

NEWS BRIEFING

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Examination in Public into Regional Spatial Strategy

The independent Panel Secretary has today published details of the two preliminary sessions that will be held next week in advance of April's Examination in Public into the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy, Phase Two Revisions.

The first preliminary meeting will be held on Tuesday 27 January, starting at 11:00 am at the Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton. At this session, the Independent Panel appointed by the Secretary of State will set out how the Panel intends to conduct the Examination in Public which is due to run from 28 April until late June. The Panel will at the same time invite comments on their draft list of participants and of the matters which they wish to debate, including housing and communities, employment land, transport and the level of growth for the region.

On the following day, (Wednesday 28 January), the Panel will hold a housing seminar. This is intended to explore the evidence base underlying the housing numbers for the region proposed by the West Midlands Regional Assembly, and the alternatives to those numbers put forward by others. This seminar will commence at 9:30 am, also at the Molineux Stadium, Wolverhampton.

Both documents have now been posted on the EiP Panel's website: www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/west_midlands_phase_two/index.htm

ENDS

For further information or to arrange a briefing please contact Jo Kite, Head of Communications on 0121 678 1044

Notes to Editors

1) The West Midlands Regional Assembly is the Regional Planning Body and has such has responsibility for developing the Regional Spatial Strategy.

2) The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy was launched in June 2004 and sets out the long term (to 2026 and beyond) planning and land use framework to guide regional strategies and public and private investment and provides the context for more detailed local development plans. At the time of publication the Secretary of State identified a series of issues which required further development and this is taking place in three phases.

3) The Consultation into the Phase Two Revision, which looks at how many new houses should be built and where, what improvements are required to the Region's transport networks, the management of waste, where new employment opportunities should be created and how the Region's city and town centres should grow, closed on 8th December 2008.