

Appendix 5 – Summary of Consultation Process

Regional Housing Strategy 2005 Consultation

The development of the Regional Housing Strategy 2005 has involved an extensive period of consultation in various forms and with a variety of stakeholders, culminating in this final document.

The development of the Regional Housing Strategy in the West Midlands is unique in comparison to that of other regions, mainly due to the vast amount of research commissioned in order to help shape the Strategy.

Initial consultation on the draft Regional Housing Strategy began in August 2004. This approach of ongoing consultation on specific stages of Strategy development alongside research work has been adopted by the Regional Housing Board and Regional Housing Partnership to enable colleagues to shape the thinking and content of the Strategy throughout its development, as opposed to a longer period of consultation on a final draft.

This appendix summarises the main elements and stages of the consultation process, however it is important to note that other consultation processes and events, not detailed here, have been hosted by partner organisations.

Role of the Regional Housing Partnership

As detailed previously, the Regional Assembly's Regional Housing Partnership (RHP) undertook much of the development work of the Strategy on behalf of the Regional Housing Board. This role has required the RHP to meet more often than its scheduled quarterly meetings. Due to the increased commitment required of the RHP it was agreed to establish a more focused sub-group of the RHP to act as administrator of the Strategy development process. To this end the Editorial Support Group and the Editorial Core Group were established. Membership of both the Editorial Support and Core Group was selected to cover the wide range of different interests and organisations, for example, from housing, planning and economic sectors, urban and rural, geographic and thematic housing issues.

An Affordable Housing Group was also established by the WMRA Secretariat. This Group set up a series of Task & Finish Groups to investigate key themes. To date eight reports have been produced dealing with the following issues:

- Barriers to Securing Affordable Housing
- Methods to Secure Affordable Housing
- Perceived and Actual Need
- Sustainable Affordable Housing
- Perceptions of Affordable Housing
- The effect of Right To Buy in the Region
- Creating and Maintaining Sustainable Affordable Housing Stock
- Key Workers

These reports have informed the development of the Strategy and membership of the Affordable Housing Group will be refreshed in the near future to maintain its capacity to implement the Regional Housing Strategy and to support the Partial Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy on housing matters.

Consultation process stages

Consultation on the draft Regional Housing Strategy can be divided into the three distinct stages below:

- Initial consultation on the previous Regional Housing Strategy 2003 in order to help identify the key issues to be presented in an Issues Paper in December 2004 (Aug – October 2004)

- Consultation on the Issues Paper in order to shape the developing Regional Housing Strategy (January – February 2005)
 - Formal Consultation on the draft Regional Housing Strategy (11th May – 7th June 2005)
- The above stages have formed the focus from which the detailed consultation process, for example events and meetings, have stemmed.

Methods of engagement

Incorporating and supporting the three main consultation stages detailed above, circulation of updates through email and mail-outs have been circulated to list in excess of 700 colleagues from a variety of housing and housing related organisations and backgrounds, for example:

- Elected Members – Housing and Planning
- WM Regional Assembly members
- Local Authority Housing Officers
- Housing Corporation
- National Housing Federation
- Housing Associations and Registered Social Landlords
- Supporting People colleagues
- Health Sector Colleagues
- Colleagues from regional organisations such as Advantage West Midlands
- Voluntary and Community Sector
- Private Developers
- House Builders Federation
- Tenants and Residents Groups

We have also consulted with Regional Assembly Members and the Assembly's Policy Partnerships and Officer Groups, in particular the Regional Planning Partnership and Regional Advisory Group.

Below are details of the main consultation events held as part of the Regional Housing Strategy development process. They include generic events on the development of the Strategy and also specific theme based events.

Events

Date	Title	Purpose	Attendees
27th September 2004	Homelessness & Supporting People Consultation Event 1	To consult with the voluntary and community sector on the Regional Homelessness & Supporting People research	Approximately 40 people
15th October 2004	Shared Evidence Base for delivering Housing Market Areas workshop	To share with colleagues the empirically based work undertaken by Sheffield University on identifying housing market areas	Approximately 90 people
2nd November 2004	Homelessness & Supporting People Consultation Event 2	To consult more widely on the Homelessness & Supporting People research	Approximately 100 people

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Date	Title	Purpose	Attendees
23rd November 2004	Re-run of Shared Evidence Base presentation	This was another opportunity for people to hear the work on housing market areas undertaken by Sheffield University	Approximately 12 people
6th December 2004	Regional Housing Strategy Consultation Event 1	The first event on the development of the Regional Housing Strategy aimed at consulting with a wide audience	Approximately 170 people
27th January 2005	Elected Members Consultation Event	An event for housing, planning and regeneration Members on the development of the Strategy	Approximately 40 people
27th January 2005	Gypsies and Travellers Consultation Event	An event to consult on the Gypsies and Travellers research undertaken as part of the RHS	Approximately 22 people
31st January 2005	BME Housing Event	An event to consult on the BME housing needs research undertaken as part of the RHS	Approximately 30 people
1st February 2005	Asylum Seekers and Refugees Event	An event to consult on the Asylum Seekers and Refugees research undertaken as part of the RHS	Approximately 35 people
3rd February 2005	North Housing Market Area (HMA) Event	An event in the North Housing Market Area to consult on the key issues facing the North HMA with key partners	Approximately 73 people
4th February 2005	Central Housing Market Area (HMA) Event	An event in the Central Housing Market Area to consult on the key issues facing the Central HMA with key partners	Approximately 90 people
7th February 2005	West Housing Market Area (HMA) Event	An event in the West Housing Market Area to consult on the key issues facing the West HMA with key partners	Approximately 80 people
8th February 2005	South Housing Market Area (HMA) Event	An event in the South Housing Market Area to consult on the key issues facing the South HMA with key partners	Approximately 80 people
17th February 2005	Regional Housing Strategy Consultation Event 2	The second event on the development of the Regional Housing Strategy aimed at consulting with a wide audience	Approximately 190 people

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Date	Title	Purpose	Attendees
22nd February 2005	Private Sector Consultation Event	An event aimed at Private Sector Housebuilders and Developers as part of the development of the RHS	Approximately 20 people
24th February 2005	TPAS – Tenant Participation Advisory Service	An event specifically to consult with Tenants and Residents on the RHS	Approximately 50 people
4th March 2005	Regional Planning Partnership Consultation Event	An event for Regional Planning Partnership Members on the shared evidence base work supporting the development of the Regional Housing Strategy	Approximately 20 people
6th June 2005 am	Affordable Housing Seminar for Elected Members	An event on Affordable Housing issues for housing, planning and regeneration elected Members	Approximately 35 people
6th June 2005 pm	Draft Regional Housing Strategy presentation	A consultation event on draft RHS for Regional Assembly and housing elected Members	Approximately 45 people

For further information on any of the above events or on the consultation process itself, please contact Emma Kiteley at: e.kiteley@wmra.gov.uk