



## Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

### Briefing Paper

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Open

## West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) Phase Three Revision – Options Consultation

### 1. Summary

1.1 This briefing paper informs Members of the comments and representations made on the WMRSS Phase 3 Revision Options Consultation document, which were submitted to the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) by the response deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The publication of the WMRSS Phase 3 Options Consultation paper provides an opportunity to make initial representations on the third and final stage of the RSS Revision. A further formal opportunity to submit views on policy formulation under the Stage 3 Revision, will take place in spring next year, when the preferred options are submitted to the Secretary of State.

### 2. Background

2.1 Members will recall the briefing paper reported to the Community and Regeneration Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009, which introduced the Phase 3 Revision process. A pre-consultation document was circulated to Local Authorities in June 2009 before the close of the RSS Phase 2 Examination in Public. The arrangements for submitting representations to the WMRA on the Options Consultation were also set out in the paper.

2.2 At the meeting, Members of the Committee requested that a letter be sent to the Regional Assembly asking for the consultation period to be extended due to the consultation falling during the key holiday period. However, a subsequent request was turned down for operational

## **Agenda Item No. 5**

reasons. The Committee also requested that strong representations be made regarding the planning and supply of energy and the need for a clearer strategy for the region catering for growing energy consumption.

- 2.3 Following this, Officers formulated responses to the formal options consultation paper (attached at Appendix 1), taking into account the comments made by Committee Members and in correspondence with Worcestershire County Council as the Section 4(4) Authority.
- 2.4 The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration approved the responses prior to their submission on 14<sup>th</sup> August. The responses were then retrospectively reported to Cabinet at its meeting in August. This paper's purpose is therefore to inform Members of the exact responses submitted to the WMRA. These are attached at Appendix 2 to the paper.

### **3. Options**

- 3.1 That the Scrutiny Committee notes the responses submitted to the WMRA in relation to the WMRSS Phase Three Revision Options Paper as attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.2 That Members may also wish to highlight areas of particular interest or concern for taking forward in the next stage of consultation – the preferred options, scheduled to take place in spring 2010.

### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 The RSS Phase 3 Revision Options Consultation has been undertaken by the WMRA and ran for a 6 week period from the 29<sup>th</sup> June until 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The Consultation included a briefing session for Members which took place at Worcestershire County Council.

### **5. Related Decisions**

- 5.1 Due to the timetabling of the Options Consultation, it was necessary to gain the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration's approval for Officer responses. This was required to meet the WMRA's deadline for receipt of responses in August.
- 5.2 A further stage of consultation on the Phase 3 Revision – the Preferred Options is scheduled to take place in Spring 2010. Details of this will be reported to the Committee in due course.

**6. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies**

- 6.1 Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework.
- 6.2 Wyre Forest District Sustainable Community Strategy.

**7. Wards affected**

- 7.1 District wide.

**8. Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy – Phase Three Revision. Options Consultation Paper (July 2009 – August 2009.)

Appendix 2 – Submitted responses to WMRSS Phase 3 Revision Options Consultation Questionnaire.

**9. Background Papers**

- Draft West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Revision.
- WMRSS Phase 3 Revision Final Project Plan (May 2009)
- Worcestershire County Council: Officer's advice in response to the West Midlands Regional Planning Body's Section 4(4) Authorities' Brief. (May 2008)
- Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - Agenda Item 8 (18/06/09)
- Cabinet Report - Agenda Item 10.1 (25/08/09)

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