

Portfolio Holder (Leisure, Culture and Housing) Decision Making Session

7 August 2009

Agenda

A Portfolio Holder (Culture, Leisure and Housing) Decision Making Session will be held at **SHIRE HALL, WARWICK** on **FRIDAY 7 August 2009 at 10.00 am.**

The agenda will be:

1. General

Members' Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a prejudicial interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of a district or borough council is classed as a personal interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

2. **Government Consultation on Draft Planning Policy Statement 4 – 'Planning for Prosperous Economies.'**

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy enclosed.

3. **Regional Assembly Consultation on Options for Phase 3 Revision of Regional Spatial Strategy**

Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Economy enclosed.

4. **Any Other Urgent Business**

**Jim Graham
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall
Warwick**

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/committee-papers

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Housing: Councillor Chris Saint
cllrsaint@warwickshire.gov.uk

General Enquiries: Please contact Janet Purcell, Cabinet Business Manager
Tel 01926 413716 or email: janetpurcell@warwickshire.gov.uk

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/committee-papers

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Portfolio Holder (Leisure, Culture and Housing) Decision Making Session
Date of Committee	7 August 2009
Report Title	Government Consultation on Draft Planning Policy Statement 4 - 'Planning for Prosperous Economies'
Summary	Government's Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has published the long awaited proposed revisions to the existing Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 4 – 'Planning for Sustainable Economic Development' for a 3 month consultation period. The new Draft PPS4 aims to integrate policy by replacing and streamlining the existing national planning guidance on economic development, town centres and development in rural areas. The Government hopes that this approach will allow communities to meet the economic challenges they face now and in the long term and provide greater certainty for business to invest. The Director's report recommends an appropriate response to the consultation.
For further information please contact	Andy Cowan County Planner Tel. 01926 412126 andycowan@warwickshire.gov.uk
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?	Yes/No
Background Papers	None (i.e. The consultation document can be found by following this link: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/consultationeconomicpps

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members Councillor D Bryden
Councillor M Doody
Councillor P Fowler
Councillor R Sweet
Councillor J Whitehouse } for information
- Cabinet Member Councillor C Saint
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive
- Legal I Marriott – agreed.
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION

YES/NO

(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

**Portfolio Holder (Leisure,
Culture and Housing) Decision Making Session
7 August 2009**

**Government Consultation on Draft Planning Policy
Statement 4 - 'Planning for Prosperous Economies'**

**Report of the Strategic Director for
Environment and Economy**

Recommendation

That the conclusions set out in section 4 of the Director's report be agreed as the Council's response to the Government's Consultation on Draft Planning Policy Statement 4 - 'Planning for Prosperous Economies' (May 2009).

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Government's Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has published the long awaited proposed revisions to PPS4 - Planning for Sustainable Economic Development. This consultation draft aims to integrate policy by replacing the existing PPS4 - Planning for Sustainable Economic Development, and streamlining guidance from PPG5 - Simplified Planning Zones, PPS6 - Planning for Town Centres and the economic development elements of PPS7 - Sustainable Development in Rural Areas. The Government hopes that this approach will allow communities to meet the challenges they face in these uncertain economic times and in the long term and to provide greater certainty for business to invest, particularly in low carbon products and services.

2. Draft PPS4

- 2.1 For the purposes of this particular PPS, the Draft usefully defines 'economic development' as: business, offices, research and development (B1) uses; general industrial (B2) uses; storage or distribution (B8) uses; town centre uses – retail, leisure and entertainment, intensive recreation (e.g. indoor bowling), offices, arts, culture and tourism uses. It accepts that the term 'economic development' can include other uses so long as they provide job opportunities, generate wealth or have an economic output. However, whilst other uses clearly have an important role in the economy, this definition excludes uses such as housing, mineral working or waste-to-energy, that are covered by other PPSs.

2.2 Draft PPS4 aims to focus on what is important to allow the economy to grow in a sustainable manner in order to ensure the long term economic success of cities, market towns and rural villages. Its key policy themes are, in summary:-

- (a) **Regional and local authorities** to be required to develop plans that take account of long term economic benefits, including those accruing to the wider regional and national economy such as job creation; and to promote opportunities to regenerate deprived areas and support business diversification in rural areas.
- (b) **Employment land targets** are to be set in Regional strategies down to district level to secure shared policy objectives in economic growth, particularly by providing a good supply of land for economic development. Retention of the principle that local planning authorities should consider planning applications for economic growth favourably unless there is good reason to believe the costs outweigh the benefits (i.e. continued from existing PPS4).
- (c) **Local authorities encouraged** to make full use of the planning tools available to them to simplify and speed up the planning process e.g. Simplified Planning Zones (i.e. continued from existing PPG5).
- (d) **The vitality of town centres**, consumer choice and retail diversity are promoted; there is no "needs test" for proposals but the sequential test, requiring developers to seek the most central town centre sites first, is retained and a tougher "impact test" is introduced to assess proposals against economic, social and environmental criteria for new developments and expansion of existing ones (i.e. amending existing PPS6).
- (e) **Sustainable economic growth** in rural areas is to be provided for - so long as it is in keeping with the need to protect the countryside (responding to a key recommendation from Matthew Taylor MP's review of rural housing and economy to amend existing PPS7).

2.3 Underpinning all of this policy content, the Draft PSS emphasises a requirement for an up to date evidence base. This requirement will apply both to developers wishing to invest and to regional and local authorities producing development plan policy documents and assessing specific proposals. In particular, the evidence that is highlighted as most important terms are economic assessments and infrastructure implementation plans, particularly those for transport.

3. Assessment

3.1 Overall, this Draft PPS is a considered and balanced policy document, looking to the long term - rather than a hasty reaction to the current recession. It promotes the idea that the economic success of both urban and rural communities is an essential prerequisite of social and environmental sustainability. At the same time the draft policies balance this with the need to sustain the social and environmental roles of places, particularly of town centres and of rural areas, that make them economically attractive. However, the Draft PPS needs to

recognise the limits of the planning system in trying to shape the fundamental direction of the market. (NB - The purpose of the system is to provide for society's development needs in a sustainable way.)

- 3.2 The exclusion of housing from the definition of economic development has been made purely for administrative convenience. This omission is bound to cause confusion at all levels of the planning process since housing development is often cited by developers as making the crucial difference between the economic viability or not of mixed development schemes. Moreover, housing (according to many commentators) lies at the root of our current economic recession. Similarly, the Draft PPS ignores the economic significance of the mineral and waste-to-energy production industries in the national and local economies. (For example, the cement industry based in Warwickshire accounts for a fifth of national cement production.) This rather traditional bureaucratic approach to the Draft PPS also tends to exclude broader or more innovative mixed uses characteristic of the media and creative industries.
- 3.3 The Draft PPS makes a distinction between regional and local factors but makes no mention of the sub-regional dimension which features strongly in the Government's own Sub National Review and in the partnership arrangements of this Council. More consideration should be given to the role of functional sub-regions as a basis for delivery of economic development over a larger areas than a single local authority.
- 3.4 There needs to be much stronger reference to local planning authorities' need to use Local Economic Assessments (LEAs) as part of the evidence base for their local development and also to assess whether applications meet economic need, levels of future demand, predicted/planned growth sectors, improving vitality and viability of town centres, etc.
- 3.5 The sustained emphasis on town centres as the focus of economic development is to be welcomed. However, the Draft PPS should recognise the need for local planning authorities to have access to the appropriate level of expertise in development economics to sustain that emphasis. This skills gap could be narrowed by making use of Local Economic Assessments and securing advice on development economics on a sub-regional basis.
- 3.6 Acknowledgement that there are no separate urban and rural economies is to be welcomed but the implications of this for rural areas should be further clarified. For example, relaxation of the policy on farm diversification/ re-use or replacement of buildings in the countryside will assist business creation. However, the proposal to inhibit the change of use of shops and services in villages to maintain accessibility and wider social benefits also has consequences for business where the current use is clearly not viable. In such circumstances, businesses in rural areas would be less able to respond to changing market conditions than their urban competitors.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 The Draft PPS 4 - 'Planning for Prosperous Economies' is, overall, a considered and balanced policy document but one that would benefit from improvement in terms of the additional material identified in paragraphs 3.1 - 3.6 above.
- 4.2 In particular, the Draft PPS needs to give further thought to the definition of 'economic development'; emphasise the role of sub-regions as a basis for delivery of economic development; and make stronger reference to local planning authorities' need to use the new statutory Local Economic Assessments (LEAs) that upper tier authorities (inc. WCC) will soon have to produce.

PAUL GALLAND
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

23 July 2009

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<i>Name of Decision-maker</i>	Portfolio Holder (Leisure, Culture and Housing) Decision Making Session
<i>Date of Decision</i>	7 August 2009
<i>Report Title</i>	Regional Assembly Consultation on Options for Phase 3 Revision of Regional Spatial Strategy
<i>Summary</i>	The West Midlands Regional Assembly is consulting on its options for the Phase 3 Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). Phase 3 covers critical rural services; provision of gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople sites; culture, sport and tourism; environmental protection and improvement; and minerals. The deadline for comments is 14 August 09. The Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Sub-regional Forum (CSWF) made its comments on the options on 31 July 09 and the Director's report recommends that the County Council endorses the CSWF view.
<i>For further information please contact</i>	Andy Cowan County Planner Tel. 01926 412126 andycowan@warwickshire.gov.uk
<i>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</i>	No
<i>Background Papers</i>	None (i.e. The 138 page consultation document can be found by following this link to the WMRA website: www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning_and_Regional_Spatial_Strategy/WMRSS_Revision/WMRSS_Revision_Phase_3.aspx The WMRA's summary of the Consultation document can be found at http://www.wmra.gov.uk/documents/Options_Leaflet.pdf

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members Councillor D Bryden }
Councillors M Doody } for information
Councillor R Sweet }
Councillor J Whitehouse }
- Cabinet Member Councillor C Saint
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive
- Legal I Marriott – agreed.
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION

YES

(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by Portfolio Holder
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

**Portfolio Holder (Leisure,
Culture and Housing) Decision Making Session**

7 August 2009

**Regional Assembly Consultation on Options for Phase 3
Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)**

**Report of the Strategic Director for
Environment and Economy**

Recommendation

That the views of the Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Sub-regional Forum set out in **Appendix "A"** attached to the Director's report be agreed as the basis for the Council's response to the West Midlands Regional Assembly consultation on the options for the Phase 3 Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) was approved by the Secretary of State in June 2004. Whilst the principles of the strategy were supported, the Secretary of State identified a number of issues which needed to be developed further. This work has been carried out in three phases - Phase 1 dealt with the Black Country Sub-region and is now complete. Phase 2 deals with a range of issues including housing and employment provision, and has recently undergone examination in public. We are now at the options consultation stage of the Phase 3 revision. (NB. The cause of the delay in reaching this current stage has been the need to commit the Assembly's staff resources to the Examination in Public of the Phase 2 Revision held in May and June 2009).
- 1.2 The progress of the RSS Phase 3 Revision has been so far: November 2007 - Draft Project Plan launched; May 2009 - Project Plan published; Options Consultation - 29 June to 14 August 2009. The timing of future stages are to be reviewed this Autumn to reflect legislation following the Sub National Review. However, provisionally, they are expected to be: Autumn/Winter 2009 - Development of a Preferred Option; February 2010 - Submission of Preferred Option to Secretary of State; Spring 2010 - Consultation on the Preferred Option; Autumn 2010 - Examination in Public; Spring 2011 - Secretary of State's Proposed Changes issued for consultation; Autumn 2011 - Final Phase Three Revision published.

- 1.3 In May 2008, the Regional Assembly issued a brief seeking advice from Strategic Authorities to help shape the options relating to each of the policy areas being addressed by the Phase 3 Revision. Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Forum responded to this consultation in July 2008 with a detailed input advised by the officers of all 8 authorities. In relation to the Regional Assembly's current options consultation, your officers have contributed to a joint CSW Sub-regional response agreed by the CSWF on 31 July 2009 – attached to this report as **Appendix "A"**. (The main points from the July 2008 response are also included in this latest CSWF report).

2. The Options Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation on the Options for the Phase 3 Revision began on 29 June 2009 and lasts until 14 August 2009. The WMRA has promoted public consultation events across the Region, including a well attended presentation and discussion session run by WCC officers for the CSW Sub-region at Warwick University on 14 July 09.

- 2.2 The Options consultation document it is concerned with the following five policy areas:

- (i) Rural Services – to identify and prioritize the services that are critical to the sustainability of rural communities, and to identify mechanisms for promoting their provision.
- (ii) Housing – to identify the number of pitches required for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
- (iii) Culture, sport and tourism - to identify and address gaps in the provision of international, national and sub-regionally significant assets.
- (iv) Environment – to develop further the environment policies in the RSS, including flood risk, air quality, renewable energy, and Green Belt.
- (v) Minerals – to develop policies on safeguarding mineral resources and the future supplies of construction aggregates and brick clay.

- 2.3 For each topic, the Options consultation document sets out the national and regional policy context, advice received from strategic planning authorities last year, key issues, policy options, consultation questions and the evidence base. The 138 page Options Consultation document can be found by following this link to the WMRA website:

http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Planning_and_Regional_Spatial_Strategy/WMRSS_Revision/WMRSS_Revision_Phase_3.aspx

And the WMRA's 8 page summary of the Options Consultation document can be found at http://www.wmra.gov.uk/documents/Options_Leaflet.pdf

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 The report at **Appendix A** is consistent with the advice given by the CSW Sub-regional Forum at the initial input stage of the RSS Phase 3 Revision process and reflects the evolution of Sub-regional consensus on the changing national context in these policy areas over the past 12 months.
- 3.2 At this stage, it will be important to emphasise that future commitment to preferences expressed at this stage is dependent on the reservations attached to them being carried forward through to subsequent stages in the Phase 3 Revision process.
- 3.3 Subject to this qualification (3.2 above), **Appendix A** provides the appropriate basis for the County Council's response to the Regional Assembly's options consultation at this stage, including completion of the detailed questionnaire.

PAUL GALLAND
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

23 July 2009

Portfolio Holder Decisions

Councillor C Saint – Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Housing

7 August 2009

Regional Assembly Consultation on Options for Phase 3 Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy

Report of the Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Sub-regional Forum of Local Authority Members – 31 July 2009

- 1.1 The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) was approved by the Secretary of State in June 2004. Whilst the principles of the strategy were supported, the Secretary of State identified a number of issues, which needed to be developed further. This work has been carried out in three phases. Phase 1 dealt with the Black Country Sub-region and is now complete. Phase 2 deals with selected issues on housing, employment land, centres, transport and waste and has recently undergone examination in public. The Panel's report is expected to be submitted to the Secretary of State in September 09.
- 1.2 This report deals with the options stage of the Phase 3 revision. It is concerned with the review of the following five policy areas:
- **Rural Services** – to identify and prioritize the services that are critical to the sustainability of rural communities, and to identify mechanisms for promoting their provision.
 - **Housing** – to identify the number of pitches required for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
 - **Culture** - to identify and address gaps in the provision of international, national and sub-regionally significant cultural assets.
 - **Environment** – to develop further the environment policies in the RSS, including flood risk, air quality, renewable energy, and Green Belt.
 - **Minerals** – to develop policies on safeguarding mineral resources and the future supplies of construction aggregates and brick clay.
- 1.3 On 1 May 2008, the Regional Assembly issued a brief seeking advice from Strategic Authorities to help shape the options relating to each of the policy areas being addressed by the Phase 3 Revision. Your officers contributed to a

joint response on behalf of the Coventry Solihull Warwickshire Sub-region agreed in July 2008. That response was very detailed and contributed to the Assembly's development of the Options. The main points from that response were:

Critical Rural Services : to assess the existence of shortfalls in critical services and seek to maintain existing viable critical services by monitoring their availability and controlling their loss through changes of use where appropriate.

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople : to acknowledge the difficulty of providing further advice on gypsy and traveller needs than those included in the sub-regional assessments without a consistent basis of re-distribution being agreed throughout the region. It also noted that the Gypsy and Traveller Assessment (GTAA) had recommended the identification of temporary stopping places for Coventry, but had not been able to provide an estimate. In relation to Travelling Showpeople, it had noted a nil requirement for Coventry.

Culture Sport and Tourism : noted the value of identifying particular sub-regional characteristics and strengths, as well as identifying particular gaps, and that RSS cultural policy should be based around sub-regionally identified strategic gaps. The particular strengths of CSW sub-region were seen as: heritage tourism; business tourism; performing arts; and creative industries.

Quality of the Environment : noted that:-

- The value of having a regional target for reducing energy usage;
- That RSS should promote innovative local approaches to enhancing sub-regional and local distinctiveness and biodiversity so that local ownership by people and agencies ensure ongoing success;
- That protection, conservation, enhancement and management of the natural and historic environment should take place on a rational basis locally against clearly established criteria; and
- That the Green Belt should be used more positively to reflect the varying needs of people and wildlife.

Minerals : noted that the main challenges include the need to ensure that the minerals required to support the planned level of growth are available at the right time and that worked land can be restored to a beneficial after-use.

- 1.4 Having considered the advice received from Strategic Authorities in 2008 there has been delay in moving towards the options stage because of the Assembly and the Region's local authorities' commitments to preparing for the Examination in Public of the Phase Two Revision. However the timetable is also being dictated by the desire to complete this stage before the abolition of the Assembly. As a consequence the Phase Three Options Consultation was launched on 29 June and the period for responses ends on 14 August 2009. As part of that process the Assembly held a half day session at the University of Warwick involving a presentation and question and answer session. Copies of that presentation have already been supplied to those residents groups that

attended the quarterly residents' group liaison meeting and they have been advised of the timetable.

- 1.5 For each topic, the Options Document sets out the national and regional policy context, advice received from strategic planning authorities, key issues, policy options, consultation questions and the evidence base. Objectives are defined and Options identified together with their key implications. Appendix 1 to this report provides further detail.
- 1.6 In responding to the consultation, it is considered appropriate to consider the options against the earlier sub-regional. Considering the topic areas:

Rural Services : Option 2 is considered to most likely to reflect the needs of individual communities by enabling the development of locally based solutions to the delivery of rural services which reflect the needs of individual communities. Whilst some of the measures set out in Option 1 may be relevant it runs the risk of delivering a rigid 'one size fits' all solution.

Gypsies and Travellers : The CSW Forum objects to Option 1 as drafted and recommends the following principles to WMRA in the formulation of this policy area:-

- Revised sub-regional GTAAs should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity using a methodology for assessment that moves away from past trends
- Each authority should be required to maintain a minimum provision of pitches though the extent of this provision should be determined through the revised GTAA process; criteria based policy should be provided to assess the most appropriate locations
- The methodology for allocation of pitch numbers to district level should seek some extent of redistribution taking account of the views of the gypsy and traveller community, land availability, planning constraints and existing provision.

In respect of provision for showpeople the GTAAs provide a historical guide and reflect the tradition of fairs and therefore Option 1 is favoured.

Culture Sport and Tourism: the issue of identification of assets raises the prospect of inflexibility. Clearly there are assets like the NEC that will always retain their function. However, there are developing facilities that may over the plan period develop into a regional asset. The absence of this within the list could prove problematical. It may therefore be appropriate for the policy to amend to provide a clearer definition and then leave development plan documents to define.

What is perhaps more important is the identification of gaps and in that respect it is considered as proposed by option 3 that a new policy should be developed.

Quality of the Environment – This topic area deals with a review of a number of environmental policies. The Green Belt topic considers whether a policy on the positive use and function of the Green Belt should be developed. It is not reviewing green belt boundaries, which forms part of the Phase Two revision.

The issue in relation to Positive Uses of the Green Belt is that, whilst the relevant national guidance (PPG2) clearly defines the roles of the Green Belt, there is also a wider debate about the role and purpose of areas on the fringes of urban areas and the perceived negative nature of policy. The presumption against development can result in Green Belt becoming poorly managed and under-used whereas it could provide, particularly close to urban areas, a valuable recreational and ecological resource. A more positive approach, encouraging appropriate uses, management and enhancement, would provide wider benefits. The consultation presents the options of continuing to use only PPG 2 or developing a regionally specific policy, identifying where positive improvement should take place. The recommendation is to support the latter option.

In respect of this policy area and minerals, the Table below sets out the recommended responses. In general, options look to redraft existing policies to provide a clear regional steer.

Management of Environmental Resources – Policy QE 1

Options are

1 : Environment-led

- promoting a landscape-scale approach, protecting key assets and improving poor environments

2 : Development-led

- targeting areas affected by significant growth

3 : Spatial strategy led

- priority in and around major urban areas and regenerations zones

Recommendation to agree with the list of issues for inclusion in Policy QE 1 and to state a preference for Option 3 on the basis that the objectives should be to continually seek improvements in environmental quality and to minimise any negative effects of development and that a balance must be struck to meet development needs.

Managing and Creating High Quality New Environments – Policy QE 2

Options are

1 : Targeting communities in need

2 : Concentration in growth areas

3 : Prioritise brownfield sites so as to enhance the image and attractiveness of the Region

Recommendation that both Options 1 and 2 should be taken into consideration, thus allowing for approaches which recognise the needs of disadvantaged areas and recognise the need to facilitate the re-use and

redevelopment of brownfield sites in areas of growth.

Greenery, Urban Space and Public Spaces

– Policy QE 4

Revised policy (placing greater emphasis on green infrastructure and sustainability benefits) and supporting text proposed

Recommendation to support proposed change

Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment – Policy QE 5

Revised policy (which places greater emphasis on the historic environment as a resource with particular benefits) and supporting text proposed

Recommendation to support proposed change

Conservation, Enhancement and Restoration of the Region's Landscape

– Policy QE 6

Revised policy (emphasising the importance of positive management and pressures on the landscape) and supporting text proposed

Recommendation to support proposed change

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Resources – Policy QE 7

1 : Update targets for improving priority habitats.

2 : Focus enhancement on specific geographical areas

Recommendation to support proposed change and, in particular, the suggested list of issues for inclusion in the new policy.

Forestry and Woodlands – Policy QE 8

Revised policy (emphasising positive management, importance for climate change and protection/enhancement) and supporting text proposed

Recommendation to support proposed change with additional reference to the need to protect woodland edge habitats

The Water Environment – Policy QE 9

Revised policy (emphasising the context of River Basin Management Plans and addressing the implications of growth) and supporting text proposed

Recommendation to support proposed change and emphasise the need for accurate high quality data and regular monitoring

Flood Risk

New policy and supporting text proposed, requirements for up-to-date Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, supporting infrastructure to avoid areas at risk of flooding and incorporation of sustainable drainage systems in all new development and having regard to Catchment Flood Management Plans

Recommendation agree with the list of issues for a new Flood Risk policy, with the addition of encouraging cross-boundary collaboration.

Renewable Energy Generation – Policy EN 1

Options are

- 1: Retain existing policy to meet national target
- 2 : Adopt Regional Energy Targets
- 3 : Include sub-regional targets

Recommendation is to state a preference for Option 2 on the basis that sub-regional targets are not suitable because of the difficulties of measurement and potential competition between sub-regions. An additional recommendation is to agree to the revision of policy to encourage energy improvements to existing buildings as increased energy efficiency can reduce energy generation and contribute to mitigating climate change.

Location of Renewable Energy – Policy EN 1

Options are

- 1 : Retain existing policy of local authorities identifying criteria
- 2 : Set out criteria in the RSS

Recommendation is to state a preference for Option 2 on the basis of the usefulness of having clear and consistent criteria and, in relation to the stated criteria, to suggest the inclusion of "health".

Positive Uses of the Green Belt

Options are

- 1 : Apply PPG 2 alone
- 2 : Develop a regionally specific policy identifying where positive improvement should take place

Recommendation is to state a preference for Option 2. This would particularly allow for the identification of more positive uses through green infrastructure studies, such as improved access and recreation; to reflect the varying needs of people and wildlife; and to provide the opportunity for the recognition of

world-class institutions located in Green Belt (for example the University of Warwick and the National Agricultural Centre) to be treated as special cases. It would also enable policy to reflect the different characteristics of green belt in the city particularly the role of wedges

Safeguarding Minerals Infrastructure

Options are

1 : Safeguard key resources

2 : Safeguard all resources

Recommendation *is to support the safeguarding of key mineral resources that are nationally or regionally acknowledged as such. NB. At this stage, national policy on coal (e.g. re. clean coal, gasification) is being reviewed and it would therefore be premature to identify specific regional policy. The priority for safeguarding of other mineral resources should be a matter for local mineral development frameworks.*

Future Supplies of Aggregates

Options are

1 : Apportion future supplies by existing methods

2 : Apportion using different sub-regions and existing methods

3 : Apportion using different sub-regions and methods

Recommendation *is to express a preference for Option 1 but indicate that Option 2 – using the CSW sub-region as a basis - could be entertained as potentially reflecting functional sub-regions, just so long as all constituent parts of the Region and sub-regions are making a contribution to aggregate supply reflecting the distribution of resources. NB Option 3 should be rejected at this stage as being a wholly untried and untested system. However, there is a need to update the current forecasting methodology particularly in relation to government review of the carbon performance of building construction.*

Future Brick Clay Provision

Options propose alternative ways of meeting requirement.

Recommendation *is that this may be a matter more appropriately addressed in local development frameworks.*

Appendix 1

Rural Services - Objectives

- Identify role of service provision in enhancing sustainability of rural communities
- Identify whether particular services are critical to rural areas.

Rural Services – Key Issues

- Defining “critical rural services” notoriously difficult.
- Rural service provision not static - moves over time and place.
- Would allowing development in some rural locations conflict with other RSS policies?
- Should development be allowed in settlements lacking a service base to reverse a cycle of decline?
- Should policies be driven by the needs and expectations of local people or by climate change consideration?

Options	Implications
<p>Option 1: SUSTAINABLE – CLIMATE CHANGE DRIVEN</p> <p>Provide for and encourage service provision in a manner that offers the opportunity to reduce the need to travel</p>	<p>There would be a concentration of services, not just higher-order services, in the larger towns.</p>
<p>Option 2: COMMUNITY BASED</p> <p>Adopt a “bottom-up” approach by facilitating local people, together with voluntary and community groups, to identify service needs, scale and locations.</p>	<p>Would foster service development and protection of existing services throughout the rural settlement hierarchy.</p>
<p>Option 3: STATUS QUO</p> <p>Accept that the existing RSS polices on Rural Renaissance and related topics are adequate.</p>	<p>The current policy RR4 is very general about the location of services and there are major questions over its implementation. Therefore if the status quo is chosen as the option to take forward, it will need to be accompanied by details on how the policy can be made to work more effectively.</p>

Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Traveller Showpeople (GT&TS) - Objectives

- Increase the number of pitches to address under-provision identified in GT Accommodation Assessments (GTTA's).
- Ensure sufficient plots for the accommodation of Travelling Showpeople.
- Recognise, protect and ensure the traditional travelling way of life of GT&TS, also respecting the interests of settled communities.
- Include fair, realistic and inclusive policies for the accommodation needs of GT&TS.

Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (GT&TS) – Key Issues

GTAA's suggest a regional need for:

- **660** additional Residential G&T pitches (2007-2012).
- **279** additional Residential G&T pitches (2012-2017).
- **244** additional Transit G&T pitches between (2007-2017).
- **118** additional Travelling Showpeople pitches (2007-2012)

- Current pattern of provision in Region is uneven.
- Views sought on number of pitches and plots to accommodate the needs of GT&TS across the Region.
- Views sought on broad distribution of GT&TS pitches and plots across the Region.

Permanent Pitches for Gypsies and Travellers:

Option	Comment
<p><u>OPTION 1: Need Where it Arises:</u> Option 1 would see additional pitch requirements being distributed largely on the basis of the findings from the sub-regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would meet the need for new pitches identified by the GTAAs ▪ Would reinforce existing patterns of residential Gypsy and Traveller provision. ▪ Will not significantly expand Gypsies and Travellers choices as to where they can legally reside in the West Midlands Region
<p><u>OPTION 2: Planning Criteria:</u> Would see additional pitch requirements being distributed on the basis of both 'need where it arises' and the potential land supply within each District for new sites. Three-quarters of requirements are distributed on a 'need where it arises' basis as in Option 1. The remaining 25% of requirements are distributed in relation to the footprint (area in hectares) of opportunities on unconstrained land within each District.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would see additional pitch requirements being largely distributed in line with existing patterns of provision but would also deliver a limited re-distribution and thereby increase the areas where Travellers can legally reside in the West Midlands Region. ▪ Would re-distribute some pitch requirements towards those areas which have unconstrained areas of land, together with areas of opportunity, with the balance of opportunity areas being in Shropshire and Herefordshire.
<p><u>OPTION 3: Re-distribution:</u> The underlying rationale is that there should be no District in the Region where Gypsies and Travellers cannot live on authorised sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allocates a minimum of 14 pitches to all Districts.

The document includes a table that indicates the District Allocation of Pitch Requirements under Options 1, 2 and 3.

Local authority	Additional Residential Pitch Requirements		
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Warwickshire			
North Warwickshire	18	16	17
Nuneaton & Bedworth	29	27	27
Rugby	66	55	61
Stratford-on-Avon	45	43	41
Warwick	13	15	14
Coventry	3	5	14
Solihull	26	23	24
West Midlands Region	939	939	939

In respect of Transient provision identified by sub-regional Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessments for the 2007-2017.

Warwickshire:	
North Warwickshire DC	5 pitches
Nuneaton & Bedworth BC	5 pitches
Rugby BC	5 pitches
Stratford-on-Avon DC	10 pitches
Warwick DC	15 pitches
	40 pitches TOTAL
Coventry CC	5 pitches
Solihull MBC	5 pitches

WM REGIONAL TOTAL: 244 pitches

In respect of Provision of Plots for Travelling Showpeople Need the Distribution of Additional Plots Requirements for Travelling Showpeople 2007 – 2012:-

	Option 1	Option 2
Warwickshire	1 plot	12 plots
West Midlands Conurbation	63 plots	42 plots

Options	Potential Implications
<p>Option 1: Requirements as largely identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would meet the level of need identified in the sub-regional GTAAs. ▪ Would maintain the existing pattern of provision for Travelling Showpeople.

<p>Option 2: Aims to create a wider spread of opportunities for site development for Travelling Showpeople.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would reduce the current concentration of Travelling Showpeople sites in the West Midlands Conurbation. ▪ Could potentially lead to the development of a site in each County area, thereby increasing the areas in which Travelling Showpeople can legally reside in the West Midlands Region.
--	---

Culture, Sport and Tourism – Objectives

- Strengthen the current RSS policy (PA10) to support sustainable economic growth.
- Meet the strategic cultural, sporting and tourism needs of the Region.
- Improve physical and mental well-being of communities by encouraging healthier, more active lifestyles and greater and more inclusive access to, and participation in, cultural activities.
- Make the Region more attractive to residents, in-movers and businesses.

Culture, Sport and Tourism – Key Issues

- RSS current policy on tourism and culture (Policy PA10) primarily focused on the benefits for economic growth.
- Views sought on portfolio of regional culture, sport and tourism assets.
- Views sought on “strategic gaps” in provision.
- Revision of Policy PA10 and/or develop new policy.

Spatial Options for Updating PA10A - the Culture, Sports and Tourism Assets Portfolio:-

	Implications
<p>Option 1 - Remove the Portfolio of strategic cultural assets Means that all assets listed in Part A of the policy would be deleted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shorter policy giving rise to no diversionary debate on what assets should/should not be included in the policy.
<p>Option 2 - Update the Portfolio of strategic cultural assets to reflect the most up to date information on the Region’s most important cultural assets Means that the policy would include all assets of regional, national and international importance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The portfolio of assets would be longer than the current policy but not unduly long. • Some agreement would be needed by key partners. • It might exclude those assets of sub-regional importance

Spatial Options for Updating P10B and C - Addressing Strategic Gaps in Culture Sport and Tourism Assets Provision

Options 1 and 2 explore whether the existing policy is adequate, or could be made better through revisions to the existing text. Option 3 explores the need for a new policy, in addition to PA10, to reflect the social benefits delivered through culture and the need to address specific gaps in provision.

	Implications
<p>Option 1 – Retain existing Policy PA10 parts B and C</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focus of the policy would remain on the economy Might be difficult to give weight to/support proposals for major new facilities which primarily provide social benefits in areas which are not priority places.
<p>Option 2 – Amend Policy PA10 parts B and C Means that the criteria could be updated to reflect current issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria could be amended to include social outcomes.
<p>Option 3 - Develop a new policy Means that the scope of the policy could be broadened and detailed criteria developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focus of the policy would be broadened to complement the economic drivers and recognise the social benefits.

Quality of the Environment

Environment - Objectives

- Update existing Quality of the Environment policies to ensure consistency with national guidance and other regional plans.
- Protect, preserve, enhance and manage the environmental assets and resources.
- Consider flood risk and set out a strategy to manage that risk.
- Promote development of renewable and low carbon energy.
- Consider roles and specific uses of Green Belt.

Environment – Key Issues

- Restoration of degraded areas
- Urban Greenspace
- Historic Environment
- Landscape
- Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Resources
- Forestry and Woodlands
- Managing environmental resources
- Water Environment
- Flood Risk
- Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
- Role and Uses of the Green Belt

Update of the Environmental Policies in the WMRSS

Policy QE2 – Restoring Degraded Areas and Managing and Creating High Quality New Environments

	Implications
<p>Option 1: Needs led Approach</p> <p>Involves targeting communities in need when developing strategies and programmes of action.</p>	<p>Would lead to an improvement in the attractiveness of disadvantaged areas with significant amounts of brownfield land and meet social and economic needs.</p>
<p>Option 2: Growth led Approach</p> <p>Would mean that resources devoted to facilitating the redevelopment and re-use of brownfield land would be concentrated in those areas identified for significant growth</p>	<p>Would recognise the pattern of new development/ redevelopment in the RSS phase 2 revision</p>
<p>Option 3: Competitiveness led Approach</p> <p>Would prioritise redevelopment and re-use of those brownfield sites that would enhance the image and attractiveness of the region.</p>	<p>Best fit with the principles of the WMRSS.</p> <p>Would place lower priority on brownfield land in Settlements of Significant Development and other non MUA growth areas.</p>

Policy QE7 – Protecting, Managing and Enhancing the Region’s Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Resources

	Implications
<p>Option 1: Regional Habitat Targets</p> <p>Involves updating the targets for improving priority habitats, as set out in Annex B of the RSS.</p>	<p>Would ensure that the policy reflects up to date national and regional priorities.</p>
<p>Option 2: Focus Enhancement on Specific Areas or Zones</p> <p>Focus for enhancement would be mainly on specific geographical areas, either the existing Biodiversity Enhancement Areas (BEA) in the adopted RSS, or the areas shown in the Regional Opportunities map.</p>	<p>Focus on BEA would develop the policy approach in the adopted RSS.</p>

Integrated Approach to the Management of Environmental Resources

	Implications
<p>Option 1: Environment led Approach</p> <p>Means promoting a landscape scale approach, the protection and enhancement of key assets and the improvement of poor quality environments across the region.</p>	<p>Would address environmental concerns</p> <p>May not address wider sustainability issues or contribute to the spatial strategy urban and rural renaissance priorities.</p>
<p>Option 2: Development led Approach</p> <p>Involves targeting areas affected by significant growth.</p>	<p>May not address poorest quality areas or communities with greatest social need.</p>

<p>Option 3: Spatial Strategy led</p> <p>Would enhance the image and attractiveness of the region, with priority given to the protection of key assets and addressing areas of poor environmental quality in and around the major urban areas and regeneration zones.</p>	<p>Would contribute to the spatial strategy urban and rural renaissance priorities.</p> <p>Would not address issues relating to Settlements of Significant Development and other growth areas outside the major urban areas and regeneration zones.</p>
--	---

Energy

Targets for Renewable Energy Generation

	Implications
<p>Option 1: Retain existing RSS Policy EN1 with the aspiration that the region meet the national target for generating electricity from renewable sources</p> <p>Means setting targets to generate 10% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010, with a further target of 15.5% by 2015 and 20% by 2020.</p>	<p>This Option does not include a target for renewable energy to contribute to heat consumption or transport.</p>
<p>Option 2: Adopt Regional Energy Strategy targets for renewable energy</p> <p>Requires 5% of electricity consumption by 2010 rising to 10% by 2020; 0.3% of heat consumption by 2010 rising to 1% by 2020; and for at least 460 GWh of liquid biofuels to be produced for transport use in the region.</p>	<p>Fails to meet Government targets for renewable energy.</p>
<p>Option 3: Sub-Regional targets for renewable energy</p> <p>Means the RSS including targets for the sub-regions in the West Midlands which reflect renewable energy opportunities and constraints in those areas.</p>	<p>Sub-regional targets which reflect renewable energy opportunities and constraints.</p> <p>Different targets in different parts of the region.</p>

Location of Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies

	Implications
<p>Option 1: Retain existing Policy EN1 in RSS which states that local authorities in their Local Development Documents should identify the environmental and other criteria that will be applied to determine the acceptability of renewable energy proposals.</p>	<p>No clear criteria for assessing appropriate locations for renewable energy and low carbon technology development.</p> <p>Inconsistent approach to assessing applications in the region.</p>
<p>Option 2: Criteria-based policies for renewable energy and low carbon technology</p>	<p>Clear and consistent approach across region.</p>

Means that the RSS would set out consistent criteria against which planning applications for renewable energy and low carbon technologies would be assessed.	
--	--

Positive Uses of the Green Belt

	Implications
<p>Option 1: Apply PPG2 Alone</p> <p>Reflects the current situation where PPG2 provides the policy for decisions in Green Belts within the region.</p>	<p>Would comply with national Green Belt policy</p> <p>May not deliver positive use or enhancement of Green Belts</p>
<p>Option 2: Develop a Regionally Specific Policy</p> <p>Would identify where positive improvement should take place during the plan period and call on LPAs to work together across boundaries to develop Action Area Plans.</p>	<p>Would provide a regional priority for positive use and enhancement of Green Belts</p>

Minerals

Minerals - Objectives

- Develop a policy for safeguarding brick clays, natural building and roofing stone and aggregates
- Produce new sub-regional apportionments for aggregates for the period to 2026
- Examine supply and demand for brick clays

Minerals – Key Issues

- West Midlands contains mineral deposits of national, regional and local significance
- Adequate supply of minerals necessary to meet society’s needs (construction and maintenance of infrastructure)
- Attention must be given to environmental issues
- “Safeguarding” required to ensure mineral resources not sterilised
- Sub-regional apportionment needed to 2026 (current RSS to 2016 only)
- How to meet the need for future supplies of brick clay in the Region

Safeguarding Mineral Resources

	Implications
<p>Option 1: Safeguard <u>Key</u> Minerals and Infrastructure.</p> <p>Means only safeguard those minerals and infrastructure in the region which are essential to the delivery of future housing and employment growth.</p>	

<p>Option 2: Safeguard All Minerals and Key Infrastructure.</p> <p>Means that all minerals and key infrastructure in the region are safeguarded.</p>	<p>Ensures that the changing values and importance of mineral throughout the plan period is provided for at the regional level.</p> <p>Not all minerals require regional policy support where there is adequate national or local safeguarding policies in place.</p>
---	---

Future Supplies of Construction Aggregates

Table x: Apportionment of the Regional Guidelines 2005-2026 (million tonnes) by existing sub-regions

	Annual Apportionment Sand & Gravel	Annual Apportionment Crushed Rock
Herefordshire	0.308	0.398
Worcestershire	0.946	0.153
Shropshire (1)	0.891	2.77
Staffordshire (2)	7.172	1.31
Warwickshire	1.133	0.827
West Midlands County	0.55	0
Regional Total	11	5.46
Regional Total 2005-2020	165	82
Additional Requirement 2020-2026	+66	+32.76
Regional Total 2005-2026	231	114.76

Table xx: Sub-Regions: Sub-Regional Apportionment

Existing	As proposed by S.4(4) Authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herefordshire • Worcestershire • Shropshire (and Telford) • Staffordshire (and Stoke) • Warwickshire • West Midlands County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffordshire/Stoke and Walsall • Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire • Worcestershire • Herefordshire • Shropshire • Telford and Wrekin

Options

	Implications
<p>Option 1: Apportion final regional guidelines up to 2026 using existing sub-regions and existing apportionment methods.</p>	<p>Does not reflect the changing sub-regional position on production and consumption for minerals.</p>

<p>Means that future supplies of materials will come from the same areas and in the same proportions as in the past.</p>	
<p>Option 2: Apportion future supplies using different sub regions.</p> <p>Means that future supplies of materials will come from either a mixture of existing and potentially new areas or increased production from existing areas.</p>	<p>Would better reflect the changing position on functional sub regions for mineral production and consumption.</p> <p>The impacts may increase or decrease in certain parts of the region.</p>
<p>Option 3 Apportion future supplies using different sub regions and methods.</p> <p>Apportion final regional guidelines up to 2026 using different sub-regions and a methodology based on linking local supplies to future patterns of growth and infrastructure requirements and environmental constraints.</p>	<p>Resource utilisation will be locally based and directly linked to local demand and use for future supplies.</p> <p>Does not reflect the geographical imbalances between the supply of, and demand for aggregates at the national level.</p>