

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

**Assembly Board of Directors
30 September 2009**

Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two – Panel Report

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide an update on progress of the RSS Phase Two Revision following the recent Examination in Public (EiP) and in anticipation of the Panel Report.

(Note: The Panel Report had not been published at the time of writing this report. Members will receive an oral update, if appropriate, at their meeting.)

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members note the progress of the RSS Phase Two Revision and the next steps in the process.

3. Background

- 3.1 The EiP was held at the Molineux Stadium in Wolverhampton between 28 April and 24 June 2009. The EiP followed a structured programme of 28 sessions spread over seven sitting weeks, progressing from debates on strategy and topic-based sessions (housing, employment land etc.) to a series of 15 detailed debates at sub-regional level. The EiP then concluded with a final session on implementation and monitoring.

4. Current position and next steps

- 4.1 Following the EiP, the Panel who conducted the Examination has been working on their Report. The Panel will formally submit their Report to the Secretary of State who will then consider the Panel's recommendations in respect of any changes to the RSS Phase Two Revision Draft submitted by the Assembly.

- 4.2 At the time of writing this report, the Panel Report had not been published. It is anticipated that the Panel Report may be published either at the end of September or early October 2009. Members will receive an oral update, if appropriate, at their meeting on 30 September and a full report will be provided in due course.
- 4.3 The outcome of the RSS Phase Two process will ultimately be determined by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will need to take account of the Panel Report and consider whether he wants to propose any changes to the RSS Phase Two Revision Draft. It is understood that the Secretary of State intends to publish the Proposed Changes by the end of 2009. The Proposed Changes will be subject to formal consultation and the Assembly will need to consider a response at that time. Following the consultation on the Proposed Changes, the Secretary of State will then finalise the revision in 2010.

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