

Draft Response Using the Checklist Template

Introduction

The following table sets out the Regional Planning Partnership's response detailing how they are contributing to sustainable development in the region. The RPP has ultimate responsibility for developing the Regional Spatial Strategy and overseeing its implementation. It is supported in this task by various policy specific groupings and networks which report to it and carry out work on its behalf.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Developing thriving sustainable communities:		
Ensuring easy and equitable access to services and opportunities, including jobs and learning, regardless of ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality, background or location	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS incorporates the Regional Transport Strategy which facilitates access to services and opportunities. Also at the heart of the urban and rural renaissance objectives of the RSS are goals to ensure the right range of services and opportunities exist within urban and rural areas to support balanced sustainable communities. The RPP has overall responsibility for overseeing these objectives. A particular example of this is the recent study which was commissioned on behalf of the RPP to scope Rural Services in advance of Phase Three of the RSS Partial Revision.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Enabling communities to participate in the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS is currently under going a partial revision. The revision is being carried out in an open and transparent manner to allow communities of geography or interest to participate via a variety of consultation mechanisms including public meetings and the internet. In particular Reference Groups are being established to mirror Assembly Partnerships with wider interests represented. The Statement of Public Participation included in the Project Plan details how people can get involved and will be involved in the partial revision, beyond the formal consultation periods.
Addressing poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantage	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS sets the framework for all regional strategies and documents and does therefore support addressing these issues both directly and indirectly.
Improving health and reducing health inequalities by encouraging and enabling healthy lifestyles as well as protecting health and providing health services	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	As part of the RPPs RSS implementation work a joint event was held for health and planning professionals to demonstrate how planning supports the delivery of health services, the Choosing Health agenda and how the health sector can support the delivery of the RSS. A leaflet which explores these issues further has been developed. An outcome of this work is the formation of a Health Reference Group to support Phase Two of the RSS revision this will feed views into the development of Options.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Providing decent and affordable housing for all, of the right quantity, type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Housing is a core theme in the RSS and will be vital to the achievement of the Urban and Rural Renaissance Principles. The Regional Housing Strategy has been informed by the RSS and the RPP supports the work of the Regional Housing Board in taking this forward. Affordable housing will be addressed as part of the Phase Two Revision. The achievement of a high quality environment, also a core theme of the RSS, under pins the development of sustainable communities.
Reducing crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Improving opportunities to participate in the diverse cultural and recreational activities the West Midlands can offer	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	A Culture Reference Group will be established to feed views into the development of Options for the Partial Revision Phase Two. Sport England has been identified as a Policy Lead for Phase Three of the Partial Revision which will include the consideration of the provision of recreational space.
Encouraging physical development with a better balance of jobs, housing and services within each part of the Region in order to meet local needs locally and encourage stable and sustainable integrated communities	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	With the RSS as an overall framework the Development Plans Conformity Process ensures that plans for localities being put forward adhere to the RSS and thus the sustainable principles which lie at the heart of it. Going forward, each phase of the Partial Revision will be complemented by a Sustainability Appraisal this will ensure that future proposals will take into account this objective.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Enhancing and protecting the environment:		
Valuing, enhancing and protecting the Region's environmental assets, including the natural and built environment and the historic environment	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS contains a significant number of policies concerned with preserving and enhancing the quality of the region's environment. These are taken into consideration across the Partnerships work, including in conformity decisions. The RSS Policy Lead for Environment working with the Strategic Advisor will be party to the Options and Preferred Option development thus ensuring that this objective will be taken into consideration.
Valuing, enhancing and protecting regional biodiversity	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Policy QE7 sets out the regional spatial framework for protecting, managing and enhancing the Region's Biodiversity and nature conservation resources. Further detailed technical work on the mapping and guidance on the 14 Biodiversity Enhancement Areas has been produced and will be refined during 2006. The RSS Policy Lead for Environment working with the Strategic Advisor will be party to the development of Options and Preferred Option development thus ensuring that this objective will be taken into consideration.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Land use and development that optimises the use of previously developed land and buildings and creates high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity, promote local distinctiveness and sense of place, and are well-designed	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Policy QE2 concerns restoring degraded areas and managing and creating high quality new environments. The RSS and the Partnership also promotes the Regional target of at least 76% of future housing provision being on previously developed land between 2001 – 2011 (via Policy CF4). To support these goals a Brownfield Land Working Group has been set up under the joint auspices of the RPP and AWM which will work to ensure the alignment of the RSS and the RES, assist the development of stronger policy and programmes on the reclamation of brown field land and act as a coordination and networking group for brownfield land activities within the region.
Local stewardship of local environments	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not directly a Regional Spatial Strategy issue, this is dealt with through Local Development Plans.
Minimising air, water and soil pollution levels	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS Policy Lead for Environment working with the Strategic Advisor will be party to the development of Options and Preferred Option development thus ensuring that this objective will be taken into consideration. The RSS provides a framework for the development of Local Development Plans which do take this into account.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Minimising the Region's contribution to the causes of climate change whilst implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS acknowledges the role that the Regional Energy Strategy and the climate change scenarios generated by the West Midlands Climate Change Impact Study will make to the revision. The RSS Policy Lead for Environment working with the Strategic Advisor will be party to the development of Options and Preferred Option development thus ensuring that this objective will be taken into consideration.
Using natural resources prudently and efficiently:		
Reducing overall energy use through increasing energy efficiency, and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS encourages proposals for the use of renewable energy resources, including biomass, on shore wind power, active solar systems and other systems.
Using natural resources such as water and minerals efficiently	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS promotes the use of secondary materials and makes provision for land won primary aggregates to ensure that the regions resources are managed in a sustainable way .The RSS promotes the use of sustainable urban drainage techniques, seeks to manage demand and conserve supply and promote recycling of water and the multiple uses of water resources. The RSS also seeks to ensure that abstraction from watercourses and aquifers does not exceed sustainable levels.
Promoting and ensuring high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS promotes the creation of a high quality built environment which incorporates energy and water efficiency, sustainable construction and drainage and a framework for the development of Local Development Plans and other strategies which do take this into account.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Ensuring the location of development makes efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and helps reduce need to travel, especially by private car	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS Urban Renaissance policies and those governing the location of significant service developments such as hospitals encourage location where access to sustainable and alternative transport mechanisms such as public transport, walking and cycling are maximised. The RSS incorporates the Regional Transport Strategy, The Regional Transport Partnership lead this area of work.
Increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing road traffic congestion and pollution	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS incorporates the Regional Transport Strategy, The Regional Transport Partnership lead this area of work.
Encouraging and enabling waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	As part of Phase Two of the RSS revision the Partnership is overseeing the development of a preferred option for consultation on waste and resources management with the aim of providing sufficient opportunities to meet identified needs of the Region for waste management for all waste streams. This will consider options for waste minimisation reuse, recycling and recovery and set out the Waste Strategy incorporating waste tonnages requiring management by WPA area. Members of the RPE are particularly interested in waste and the opportunities for recycling and recently visited an innovative aggregates recycling facility in the region.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Encouraging local sourcing of goods and materials	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This issue is not within the remit of the RPB/Regional Planning Partnership however, within limitations, the membership of the Partnership would encourage local sourcing of goods and materials.
Rewarding efficient resource use and encouraging development of alternative and renewable resources where resources are likely to become depleted	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RPP is not in a position to 'reward' efficient resource use however in the spirit of sustainability we would support activities which do within the context of the RSS. The RSS and RSS revision together with the RES review will need to place greater priority on waste prevention through the embedding of this approach into the wider sustainable consumption and production issues. This will involve expanding the concept of waste processes as a resource and extending recycling and reuse across sectors. Phase 3 of the revision will also need to develop energy conservation and generation policies.
Developing a flourishing, diverse and stable regional economy:		
Achieving sustainable economic growth and prosperity for the benefit of all the Region's inhabitants	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RSS provides the spatial framework for the RES and therefore supports the aspirations of the RES. Achievement of diverse and stable economic growth as part of an integrated approach to sustainable development is one of the underpinning principles of the RSS.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Creating high quality employment opportunities suited to the changing needs of the local workforce, whilst recognising the value and contribution of unpaid work	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Achievement of diverse and stable economic growth is one of the underpinning principles of the RSS.
Promoting investment in future prosperity	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Achievement of diverse and stable economic growth is one of the underpinning principles of the RSS.
Encouraging ongoing investment and engagement in learning and skills development	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Achievement of diverse and stable economic growth is one of the underpinning principles of the RSS.
Encouraging a culture of enterprise and innovation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Achievement of diverse and stable economic growth is one of the underpinning principles of the RSS.
Promoting and supporting the development of new technologies, especially those with high value and low impact	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Achievement of diverse and stable economic growth is one of the underpinning principles of the RSS.

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
Encouraging corporate social and environmental responsibility, with regional organisations and agencies leading by example	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The RPB/Regional Planning Partnership has a membership of local authorities, business and other stakeholders. As stewards of RSS all are expected to encourage responsibility for sustainable development at a regional level.