

NEWS RELEASE

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Five Days Left to Have Your Say

Less than a week remains for people in the West Midlands to voice their opinions on plans that will shape the Region over the next 20 years. Views are being sought on services in rural areas, provision for gypsies and travellers, mineral resources, environmental issues as well as culture, sport and tourism.

These topics form part of a seven-week consultation into the Phase Three Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy*. The Regional Assembly is urging the general public to make their views known before the consultation ends on Friday 14th August.

“This is a vital opportunity to get involved in shaping the future developments of *your* locality. Whether it is managing flood risk, improving rural services or developing local cultural and sporting facilities - the issues being consulted on in this third phase are critical to creating a more prosperous and sustainable Region. We strongly encourage all communities and organisations from across the Region to have their say.” said Mark Middleton, Director of Policy at the Assembly.

The consultation will run until 14th August, where the public will have the opportunity to submit their views via an online questionnaire or in writing. A Preferred Option is due to be drafted based on the consultation feedback later this year, and be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

*Prepared by the Assembly, and led by local government, the Regional Spatial Strategy sets out targets for homes, the economy, infrastructure and the environment through to 2026.

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