

# REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: HEAD OF PLANNING POLICY AND ECONOMIC  
REGENERATION

REPORT NO. PLA 503

DATE: 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005

<b>TITLE:</b>	REPORT INTO PROPOSALS FOR A REVIEW OF THE EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PLAN TO 2026
<b>FORWARD PLAN ITEM:</b>	N/A
<b>DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:</b>	
<b>KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:</b>	N/A

<b>COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:</b>	CLLR SMITH – ECONOMIC PORTFOLIO
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY:</b>	TOWN CENTRES (A), PLANNING AND CONSERVATION (B) AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING (B)
<b>CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:</b>	MINOR
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:</b>	DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE COUNCILS WEBSITE <a href="http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk">www.southkesteven.gov.uk</a>
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	Regional spatial strategy (RSS8) March 2005 (ODPM) A Review of the East Midlands Regional Plan to 2026 (EMRA)

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Council is being asked to comment on the Proposals for a Review of the East Midlands Regional Plan to 2026, as part of the first review of the Regional Spatial Strategy. This report summarises the key issues and recommends further action.
- 1.2 Following the enactment of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act of 2004, Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) became part of the statutory development plan, and has been re-named as Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). Therefore RPG8 becomes RSS8 (which was published in March 2005) and this replaces RPG8 which was published in January 2002. This review document is now referred to by the East Midlands Regional Assembly as the Regional Plan.
- 1.3 An immediate review of the RSS is necessary because, although the current RSS was published in March 2005, it is not compliant with new requirements for the content of regional plans in the following respects:
  - it does not include housing figures for all local authority areas,
  - it does not take account of government initiatives on waste,
  - it does not take account of information obtained from the 2001 census, and
  - it does not take account of the latest Regional Assembly Annual Monitoring reports.

There is now also a need to extend the life of the plan to 2026.

- 1.4 This consultation document sets out the Regional Assembly's plan for the review. It outlines the issues which it considers should be reviewed, and invites comment on their appropriateness. It identifies 10 issues which need to be addressed:
  - Housing: the amount of new housing required in each of the district and unitary council areas, and the volume and types of development that can be accommodated.
  - Employment: the development of policies and proposals to promote a growth in the region's economy, especially in those areas which are economically disadvantaged, and to ensure a balance between homes and jobs.
  - Transport: pressure on infrastructure, poor east-west routes to and within Lincolnshire are highlighted, and the need to discourage private car use and encourage the use of more sustainable forms of transport.
  - Environmental Quality and Protection: the need to balance environmental protection and enhancement with supporting the region's economic and social needs.
  - Waste: to identify the scale and type of waste treatment facilities required to satisfy future needs.

- Energy: to reduce energy consumption and promote renewable energy generation.
- Sub-Regional issues: the development of strategies for identified areas to address issues not covered by existing policies.
- Cross-Border issues: to ensure that developments in adjoining regions are not compromised by regional policies.
- Monitoring and Implementation: to ensure that all policies are linked to targets.
- Sustainability Appraisal: to be carried out by consultants, to assess the sustainability of proposals.

1.5 The document also includes a Statement of Public Participation, which outlines the steps that the Assembly is proposing to take to ensure maximum public involvement in the review. These include MORI surveys, press, radio and television campaigns, an interactive web-site, and the identification of a named Regional Plan Information Officer in each County and Unitary Authority in the Region. An important proposal is the development of a Public Participation Support Service with East Midlands Planning Aid, with the aim of reaching 'hard to reach' groups.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That this Council welcomes early involvement in the review of RSS.

2.2 Concern should be expressed to the Regional Assembly about the issue of housing land supply in this district, particularly in view of our current debate with the LCC on Structure Plan housing provision (which is due to be considered by the EIP on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2005).

2.3 Concern should also be expressed about the co-ordination of work on Housing Market Assessments, particularly where they involve a non-East Midlands authority (in our case Peterborough). It is felt that the EMRA is best placed to lead and co-ordinate this work. By taking this role the EMRA will ensure that the work programme remains on course, and that all those who need to be involved in each HMA will be.

## **3 ISSUES AFFECTING SOUTH KESTEVEN**

3.1 As far as this Council is concerned, the key issue is the housing figures. The consultation material identifies the following points, which are relevant to housing provision in SKDC:

- The RSS housing allocation for Lincolnshire, based upon the Government's 1996 projections, is 2750 per annum, although the actual build-rate (1996-2001) is higher at 3280 per annum.
- The Government's 2002 interim projections are 3900 per annum, although this figure is due to be revised later this year to take

account of census data. It is expected that this data will produce a figure similar to the current build-rate.

- The review of the housing figures included in the new RSS8 will be based on these revised projections.

- 3.2 The projected timescale for work on Housing issues is December 2005.
- 3.3 Several areas have been identified where there are cross-border issues, including the employment/housing links between Peterborough and Lincolnshire, which will need to be addressed.
- 3.4 The document proposes that the Employment and the Economy issues are reviewed alongside the Regional Economic Strategy, which is to be reviewed by EMDA. This collaboration is aimed at developing a shared understanding of the local economy, and producing a common vision for development, including employment land provision for every local council area.
- 3.5 The projected timescale for work on Employment issues is December 2005 to June 2006.

#### **4 OFFICER COMMENT**

- 4.1 It should be noted that the housing figures in the Lincolnshire Structure Plan, (Proposed Changes February 2005), have been based upon the current RSS figure of 2750 per annum. Therefore, the conclusions of the EIP panel regarding the Structure Plan figures may have a relatively short life span.
- 4.2 It is suggested by the Regional Assembly that Housing Market Assessments should be undertaken to identify the demand, need and supply issues of each market area. The EMRA suggests these Assessments should be prepared on a joint basis by the relevant authorities within each identified Market Area. SKDC has been identified as being in a Peterborough /Welland Housing Market Area. There is concern about the implications of this, and of the input required from SKDC in these assessments. However, it is imperative that the Council remains involved, and seeks to influence the outcome of the assessments, as they will be used to guide the housing provision for each district included in the Regional Plan.
- 4.4 It is also proposed that the regional sub-area boundaries be reviewed. South Kesteven is part of the Eastern Sub-area, which includes Lincolnshire and areas around Melton Mowbray and Newark.
- 4.5 The document identifies three areas for which it is proposed that sub-regional strategies be developed:
  - The Three Cities – Leicester, Derby and Nottingham,
  - Northern – Mansfield, Workshop and Chesterfield, and

- Lincoln policy area.

The development needs of the Southern sub-area will be considered where they are affected by the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy. With the exception of the Lincoln policy area, there are no plans to develop a strategy for Lincolnshire.

4.6 The proposed timetable for the preparation and adoption of the Review of the RSS is as follows:

Stage 1	Consultation on Draft Project Plan	April 2005
Stage 2	Developing Policies and Option	September 2005 - September 2006
Stage 3	Submitting the Draft Regional Plan to Government for Public Consultation	September 2006
Stage 4	Examination in Public	early 2007
Stage 5	The Panel Report	mid 2007
Stages 6 & 7	Publication of Proposed Changes and Issue of final Regional Plan	early 2008

4.7 Our LDF timetable allows for preparation of the Core Strategy and the Site Specific Allocations DPD between now and June 2006 (this includes first consultation on Issues and a policy document), submission to the Secretary of State in July 2006, examination early in 2007, and adoption of both the Core Strategy and the Site Specific Allocations in August 2007.

4.8 It should, therefore, be noted that our key DPDs, the Core Strategy and Site Specific Allocations, are proposed for adoption before the RSS. It may be necessary, therefore, to review elements of these DPDs in light of the RSS almost as soon as they are adopted. The situation may also arise where changes are made to one of our DPDs midway through the statutory process to accommodate changes in the RSS. Consideration may need to be given to delaying our LDF timetable by a few months to allow for consideration of the RSS prior to submitting the DPDs to the Secretary of State.

## 5 CONTACT OFFICER

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