

To Heads of Planning in the West Midlands
Members of RSS Coordination Group

30th March 2010

Dear regional colleague,

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision

In view of the winding up of the Regional Assembly on 31st March 2010, I thought it would be helpful to write to you to set out the current position in respect of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) Phase Two Revision. This follows on from discussions with the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM), involving officers from both the Assembly and Advantage West Midlands (AWM).

The current position regarding the Phase Two Revision is set out in the letter from Lord McKenzie to Councillor David Smith of 12th March 2010 (attached) which was considered and noted by the Assembly Board on 17th March 2010.

You may also be aware that GOWM has given particular advice to Lichfield District Council in relation to their Core Strategy work and the position regarding the WMRSS. I understand that the letter was copied to all local planning authorities in the Region.

I would advise that any local authority which is seeking clarity in respect of the progression of Core Strategies in the light of the WMRSS Phase Two position to seek early advice from Mike Price or Ian Smith at GOWM. Colleagues at GOWM are aware that we are advising all planning authorities to that effect.

Yours sincerely,



John Pattinson
Head of Regional Planning

Cc Ian Smith & Victoria Meikle, GOWM
Samantha Holder & Kazi Hussain, AWM

Appendix – Letter from Lord McKenzie to Councillor David Smith of 12th March 2010



Councillor David Smith
West Midlands Regional Assembly
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Lord McKenzie of Luton
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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12/03/2010

Dear Cllr Smith,

**WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY PHASE TWO REVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE'S PROPOSED CHANGES**

I am writing to advise you that following detailed consideration of the RSS process to date we need to complete further work before we can publish the Secretary of State's (SoS's) Proposed Changes.

The partial revision approach to the West Midlands RSS complicates the consideration of what is required, but we have concluded that in this case to ensure we are compliant with the relevant Directives we need to examine further alternatives before we can promote the SoS's Proposed Changes. We are therefore commissioning further work which will consider potential alternatives for the policies which have been amended in any way through the Phase 2 revision process.

Clearly this is a significant piece of work which may influence the nature of the Proposed Changes. We will progress it as quickly as possible and hope to be in a position to publish the SoS's Proposed Changes for consultation by July. A statement on the outcome of our consideration of the proposal for an eco-town at Middle Quinton, which has been considered alongside the work on the SoS's proposed changes, will be made at the same time.

This letter is being copied to all of the Region's Local Authorities, MP's, MEP's and all those who took part in the Public Examination.

BILL MCKENZIE