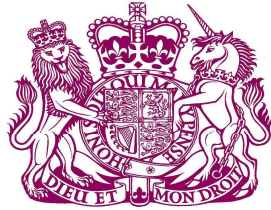


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Representation no.:	



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS

West Midlands
Regional Assembly

PHASE 1 PARTIAL REVISION
BLACK COUNTRY
REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS

SUBMISSION DRAFT

COMMENTS FORM

If you wish to comment on the draft revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy, please:

1. Type or print clearly in black ink.
2. Complete your details in Part A.
3. In Part B indicate which paragraph/policy you would like to comment upon and briefly and concisely give your reasons for supporting/objecting.
4. **Complete a separate part B of this form for each part of the RSS you wish to comment upon and ensure that your name/organisation is entered clearly.**

You may photocopy this form. However, additional copies are available from the contact overleaf, or from Black Country Consortium website at www.blackcountryconsortium.co.uk

Please note that all comment forms will be made available for the public to read - they cannot be treated as confidential. Completed forms should be returned to the address at the end of the form, to arrive no later than **Wednesday 23 August 2006**.

This consultation is being conducted in accordance with the 'Code of Practice on Written Consultation', issued by the Cabinet Office in November 2000. Any procedural observations or complaints about this consultation should be sent to Martin Bridgman, RSS Advisor, Department for Communities and Local Government, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1P 5DU

Part A

Comments submitted by	Agent (if appropriate)
Name: James Watkins/Ian Brough Organisation: West Midlands Business Council/Black Country Chamber of Commerce Address: Albert House Quay Place 92/93 Edward Street Birmingham B1 2RA Post Code: B1 2RA Email: j.watkins@wmbusinesscouncil.org.uk Tel: 0121 245 0138 Fax: 0121 245 0141	Name: Organisation: Address: Post Code: Email: Tel: Fax:

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Part B

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Respondent no.:	
Representation no.:	

Name/Organisation ...West Midlands Business Council/Black Country Chamber of Commerce.....

Complete a separate form for each part of the RSS you wish to comment upon.

<p>I am supporting <input type="checkbox"/> opposing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Please tick as appropriate) the draft revisions to the RSS listed in part 2 of the draft RSS Phase One Revision:</p> <p>Policy or Paragraph Number: <i>New Policy 11A, Revised Policy T12, Para 9.93 to 9.96</i></p> <p>.....</p>
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Please use this space to explain why you support/oppose this particular part of the draft revision of the RSS, and to clearly set out what further changes to this part of the submission draft revision of the RSS you would like to see.

Policy/Paragraph Number:

The Black Country Chamber of Commerce and the West Midlands Business Council supports and endorses the majority of the report and its conclusions with developing a forward thinking and radical agenda for the positive transformation of the Black Country. The West Midlands Business Council and the Black Country Chamber of Commerce is committed to this vision as the Black Country is strategically vital for the economic well-being of the wider West Midlands region.

The remainder of this submission focuses exclusively on the transport section of this report.

New Policy 11A

Oppose This paragraph provides no indication of the priority need for improved road access to the Brierley Hill area, as well as the public transport improvements indicated, from all directions within the sub-region and beyond to support business activity in the area, particularly freight and accessibility to work sites. Provision of adequate car parking in the Brierley Hill area to support the development of business is also required.

Revised Policy T12

Oppose This section does not specify the requirements for M5 and M6 motorway junctions which requires clarification. There are uncertain timescales for implementation for these key gateways to the sub region which should be instrumental to the continued regeneration of the sub-region and the overall scale of the Study's objectives. Therefore clarification of these points is required.

Para 9.93 to 9.96

Oppose There is a lack of any detailed proposals to enable assessment of adequacy of improved access arrangements including motorway junctions, motorway diversion routes, key artery routes (non -motorway) and road access to centres and corridors.

There is a lack of any proposals for heavy rail improvements or integration of rail to other forms of public transport critical to the objective of a comprehensive system within the sub-region and to provide access beyond regionally, nationally and internationally.

There is a lack of attention to access arrangements to and from the western side of the sub region such as the Wolverhampton – Stourbridge -Bromsgrove corridor.

It is this lack of detail that could lead to the ambitious plans of the Study not being implemented. For the inward investment plans, as envisaged by the Study, is predicated on clear and high quality transport networks.

It is with regret that the Black Country Chamber of Commerce and the West Midlands Business Council is obliged, on behalf of the business community, to highlight this lack of detail and would, in consequence, urge for clarification of these details at the earliest opportunity for all stakeholders and the people of the Black Country to consider. Such engagement would assist with business confidence in this process which may, subsequently, assist with encouraging inward investment to the sub region.

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Signature:	Date:
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Please return this form to:

The Panel Secretary
c/o Government Office for the West Midlands
5 St Philips Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW

Tel: (0121) 352 5050

Email: wm.panelsecretary@gowm.gsi.gov.uk

To ensure that your comments are taken into account, this form must be completed and returned to arrive at the above address no later than Wednesday 23 August 2006.