

West Midlands Regional Assembly

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Black Country Consortium

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

30 October 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

CONSULTATION ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DRAFT PHASE ONE REVISION SUBMITTED BY THE WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT RESPONSE BY THE WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE BLACK COUNTRY CONSORTIUM

We refer to the above consultation which is taking place following the announcement by Baroness Andrews on the 10th September 2007. The Proposed Changes have been considered by the both the Regional Assembly and the Black Country Consortium, and it has been agreed that a joint response on behalf of both organisations should be presented as a response. In preparing a response, the views of various partners have been sought; however, you may also have separate representations from them to this consultation.

On behalf of the Regional Assembly, the Regional Planning Partnership endorsed this joint response at their meeting on the 22nd October 2007. Directors of the Consortium sanctioned the response at their meeting on the 25th October 2007.

The Secretary of State's Proposed Changes (West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase One Revision – the Black Country) are welcomed by the Regional Planning Body and the Black Country Consortium as a landmark in taking forward the urban renaissance of the Black Country, the largest Major Urban Area in the Region. The endorsement of the Panel Report, which supported the approach to urban renaissance with a strategy for future growth and competitiveness through transformation land use and transport restructuring, will contribute significantly to both the sustainability and the competitiveness of the Region while enhancing quality of life for over a million residents of the Black Country.



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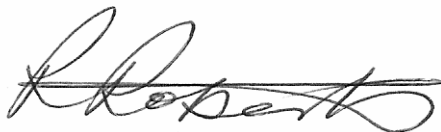
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As you will see from the attached response forms, there is support for most of the Proposed Changes that have been put forward. The exception is where the supporting text in the Transport Section has been deleted. In order to address concerns regarding the deletion of this text, we are suggesting revised text to provide a clear steer as to the transport issues facing the Black Country.

We trust the representations we are making will be duly considered by the Secretary of State prior to the publication of this particular Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Rex Roberts
Chairman - Regional Planning Partnership
West Midlands Regional Assembly



Councillor David Caunt
Chairman – Black Country Consortium

