



**Advice produced by The Planning Inspectorate for use by
its Inspectors – 17 November 2011**

**LOCALISM BILL: ROYAL ASSENT AND REGIONAL
STRATEGIES**

1. The Localism Bill was first introduced into parliament in December 2010. The Bill was intended to devolve greater powers to Councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities more control over housing and planning in their areas, this includes the intended removal of the primary legislation which sets the basis for Regional Strategies (RS).
2. The passage of the bill through both Houses of Parliament has now been completed and the [Localism Act 2011](#) received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011. This has the effect via s109 of removing Part 5 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, which provides the architecture of the regional planning tier, including Leaders' Boards whose responsibility it was to prepare the relevant RS. The first stage has effect immediately on Royal Assent of the Localism Bill. This will prevent any further Strategies being created.
3. The second stage is to abolish each existing RS outside London and saved county structure plan policies by Order. It is the Government's clear intention to lay orders in Parliament revoking the existing RSs and saved structure plan policies as soon as possible, but this is subject to the outcome of the environmental assessments that DCLG is voluntarily undertaking, on which consultation is now taking place, closing on 20 January 2012. Decisions on the revocations will not be made until the Secretary of State and Parliament have had the opportunity to consider the outcome of the environmental assessment process.
4. The DCLG announcement on the Localism Act can be seen [here](#).
5. Inspectors should note that the Localism Act 2011 is now in place. However, pending consideration of the RS environmental assessment reports and any subsequent revocation orders, the position on the Government's policy intention to revoke existing RS outside London remains unchanged.