

Strategic Advisory Panel 4th March 2009

RSS Phase 3 – Draft Options Consultation Document

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Members with a second draft of the RSS Phase 3 Options consultation document for consideration and comment.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members consider the 2nd draft of the Phase 3 Options consultation document and provide comments for consideration by the Regional Planning & Environment Executive at their meeting later today prior to it being submitted to the Regional Assembly for final approval on 25th March 2009.

3. Background

- 3.1 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.

3.3 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. Next Steps

4.1 The draft Options are to be circulated to RSS Reference Groups for comment and subject to an initial Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Proofing.

4.2 The final draft of the consultation document will be presented to the Regional Assembly on 25th March for approval.

4.3 The final document will then be designed and printed in preparation for the launch of the Options consultation commencing in July 2009 (following the WMRSS Phase 2 Examination in Public).

4.4 Detailed comments on the draft consultation document can be sent to David Clarke at the Assembly secretariat by 6th March 2009 – contact details below.

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