

NEWS RELEASE

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Examination in Public Debates Employment Land in the Region

The West Midlands Regional Assembly is set to argue that in spite of the economic recession, a healthy supply of employment land, of the right type and in the right locations, is essential for allowing new jobs to be created across the West Midlands.

The proposition to develop up to 3,165 hectares of land for employment purposes in the Region over the next 20 years will be the focus of debate over the next few days at the Examination in Public into the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. Prepared by the West Midlands Regional Assembly, and submitted to government, this Strategy sets out targets for homes, the economy, infrastructure and waste reduction across the Region through to 2026.

“The 2009 Budget Report has highlighted a significant reduction in public sector spending, so we will need to prioritise our economic regeneration activity. Whilst concerns will be raised over the economic and environmental sustainability of releasing additional land for employment, our Strategy ensures a tight focus on the locations where we can make the biggest difference. By focusing development in Urban Regeneration Zones and areas earmarked for high-technology development, the Strategy will broaden the Region’s employment base and create jobs of the future.” said Mark Middleton, Director of Policy.

The Examination in Public is conducted by an independent Panel of experts, and held at the Molineux Stadium in Wolverhampton. Employment land and Employment Sites will be discussed on 20th - 21st May, whilst Town and City Centres, Retail and Office Floorspace will be discussed on 22nd May. During the seven ‘sitting’ weeks, the Examination in Public will continue to address a number of other matters relating to housing, transport and waste.

See table below for a sub-regional breakdown of figures for employment land provision across the Region.

Consideration	Indicative Long-term requirements (ha)
Birmingham	390
Black Country	555
Coventry	246 ^a
Solihull	45
Metropolitan Area	1,236
Telford & Wrekin	150
Herefordshire	111
Stoke-on-Trent	165
Bridgnorth	18
North Shropshire	66
Oswestry	24
Shrewsbury & Atcham	84
South Shropshire	24
Shropshire	216
Cannock Chase	84
East Staffordshire	150 ^b
Lichfield	99
Newcastle	84
South Staffordshire	24
Stafford	120
Staffordshire Moorlands	18
Tamworth	42
Staffordshire	621
North Warwickshire	33
Nuneaton & Bedworth	96
Rugby	108
Stratford	51
Warwick	90
Warwickshire	378
Bromsgrove	21
Malvern Hills	33
Redditch	51 ^c
Worcester	81 ^d
Wychavon	69
Wyre Forest	33
Worcestershire	288
Major Urban Areas	1,485 (47%)
Non-Major Urban Areas	1,680 (53%)
Region	3,165

^a There is unlikely to be sufficient land within Coventry to meet employment land requirements over the plan period. Joint discussions will be required between, Coventry CC, Rugby BC, Nuneaton & Bedworth DC and Warwick DC to ensure continuity of supply. Due to its size and strategic significance Coventry's employment land needs should be taken into full account when proposals for the redevelopment of the site of the former Peugeot Assembly plant are considered.

^b Proposals for the development of employment land on the site of the former Drakelow Power Station in South Derbyshire should be taken into account during the preparation of the Core Strategy for East Staffordshire.

^c Of which 24 ha will be provided within Bromsgrove and/or Stratford the distribution to be determined through discussions and agreement on preparation of Core Strategies

^d Of which 27 ha will be provided within Malvern and Wychavon, the balance to be determined by a joint Core Strategy.

ENDS

For further information on the Examination in Public please contact Mark Middleton, Director of Policy on 0121 678 1024

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

Notes to Editors

1. The examination in Public programme is available at http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/rss/west_midlands_phase_two/documents/WMRSSEiPTimetableFinal12Mar09.pdf
2. The West Midlands Regional Assembly ('the Assembly') represents a wide range of democratic, social and economic interests throughout the West Midlands Region.
3. The Assembly's membership consists of 100 nominated representatives, with 68 elected members representing the local authority, 16 representing the business sector and 16 representing other economic and social partners.
4. The Assembly provides a platform for organisations to consider matters of common concern including: regional planning, transport, economic prosperity, sustainability, culture and Europe. It also supports regional policy forums and task groups on social inclusion, faith, housing, life long learning/skills, health, rural and community safety/crime reduction.
5. The Assembly works in partnership with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) the regional development agency (RDA), the Government Office West Midlands (GOWM), Regional Action West Midlands (RAWM) the West Midlands Local Government Association (WMLGA) and other regional and local organisations from across the West Midlands region.
6. The Assembly is the Regional Planning Body,
7. For further information, visit our website www.wmra.gov.uk