

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

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from: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

Report

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform Members of the current position of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Introduction

- 2 The Examination in Public (EIP) into the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was held from May to July 2007. The Panel Report has been submitted to the East Midlands Government Office and was published on the 29th November 2007. The Government Office will be considering the report in detail and will then prepare modifications to the RSS, due to be issued around Easter 2008. Any modifications will be subject to a period of public consultation which is likely to be during late spring 2008. This Committee will have the opportunity to comment on any proposed modifications.
- 3 Officers will prepare a detailed report in due course but key issues in the Panel Report have been set out in the appendix to this report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 4 It is RECOMMENDED that
 - a) Members of the Committee note the contents of the report

Background Papers

Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS 8), September 2006
Panel Report into RSS8, November 2007

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APPENDIX 1

Summary of key points of Panel report of the examination into the Draft East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy

Strategy

- ▶ the Panel have endorsed the Draft Plan's basic strategy of 'urban concentration and regeneration'. They also support the use of housing market areas as the basis for developing policy and to manage relationships across regional boundaries.
- ▶ the Panel considered Policy 2, setting out a sequential approach was unnecessary, but supported that policy's emphasis on previously developed land, which they recommend is transferred to Policy 4
- ▶ The Panel have supported increased emphasis on climate change

Housing

- ▶ Overall, housing provision in the Region to rise from 20,418 per year in the Draft Plan to 21,757 per year. The Panel have indicated that further rises will be needed in the long term.

- ▶ the Nottingham Core HMA housing totals (excluding Hucknall) should be **revised upwards from 2,370pa or 59,250 (2001-26) to 2,817pa or 70,425 (2001-26)** to reflect the 2004 projections.
- ▶ The panel recommend that the relevant local planning authorities within each housing market area should agree with the Assembly the distribution of housing provision between their authorities to total the 2004 adjusted figures
- ▶ In the 3 Cities Nottingham HMA **the provisional housing distribution should be broadly in line with the suggestion of the local authorities put to the Panel**; this leaves a remainder as in the table below to meet the HMA figure of 2,817. The figures are to be provisional subject to preparation of a joint core strategy for the HMA authorities.

	In/adjacent PUA		DISTRICT TOTAL	
	DRAFT	PANEL	DRAFT	PANEL
Nottingham	945	1,000	945	1,000
Broxtowe	170	170	270	270
Erewash	55	105	290	290
Gedling	225	225	310	310
Rushcliffe	445	445	555	555
Remainder				392
Nottingham HMA	1,840	-	2,490	2,817

- ▶ **reference to the location of a sustainable urban extension at Clifton be removed.** Instead the Panel recommends a **full sub-regional study be undertaken** jointly by 6 authorities in the Nottingham HMA assisted by the County Council, which reviews housing land availability and the need for and location of sustainable urban extensions.
- ▶ **Rushcliffe** should remain as a "default" option as a site for a major urban extension if an alternative location cannot be agreed in other districts or boroughs bordering the city.
- ▶ **joint development plan documents** in certain named areas will be 'expected', (the Draft Plan stated 'strongly encouraged') - this includes the Nottingham HMA.
- ▶ **a major reduction is made to the extent of the Nottingham-Derby Greenbelt; that areas to the north, east and south of Nottingham should all be deleted from the Greenbelt.** A future Greenbelt should be concentrated solely on preserving the existing gap between Nottingham and Derby. The panel recommends a further review of Green Belt boundaries.

- ▶ 'New Growth Point' status for all successful bids be supported and mentioned in the Plan.

Economy

- ▶ the Panel have also endorsed the general approach to promoting economic growth and regeneration,
- ▶ the Panel have recommended some additional policy text, suggested by emda, which guides the distribution of employment land. This should be informed by sub-regional reviews undertaken jointly between authorities.
- ▶ The Panel have recommended the Nottingham Core HMA as one of five broad locations where a strategic distribution site is brought forward. Such sites should be at least 50 hectares, have good rail and road access, along with other criteria.

Transport:

- ▶ the approach to transport investment set out in the Draft Plan does not take sufficient account of likely available resources and should be reviewed.
- ▶ Rejection of the Draft Plan's targets for traffic growth reduction as too ambitious.

Other points:

- ▶ The Panel have agreed with the proposed level for affordable housing (albeit in aggregated form and expressed as numbers not percentages) and provision for Gypsies and Travellers.
- ▶ the Panel consider that the Draft Plan's targets for 'micro' renewable energy generation are too ambitious and should be rejected.
- ▶ The Panel have supported Draft Plan policies on:
 - biodiversity and environmental protection and enhancement,
 - minerals extraction and waste reduction
 - recycling and disposal
 - water resource management and flood risk;

The Secretary of State (through the Government Office for the East Midlands) will now consider the recommendations and representations made on the draft Plan.

Based on these the Secretary of State will publish proposed changes to the draft Plan in spring next year together with a further Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment.

There will be further consultation of at least eight weeks on the Secretary of State's proposed changes when these are published in spring next year. Then, following due consideration of all the further representations made about the proposed changes, the Secretary of State will produce a final version, which is expected to be issued in autumn 2008.