

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – National and Regional Policy Context

The Government expects the RHS to deliver the Sustainable Communities Plan in a way that is appropriate to the Region.

The RHS should support the delivery of ODPMs Public Service Targets (PSAs) which are intended to provide thriving, inclusive and sustainable communities in all regions. In particular the RHS is expected to help to deliver on PSAs 1, 5 and 7.

PSA 1: Work with the full range of Government departments and policies to raise levels of social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal and regional prosperity to promote better policy integration nationally, regionally and locally; in particular to work with departments to help them meet PSA floor targets for neighbourhood renewal and social inclusion.

PSA 5: Achieve a better balance between housing and the demand for housing in all English Regions while protecting valuable countryside around towns, cities and in the greenbelt and the sustainability of existing towns and cities through specific measures to be set out in the Service Delivery Agreement.

PSA 7: By 2010 bring all social housing into decent condition with most of the improvement taking place in deprived areas, and increase the proportion of private housing in decent condition occupied by vulnerable groups. The RHS should also contribute to meeting the aims of the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal which are:

To deliver economic prosperity, safe communities, high quality schools, decent housing, improved physical environment and better health to the poorest parts of the country

To narrow the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country. This is of particular importance for the West Midlands which has seven Major Urban Areas (Birmingham Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Stoke on Trent, Walsall and Wolverhampton) in receipt of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and 69 wards (9% of the total) fall within the 10% most deprived wards in the country

Within the Regional context the RHS must support and inform the emerging 'Smart Growth – Midlands Way' and complement the Regional Spatial Strategy, Regional Economic Strategy (WMES) and the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS). Joint working will also need to integrate regional strategy on sustainability, culture, energy, environment, and health

Housing strategy at both local and regional level must also complement the Community Strategies being developed by Local Strategic Partnerships.