



# East Midlands Regional Assembly State of the Region Report 2007 - Summary

## The Story So Far?

Quality of life in the East Midlands continues to improve overall but inequalities still remain.

## A Shared Vision

The East Midlands Regional Assembly is the partnership voice for the region. It has agreed a bold vision that the East Midlands will be recognised as a region with a high quality of life and sustainable communities that thrives because of its vibrant economy, rich cultural and environmental diversity and the way it creatively addresses social inequalities, manages its resources and contributes to a safer, more inclusive society.

## Ambitious Objectives

Seventeen ambitious objectives have been set to drive economic, environmental, social and spatial progress. These form part of the East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) Framework.

The East Midlands Regional Assembly charts the region's progress towards meeting these sustainable development objectives.

## A Common Understanding

The State of the Region report provides a common understanding across the region on where quality of life in the region is improving and where there is still work to be done. It sets out headline messages for policy makers to support the development of strategies and policies that best meet the needs of the East Midlands.

Where the findings of the report show there is still work to be done and policy shortfall is apparent, the Regional Assembly with its partners will develop and align strategies through the IRS Framework to help address this.

**Some of the key messages relating to each of the IRS Framework objectives are highlighted in this summary leaflet.**

## IRS Framework Objective

## Key Messages

### 1: Housing

To ensure that the existing and future housing stock meets the housing needs of all communities in the region.

The East Midlands has relatively low levels of homelessness (households in priority need). The rate of homelessness decreased in 2005/06 to 3.9 per 1,000 households from 5.1 per 1,000 households in 2004/05, which is below the rate for England.

There has been a sizeable increase of affordable housing completions in 2005/06 (2,079) from the previous year (1,406) but this still remains below the Regional Spatial Strategy target of 3,950.

The percentage of homes judged unfit to live in has been steadily decreasing since 1995 and is slightly lower than the national average.

### 2: Health

To improve health and reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing health services.

Some indicators of the health of the East Midlands population show marked improvement - death rates from circulatory disease and cancer are falling and life expectancy is increasing. These trends are apparent in areas of the region with relatively poor health as well as areas with relatively good health.

The mortality rate from accidents has remained fairly constant but is still significantly higher than the England rate and smoking prevalence between 1996-2005 has shown no sign of reducing.

There are still few signs that inequalities in health are decreasing.

### 3: Culture

To provide better opportunities for people to value and enjoy the region's heritage and participate in cultural and recreational activities.

The number of visits to the top visitor attractions has more than doubled from 4.5 million in 2003 to over 12 million in 2005.

Visits to the library have fallen since 1992 and are below that for the nation as a whole.

## IRS Framework Objective

## Key Messages

### 4: Crime and Community Safety

To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Levels of worry about crime have shown an improvement in the East Midlands since the early 2000s reflecting the decline in crime committed.

The rates of thefts of or from a vehicle have continued to decrease in the East Midlands and are below the rate for the nation as a whole.

The level of crime varies across the region and tends to be higher in the urban areas.

### 5: Social Capital

To promote and support the development and growth of social capital across the communities of the region.

Participation in voluntary and community activities is lower in the East Midlands - 66% compared to 68% nationally.

Voter turnout in the 2005 election was 62.8%, higher than the UK average of 61.3%.

### 6: Diversity of Environment

To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of natural, cultural and built environment and archaeological assets of the region.

Slightly fewer sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) in the East Midlands are in a favourable condition than nationally (44.63% and 45.11% respectively). There has, however, been an improvement on previous years.

The populations of wild birds and key woodland species in the East Midlands have declined in recent years but are still higher than in 1970.

### 7: Environmental Quality

To enhance and conserve the environmental quality of the region by increasing the environmental infrastructure.

River quality has improved - in 2005, 93.9% of rivers in the Midlands had good or fair chemical quality and 96.7% had good or fair biological quality. These are both higher than the national figures of 93.5% and 95.4% respectively.

There has been a large increase in the number of farms with Countryside Stewardship agreements, developed to improve the natural beauty and diversity of the countryside, from 1,696 in 1998 to 9,790 in 2003.

## IRS Framework Objective

## Key Messages

### 8: Natural Resources

To manage prudently the natural resources of the region including water, air quality, soil and minerals.

The consumption of domestic water has fluctuated in the East Midlands since 2000/01, and showed a reduction in 2005/06 to 135 litres per person per day which is below the national average of 148 litres per person per day, which may suggest that households are adjusting their behaviour.

Air pollution in the urban areas appears to have improved.

The carbon dioxide emissions in the East Midlands in 2004 were the same as the rate for England at 2.6 kg equivalent of carbon per head.

### 9: Energy

To minimise energy usage and to develop the region's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources.

Energy use per household continues to rise in the East Midlands - it has risen from 19,624kWh in domestic gas per consumer in 2001 to 20,701kWh in 2004.

The amount of energy produced from renewable sources in the East Midlands has more than doubled from 248.5GWh in 2001 to 649.3GWh in 2004.

Renewable energy sources, however, only make a minor contribution to the region's electricity generating capacity (2.0% GWh for 2006), and most of this is generated from the combustion of landfill gas.

### 10: Involving People

To involve people through changes to lifestyles and at work in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.

The number of ECO schools in the East Midlands has increased significantly from only 7 in 1998 to 659 in 2007.

## IRS Framework Objective

## Key Messages

### 11: Employment, Learning and Skills

To create high quality employment opportunities and to develop a culture of ongoing engagement and excellence in learning and skills, giving the region a competitive edge in how we acquire and exploit knowledge.

The employment rate in the East Midlands (76.9%) is higher than nationally (74.8%). There are, however, substantial sub-regional variations – employment tends to be lower in the cities and higher in rural areas and in the south of the region.

The percentage of working age adults with level 3 qualifications (A levels) or above has been increasing, but is below the national average (42.2% vs. 43.9%). The percentage of 16-24 year olds with level 3 qualifications (A levels) or above, however, is above the national average (26.6% vs. 25.5%).

37% of East Midlands' employees in 2006 were in knowledge intensive sectors compared with the national average of 43%.

### 12: Enterprise and Innovation

To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation, creating a climate within which entrepreneurs and world-class businesses can flourish.

34 new businesses were registered per 10,000 in the East Midlands in 2005, compared with 37 per 10,000 in the UK.

Expenditure on Research and Development in the East Midlands has decreased from 1.8% of Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2002 to 1.5% in 2003 and is below the national figure of 1.6% of GVA.

### 13: Modern Economic Structure

To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies.

By the end of 2005, 99.9% of the East Midlands had access to broadband up from 94% in 2004 and effectively meets the Regional Spatial Strategy target of full regional coverage by 2006.

The proportion of businesses trading online has been increasing in the East Midlands, from 10% in 2001 up to 25% in 2005. Levels in Northamptonshire are particularly high, with 30% of businesses trading online.

### 14: Location of Development

To ensure that the location of development makes efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and helps to reduce the need to travel.

In 2005/06 there were 3,086 hectares of undeveloped employment land commitments in the East Midlands. Around 250 hectares of employment land was developed over this time, with Derbyshire and Northamptonshire completing over 85 hectares each.

The number of outstanding housing applications in the East Midlands has increased from 79,517 in 2004/05 to 94,358 in 2005/06.

## IRS Framework Objective

## Key Messages

### 15: Sustainable Design and Construction

To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings.

In 2005/06, 67.6% of East Midlands' housing development was on previously developed land compared to 61.9% in 2004/05. The percentage of total additions to stock has increased in almost all county/unitary authority areas in the East Midlands.

There was a slight increase in the proportion of vacant dwellings in 2005/06, (3.2% compared with 3.1% in 2004/05) and the highest proportions were in Leicester and Nottingham.

### 16: Waste Minimisation and Recycling

To minimise waste and to increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials.

There has been a substantial increase in the amount of household waste composted or recycled in the East Midlands from 8.6% in 1998 to 32.7% in 2005/06. This meets the regional target of 30% by 2010, as set out in the Regional Waste Strategy.

In 2005, an average of 538kg per head per year of household waste was produced. Further reductions have occurred across all local authorities indicating a decrease for the region as a whole for 2005/06.

### 17: Accessibility and Traffic

To improve accessibility to jobs and services by increasing the use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing traffic growth and congestion.

Traffic levels in the East Midlands have increased – 36.7 billion vehicle km in 1999 rose to 40.6 billion vehicle km in 2005.

The bus and light rail journeys have increased from 208 million in 2004/05 to 211 million in 2005/06.

Good progress is being made in terms of increasing the number of schools with travel plans although their effect on mode share and travel continues to be inconclusive.

# Did You Know?

- By 2005/06 the East Midlands had already met its target of 30% of household waste composted or recycled by 2010
- Visits to tourist attractions in the East Midlands have more than doubled between 2003 and 2005
- Employment rates in the East Midlands are above the national average
- The East Midlands has met its target of having full regional coverage for access to broadband by 2006
- River quality has continued to improve and exceeds the national figures
- Thefts of or from a vehicle continue to decrease in the East Midlands and are now below the rate for the nation as a whole

A detailed analysis of progress against each objective and further data is available in the full State of the Region Report 2007 at [www.emra.gov.uk/state-of-the-region](http://www.emra.gov.uk/state-of-the-region)

This document is available in Braille, large print format and tape format on request.

East Midlands Regional Assembly publications are also available in a range of languages if required.

For more information please call 01664 502555 or e-mail: [info@emra.gov.uk](mailto:info@emra.gov.uk).

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