

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Draft – Consultation period extended further to 8 December 2008**

The consultation on the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) Phase Two Revision Draft has been extended further to 8 December 2008 by the West Midlands Regional Assembly in the light of recent discussions with the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM).

The consultation period had previously been provisionally extended to the 30 June. This followed a letter received by the Assembly from Baroness Andrews in January 2008 which she informed the Assembly that GOWM would commission a study to provide the Panel undertaking the Examination in Public with further options that could deliver higher housing numbers.

GOWM has now appointed planning consultants Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners (NLP) to undertake this study. The work will be carried out over the next six months and the final report is now not expected to be available until the first week of October 2008. GOWM will then make the study publicly available as additional evidence for consultees to consider when making their responses on the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft.

The Assembly has therefore agreed to further extend the consultation period on the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft in order to allow all consultees at least eight weeks to take the GOWM study into account in responding to the consultation. Based on the assumption that the study will be available on the 7 October 2008, the Assembly has therefore extended the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft consultation period to 8 December 2008.

In the light of this, it is now anticipated that the Examination in Public will be held in Spring 2009, although a final date has still to be confirmed.

For further details about the government's study, please contact Government Office for the West Midlands at [rss.team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rss.team@gowm.gsi.gov.uk) or by telephone on 0121 352 5049.

**ENDS**

## **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 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 Local Government Association (WMLGA) and other regional and local organisations from across the West Midlands region.
5. The Assembly is the Regional Planning Body, and is also responsible for scrutinising the operation of the region's RDA, Advantage West Midlands.
6. For further information, visit our website [www.wmra.gov.uk](http://www.wmra.gov.uk)

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