

# RSS UPDATE

## Phase Two Revision

### Issue 3 - December 2006

#### Welcome

Welcome to the third edition of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Update - your source for news and information on the development of the RSS Revision.

This newsletter focuses on the progress of Phase Two. For further information visit [www.wmra.gov.uk/wmrss](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/wmrss)

#### Phase Two Headline News

##### Launch Event - 8th January 2007:

Burlington Hotel, New Street, Birmingham.  
Visit anytime between 10am – 6pm

##### Spatial Options Consultation:

8th January - 5th March 2007

#### The Overall RSS Revision

The Regional Spatial Strategy was published in June 2004. At that time the Secretary of State supported the principles but suggested several issues that needed to be developed further. This Revision process is in three phases:

- **Phase One** has focused on developing a long term sub-regional strategy for long term change in the Black Country. The Examination in Public will begin on 9th January 2007. For further information visit [www.blackcountryconsortium.co.uk](http://www.blackcountryconsortium.co.uk)
- **Phase Two** is focusing on a range of issues including: housing figures, employment land, centres, transport and waste. An eight week public consultation on the Spatial Options will launch on 8th January 2007.
- **Phase Three** is due to begin in Spring 2007 and will look at critical rural services, recreational provision, regionally significant environmental issues and provision for gypsy and traveller sites. Keep an eye on [www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=54](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=54) for more details.

#### What are the Phase Two Options?

The Spatial Options will set out a wide range of questions and choices relating to the development of the Region up to 2021 and beyond.

##### Examples:

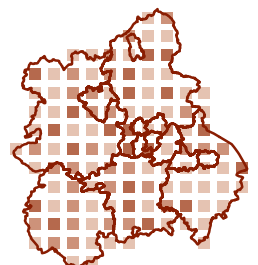
- **Housing** - What level and type of new housing development is right for the Region and where should they be built?
- **Employment** - How much land should be set aside for offices, industry and business parks? How should our key towns and cities develop?
- **Transport** - How do we decide where to put strategic park and ride facilities and what are the future roles of our airports?
- **Waste** - How can the Region reduce the amount of waste put into landfill and where should new waste facilities go?

The Spatial Options have been drafted by the Assembly, guided by advice from the Region's local authorities. For more information about the Spatial Options and to see the background technical work visit:

[www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=56](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=56)

#### Commenting on the Spatial Options

- If you are on our consultation database (you are if you have received this update) you will automatically be sent a copy of the Spatial Options before 8th January 2007.
- Complete the questionnaire, found in the Spatial Options or fill it in online at [www.wmra.gov.uk/wmrss](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/wmrss)
- Generally, it is expected that you should make your comments via the questionnaire, but you could write a letter or send us an email setting out your views.
- Comments must be submitted to the Regional Assembly between 8th January and 5th March 2007.



## Phase Two Revision:

### What has happened so far?

- Draft Project Plan launched in November 2005 for public consultation.
- Final Project Plan was published in March 2006.
- The Assembly (as Regional Planning Body) sent out Section 4(4) Briefs to the Strategic Authorities in the West Midlands in February 2006. The Briefs set out the topic areas that the Assembly was seeking sub-regional advice on.
- The responses to the Section 4(4) Briefs were used by the Assembly to develop the Spatial Options.
- RSS Reference Groups met in early September and fed their views into the drafting of the Spatial Options.

### What is happening now?

- The Spatial Options were approved by the Regional Planning Partnership on 16th November 2006 and the document is now being designed and proof read for publication.

### What will happen next?

- The eight week public consultation on the Spatial Options will launch on 8th January 2007.
- A Consultation Analysis Report will be published following the consultation. It will be available on our website and sent to all those who make comments on the Spatial Options.
- Consultation responses will be used to inform the development of a Preferred Option. This will be the policies that are chosen for submission to the Secretary of State as the draft revision to the RSS.
- Following submission there will be another chance for you to have your say in a consultation led by the Government Office for the West Midlands.
- An Examination in Public (EIP) will provide an opportunity for discussing and testing the Revision before a panel appointed by the Secretary of State.

Development of Preferred Option	5th March 2007 onwards
Submission to Secretary of State	December 2007
Examination in Public	Mid 2008
Secretary of State Proposed Changes	Late 2008
Final RSS Phase Two changes published	Early 2009

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## Consultation Launch Event

- 8th January 2007, Burlington Hotel, 126 New Street, Burlington Arcade, Birmingham, B2 4JQ.
- Drop in anytime between 10am - 6pm

## Sustainability Appraisal

A Sustainability Appraisal is being undertaken as a key part of the process for revising the policies in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. It will make sure that sustainable development principles, and concerns about climate change are fully taken into account. For further information visit the Sustainability Appraisal page on our website:  
[www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=245](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=245)

## West Midlands Economic Strategy (WMES)

The Assembly is working closely with Advantage West Midlands to ensure that the Revision processes for the Regional Spatial Strategy and the West Midlands Economic Strategy, which sets out what the Region needs to do to improve its economic performance, are complementary.

- The 18 month WMES Review process was launched in March 2006.
- Development of Policy Choices took place between August - October 2006.
- Consultation on Policy Choices is underway - consultation ends 28th February 2007.
- Consultation on draft Strategy - May to July 2007.
- Publication - April and September 2007.
- [www.advantagewm.co.uk/wmesreview.html](http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/wmesreview.html)

## And Finally...

Supplementary Monitoring Reports for Housing and Employment Land are now available:  
[www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=52](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=52)  
Contact: Paul Bayliss [p.bayliss@wmra.gov.uk](mailto:p.bayliss@wmra.gov.uk)

All consultation documents and technical work regarding the RSS Revision can be found on our website: [www.wmra.gov.uk/wmrss](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/wmrss)

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