions) according to locally derived development quantum, but this would not materially affect these high-level sustainability outcomes. Analysis of adopted and emerging Core Strategies for the sub-area suggests the use of similar housing targets to those set out in the East Midlands Regional Plan (for example Newark & Sherwood).

Lincoln

Policies SRS 1-11 seek to address the perceived problems of peripherality in the Lincoln area, setting out aspirations across many of the policy areas in the main strategy. The importance of Lincoln and its cathedral as a nationally and regionally significant cultural heritage asset is recognised, to be balanced against proposals for growth through housing, employment and infrastructure development. The assessment found that the likely effects were mainly neutral or positive, with a number of uncertainties relating to soil, climatic factors and material assets, depending on the scale and location of development. No negative effects were found and there was no difference between the effects of the Regional Strategy and that of its revocation.

The City of Lincoln Council has agreed to produce a joint LDF with North Kesteven and West Lindsey Councils, and Lincolnshire County Council. The joint LDF will cover Central Lincolnshire, which is the whole area covered by the City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey. The first joint LDF document will be the Core Strategy for Central Lincolnshire which will set out a strategic vision, objectives and strategic policies.

4.2.2 Other Effects

The effects of the revocation of the policies in the East Midlands Regional Plan have been presented in **Appendix D** and summarised above in relation to the issues identified in the EU Directive (Annex I). Where other potential effects have been identified these are referred to in **Appendix D**.

4.2.3 Proposed Mitigation Measures

A number of mitigation measures have been identified in the detailed assessment in **Appendix D**. Mitigation of the effects will be diverse and may need to be specific sub-regionally.

4.3 Effects of Retention of the East Midlands Regional Strategy

Retention of the East Midlands Regional Strategy will lead to a range of effects across the different SEA topics and is identified in **Appendices D** and **E**. A summary of the likely significant effects of revocation on the 13 East Midlands Regional Plan policy areas are presented in **Table 4.2** and commented on below. **Table 4.2** summarises the effects of retaining the East Midlands Regional Strategy against the 12 SEA topics. As noted in section 4.2, the Regional Economic Strategy commitments have been mapped onto the RSS policies (**Appendix H**). Due to the intentional overlap between them, the RSS policies include those of the RES and in order to avoid duplication, the assessment summarised in **Table 4.2** has focussed on the East Midlands Regional Plan policies. Please note that within this alternative, retention is defined as the retention of all the policies within the East Midlands Regional Plan and all the commitments in the RES but without their future update. Local authorities would be expected to refer to the NPPF and to place greater weight on the NPPF, as the East Midlands Regional Plan aged, as without update it would gradually lose relevance to the changing circumstances of local communities.

The following key has been used in completing the assessment:

Score Key:	++ Significant Positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No overall effect	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	? Score uncertain
<p><i>NB: where more than one symbol is presented in a box it indicates that the SEA has found more than one score for the category. Where the scores are both positive and negative, the boxes are deliberately not coloured. Where a box is coloured but also contains a ?, this indicates uncertainty over whether the effect could be a minor or significant effect although a professional judgement is expressed. A conclusion of uncertainty arises where there is insufficient evidence for expert judgement to conclude an effect. The reasons for the assessment are presented in Appendix D for each policy.</i></p>						
<p>S – short term (less than 0.75 year), M – medium term (between 0.75 and 5 years) and L – long term (> 5 years)</p>						

Table 4.2 Summary of the Effects of Retention of the East Midlands Regional Strategy (with reference to the East Midlands Regional Plan policies)

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape				
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L		
1	Regional Core Objectives	Retention	0	0	+	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	-/?	0	0	+	0	0	?	0	0	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2	Promoting Better Design	Retention	0	0	+	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+
3	Distribution of New Development	Retention	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	?	
4	Distribution in the Eastern Sub-Area	Retention	0	0	+	0	+	+	-	-	-/?	0	0	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	-	-	-/?	0	0	+	0	0	0	?	
5	Strategy for Lincolnshire Coastal Districts	Retention	?	?	?	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	
6	Peripherality in the Eastern Sub-Region	Retention	0/?	0/?	0/?	0	+	+	0	-	-/?	0	-	-/?	0	-	-/?	0	-	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	--/?	

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
7	Regeneration of the Northern Sub-Area	Retention	0	0	?	0	+	+	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	0
8	Spatial Priorities in and around the Peak Sub-Area	Retention	0	+	+ +/?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	+	+ +/?	0	+	+
9	Spatial Priorities outside the Peak District National Park	Retention	0	0	+ /?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	- /?
10	Managing Tourism and Visitors in the Peak Sub-Area	Retention	0	0	- /?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- /?	0	0	- /?	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0
11	Development in the Southern Sub-Area	Retention	0	0	0/ ?	0	0	+	0	0	0/ ?	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- /?
12	Development in the Three Cities Sub-Area	Retention	0	0	- /?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0/ ?	0	0	- /?	0	0	+ /?	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
13a, 13b, 14 & 15	Regional Housing Provision and Regional Priorities for Affordable	Retention	0	-	- /?	0	+	+	0	-	- /?	0	-	- /?	0	-	- /?	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0/ ?	0/ ?	0	-	- /?

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
	and Retail																												
23	Regional Priorities for Casino Development	Retention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
24	Regional Priorities for Rural Diversification	Retention	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	- /?	- /?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?
25	Regional Priorities for ICT	Retention	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26	Protecting & Enhancing the Region's Natural & Cultural Heritage	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+ /?	+ /?	+	+	+
27	Regional Priorities for the Historic Environment	Retention	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
28	Regional Priorities for Environmental and Green Infrastructure	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape			
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	
29	Priorities for Enhancing the Region's Biodiversity	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
30	Regional Priorities for Managing & Increasing Woodland Cover	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
31	Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region's Landscape	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
32	A Regional Approach to Water Resources and Quality	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Regional Priorities for Strategic River Corridors	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	
34	Priorities for the Management of the Lincolnshire Coast	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape					
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
35	A Regional Approach to Managing Flood Risk	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Regional Priorities for Air Quality	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	
37	Regional Priorities for Minerals	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	
38	Regional Priorities for Waste Management	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	
39	Regional Priorities for Energy Reduction and Efficiency	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
40	Regional Priorities for Low-Carbon Energy Generation	Retention	0	?	?	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	
41	Regional Priorities for Culture, Sport	Retention	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?		

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
	Transport Accessibility				?																		?	?					
50	Regional Heavy rail Priorities	Retention	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+		
51	Regional Priorities for Bus and Light Rail	Retention	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	
52	Regional Priorities for Integrating Public Transport	Retention	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	
53	Regional Trunk Road Priorities	Retention	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
54	Regional Major Highway Priorities	Retention	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-
55	Implementation of the Regional Freight Strategy	Retention	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
56	Regional Priorities for Air Transport	Retention	0	-	-	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape					
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
57	Regional Priorities for Implementation & Review	Retention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MKSM Northants 1	The Spatial Framework	Retention	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
MKSM Northants 2	Northamptonshire Implementation Area	Retention	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
MKSM Northants 3	Northampton Central Area	Retention	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
MKSM Northants 4	Corby, Kettering & Wellingborough	Retention	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
Three Cities SRS1	Definition of Principal Urban Areas	Retention	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?			
Three Cities SRS2	Sub-Regional Priorities for Green Belt Areas	Retention	0	-	-/?	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?			
Three Cities SRS3	Housing Provision	Retention	0	-	-/?	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?			

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
Three Cities SRS4	Employment Land	Retention	0	-	- /?	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	-	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Three Cities SRS5	Green Infrastructure and the National Forest	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
Northern SRS1	Sub-Regional Development Priorities	Retention	0	+	+ / ?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Northern SRS2	Supporting the Role of Town and Village Centres	Retention	0	+	+ / ?	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Northern SRS3	Sub-Regional Employment Regeneration Opportunities	Retention	0	+	+ / ?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?
Northern SRS4	Enhancing Green Infrastructure Through Development	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
Northern	Sherwood Forest	Retention	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
SRS5	Regional Park																												
Lincoln SRS1	Spatial Priorities for the Lincoln Policy Area	Retention	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Lincoln SRS2	Site Selection ion the Lincoln Policy Area	Retention	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Lincoln SRS3	Protection of Lincoln's Urban Fringe	Retention	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Lincoln SRS4	Housing Provision	Retention	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Lincoln SRS5	Employment Density	Retention	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln SRS6	Tourism, Culture & Education	Retention	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
Lincoln SRS7	Deprivation and Exclusion	Retention	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape			
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	
Lincoln SRS8	Flood Risk And Water Management	Retention	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln SRS9	Sub-Regional Country Park	Retention	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	
Lincoln SRS10	Lincoln Cathedral	Retention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Lincoln SRS11	Sub-Regional Transport Priorities	Retention	0	?	?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	

4.3.1 Likely Significant Effects

Core Spatial Strategy

The effects of retaining these policies will be largely positive across many of the SEA topics but with those positive effects being significant in the longer term in relation to biodiversity/flora/fauna, population/health, cultural heritage and landscape.

The uncertainty of effects identified under revocation in the short term would not apply to retention. With continuity of policy the positive effects of development identified would be experienced in the short term as the amount of development is likely to be higher than under revocation due to the greater clarity over the scale of development needed as set out in the East Midlands Regional Strategy.

The assessment has identified only one topic - water - where there could be uncertainty over the longer term, reflecting water stress in the region and the scale of development to be accommodated.

No significant differences have been identified between revocation and retention.

Economic development

The assessment has identified neutral or minor positive effects of retaining the Regional Plan policies across all of the economic development policies on population and health through improved job opportunities and other socio-economic benefits such as access to services. Where development is directed toward existing urban areas, these benefits are likely to be enhanced. Potential uncertainties remain in respect of the impact of these policies for economic growth on the natural environment, cultural heritage and landscape.

The uncertainty of effects identified under revocation in the short term would not apply to retention. With continuity of policy under retention the positive effects of development identified would be experienced in the short term as the amount of development is likely to be higher than under revocation due to the greater clarity over the scale and location of development needed as set out in the East Midlands Regional Strategy.

Notwithstanding the actions and priorities within the RES, given the uncertainties over the precise location of future employment areas and specific development sites that will be identified and brought forward through local plans, the assessment of retention has identified uncertain or neutral effects across many of the SEA topics. However, economic development, wherever it occurs, could have negative effects on a number of SEA topic areas including biodiversity/flora/fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors and material assets.

No significant differences have been identified between revocation and retention.

Housing

The assessment has identified that there will be positive effects of retaining the Regional Plan housing policies on population and human health as more people are housed with ensuing socio-economic benefits and benefits to health. Retention of the East Midlands Regional Strategy will provide more certainty over the scale of housing development to be provided; however, current completions are at marked variance to the ambitions in the East Midlands Regional Strategy. However, because the NPPF seeks to boost significantly the supply of housing the positive effects on population and human health are likely to prevail through the short, medium and long terms.

Meeting the future housing needs of the region as population grows will involve substantial new areas of development and whilst the Regional Strategy and the NPPF encourage local authorities to make effective use of land by re-using land that is previously developed, there will still need to be significant green field developments. The assessment has indicated that this new development would be likely to have negative effects on a number of SEA topics (biodiversity/ flora/fauna, soils, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, landscape) although there will be uncertainties as the scale and location of development is unknown.

The assessment has identified that negative effects on water will be experienced in the short, medium and long term. Measures to address these negative effects and to meet the challenges of effective water supply and water management in the region as a result of growth will be provided in part through the work of the water companies in the region. Further mitigation in the form of initiatives such as the Code for Sustainable Homes, and the NPPF requirement for local authorities to develop proactive strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change, should be beneficial in this regard.

The assessment concluded that retention of the East Midlands Regional Plan policy on provision for gypsies and travellers (Policy 16) is likely to have positive effects on population and human health in the short, medium and long term, reflecting the allocation of pitches and encouragement of joint working between authorities using local needs assessments where re-distribution of the allocation might be required.

No significant differences have been identified between revocation and retention.

Culture

The assessment has identified that there will be largely neutral to positive effects on cultural heritage, although the impacts are likely to be location and issue-specific, often related to allied topics such as landscape, and dependent on the scale of proposed change. The Regional Strategy and the NPPF identify criteria for cultural development which would help mitigate impacts.

No significant differences have been identified between revocation and retention.

Transport

The range of policies under the transport theme means that there is likely to be a diversity of impacts, many of which are neutral or marginally positive (for example in respect of encouraging a modal shift away from the car). Nevertheless, there are likely to be negative effects, largely associated with the use of transport infrastructure as part of economic development (and its reliance on road-building and improvement to achieve this) and the promotion of the expansion of the East Midlands Airport. Negative impacts are therefore expected on biodiversity, air, climate and landscape, although precise quantification is difficult and effects likely to be seen over an extended period. Significant mitigation could be required to counteract their effects, promoted through policies encouraging modal shift and the promotion of public transport (Policies 46, 49, 51 and 52).

No significant differences have been identified between revocation and retention.

Environment

The assessment has shown that in retaining the East Midlands Regional Strategy, supported by the NPPF, there will be largely neutral to positive impacts, reflecting the positive nature of many of the policies which seek environmental protection and enhancement. The legal requirement for local planning authorities to ensure that internationally and nationally designated sites are given the strongest level of protection and that development does not have adverse effects on the integrity of sites of European or international importance for nature conservation would be unchanged by revocation. Nevertheless, adverse effects have been identified in respect of the potential impacts of housing and transport development on various aspects of environmental integrity, notably biodiversity, air and climate change.

No significant differences have been identified between revocation and retention.

CO₂ emissions and renewable energy

The assessment has shown that overall positive effects can be expected both with retention and revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy, although these could be slightly more significant with retention whereby the region-wide co-ordination of policy and initiatives could occur. Equally, the specific policy associated with airport growth produces significant negative effects, both under retention and revocation where the aspiration for its development is likely to continue.

No significant differences have been identified between revocation and retention.

Water

The assessment has identified that with retention and the application of the NPPF together with other national policies there will be neutral to positive benefits as the policies move the region towards a more sustainable water management strategy. The approach to achieving water efficiency will be delivered by

mechanisms outside the scope of the Regional Strategy such as the building regulations, fiscal measures and incentive schemes - these will all have significant benefits for water availability. Significant positive effects also arise in relation to flood risk due to the very positive approach to flood risk encouraged in the Regional Strategy and the NPPF.

The potential volume of new development means that there is some uncertainty over the effects on water resources and other competing uses for water, notably biodiversity. These issues are likely to be location-specific, and addressed through mechanisms such as Water Resource Management Plans, but overall could have a negative effect. Nevertheless, the assessment identifies positive effects under population/human health and water as a result of continued effective flood risk management. This would also result in positive benefits for other SEA topics e.g. biodiversity.

No significant differences have been identified between revocation and retention.

Waste

The Regional Strategy's waste policies respect the European and national policy context and, in seeking to achieve the required shift towards more sustainable waste management, build on principles set out in the Waste Strategy for England and PPS10.

Continuing to drive waste up the waste hierarchy, and eliminating the landfilling of untreated municipal and commercial waste by 2026, would have positive effects on water, air, climatic factors and material assets.

Ensuring timely provision of appropriate waste facilities will have significant benefits on human health whilst reducing the amount of waste imported into the region should reduce traffic levels and have benefits for air quality. The reduction in the amount of waste disposed of to landfill will reduce the risk of water contamination and emission of greenhouse gases (i.e. methane). However, modern waste management practice seeks to prevent this.

Viewing waste as a resource will have significant benefits to material assets, for example, by replacing primary aggregate with recycled construction waste and making effective use of recovered energy.

The Regional Waste Apportionment set out in the Regional Strategy reflects national policy requirements for individual authorities to take more responsibility for managing their own waste.

No significant differences have been identified between revocation and retention

Minerals

The assessment has identified positive benefits under biodiversity and material assets, with potentially negative effects under landscape. However, the effects are largely neutral, reflecting the sustainable approach to mineral extraction and supply presented in the Regional Strategy and the NPPF. The

precise impacts will be dependent upon the scale and significance of proposals, local circumstances and the ability to introduce effective mitigation measures.

No significant differences have been identified between revocation and retention.

Sub areas and Key Centres for Development and Change

Northamptonshire

Policies SRS 1-4 concern the balanced development of Northampton and surrounding towns, considering the balance to be struck between the demands for growth, regeneration and the dangers of 'overheating'. Overall, the assessment found that effects were likely to be neutral to positive, although there is a significant degree of uncertainty associated with how these proposals might be implemented at LDF level and their site-specific impacts. Equally, it is considered that there are unlikely to be any significant differences between retention and revocation, given the responsibility for delivery devolved to local authorities.

Three Cities

Policies SRS 1-5 concern the balanced development of the Leicester-Derby-Nottingham conurbations, considering the balance to be struck between the demands for growth, regeneration and the dangers of 'overheating', including impacts on the Green Belt. As with any policy promoting growth and development, there will be adverse effects on material assets resulting from the use of building materials. Given the proposed scale of growth there are potential adverse impacts from limited water availability and a general concern that despite possible improvements in public transport and encouragement to walk and cycle, there will be an overall increase in traffic leading to additional pollutant emissions affecting air and climatic factors. Overall, the assessment found that effects were likely to be neutral to positive, although there is a significant degree of uncertainty associated with how these proposals might be implemented at LDF level and their site-specific impacts. Equally, it is considered that there are unlikely to be any significant differences between retention and revocation, given the responsibility for delivery devolved to local authorities.

Northern

The focus of Policies SRS 1-5 is on the regeneration of ex-mining areas through significant new growth in housing and employment, supported by green infrastructure provision. The assessment found that the likely effects were mainly neutral or positive, with a number of uncertainties relating to soil, climatic factors and material assets, depending on the scale and location of development. No negative effects were found and there was no difference between the effects of the RS and that of its revocation.

Lincoln

Policies SRS 1-11 seek to address the perceived problems of peripherality in the Lincoln area, setting out aspirations across many of the policy areas in the main strategy. The importance of Lincoln and its

cathedral as a nationally and regionally significant cultural heritage asset is recognised, to be balanced against proposals for growth through housing, employment and infrastructure development. The assessment found that the likely effects of retention were mainly neutral or positive, with a number of uncertainties relating to soil, climatic factors and material assets, depending on the scale and location of development. No negative effects were found and there were no differences between the effects of the RS and that of its revocation.

No significant differences have been identified between revocation and retention although effects in the short term are likely to be more pronounced (either positive or negative) under retention due to the continuation of joint working encouraged by the Regional Strategy and more clarity over the quantum of new development required.

4.4 **Effects of the Partial Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy**

The reasonable alternatives to revocation that have been assessed are:

- revoking all the quantified and spatially specific policies (for instance where a quantum of development, land for development or amounts of minerals to be extracted or waste disposal is allocated to a particular location in the region) and retaining for a transitional period the non spatial policies; or
- retaining for a transitional period all the spatially specific policies where a quantum of development or land for development is allocated to a particular location in the region and revoking the non spatial policies, ambitions and priorities; or
- retention of policies, ambitions and/or priorities in the short and medium term for a transitional period, the revocation of which may lead to likely significant negative environmental effects.

4.4.1 **Revoking all the Quantified and Spatially Specific Policies**

Table 4.3 summarises the effects of revoking only those policies that are quantified or spatially specific.

Table 4.3 Summary of the Effects of Partial Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy (with reference to the East Midlands Regional Plan policies)

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape					
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
			3	Distribution of New Development	Revocation	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
4	Distribution in the Eastern Sub-Area	Revocation	0	0	+	0	?	?	-	-	- /?	0	0	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	-	-	- /?	0	0	+	0	0	?	0	0	?
5	Strategy for Lincolnshire Coastal Districts	Revocation	?	?	?	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?
6	Peripherality in the Eastern Sub-Region	Revocation	0/?	0/?	0/?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?
7	Regeneration of the Northern Sub-Area	Revocation	0	0	?	0	+	+	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	- /?	0	0	- /?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Spatial Priorities in and around the Peak Sub-Area	Revocation	0	+	+ /?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	+	+ /?	0	+	+	0	+	+
9	Spatial Priorities outside the Peak	Revocation	0	0	+ /?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	- /?

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
	District National Park																												
10	Managing Tourism and Visitors in the Peak Sub-Area	Revocation	0	0	- /?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- /?	0	0	- /?	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0
11	Development in the Southern Sub-Area	Revocation	0	0	0 / ?	0	0	+	0	0	0 / ?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- /?
12	Development in the Three Cities Sub-Area	Revocation	0	0	- /?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0 / ?	0	0	- /?	0	0	+ / ?	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
13a, 13b, 14 & 15	Regional Housing Provision and Regional Priorities for Affordable Housing	Revocation	0	-	- /?	0	+	+	0	-	- /?	0	- /?	- /?	0	- /?	- /?	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0 / ?	0 / ?	0	-	- /?
16	Regional Priorities for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Revocation	0	0	0	0 / ?	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Regional Priorities for Managing the	Revocation	0	-	-	0	+	+	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
	Release of Housing			/?	/?																	/?	/?		/?	/?		/?	/?
19	Regional Priorities for Regeneration	Revocation	0	0/?	0/?	0	+	+	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	0	?	?
21	Strategic Distribution	Revocation	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?
24	Regional Priorities for Rural Diversification	Revocation	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	-	-	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?
29	Priorities for Enhancing the Region's Biodiversity	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
30	Regional Priorities for Managing & Increasing Woodland Cover	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
31	Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region's Landscape	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
33	Regional Priorities for Strategic River	Revocation	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
				Corridors				/?																					
34	Priorities for the Management of the Lincolnshire Coast	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
37	Regional Priorities for Minerals	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+/?
38	Regional Priorities for Waste Management	Revocation	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+
40	Regional Priorities for Low-Carbon Energy Generation	Revocation	0	?	?	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	?	?
44	Sub-Area Transport Objectives	Revocation	0	-	-- /?	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	-	-
51	Regional Priorities for Bus and Light Rail	Revocation	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
52	Regional Priorities for Integrating Public	Revocation	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
	Transport																												
56	Regional Priorities for Air Transport	Revocation	0	-	-	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	0	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--
MKSM Northants 1	The Spatial Framework	Revocation	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
MKSM Northants 2	Northamptonshire Implementation Area	Revocation	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
MKSM Northants 3	Northampton Central Area	Revocation	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
MKSM Northants 4	Corby, Kettering & Wellingborough	Revocation	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
Three Cities SRS1	Definition of Principal Urban Areas	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Three Cities SRS2	Sub-Regional Priorities for Green Belt Areas	Revocation	0	-	-/?	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Three Cities	Housing Provision	Revocation	0	-	-	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
SRS3					/?																								
Three Cities SRS4	Employment Land	Revocation	0	-	- /?	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	-	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Three Cities SRS5	Green Infrastructure and the National Forest	Revocation	+	+	+ /?	+	+	+ /?	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+ /?
Northern SRS1	Sub-Regional Development Priorities	Revocation	0	+	+ /?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Northern SRS2	Supporting the Role of Town and Village Centres	Revocation	0	+	+ /?	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Northern SRS3	Sub-Regional Employment Regeneration Opportunities	Revocation	0	+	+ /?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?
Northern SRS5	Sherwood Forest Regional Park	Revocation	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
Lincoln	Spatial Priorities for the Lincoln Policy	Revocation	0	+	+ /?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape					
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
SRS1	Area				?																											
Lincoln SRS2	Site Selection ion the Lincoln Policy Area	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Lincoln SRS3	Protection of Lincoln's Urban Fringe	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Lincoln SRS4	Housing Provision	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Lincoln SRS5	Employment Density	Revocation	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln SRS6	Tourism, Culture & Education	Revocation	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+
Lincoln SRS8	Flood Risk And Water Management	Revocation	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln SRS9	Sub-Regional Country Park	Revocation	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+
Lincoln	Lincoln Cathedral	Revocation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
SRS10																								+	+	+			
Lincoln SRS11	Sub-Regional Transport Priorities	Revocation	0	?	?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?

Score Key:	++ Significant Positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No overall effect	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	? Score uncertain
<p><i>NB: where more than one symbol is presented in a box it indicates that the SEA has found more than one score for the category. Where the scores are both positive and negative, the boxes are deliberately not coloured. Where a box is coloured but also contains a ?, this indicates uncertainty over whether the effect could be a minor or significant effect. A conclusion of uncertainty arises where there is insufficient evidence for expert judgement to conclude an effect.</i></p> <p><i>The reasons for the assessment are presented in Appendix D for each policy.</i></p> <p><i>S – short term (less than 0.75 year), M – medium term (between 0.75 and 5 years) and L – long term (> 5 years)</i></p>						

Likely Significant Effects

There are a wide range of significant positive effects associated with revocation of East Midlands Regional Plan policies, benefiting biodiversity, population, air quality, cultural heritage and landscape, for example. Whilst there are often uncertainties surrounding the longer term effects, the overall effect of the plan is likely to be neutral to positive.

The areas of significant negative effects in relation to revocation are with regard to Policies 43 and 44 (Regional and Sub-area Transport Objectives) and Policy 56: Regional Priorities for Air Transport which seeks an expansion of East Midlands Airport. Negative effects on air quality, climate change and landscape were identified. Various criteria relating to the mitigation of effects, such as the need for surface access strategies which include access by public transport, are included within the policy, but their effectiveness is unclear. It is likely that airport expansion would still be pursued under revocation, as would road-based infrastructure improvements as a basis for region and sub-area development, with consequent implications over the longer term for biodiversity and other environmental topics. One of the key planning principles set out in the NPPF is to proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. This includes minimising negative impacts and providing net gains to the community where possible. Local authorities are expected to work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships to determine the regeneration needs of their areas. The Duty to Co-operate is expected to play a key role in this and Local Enterprise Partnerships can also play a key role in assisting local authorities to deliver.

Proposed Mitigation Measures

Policies concerning transport development across the region contain a variety of measures which seek to mitigate the impacts associated with their implementation. These are likely to temper most significant effects, although it could be argued that the scale of these developments could be such that the effects cannot be readily mitigated. Thus road improvements, whilst helping to ease congestion, have generated more vehicle movements and are the basis of economic development, with attendant effects on air quality, landscape and biodiversity, for example.

4.4.2 Retaining all the Quantified and Spatially Specific Policies

Table 4.4 summarises the effects of retaining only those policies that are quantified or spatially specific.

Table 4.4 Summary of the Effects of Retaining all the Quantified and Spatially Specific Policies

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
3	Distribution of New Development	Retention	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	?
4	Distribution in the Eastern Sub-Area	Retention	0	0	+	0	+	+	-	-	- / ?	0	0	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	-	-	- / ?	0	0	+	0	0	?
5	Strategy for Lincolnshire Coastal Districts	Retention	?	?	?	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?
6	Peripherality in the Eastern Sub-Region	Retention	0 / ?	0 / ?	0 / ?	0	+	+	0	- / ?	- / ?	0	- / ?	- / ?	0	- / ?	- / ?	0	- / ?	- / ?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- / ?
7	Regeneration of the Northern Sub-Area	Retention	0	0	?	0	+	+	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	0
8	Spatial Priorities in and around the Peak Sub-Area	Retention	0	+	+ / ?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	+	+ / ?	0	+	+
9	Spatial Priorities outside the Peak	Retention	0	0	+ / ?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	-

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape					
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
	District National Park				?																								/?			
10	Managing Tourism and Visitors in the Peak Sub-Area	Retention	0	0	- /?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- /?	0	0	- /?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
11	Development in the Southern Sub-Area	Retention	0	0	0 / ?	0	0	+	0	0	0 / ?	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- /?			
12	Development in the Three Cities Sub-Area	Retention	0	0	- /?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0 / ?	0	0	- /?	0	0	+ / ?	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13a, 13b, 14 & 15	Regional Housing Provision and Regional Priorities for Affordable Housing	Retention	0	-	- /?	0	+	+	0	-	- /?	0	- /?	- /?	0	- / ?	- /?	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0 / ?	0 / ?	0	-	- /?			
16	Regional Priorities for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Retention	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape			
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L				
17	Regional Priorities for Managing the Release of Housing	Retention	0	- /?	- /?	0	+	+	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	- /?	- /?	0	- /?	- /?	0	- /?	- /?	
19	Regional Priorities for Regeneration	Retention	0	0 / ?	0 / ?	0	+	+	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	0	?	?	
21	Strategic Distribution	Retention	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	
24	Regional Priorities for Rural Diversification	Retention	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	- /?	- /?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	
29	Priorities for Enhancing the Region's Biodiversity	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	
30	Regional Priorities for Managing & Increasing Woodland Cover	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	
31	Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region's Landscape	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
33	Regional Priorities for Strategic River Corridors	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
34	Priorities for the Management of the Lincolnshire Coast	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
37	Regional Priorities for Minerals	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+
38	Regional Priorities for Waste Management	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+
40	Regional Priorities for Low-Carbon Energy Generation	Retention	0	?	?	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	?	?
44	Sub-Area Transport Objectives	Retention	0	-	/?	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	-	-
51	Regional Priorities for Bus and Light Rail	Retention	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L
			52	Regional Priorities for Integrating Public Transport	Retention	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+
56	Regional Priorities for Air Transport	Retention	0	-	-	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	0	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--
MKSM Northants 1	The Spatial Framework	Retention	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
MKSM Northants 2	Northamptonshire Implementation Area	Retention	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
MKSM Northants 3	Northampton Central Area	Retention	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
MKSM Northants 4	Corby, Kettering & Wellingborough	Retention	0	0	0/?	0	0	+	0	0	0/?	0	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-/?
Three Cities SRS2	Sub-Regional Priorities for Green Belt Areas	Retention	0	-	-/?	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Three Cities SRS3	Housing Provision	Retention	0	-	-/?	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
Three Cities SRS4	Employment Land	Retention	0	-	- /?	0	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	-	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Three Cities SRS5	Green Infrastructure and the National Forest	Retention	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	++	+
Northern SRS1	Sub-Regional Development Priorities	Retention	0	+	+ / ?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?
Northern SRS2	Supporting the Role of Town and Village Centres	Retention	0	+	+ / ?	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	
Northern SRS3	Sub-Regional Employment Regeneration Opportunities	Retention	0	+	+ / ?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	?
Northern SRS5	Sherwood Forest Regional Park	Retention	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
Lincoln SRS1	Spatial Priorities for the Lincoln Policy Area	Retention	0	+	+ / ?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape			
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	
Lincoln SRS2	Site Selection ion the Lincoln Policy Area	Retention	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	
Lincoln SRS3	Protection of Lincoln's Urban Fringe	Retention	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	
Lincoln SRS4	Housing Provision	Retention	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	
Lincoln SRS5	Employment Density	Retention	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln SRS6	Tourism, Culture & Education	Retention	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	
Lincoln SRS8	Flood Risk And Water Management	Retention	0	+	+/?	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln SRS9	Sub-Regional Country Park	Retention	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	
Lincoln SRS10	Lincoln Cathedral	Retention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	

Regional Plan Policy No.	Regional Plan Policy Title	Alternative	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			Population and Human Health			Soil			Water			Air			Climatic Factors			Material Assets			Cultural Heritage			Landscape		
			S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L	S	M	L			
Lincoln SRS11	Sub-Regional Transport Priorities	Retention	0	?	?	+	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	0	?	?
Score Key:	++ Significant Positive effect		+ Minor positive effect			0 No overall effect			- Minor negative effect			-- Significant negative effect			? Score uncertain														
<p><i>NB: where more than one symbol is presented in a box it indicates that the SEA has found more than one score for the category. Where the scores are both positive and negative, the boxes are deliberately not coloured. Where a box is coloured but also contains a ?, this indicates uncertainty over whether the effect could be a minor or significant effect. A conclusion of uncertainty arises where there is insufficient evidence for expert judgement to conclude an effect. The reasons for the assessment are presented in Appendix D for each policy.</i></p>																													
<p><i>S – short term (less than 0.75 year), M – medium term (between 0.75 and 5 years) and L – long term (> 5 years)</i></p>																													

Likely Significant Effects

There are a wide range of significant positive effects associated with retention of East Midlands Regional Plan policies, benefiting biodiversity, population, air quality, cultural heritage and landscape, for example. Whilst there are often uncertainties surrounding the longer term effects, the overall effect of the plan is likely to be neutral to positive.

The areas of significant negative effects in relation to both retention and revocation are with regard to Policy 44 (Sub-area Transport Objectives) and Policy 56: Regional Priorities for Air Transport which seeks an expansion of East Midlands Airport. Negative effects on air quality, climate change and landscape were identified. Various criteria relating to the mitigation of effects, such as the development of surface access strategies which include effective public transport, are included within the policy, but their effectiveness is unclear. It is likely that airport expansion would still be pursued under revocation, and road-based infrastructure improvements as a basis for region and sub-area development, with consequent implications over the longer term for biodiversity and other environmental topics.

The retention of these policies may result in some confusion with the intent of the NPPF and how they are to be applied. The NPPF must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF intends to ensure that the local plan is at the heart of the plan-led system and promotes local authorities and communities to plan to meet objectively assessed needs for housing and other forms of development for their areas which should include collaboration with other bodies where appropriate. Since local plans need to be in general conformity with the Regional Strategy, and planning decisions need to be made in accordance with it, this would create confusion and potential conflict in the planning system.

Proposed Mitigation Measures

Retaining just the quantitative and spatially specific policies for a transitional period and revoking the rest of the Regional Strategy would remove the measures which were included in the Regional Strategy to mitigate the adverse effects of the proposed development. However, as with revocation of the whole Regional Strategy, measures to protect the environment are provided through the NPPF, other national policy and legislation. For example, the duty on water companies to produce Water Resource Management Plans and Drought Management Plans will continue to address the issue of water supply in the region whether or not the Regional Strategy is revoked in full, is partially revoked or is retained. Under the Renewables Energy Directive, there is a legally-binding target to ensure 15% of energy comes from renewable sources by 2020 in the UK.

4.4.3 Retention of Policies, the Revocation of which may lead to likely Significant Negative Environmental Effects

The assessment has found that there are no policies in the East Midlands Regional Plan or Regional Economic Strategy where the act of revocation will cause a significant negative effect whilst retaining the same policy will maintain a significant environmental benefit. As noted above for Policies 44 and 56 there is a significant negative effect on air and climate; however, this is the same issue for both retention and revocation and will require a similar concerted effort by all interested parties to resolve, irrespective of the presence of the Regional Strategy itself.

4.5 Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

In determining the significance of effects of a plan or programme, the SEA Directive requires that consideration is given to (amongst others) secondary, cumulative, synergistic effects on the environment. As a consequence, the potential for the plan for the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy to have secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects on the region and in conjunction with other regional plans has been considered as part of each assessment and a summary of those effects identified is presented in **Table 4.5** against each of the SEA topics. Where relevant, these effects are identified as being short, medium, long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative. This assessment is relative to the legislative and policy framework that remains in place once the Regional Strategies are revoked.

Table 4.5 Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects of the Plan to Revoke the East Midlands Regional Strategy

Assessment Topic	Score	Summary
Biodiversity and Nature Conservation (which includes flora and fauna, and the functioning of ecosystems)	+/?	<p>Key indicators for biodiversity are the number and extent of protected areas and their condition. In particular, the Natural Environment White Paper states that 90% of priority wildlife habitats should be in recovering or favourable condition by 2020.</p> <p>The East Midlands Regional Plan includes a number of policies that provide protection and enhancement of biodiversity and nature conservation features. Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy does not affect the legal requirement set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 that a local planning authority must assess the implications of any plan or project likely to have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site in accordance with the Habitats Directive. The Directive prevents the adoption of any such plan or project unless it must be adopted for imperative reasons of overriding public interest and there are no alternative solutions. Given the continued application of the legal and policy protection given to European and Ramsar sites and to SSSIs and further application of agri-environment schemes it is expected that revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy would not change the positive trend in recovering or favourable condition of conservation sites.</p> <p>Achievement of legally binding targets for water and air quality will also be significant contributory factors in improving the quality of areas important for wildlife, while enhanced provisions on aspects such as the delivery and protection of green infrastructure will play an important role in increasing the overall area with significant biodiversity value. Statutory and policy protection for</p>

Assessment Topic	Score	Summary
		<p>AONBs and National Parks will continue to protect the biodiversity value with these areas, at least in so far as the planning system is concerned.</p> <p>Despite the above commitments, it is recognised that there remain localised concerns on the effects of the biodiversity resource, particularly where habitats are water dependent, which could be impacted by direct or indirect effects from the increased demands for water and the effects on the availability of water arising from the effects of climate change. Water Resource Management Plans seek to balance such demands, and are subject to an appropriate assessment in accordance with the Habitat Directive. The likelihood of post mitigated residual effects remains small, although if they do occur they are most likely to affect non-designated sites and their associated biodiversity.</p> <p>For the protection and enhancement of environmental resources more generally, the cumulative effects of the absence of regional policy frameworks and associated resources is harder to determine over the longer term. Whether Regional Strategies specifically relating to biodiversity and landscape resources, for example, can adequately realise their potential in the absence of a unifying policy framework is uncertain. Here, the cumulative impacts could be associated with increasingly lost opportunities to plan strategically for these interests.</p>
Population (including socio-economic effects and accessibility)	+/?	<p>The East Midlands Regional Plan contains a variety of policies concerning population, such as employment and access to services, and a range of positive benefits accrue. Revocation is unlikely to affect this. One of the key planning principles set out in the NPPF is to proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. However, this should be in accordance with other policies in the NPPF which seek to minimise environmental effects. This includes minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains where possible (paragraph 109), having access to high quality public transport facilities (paragraph 35) and aiming for a balance of land uses within their area so that people can be encouraged to minimise journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities (paragraph 37).</p> <p>Local authorities are expected to work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships to determine the regeneration needs of their areas. The Duty to Co-operate is expected to play a key role in this and Local Enterprise Partnerships can also play a key role in assisting local authorities to deliver. This is likely to provide similar significant benefits as retention of the plan.</p>
Human Health	+	<p>National health related policies/strategies and programmes are primarily related to improving the health of populations and reducing health disparities. The disparities referred to are primarily geographic, ethnic and economic. Whilst not being addressed directly through policy in the East Midlands Regional Strategy, the impacts of other policies are in general likely to be positive through improving housing quality and greater access to green infrastructure, for example. Revocation will not affect the intent of the policy; as noted above, local authorities are required to work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships to determine the regeneration needs of their areas. Similarly, revocation will not remove the need for more houses within the region. Indeed it is Government policy to boost significantly the supply of housing, for example through initiatives such as the Community Infrastructure Levy, 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. New homes are to be in locations accessible by sustainable means of transport, walking and cycling in particular are healthy activities and the NPPF is complementary to national initiatives such as the cycle to work scheme.</p> <p>Paragraph 114 of the NPPF provides policy for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of green infrastructure. Indeed, paragraph 117 goes further. In addition, the introduction of Local Nature Partnerships announced in the Natural Environment White Paper which will complement existing local partnerships which deal with matters such as provision of green infrastructure will improve the chances of the delivery of the policy.</p>
Soil and Geology (including land use, important geological sites, and the	-/?	<p>The main adverse impacts on soil are a result of development and land cover under arable and horticulture has decreased by 9.1% between 1998 and 2007 across the UK. Policies in the NPPF seek to protect best and most versatile land (i.e. ALC Grades 1-3a); however, given the very high percentage of agricultural land in the East Midlands which is classified as best and most versatile</p>

Assessment Topic	Score	Summary
contamination of soils)		<p>and given the scale of likely future development to meet population growth needs, it is likely that some of this will be affected. According to 2011 Annual Monitoring Report for the East Midlands, in 2009, 57 per cent of new dwellings in the East Midlands were built on previously developed land (a fall of 11 percentage points from the previous year) which increases to 61 per cent if conversions are included. These figures are lower than the national levels of 77 and 80 per cent respectively.</p> <p>At this stage the cumulative effects remain uncertain although likely to be negative in the short to medium term. However, given the target in the Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) that by 2030 all of England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully along with further research, there remains the potential for this to be addressed in the long term.</p>
Water Quality and Resources (including as inland surface freshwater and groundwater resources, and inland surface freshwater, groundwater, estuarine, coastal and marine water quality)	0	<p>Being one of the drier regions in the UK and with current demands on both surface and groundwater resources, there are limitations on the water resources available to meet future demands, and some existing areas already exceed sustainable abstraction limits. Policy 32 of the East Midlands Regional Plan seeks to promote water efficiency in new development, although revocation is not considered to affect the policy intent as it will be delivered by other policy and legislation by a range of organisations, in particular through the water resource management process and the Duty to Co-operate. These mechanisms should identify future areas where demand is likely to exceed supply and provide additional water infrastructure accordingly.</p> <p>The NPPF requires under paragraph 94 that local planning authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. Paragraph 143 also sets out that local planning authorities will need to establish environmental criteria to ensure that permitted operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or human health, including from impacts on the flow and quantity of surface and groundwater and migration of contamination from the site; and take into account the cumulative effects of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or a number of sites in a locality.</p> <p>Water companies, through the completion of their Water Resource Management Plans have a duty to assess water supply and demand in their region on a rolling 5 year basis up to 25 years hence. The water resource planning process sets out, for those water resource zones in deficit (i.e. where demand exceeds supply) the measures needed to address the shortfall. In determining future demand, population projections, housing needs and occupancy rates are used along with the effects of climate change on water availability. Preferred management options for each zone are usually a mix of water demand management measures (water metering, voluntary measures), leakage control and with supply measures (boreholes, reservoirs, bulk transfers, desalination plants). For the East Midlands, the process means that no water zone is anticipated to be in deficit until after 2030.</p> <p>Statutory requirements under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) 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 and the distribution and scale of growth have regard to the capacity of waste water treatment works and WFD requirements</p> <p>Joint and partnership working between the Environment Agency, water industry bodies, local authorities and others must continue in line with the new Duty to Co-operate in order to deliver water efficiency, management and infrastructure benefits.</p>
Air Quality	0	<p>Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy will not affect the current trend in air quality which is improving (notwithstanding continuing problems with some pollutants and localised issues in AQMAs). National planning policies, including those on air quality, sustainable development and transport, will continue to apply and inform local plan policies. 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 continue to work closely with relevant partners to ensure that development has taken proper account of relevant air quality matters.</p>

Assessment Topic	Score	Summary
<p>Climate Change (including greenhouse gas emissions, predicted effects of climate change and the ability to adapt)</p>	+	<p>The East Midlands Regional Plan contains a range of climate change-related policies, ranging from energy efficiency in building design, reducing CO₂ emissions through modal change in transport, to the promotion of renewable energy generation. Revocation will not affect the intent (to move towards a low carbon economy) behind these policies. One of the 12 core principles of planning set out in paragraph 17 of the NPPF is to support the transition to a low carbon future, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy). Similarly, paragraph 94 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008.</p> <p>The NPPF seeks to support the move to a low carbon future, by stating that local planning authorities should plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions; actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings; and when setting any local requirement for a building's sustainability, do so in a way consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy and adopt nationally described standards. Specifically, local planning authorities are expected to identify opportunities where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supplies.</p> <p>There is a legally-binding target to ensure 15% of energy comes from renewable sources by 2020 and the UK Renewable Energy Strategy 2009 sets out the path to meet it. While this target is 2% lower than that set out in the East Midlands Regional Plan, it is not considered likely that revocation would result in significantly different effects than retaining the East Midlands Regional Strategy.</p> <p>Policy 56 of the East Midlands Regional Plan relates to the regional priorities for air transport and this was assessed as having a significant negative effect on the climate change topic. Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy will not remove the demands for airport development, and the national policy will remain as set out in the 2003 Aviation White Paper until superseded. Similarly, revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy will not affect the national policy ambition to move towards a low carbon economy and the national measures put in place to realise this ambition.</p> <p>Following revocation of Regional Strategies, local authorities would be expected to continue to work together across administrative boundaries and with the Environment Agency to plan development that properly minimises the effects of climate change, particularly from flooding and coastal change. For flooding matters, local authorities already have a Duty to Co-operate 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 Co-operate, 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 determine whether a significant flood risk exists in an area and if so, to prepare flood hazard maps, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans.</p>
<p>Waste Management and Minerals</p>	0	<p>The East Midlands Regional Plan policy reinforces aspects of national policy that will need to apply across the region if waste generation is to be successfully decoupled from economic growth. It respects the European and national policy context and, in seeking to achieve the required shift towards more sustainable waste management, builds on principles set out in the Waste Strategy for England and PPS10. Revocation could in theory have a cumulative effect if the alternatives lessened existing levels of protection. However, revocation is not considered to affect the policy intent as it will be delivered by other policy and legislation. The minerals and waste planning authorities are expected to continue to take forward their minerals and waste plans (i) to make provision for minerals - under paragraph 145 of the NPPF - by preparing a local aggregate assessment based on average sales taking account of secondary, recycled and marine sources and (ii) provide land for waste management facilities, to support the sustainable management of waste in line with national and European requirements. Since no waste planning authority is likely to be totally self-sufficient in waste management, the Duty to Co-operate will ensure that the authorities work together to deliver the environmentally sound management of waste. The Duty to Co-operate and input from the Aggregate Working Parties will also ensure that a steady and adequate supply of minerals are provided in a sustainable manner.</p>

Assessment Topic	Score	Summary					
		<p>Ensuring timely provision of appropriate facilities will have significant benefits on human health while reduce the amount of waste imported into the region should reduce traffic levels and have benefits for air quality. The reduction in the amount of waste disposed of to landfill will reduce the risk of water contamination and emission of green house gases (i.e. methane). However, modern waste management practice seeks to prevent this.</p> <p>Viewing waste as a resource will have significant benefits to material assets for example by replacing primary aggregate with recycled construction waste and making effective use of recovered energy.</p> <p>It is still likely that demand for minerals resources and the amount of waste generated will increase by virtue of the level of development. Therefore cumulative effects are likely to be negative (as would have been the case with retention). However, ensuring timely provision of appropriate waste management facilities will have significant secondary benefits on human health through reduced waste traffic levels and have benefits for air quality.</p>					
Cultural Heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)	+/?	<p>The East Midlands Regional Plan contains a specific policy concerning the protection of cultural heritage and protection was implicit across a number of others. Nevertheless, revocation will not affect the intent behind the policy as existing legislation protecting listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas and registered parks and gardens remain in place.</p> <p>Paragraphs 126 - 141 of the NPPF set out strong national policy on conserving and enhancing the historic environment. It states that local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.</p> <p>When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be.</p> <p>The most important cultural heritage sites are subject to statutory protection. This is supported by national planning policy for the protection and conservation of the historic environment. Following revocation of Regional Strategies, local authorities would still need to continue to work together on conservation, restoration and enhancement of the heritage and historic environment.</p> <p>In planning for the historic environment, local authorities should continue to draw on available information, including data from partners, to address cross boundary issues; they should also continue to liaise with English Heritage to identify and evaluate areas, sites and buildings of local cultural and historic importance.</p>					
Landscape and Townscape	0	<p>The East Midlands is home to several landscapes of national importance and landscape conservation was a specific policy in the East Midlands Regional Plan, and written into others. Revocation will not affect the intent behind the policy as existing legislation and policy remain including protections for valued landscapes and nationally designated areas (which are also subject to statutory protection). Paragraph 115 of the NPPF maintains the policy basis for the legislation. The NPPF also maintains the policy previously contained in PPS7 that local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected landscape areas will be judged (paragraph 113), while landscape character assessments should be prepared where appropriate (paragraph 170).</p>					
Score Key:	Significant Positive ++	Positive +	No significant effects 0	Negative -	Significant negative --	Uncertain?	No relationship n/a

NB: where more than one symbol is presented in a box it indicates that the SEA has found more than one score for the category. Where the scores are both positive and negative, the boxes are deliberately not coloured. Where a box is coloured but also contains a ?, this indicates uncertainty over whether the effect could be a minor or significant effect. A conclusion of uncertainty arises where there is insufficient evidence for expert judgement to conclude an effect.

The plan to revoke the Regional Strategies is, however, national in scope as well as applying to the eight regions. In consequence the wider implications and effects of the plan have also been considered.

A key principle of regional planning was to seek to provide consistency and efficiency in the provision of housing, employment and associated infrastructure, along with the protection and enhancement of environmental resources. Notwithstanding counter arguments as to the effectiveness with which a Regional Strategy might be implemented, their revocation raises issues as to the cumulative impacts and unintended consequences of their replacement through a localised approach.

In respect of setting local housing targets, over the medium and longer term, reliance on locally-generated housing figures could yield an increasing difference between authority areas within regions. Tensions may arise, where the Duty to Co-operate and housing market assessments require an agreed strategy to accommodate growth that is not viewed as equitable by the co-operating authorities. This could create disparities which are difficult to reconcile without significant interventions. However, under revocation there is also the opportunity for adjacent authorities in previously different regions to explore joint working which may help address some of the potential issues that could arise.

At a broader scale, there could be an increasing diversification of regional circumstances across the country, accentuating issues such as the north-south divide with wider socio-economic consequences and reliance on other policy instruments for their resolution. Macro-scale trends such as the decentralisation of population from urban areas are arguably more difficult to address through local initiatives, as is regeneration which might be more efficiently tackled through regional-scale policy. National transport policies such as HS2 and other measures to improve the effectiveness of national transport networks and the ease of accessibility between regions will become increasingly important to counter such potential effects.

If an effect of abolition is regional differences then environmental effects could be exacerbated in some areas. For particular regions, this could be critical for resources such as water which, whilst addressed through mechanisms such as Water Resource Management Plans and the Environment Agency River Basin Management Plans, could be affected by absence of the scrutiny of the balance between environmental capacity and the need for growth at the regional scale.

For the protection and enhancement of environmental resources more generally, the cumulative effects of the absence of regional policy frameworks and associated resources is harder to determine over the longer term. Whether Regional Strategies specifically relating to biodiversity and landscape resources, for example, can adequately realise their potential in the absence of a unifying policy framework is uncertain. Here, the cumulative impacts could be associated with increasingly lost opportunities to plan strategically for these interests.

The provision of renewable energy has been an issue which regional planning arguably seemed to be particularly fitted to help guide. Development of strategic renewable energy-generating capacity, whilst to some extent modified through co-operation, could over the longer term lead to sub-optimal provision as localised interests perhaps come to the fore, and issues over the equity of provision and national

interests are increasingly difficult to reconcile. As with the enhancement of natural resources, this could present a lost opportunity, only recognised over the longer term.

4.6 In summary

The assessment of the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy has shown that there will be significant positive effects, although these will be largely similar to those that would arise were the Regional Strategy to be retained. For many policies, it is difficult to identify specific differentiation between the effects of retention and revocation, given the strategic nature of the policies and the degree of devolution to local authorities to reflect the principles in their LDFs. In addition, the provisions of the NPPF means that a basic framework for the delivery of sustainable development is in place which largely replicates the principles employed in the Regional Strategy. In principle therefore, local plans can readily deliver the aspirations and proposals of Regional Strategy, using additional mechanisms such as the Duty to Co-operate.

Where it occurs, differentiation is most clear in respect of housing and employment allocations where the negative effects of top-down allocations could be tempered by more detailed understanding of environmental capacity issues and possibly more diverse and locally-specific spatial distributions of development (e.g. less reliance on urban extensions). However, in the opinion of AMEC, revocation does score more uncertainly in the short and medium term. Similar uncertainty was scored for the revocation of policies on provision for gypsies and travellers. This may occur where plans are out of date or due to the transition period for those authorities who need to establish the arrangements under the Duty to Co-operate to deliver such strategic policies and then reflect them in an adopted plan. The application of the NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development and its policies to boost the supply of housing will help where plans or policies are absent, silent or out of date. The Government's planning policy for traveller sites in conjunction with the NPPF provides national policy on gypsy and traveller provision.

In the case of a policy that provides a strategic direction and whose requirements extend beyond the boundaries of a single authority, such as strategic employment sites, there may be a difference in the short and medium term between retention and revocation. Equally, the work of the LEPs will continue to drive and support economic growth across the East Midlands, promoting strategic employment locations in the Three Cities sub-area in particular as well promoting related infrastructure development. Efforts to stimulate growth in the more peripheral regions of Lincolnshire, for example, will continue under the partnership of the LEP and the emerging local plans for the area. Retention is likely to have significantly positive effects on the population topic and negative effects on biodiversity, air, water and material assets, in part because of the clarity and certainty provided. However, as in the previous example, revocation will score uncertainly until authorities define, agree and implement the Duty to Co-operate. However the application of the NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development and its policies to boost the supply of housing will help where plans or policies are absent, silent or out of date.

Under revocation, a number of policies that contain regional targets (such as those for brownfield land and renewable energy) will be lost. In the case of brownfield land, the NPPF does require preferential use of brownfield land and local planning authorities can still set local targets; however, the removal of the specific target could reduce the amount of brownfield land reused for development and lead to an increase in development on greenfield sites. In the case of renewable energy, the NPPF seeks to support the move to a low carbon future, by stating that local planning authorities should plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, local planning authorities are expected to identify opportunities where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supplies. Local effects however, will depend on decisions taken by local authorities in consultation with their communities, and by businesses and other partners, on the future scale, nature and location of housing and other development in order to meet identified need.

A number of issues are arguably more efficiently and effectively addressed across wider areas than local authority boundaries, in particular strategic employment sites, major infrastructure provision, biodiversity planning, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and renewable energy. Whilst the Duty to Co-operate in principle and practice could well address a wide range of strategic issues, it is AMEC's opinion that there is uncertainty as to how this might work in the short term, both by topic and geographically. For example, securing agreement on housing and employment levels and distribution could be easier (although not universally so) at sub-regional scale than might strategic infrastructure provision on the same or wider scale. Some issues such as renewable energy, biodiversity enhancement or landscape conservation, which typically benefit from being planned at a wider geographical scale, could be ignored or their potential not realised.

More widely, and over the longer term, undesirable inter- and intra-regional differences could be exacerbated as a result of the sum of local decisions which reflect strongly varying circumstances such as housing demand. Equally, one of the key planning principles set out in the NPPF is to proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. This includes minimising negative impacts and providing net gains to the community where possible. Local authorities are expected to work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships to determine the regeneration needs of their areas, for example.

Mitigation of the effects of revocation is likely to be diverse and perhaps specific sub-regionally. For example, in planning for water provision as part of new development, there is likely to be greater reliance on Water Resource Management Plans and co-operation between interested parties. Similarly, for issues such as biodiversity, greater co-operation and guarantees of funding could be required to achieve a similar outcome to that intended under the Regional Strategies.

5. Conclusions and Key Findings

5.1 What are the Environmental Effects of Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy?

The assessment has identified that the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy will be likely to result in a range of environmental effects across all of the topics identified in the SEA Directive. The following issues are the most pertinent to have been identified:

- Availability of water resources, especially in the East Midlands (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire) and Lincolnshire Fens water resource zones.
- The achievement of air quality and greenhouse emissions targets, especially with respect to transport.
- The potential permanent loss of best and most versatile land to development, for example around Boston.
- Flood risk in the Southern and Three Cities Sub-Areas, and possibly parts of the coast.
- The capacity of historic settlements to accommodate further development, especially Lincoln, but also smaller settlements such as Stamford.
- Despite the relatively small amount of development to be accommodated in the Peak Sub-Area, there could be some capacity issues with respect to landscape and biodiversity.
- It is uncertain at this stage whether there are capacity issues with respect to biodiversity more generally, although it should be borne in mind that the biodiversity interest of the Region is already comparatively low.

With the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy, local authorities and others will need to prepare and implement their local plans and other planning policy documents and to take planning decisions having due regard to the NPPF. The assessment of the revocation of the plan has shown that there will be significant positive effects, although these will be largely similar to those if the plan were retained. This reflects the fact that in some areas, the intent to provide for local employment and housing needs, whilst protecting and enhancing environmental capital will be continued through other government policy, notably the NPPF, which in some areas strengthens commitments.

The revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy removes a number of quantitative based policies such as housing and gypsy and traveller site provision where specific dwelling allocations are made to individual local authorities. In the absence of this regional context it will be the responsibility of local authorities to work together under the Duty to Co-operate to best meet the needs of their areas in the

most appropriate way having regard to the NPPF and where appropriate other policy and legislation (for example, the Government's planning policy for traveller sites published in March 2012). The Duty to Co-operate will require new ways of working for local authorities and this may lead to some delay in putting in place local plans and other planning policy or in establishing what the development needs are of their area having regard to the needs of others areas as well, such as in their housing market area which is likely to include a number of local authorities. It is AMEC's view that the net effect of this may be a short term slowing down of development as the new approaches are implemented - this in turn may lead to a reduction in the positive and negative environmental effects over this short term. The application of the NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development and its policies to boost the supply of housing will help where plans or policies are absent, silent or out of date.

The role of the LEPs is likely to be particularly important in facilitating joint working to achieve economic development aspirations, and associated priorities such as strategic infrastructure provision. Whilst there is a network of LEPs in place across the region, it is acknowledged that the effectiveness of the approach remains to be tested.

The areas of significant negative effects in relation to both retention and revocation are with regard to Policies 43 and 44 (Regional and Sub-area Transport Objectives) and Policy 56: Regional Priorities for Air Transport which seeks an expansion of East Midlands Airport. Negative effects on air quality and climate change were identified. Various criteria relating to the mitigation of effects are included within the policy, but their effectiveness is unclear. It is likely that airport expansion would still be pursued under revocation, as would road-based infrastructure improvements as a basis for region and sub-area development, with consequent implications over the longer term for biodiversity and other environmental topics.

The assessment has also considered the reasonable alternative of retaining the Regional Strategy. This has resulted in the identification of similar environmental effects to revocation although there are important differences in short term effects as indicated above and potentially longer term as well. Other reasonable alternatives assessed were partial revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy either by:

- revoking all the quantified and spatially specific policies (for instance where a quantum of development, land for development or amounts of minerals to be extracted or waste disposal is allocated to a particular location in the region) and retaining for a transitional period the non spatial policies; or
- retaining for a transitional period all the spatially specific policies where a quantum of development or land for development is allocated to a particular location in the region and revoking the non spatial policies, ambitions and priorities; or

- retention of policies, ambitions and/or priorities in the short and medium term for a transitional period, the revocation of which may lead to likely significant negative environmental effects.

These also resulted in the identification of similar environmental effects to full revocation although there are some important differences in the short and medium term as indicated above. The effects of revoking all the quantified and spatially specific policies were identified to be very similar to retaining the Regional Strategy as neither alternative will remove the need for more houses, jobs and employment land across the region. Equally, the retention of the quantified and spatially-specific policies will result in similar effects (on water resources, for example), in addition to there being some confusion initially over the implementation of the NPPF and the application of the policies of the Regional Strategy.

The assessment found that there are no policies in the East Midlands Plan or Regional Economic Strategy where the act of revocation will cause a significant negative environmental effect whilst retaining the same policy will maintain a significant environmental benefit.

5.2 Proposals for Monitoring

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive to establish how the significant effects of revoking the Regional Strategy will be monitored. Article 10(2) of the SEA Directive specifically states that, where appropriate, existing monitoring arrangements may be used to assess the success of the appropriate plan in achieving its objectives. It does not require that targets be developed for the SEA itself.

DCLG's Business Plan²¹ under section 5 'Put Communities in charge of planning' includes specific monitoring actions for the Department regarding the local plan making progress by authorities and on compliance with the Duty to Co-operate. The results of this monitoring will provide clarity over the extent of any delay in adoption of revised Local Plans. When reviewing the effects of the final decision on revocation, it is proposed that DCLG will make periodic reference to the following metrics and sources of information contained in **Table 5.1**. The proposed indicators reflect those identified in the course of the gathering the evidence for this assessment, namely the review of plans, strategies and programmes and collation of baseline information. They are proposed in part to minimise any additional burdens associated with collection and analysis of monitoring data.

Any resulting analysis of long term trends in the indicators will be used to consider whether any further mitigation or intervention is needed for the two categories identified in the SEA Directive, namely:

- the significant effects identified in the assessment that may give rise to irreversible damage, where appropriate, relevant mitigating measures can be taken; and

• ²¹ DCLG May 2012, Business Plan 2012-2015

- uncertain effects where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigating measures to be undertaken.

Based on the findings of this assessment, the effects that should therefore be monitored include:

- significant effects on air and landscape (RS Policies 31 and 36).

Monitoring measures have also been proposed where there have been uncertain effects identified and these include:

- uncertain effects on biodiversity (RS Policy 3, 5, 7, 20, 21, 40, Lincoln 11);
- uncertain effects on population and human health (RS Policy 1, 3, 4, 6, 10, 56);
- uncertain effects on soil (RS Policy 1, 3, 6, 7, 19, 21, Three Cities 1-4, Northern 1 & 3, Lincoln 1-4 & 11);
- uncertain effects on water (RS Policy 1,2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 20, 22, 24, MKSM 1-4);
- uncertain effects on air (RS Policy 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, MKSM 1-4, Three Cities 1-4, Northern 1 & 2 & 5, Lincoln 1-4 & 6 & 9 & 11);
- uncertain effects on climatic factors (RS Policy 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 22, 24, Three Cities 1-4, Northern 1 & 2 & 5, Lincoln 1);
- uncertain effects on materials assets (RS Policy 3, 7, Three Cities 1-4, Northern 1 & 2, Lincoln 1-4 & 6 & 9 & 11);
- uncertain effects on cultural heritage (RS Policy 2, 3, 10, 19, 21, 22, 24, 41, 42, 43, 44, Three Cities 1-4, Northern 1-3, Lincoln 1-4 & 11); and
- uncertain effects on landscape (RS Policy 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 19, 21, 40, 41, 42, Three Cities 1-4, Northern 1-3, Lincoln 1-4 & 11).

Taking this into account, of the 12 topics considered in this SEA, it is proposed that monitoring should focus on the following, as set out in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1 Potential Environmental Monitoring Measures

SEA Topics	Monitoring Measure	Source(s) of Information
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition reports for designated sites • Threatened habitats and species 	JNCC report under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (completed every 6 years) on the conservation status of protected habitats Joint Nature Conservation Committee http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4241

SEA Topics	Monitoring Measure	Source(s) of Information
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Populations of countryside birds • Surface water biological indicators 	<p>http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4239 http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4238 http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4235 http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/report.cfm?category=R,RF</p> <p>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/environment/inland-water/</p> <p>The Environment Agency (EA) are responsible for monitoring water quality under the Water Framework Directive</p>
Population	<p>Annual (where information allows) trends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Information • Population • Housing and additional net dwellings 	<p>Office of National Statistics (ONS) reports, specifically Regional Trends and Regional Gross Value Added</p> <p>Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) statistics: Annual net additional dwellings, Housebuilding: permanent dwellings completed by tenure and region</p>
Human Health	<p>Annual (where information allows) trends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Statistics – Long term illness, etc. • Crime • Deprivation 	<p>ONS on health</p> <p>Home Office, Crime Survey for England and Wales</p> <p>DCLG statistics: Indices of Deprivation</p>
Soil and Geology	<p>Annual (where information allows) trends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land classification • Land use 	<p>Defra: Agricultural land classification</p> <p>DCLG statistics</p>
Water	<p>Annual (where information allows) trends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of catchments with good ecological status • Water resource availability • Per capita water consumption 	<p>EA & Defra</p> <p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/environment/inland-water/</p> <p>Severn Trent Water</p>
Air	<p>Annual (where information allows) trends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of AQMAs • Number of AQMAs were exceedances occurred. 	<p>Defra</p>
Climatic factors	<p>Annual (where information allows) trends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emission of greenhouse gases • Number of properties at risk of flooding 	<p>Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Statistical Release: Local and regional CO2 emissions</p> <p>EA</p>
Material Assets	<p>Annual (where information allows) trends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of construction waste and proportions recycled • Volume of hazardous waste • Volume of controlled wastes and 	<p>EA</p> <p>East Midlands Mineral Planning Authorities</p>

SEA Topics	Monitoring Measure	Source(s) of Information
	proportions recycled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of minerals extracted 	
Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of historic assets 	English Heritage 'Heritage at risk report'
Landscape and Townscape	Annual (where information allows) trends in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in AONBs • Changes in Conservation Areas 	National Association of AONBs English Heritage (if 2003 survey repeated) ONS (proposed measures of wellbeing) DCLG http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1815794.xls

5.3 Quality Assurance

The Government's Guidance on SEA contains a quality assurance checklist to help ensure that the requirements of the SEA Directive are met. Those relevant to this stage have been highlighted below.

Table 5.2 Quality Assurance

Objectives and Context	
The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.	Presented in Section 2 .
Environmental issues, including international and EC objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.	International and European objectives and targets are identified in Appendix E .
SEA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.	Section 3.1 presents the SEA Topics and Table 5.1 links these to indicators.
Links to other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	Appendix E identifies relevant plans, programmes and policies.
Scoping	
The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Scoping Report.	The Consultation Bodies in England ²² were consulted on the scope and level of detail of the environmental reports on 6 May 2011 for five weeks. The equivalent bodies in the Devolved Administrations were also consulted on the reports for regions on their boundaries. Their comments were used as the basis for deciding the

²² The Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England

	<p>scope and level of detail of the material included in the environmental reports. Consideration was also given to more detailed textual comments provided by the consultation bodies.</p> <p>Section 1.5.2 presents information on scoping consultation.</p>
The SEA focuses on significant issues.	Section 3.2 sets out the scope of the assessment. These issues reflect the views of the scoping consultees as detailed in Section 1.5.2 . The significant issues are identified in Appendix E for each of the 12 SEA topics.
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.	Section 3.5 identifies the technical difficulties encountered in completing this report.
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.	No issues were eliminated from further consideration.
Alternatives	
Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.	Alternatives were identified in Section 2.4 .
Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant.	Alternatives were identified in Section 2.4 .
The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared.	Refer to Section 4, 5 and Appendix D and E .
Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained.	Refer to Section 2.4 .
Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives.	These are presented in Sections 2.4 and 5 .
Baseline Information	
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described.	Refer to Appendix E where baseline information is provided for each SEA topic considered.
Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan where practical.	Refer to Appendix E
Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.	These are stated throughout the report where appropriate.
Prediction and Evaluation of Significant Environmental Effects	
Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape) as relevant; other likely environmental effects are also covered as appropriate.	These are set out in Appendix D and E and summarised in Section 4 and 5 .

Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium, or long term) is addressed.	These are set out in Appendix D and E and summarised in Section 4 and 5 .
Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable.	These are set out in Appendix D and E and summarised in Section 4 .
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	These are set out in Appendix D and E and summarised in Section 4 and 5 .
The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations and thresholds.	Refer to individual topic chapters in Appendix E and Section 3.4.2 .
Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.	These are described in Section 3.4 .
Mitigation Measures	
Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan or programme are indicated.	These are set out in Appendix D and E and summarised in Section 4 and 5 .
Issues to be taken into account in project consents are identified.	If relevant, these are set out in Appendix D and E and summarised in Section 4 and 5 .
Environmental Report	
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.	The layout of the Environmental Report is set out in Section 1.6 . The structure was subject to early consultation and review as part of scoping.
Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms.	The Environmental Report has been written in plain English as far as the technical nature of the report allows.
Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate.	Figures and tables have been used throughout the SEA Report and in Appendix E where appropriate.
Explains the methodology used.	This is presented in Section 3 .
Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.	This is covered in Section 1.5 .
Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.	References to information sources are provided throughout the report and Appendix E where appropriate.
Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the plan, the main options considered, and any changes to the plan resulting from the SEA.	An NTS is provided as a stand-alone document to the Environmental Report.
Consultation	
The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process.	The completed previous Environmental Reports were sent to the Consultation Bodies in England and the equivalent bodies in the devolved administrations and simultaneously published for public consultation on 20 October 2011. The consultation period ended on 20 January 2012. As the Environmental Reports dealt with

	<p>the effects of the revocation and not the adoption of plans, there were no draft plans to consult on.</p> <p>This Environmental Report will be published for consultation in autumn 2012.</p>
<p>Consultation Bodies and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the plan or programme are consulted in ways and at times which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate timeframes to express their opinions on the draft plan and Environmental Report.</p>	<p>The completed Environmental Reports were sent to the Consultation Bodies in England and the equivalent bodies in the devolved administrations and simultaneously published for public consultation on 20 October 2011.</p> <p>This Environmental Report will be published for consultation in autumn 2012.</p>
Decision-making and Information on the Decision	
<p>The Environmental Report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan or programme.</p>	<p>This will be included in the Post Adoption Statement (to be issued following consultation).</p>
<p>An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account.</p>	<p>This will be included in the Post Adoption Statement (to be issued following consultation).</p>
<p>Reasons are given for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered.</p>	<p>This will be included in the Post Adoption Statement (to be issued following consultation).</p>
Monitoring Measures	
<p>Measures proposed for monitoring are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA.</p>	<p>These are presented in Section 5.2.</p>
<p>Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the plan or programme to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA.</p>	<p>Details of this are provided in Section 5.2.</p>
<p>Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage (these effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect).</p>	<p>Details of this are provided in Section 5.2.</p>
<p>Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects.</p>	<p>This will be set out in the Post Adoption Statement (to be published following consultation).</p>

5.4

Next Steps

This Environmental Report will be presented for consultation until Wednesday 19 December 2012. Feedback received from consultees in relation to the SEA will be documented and considered in reviewing the proposals to revoke the Regional Strategies. A Post Adoption Statement will summarise how the SEA and the consultation responses have been taken into account and how environmental considerations have been integrated into the final decisions regarding the proposals to revoke the Regional Strategies.

Appendix A

Regional Strategy Policies

Appendix B

Saved Structure Plan Policies

Appendix C

Review of Relevant Local Plans and Policies

Appendix D

Assessment of Revocation and Retention of Individual Regional Strategy Policies

Appendix E

SEA Topic Information and Detailed Assessment of Significance

Appendix F

Consultation Responses

Appendix G

Pressures on European Protected Sites

Appendix H

Mapping of the Regional Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy

