Annex C – Summary Review of Data on Baseline Conditions in the West Midlands

C1 SUMMARY REVIEW OF DATA ON BASELINE CONDITIONS IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

Data and information has been collected from a wide range of reports and sources to illustrate conditions for each of the RSDF objectives. Initial data collection was carried out as part of the scoping stage in 2008, with this providing the core evidence base for the SA. However, as the RSS3 process has progressed and additional data and evidence has become available, the SA has made use of this new data. This annex presents a brief review of up-to-date data on baseline economic, social and environmental conditions within the West Midlands.

In undertaking the review of data on the baseline conditions in the region, data was also sought on future trends, in order to understand wherever possible how the region is likely to evolve in the future without the implementation of the RSS3 revisions. However, in very few cases was any data available in order to inform this assessment, apart from data on future air quality. Therefore in the table below an assessment is made in largely qualitative terms of how the region might be likely to evolve assuming the RSS was not revised.

Summary Review of Data on Baseline Conditions

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
Develop thriving sustainable communities						
Access: Ensuring easy and equitable access to services and opportunities, including jobs and learning, regardless of ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality, background or location	IMD Access to Housing and Services Road distance to nearest Post Office	Local authorities with communities ranked in the bottom 2% in England: Warwick Shrewsbury and Atcham County of Herefordshire Malvern Hills Stratford-on-Avon South Shropshire Wychavon Stafford Staffordshire Moorlands Bridgnorth Birmingham Rugby				Access to services and jobs may be expected to improve as a result of positive policies already within the RSS and within other strategies within the Region such as the RES, although there may be insufficient focus on access problems in rural areas, and therefore the current relatively poor situation may be expected to continue.
	Proportion of Rural Households at Set Distances from Key Services and Facilities 2007	West Midlands: Doctor's surgeries: 77.3% Post offices: 78.7% Supermarkets: 63.0% Primary schools 80.2%	England: Doctor's surgeries: 84.0% Post offices: 84.7% Supermarkets: 70.6% Primary schools 87.5%		Data on access to key services in rural areas suggests that, for many services, provision of services to rural communities in the West Midlands is worse in relative terms than the England average, particularly for ATMs, banks and building societies, doctor's surgeries, supermarkets, primary schools, Post Offices and pubs	
Participation: Enabling communities to participate in the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life	General Election turnout rates, 2005	Turnout rates vary from 37.2% (Staffordshire South, the lowest in the UK) to 72% (Ludlow)	UK average of 61.4%		Wide range of turnout ranges, with many urban constituencies well below 50%.	No change foreseen
Poverty: Addressing poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantage	Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation IMD Income Deprivation	Local authorities with communities ranked in the bottom 2% in England: Birmingham Coventry Wolverhampton Stoke on Trent Walsall Sandwell				Levels of poverty may be expected to improve as a result of positive policies already within the RSS and within other strategies in the Region such as the RES.
	Household income 2007	West Mids urban average £29,635 West Mids rural average £34,265	England urban average £32,239 England rural average £34,175	Rural incomes rose 6% from 2004-7 while urban incomes rose 13%	Very low household incomes in parts of Birmingham, Sandwell, Stoke on Trent and Coventry, as well as in the remote rural parts of Herefordshire and Shropshire.	

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
	Fuel Poverty 2007	17.2% of households suffering from fuel poverty	England average of 13.2%	Fallen from 26.9% in 1996 but increase from 8.9% in 2005	A significant rise in the numbers of households having to spend more than 10% of their income on fuel, and the Region has the second worst rate in England.	
Health: Improving health and reducing health inequalities by encouraging and enabling healthy lifestyles as well as protecting health and providing health services	Life expectancy at birth 2006-08	Male 77.2 Female 81.6 Sub-regional variations from 80.0 (South Shropshire) to 74.3 (Sandwell)	England: male 77.9, female 82.0	Male life expectancy increase from 73.2 in 1991-1993	Average only slightly below the UK average, but significant intra-regional variation of 5.7 years between local authority areas with lower life expectancy in areas with higher levels of deprivation. Women can expect to live on average 4 years longer than men.	Levels of health may be expected to improve through improving socio-economic conditions and health improvement plans and programmes.
	IMD Health Deprivation 2007	Local authorities with communities ranked in the bottom 2% in England: Birmingham Stoke on Trent Coventry Walsall				
	Infant mortality 2008	6.5 per 1,000 live births	UK average of 4.7 per 1,000	Fallen from 11.2 since 1981	Infant mortality rate is significantly worse in the region than anywhere else in England, while the National rate is itself high compared to many other EU States.	
	Teenage conceptions 2007	47.4 per 1,000 females aged under 18	England average of 41.7 per 1,000	Fallen from 51.9 in 1998	Teenage pregnancy in the region is higher than the English average, though not the highest of the English regions. The rate in the conurbations is almost double that in rural parts of the Region, but this rate has been falling in recent years.	

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
	Long-term limiting illness	18.9% of people with a long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits their daily activities or the work they can do. Local authorities with high rates are: Stoke on Trent Sandwell Wolverhampton Newcastle under Lyme	England average of 17.9%		Relatively high rates of long-term limiting illness within the Region as a whole, and some extremely high rates in specific deprived communities.	
Housing: Providing decent and affordable housing for all, of the right quantity, type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environment	Housing completions 2008/09	Net completions 13,432		2006-07: 16,812 2007-08: 15,719	Net completions since the beginning of the RSS have been above targets in the RSS, but have fallen in recent years.	It can be assumed that actual build rates would be roughly in line with RSS policies, although they may continue to be below target in the near future.
	% of dwellings not meeting the 'Decent Homes' standard 2008	West Midlands 2008: 27%	London: 33% North East: 23%	West Midlands 2001: 38.5%	The rate of dwellings not meeting the Decent Homes standard has fallen in recent years and the region is now roughly average when compared to the other eight English regions.	
	Social affordable low-cost completions 2008/09	5,100		2,552 in 2003-4	According to the RSS, an estimated 6,000-6,500 affordable dwellings are required each year between 2001-2011	
	Housing affordability index 2008	West Midlands 6.6 Malvern Hills 10.2 Oswestry 7.0		Index in 1997: West Midlands 3.40	Housing affordability is steadily worsening.	
	Average house prices 2009	West Midlands £172,974 (April-June 2009)	UK £224,064	Average prices, 2003: West Midlands £133,583	House price increases have been steady since 1993, and have increased more sharply and irregularly since 1999. Over the last 12 months, prices in the West Midlands have fallen 0.6%.	
Crime: Reducing crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour	Total crime rate 2008-09	West Midlands Region - 79 per 1,000 population	England and Wales average 86 per 1,000	West Midlands 113 per 1,000 pop in 2003-04	Crime rates are slightly below those for England as a whole. Crime rates 20-30% higher in metropolitan areas than in the shires.	No change foreseen
	Violence against the person 2008-09	16.4 per 1,000	England and Wales average 16.6 per 1,000	Increase since 2001-2002, but drop since 2006-07.	Second highest violent crime rate in England (behind London).	

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
	Fear of crime 2006-07	16% of the population 'worried about burglary' 16% with high level of fear about car crime 20% with high level of fear about violent crime	England ave: 13% of the population 'worried about burglary' 13% with high level of fear about car crime 17% with high level of fear about violent crime	2001-2002 figures: 18.1% of the population 'worried about burglary' 21.3% with high level of fear about car crime 25% with high level of fear about violent crime	Fear of crime rates have declined in the Region in recent years (as they have across England) and are now close to average rates for England as a whole.	
	IMD Crime and Disorder 2007	Local authorities with communities ranked in the bottom 2% in England: Birmingham Coventry Wolverhampton Telford and Wrekin	Walsall Stoke on Trent Newcastle under Lyme Wyre Forest Redditch			
Culture & recreation: Improving opportunities to participate in the diverse cultural and recreational activities the West Midlands can offer	Access to woodlands	9.42% of the population within 500m of a wood >2ha 54.66% of the population within 4km of a wood >20ha	England: 10.18% England: 55.18%		The Woodland Trust and English Nature recommends that everyone should be within 500m of a woodland of 2ha in size, and within 4km of a woodland of 20ha. It would be necessary to create a further 4,834ha of woodland to achieve the first objective, or a further 914ha to achieve the second.	Participation in cultural and recreational activities may be expected to increase as a result of policies within the existing RSS and in other strategies within the region which promote this. However, it may have less relevance and focus than is required if not updated in RSS3.
	Engagement with cultural and sporting activities 2007	93% engaged with at least one cultural or sporting sector in last 12 months	England average of 94%		Slightly below the England average. Low attendance at museums and galleries.	

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
Balanced development: Encouraging physical development with a better balance of jobs, housing and services within each part of the Region in order to meet local needs locally and encourage stable and sustainable integrated communities	Change in population 1982-2008	2008: 5.41m		1982: 5.18m	Population has steadily risen over the last 25 years. Largest growth has been in Birmingham (25,600 increase 2001-07) and Warwickshire (20,600 between 2001-07). Migration from the West Midlands continues with the net loss to migration from the West Midlands to the rest of England and Wales at 8,000 in 2007. East Midlands and the South West are the most popular destinations for the out-migrants with East Midlands and the South East providing the largest number of in-migrants.	Population growth is expected to continue over the next 20 years.
	Population change in urban and rural locations, 2001-2005	Urban 1.1% Town and fringe 2.0% Village, hamlet and isolated dwelling 3.3%			There has been an overall decline in the population of the conurbations of 119,000 since 1981, and an increase of 236,740 in the rural and 'other urban' parts of the Region. In terms of intra-regional migration, in the last 20 years there has been an average annual movement of 20,000 from West Midlands and Stoke-on-Trent conurbations to the rest of the region, and 12,000 per annum moving in the opposite direction.	
Enhance and Protect the Environment						
Environmental assets: Valuing, enhancing and protecting the Region's environmental assets, including the natural and built environment and the historic environment	IMD Living Environment 2009	Local authorities with communities ranked in the bottom 2% in England: Birmingham Sandwell Coventry Stoke-on-Trent Dudley Walsall East Staffordshire			The West Midlands has some of the most heavily urbanised areas in the country, and also some of the most remote and tranquil countryside. Environmental assets are at risk in specific locations within the Region; it is not possible to identify key sites at risk in the context of this report.	Future evolution of environmental assets is uncertain, but could be expected to improve on the basis of positive policies to protect and enhance the environment within the existing RSS and lower tier spatial plans. However, the policy will be significantly out of date without RSS3 and therefore the improvement
	Change in countryside character	Between 1999 and 2003, Joint Character Areas in the eastern (and particularly the south-eastern) side of the Region have changed, much of it in a way that is inconsistent with the existing character whilst the western side is largely stable. Areas in the northeast of the region (largely consistent with the Peak District National Park) have largely maintained their landscape character in a way consistent with the vision				

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
	Extent of Green Belt	273,100ha (in 1997)		Stable	No change in the extent of green belt in the region.	may be less than should be expected.
	Listed Buildings	34,130 in 2009		34,307 in 2005	The Region has a higher proportion of Grade I and II* Listed Buildings and SAMs at risk than elsewhere, with a national average of 3.5%, and a third of the buildings are in the highest priority category (immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric) compared to a fifth nationally.	
	Scheduled Ancient Monuments	1,422 in 2009		1,421 in 2005		
	Buildings at risk	4.5% of grade I and II* buildings at risk in 2009	3.1% for England as a whole	5.8% in 1999.		
Biodiversity: Valuing, enhancing and protecting regional biodiversity	Woodland birds 2007	Population index decreased by 3% from 1994 to 2007	England population index decreased by 6% from 1994 to 2007	Woodland bird populations down in the West Midlands by 3% since 1994	Bird species provide a good indication of the state of wildlife in the countryside, and on this measure the West Midlands is doing slightly worse than England as a whole. Overall populations have declined somewhat since 1994.	Future biodiversity change is uncertain, but could be expected to improve on the basis of positive policies to protect and enhance the environment within the existing RSS and lower tier spatial plans. However, the policy will be significantly out of date without RSS3 and therefore the improvement may be less than should be expected.
	Farmland birds 2007	Population index decreased by 18% from 1994 to 2007	England population index decreased by 13% from 1994 to 2007	Farmland bird populations 18% down in the West Midlands since 1994		
	SSSI conditions 2010	85% 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering'	Target of 95% by 2010	Proportion of sites in this condition is increasing.	The West Midlands is still some distance off the national target for SSSI status. Within this there are considerable sub-regional variations – in 2008, 93% of the SSSIs in the West Midlands Metropolitan Area and Warwickshire were in favourable/unfavourable recovering status, compared to 45% in Herefordshire. However, the overall trend is positive.	

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
	Ancient woodlands 2008	36,706 ha	330,765ha in England as a whole	Under pressure from development, inappropriate land use intensification, fragmentation and climate change. Decline in recent years.	The West Midlands accounts for 11.1% of the total ancient woodlands in England. This has declined slightly in recent years.	
Land Use: Land use and development that optimises the use of previously developed land and buildings and creates high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity, promote local distinctiveness and sense of place, and are well-designed	Extent of derelict land 2009	2,140ha		Down from 3,155ha in 2002-2003 Largest reductions through use of derelict land in Warwickshire and Staffordshire.	There has been a 33% fall in the derelict land area since 2001, and a 23% fall since 2006. Although the amount of derelict land reclaimed fell to 179 hectares, the level remains higher than in 2006/07.	Land use is expected to continue past trends on the basis that existing policies on land use within the existing RSS will continue to have effect at regional and sub-regional levels. However, the reuse of brownfield land may be less than optimal if the policies remain out of date without RSS3.
	Housing densities 2008/09	West Midlands average of 31.7 dwellings/hectare Birmingham 99.6/ha Herefordshire 12.2/ha		An increase from 26/ha in 1994		
	Dwellings built on PDL 2007-08	West Midlands 87.2%		Up from 49% in 1994	Figures from the Annual Monitoring Report suggest that, during 2008/09, there were 15,886 housing completions on brownfield land, or 87% of the total.	
		Sub-regional figures: West Midlands Met 91.1% Shires and Unitaries 84.3% Stoke-on-Trent 100% South Shropshire 13.6%				
Stewardship: Local stewardship of local environments	No data.					Unknown

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
Pollution: Minimising air, water and soil pollution levels	Ambient air quality (NO_2, PM10, SO_2)	Modelled data suggests: No breaches of air quality standards for SO_2 Possible breaches for NO_2, and for PM10 in 2010.	National air quality objectives: PM10 20 µgm-3 by 2010 SO_2 20 µgm-3 NO_2, 40 µgm-3		Air quality is generally lower in urban areas and (for NO_2) along transport corridors. Rural parts of the region enjoy very good ambient air quality.	Air quality is predicted to improve to 2010[1], although 3% of the region is predicted to exceed air quality standards for PM10 and 18% for NOx in 2010. Trends in other types of pollution are uncertain, as new developments arising as a result of existing land use plans, including the existing RSS, may create pressures while positive policies to protect and enhance the environment within the existing RSS and lower tier spatial plans will help to avoid or mitigate impacts.
	Air Quality Management Zones	39 AQMAs declared in 22 local authority areas		The number of AMQAs is increasing steadily.	AQMAs are designated principally for NO_2, but also for PM10 in a small number of cases, mainly as a result of traffic emissions. Many urban areas and key road links have AQMAs. The whole of Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and much of the M6 corridor, has been declared an AQMA.	
	Water quality: % of river length declared as 'good' quality (2006)	West Midlands: 64% for chemical quality 59% for biological quality	England 66% for chemical quality 71% for biological quality	West Midlands (1990): 39% for chemical quality in 1990 48% for biological quality in 1990	Improvements in water quality since 1990, more dramatically in terms of chemical water quality (which is now close to the England average). Biological water quality still less than the England average. Low water quality located in urban areas, particularly the watercourses in Birmingham, Solihull, Stoke on Trent, Coventry, the Black Country.	
	Pollution events 2008	2,058 in 2008		3,046 in 2003	Pollution events clustered around urban areas.	
	Light pollution			22% of the Region became more light saturated between 1993-2000	The remote rural western parts of the Region are still within the darkest classification band, but the central and eastern parts of the Region are becomingly increasingly light saturated.	
Climate change: Minimising the Region's contribution to the causes of climate change	Total CO_2 emissions from domestic sources 2007	12.4m tonnes carbon equivalent	UK 145.7m tonnes CE	Total and per capita domestic emissions were	West Midlands Energy Strategy states that the Region's emissions were in fact 42m tonnes in 2002.	The trend in greenhouse gas emissions is uncertain. Phase Two will promote housing

[1] UK National Air Quality Archive, http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/laqm/tools.php

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
whilst implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts	CO_2 emissions per capita 2007	8.2 tonnes	UK average 8.4	slightly lower in 2007 than 2005.	Figures suggest that the Region produces slightly less CO_2 per head than the average for the UK as a whole. 31% of emissions arose from road transport in 2008, which is the fastest growing source.	and economic growth, while the existing RSS includes positive policies to strengthen the region's policy commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Improved adaptation measures are likely to be implemented as a result of RSS2 and other policies and initiatives at national, regional and sub-regional levels.
	Extent of flood zone	6% of land area	12% for the whole of England		In relative terms the region does not have a large area of land vulnerable to flooding, and few new houses are being constructed on this land. However, the incidence of flooding has been increasing in the Region with more frequent wetter periods associated with global warming. This is exacerbated by the use of drainage systems that are designed to discharge surface water into watercourses more quickly.	
	Planning applications given permission in flood plains against the advice of the Environment Agency	5 in 2007-08		18 in 2001-2002.		
Ensure prudent and efficient use of natural resources						
Energy: Reducing overall energy use through increasing energy efficiency, and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources	Installed capacity of electricity from renewable sources	West Midlands (2008): Total 182MW Hydro 0.6MW Landfill gas 49.5MW Other biofuels and waste 131.8MW		West Midlands (2003): Total 165.9MW Hydro 0.6MW Landfill gas 43.9MW Other biofuels and waste 121.4MW	In 2005, the region consumed 152,000 GWh of energy, of which 27,000 GWh was electricity consumption, therefore it generates about 0.5% of its total energy requirements and 3% of its electricity requirements from renewables.	Renewable energy generation and energy efficiency are likely to increase in the future as a result of positive policies and initiatives in the existing RSS and in other plans and strategies. However, this will not enable the region to meet new more demanding national targets without an update in RSS3.
Efficiency: Using natural resources such as water and minerals efficiently	Production of primary aggregates	14.1m tonnes of primary aggregates were produced in 2007		Production remained reasonably level between 2004 and 2007.	Aggregate production continues to take place in vulnerable environments. 14% of crushed rock was extracted from sites within AONBs and 38% was from SSSIs, while 44% of sand and gravel was from sites in the Greenbelt.	Resource efficiency may be expected to improve in the future as a result of positive policies and initiatives in the existing RSS and in other plans and strategies at

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
	Use of recycled aggregate (construction and demolition waste)	4.92m tonnes produced 2005		4.28m tonnes in 2001	Below the average of 5.5 million tonnes per year assumed by the National and Regional Guidelines 2001-16.	national, regional and local level. However, without implementation of the new apportionment for aggregates, the region may fail to keep pace with demand from construction.
	Water consumption (2006-07)	138l per person per day, Severn Trent	148 l per person per day, England and Wales	140l per person per day, Severn Trent in 2000-2001	in most parts of the Region river abstraction levels are committed to their sustainable limits with no surplus water available in summer when demand is highest The increase in single-person households, long-run changes in the structure of the population, and increasing affluence (and demand for water using appliances) will cause increased water demand per person.	
Standards: Promoting and ensuring high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings	BREEAM rated buildings 2008	Excellent: 316 (41% of total) Good: 268 (34%) Pass: 186 (24%)		In 2006: Excellent: 73 (26% of total) Good: 92 (32.5%) Pass: 117 (41.3%) Unclassified: 1 (0.4%)		Use of standards may be expected to increase slowly in the future with increasing levels of awareness among developers but without positive policies to promote it at regional level.
Planning: Ensuring the location of development makes efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and helps reduce need to travel, especially by private car **Transport**: Increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing road traffic congestion and pollution	Traffic flow – regional level (2008)	50.1bn km		45.8bn km in 1999	Journey distances are increasing as homes, work and services become more dispersed. Accessibility by public transport has been declining because of this, and it has also become relatively more expensive compared to car travel. Road traffic and congestion is growing. While easily comparable congestion data is not generally available, the Annual Monitoring Report 2009 states that "whilst more work is still needed, average peak period speed has increased slightly, average delay of traffic has decreased and road reliability has remained relatively static, which suggests an improvement in levels of congestion.'	It is expected that recent trends in transport patterns, i.e. increasing journey lengths, road traffic and congestion, will continue. This is on the basis that policies in the existing RSS on promoting balanced development, reducing the demand for travel and promoting more sustainable transport will continue to set the policy direction at regional and sub-regional levels.
	Traffic flow – sub-regional level 2008	Percentage of regional traffic flow total: Staffordshire 19% Warwickshire 18% Worcestershire 14% Birmingham 12%		Increases since 1993 range from 8% (Birmingham) to 33% (Warwickshire)		

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
	Number of trips by mode	Number of trips per person: 1,014 (2007-08)	England average: 985	Stable since the early 1990s	People in the West Midlands made a higher than average number of trips than England as a whole. The number of trips per person has declined across England over the last decade. The proportion of journeys by non-car means the West Midlands is well below the England average, and has fallen steadily in recent years.	
		28.5% of trips by public transport, on foot, or by bike in 2007-08	England average: 35.8%	Decline from 35.8% in 1992-1994		
	Distance travelled per person per year	6,811 miles (2007-08)	5,305 London 8,280 East of England	6,513 miles (1999-2001 average)	While the number of journeys made per person has remained relatively stable over the last two decades, the average distance travelled per person per year continues to increase in the West Midlands, as it has nationally. The RSS target is to effectively stabilise the overall regional mileage at approximately the 1999/01 average level by 2011.	
	Car miles travelled per person per year	5,729 miles (2007-08)	6,809 East of England 2,941 London	5,611 miles (1999-2001 average)	Although the percentage of journeys made by car in the West Midlands (65%), is broadly similar to the England as a whole (63%), people in the Region use cars for a greater percentage of miles travelled than for any other region except the East Midlands. By contrast, bus patronage continues to decline.	
	Walking and cycling miles travelled per person per year	162 miles 2007-08		179 miles (2003-2004)		
Waste: Encouraging and enabling waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream	Total waste arisings (2004-05)	20.34m tonnes			The amount of municipal waste generated per head is fairly stable and below the average for England.	Waste arisings are expected to continue to increase due to rises in population and levels of wealth. Levels of recycling, composting, recovery and diversion from landfill will
	Municipal waste arisings (2008/09)	2.87m tonnes		2.88m tonnes in 2000/01		
	Household waste arisings (2006-07)	507kg per person	511kg per person England average	463kg per person 1998-99		

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
	Local authority recycling/composting	36% recycled/composted (2008/09)	England: 37% London: 25% East of England: 44%	Increasing, from approximately 6% in 1996-97	The percentage of waste disposed to landfill has steadily decreased since the mid-1990s, and the Region now landfills less of its waste than any other region, as incineration (energy from waste) capacity has been increased. Recycling and composting is still a small aspect of the waste management infrastructure in the Region, but is growing.	also increase due to obligations on local waste planning and disposal authorities and future costs and penalties associated with landfill.
Local sourcing: Encouraging local sourcing of goods and materials	No data.					No particular significant change foreseen.
Resource use: Rewarding efficient resource use and encouraging development of alternative and renewable resources where resources are likely to become depleted	See data on IRF Objectives 15, 16, 17 and 20					
Develop a flourishing, diverse and stable regional economy						
Growth: Achieving sustainable economic growth and prosperity for the benefit of all the Region's inhabitants	GVA per head 2008	West Midlands £17,463	England £21,020 London £34,768 North East £15,887 (West Midlands ranked 7th out of 9 regions)	1989 West Midlands £7,467	The West Midlands has gone from a middle-ranked region in terms of per head GVA in 1989 to the third bottom in 2008.	The economy of the region is expected to grow as a result of regional and sub-regional economic development strategies and local regeneration plans and programmes, and existing RSS policies to promote economic development. Regional growth may achieve the target set in the RES of GVA above the national average by 2010, although this will depend to some extent on RSS support, delivered in part by the Phase Two revision.
Employment: Creating high quality employment opportunities suited to the changing needs of the local	Employment rate	West Midlands 2010: 70.3%	England average 72.5%	Rate for 2004 West Midlands 74.1%	In the last few years, levels of employment have fallen, and the gap between the employment rate in the West Midlands and the England	Levels of unemployment are likely to rise as the recession continues. In the longer term, they may recover as a

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
workforce, whilst recognising the value and contribution of unpaid work	Unemployment rate	West Midlands 2010: 9.5%	England average: 7.8%	Rate in 1992: 10.9% Rate in 2003 6.0%	average has grown (from 1.6% in January 2008 to 2.3% in Jan 2010). With the North East, the West Midlands currently has the joint highest unemployment rate of any English region.	result of regional and sub-regional economic development strategies and local regeneration plans and programmes, and existing RSS policies to promote economic development.
	IMD Employment 2007	Local authorities with communities ranked in the bottom 2% in England: Birmingham Coventry Stoke-on-Trent Wolverhampton Sandwell Walsall Nuneaton and Bedworth Dudley			At a regional level the claimant rate of unemployment is now around 6%, but in Birmingham and Wolverhampton the rate is over 8%.	
	Employment by sector	Rates in 2009 Manufacturing 12.6% Distribution, hotels and catering, repairs 23.6% Financial and business services 18.9% Education, social work and health 22.8%	England Manufacturing 9.9% Distribution, hotels and catering, repairs 23.6% Financial and business services 21.6% Education, social work and health 22.0%	Rates in 1998 Manufacturing 24% Wholesale and retail 18% Real estate 13%		
Investment: Promoting investment in future prosperity **Technology**: Promoting and supporting the development of new technologies, especially those with high value and low impact	Investment in Research and Development	West Midlands (2007) £1.320bn (5.9% of England total)	England: £22.3bn	£1.268bn in 2006	The West Midlands is 7th out of 9 English regions in terms of total R&D spending.	It is expected that levels of investment and growth in new technologies will increase as a result of the RES although this will depend to some extent on RSS support for investment sites and employment sites, delivered in part by the Phase Two revision.
	Employment in West Midlands 'clusters'	2,355,400 (2008)		2,373,700 in 2006		

RSDF Objective	Indicators	Regional Data	Comparators?	Trends?	Key issues	Future evolution
Skills: Encouraging ongoing investment and engagement in learning and skills development	Skills performance index 2008	West Midlands 53.12	England 53.89	West Mids 2004 46.23	The gap in performance with England on skills has narrowed from 6% in 2004 to 1% in 2008. It has moved from the worst region to sixth out of nine.	Skills levels are likely to increase in the future as a result of regional and sub-regional economic development strategies and local regeneration plans and programmes, and existing RSS policy on improving access to education and training opportunities.
	IMD Skills and Education Development 2007	Local authorities with communities ranked in the bottom 2% in England: Sandwell Wyre Forest Dudley Wolverhampton Walsall Stoke on Trent Coventry Solihull Worcester Newcastle under Lyme Birmingham Nuneaton and Bedworth Cannock Chase East Staffordshire Redditch				
Innovation: Encouraging a culture of enterprise and innovation	VAT registrations per 10,000 population	2006: West Midlands 46.8 Urban areas 38.0 Rural areas 62.6		2003: West Midlands 37 Warwickshire 43.9 Stoke-on-Trent 27.9		It is expected that levels of innovation will increase as a result of actions under the RES to promote and support innovative activity.
	VAT registered businesses one-year survival rates	Proportion of new businesses in the West Midlands surviving 12 months (2007): 95.2%	England: 95.5%	Proportion of new businesses in the West Midlands surviving 12 months (1993): 84.8%		
Technology: Promoting and supporting the development of new technologies, especially those with high value and low impact	See Objective 24, Investment					
Responsibility: Encouraging corporate social and environmental responsibility, with regional organisations and agencies leading by example	Formal and informal volunteering	45% of the population in 2007-08	England average: 48% South East: 53%	45% in 2001	The West Midlands has the lowest level of volunteering of all the England regions, and volunteering rates have stayed the same in recent years whereas levels across England in general are increasing.	No change foreseen