

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

Date **12 MARCH 2010** Agenda item number

From **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Purpose of the report

- 1 To inform the Committee of the progress of the East Midlands Regional Plan Partial Review, a consultation by the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) on the Leaders' Board arrangement for preparation of the Single Regional Strategy, and progress on the Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies.

Regional Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy) Partial Review

- 2 At the meeting on the 18 December 2009, the Committee was informed that Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council had responded to EMRA with their advice as Section 4 (4) Authorities on the Regional Spatial Strategy Partial Review.
- 3 EMRA now intends to present the Consultation Draft of the Partial Review to the final meeting of the Regional Housing, Planning and Transport Joint Board on the 5th March. However, it is unlikely that Ministers will wish to undertake consultation in the lead up to a general election, and the consultation may therefore be deferred, which would have knock-on effects to the remainder of the timetable.

Consultation on Proposal for a Leaders' Board for the East Midlands

- 4 EMRA has consulted on proposed arrangements for the East Midlands Leaders' Board and its relationship with wider local government through East Midlands Councils. EMRA has a statutory obligation to formally consult and confirm to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that the proposals are agreed by the region's Local Authorities. The consultation period ran to Thursday 18 February 2010.
- 5 On 1 April 2010 it is anticipated that the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act (LDEDC) will come into effect. The Act provides powers to:
 - o establish a Local Authority Leaders' Board in each region for regional governance; and

- give the regional development agency (the East Midlands Development Agency, emda) and the Local Authority Leaders' Board joint responsibility for the drafting of a Regional Strategy.
- 6 Following the full enactment of the LDEDC Act both EMRA and Local Government East Midlands (LGEM) will be wound up and replaced by a new organisation, the East Midlands Councils (EMC). EMC will bring together representatives from all local authorities, police and fire authorities, national parks and parish and town councils and will act as the regional consultative forum for local government in the East Midlands.
 - 7 The East Midlands Leaders' Board will be constituted as the Executive Board of EMC. It will act as the strategic decision making body on issues of interest and relevance to Local Authorities at the regional level. The Leaders' Board and EMC will have a common Chair.
 - 8 A Shadow East Midlands Leaders' Board was established in March 2009 from leaders of the 9 upper tier authorities in the region, plus one representative leader from a district in each county. The leaders of both County and City Councils (Councillors Kay Cutts and Jon Collins respectively) are members of the Shadow Leaders' Board, as is the leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council (Councillor Neil Clarke). The Shadow Board has subsequently led a review of regional governance and agreed its approach to working with emda, including the establishment of the Joint Strategy Advisory Board that will be responsible for preparing the Regional Strategy.
 - 9 The draft proposal contains details of the establishment and operation of a Leaders' Board. It is intended that the East Midlands Leaders' Board will offer a sound basis for local government to work together and, with others, provide a strong voice for the East Midlands.
 - 10 Under the proposal the Board will adopt a 9+5 model made up of the leader of each of the unitary and county authorities and a leader of one district in each of the county areas.
 - 11 The Board will engage with emda through a Joint Strategy Advisory Board (JSAB) as a joint instrument of the Local Authority Leaders' Board and the emda Board, made up of 3 members from each board. It will be chaired by a Local Authority Leaders' Board representative.
 - 12 The purpose of the JSAB will be to support and advise the two Boards in discharging their joint responsibility to develop the Regional Strategy. Terms of reference are set out including establishment of working groups to support the JSAB.
 - 13 A Joint Strategy Team (made up of staff from emda and EMC) will support and advise the JSAB and co-ordinate the activities of the JSAB's advisory and working groups.

- 14 There are certain arrangements, outside the proposals for a Leaders' Board, that still need finalisation, such as management of EMC and nomination arrangements by districts for the district representatives onto the Board. There are also the arrangements over Local Economic Assessments being prepared, including funding for economic development.
- 15 The two councils each made responses to EMRA broadly welcoming the proposals.

Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies

- 16 Following consultation on an 'Issues and Options' document in the summer of 2009, the local planning authorities making up Greater Nottingham have published a 'Option for Consultation' draft of the Aligned Core Strategies, for a further period of consultation between 15 February and 12 April 2010.
- 17 The draft Strategies consist of a vision for how Greater Nottingham would look in 2026 if the Core Strategies are implemented, together with strategic policies and proposals to achieve the vision. The Core Strategies will in due course be supported by more detailed development plan documents prepared by each local planning authority.
- 18 The situation in Ashfield is slightly different, as only the Hucknall part of the District is within Greater Nottingham. Ashfield District Council are therefore preparing a Core Strategy to cover the whole of their district, with the Hucknall element closely aligned to the Greater Nottingham document. A 'Preferred Option' draft is due for publication at the beginning of March 2010.
- 19 Following the consultation period, comments and views will be taken into account in drafting a 'pre-submission' draft of the Aligned Core Strategies, which will again be published, for formal representations. This is programmed for September 2010.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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