

## WMRSS Phase Three Revision Timetable

Following consultation on the Options it is intended that a Preferred Option will be developed later in 2009 and submitted to the Secretary of State in February 2010. It is anticipated that the Preferred Option would then be subject to another period of consultation.

In July 2007, the Government published a Sub National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration. Among other things, the Government proposes to bring together the WMRSS and the West Midlands Economic Strategy (WMES) into a single Regional Strategy for each of the English regions. The work completed to date as part of the Phase Three Revision will be reappraised to ensure it is taken forward into the single Regional Strategy in the most effective way.

The timetable for the Phase Three Revision which is shown below can therefore only be provisional at this stage.

<b>November 2007</b>	Draft Project Plan launched
<b>May 2009</b>	Project Plan published
<b>29th June to 14th August 2009</b>	Options document issued for consultation. 7 weeks to have your say
<b>Autumn/Winter 2009 (provisional)</b>	Development of a Preferred Option
<b>February 2010 (provisional)</b>	Submission of Preferred Option to Secretary of State
<b>Spring 2010 (provisional)</b>	Consultation on the Preferred Option
<b>Autumn 2010 (provisional)</b>	Examination in Public
<b>Spring 2011 (provisional)</b>	Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to be issued for consultation with another chance to have your say
<b>Autumn 2011 (provisional)</b>	Final WMRSS Phase Three Revision to be published

## How can I obtain a copy of the Project Plan?

The Project Plan is available to download from the West Midlands Regional Assembly website at [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) Paper copies are also available on request from the address below.

## How can I get involved in the WMRSS Revision?

The Options consultation document will be issued for public consultation on 29th June 2009. The consultation will last for 7 weeks, closing on **14th August 2009**.

Copies of the Options consultation document will be available on the West Midlands Regional Assembly website or on request from:

### West Midlands Regional Assembly

Regional Partnership Centre  
Albert House, Quay Place  
92-93 Edward Street  
Birmingham  
B1 2RA

Telephone: 0121 245 0200  
Fax: 0121 245 0201  
Email: [wmrss@wmra.gov.uk](mailto:wmrss@wmra.gov.uk)

Further information about the WMRSS Revision process can be found on the WMRA website: [www.wmra.gov.uk](http://www.wmra.gov.uk)

# West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy - Phase Three Revision

## Summary of Project Plan May 2009

Have your say in planning the future of the West Midlands



West Midlands  
Regional Assembly

## What is the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS)?

The WMRSS is a statutory document which provides a framework for the development of the West Midlands Region for the next 20 years. Among other things, the WMRSS sets out how many new houses should be built and where, what improvements are required to the Region's transport network, what employment opportunities should be created and how the environment should be protected and enhanced.

## What is the Vision of the WMRSS?

The existing WMRSS sets out a vision for the Region:

*“The overall vision for the West Midlands is one of an economically successful, outward looking and adaptable Region, which is rich in culture and environment, where all people, working together, are able to meet their aspirations and needs without prejudicing the quality of life of future generations.”*

This vision remains unchanged and will underpin Phase Three of the WMRSS Revision.

## Why is the WMRSS being revised?

When the existing WMRSS was published in 2004, the Secretary of State endorsed the principles of the strategy but suggested several issues needed to be developed further. Given the range of matters to be considered, it was agreed that the WMRSS Revision should be taken forward in three phases.

## What has happened already?

Phase One of the Revision has been concluded and a sub-regional strategy for the Black Country has been developed.

Phase Two has been underway for some time to develop revised policies on housing provision, employment land, town and city centres, transport and waste.

## What is happening now?

Phase Three of the Revision is now underway and the Project Plan explains how the West Midlands Regional Assembly intends to conduct the Revision and what topics will be covered.

- The next stage of the Phase Three Revision will be to launch an **Options consultation document** on 29th June 2009. The Options consultation document sets out choices or directions that can be taken for the Region and will provide an opportunity to have your say on the topics.

## What is Phase Three of the WMRSS Revision looking at?

In summary, the Phase Three Revision is considering:

- **Rural services:** To identify and prioritise the services that are critical to the sustainability of rural communities, and to identify mechanisms for promoting their provision;
- **Housing:** To identify the number of pitches and plots required for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople;
- **Culture, Sport and Tourism:** To identify and address gaps in the provision of international, national, regional and sub-regionally significant assets;
- **Environment:** To further develop environmental policies in the WMRSS, including flood risk, air quality, renewable energy and uses of the Green Belt;
- **Minerals:** To develop policies on safeguarding mineral resources and the future supplies of construction aggregates and brick clay.
- As part of the WMRSS Revision, a **Sustainability Appraisal** will be undertaken to look at the environmental, economic and social effects of the revised policies. A **Habitat Regulations Assessment** will also ensure that revised policies do not adversely affect European habitat sites within the West Midlands. In addition, **Rural Proofing** will be carried out to ensure that the needs of rural areas are adequately considered.

