

Sub-Matter 2A

**Statement on behalf of
West Midlands Planning & Transportation Sub-Committee**

(i) Climate change

Does Policy SR1 provide an effective framework for the RSS to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change? Is it regionally specific and does it add to national guidance on climate change?

Are climate change considerations adequately reflected in other policies as indicated in the table following paragraph 2.21? If not what, if any, further changes should be incorporated in this Phase 2 revision, or followed through in Phase 3?

(ii) Creating sustainable communities

Does Policy SR2 add anything to national policy; does it give adequate guidance for local development frameworks?

Is it possible to give more regionally specific guidance? Should it relate more clearly to existing communities as well as new development?

(iii) Sustainable design and construction

Is policy SR3 necessary and does it add meaningfully to national policy and guidance incorporated in building regulations, the Code for Sustainable Homes, and CABI “Building for Life”? Is the reference to the West Midlands Sustainability Checklist for Development appropriate?

What is the region’s justification for departing from national standards, for example in requiring faster progress to higher levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes?

What is the basis of the regional 10% target for on-site renewable or low-carbon energy?

(iv) Improving air quality

Is policy SR4 necessary and at an appropriate level of detail for RSS?

- 1 We have only general strategic comments to make on this matter, these can be summarised as follows.

- 2 The overall urban and rural renaissance principles that continue through the Phase Two Revision remain fundamental. They promote a sustainable pattern of development, with areas increasingly meeting their own needs; this will help reduce carbon emissions when compared to a more dispersed settlement pattern. This is clearly consistent with national guidance given in PPS1 paras 13(ii), 21, 23(vii) and 27 (CD84).
- 3 The Preferred Option is spatial in its approach as it considers the impacts on existing communities; it is not solely a land development programme. This again is consistent with PPS1 which promotes social cohesion and reducing social exclusion (paras 4, 15 and 16).
- 4 To support our case we refer the Panel and other participants to the background documents; Urban Renaissance in the West Midlands: Origins, Progress and Future Prospects (core document to be added to the library) and (CD246), which consider the origins and future prospects for urban renaissance and the need to stem net out migration from the MUAs; these clarify how the RSS Phase Two Revision relates equally to existing communities.
- 5 In our December representations we referred to it being unnecessary to duplicate national guidance relating to detailed design and construction standards. It is understood that WMRA has subsequently undertaken further analysis as to what standards it considers are appropriate to the Region. The results of this will be considered at the EiP.

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