

Meeting **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT**

Date **18 DECEMBER 2009**

Agenda item number

From **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE - SECTION 4 (4) ADVICE

Purpose of Report

- 1 To discuss draft proposed advice to be given to the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) from Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council to inform the preparation of the revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) (known as S4(4) advice).

Regional Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy) Partial Review

- 2 At the meeting on the 18 September 2009, councillors discussed Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council's responses to the Issues and Options Consultation for the East Midlands Regional Plan Partial Review.
- 3 Under the Planning and Compensation Act 2004 and Planning Policy Statement 11 'Regional Spatial Strategies' the Regional Planning Body has a duty to seek advice from, and for it to be provided by, Section 4 (4) Authorities within the region to inform the preparation of a revision to a Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 4 EMRA (as Regional Planning Body) has requested that the Section 4 (4) Authorities within the region including, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council, provide formal written advice that will enable the development of preferred options for the topics covered by the Partial Review. This advice should address the topics covered by the Partial Review including those raised by the submitted responses.
- 5 Subsequently, in light of comments from Section 4 (4) Authorities, including the City and County Council, the Regional Housing, Planning and Transport Joint Board (23 October 2009) and the EMRA Full Assembly (6 November 2009) authorised EMRA officers to seek Government's advice on whether EMRA should continue to review the housing provision and Milton Keynes South Midlands Part A elements of the Regional Plan. Ministerial approval is needed for any major changes and EMRA has now received this Communities and Local Government.
- 6 EMRA still intends to proceed with the other Partial Review topics to the same timescale as in the Project plan, i.e:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Lincolnshire Coastal Study § Gainsborough Growth Point § Regional Transport Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Renewable Energy § Aggregates Apportionment § Implementation Plan |
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- 7 The following sections summarise the advice to be submitted to EMRA by the City and County Councils.

Transport

- 8 There is great concern that the funding will be insufficient for the infrastructure requirements that are needed for the growth envisaged in the adopted EMRP.
- 9 As reported to the September 2009 Joint Committee the Partial Review approach and the regional response has been agreed at the East Midlands Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) Directors Group and subsequently at EMRA board on stage 1 of the approach on DaSTS, including agreeing strategic regional priorities and work programmes. The Proposed RTS structure fits well with national and local issues and objectives (DaSTS/HMA).
- 10 Elsewhere on this agenda it is reported that the East Midlands Development Agency and EMRA are progressing the DaSTS process. This will deliver strategic transport policy decisions and priorities across the conurbations of the Three Cities from 2013/14. However, the timing of the Review is also premature in advance of the Government's new DaSTS approach which seeks to provide a new national, regional and sub regional Transport planning framework.
- 11 Although the partial review also addresses transport issues it does not look directly at economic issues, though will fully consider the economic implications of other changes. However it may be possible for Policy 21 of the adopted EMRP on Strategic Rail Freight Distribution to be reconsidered through the Partial Review and or the Department for Transport's DaSTS process.

Renewable and Low carbon Energy

- 12 Earlier comments expressed concern over the lack of content on Climate Change as an underlying issue which will need to be addressed in the preferred option.

- 13 Concerning renewable energy a wide range of sources should be considered, including on-site renewable and localised energy generation (e.g. combined heat and power, ground source). Existing development can also be utilised to improve energy efficiency and delivery through dense urban areas considered for 'Heat Networks', and applying improved energy efficiencies to older housing.

Aggregates

- 14 The East Midlands Regional Working Party on Aggregates agreed the new sub-regional apportionment of aggregates for the period 2005-2020 at a meeting on 11 November 2009. The new apportionment represents the average share of regional aggregate production for each Minerals Planning Authority (MPA) area achieved over the last 7 years with two detailed adjustments. One of these has been to reduce Nottinghamshire's sand and gravel figure with the balance been taken up by Northamptonshire. This was to take account of the recent average figures looking too high and too low respectively. The resulting Nottinghamshire sand and gravel apportionment figure is still much higher than before but is at a level that looks more realistic in terms of expected output.
- 15 In preparing the advice the Sustainability Appraisal / Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Partial Review Options, and Cross Boundary Issues and HMA relationships will have been taken into account. In preparing the advice the Sustainability Appraisal / Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Partial Review Options, and Cross Boundary Issues and HMA relationships will have been taken into account.

Sustainability appraisal

- 16 S4(4) advice needs to take into account the Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The SA (which is not a full assessment, this will take place at preferred option stage) indicates broad agreement with a concentration policy as in the current RSS.
- 17 However the SA has certain caveats to that conclusion:
- there will be a need to integrate extensions to urban areas with existing development;
 - sustainable transport will need to be supported in development location decisions;
 - in order to maintain sustainable development in rural locations, including affordable housing and support for services, development location decisions should not ignore rural areas.

- 18 The SA also emphasises the need for a long-term perspective. The S4(4) advice currently prepared is not at odds with the broad conclusions of the SA.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of the report.

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