

# report

meeting **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT**

date **26<sup>th</sup> March 2004** agenda item number

from: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

## **Regional Planning – Main Findings of the Public Examination Panel Report and Three Cities Sub Area Strategy Update**

### Purpose of Report

To update Committee on the main recommendations of the Examination Panel and the future of the Three Cities Sub-Area Strategy.

### **Background**

1. This item was raised at the last meeting where it was resolved that a progress report is brought to this meeting. A copy of the report to the last meeting is appended.

### **Progress**

2. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Government Office for the East Midlands published the Panel Report on the Regional Examination held in Nottingham last autumn into draft Regional Planning Guidance. The Panel was very supportive of the Draft Revised RPG, and in particular welcomed the leaner, more focussed document which had been prepared. Amongst the main recommendations of the Panel were the following:
  - More emphasis should be given to implementation and a Policy Implementation Matrix should be included. This should be linked to adequate monitoring and review.
  - Key policies should be moved from the Core Strategy to the Spatial Strategy and the Priorities for Regional Planning Guidance should be included as a new Policy.
  - No significant change was recommended to the policy on concentrating development in urban areas except for some strengthening of wording.
  - The Panel felt that Policy 14 on the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt was superfluous and potentially misleading as a consideration of Green Belt designations was also referred to in Policy 16 on the Three Cities sub Area Spatial Strategy.
  - No significant changes were warranted for the Three Cities Sub Area priorities.

- For employment land priorities the Panel felt that more explicit reference should be made to qualitative aspects of employment land.
  - The figure of 100,000 square metres of potential new retail floor space for the Three Cities Sub Area should be deleted.
  - The policy on regional traffic growth reduction targets was endorsed.
  - The policy on improving surface access to East Midlands Airport was endorsed, albeit with an additional reference to walking and cycling.
  - The map showing the broad locations for wind energy development should be deleted.
3. The Panel has accepted proposals for sub-regional studies for the Three Cities and northern Sub Areas, the former affects both City and County Councils whilst the latter involves the County Council. Whilst the formal view of the Secretary of State is awaited regarding this part of the Panel's Report, it is likely that the Regional Assembly will press on with the sub-regional studies so that they can become part of any future Regional Spatial Strategy.
  4. Work is nearing completion on the issues paper and project plan for the Three Cities Sub-Area under the aegis of the Regional Assembly. If these documents are available, copies will be circulated to members at the meeting.
  5. If the strategies are started, it is important that both Councils are involved at officer and member level in the steering arrangements. And this view has been clearly put to the Regional Assembly.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

6. It is RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

### Background papers

#### Contact Officers

Geoff Brown, Development Department, Nottingham City Council

Roger Howes, Culture and Community Department, Nottinghamshire County Council

meeting	<b>JOINT COMMITTEE ON PLANNING &amp; TRANSPORT</b>	
date	<b>5<sup>th</sup> December 2003</b>	agenda item number
from:	<b>JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP</b>	

## **REGIONAL PLANNING: THREE CITIES SUB-AREA STRATEGY**

### **Purpose of Report**

To report on the development of a Three Cities Sub-Area Strategy.

### **Development of the Strategy**

1. Draft Regional Planning Guidance proposes that the Three Cities Sub-Area Strategy will be one of the three sub-area annexes within the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands. The County Council is also involved in a similar exercise for the Northern Coalfield Sub-Area. The intention is to prepare an issues paper and project plan by March 2004. This will be prepared by the 6 strategic planning authorities (3 counties and 3 cities) in the sub-area under an informal agency arrangement with the Regional Assembly and involve other regional/sub-regional partners.
2. A building block in the preparation of the strategy is the Three Cities study, which was jointly commissioned and funded by the Regional Assembly and EMDA and carried out by consultants Ove Arup and Partners. Following a seminar on the draft report in September, the final report was submitted by the consultants in October. The study focussed principally on the sub-region's economy and associated employment, transport and urban environment issues. For example, the study examined what the Three Cities have in common, what differentiates them and what opportunities exist to take advantage of their complementarity. The spatial planning aspects of the study will input to the preparation of the Three Cities Sub-Area Strategy.
3. A steering group will be established to oversee the preparation of the strategy and will comprise representatives from:
  - 3 County Councils
  - 3 City Councils
  - Regional Assembly
  - District Councils - (3 representatives, one from each county)
  - SSPs
  - *emda*
  - Environment Agency - representing environmental statutory bodies
  - EMEL – representing non-statutory environmental interests

- Culture East Midlands.
4. A wider reference group comprising representatives from other relevant partner organisations will also be set up including representatives from community and environmental groups.
  5. The timetable is for the issues paper and project plan to be prepared by 31 March 2004. If the Secretary of State accepts the proposals for the development of the full strategy, work on this will then begin in parallel with the next review of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

- a) The report be noted;
- b) A further report on progress on preparing the issues paper and project plan be brought to the next meeting.

### **Background papers**

Report to the Regional Planning Board 23 July 2003 entitled "Agreement of priorities for research for 2003/4 and the development of Agency Arrangements with Strategic Planning Authorities".

### **Contact Officers**

Roger Howes, Nottinghamshire County Council

Geoff Brown, Nottingham City Council

