

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY

16th DECEMBER 2009

REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY PHASE 3 REVISION - UPDATE

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr Jill Dyer
Responsible Head of Service	Dave Hammond
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the changes made to the RSS revision process in respect of the Phase 3 element and outlines the implications for the District.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members note the contents of this report

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Regional Spatial Strategy was published in June 2004. At that time, the Secretary of State supported the principles of the Strategy but suggested a number of issues needed to be developed further. The revision process is being undertaken by the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) in three phases.

Phase 1 – the Black Country Study. This phase was formally adopted in January 2008.

Phase 2 – Covers housing, employment land, town and city centres, transport, and waste. The Panel Report has now been published and we are awaiting the proposed changes from the Secretary of State.

Phase 3 – covers critical rural services, culture/recreational provision, various regionally significant environmental issues and the provision of a framework for Gypsy and Traveller sites. This report updates Members on the progress of Phase 3.

- 3.2 Initially when the RSS revision process was outlined it was intended to be completed significantly quicker than it is taking. The intervention of the Government in to Phase 2 in December 2007 which instigated the NLP study and caused a delay of at least 12 months has had a knock effect on Phase 3. Originally Phase 3 was to follow the same format as Phase 2 with an Options consultation followed by a Preferred Options and subsequent Examination in Public (EIP). This is now not the case.

- 3.3 The Options consultation did take place and Officers submitted informal comments on behalf of the Council which are attached as Appendix 1. Due to the nature of the issues being considered in Phase 3 the comments submitted could not address all the issues as many were outside the role and function of a District Council and were more relevant to the County Council as a Waste Planning Authority.
- 3.4 In July 2007, the Government published a Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration. Among other things, the Government proposes to bring together the Regional Spatial Strategies and the Regional Economic Strategies into a single Regional Strategy for each of the English regions.
- 3.5 In the light of these changes, there was a "stocktake" meeting in September 2009 involving officers from the WMRA, GOWM and AWM, to consider how the WMRSS Phase Three could be taken forward in the most effective way. It was agreed at that meeting that the Phase Three issues should be progressed through the new Regional Strategy process rather than through the WMRSS Phase Three Revision.
- 3.6 It was agreed that the Phase Three issues be taken forward in one of two ways:
- 3.7 a) **Policy Statements** which will provide a framework for relevant policies in the preparation of Local Development Frameworks. Two Policy Statements will be developed which cover,
- Provision of pitches for Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Showpeople,
 - Sub-Regional Apportionment of Construction Aggregates
- 3.8 GOWM has confirmed that they expect local authorities to give the Policy Statements similar weight to that of a submitted draft RSS. Also Policy Statements will carry weight in relation to Development Plan Document examinations and planning inquiries.
- 3.9 b) **Policy Recommendations** which will feed directly into the preparation of the new Regional Strategy. The majority of issues within the Phase Three Options document will be progressed in this manner are listed in the table below:

Rural Services

Rural Services

Culture, Sport & Tourism

Culture & Sport - including relevant historic environment issues

Tourism - including relevant historic environment issues

Quality of the Environment

- Integrated Approach to Management of Environmental Resources
- Restoring Degraded Areas & Managing & Creating High Quality New Environments
- Greenery, Urban Green Space and Public Spaces
- Protection & Enhancement of Historic Environment
- Conservation, Enhancement & Restoration of the Region's Landscape
- Protecting, Managing & Enhancing Region's Biodiversity & Nature Conservation Resources
- Forestry & Woodlands
- Protection of Agricultural Land
- Air Quality
- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy - Targets
- Renewable Energy - Criteria for Ensuring Appropriate Locations
- Positive Uses of Green Belt

Minerals

- Safeguarding Mineral Resources
- Future Brick Clay Provision

- 3.10 Work on developing the Policy Statements and Recommendations is progressing with a view to final sign-off by the Joint Strategy and Investment Board at its meeting on 3rd March 2010. Policy Statements and Policy Recommendations will be tested through relevant appraisal and assessment processes (Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Rural Proofing) to provide rigour and weight to the final outputs
- 3.11 A draft version of the Provision of pitches for Gypsies & Travellers and Travelling Show people policy statement has been produced which indicates that Bromsgrove District should provide 14 new residential pitches and 0 new transit pitches in the period up to 2017. This allocation has taken into account the response submitted by Officers as well as many other sources of information. A key focus of the policy statement is the adoption of the principle of redistribution of pitches where the surplus need from one authority where its need is over 42 pitches is transferred to adjacent authorities where there is a surplus. In the case of Bromsgrove we have been allocated additional pitches from Wychavon although still only the minimum amount deemed to be suitable for a sustainable community namely 14 pitches, which is an increase in 11 pitches from the Preferred Option suggested by Officers. This policy approach has been chosen due to the fundamental and irreconcilable differences in responses to the options consultation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

6.1 Policies within the RSS panel report and the subsequent Local Spatial Planning policies that follow in the Core Strategy and other planning documents will all have an impact on the following Council priorities and objectives.

1. **Regeneration**

Council Priority 1 - Economic Development

Council Priority 2 - Town Centre

3. **Sense of Community & Wellbeing**

Council Priority 5 - Children & Young People

Council Priority 6 - Crime & Fear of Crime

Council Priority 7 - Older People

Council Priority 8 - Community Engagement

Council Priority 9 - Housing

4. **Environment**

Council Priority 10 - Climate Change

7. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 The main risks associated with the details included in this report are:

- Inability to produce and adopt local spatial planning policies which adequately reflect the policies in the RSS or new integrated single strategy

7.2 These risks are being managed as follows:

Risk Register: Planning and Environment

Key Objective Ref No: 5

Key Objective: Effective, efficient, and legally compliant Strategic planning Service

Key Controls: Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) - Council has responsibility to engage in formulation of regional planning policies

Action: Appear at Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Examination in Public

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None

11. CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Many of the topics which we're to be dealt with under phase 3 which will now be dealt with under the single regional strategy have significant impacts on climate change and carbon emissions as identified in para 3.9 above. As the policies develop it will become easier to assess the likely implications and as will all Strategic planning work full sustainability Appraisal will be undertaken to ensure they are the most suitable policy choices.

12. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues
Personnel
Governance/Performance Management
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Policy
Biodiversity

13. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	No
Joint Chief Executive	No
Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects	No
Executive Director - Services	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	No
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

14. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards

15. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Officers comments on RSS phase 3 options

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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