

NEWS RELEASE

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50 days to go to have your say!

West Midlanders have only 50 days left to have their say and voice their opinion on the future shape of the whole West Midlands Region.

West Midlands Regional Assembly, the Regional Planning Body has submitted its Phase Two Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy to the government for their approval. Anyone who cares about the future shape of their Region can make their views known but they have to do so by Monday 8 December.

The Strategy sets out the framework for the development of the Region over the next 18 years. Among other things Phase Two Revision looks at how many new houses should be built and where, what improvements are required to the Region's transport networks, waste issues, where new employment opportunities should be created and how the Region's main town centres should grow.

Commenting on this consultation Rex Roberts, chairman of the Regional Planning Partnership said: "This is an important opportunity to get involved in planning the future of the West Midlands. The Assembly is committed to carrying out the revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy in an open, transparent and inclusive way. We strongly encourage all communities and organisations from across the Region to engage and have their say in shaping the future development of the West Midlands.

"The issues being consulted on are critical to creating a more prosperous and sustainable Region."

All representations will be considered by an independent panel of experts at an Examination in Public which will open in late April next year. The Panel will report to the Secretary of State who will then decide exactly how the Regional Spatial Strategy should be changed.

To find out more contact West Midlands Regional Assembly: email info@wmra.gov.uk

To make representations on any part of the WMRSS Phase Two Revision – Draft, please send your responses no later than Monday 8 December, to:

WMRSS Panel Secretary
c/o Government Office for the West Midlands
5 St Philips Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW

wm.panelsecretary@gowm.gsi.gov.uk

To make an online response please visit www.wmra.gov.uk.

Notes to Editors

The consultation on the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Draft period was extended to 8 December by the Assembly following a letter received from Baroness Andrews in January 2008.

This letter informed the Assembly that Government Office for the West Midlands would commission a study to provide the Panel undertaking the Examination in Public with further options that could deliver higher housing numbers. This led to the consultation being extended to Monday 8 December.

ENDS

For further information please contact Jay Rana, press officer on 0121 245 0181.

About the West Midlands Regional Assembly

1. The West Midlands Regional Assembly ('the Assembly') represents a wide range of democratic, social and economic interests throughout the West Midlands region.
2. The Assembly's membership consists of 100 nominated representatives, with 68 members representing the local authority, 16 representing the business sector and 16 representing other economic and social partners.
3. The Assembly provides a platform for organisations to consider matters of common concern including: regional planning, transport, economic prosperity, sustainability, culture and Europe. It also supports regional policy forums and task groups on social inclusion, faith, housing, life long learning/skills, health, rural and community safety/crime reduction.
4. The Assembly works in partnership with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) the regional development agency (RDA), the Government Office West Midlands (GOWM), Regional Action West Midlands (RAWM) the West Midlands Local Government Association (WMLGA) and other regional and local organisations from across the West Midlands region.
5. The Assembly is the Regional Planning Body, and is also responsible for scrutinising the operation of the region's RDA, Advantage West Midlands.
6. For further information, visit our website www.wmra.gov.uk

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