

Diane Tilley
Director of Planning, Economy and Performance
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

Dear Diane

RSS Phase 2

As you are aware, the RSS consultation period ended on 5th March.

Following the consultation we will be reporting the outcome of the consultation responses to the Regional Planning Partnership on 31st May and from this we will be looking for a steer as to how we move forward and start shaping the Preferred Option.

In developing the Preferred Option there are many areas where difficult and sensitive decisions will need to be made. We are aware that one such area relates to Redditch, given the projected high level of its future 'local' housing need and the limited capacity of the district to accommodate further growth.

At a recent working meeting of officers to discuss this matter (including representatives from Redditch DC, Bromsgrove DC, Stratford DC, Warwickshire CC and Worcestershire CC), it was agreed that there was a need for an improved evidence base to address this issue in more detail. This should include an assessment of possible options/directions for growth, should this be required given potential cross – boundary implications. It was suggested that an urgent study should be undertaken and that this would be best led by the Strategic Authority (i.e. Worcestershire) in partnership with all other relevant authorities; including those in Warwickshire.

Against this background, I confirm that the Regional Planning Body would be very supportive of this approach in order to ensure that, whatever decisions are eventually made by the RPB, these are made in the light of the best possible evidence base. I understand that GOWM also endorse this view.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I trust that you will contact me

Yours sincerely

Rose Poulter
Director of Policy

Cc.	Mark Middleton	- Worcestershire County Council
	Andy Cowen	- Warwickshire County Council
	Colin Staves	- Stratford District Council
	John Staniland	- Redditch District Council
	Dave Hammond	- Bromsgrove District Council