

# West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Three Revision

**Rural Renaissance**

**Critical Rural Services Background Paper**

**June 2009**



**West Midlands  
Regional Assembly**

This Background Paper has been prepared on behalf of the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA), the Regional Planning Body, as advice to inform the Regional Spatial Strategy Revision process. It is one of a suite of papers to inform the development of Options for the Phase Three of the Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS).

For revising the WMRSS, the WMRA adopts “decentralised” working arrangements where much of the technical and policy development work is done by a network of RSS Policy Leads, predominantly drawn from local authorities across the Region. This enables the WMRA to draw on the expertise held throughout the Region.

The Policy Lead for Rural Issues is Nick Taylor (Shropshire Council).

This Background Paper has not been formally endorsed by, and therefore does not necessarily reflect the views of, the West Midlands Regional Assembly.

Further information and details of the West Midlands Regional Strategy and the Revision process can be found on our web site [www.wmra.gov.uk](http://www.wmra.gov.uk)

Every effort has been made to verify and check the contents of this report including all figures and tables. However the West Midlands Regional Assembly can not accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies.

## Introduction

The WMRSS was approved and published in June 2004 by the Secretary of State. Since 2004 the WMRSS has been part of the statutory development plan for each local authority in the West Midlands Region.

The WMRSS covers a wide range of topics, including housing, employment, transport and the environment. You can find a copy of the WMRSS on the WMRA website at

[http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning\\_and\\_Regional\\_Spatial\\_Strategy/Regional\\_Spatial\\_Strategy/Regional\\_Spatial\\_Strategy\\_\(RSS\).aspx#Jan2008](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning_and_Regional_Spatial_Strategy/Regional_Spatial_Strategy/Regional_Spatial_Strategy_(RSS).aspx#Jan2008)

The purpose of the WMRSS is to guide the preparation of local authority development plans and local transport plans, so together they can provide a coherent framework for the development of the Region. The WMRSS also provides a planning framework for other regional, sub-regional and local strategies, programmes and plans such as the West Midlands Economic Strategy and Regional Housing Strategy.

Following the publication of the WMRSS in June 2004, the Secretary of State recommended that some issues should be developed further. It was decided that this task be carried out in a phased way.

- **Phase One** concentrated on the Black Country Study, where the aim was to identify and 'fast-track' urban renaissance proposals through to implementation.
- **Phase Two** considered housing, employment, transport and waste.
- This phase of the WMRSS Revision, **Phase Three**, examines critical rural services, provision for gypsies and travellers, culture, sport and tourism provision, quality of the environment and minerals.

Because there are likely to be a number of choices as to the nature and content of new or revised policies, an **Options** consultation document is being issued for consultation to help identify those choices and the consequences of adopting them. At this stage, policies are not fixed and everybody has a chance to say what they think about the Options before a Preferred Option is developed.

This Background Paper has been prepared to help improve understanding of the **Critical Rural Services** issues examined in the RSS Phase Three Options consultation document.

## **1. RSS Revision Objective**

*To identify the role of service provision in enhancing the sustainability of rural communities, whether particular services are critical to this process and whether the process itself, and consequently the policies required to address it, varies in different types of rural area.*

## **2. Background**

A number of technical studies have helped to inform the development of the key options and issues for critical rural services in the West Midlands, as set out in the Critical Rural Services options document produced for RSS Phase III consultation purposes. The purpose of this evidence paper is to highlight the key documents, whilst emphasising that a plethora of other studies have also contributed to identification of issues and development of draft options.

The technical studies referenced in the Options paper and commented on here have been weighted for their importance and relevance, and then ranked accordingly. This is primarily in order to aid analysis of how the key issues were arrived at, and thus how this has led to the development of three key options for consultation.

Ready identification of the evidence documents to which most weight was attached was also felt to be a desirable approach for those wishing to refer to such studies in more detail.

The evidence base report is accordingly structured to reflect this approach, whilst a chronological listing is provided at Appendix A to further assist information retrieval.

Please also note that documents may move up or down within these weightings, not least as new information comes to light to further shape policy options. An example of this would be further national thinking on the Government's Digital Britain agenda, and how this may influence regional decision making.

## **3. Weightings Used**

### **Weighting 3**

Documents that provide a wide and detailed regional and national context in strategic terms.

### **Weighting 2-3**

Documents that provide a longterm perspective or set out longterm plans, and would thus aid sustainable community strategy development.

### **Weighting 1-2**

Documents that set out to examine practical delivery or recommend tools for so doing.

## **Weighting 1**

Other documents that provide timely and pertinent regional and national context in strategic or operational terms.

### **4. Details of Documents**

#### **Weighting 3**

**Documents that provide a wide regional and national context in strategic terms**

##### **a. Responses from Strategic Planning Authorities**

The following strategic planning authorities made responses: Herefordshire; Shropshire; Solihull; Staffordshire; Telford and Wrekin; and Worcestershire. In addition, the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Forum made a response as a sub-regional partnership.

Advice provided by the Strategic Planning Authorities (Section 4(4) Advice) to the West Midlands Regional Assembly on the RSS Phase Three issues can be summarised as follows:

- No clear consensus on whether “critical” or “important and measurable” rural services are better. All agree that there are no easy answers.
- Accessibility to services for particular population groups is the key issue. Agreement that all definitions of remote/ accessible/ rural etc have limitations and that data is limited.
- There are difficulties in applying a single approach or framework to all settlements in all parts of the region. Flexibility and local discretion must be allowed.
- Mixed response to the “service deficit” or “service centre deficit” approach in which attempts are made to define a required level of services for a particular settlement or group of settlements, and this level is then compared with an audit of actual provision with the aim of making up the shortfall. Strong concerns that this could conflict with PPS7, overall RSS strategy and Phase 2 preferred option.
- Feeling that RSS is too blunt a tool to address the issues. It can provide a broad framework, encouragement and give some pointers but should not be overly prescriptive.
- A multi-agency/ partners/ community-based approach is required but RSS cannot provide specific policy guidance on this. Existing policies may need tweaking but otherwise there is sufficient flexibility.

## **b. Rural Services Scoping Study**

This in-depth 2006 study, by Roger Tym and Partners, identified basic rural services, but not necessarily those that are “critical”. The study considered access to services in rural areas, including the exclusion of particular groups in rural areas, the places most affected by limited access to services, and the services which make the greatest difference to rural communities.

In so doing, it identifies services with a critical impact on rural areas, and from this develops and describes a long list of rural services. Tym states that there appear to be three main options around which criteria could be developed:

- a) Reviewing the issue of rural services in defining settlement policy;
- b) Defining a short list of basic services which can be commonly used as a guide across the region to support a much greater proactive approach through LDFs and community strategy working to maintain and develop these services;
- c) Rural proofing and cross referencing of activity, as positive tools in identifying the opportunities for developing and maintaining rural services.

Tym suggests that it would be appropriate to use these three tools as an integrated set of tools. The study gives a very clear view of how difficult it is to identify a list of critical rural services, and recommends further work using indices and datasets to define needs, alongside information arising from sources such as parish plans.

## **c. Rural Community Sustainability Study**

This 2008 study, by SQW Consulting, was produced to inform development policy options for the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), the Regional Economic Strategy, and moves towards a single integrated regional strategy in the West Midlands.

The study sought to identify “important and measurable services,” using “Indicators of Multiple Deprivation” to highlight the geography of access to services and geographical barriers to service delivery. It focussed on eight thematic chapters which were significant with regard to rural sustainability in the West Midlands:

- a) Housing
- b) Low carbon principles
- c) Employment provision
- d) IT infrastructure
- e) Economic inclusion
- f) Green infrastructure
- g) Critical rural services
- h) Rural economy

The Thematic Chapter on Critical Rural Services is a more detailed examination of the services and their importance, their geographical distribution, and the influence of WMRSS spatial planning policies on service provision. It draws on what the evidence reveals and identifies interrelationships with other themes. It is structured around the following key questions:

- What is a sustainable rural community in terms of services?
- What are critical rural services?
- What is fair access

- What is the geography of critical services in the West Midlands?
- What special policy levers are applicable?

The overall SQW document can be said to take the findings from the 2006 study by Tym and move them on another level, acting on Tym's conclusions that more work is required to use all the statistical evidence such as deprivation indicators. The statistical details in the report are thus of particular relevance in informing policy development.

**Weighting 2-3      Documents that provide a longterm perspective or set out longterm plans, and would thus aid sustainable community strategy development**

**a.      Rural Proofing Toolkit**

The Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) together refreshed and relaunched rural proofing as an appraisal tool in May 2009. An original rural proofing checklist was produced by Government through the then Countryside Agency in April 2001, following the commitment in the Rural White Paper 2000 to a "systematic assessment of the rural dimension of all government policies as they are developed and implemented".

The refreshed checklist has been applied to all the topic areas within the Phase III Refresh of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and to the draft options for Critical Rural Services. This is available from the West Midlands Regional Assembly as a separate document.

**b.      Living Working Countryside Report**

This report, by Matthew Taylor MP, was produced on the Government's behalf in July 2008 and reviewed how land use and planning can better support rural business and deliver affordable housing. More commonly known as the Taylor Review, it sets out 48 recommendations intended to bring about change and improvement for rural communities.

In so doing, it:

- Seeks to avoid the "Sustainability Trap", whereby development is only allowed if the settlement is deemed sustainable in the first place, by taking a broader view of sustainability and allowing any settlement to be considered for development;
- Believes that small amounts of affordable housing can be the catalyst to the sustainability of a community, in terms of facilities and services such as shops, pubs, schools and local businesses;
- Seeks better integration of new development and services in market towns.

**c.      Government Response to Taylor Review**

This formal response from Government runs to some 50 pages including a comprehensive executive summary. It includes broad acceptance of the great

majority of the recommendations, with two exceptions and other caveats, and to quote from the report "...particularly sees them in the context of the creation and maintenance of sustainable communities, and the need to plan for economic recovery, in which a streamlined planning system will be a significant factor" (DCLG; "Government response to the Taylor Review"; DCLG, March 2009; page 5 para 1)

In the report, Government highlights its four principal policy considerations as being:

- a) The need to create and maintain sustainable communities;
- b) The need to develop ways to encourage sustainable economic growth in rural areas;
- c) The need to encourage an increase in the supply of housing in the longterm, and particularly that of affordable housing;
- d) The need to plan for economic recovery, in which a streamlined planning system will be a significant factor.

It is apparent from the report that the focus for delivery of Government policy intentions is expected to be at local authority level in geographical terms, principally through the mechanism of LDF Core Strategies. Where Government has made these intentions clear in terms of tangible commitments, eg financial, it has made equally clear that the tasks are for local authorities to deliver, and that the challenge at regional level is more about sharing good practice and informing further local, regional and national policy development through evaluation and dissemination of outcomes and learning points.

#### **d. Rural challenges, local solutions: national report**

In 2005, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and local government jointly launched a national Rural Pathfinder programme to examine innovative solutions for service delivery. The aim was for one Pathfinder to be identified for each region, as an action arising from the Rural Strategy 2004. Eight national Pathfinders were chosen, including one in Shropshire. Results were published in February 2008 in the form of the above report and 40 case studies published on the IDeA Knowledge website at [www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=5569390](http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=5569390).

The Shropshire Pathfinder trialled a range of different methods for delivering services to remote communities in the County. For example, video conferencing was used to deliver Citizens Advice Bureau services, and council services were provided to rural communities in village halls or by working in partnership with Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service using their outreach vehicle. The outcome of these pilots has been the roll out of a network of video conferencing units, known as Telly Talk, to deliver council and partner service face to face with communities, who live many miles away from where the customer advisers are located.

The final Shropshire report, published in 2008, described ways in which communities in Shropshire could contribute to improving services through local involvement and action, greater awareness of accessibility issues, and more effective links with partners.

Other pathfinders were in Dorset; the Fens; Hampshire; the Humber; Lancashire; Lincolnshire; the Peak District; and West Durham.

#### **e. Rural Delivery Framework**

The West Midlands Rural Delivery Framework 2006, produced by Rural Accord, develops the Government's 2004 Rural Strategy by proposing new arrangements for the simpler and more targeted funding and delivery of services to rural communities.

RDFs followed from the Rural Strategy of 2004 in developing new arrangements for the funding and delivery of services to rural communities. The aim was that these should be made simpler, and targeted where needed at regional and local level.

#### **f. State of the Countryside 2008**

The Commission for Rural Communities produced this as the latest of their annual reports on the countryside.

It provides a comprehensive description of social economic and environmental conditions and changes across rural England, highlighting the main challenges and future trends for Government and other organisations. As the 10<sup>th</sup> in the series, it takes the opportunity to consider the changes taking place in rural England, looking forward to what the future might hold for rural communities and reflecting on what has remained important since the first report in 1999.

Highlights of the 2007 report have been summarised by SPARSE and are also of use here.

#### **g. West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy**

This is the Government's spatial planning strategy for the West Midlands region, based on the principles of sustainable development. The four major challenges addressed in the Strategy are:

- a) Urban Renaissance;
- b) Rural Renaissance;
- c) Diversifying and Modernising the Region's Economy;
- d) Modernising the transport infrastructure of the West Midlands.

Such is the major challenge of rural renaissance that there are four specific policies on rural renaissance. The key policy in relation to this 2009 review is RR4 – Rural Services. In summary, RR4:

- Requires an improvement in the range and quality of rural services, either by taking them to where people live or concentrating them in accessible towns and other centres.
- States that the impact of housing and other development on service provision must be considered, including the extent to which new development might support service provision.
- Requires development plans to set out how essential services will be retained in rural areas, and facilitate new services.

- Requires LTPs to identify where improved public transport is needed to support rural services.

The three other Rural Renaissance policies in RSS are as follows:

- RR1 – Rural Renaissance. A general policy which draws a distinction between rural areas under the influence of Major Urban Areas which have generally good access to services, and rural areas remote from MUAs where access to services is generally poor.
- RR2- Rural Regeneration Zone. A policy framework in which the primary focus for investment is the RRZ. Emphasis is given to establishing a network of rural service centres, where possible based on market towns and large villages, but possibly requiring a more scattered pattern in the most sparsely populated areas.
- RR3 – Market Towns. The policy emphasises the key role of market towns in rural regeneration, including the provision of services and other facilities to their rural hinterlands.

**Weighting 1-2            Documents that set out to examine practical delivery or recommend tools for so doing**

**a.        West Midlands Economic Strategy**

Clearly there are many links between rural service provision and other policy areas in the Regional Spatial Strategy and West Midlands Economic Strategy – transport, housing, employment and environment for example. These links should be examined in more detail against the option chosen. In particular, attention will have to be paid to the outcome of the Phase 2 review on the provision of rural housing.

The Strategy, produced by Advantage West Midlands (AWM) in 2007, aims to meet the economic challenges facing the region by focussing on three main components of the economy:

- a) The contribution that business makes to the productivity and growth of the regional economy;
- b) The role of place in attracting and enabling economic growth;
- c) The contribution of people and their skills to the sustainable growth and productivity of the West Midlands economy.

**b.        Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities: A New Agenda**

The main thrust of this 2007 report by the Commission for Rural Communities is to seek new affordable housing development in smaller settlements. Whilst acknowledging the decline of rural services, the report says little about how to deal with the problem, and almost nothing about the role of market towns. It refers to “rural” without any distinction between different rural areas.

### **c. Future of Rural Services to 2015**

This longitudinal report by the University of Gloucester, produced in 2005, looked at factors determining the demand and supply of services to 2015, and the implications of changes in demand and supply for deliverers and recipients of services.

Its key message was that things change as society changes, and that they do so all the time, rendering the production of static lists nigh impossible and of limited usefulness post production. It provides a neat summary of drivers of change, as follows:

Drivers of change in demand:

- demographic and social change;
- cultural change (rural society expected to become more individualistic and self-centred, requiring more flexible, tailored and personalised services);
- changes in disposable income, following a disproportionate increase of people in higher social groups in rural areas;
- greater personal mobility and capacity for communication;
- “Non-rural resident” demand by tourists.

Drivers of changes in supply:

- as per drivers of change in demand; plus
- the introduction and diffusion of new technology;
- central Government policies;
- competition between various service providers and the profit motive.

The study also examines *how* services are likely to be delivered:

- a) Delivery outlets – a move towards multi-service outlets, innovative mobile services and electronic delivery by telephone and ICT.
- b) Settlement hierarchy – a drift of service provision up the urban hierarchy from villages to small towns to larger towns as consumers have more mobility, want more choice and quality; and as suppliers pursue economies of scale.
- c) Timing of delivery – in recent years the provision of services has become less restricted by time with the development of a 24/7 culture. Small local suppliers of goods and services will have increasing difficulty in responding, and may not survive. The greatest impact will be on the more disadvantaged rural communities.
- d) Governance of supply – the public sector’s role in service delivery has contracted, with a move towards the private sector and the voluntary and community sector or Third Sector.

The Third Sector in an area comprises umbrella organisations working to raise the profile of volunteering and improve capacity of the sector, as well as community and faith groups.

### **d West Midlands Rural Evidence Base**

This evidence base takes the form of a portfolio of documents produced by Advantage West Midlands (AWM) in 2008, and is very much an overview. It includes a description of the challenges facing rural services, looking in particular at:

- the need for affordable housing to support the less well off in rural employment;
- the shift of demand for services as a result of demographic and cultural change;
- greater mobility and internet use; the opportunities to address these changes through market towns, acting as critical nodes for service delivery; and
- the importance of the voluntary and community sector as groups with local knowledge in filling the service provision gaps.

## **Weighting 1**

### **Other documents that provide timely and pertinent regional and national context in strategic or operational terms**

#### **a. Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 4 (Draft)**

A draft Planning Policy Statement 4 was published in 2007 with the intention that when finalised it would provide a national planning policy framework for economic development, including development in rural areas. By guiding the location of rural businesses PPS4 would influence the requirement for services to support those businesses.

Of note here is that the 2009 Government response to the Taylor review includes a policy decision to create a single PPS on Planning for Prosperous Economies, bringing together planning policy statements covering economic development topics.

This would include the draft PPS4 as well as PPS 6 on planning for town centres, PPS7 on sustainable development in rural areas, and Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 5 on simplified planning zones.

#### **b. Thinking about Rural Transport**

This 2008 report, by the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC), emphasises the importance of developing land-use patterns which maximise the ability to capture trips by sustainable modes, and which thereby reduce the need to travel. It may usefully be read alongside the 2008 report by the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), referenced below.

#### **c. Rural Public Transport: Room for Improvement**

The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) produced this report in December 2008. It sets out the CPRE policy approach, and draws on a more detailed report "Cause for concern: improving rural accessibility in the rural West Midlands" produced in June 2008.

The study identified four key policy areas that the CPRE feel need addressing through a strong mix of interventions to improve rural accessibility:

- a) Scheduled public transport: the backbone of rural transport;
- b) Demand responsive transport: more planning and co-ordination needed;
- c) Location of services and facilities: local authority leadership and community involvement required;

- d) The need for better integration with more demanding targets.

**d. Evaluation of Rural Transport Programme in the West Midlands**

This 2005 report by Ecotec identified four priorities:

- a) Provision of integrated and co-ordinated transport systems;
- b) Ensure an informed public;
- c) Develop a demand responsive system;
- d) Address the needs for all.

In order to deliver against these priorities, the report recommends building on and making use not only of existing organisational structures but also of local knowledge and expertise.

**e. Rural Renaissance Framework and Action Plan**

This Rural Renaissance Framework and Action Plan, by Advantage West Midlands (AWM), sets out the agency's role in implementing its economic strategy in the rural parts of the West Midlands.

The 2005 document has two purposes:

- a) To explain the context and rationale for AWM's main rural development commitments and future actions;
- b) To help guide the actions of partners in aligning their activities with the WMES, and in seeking support for rural development from the Agency.

**f. Regional Social Enterprise Strategy**

Produced in 2004 by Social Enterprise West Midlands, this is a framework which recognises the potential of social enterprise to promote economic growth and address social and economic exclusion. The framework considers ways in which rural social enterprises can assist rural communities, including provision of services where the market cannot meet needs.

**g. Rural Strategy 2004**

The themes in the White Paper 2000 are developed further in the Government's Rural Strategy 2004, document which is based on targeting the greatest needs and encouraging widespread partnership working.

The Strategy's three key priorities are:

- a) Economic and Social Regeneration (which includes provision of services);
- b) Social Justice for All;
- c) Enhancing the Value of our Countryside.

**h. Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas**

Also in 2004 the Government published its Planning Policy Statement 7 – "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas." PPS7 sets out the framework within which the planning system should operate in country towns, villages and the wider, largely undeveloped, countryside up to the fringes of larger urban areas. By

governing the broad location and scale of development, PPS7 influences the need for services which support households, businesses and visitors in rural England.

Of note here is that the 2009 Government response to the Taylor review includes a policy decision to create a single PPS on Planning for Prosperous Economies, bringing together planning policy statements covering economic development topics.

This would include the draft PPS4 as well as PPS 6 on planning for town centres, PPS7 on sustainable development in rural areas, and Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 5 on simplified planning zones.

#### **i. Rural White Paper 2000**

The basis for much of the Government's policy direction is contained in the Rural White Paper 2000 – – "Our Countryside: the future - a fair deal for rural England". The White Paper includes statements on public services; affordable housing; rural businesses; agriculture; protection of the landscape and wildlife habitats; and access to the countryside. It describes how Government intends to improve the quality of life of people living in and using England's rural areas.

Given that improvement to quality of life is a longterm aspiration for organisations providing and delivering public services, the White Paper remains a desirable companion to and source of reference for sustainable community strategies.

These are now being developed and produced by local government and partner organisations through local strategic partnerships, in engagement with local communities, as part of Government's continuing policy approach to improving quality of life set out in its White Paper 2008, "Communities in control: real people real power" (DCLG, 2008).

## **Technical Studies Evidence Base for the Emerging Options**

### **Appendix A to Evidence Base: Chronological Listing of Documents**

#### **2009**

Draft PPS4 – Consultation Paper on Planning for Sustainable Economic Development; DCLG, 2009  
[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/consultationeconomicdevelopment](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/consultationeconomicdevelopment)

Government Response to Taylor Review; DCLG, 2009  
[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/responsematthewtaylor](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/responsematthewtaylor)

Rural Proofing Toolkit; CRC/DEFRA; 2009  
[www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/files/rural%20proofing%20toolkit.pdf](http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/files/rural%20proofing%20toolkit.pdf)

Shropshire Council Report on Government response to Taylor; Shropshire Council, 2009  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/Committee.nsf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/Committee.nsf)

#### **2008**

Living, Working Countryside – The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing; DCLG, 2008  
[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside)

Rural Community Sustainability;  
Rural Community Sustainability – Thematic Chapter on Critical Rural Services; SQW Consulting, 2008  
[http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/Images/115701%20Rural%20Evidence%20for%20website%2016%2012%2008\\_tcm9-16581.pdf](http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/Images/115701%20Rural%20Evidence%20for%20website%2016%2012%2008_tcm9-16581.pdf)

Rural Pathfinder Report; DEFRA, 2008  
[www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruraldelivery/pathfinders/default.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruraldelivery/pathfinders/default.htm)

Rural Public Transport – Room for Improvement; CPRE, 2008  
[www.cprewm.org.uk/PR%20Rural%20Public%20Transport%2015.01.09.doc](http://www.cprewm.org.uk/PR%20Rural%20Public%20Transport%2015.01.09.doc)

State of the Countryside CRC National Report 2008; CRC, 2008  
[www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/files/The%20State%20of%20the%20Countryside2.pdf](http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/files/The%20State%20of%20the%20Countryside2.pdf)

Thinking about Rural Transport; CRC, 2008  
<http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/publications/thinkingaboutruraltransportthecontributionoftransporttosustainablecommunities>

West Midlands Rural Evidence; AWM, 2008  
[http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/Images/115701%20Rural%20Evidence%20for%20website%2016%2012%2008\\_tcm9-16581.pdf](http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/Images/115701%20Rural%20Evidence%20for%20website%2016%2012%2008_tcm9-16581.pdf)

## **2007**

Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities – A New Agenda; CRC, 2007  
[www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/publications/crc45planningforsustainablecommunitytiesanewagenda](http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/publications/crc45planningforsustainablecommunitytiesanewagenda)

SPARSE summary of CRC State of the Countryside Report; SPARSE, 2007  
[www.sparse.gov.uk](http://www.sparse.gov.uk)  
[www.rsnonline.org.uk](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk)

West Midlands Economic Strategy; AWM, 2007  
[www.advantagewm.co.uk/Images/WMES\\_tcm9-9538.pdf](http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/Images/WMES_tcm9-9538.pdf)

## **2006**

Rural Services Scoping Study; Roger Tym and Partners, 2006  
[http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning\\_and\\_Regional\\_Spatial\\_Strategy/Technical\\_Work.aspx](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning_and_Regional_Spatial_Strategy/Technical_Work.aspx)

West Midlands Rural Delivery Framework; Rural Accord, 2006  
[www.ruralnetworkwm.org.uk/wmra/framework.aspx](http://www.ruralnetworkwm.org.uk/wmra/framework.aspx)

## **2005**

Evaluation of Rural Transport Programme in the West Midlands, Ecotec, 2005  
[www.ruralnetworkwm.org.uk/documents/wmraf/wmraf16\\_6.pdf](http://www.ruralnetworkwm.org.uk/documents/wmraf/wmraf16_6.pdf)

Future of Rural Services to 2015; University of Gloucester, 2005  
[www.ilsu.ie/documents/Conf05/Presentations/MMoseleyPres.ppt](http://www.ilsu.ie/documents/Conf05/Presentations/MMoseleyPres.ppt)

Rural Renaissance Framework and Action Plan; AWM, 2005  
[www.advantagewm.co.uk/Images/Rural%20renaissance%20framework\\_tcm9-6050.pdf](http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/Images/Rural%20renaissance%20framework_tcm9-6050.pdf)

## **2004**

PPS7 – “Sustainable Development in Rural Areas”; DCLG, 2004.  
[www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planning/planningcountryside/pps7](http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planning/planningcountryside/pps7)

Regional Social Enterprise Strategy, Social Enterprise West Midlands, 2004  
[www.socialenterprisewm.org.uk/Images/SEWM%20Research%20Strategy%20v3\\_tcm19-12284.pdf](http://www.socialenterprisewm.org.uk/Images/SEWM%20Research%20Strategy%20v3_tcm19-12284.pdf)

Rural Strategy 2004; DEFRA, 2004  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/strategy/default.htm>

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy 2004; WMRA, 2004  
[www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning\\_and\\_Regional\\_Spatial\\_Strategy/Regional\\_Spatial\\_Strategy/Regional\\_Spatial\\_Strategy](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning_and_Regional_Spatial_Strategy/Regional_Spatial_Strategy/Regional_Spatial_Strategy)

## **2000**

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**Key to Abbreviations in Appendix A**

AWM	Advantage West Midlands
BERR	Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Cm	Command Paper
CRC	Commission for Rural Communities
CPRE	Council for the Protection of Rural England
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SPARSE	Sparsity Partnership for Authorities Delivering Rural Services
WMRA	West Midlands Regional Assembly

This document forms part of a suite of material:

- 1 RSS Phase Three - Options Consultation Document
- 2 Rural Renaissance - Critical Rural Services** Background Paper
- 3 Communities for the Future - Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Background Paper
- 4 Culture, Sport and Tourism Background Paper
- 5 Quality of the Environment Background Paper
- 6 Minerals Background Paper

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