

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Cllr David Smith urges the public to voice their opinion on plans for the Region**

People in the West Midlands are being urged to have their say on policies that could transform the Region over the next 20 years, according to Cllr David Smith, Chairman of the West Midlands Regional Assembly.

Rural services, environmental issues, mineral resources, accommodation for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople as well as culture, sport and tourism are all up for discussion in a seven-week consultation as part of the Phase Three Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. Now halfway through, the public have only three weeks left to take part in the consultation.

“This is a major planning consultation about a Strategy that will affect the lives of everyone in the Region.” said Cllr David Smith.

“There are some tough choices at hand and it is vital that we hear from as many individuals, businesses and organisations as possible to ensure development plans reflect the needs of local residents across the Region. Whether your concern is urban green space, rural transport or renewable energy - we want to hear from you.”

Prepared by the West Midlands Regional Assembly, and submitted to government, the Strategy sets out targets for homes, the economy, infrastructure and the environment through to 2026. The consultation will run until 14<sup>th</sup> August, where the public will have the opportunity to submit their views via an online questionnaire or in writing. A Preferred Option will be drafted based on the consultation feedback later this year, and be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

**ENDS**

**You can read the Phase Three Options consultation document and fill in the Questionnaire at:**  
[http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning\\_and\\_Regional\\_Spatial\\_Strategy/RSS\\_Revision/RSS\\_Revision\\_Phase\\_3.aspx](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning_and_Regional_Spatial_Strategy/RSS_Revision/RSS_Revision_Phase_3.aspx)

**For further information please contact:  
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## **Notes to Editors**

1. The West Midlands Regional Assembly ('the Assembly') represents a wide range of democratic, social and economic interests throughout the West Midlands Region.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 Leaders Board (WMLB) and other regional and local organisations from across the West Midlands Region.
5. The Assembly is the Regional Planning Body.
6. For further information, visit our website [www.wmra.gov.uk](http://www.wmra.gov.uk)