

1.0 Introduction

Purpose

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal ('SA') has been prepared by Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners ('NLP') on behalf of the Government Office for the West Midlands ('GOWM'). It provides evidence that will inform GOWM's response to the Phase 2 Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy ('Phase 2 Preferred Option'). It sets out the findings of an assessment into whether options for the provision of higher housing numbers ('the housing options') identified in response to the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit ('NHPAU') report promote the principles of sustainable development.
- 1.2 The preparation of a SA is mandatory in the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies under Section 39(2) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A SA was carried out in the preparation of the Phase 2 Preferred Option.
- 1.3 This SA of the housing options does not form part of the Phase 2 Preferred Option SA process. Rather, it seeks to ensure that robust and meaningful evidence on issues in respect of sustainable development as it relates to the options to provide additional housing is available for consideration at the forthcoming Examination in Public ('EIP') into the draft policies of the Phase 2 Preferred Option. In the event that, following consideration at the EIP, it is recommended that policies should be amended to promote the provision of additional housing growth in the region it is likely that an addendum to the SA (2007) will be required to assess the effect of this decision on sustainable development and to ensure that any recommendations are taken into account in modifications to the Phase 2 Preferred Option.
- 1.4 This document forms part of a suite of documents as follows: -
- Volume 1: Main Report This contains the outputs of the work identifying potential options and assessing them in terms of impacts, delivery risks, and against RSS objectives and Housing policy
 - Volume 2: Appendices This sets out background analysis to the Main Report
 - Volume 3: Background Review This provides a summary of the background evidence base undertaken at the commencement of the Study
 - Volume 4: Sustainability Appraisal: Non Technical Summary This provides a summary of the Sustainability Appraisal
 - Volume 5: Sustainability Appraisal: Main Report This sets out the results of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Options, drawing on the analysis and approach taken by the Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Option undertaken for WMRA
 - Volume 6: Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report Initial screening of the options in line with the Habitats Directive.
 - Volume 7: HRA Assessment Report An assessment of the options in line with the Habitats Directive.
- 1.5 Cross-reference to other volumes is made throughout this report for ease of reference.

- Housing Options (Chapter 5) Summarises the evolution of the options for the delivery of additional growth including how the SA informed the process. Also summarises the three preferred scenarios forming the basis of the SA.
- Sustainability Appraisal of Housing Scenarios (Chapter 6) The SA of the scenarios
- Issues, Cumulative Effects & Recommendations (Chapter 7) Sets out the key issues, reviews whether there are any cumulative & synergistic effects and identifies mitigation measures recommended
- Monitoring (Chapter 8) Reviewed against monitoring identified in SA (2007)