

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy

Phase One Revision – The Black Country

Secretary of State's Proposed Changes

September 2007

Consultation Ends 9 November 2007

How to Respond

The Proposed Changes can be viewed and downloaded from the Government Office for the West Midlands website – www.go-wm.gov.uk . It will also be available for public inspection at local authority offices across the Region, and in main libraries, during normal opening hours.

Printed copies can also be obtained from the Regional Spatial Strategy Team, Government Office for the West Midlands, 5 St Philip's Place, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2PW.

Comments on the Proposed Changes should be submitted on the response form which can be downloaded from the Government Office website. We would prefer completed forms to be returned by e-mail but will accept any received by post.

Further information is available from the Regional Spatial Strategy Team on Tel 0121 352 5476 or by email at RSS@gowm.gsi.gov.uk.

The deadline for consultation responses on the Proposed Changes is 5pm on Friday, 9 November 2007.

Consultation Criteria

The Government has adopted a code of practice on consultations. The code applies to all UK national public consultations on the basis of a document in electronic or printed form and will often be relevant to other sorts of consultation.

The full consultation code may be viewed at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation/code/index.asp>

If you are concerned that the consultation has not followed the code of practice or have any other observations about ways of improving the consultation process please contact:

Albert Joyce,
Communities and Local Government Consultation Co-ordinator,
Zone 6/H10, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU:
or by e-mail to: albert.joyce@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that responses to the consultation itself should be sent to the Government Office for the West Midlands at the address above.

Introduction

The text below is reproduced from the Panel's recommendations.

Where the SoS is proposing to amend the Panel's recommendation the original text is shown as ~~strikethrough~~, whilst any amendment/insertion is underlined. A comment box provides the reasons for the change from the Panel's recommendation.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation the policies and text below will be integrated into a full reprint of the RSS when the final revision is issued.

Given the limited extent of changes between the submitted revision and the Proposed Changes it is considered that no update to the Sustainability Appraisal is necessary.

However, the Proposed Changes have been prepared with an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive and the Reports are available for comments at www.go-wm.gov.uk.

Panel Recommendations

Chapter 2: Towards a More Sustainable Region

A new section and policy are proposed after paragraph 2.16 of RPG 11:

Climate Change and the Black Country

2.16A Planning policies have a major role to play in tackling climate change, including achieving the national objective to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010 and by 60% from 1990 levels by 2050. Whilst such policies apply across the Region as a whole, the scale of change and development in the Black Country which is necessary to meet the objectives of both economic and environmental transformation, and the area's unique environmental character, justify a policy for the Black Country alone to direct the more detailed plans and policies which are to guide that change. ~~CC1 sub-paragraph A is based on Government targets.~~

Policy CC1: Climate Change

The ~~Black Country~~ Joint Core Strategy, the Area Action Plan for Brierley Hill and other LDDs for the Black Country should:

- ~~A. Include policies to help reduce the Black Country's carbon dioxide emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010, and by 60% from 1990 levels by 2050.~~
- B. Exploit opportunities to both mitigate and adapt to the worst impacts of climate change by:**
 - (i) developing and using renewable energy;
 - (ii) reducing the need to travel; and
 - (iii) reducing the amount of biodegradable waste

going to landfill;

C. Enhance and extend natural habitats so that the opportunities for species migration are not precluded and biodiversity can adapt to climate change and hence help to mitigate its affects by reducing 'heat islands', acting as carbon 'sinks', absorbing flood water and providing renewable energy; and

D. Require all new development to:

- (i) minimise resource demand and encourage the efficient use of resources, especially water, energy and materials;
- (ii) encourage the construction of climate-proofed developments and sustainable buildings to help ensure their long-term viability in adapting to climate change;
- (iii) avoid development in flood zones and promote the use of sustainable drainage techniques;
- (iv) facilitate walking, cycling and public transport;
- (v) facilitate effective waste management; and
- (vi) protect, conserve, manage and enhance environmental and natural and built heritage assets;

E. Regularly monitor progress and review policies accordingly.

Reason: Not appropriate to include national targets in regional policy.

Chapter 3: The Spatial Strategy for the Development of the West Midlands

A new section is proposed after paragraph 3.14 of RPG 11:

Objectives for the Black Country

3.14A ~~The following four strategic objectives have been identified for the Black Country. They provide~~ In addition, given the importance of the regeneration of the Black Country to the RSS, the following objectives provide the context for the Black Country policies in Chapters 4, 7, 8 & 9.

- 1) to reverse out-migration
 - Accommodating within the Black Country all of the generated household growth from 2011
 - Meeting at least the levels of housing provision identified in Policy CF3 table 1;
- 2) to raise income levels

- Raising demand and household incomes (average earnings, GDP per head and reducing unemployment) to the UK average by 2033;
- 3) to create an inclusive and cohesive society within the Black Country
 - Removing barriers to opportunity
 - Changing the socio economic mix by increasing the proportion of social grades A and B to match the national profile by 2033 or earlier;
 - 4) to transform the Black Country Environment
 - Protecting and enhancing the sub-region's environmental and heritage assets and biodiversity
 - Implementing the Black Country as Urban Park concept.

Reason: To emphasise these are additional objectives for the sub-region.

Chapter 4: Urban Renaissance

A new section and policies are proposed after paragraph 4.6 of RPG 11:

Implementing Urban Renaissance in the Black Country

- 4.6A As a major urban area which is home to more than 1 million people and 500,000 jobs, the renewal and regeneration of the Black Country is critical to the delivery of the Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands. Extensive work undertaken through the Black Country Study has highlighted a number of regeneration priorities which must be addressed. The following policies provide a sub-regional focus for Urban Renaissance in the Black Country.
- 4.6B Sustainable urban renaissance in the Black Country depends on securing carefully balanced growth in housing, centres and the local economy. Housing and employment land capacity studies have been undertaken for the Black Country. The studies conclude that in order to achieve RSS housing figures to 2021, significant amounts of land currently (or last) in use for employment purposes or allocated for such uses, will need to be developed for housing. The Black Country Study provides a framework for the delivery of housing growth in Centres and Corridors. However, in order to ensure that an adequate supply of good quality employment land is maintained in the Black Country, the release of former employment sites for housing will ~~need to be carefully managed~~ only be considered where sufficient employment land of appropriate type and quality remains (in accordance with PA6). The process will also require management to ensure the co-ordinated provision of appropriate services, transport infrastructure and environmental enhancement to ensure sustainable quality of life.

Reason: Clarification of 'careful management'.

- 4.6C The growth corridors, ~~which will be defined in the Joint Core Strategy,~~¹ will be based on ~~existing and future~~² public transport routes, and parts of the sub-region's canal network. The corridors will include those connecting the strategic centres with each other, and the sub-region to Birmingham city

centre. There will also be opportunities for growth in corridors which link the network of local centres in the Black Country. They should contain the areas where the need for new employment sites in accessible locations can be met, where new housing can be accommodated, and where significant environmental renewal is most needed. ~~They will also contain areas of significant housing market stress. Some corridors will offer the opportunity to combine proposed areas for housing growth with the priority corridors for employment land investment.~~³

Reason¹: Duplication of policy.

Reason²: Clarity.

Reason³: Duplication of messages.

4.6D Implementation of the regeneration priorities will involve a range of existing delivery mechanisms and partnerships and complementary strategies. It will be important that the Black Country Local Authorities and their partners, including Advantage West Midlands and the Regeneration Companies, use their powers and resources and are enabled to bring forward land and infrastructure and secure the transformation sought for the Black Country, working closely with local communities (UR4).

Policy UR1A: Black Country Regeneration Priorities

- (i) In the Black Country the primary focus for regeneration activity, development and investment will be the four strategic centres and growth corridors illustrated broadly defined¹ on the key revised spatial strategy² diagram. The centres and corridors will be defined in the Black Country Joint Core Strategy and local development documents.
- (ii) Development and environmental enhancement should also be planned for and encouraged in other locations across the Black Country which:
 - support the network of local centres and communities;
 - take advantage of the availability of suitable sites; and
 - which are accessible by public transport.

Reason¹: To ensure it is clear the diagram is only indicative.

Reason²: Clarity.

4.6E The Black Country has historically lacked a portfolio of good quality employment land. It is a priority to ensure that new, high quality sites are delivered focused on key Employment Land Investment Corridors which will be defined in the Joint Core Strategy. Local authorities should work with

Advantage West Midlands in ensuring the delivery of new employment sites in the context of the Regeneration Zones.

- 4.6F The Black Country water catchment areas feed into designated conservation sites, including those in the Severn Estuary. There are concerns about water abstractions and discharges negatively affecting the Severn Estuary sites. When they are available the Habitats Directive reviews currently being completed should be taken into account in the development of water cycle strategies for Black Country development proposals.

Reason: To ensure protection of nature conservation sites.

Policy UR1B: Housing and Employment Land

- (i) Within the growth corridors the Black Country Joint Core Strategy and Local Development Documents will define the Employment Land Investment Corridors shown on the key revised spatial strategy¹ diagram.
- (ii) Within the growth corridors and the Employment Land Investment Corridors, local authorities through the Joint Core Strategy and LDDs will:
 - identify and protect those sites most suitable for employment purposes to ensure the provision of sub-regional employment sites (10ha - 20 ha) and a portfolio of employment land,
 - identify sites, including through the transfer of employment land, for housing and mixed uses to ensure that the housing requirements in policy CF3 are met,
 - work towards the balanced development of both uses, and
 - produce water cycle strategies to ensure the quantity and quality of surface and ground water produced by developments does not exceed the capacity of supply and treatment infrastructure².

Reason¹: Clarity.

Reason²: To ensure protection of nature conservation sites.

- 4.6G The four strategic centres will be the main locations for major office (B1(a)) development, particularly for schemes exceeding 5,000m². All four centres have both potential and capacity to absorb an equal proportion of proposed growth. In LDDs sites will be identified in each of the four strategic centres to accommodate up to 186,000m² of office development to 2021. This figure should be regarded as indicative and will be subject to review in the light of

monitoring of the actual level of development and progress in implementing the Joint Core Strategy.

Policy UR1C: Strategic Office Development in the Black Country

Growth totalling up to 845,000m² gross of B1(a) office floorspace (including commitments) will be provided in the Black Country in the period 2004 to 2021. Of this total, growth of up to 745,000m² is to be planned for in the four strategic centres of Walsall, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton and Brierley Hill.

- 4.6H The Spatial Strategy seeks to focus the majority of further comparison retail investment within the four strategic centres as catalysts for regeneration. The strategy however also seeks to maintain the vitality and viability of other non-strategic centres in the sub-region. The apportionment of the additional comparison retail floorspace in the four strategic centres and the non-strategic centres over the period 2004 to 2021 is indicated in policy UR1D. These figures should be reviewed in the Phase 2 revision of this RSS to ensure they are consistent with those for other centres across the region.

Reason: Panel recommendations 7.2 and 7.3.

Policy UR1D: Retail Floorspace

In the period 2004 - 2021 local authorities will plan for growth in comparison retail floorspace of 236,000m² gross including commitments:

- ~~(i) 185,000m² gross in the four strategic centres shown on the key diagram; and~~
- ~~(ii) 51,000m² gross in non-strategic centres.~~

~~Within the strategic centres the distribution will be:~~

Wolverhampton	54,000m ²
Brierley Hill	51,000m ²
Walsall	45,000m ²
West Bromwich	35,000m ²
<u>Non-strategic centres</u>	<u>51,000m²</u>

Reason: Duplication.

Chapter 7: Prosperity for All

A change is proposed to Policy PA10 in RPG 11:

Policy PA10: Tourism and Culture

Add after 'Black Country Heritage Attractions':

'in particular Dudley Town Centre and its surroundings.'

A change is proposed to Policy PA11 in RPG 11:

Policy PA11: The Network of Town and City Centres.

A. Delete 'Dudley'

Insert 'Brierley Hill'.

Existing paragraph 7.64 replaced:

Strategic Centres in the Black Country

7.64 Growth will be planned in the four strategic centres in the Black Country leading to the development of a balanced network of centres. Their success will play a pivotal role in the sustainable growth of the sub-region. The designation of Brierley Hill as a strategic town centre in place of Dudley will provide a fourth major centre in the Black Country together with the centres of Walsall, Wolverhampton and West Bromwich. The Area Action Plan for Brierley Hill ~~should aim to~~ must integrate the existing elements of Brierley Hill High Street, the Waterfront commercial complex and the regional shopping centre at Merry Hill, and ensure that growth in main town centre uses at Brierley Hill is managed carefully to enable it to play an important role in the sustainable regeneration of the sub-region.

Reason: To stress the importance of the AAP in providing the framework for integration.

New policies and paragraphs are proposed, after the new paragraph 7.64:

Policy PA11A: Brierley Hill and Dudley

A new strategic town centre is designated at Brierley Hill, to include Brierley Hill High Street, the commercial centre at the Waterfront and Merry Hill shopping centre. The new town centre will play an important role in the regeneration of the Black Country and will develop as part of a balanced network of four strategic town and city centres in the sub-region with the centres of Walsall, Wolverhampton and West Bromwich.

Development at the new Brierley Hill will be guided by an Area Action Plan for the whole area, to be prepared in parallel with the Black Country Joint Core Strategy. The Area

Action Plan will define the extent of the centre, to combine the three elements of the High Street, Waterfront and Merry Hill, and will provide a clear framework for phased development and regeneration to create a sustainable town centre. It will provide for mixed use development, including residential and employment uses, public transport and improved accessibility to and within the centre. The Area Action Plan will define a northern limit to development south of the SSSI surrounding the SAC Fens Pool to ensure supporting habitats outside the site are not compromised.¹

Retail development at the new Brierley Hill within the allocation of 51,000m² gross* in the period 2004 to 2021 will be carefully controlled so that no new comparison retail floorspace is brought into operation until all the following conditions are met:

- a) adoption by the Local Planning Authority of the Area Action Plan for Brierley Hill; and
- b) implementation of improvements to public transport, including completion of initiatives of equivalent quality and attractiveness to the proposed² Metro extension from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill (~~or other measures of equivalent effectiveness~~), and improvements to bus services connecting the centre with other locations in the Black Country and beyond, and other measures to improve accessibility to and circulation within the centre by non-car modes; and
- c) introduction of a car parking management regime including the use of parking charges compatible with those in the region's network of major centres.

Once these conditions have been met any further retail development at the new Brierley Hill strategic town centre will be subject to review and assessment of the progress of the strategy for regeneration and balanced growth ~~in the light of monitoring of the Joint Core Strategy.~~³

Dudley will continue to perform an important role as a non-strategic town centre in the Black Country. Its future renaissance will be founded upon the town's unique tourism and cultural assets and major residential development as well as retail and other uses appropriate to a non-strategic centre.⁴

* Subject to revision as a result of the RSS Phase Two Revision.

Reason¹: To ensure development at Brierley Hill does not impact on the Fens Pool SAC.

Reason²: Clarification of original wording to reflect the current status of the proposals for Metro extensions.

Reason³: To remove any potential confusion as monitoring will be at all levels.

Reason⁴: Panel recommended separate policy PA11B, considered this gives too much weight to a non-strategic centre.

7.64A Policy T12 as revised identifies the ~~national and regional~~ importance of the proposals for extension of the Metro network to the area's renaissance. This includes the proposed¹ extension of the Metro to Brierley Hill. Its importance is endorsed by commitment of private sector investment to delivery of this scheme. ~~Should early implementation of this scheme be subsequently prejudiced, public transport initiatives of equivalent quality and attractiveness will be needed to achieve compliance with the policy. Apart from the Metro extension from Wednesbury, f~~² Further improvements to transport links to other destinations will be needed to effect a significant increase in the proportion of journeys made to ~~the new~~³ Brierley Hill by non-car modes. Such public transport initiatives would need to take account of bus quality contracts / franchising arrangements.

Reason¹: Clarification of original wording to reflect the current status of proposals for Metro extensions.

Reason²: Covered by policy amendment above

Reason³: Clarity

7.64B Policies PA11 and PA11A recognise the reality of the importance of Brierley Hill, and the potential it has to contribute to the regeneration of the sub-region. However, its circumstances are exceptional and future retail growth at Merry Hill needs to be strictly controlled in order to ensure that Brierley Hill as a whole evolves as a sustainable town centre. Policy PA11A sets out the conditions that will need to be satisfied before additional comparison retail floorspace comes into operation at the centre. Thereafter any further retail expansion there will be managed in accordance with PPS 6 and will be subject to monitoring and review ~~jointly by the four Black Country authorities~~ of the impact and effectiveness of policies for the growth of the four strategic centres and the role they play in the economic regeneration of the sub-region. This will include assessment of the overall need in the Black Country and the region for additional floorspace, especially for comparison retail, leisure and office development, and, having regard to the capacity and accessibility of the strategic centres, identification of where this need would best be met. Further comparison retail growth will depend, among other things, on the extent to which the adopted Joint Core Strategy for the Black Country and Area Action Plan for Brierley Hill are being implemented.

Reason: Monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with PPS6 to inform RSS

and LDF revisions.

~~7.64C The removal of Dudley from the network of strategic town centres listed in policy PA11 will mean that its future role will be as one of the network of non-strategic town centres in the Black Country. Advantage should be taken of this revised status to develop the town's unique opportunities as a key contributor to the Black Country's tourism role and an important focus for quality housing as outlined in Policy PA11B. All future development should seek to maintain and enhance the existing general character of the centre as well as enhancing its town centre functions and bringing the benefits of regeneration to local communities.~~

Reason: Duplication with policy.

~~Policy PA11B: Dudley~~

~~Dudley will continue to perform an important role as a non-strategic town centre in the Black Country. Its future renaissance will be founded upon the town's unique tourism and cultural assets and major residential development as well as retail and other uses appropriate to a non-strategic centre.~~

Reason: Panel recommended separate policy PA11B. Considered this gives too much weight to a non-strategic centre. Text incorporated in to Policy PA11A.

Chapter 8: Quality of the Environment

~~A new paragraph is proposed after paragraph 8.30 of RPG 11:~~

~~8.30A There will be a need to consider the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive and whether the policies for growth in the Black Country would result in proposals likely to have a 'significant effect' on any site of European conservation importance. There are two such sites in or close to the Black Country that could potentially be affected: Fens Pool SAC and Cannock Extension Canal SAC. Development that would be likely to have a significant effect on these SACs, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, will be subject to assessment under the Habitat Regulations at the project stage.~~

Reason: This is not an acceptable approach. Appropriate Assessment cannot be delegated to lower level plans – this has now been completed.

A new section and policy are proposed after paragraph 8.46 of RPG 11:

Transforming the Environment of the Black Country

8.46A Of central importance to the achievement of urban renaissance in the Black Country is the objective of transforming the environment. The general poor quality of the living and working environment has been a factor influencing the scale of net out-migration and low levels of investment. The environmental and heritage assets of the Black Country provide a foundation to work towards a step change in environmental quality, and the aim of making the Black

Country as a whole a more attractive place within which to live, work and invest will be reflected in the Joint Core Strategy and LDDs (QE1-9).

- 8.46B A key component in the process of improving the quality of the environment will be to give physical expression to the concept of the 'Black Country as Urban Park'. The Black Country local authorities will work on a Landscape Action Plan and measures to identify and implement a network of key landscape corridors for enhancement, informed by the approach set out in the Black Country Study, including proposals for waterways and canals, a network of open spaces, biodiversity enhancement areas, wildlife corridors and accessible natural greenspace, and the creation of new greenspace and water assets to connect the Black Country towns and communities with each other and to surrounding countryside via walkways and cycleways. Further work will promote vistas, gateways and heritage assets and combine landscape improvement with sustainable management of drainage in the Stour and Tame River basins.
- 8.46C The Landscape Action Plan will interact with, and support, the promotion of World Heritage Status for the Black Country Canal Network and its environs and the promotion of an integrated tourism offer in the Black Country focused on Dudley Town Centre and its surroundings. It will examine opportunities to integrate the two Biodiversity Enhancement Areas identified in RSS within the Black Country. Efforts will be made to integrate the development and implementation of Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plans with increasing accessibility to natural greenspace, developing opportunities for environmental / ecological tourism and promoting healthy lifestyles and education (QE1 - QE9, TA3).

Policy QE10: Transforming the Environment of the Black Country

Local Authorities and others will plan for the transformation of the environment by:

- (i) giving physical expression to the concept of the 'Black Country as Urban Park' through identification of Beacons, Corridors and Communities;
- (ii) preparing and implementing a joint Black Country Landscape Action Plan based on a the West Midlands¹ Green Infrastructure approach to define and deliver an integrated network of open spaces, waterways and canals; to protect and enhance topographical, biodiversity and heritage features; and to promote walking and cycling;
- (iii) ~~preparing a Canal Management Plan to~~² supporting the promotion of World Heritage Status for the Black Country Canal Network and its environs;
- (iv) ensuring appropriate policies are included in the Joint Core Strategy to facilitate the above.³

Reason¹: To reference the concept to a specific regional approach.

Reason²: The Landscape Action Plan should fully embrace canal issues.

Reason³: To ensure the planning framework facilitates the Urban Park.

Chapter 9: Transport and Accessibility

A new Policy, Update to T12A¹, is proposed:

Policy T12A²: Priorities for Investment

Scheme	Key Policy Links	Status as of May 2006	Delivery Mechanism	Key Delivery Role	Support delivery	Implementation period
Metro extension Wednesbury to Brierley Hill	UR1A, T5, UR2, PA11 A	UI ³ € Business case to be presented to Government	TiF/LTP	Centro	LA, Operators	2010-2015
Further Metro extensions in the Black Country and Birmingham	UR1A, T5, UR2	UI ³ TWA orders to be obtained	TiF/LTP	Centro	LA, Operators	2010
M5 Junc 1-2 improvements	UR1A,	PI	HA	LA/HA		2010-2021
M6 Junc 9-10 improvements	UR1A	PI	HA	LA/HA		2010-2021
Active Traffic Management for M5/M6/M42 motorway box	UR1A	PI	HA	HA		2010-2021
Improved transport networks to facilitate access to centres of Walsall, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, and Brierley Hill	UR1A	UI	LTP	LA	LA	2011-2031
Improved transport networks to facilitate improved access to The four Employment Land Investment Corridors; Black Country North, Central, East and West	UR1A	UI	LTP	LA	LA	2011-2031

Status

C (committed) schemes approved for the SoS and included in the relevant programme

FA (further appraisal work needed) schemes identified in a MMS or the strategic plan but requiring further appraisal work

UI (under investigation) appraisal work is underway

PI (proposed for investigation) schemes or studies required to deliver the spatial strategy, but not yet clearly defined.

TiF - Transport Innovation Fund

LTP – Local Transport Plan

Organisations

HA Highways Agency

LA Local Transport Authorities

Reason¹: Policy T12 updated, not necessary to add a new policy.

Reason²: New/revised rows to be added to T12.

Reason³: Further appraisal required for Metro as part of TiF bid.

~~A new section is proposed after paragraph 9.92 of RPG 11:~~

~~Transport and accessibility in the Black Country~~

~~9.93 A series of strategic imperatives is important to guide the overall identification of network priorities in the Black Country. These are:~~

- ~~• To contribute positively to a change in travel behaviour throughout the sub-region, with a shift away from continued growth in car use towards greater use of public transport, walking and cycling, including assessment of the implications of demand management;~~
- ~~• To plan for no increase in congestion, maximising the use of existing road space and to improve radically public transport;~~
- ~~• To test feasibility and sustainability for providing new access routes for freight into the Black Country;~~
- ~~• To safeguard and develop a high volume public transport network to connect the four strategic centres, and connectivity to Birmingham and beyond;~~
- ~~• To allocate and reallocate the space required for high volume networks;~~
- ~~• To safeguard and develop the heavy rail network, consolidating existing passenger and freight routes and exploring the potential for new and re-opened lines; and~~
- ~~• To encourage the development of walking and cycling as an integral part of the transport system both on the highway network and on dedicated paths.~~

~~9.94 Policy T12A expands upon the transport investment priorities identified in Policy T12 as they relate to the Black Country. The strategy set out in the Phase One Revision will bring new people and jobs into the Black Country which will generate new trips. Those trips, and a higher proportion of those already made in the sub-region, need to be captured for public transport as part of the regeneration and environmental transformation of the Black Country. Therefore an integrated high quality, reliable public transport network is at the core of the transport strategy. This will consist of:~~

- An extended Metro network, with the link between Wednesbury and Brierley Hill as the first priority; this will be followed by further extensions linking the four strategic centres and other key destinations;
- The heavy rail network, with capacity and opportunities to develop safeguarded and actively pursued to improve the internal and external connectivity of the Black Country;
- An integrated high quality bus network with main routes linking the strategic centres and Employment Land Investment Corridors and local links to providing access to neighbourhoods.

Policy T12 includes the Metro extensions as national and regional priorities, while the sub-regional priorities for improving access to the four strategic town centres and the Employment Land Investment Corridors cover bus and rail improvements as part of integrated packages. Proposed measures under these priorities are set out in the West Midlands Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 and, for 2011 to 2021 and beyond to 2031, in section D7 of the Black Country Study. They include programmes for achieving behavioural change, quality bus network and “bus showcase” projects and network management including red routes. Measures for demand management, walking and cycling are also included.

9.95 The other key theme for the transport strategy is accessibility, on which competitiveness and economic regeneration depend. At a strategic level this means not only improving access by all modes to the strategic centres and employment land investment corridors but also the external connectivity of the region through access to the national rail and motorway networks, particularly for freight. Major increases in capacity through new road building are not in prospect, so the emphasis is on reducing congestion and improving efficiency through selective improvements to the network and management measures. The national and regional priorities for the Black Country in T12A therefore include junction improvements to the M5 and M6 Motorways and active traffic management for the M5 / M6 / M42 motorway box. Other management and improvement measures are included in the sub-regional priorities for improved transport networks, developed in more detail in the Black Country Study.

9.96 The Government is leading a national debate about the role of demand management. The implications of any such approach will have to be considered for the Black Country. The West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities have been successful in a bid to undertake a management feasibility study within the framework of the Transport Innovation Fund. The West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities which includes the Black Country Authorities will consider carefully the results of feasibility work and the implications for the West Midlands economy.

9.97 Key drivers in identifying priority network improvements have been:

- To enhance public transport and walking and cycling access to the four strategic centres and connectivity between them;
- To enhance access to meet business needs in Centres and the Employment Land Investment Corridors in the Black Country;
- To provide attractive and convenient public transport links between existing and proposed areas for housing growth and Employment Land Investment Corridors.

- (iv) ~~To ensure that the Black Country contributes positively to the National and Regional economies to overcome a £2.6bn productivity gap.~~

Reason: The proposed paragraphs duplicate text and policies elsewhere.

Panel Recommendations not covered above

The remaining recommendations relevant to the RSS Revision are listed below, followed by the SoS's response, which is underlined.

R1.1 The West Midlands Regional Assembly and the four Black Country planning authorities should ensure that the Joint Core Strategy for the Black Country is prepared in accordance with the emerging RSS Phase Two Revision. Efforts should be made so that any significant changes to the Phase Two Revision made by the Secretary of State are fed directly into the Joint Core Strategy, without the need for a further review of the latter.

Agreed, but no action required in relation to this revision.

R1.4 Adapt Map 2 to form a key diagram conforming to the requirements of the relevant regulations and incorporating the material recommended in Chapters 3 and 4.

Revised diagrams attached

R2.1 Delete the proposed changes to RPG 11 policy CF3 Table 1 (Draft Phase One Revision, page 22) and Table 2 (Draft Phase One Revision, page 23).

R2.2 Delete paragraphs 6.17A to 6.17E.

R2.3 Delete paragraph (iii) of policy UR1A and paragraph 4.6D.

All agreed

R3.2 b. explains the distinctive purpose of Employment Land Investment Corridors based on paragraph (h) on page 18 of the Draft Phase One Revision; the way they have been defined; and their differences with the growth corridors.

Consider this is a detail for the Joint Core Strategy and no further detail is required in the RSS.

THE WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

This document seeks your views on changes the Government proposes to make to the draft revision submitted by the West Midlands Regional Assembly in 2006. If you would like it in large print or other formats or in a language other than English, we will do our best to help you. Please ring the Regional Spatial Strategy Team on 0121 352 5476 or email RSS.Team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk

ওয়েস্ট মিডল্যান্ডস রিজিওন্যাল স্প্যাশিয়াল স্ট্রেটেজি

2006 সালে ওয়েস্ট মিডল্যান্ডস রিজিওন্যাল এসেমবলি সরকারের কাছে যে খসড়া পরিকল্পনা দাখিল করেছিলেন সেটিতে সরকার কিছু পরিবর্তন আনার প্রস্তাব করছেন। এই মতামতপত্রের সরকারের এই প্রস্তাবগুলো সম্পর্কে আপনার মতামত জানতে চাওয়া হয়েছে। এটি মোটা হরফে, অন্য কোনো বোঝার যোগ্য নমুনায় (ফর্ম্যাটে) বা ইংরেজি ছাড়া অন্য কোনো ভাষায় চাইলে আমরা আপনাকে তা দিতে আশ্রয় চেষ্টা করবো। অনুগ্রহ করে রিজিওন্যাল স্প্যাশিয়াল স্ট্রেটেজি টিমকে 0121 352 5476 নাম্বারে ফোন করুন অথবা RSS.Team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk এড্রেসে ইমেইল করুন।

বেস্ট মিডল্যান্ডস রিজিওনাল স্পেটিয়াল স্ট্রেটেজি

বেস্ট মিডল্যান্ডস রিজিওনাল এসেমবলি দ্বারা বর্ষ 2006 মাসে মোডেলিং আবেদন ড্রাফট রিভিউ (সুধাইবা মুসদ্বা) মাসে গবর্নমেন্টে লে ইংরেজি সুখ্যা এ তে নানা পর আ দস্তাবেজ দ্বারা তমারা অধিগ্রহণ মাংগা মাংগা আবে এ. এই তমনে আ দস্তাবেজ মোতা চাপড্রামমা অথবা অন্য স্বরূপমা অথবা ইংলিশ সিবায়নী অন্য ড্রাফট আবেদন আবেদন ছাড়া, অমে তমনে মদেদ্রপ থবানা অমরাংথী অনতা অধা প্রথনো করা য়। আ মাটে 0121 352 5476 নম্বর পর রিজিওনাল স্পেটিয়াল স্ট্রেটেজি টীমনে ধোন করা অথবা RSS.Team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk পর ই-মেইল করা বিনতী।

বেস্ট মিডল্যান্ডস রিজিওনাল স্পেটিয়াল স্ট্রেটেজি

यह दस्तावेज़ उन बदलावों पर आपके विचार माँगता है जो सरकार ने 2006 में बेस्ट मिडलैंड्स रीजनल असेंबली द्वारा जमा किए गए ड्राफ्ट संशोधन में करने का प्रस्ताव दिया है। यदि आप इसे बड़े अक्षरों में या किसी दूसरे प्रारूप में या इंग्लिश के अलावा किसी दूसरी भाषा में लेना चाहें, तो हम आपकी मदद करने की पूरी कोशिश करेंगे। कृपया रीजनल स्पेटियल स्ट्रेटेजी को 0121 352 5476 पर फोन करें या RSS.Team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk पर ईमेल करें।

ویسٹ میڈلینڈ ریجنل س্পیشل سٹریٹیجی (ویسٹ میڈلینڈ کی علاقائی مکانی حکمت عملی)

اس دستاویز میں ان تبدیلیوں کے بارے میں آپ سے اپنے خیالات کا اظہار کرنے کی درخواست کی گئی ہے جو حکومت نے ویسٹ میڈلینڈ ریجنل سٹریٹیجی کی طرف سے 2006 میں پیش کردہ دوسرے ترمیم میں جوڑی ہیں۔ اگر آپ کو یہ دستاویز پڑھی چھٹی یا کسی اور شکل میں یا انگریزی کو چھوڑ کر کسی دوسری زبان میں دیکھا ہو تو ہم آپ کی مدد کرنے کی پوری کوشش کریں گے۔ براہ کرم ریجنل سٹریٹیجی ٹیم کو 0121 352 5476 پر فون کریں یا RSS.Team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk پر ای میل کریں۔

বেস্ট মিডল্যান্ডস রিজিওনাল স্পেটিয়াল স্ট্রেটেজি

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਤਬਦੀਲੀਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਮੰਗਦਾ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ 2006 ਵਿੱਚ ਵੈਸਟ ਮਿਡਲੈਂਡਸ ਰੀਜਨਲ ਅਸੈਂਬਲੀ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਜਮ੍ਹਾਂ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਡਰਾਫਟ ਸੰਸ਼ੋਧਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਸਤਾਵ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਸਰੇ ਰੂਪਾਂਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਂ ਇੰਗਲਿਸ਼ ਦੇ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਦਦ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਪੂਰੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਕਰਾਂਗੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਰੀਜਨਲ ਸਪੇਟੀਅਲ ਸਟ੍ਰੈਟੇਜੀ ਨੂੰ 0121 352 5476 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ RSS.Team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk 'ਤੇ ਈਮੇਲ ਕਰੋ।

中英格蘭西部地區空間戰略

本文意在尋求您對於政府計劃修改中英格蘭西部地區議會 2006 年起草的方案的意见。如您需要大號字體或者其他格式或者非英語的語言版本，我們會盡力提供。您可以撥打 0121 352 5476 或者發 email 到 RSS.Team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk 聯繫地區空間戰略組。

REGIONALNA STRATEGIA ZAGOSPODAROWANIA PRZESTRZENNEGO DLA WEST MIDLAND

Poprzez przedstawiony dokument pragniemy dowiedzieć się, jakie jest Pani/Pana zdanie na temat propozycji przedstawionej przez Samorząd dotyczącej zmiany projektu poprawki przyjętej przez Zgromadzenie Regionalne (Regional Assembly) West Midlands w 2006. Jeśli chciałaby/chciałby Pan/i otrzymać tekst z większą czcionką, w innej formie lub w innym niż angielski języku, zrobimy wszystko, by Pani/Panu pomóc. Prosimy o telefon do Grupy ds. Regionalnej Strategii Zarządzania Przestrzennego pod numer 0121 352 5476 lub o skontaktowanie się z nami drogą mailową - RSS.Team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk.

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