

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy
Phase Two Revision

Pre-Submission Consultation Statement
December 2007



West Midlands
Regional Assembly
Speaking out for the region



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Introduction - Major Elements of Consultation carried out to date

What is this document?

In March 2006 the West Midlands Regional Assembly prepared a Statement of Public Participation. The document sets out how it planned to secure stakeholder and public involvement through the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) Phase Two Revision process and who it would work with in undertaking the revision. This was then adopted as part of the WMRSS Phase Two Revision process.

This Pre-submission Consultation Statement reviews the consultation process carried out by the Assembly during Phase Two of the phased revision of the WMRSS. It identifies how and when the Assembly conducted participation and consultation during the revision process and it identifies how these responses have shaped the submitted draft document.

This document should be read in conjunction with the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft, which the Assembly submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2007. The full WMRSS document published in June 2004 is available on the Assembly's website

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=47 or by contacting the Assembly directly by telephone 0121 245 0200 or by email: info@wmra.gov.uk.

Consultation and Participation Principles

Working with Regional Partners

As the Regional Planning Body (RPB) for the West Midlands, the Assembly has the leadership role in preparing the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft for submission to the Secretary of State. Factors such as partnership working with regional stakeholders and community involvement are essential to the revision of the WMRSS.

Partnership working is at the centre of the Assembly, with membership made up from local authorities, the business sector and other stakeholder groups (including, health, culture, housing associations, environment, parish councils, voluntary and community sector, black and minority ethnic community, disability, gender and faith communities).

Throughout the preparation of the WMRSS Phase Two Revision, the Assembly and its partners have endeavoured to conduct an ongoing process of open and inclusive participation. This process has engaged a wide variety of organisations and individuals, as well as encouraging community participation throughout the West Midlands. The Assembly would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who has contributed throughout the consultation process and in the preparation of this document.

The Statement of Public Participation identified a set of Communication Commitments. These commitments have run through the Phase Two Revision, and show the Assembly's commitment to ensuring the revision process has open and inclusive participation.

Communication Commitments:

Documents and information will be written in a clear way and produced in a variety of formats.

Information will be made available across the West Midlands Region.

Sub-regional networks will be used to ensure local views are fed into the process.

Information will be placed on the Assembly website. Access to the site can be monitored.

Databases will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure the most up-to-date information is readily available.

Views and comments will be sought at appropriate times during the process.

Feedback on how responses have been considered will be made available.

All those interested will be provided with appropriate opportunities to take an active part in the process, irrespective of age, ethnicity, background or gender.



Introduction - Major Elements of Consultation carried out to date

The Statement of Public Participation set out the key stages for public participation and engagement on the Revision process.

These were:

Stage One – Consultation on the Draft Project Plan

Stage Two – Consultation on the Spatial Options

Stage Three – Stakeholder Engagement on the Preferred Spatial Option

The table below summarises the key stages at which consultation and engagement took place.

Table 1 - Timetable for Key Engagement and Consultation

Stage of Process	How was the consultation undertaken	Where and When
Statement of Public Participation Stage One	Launch of the Draft Project Plan Invitations to the launch were wide ranging and included key stakeholders, partners and strategic networks. 500 people attended.	Launch event was held at Centennial Centre, Birmingham in November 2005.
	Draft Project Plan Consultation 2,000 documents were mailed out. 5,000 leaflets distributed. 89 responses were received.	Formal Consultation 7 November – 31 December 2005.
	Final Project Plan Project Plan was finalised in March 2006. 2,000 copies were mailed out and 5,000 leaflets distributed.	
Statement of Public Participation Stage Two	Spatial Options Consultation Launch of the Spatial Options Consultation. 200 attendees.	Launch event was held at Burlington Hotel, Birmingham on 8 January 2007.
	Spatial Options Consultation Copies of the Spatial Options Consultation were mailed to 2,500 stakeholders on the WMRSS consultation database. Further 1,500 copies were distributed to Local Authorities, Parish Councils and other organisations listed in PPS11. Summary leaflets were distributed to Parish Councils, local libraries, Campaign for Rural England (CPRE) and Planning Aid networks and local authorities. A total of 20,000 leaflets were distributed. Various supporting events were held across the Region as outlined in Appendix 1, along with widespread media coverage.	Formal consultation 8 January 2007 – 5 March 2007. (NB: The Spatial Options document was made publicly available from 16 November 2006.)
Statement of Public Participation Stage Three	Informal engagement on the emerging WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft .	
	6 June 2007 - WMRSS Reference Groups and Stakeholder Groups Workshops which 108 people attended.	Birmingham Midlands Institute, Birmingham, 6 June 2007.
	All consultees on the WMRSS consultation database were invited to attend two briefing events on the WMRSS emerging Preferred Option: • 26 July event, 200 people attended.	Burlington Hotel, Birmingham, 26 July 2007.
	• 28 September event, some 200 people attended.	Birmingham Midlands Institute, 28 September 2007.



Who was involved, how and when?

Introduction

The WMRSS process has been conducted in an open and inclusive manner. In preparing the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft, the Assembly has worked closely and engaged with local authorities, regional agencies, voluntary and community sector representatives, interest groups and general members of the public. This section highlights who the Assembly has consulted and how the process took place.

Who was engaged in the process?

There is a requirement set out in the Government's Regulations to consult with specific bodies. This includes:

Local Planning Authorities, within and adjoining the Region

County Councils, both within and adjoining the Region

Regional Planning Bodies that adjoin the Region

Parish Councils, both within and adjoining the Region

English Heritage

Environment Agency

Strategic Rail Authority (now DfT Rail)

Natural England

Regional Development Agencies within and adjoining the Region

Strategic Health Authorities

Utilities suppliers – telecoms, water, sewerage, electricity, gas.

In addition, the Assembly must consult the 'general consultation bodies' where it considers it to be appropriate, including community groups and environmental, social and economic organisations.

Partnership working is seen as an ongoing process in undertaking the revision to the WMRSS. The Assembly has endeavoured to engage with its existing partnership structures, to ensure key stakeholders and hard to target groups are engaged in the process. In order to extend the scope of contacts and to involve those who want to engage in the process, a database of contacts has been set up and has been constantly reviewed and updated. This database now contains over 3,500 entries and will continue to be updated.

Partnership Structures and Approval Processes

The Project Plan contains a Partnership Structures diagram, which outlines the decision making pathway, policy advice and information routes undertaken to produce the Phase Two Revision, a copy is included in Appendix 4. The Project Plan can be viewed at www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=56

Regular stakeholder engagement was achieved through a number of groups which were already in place, as part of the established mechanism for partnership working at the Assembly. Membership of these groups ensures engagement and involvement of all key partners who need to endorse and support the revision. Appendix 4 lists the Assembly's partnerships. These partnerships have been informed of and have influenced the development of the Phase Two Revision.

At officer level, a WMRSS Phase Two Policy Leads Working Group was established. This Group reported through two important Regional Officer Groups, the WMRSS Task Group and the Regional Advisory Group (RAG), who were able to offer a regional steer across a number of policy areas. A further Officer Working Group was established to oversee the alignment between the emerging WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft and the review of the West Midlands Economic Strategy. This group also reported to the WMRSS Task Group and RAG.

The decision making process for the draft Phase Two Revision has involved the setting up of a Strategic Management Steering Group. This group oversees and decides on the proposals developed by the officer groups involved in the Revision. Membership of this group comprised local authority officers and representatives of other interests, in accordance with government regulations.



Who was involved, how and when?

Formal responsibility for the WMRSS Revision rests with the Regional Planning Body, West Midlands Regional Assembly. The Assembly's Regional Planning Executive and the Regional Planning Partnership have formally endorsed this Revision process. The Regional Planning Partnership formally constitutes the Regional Planning Body in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

How was information made available?

The Assembly largely engaged with the Region's stakeholders using a combination of on-line consultation, briefing events and through the distribution of summary leaflets and consultation documents.

Partners and networks

The Assembly has used its wide-ranging partnership arrangements and networks to disseminate information at all key stages of the revision process. This included the Assembly's partnership groups and the region's local authorities who circulated documents and held consultation events.

Media

The Assembly has used a variety of media, including regional and local press and planning journals to publicise the work on the WMRSS, particularly during the

formal consultation and decision-making process. As well as written articles, a number of interviews have been held for local radio stations and TV news channels. A schedule of media coverage is available in Appendix 3.

Website

The website has been a key tool in providing information on the development of the WMRSS Phase Two Revision. Regular updates and latest news in relation to the Phase Two revision have been posted on the website. All reports and documents produced throughout the process, including supporting technical reports have been made available at the appropriate stage on the Assembly website

www.wmra.gov.uk

Stakeholder Meetings, Workshops and Events

The Assembly and its partners held and attended a number of meetings with key stakeholders across the West Midlands. These events helped develop the WMRSS Revision, to raise awareness of the key issues and to consider the views of regional stakeholders. Parallel to this, the Assembly ran a number of stakeholder events (including drop-in events, presentations and workshops) to supplement the main body of written consultation, to brief stakeholders of the various stages of the process and to seek views on the draft policies and the emerging thinking.

How were stakeholders engaged?

There were a number of opportunities for engagement during the development of the WMRSS Phase Two Revision, as shown in Table 1 and outlined in the following sections.

Draft Project Plan

The WMRSS Phase Two Revision process was launched in November 2005, with the publication of the draft Project Plan. The draft Project Plan set out some of the key broad issues that would be included within the Phase Two Revision and requested comments on whether the right issues had been identified and how they should be addressed. The consultation on the draft Project Plan was formally launched at the Centennial Centre in Birmingham. Regional stakeholders and partners were invited to attend the launch and provided with the opportunity to discuss the key issues with the WMRSS Policy Leads and Assembly staff. A total of 500 people attended the event.

In addition, 2,000 copies of the draft Project Plan and a further 5,000 leaflets were distributed to individuals and organisations on the WMRSS consultation database. Stakeholders were invited to participate in the draft Project Plan consultation, which ran from 7 November – 31



Who was involved, how and when?

December 2005. A total of 89 responses were received to the formal consultation.

In March 2006, the Project Plan was finalised and in an effort to ensure that everyone remained engaged, 2,000 copies were sent to individuals and organisations who had responded to the draft Project Plan. A further 5,000 leaflets were distributed which summarised the Project Plan and set out how stakeholders could get involved in the next stages of the process.

Spatial Options

The second stage of the consultation focussed on the Spatial Options consultation. The Spatial Options explored the issues surrounding the objectives set out in the Phase Two Project Plan and sets out the choices and directions that could be taken forward for the Region. In developing the Spatial Options, a brief was issued in February 2006 to all Strategic Planning Authorities (Section 4 (4) Authorities) requesting their advice on the sub-regional issues that needed to be taken into account across the different parts of the Region. Each Authority was given 12 weeks to respond and the advice submitted to the Assembly was used by the Regional Planning Partnership in developing the Spatial Options for Phase Two.

Following the advice from the Strategic Planning Authorities, the Assembly began to work on

preparing the first drafts of the WMRSS Phase Two Spatial Options policies. On completion of the first working draft of the Spatial Options, WMRSS Reference Groups (see Appendix 4) were established to provide opportunities for regional partners to participate in the process and to provide advice to the WMRSS Task Group on the main issues and choices.

The underlying aim of the Reference Groups is to promote a cross-sectional consideration of issues and the policy choices from a number of distinct thematic perspectives, thus reflecting the current Assembly partnerships. Meetings of the WMRSS Reference Groups were held in September 2006¹, the outcome from these meetings advised the WMRSS Task Group and fed into the development of the Spatial Options.

Following the feedback, the working draft of the Spatial Options were revised further and made publicly available from 16 November 2006.

The Spatial Options were formally launched for consultation at a public event at the Burlington Hotel in Birmingham on 8 January 2007. The consultation period ran until 5 March 2007. A letter and a copy of the Spatial Options consultation document were sent to all consultees on the database and regional partners, to inform them of the event and the consultation. Press releases were

issued to all regional and sub-regional media informing them of the Spatial Options consultation and highlighting specific issues in relation to their local area. Details were also included on a dedicated WMRSS Phase Two Revision webpage. Further copies and summary leaflets were distributed via Local Authorities.

The formal launch was a full day drop-in event providing stakeholders the opportunity to discuss the Spatial Options with Assembly staff and WMRSS Policy Leads. Further consultation events were held across the Region, including presentations to regional partnership groups and a series of sub-regional and public meetings.

The consultation was aimed at both the 'specific consultation bodies' and the 'general consultation bodies' as specified in Planning Policy Statement 11 (PPS11). The process was open and inclusive and comments were welcome from any individual or organisation who wished to make a response. Responses were encouraged through either the completion of an online questionnaire, or in the form of written questionnaires, responses and letters.

The Assembly received 1,282 responses to the Spatial Options consultation from various interest groups, organisations and individuals, this comprised: 56% from local residents and residents associations; 11% from Local

¹ Some Reference Groups (Europe and Culture) were virtual groups operating via email correspondence.



Who was involved, how and when?

Authorities, Town Councils and Parish Councils, 11% from interest groups, 5% from businesses, 16% from professional groups and 1% from Government Agencies.

On behalf of the Assembly, Consensus Planning collated and analysed the individual comments and produced a report setting out the analysis and review of the consultation responses and matrices of all responses. Copies of the consultation analysis report were made available on the Assembly's website at www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=283. A summary of the key headlines are set out in Appendix 2. Individual letters were sent to everyone who responded to the consultation, to thank them for their input, inform them that the consultation analysis report was available and to explain the next stages of the revision process and further consultation events.

Emerging Draft Preferred Option

Following the Spatial Options consultation the Assembly officers and WMRSS Policy Leads began to work on preparing the first draft policies for the WMRSS Preferred Option. The first engagement on the draft policies and emerging thinking took place on 6 June 2007. A series of thematic workshops were held

with the WMRSS Reference Groups, local authorities and other stakeholder groups, to consider the issues arising from the Options consultation and to seek initial views about the structure and content on the policy approach. The feedback and outcome from the discussions and workshops were reproduced by the Assembly and reported back to the Regional Planning Partnership at its meeting on 20 July. A copy of the documentation setting out the key issues can be viewed on the Assembly's website

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=345

Following this process, the WMRSS Policy Leads developed and revised their draft policies accordingly. A wider consultation process was conducted on 26 July at the Burlington Hotel in Birmingham. Invitations were sent to all individuals and organisations on the WMRSS consultation database, inviting them to attend presentations and workshops on the emerging draft policies. A report of the outcome from the presentations and workshops was reproduced by the Assembly and reported back to the Regional Planning Partnership on 24 September. A copy can be viewed on the Assembly's website

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=345

The Regional Planning Partnership considered an emerging draft of the Preferred Option on 24 September 2007. Subsequently, a public 'stakeholder briefing' event was held on 28 September 2007. Invitations were sent to everyone on the WMRSS consultation database and some 200 people attended.

The purpose of the event was to share with stakeholders the emerging draft Preferred Option and the conclusions from the Regional Planning Partnership meeting in September. It also provided an opportunity for any final feedback and comments on the shaping of revised WMRSS policies. The outcome from this event was summarised in a report which was made available to everyone who attended. It is accessible on the Assembly website

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=345.

The discussion at the event was also reported to the Regional Planning Partnership at its meeting on 22 October 2007.





Who was involved, how and when?

How consultation responses have been dealt with

At each key stage of the consultation and participation of the draft revision process careful attention has been paid to recording, analysing and considering all responses received and attempts have been made to identify any consistent themes and views from them. These reports have been made widely available and have fed into the process of formulating the draft Revision. Copies of all reports are listed in Appendix 5 and are available on the Assembly's website. At all stages feedback has been reported to the Regional Planning Partnership.

Sustainability Appraisal

The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process is an independent assessment of the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft. The SA was carried out by consultants, URSUS Consulting Ltd. A Sustainability Appraisal Steering Group was established to provide advice to the Assembly and to oversee and steer the consultants throughout the process. The Steering Group also ensured that representatives from outside the Assembly were able to input into the appraisal process from start to finish.

Although an independent procedure, the SA of the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft was part of an on-going process and meetings between URSUS, individual policy officers and the WMRA Secretariat were held on a regular basis. The Sustainability Appraisal report, which has been made publicly available, provides an appraisal of the policies developed for the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft submitted for consultation.

Rural Proofing

West Midlands Rural Accord and West Midlands Rural Affairs Forum nominated a group of people, with expertise in rural issues to look at the Spatial Options and the emerging WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft policies to ensure that rural issues were fairly considered. The Rural Proofing process was undertaken at the same time as the SA and fed into the development of the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft.



What happens next?

Submission

The Assembly has agreed with Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) to submit the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft document and any supporting documents required by the Regulations, to the Secretary of State by the end of December 2007. The submission documents have also been made available for inspection at all main libraries and Local Planning Authority offices across the West Midlands. The documents are also available on the Assembly's website www.wmra.gov.uk

Formal Consultation

Once the Assembly has submitted the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft documents to the Secretary of State, responsibility for overseeing the remaining stages of the process rests with GOWM on behalf of the Secretary of State. A formal 12 week consultation period on the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft will run from 7 January 2008 to 28 March 2008. Everyone is invited to make representations on the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft to be submitted to the WMRSS Panel Secretary at wm.panelsecretary@gowm.gsi.gov.uk

or c/o Government Office for the West Midlands, 5 St Philips Place, Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2PW.

Examination in Public

An Examination in Public (EiP) will be held in September 2008. This will enable an independent panel of inspectors to hear evidence from a wide range of individuals and bodies on such matters as it considers appropriate. This will be guided by a range of issues raised in representations submitted during the formal consultation period. The panel will prepare a report on the EiP which will be published approximately two to three months after the end of the EiP.

Consultation on Proposed Changes

On receipt of the Panel Report, the Secretary of State will then publish Proposed Changes to the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft Submission, with a reasoned statement of the decisions and a consultation period of eight to twelve weeks for comment on the proposed changes.

Issue of the Final WMRSS Revision

Once all of the necessary processes have been completed, it is anticipated that the WMRSS Phase Two Revision will be issued in its final form by the Secretary of State in 2009.

Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Annual Monitoring of the key policies, principles and outcomes of the WMRSS will continue to take place through the Annual Monitoring Report process. In addition, the WMRSS Implementation Plan will be reviewed on a rolling process to ensure that everything possible is done to enable the WMRSS policies to be implemented.





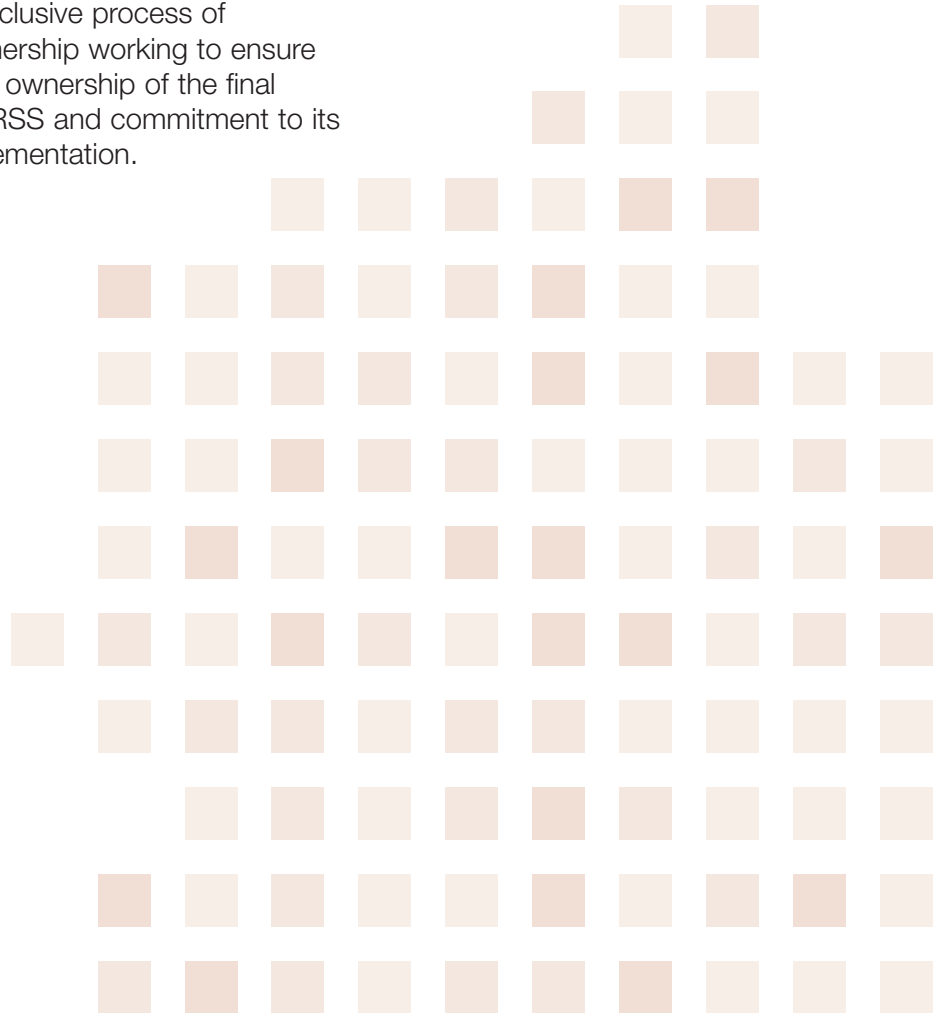
Conclusions

The Assembly and its partners have committed a substantial amount of time, effort and resources to the WMRSS Revision, to deliver an open and inclusive process of participation and ensure that the submitted WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft has the support and ownership throughout the Region.

A large number of individuals and organisations from across the Region have contributed to bringing forward the WMRSS Revision, including the many people who responded to consultation documents and attended events. The Assembly wishes to express its thanks to all participants for their contributions.

The outcome of the consultation and engagement with regional partners and stakeholders is clear. The Assembly is now committed to ensuring the continuation of this partnership working throughout the remainder of the Phase Two process and as part of the Phase Three Revision.

In the remaining stages of the process, the Assembly will continue to work closely with GOWM to support and promote an inclusive process of partnership working to ensure wide ownership of the final WMRSS and commitment to its implementation.





Appendix 1 - Schedule of consultation events

Table 2 - Schedule of Consultation Events, Seminars, Workshops

Schedule of Consultation Events, Seminars, Workshops	Dates
Launch of WMRSS Phase Two Draft Project Plan.	November 2005
WMRSS Reference Group Workshops on the draft WMRSS Phase Two Spatial Options.	September 2006
Presentations and awareness raising of WMRSS Spatial Options with identified Partnerships and Forum Groups.	December 2006 and January – February 2007
Launch of the WMRSS Spatial Options.	January 2007
Sub Regional Consultation Events on Spatial Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birmingham • Black Country • Coventry • Herefordshire • Shropshire • Solihull • Staffordshire • Stoke on Trent • Telford • Warwickshire • Worcestershire 	January – February 2007
Various District Level Consultation Events and Public Meetings on the Spatial Options.	January – February 2007
Regional Planning Partnership Member Seminar on the Spatial Options consultation and key issues in relation to the development of the Preferred Option.	May 2007
Presentations and awareness raising of WMRSS Spatial Option consultation feedback and emerging Preferred Option and key issues with identified Regional Partnerships and Forum Groups.	May - July 2007
WMRSS Reference Groups and Other Stakeholder Group Thematic Workshops on WMRSS Draft Preferred Options policies.	June 2007
WMRSS Phase Two Emerging Draft Preferred Option wider Stakeholders consultation event and workshops.	July 2007
WMRSS Phase Two 'stakeholder briefing' event on the emerging Draft Preferred Option.	September 2007



Appendix 2 - WMRSS Spatial Options

Consultation - Key headlines

Communities for the Future

Levels of growth - a wide range of responses were received extending from residents who, in the main, are opposed to further development in their areas (i.e. against Options 2 and 3 within the Spatial Options document) through to house building interests arguing for a level of provision well above Option 3. In contrast, the CPRE have argued for a level of provision between Options 1 and 2. Overall, with some exceptions, local authority responses were generally around Option 2.

Balance of growth (i.e. between the MUAs and other areas) – Option 2 was broadly regarded as the upper limit for holding the Urban Renaissance Strategy; beyond this it is considered that the strategy is likely to be challenged (i.e. the scale of net development beyond the MUAs starts to increasingly outweigh that in the MUAs).

Sub-regional Foci – there has been a general acceptance of the continued role of the Foci (Hereford, Rugby, Shrewsbury, Telford, Worcester) in local authority responses, including support for the inclusion of Burton, but opposition by residents and the CPRE. However, added to this was concern that without adequate

investment and infrastructure it was unlikely that the Foci would be in a position to accommodate adequate growth.

Minima/Maxima – whilst there is some support for retaining the minima target concept for MUA housing provision figures, there is no clear overall conclusions on this issue, particularly whether the Shire figures should remain as maxima (ceiling).

Affordable Housing – there is general support for providing a regional figure, but not necessarily district level figures.

Phasing – there is strong support for including phasing policies to support Urban Renaissance and the development of brownfield land but no clear overall view on what form this should take.

Prosperity for All

District level employment figures – there is general support for identifying district level figures but it has been suggested that these figures should not necessarily be based on past trends.

Reservoir approach to employment land supply – there is general support for identifying a 5-year reservoir but less certainty about whether longer-term figures should be identified.

Regional Logistic Sites (RLS) – there was no universal agreement in relation to whether the growth in regional logistics should be accommodated on RLS. However, there was a general acceptance that the logistics industry offers important growth potential (inc employment) and that a significant part of the requirements is better located on RLS.

Out-of-centre office development - overall there was broad support for the 'sequential approach' i.e. to focus development within centres but with some recognition that certain office developments may not be capable of satisfactorily being accommodated there.

Office floor-space provision - there was some support for guidance on the scale of office floorspace provision but with significant variations in the suggested levels of such provision and concerns regarding the trend based approach.

Regional Casinos - few responses received on this matter.



Appendix 2 - WMRSS Spatial Options

Consultation - Key headlines

Strategic Centres - retail development: there was general acceptance of the categorisation of centres with broad support for the proposed figures; however there were some suggestions that these could be higher and that they should be reviewed in the light of final housing proposals and revised assumptions on e-tailing.

Limitation of growth of smaller centres - a range of views were received but some were strongly against such limitations.

Some concerns expressed - that proposals for centres only extend to 2021 while housing and employment land proposals extend to 2026.

Waste

Significantly fewer responses were received on waste compared to other policy areas.

Waste Planning Authorities - responses to the draft options on waste have been generally very supportive, particularly the principle that each Waste Planning Authority, or sub-region, should manage an equivalent amount of waste to that arising in its area.

Waste Management Facilities - policies for protecting existing waste management facilities and for locating new facilities were generally accepted, subject to minor points of clarification.

Transport & Accessibility

Car parking standards - responses vary from those who are seeking minima (in contravention to PPG13) to those who are seeking more restrictive standards.

Strategic Park-and-Ride - responses generally conditionally agree with the options put forward, although, overall, a criteria-based policy approach appears slightly more popular. In terms of target destinations, a number of others have been suggested including Manchester, Liverpool and London.

Road user charging - Most respondents support the minor changes proposed to the policy.

Airports - there was general support for role of BIA. The Ministry of Defence has indicated that the Cosford site is not available.

Cross Cutting Themes

As well as responding to the questions asked, many responses have also highlighted wider issues. These particularly related to:

the importance of responding to Climate Change

the environmental implications of the Options

the infrastructure constraints in different locations.



Appendix 3 - Schedule of media coverage

Table 3 - WMRSS Phase Two Revision - Media Coverage

Date	Press Release/Media Coverage	Source	Date	Press Release/Media Coverage	Source
12 Dec 2005	New plan drawn up for housing	Coventry Evening Telegraph	17 Jan 2007	Have a say on future of county	Worcester Evening News
31 Jul 2006	Greenfield sites are under threat – countryside could disappear say campaigners	Burton Mail	17 Jan 2007	The people who may have 10,000 extra pupils have to find room for students in city	Worcester News
1 Aug 2006	Villages' frontline fight over housing – rural fears with move for homes	Express & Star (Stafford)	18 Jan 2007	We must 'act now' to stop town being ruined by over development	Coleshill Herald
1 Aug 2006	Exodus from cities putting pressure on precious Green Belt – Villages on the front line in homes battle	Express & Star (Walsall)	18 Jan 2007	New homes 'could kill off market towns'	Local Government Chronicle
2 Aug 2006	Home truths about the need for more houses	Birmingham Post	18 Jan 2007	History won't forgive us if we don't resist	North Shropshire Chronicle
2 Aug 2006	Battle to save the Green Belt	Black Country Mail	18 Jan 2007	Regional Assembly begs a few questions	Rugby Observer
2 Aug 2006	Green or greed?	Birmingham Post	18 Jan 2007	History won't forgive us if we don't resist	Shrewsbury Chronicle
2 Aug 2006	Protestors fear rural areas could be lost	Shropshire Star (Shrewsbury)	18 Jan 2007	Concern grows over Green Belt plans	Stafford Post
2 Aug 2006	Battle to save the Green Belt – Housing threat to city's open space 'buffer'	Birmingham Mail	18 Jan 2007	9,000 homes questionnaire has 'bamboozled us'	Tamworth Herald
2 Aug 2006	Battle over the boundaries	Western Daily Press Somerset	18 Jan 2007	We must push for a good environmental policy to combat the effect of this project	Worcester News
3 Aug 2006	Planners 'backing building in towns'	Shropshire Star (Shrewsbury)	19 Jan 2007	Consultation aims to give residents a say about planning	Mid Wales Journal
3 Aug 2006	Green Belt worries for city campaigners – House Building could intensify, putting environment at risk	Express & Star (Wolverhampton)	19 Jan 2007	West Midlands looks at wider need to grow	Planning
3 Aug 2006	576,000 homes to be built in the area	Express & Star (Walsall)	19 Jan 2007	Mixed views over new housing plans	Redditch Standard
3 Aug 2006	Floodgates	Express & Star (Stafford)	19 Jan 2007	Green Belt in peril	Solihull News
4 Aug 2006	Houses fear for Green Belt land	Alcester Standard	20 Jan 2007	Authority not about good value	Shropshire Star
9 Aug 2006	Homes increase warning	Leek Paper	20 Jan 2007	Candidate voices housing fears	Worcester News
10 Aug 2006	Fear at threat to Green Belt	Solihull Observer	23 Jan 2007	Avoiding risk is a recipe for a mediocre future	Stoke Sentinel
11 Aug 2006	Numbers Up	Solihull Observer	24 Jan 2007	Public gets say on housing strategy	Alcester Chronicle
17 Aug 2006	Warning over impact of 15,000 new homes on 'all public services'	Biddulph Chronicle	24 Jan 2007	500 acres under housing threat	Solihull News
15 Aug 2006	Councillor highlights housing plights	Shropshire Star (Shrewsbury)	25 Jan 2007	MP issues warning over housing	Cotswold Journal
9 Jan 2006	City must get involved in plan for more homes	Worcester News	25 Jan 2007	Ghost town	Dudley News
11 Jan 2007	Sites pinpointed for future development	Berrows Worcester Journal	25 Jan 2007	Warning of 'urban sprawl' threat to city	Lichfield Mercury
11 Jan 2007	Warning that city can't cope	Berrows Worcester Journal	25 Jan 2007	Town size set to double	Rugby Advertiser
11 Jan 2007	Campaigners fear new threat to green spaces	Lichfield Mercury	25 Jan 2007	Plans could see the number of homes double in the next 14 years	Rugby Advertiser
11 Jan 2007	Development threat to greenfield sites	Stratford-upon-Avon	25 Jan 2007	Residents set to have say on borough	Rugby Observer
12 Jan 2007	Cash vital to boost Midlands housing building	Inside Housing	25 Jan 2007	We must be given a choice	Shropshire Star
12 Jan 2007	Assembly stands by housing levels	Planning	25 Jan 2007	Huge development of homes is 'not needed'	Wolverhampton Chronicle
12 Jan 2007	Report sparks fear for borough Green Belt	Solihull News	26 Jan 2007	Have your say on housing	Alcester Chronicle
13 Jan 2007	West Midlands plans to boost development	Estates Gazette	26 Jan 2007	MP's thumbs down to housing plans	Burton Mail

Appendix 3 - Schedule of media coverage

Table 3 - WMRSS Phase Two Revision - Media Coverage (Continued)

Date	Press Release/Media Coverage	Source	Date	Press Release/Media Coverage	Source
26 Jan 2007	Keep it RURAL	Kenilworth Weekly News	5 Feb 2007	Save Our City – Councillor launches scathing attack against plan for 17,000 new homes	Worcester News
26 Jan 2007	Big step forward as barriers come down	Mid Wales Journal	5 Feb 2007	Fears over impact of new homes plan	Worcester Evening News
26 Jan 2007	Have your say on housing	Redditch Standard	29 Mar 2007	We do not want town to expand	Worcester News
26 Jan 2007	Major blow to Green Belt defenders	Solihull News	3 Apr 2007	Use vote to voice authority concerns	Shropshire Star
28 Jan 2007	Park-and-ride plan to beat road jams	Sentinel Sunday (Stoke)	11 Apr 2007	Mad man or wise man?	Burton & South Derbyshire Advertiser
29 Jan 2007	We must tell them our views on housing plans	Worcester News	12 Apr 2007	Plans approved	Machinery Market
29 Jan 2007	Biggest ever consultation on Midlands future to take place	Express & Star	26 Apr 2007	Conference to focus on brownfield sites	Dudley Chronicle
30 Jan 2007	'Housebuilding spree' fear for Green Belt	Leamington Spa Courier	27 Apr 2007	Region plans green spaces	Planning
30 Jan 2007	Have your say on plans for 17,000 new homes	Worcester News	27 Apr 2007	Assemblies and regions – can co-operate	Regeneration & Renewal
31 Jan 2007	City to get up to 44,000 new homes	IC Coventry (website)	4 May 2007	Slim pickings	Inside Housing
31 Jan 2007	City to get up to 44,000 new homes	Warwickshire Evening Telegraph	15 Feb 2007	The threat to our all important Green Belt	Solihull Observer
1 Feb 2007	Alarm over plans for extra housing	Cotswold Journal	13 Feb 2007	Luff's Valentine card warns of homes plan	Worcester News
1 Feb 2007	Assembly want emphasis put on attracting more shoppers	Sandwell Chronicle	3 Mar 2007	Growth must not ruin city	Warwickshire Telegraph
1 Feb 2007	Spatial Strategy	Staffordshire in Business	29 Mar 2007	We do not want town to expand	Worcester News
1 Feb 2007	Could we cope with thousands of new homes	Tamworth Herald	16 May 2007	Your say on future	Solihull Times
1 Feb 2007	More talks on 17,000 homes	Worcester Evening News	25 Jun 2007	County will have its say on number of houses	Worcester News
2 Feb 2007	'Housebuilding spree' fear for Green Belt land	Kenilworth Weekly News	8 Jun 2007	Assembly looks at home target boost	Planning Magazine
4 Feb 2007	New plan to put city at centre of region	Sentinel Sunday Stoke	29 Jan 2007	Biggest ever consultation on Midlands future to take place	Stoke Sentinel
5 Feb 2007	Homes misery	Burton Mail			

Date	Radio/Television Coverage	Source	Date	Radio/Television Coverage	Source
Jan 2007	Interview regarding the Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Spatial Options Consultation	BRMB / BBC Radio Coventry and Warwickshire	24 Sep 2007	Radio Shropshire interviewed David S Smith about the Preferred Options	BBC Radio Shropshire
Jan 2007	Coverage and interview with David S Smith on the Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Spatial Options Consultation	BBC Midlands Today / Central News / The Politics Show	26 Sep 2007	Beacon Radio interviewed David S Smith about Phase 1 of the Regional Spatial Strategy	Beacon Radio
14 Aug 2007	Interview with David S Smith responding to Social Market Foundation press release re the need to build on Green Belt to meet Government housing targets	BBC Radio Shropshire	1 Oct 2007	Interview with David S Smith about the Preferred Option	BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Radio
14 Aug 2007	Interview with David S Smith responding to Social Market Foundation press release re the need to build on Green Belt to meet Government housing targets	BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Radio breakfast	1 Oct 2007	Interview with David S Smith about housing figures in Hereford and Worcester	BBC Hereford and Worcester Radio
15 Aug 2007	Sky News interviewed David S Smith wanting a WMRA response about the impact increased housing will have on environment, pollution and infrastructure	Sky News	1 Oct 2007	Interview with David S Smith about housing figures in Shropshire	Radio Shropshire – breakfast show
21 Sep 2007	David S Smith was interviewed about the number of houses	BBC Midlands Today	1 Oct 2007	David S Smith spoke to Radio WM about 6,000 new homes in Redditch	Radio WM
Sep 2007	David S Smith interviewed by BBC Radio Shropshire about the Regional Spatial Strategy	BBC Radio Shropshire	21 Oct 2007	David S Smith interviewed by The Politics Show about housing figures	The Politics Show



Appendix 4 - Assembly Partnerships and WMRSS Reference Groups

The West Midlands Regional Assembly is made up of 100 members drawn from the 38 local authorities that make up the West Midlands Region, as well as representatives from the business sector and other social and economic groups, ranging from trade unions to faith and community groups. The Assembly membership is set at a ratio of four local authority representatives to one business sector representative to one Other Stakeholders Group representative. The Assembly works in partnership with Advantage West Midlands, Government Office for the West Midlands, Regional Action West Midlands, West Midlands Local Government Association and other regional and local organisations from across the West Midlands.

The Assembly has a series of formal policy partnerships to support its various functions, and these groups have been fully engaged in the WMRSS Revision process.

Assembly-led Partnership Groups include:

- Regional Planning Partnership
- Regional Transport Partnership
- Regional Housing Partnership
- Regional Environmental Partnership
- European and International Affairs Partnership
- Regional Equalities and Diversity Partnership
- Regional Health Partnership

Partner-led Partnerships include:

- Rural Affairs Forum
- Regional Cultural Consortium
- Regional Skills Partnership
- Sustainability West Midlands

Details of the role, the remit and membership of the above partnerships is available on the Assembly website

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=315

Several partnerships have set up so-called 'WMRSS Reference Groups' to further broaden the possibility for people to get involved in the WMRSS Revision.

The Reference Groups have also been set up to promote cross-sectoral consideration of topic issues and policy choices from a number of distinct thematic perspectives, reflecting current Assembly partnerships and any additional required policy areas.

Membership of the Reference Groups has been drawn from a wide range of sectors and from across the Region. Further information about the Reference Groups can be found on the Assembly website

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=133

Appendix 4 - Assembly Partnerships and WMRSS Reference Groups

The following WMRSS Reference Groups have been set up for Phase Two of the WMRSS Revision:

- Business
- Culture
- Environment
- Equalities and Diversity
- Europe
- Health
- Housing
- Transport and Accessibility
- Urban and Rural Renaissance

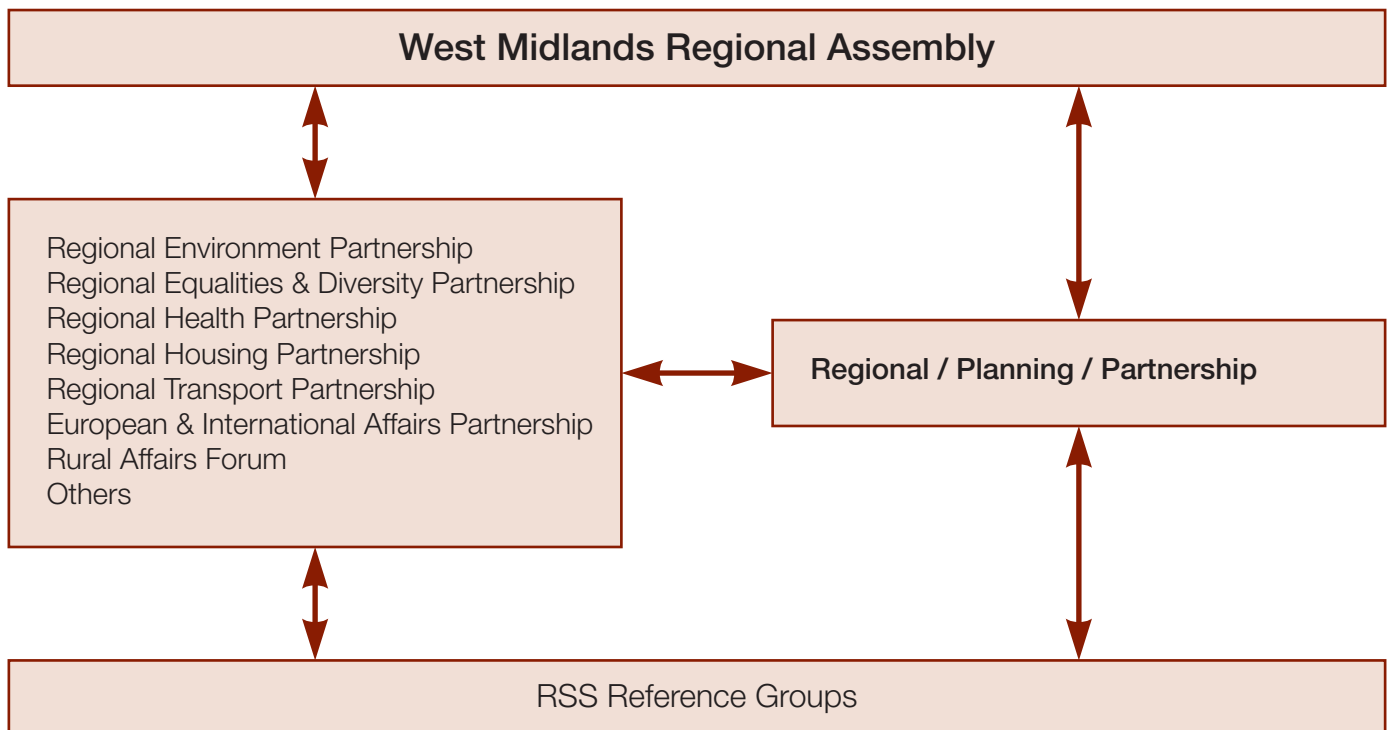
On behalf of the Assembly partnerships, the Reference Groups have provided advice to policy officers and the WMRSS Task Group at a working level on WMRSS Revision issues.

At the Spatial Options stage, the WMRSS Reference Groups had meetings in mid September 2006. Their comments were recorded and fed into the development of the Spatial Options.

At the Preferred Option stage, a 'themed workshop' event was held on 6 June 2007 which was targeted in particular at the WMRSS Reference Groups, together with other stakeholder

representative groups. The purpose of the event was to consider the 'policy steer' provided by the Regional Planning Partnership at its meeting on 31 May 2007 and to allow the WMRSS Reference Groups and other stakeholder representative groups an opportunity to make an input into the development of the Preferred Option.

Assembly Partnerships Structures





Appendix 5 - List of documents

Supporting Documentation is available on

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=121

Draft Project Plan – November 2005

Draft Project Plan for Consultation

Draft Project Plan for Consultation – Summary

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=56

Final Project Plan – March 2006

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=56

Spatial Options Consultation – January 2007

Spatial Options Report

Spatial Options Consultation Summary

Sustainability Appraisal

Rural Proofing Report

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=283

Analysis of Spatial Options Consultation –

Consensus Planning, May 2007.

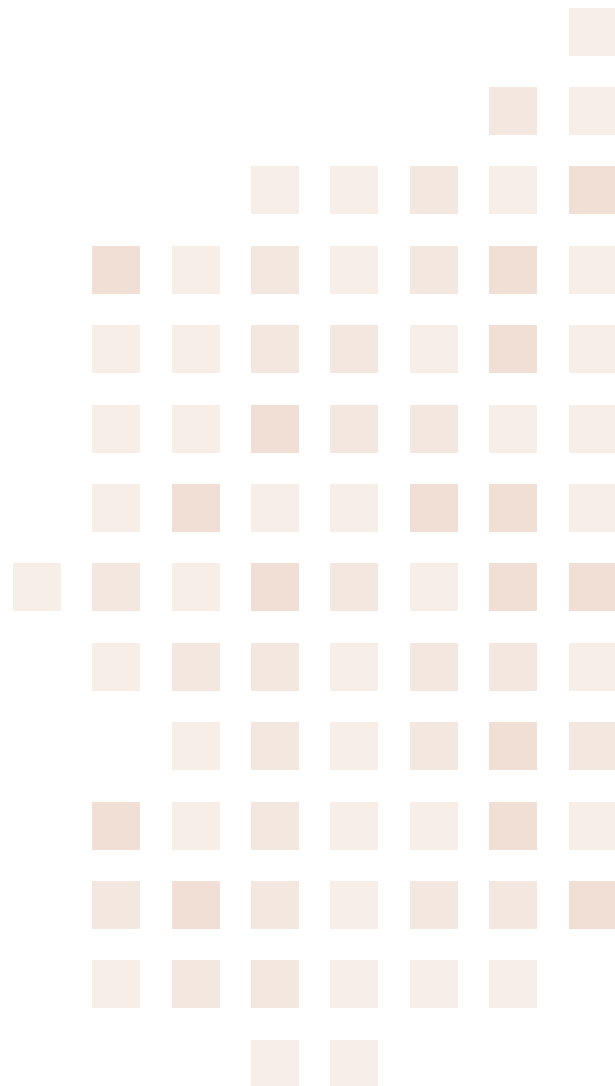
Available on the Assembly website.

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=283

WMRSS Phase Two Developing the Preferred Option workshops and events.

A copy of the outcome from the individual events is available on the Assembly webpage.

www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=345



Consultation and Next Steps Public Consultation on the WMRSS Phase Two Revision – Draft

To make **representations** on any part of the WMRSS Phase Two Revision – Draft, please send your response form by post or email, by **28 March 2008** 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

This report and the consultation comments on it will be taken into account at the Examination in Public on the WMRSS Phase Two Revision - Draft in September 2008.

All supporting technical documentation is available on the Assembly website
www.wmra.gov.uk.

To make an online response (your response will be sent directly to the Panel Secretary), by 28 March 2008, please visit www.wmra.gov.uk and follow links to the WMRSS Phase Two Revision.

The WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft and submission reports are available

- Online at www.wmra.gov.uk
- As printed documents

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This document forms part of a suite of material:

- 1 Preferred Option Phase Two Revision - Draft
- 2 Overview
- 3 Draft Implementation Plan
- 4 Pre-Submission Consultation Statement
- 5 Sustainability Appraisal

Please direct any requests for translation, interpretation, large text or audio versions of this document to access@wmra.gov.uk or tel 0121 245 0200. All requests will be dealt with on an individual basis.



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