

1 Introduction

The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) is being reviewed in 3 phases with the scale and distribution of housing being a key part of the Phase 2 review. As the consultation on the phase 2 options is now complete the Regional Assembly will be developing the preferred option for housing allocations. All the options in the consultation document proposed an increase in housing allocations over current RSS levels. A significant increase in new development will require careful planning to ensure the environment is protected and that environmental infrastructure is in place to meet the needs of new residents.

This report provides a first review of the degree to which Infrastructure might represent a constraint to the achievement of the RSS housing projections. The emphasis of the report is the identification of showstoppers and serious constraints in order to enable the selection of a preferred Option.

Contents of the Report

Following this introduction, Section 2 explains the Methodology adopted. The subsequent sections consider the following four broad groupings of Infrastructure although, as discussed, the report has focused substantially on areas which have emerged as potential constraints.

- Utility – water, electricity etc
- Impact – environment, land etc
- Amenity – facilities etc
- Resource – plant and material etc

Limitations of the Report

This report was based upon a desk-top review of available data undertaken in order to support RSS development. No detailed assessment of the veracity of any data obtained has been undertaken. Similarly, no assessment of the feasibility of any possible improvements has been undertaken.

Whilst the report seeks to make best use of the available data, further detailed studies will be required within each sector and each area to support RSS development and implementation.

Mapping

Figures 1.1 and 1.2 provide initial context for the report detail that follows. Figure 1.1 presents the spatial strategy for the West Midlands, indicating the major roads and urban areas, together with the sub regional foci. Figure 1.2 illustrates the potential housing distribution of new dwellings between 2001 and 2026 as set out in Option 2. The infrastructure implications examined in this report are based on the assumptions presented in Option 2.

Figure 1.1: Spatial Strategy Contextual Map

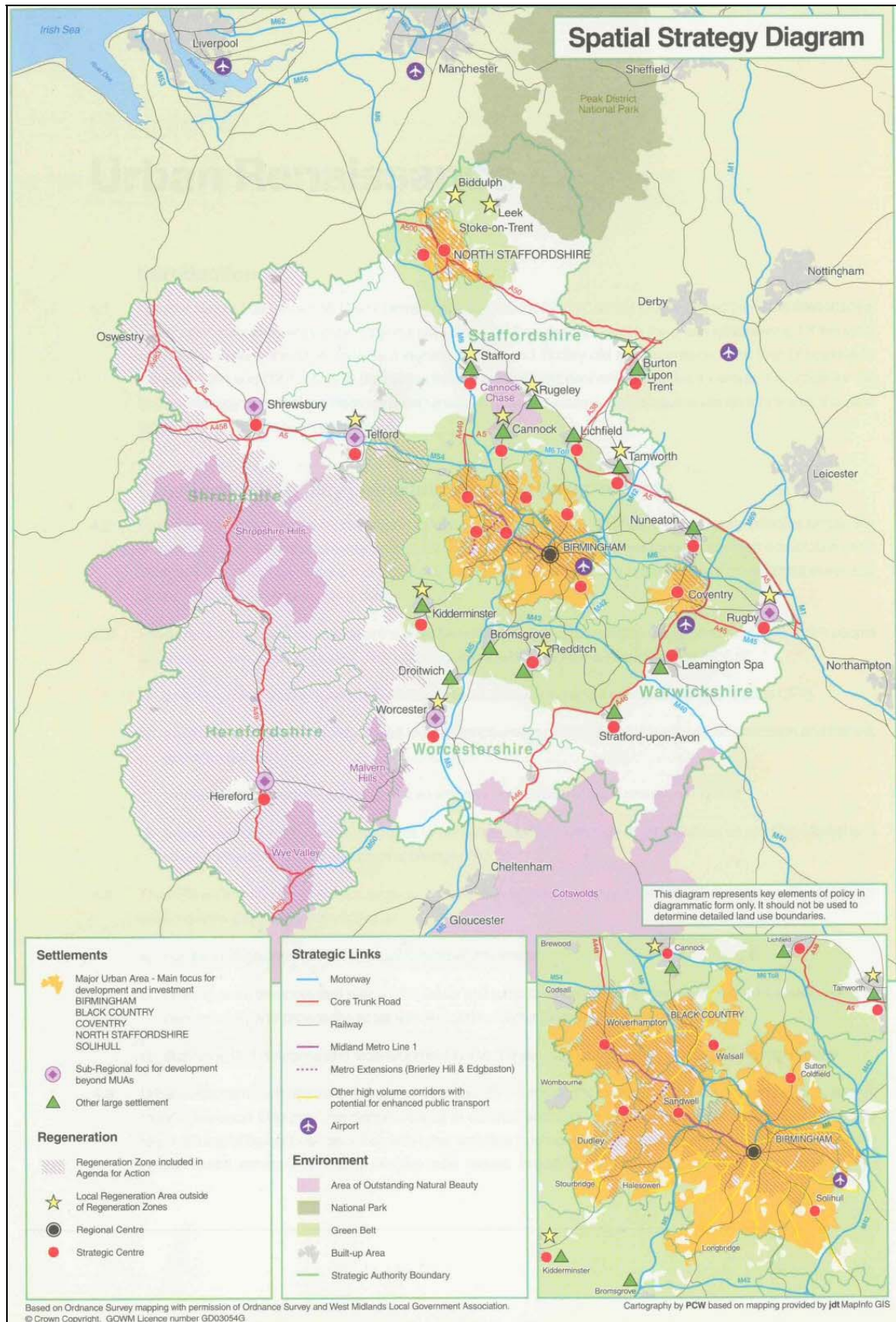


Figure 1.2: Potential Housing Distribution: Option 2 Dwellings 2001-2026

