

AMR Conference 8th September 2008.
Quality of Environment Workshop Notes

1. Climate Change

- Several views expressing importance of measuring this issue through development of an appropriate indicator, particularly carbon dioxide reduction across Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), and develop for the Single Integrated Regional Strategy.
- Debate around different views of cause of climate change. But national Government has targets to reduce carbon dioxide.
- Draft policy on climate change in Phase 2 preferred option, indicator will need to be developed.

2. Renewable Energy

- Discussion of role of renewable energy and impact of wind power generation. Views for and against. Role of planning to balance provision and example of siting of pylons as against wind turbines.
- RSS Phase 3 to look at energy policies and develop criteria for renewable energy.
- Comment on scale of renewable energy provision against large output from existing power stations.
- Concerns over level and measurement of low level energy generation and data from small scale on site generation not being picked up.

3. Waste

- Various views on benefits of recovery and recycling and over-all approach to assessment eg recycling above a certain level could be counter productive because of the carbon dioxide emissions impacts of transportation of materials.

4. Derelict Land

- Issue raised about identification of longstanding derelict land sites in the major urban areas and reasons why not being

reclaimed. In the Black Country, a Brownfield Land Action Plan and further work on the Brownfield evidence base is in progress.

- RSS Phase 3 will look at revision of policy and monitoring on Brownfield land.
- View expressed regarding duplication of NLUD data with local authority regional returns, although research 2-3 years ago suggests NLUD data not accurate or up to date.
- View about local authorities increasing availability of Brownfield information to private sector to effect change.

5. Heritage

- Current measure condition of buildings with highest level of protection, no account taken of Grade II or local list where local authority has them and buildings at risk. May be issue for Local Development Frameworks.

6. Green Belt

- Views about use of green belt, all development not inappropriate.
- Different approach in West Midlands from for example the South West, which plans for urban extensions rather than low level of development in green belt eg Coventry.
- RSS Examination in Public will need to consider balance of preferred option with Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners proposals, and the implications for green belt.