

**Regional Planning & Environment Executive
30th January 2009**

RSS Phase 3 – Options Consultation Document – First Draft

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Members with a first working draft of the RSS Phase 3 Options consultation document for consideration and comment before preliminary informal consultation takes place with regional stakeholders.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the RPEE consider and endorse the 1st draft of the Phase 3 Options consultation document for informal consultation on the understanding that there will be an opportunity for further refinement prior to endorsement of the final draft at the RPEE's next meeting on 4th March 2009.

3. Background

- 3.1 The first draft paper is attached for your reference and information. In summary, the topics to be addressed by the RSS Phase Three Revision are:

- **Rural Services:** To identify and prioritise the services that are critical to the sustainability of rural communities, and to identify mechanisms for promoting their provision;
- **Communities for the Future:** To identify the number of pitches required for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople;
- **Culture, Sport and Tourism:** To improve the provision of, and access to, quality cultural and sports assets and provide opportunities to increase the rate of participation / attendance in cultural activities;
- **Environment:** To further develop environmental policies in the RSS, including flood risk, air quality, renewable energy and Green Belt;

- **Minerals:** To develop policies on safeguarding mineral resources and the future supplies of construction aggregates and brick clay.
- 3.2 There are important and sometimes sensitive matters which is why it is important for the RPEE to consider the first draft version. Appendices outlining background technical information, working arrangements and contact information will be added in the in the draft version to be considered by RPEE on 4th March.
- 3.3 Due to the need to demonstrate a clear evidence base throughout the process and because of the limited space available to outline all the relevant information in the Phase 3 Options consultation document, accompanying technical background papers will be produced for each of the policy areas, similar to those produced to accompany the Phase 2 Options. The background papers will explain in more detail the background and rationale for the Options / Preferred Option and act as an audit trail when it comes to the consultation / Examination in Public.

4. Developing the Draft Options Consultation Document

- 4.1 The 1st draft of the Options consultation document is attached for consideration and comment. Detailed comments on the draft consultation document can be sent to David Clarke at the Assembly secretariat – contact details below.
- 4.2 It should be noted that the draft Options are “work in progress” and that those Policy Leads directly involved in the preparation of the Phase 3 consultation document are establishing a Task and Finish Group to develop the document and refine the options. During February the draft Options will be circulated to RSS Reference Groups for comment and subject to an initial Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Proofing. It should also be noted that there will be a further opportunity for the RPEE to comment on the draft Options document on 4th March before it is due to be signed off by the Assembly Board on 25th March.

5. Timetable for Developing Options Consultation Document

- 5.1 The Phase Three Options consultation document will need to be signed-off by the Assembly Board on 25th March. This will follow consideration of the final draft by the Regional Planning & Environment Executive on 4th March.
- 5.2 Key dates for the development of the Options document are listed below:

Timetable for Finalising the Options Consultation Document

30 Jan 2009 pm	Regional Planning & Environment Executive – to consider draft Options document
February	<u>SA + HRA + Rural Proofing</u>
February	RSS Reference Groups
11 Feb 2009	RSS Coordination Group
18 Feb 2009	Regional Housing Executive
23 Feb 2009	RSS Policy Leads
04 Mar 2009 am	Strategic Advisory Board
04 Mar 2009 pm	Regional Planning & Environment Executive – to endorse final draft Options document
16 Mar 2009	RSS Policy Leads – technical sign off
16 Mar 2009	RSS Coordination Group – technical sign off
25 Mar 2009	Assembly Board – final sign off
April -Jun 2009	Design and Print Options document
Jul 2009	Publish Options consultation document

Contact Officer:

David Clarke

Tel: 0121 678 1023

Email: d.clarke@wmra.gov.uk