

NEWS RELEASE



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How big, where and how many? Planning Options for the West Midlands

Next Monday, 8th January, will see the start of an eight week consultation which will run until the 5th March and could affect the way we live and work in the West Midlands. Members of the public, businesses and organisations are being invited to give their opinion on a number of 'Options' on how the West Midlands could meet current and future requirements for housing [1], employment land [2], transport [3] and waste [4].

These 'Options' have been developed by the West Midlands Regional Assembly as part of the Phase 2 Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy - a statutory document which sets out the framework for development within the West Midlands until at least 2021 and beyond.

The Options will include questions on how many new homes might be needed and where they could be built, as well as which towns and cities across the Region might become a focus for development and investment. In terms of transport, the key issues being looked at include the role of the Region's airports, road-user charging and car parking standards, while the Waste Options will focus on municipal, commercial and industrial waste.

Members of the public, businesses and organisations are invited to attend the launch on 8th January any time between 10am and 6pm at the Burlington Hotel, Birmingham New Street. People will also have the opportunity to comment on the 'Options' using the online questionnaire at www.wmra.gov.uk/wmrss/questionnaire or by requesting a hard copy document from the Regional Assembly on 0121 245 0200.

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[1] Communities for the Future: This will involve examining the overall levels of households needed up to 2026 including where these new houses will be distributed at the Local Planning Authority level and ensuring that issues of affordability and mix are addressed.

[2] Prosperity for All: This will involve identifying a minimum reservoir of employment land for each Local Planning Authority as well as potential options for further regionally significant employment sites such as regional logistics sites and regional investment sites. It also includes identifying the key towns and cities across the Region for investment and growth.

[3] Transport: This will include issues such as the locations for large-scale park and ride schemes, car parking standards across the Region, road-user charging and the role of airports in the Region.

[4] Waste: This will consider municipal, commercial and industrial waste, including exploring issues of diversion from landfill and what the appropriate levels of tonnages should be for Waste Planning Authorities.

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Notes to editor

The Regional Planning Partnership carries out the Regional Planning Body function on behalf of the West Midlands Regional Assembly. It has a statutory duty to review matters relating to the Regional Spatial Strategy and matters relating to the ongoing planning and development of the Region.