



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS

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Dear John

WEST MIDLANDS RSS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Thank you for your letter of 29 March regarding the Policy Recommendations.

We appreciate the large amount of effort which the Assembly and regional partners have put into this work. The Policy Recommendations should now be progressed as part of the development of the new Regional Strategy (RS).

The Policy Recommendations will be an important input to the thinking on the RS, but I must re-iterate that we expect the new RS to be a higher level document which has fewer policies and maintains a clear focus on the key issues for the region. The Policy Recommendations tend to focus on the development of the existing RSS policies. Whilst this has helped to focus minds in their preparation it will be necessary to use them as an indication of the direction of regional policy, rather than prescriptive guidance on content for the new RS.

Whilst the Policy Recommendations will be an important part of the evidence base, some of it will need to be developed further as the RS is prepared and the policies in the final RS may have quite a different form.

Local authorities should be aware of the Policy Recommendations as an indication of the likely direction of policy when preparing Development Plan Documents, and I am therefore copying this letter to them.

Yours sincerely

Ian Smith
Head of Planning and Housing