

**WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Assembly Board of Directors**

**10 June 2009**

**West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS)  
Phase Three**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Board on the timetable and process for the RSS Phase Three Revision.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to note:

- (a) the provisional timetable for the RSS Phase Three Revision process and
- (b) that the Assembly and GOWM have agreed to review the process for taking forward the Phase Three work through either a revised RSS or single Regional Strategy following the Phase Three Options consultation.

**3. WMRSS Phase Three**

- 3.1 The Draft Options consultation document was approved by the Assembly Board subject to minor amendments on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009. An updated draft of the document can be accessed on the WMRA website at:

[http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning\\_and\\_Regional\\_Spatial\\_Strategy/RSS\\_Revision/RSS\\_Revision\\_Phase\\_3.aspx](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning_and_Regional_Spatial_Strategy/RSS_Revision/RSS_Revision_Phase_3.aspx)

- 3.2 The Options consultation will be launched on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and close on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009, with a consultation event planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> July at the Burlington Hotel in Birmingham.
- 3.3 Members will be aware that the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill which is currently before Parliament proposes the introduction of a Single Regional Strategy to replace the existing RSS and Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The Government's intention is for the Bill to receive Royal Assent in July 2009, with an operational date of April 2010.
- 3.4 The timetable below shows how the Revision would be completed under the existing Regulations. However, in the current circumstances the timetable can only be provisional.

### **RSS Phase Three Revision – Provisional Timetable**

29 <sup>th</sup> June to 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2009	Options document issued for consultation
Autumn/Winter 2009 (provisional)	Development of a Preferred Option
February 2010 (provisional)	Submission of Preferred Option to Secretary of State
Spring 2010 (provisional)	Consultation on the Preferred Option
Autumn 2010 (provisional)	Examination in Public
Spring 2011 (provisional)	Secretary of State's Proposed Changes
Autumn 2011 (provisional)	Final RSS Phase Three Revision published

- 3.5 The Assembly and the GO-WM have agreed to review the situation together following the Phase Three Options consultation. This review will agree how to take account of emerging legislative certainty and the Phase Two Revision's Panel Report. It therefore remains to be seen whether the partially completed Phase Three work will be incorporated into a revised RSS or the new Regional Strategy. In either event, the policy content of the Phase Three Revision will remain relevant to regional interests and necessary to fill policy gaps until the new Regional Strategy is developed.

3.6 Further details about the WMRSS Phase Three Revision can be found on our website:  
[http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning\\_and\\_Regional\\_Spatial\\_Strategy/RSS\\_Revision/RSS\\_Revision\\_Phase\\_3.aspx](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning_and_Regional_Spatial_Strategy/RSS_Revision/RSS_Revision_Phase_3.aspx)

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