

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase One Revision – The Black Country

Consultation on the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the draft Phase One revision submitted by the West Midlands Regional Assembly

It is very helpful to us if you use this form to make your comments and if possible e-mail it to us RSS.Team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk . Completed forms received by post will also be accepted. Deadline for receipt of completed forms is **5.00pm on 9 November 2007**.

Please complete a separate copy of the form for each matter that you wish to comment on, showing each time which policy or paragraph of the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes you are commenting on.

Additional copies of the form can be downloaded from the Government Office for the West Midlands web site at <http://www.go-wm.gov.uk> or requested from:

Regional Spatial Strategy Team
Government Office for the West Midlands
5 St Philip's Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham B3 2PW

Tel: 0121 352 5476
E-mail: RSS.Team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that all comments will be made available for the public to read – they cannot be treated as confidential. However, please be assured, Government Office for the West Midlands will only use the contact details provided for the sole purpose of distributing appropriate information about this consultation.

Contact Details		
Title	Mr	Mr
First Name or initial	David	Piers
Surname	Thew	Waterston
Organisation	West Midlands Regional Assembly	Black Country Consortium
Address	Regional Partnership Centre Albert House, Quay Place 92 – 93 Edward Street Birmingham	The Deckhouse, Waterfront West Dudley Road Brierley Hill
Post Code	B1 2RA	DY5 1LW
E-mail address	d.thew@wmra.gov.uk	piers_waterston@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk

For GOWM use: Consultee reference

Comment reference

Telephone	0121 678 1041	01384 471114
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I am commenting as (please tick)			
A private individual		Local Authority of Parish Council	
Business representative group		Campaign Group	
Utility and emergency services		Statutory Body or Government Agency	X (WMRA)
Landowner, Developer or Agent		Voluntary / Community group	
Representative of a client		Other (please specify) – Sub Regional Partnership	X (BCC)
If you are commenting on behalf of a client, please add their name here			

Please indicate which Paragraph or Policy your comment relates to:			
Paragraph Number	9.93 – 9.97	Policy Number	N/A

Please use the section below to give your comments.

The one area where the Regional Assembly and the Black Country Consortium has more significant concerns relate to the deletion of the supporting text in the Transport Section. The Panel proposed that some additional wording was included in the Priorities for Investment section of the RSS. This text set out in some detail the transport strategy for the Black Country. In considering her Proposed Changes, the Secretary of State has now deleted this text as, in her view, it is repeated elsewhere. However, it is felt that it would be useful to include the following supportive text to provide a clear steer to the issues facing the Black Country.

"The key strategic objectives in identifying the transport priorities for the Black Country are to:

- (i) Enhance the accessibility of the four Strategic Centres and connectivity between them as key drivers of economic regeneration;***
- (ii) Enhance access to meet business needs in Centres and the Employment Land Investment Corridors, in particular the creation of high quality employment land;***
- (iii) Enhance the Black Country's connectivity with the National rail and motorway networks, particularly for freight;***
- (iv) Provide attractive and convenient public transport, walking and cycling links between existing and proposed areas for housing growth, Centres and Employment Land Investment***

Corridors; and.

(v) Ensure that the Black Country contributes positively to the National and Regional economies to overcome a £2.6bn productivity gap.

Policy T12 therefore identifies a number of specific transport priorities to deliver the regeneration and environmental transformation of the Black Country based on these priorities”.