

South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

Report to the Board

Date of meeting: 12 June 2007

Agenda Item 6

Draft East Midlands Regional Plan – Examination in public

Issue

To update the board on progress with the above.

Background

The draft East Midlands Regional Plan was published for consultation in September last year.

The LSP took part in this consultation following a special meeting of the board on 7 December 2006. At this meeting the draft plan was discussed in detail and through workshops, key issues and concerns were identified that informed the LSP's consultation response.

This response was submitted by the December 2006 deadline and as part of this the LSP indicated its desire to appear at the Examination in Public (EiP) of the draft plan.

Details

The draft plan sets out how the region will develop over the next twenty years or so and has major implications for South Derbyshire particularly in terms of housing development, transport links and employment.

The LSP has been invited to participate in the EiP session on the 'Three Cities: Derbyshire' matter, which is taking place on 28 June 2007 in Leicester. The Panel hearing the examination consists of a Chairman (Professor Stephen Crow) and an Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate who are supported by a Secretary. The EiP is now underway and will close on 19th July. The Panel's Report is expected to be published in –the autumn.

The LSP Secretariat has accepted the offer of a place to appear at the 28 June session on behalf of the LSP. It is now necessary for the board to nominate an individual board member to represent the LSP and take part in the session. It needs to be kept in mind that the EiP is not a public inquiry and as such is not following the same processes of examination and cross-examination of witnesses giving evidence and objections. It is instead a

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chaired discussion through which the Panel gain an understanding of the relevant issues enabling them to report at the end of the examination.

It is proposed that the brief for the nominated individual is provided by the LSP's formal consultation response of December 2006 (appended with this report).

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board: -

1. Nominates an individual board member to attend the EIP session on 28 June 2007 at Devonshire Place, Leicester to represent the LSP at the session.
2. Agrees that the consultation response (appended) be the brief for the person attending.

Contact: **Mike Greenway**
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Dear Colleague

DRAFT EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PLAN: PUBLIC CONSULTATION

We are pleased to present the Draft East Midlands Regional Plan for public consultation.

The Regional Plan will direct development in the East Midlands over the next 20 years. To do this, it has to meet the wide range of challenges that are facing us here in the East Midlands, such as climate change, traffic growth, the demand for new housing and for affordable housing, the need for more and better jobs and the need to protect and enhance our precious environment. The Draft Plan seeks to meet all these challenges and more, by setting out a concise 'spatial strategy' that will improve the overall quality of life for people living and working in the East Midlands.

The Draft Plan is the product of strong partnership working involving local authorities, business, environmental, voluntary and community groups. It is underpinned by a range of technical studies which have also been subject to strong stakeholder involvement. There have already been a number of public consultation exercises that have informed different aspects of the Draft Plan. Now is the time to have your say on the Draft Plan as whole. The closing date for comments is **Wednesday 20 December 2006**. Please use the enclosed response form and send it to:

The Panel Secretary
c/o Government Office for the East Midlands
The Belgrave Centre
Stanley Place, Talbot Street
Nottingham NG1 5GG

Tel: 0115 971 2769
Fax: 0115 971 2404
E-mail: rss.panel@goem.gsi.gov.uk

Your comments will be considered by an independent Panel appointed by the Secretary of State. The key issues raised will be discussed at an 'Examination in Public' which is due to start in May 2007. Following the Panel's Report, proposed changes will be issued for a further round of public consultation. The final Regional Plan will be adopted by the Secretary of State in early 2008.

Please take the time to read the Draft Regional Plan and have your say. We need your help to get it right.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Parsons".

Clr David Parsons
Chair of the Regional Assembly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Harker".

Clr Jim Harker
Chair of the Regional Assembly Joint Housing,
Planning & Transport Board

APPENDIX

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EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PLAN CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

1. Please complete your personal details in Section A.
2. Indicate which sections you wish to comment on in Section B.
3. Summarise your comments in Section C – please keep your comments brief and to the point to ensure that they are fully taken into account.

Your comments should be sent to the Panel Secretariat at the address at the end of the form. Please note that the Panel Secretariat is not part of the Government Office but is employed by the independent Panel appointed to administer the public consultation and examination.

Please note also that all response forms will be made available for the public to read. If you supply any additional material please send two copies. Please type or write clearly and attach any additional sheets of paper. The form can also be downloaded from the EMRA and GOEM websites.

Please return this form to arrive no later than 5pm on 20 December 2006.

Section A

Name: South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

Organisation: SOUTH DERBYSHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Address: c/o South Derbyshire District Council, Civic Offices, Swadlincote, Derby DE11 0AH

Tel No: 01283 595755

Fax No: 01283 595760

e-mail: ourcommunities@south-derbys.gov.uk

Section B

Please indicate which of the proposed changes you have comments on below and set them out overleaf in Section C.

Part 1: Regional Strategy

A – Executive Summary

B – Core Strategy (Section 1)

Part 2: Sub-Regional Strategies

J – MKSM SRS

K – Three Cities SRS



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C – Spatial Strategy (<i>Section 2</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	L – Northern SRS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D – Housing (<i>Section 3</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	M – Lincoln Area SRS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
E – Economy and Regeneration (<i>Section 3</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
F – Natural & Cultural Resources (<i>Section 3</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
G – Regional Transport Strategy (<i>Section 3</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
H – Implementation, Monitoring & Review (<i>Section 3</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

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Section C

Use this space to make your comments and specify clearly which paragraph/policy numbers they refer to. Please make clear how you would like to see the revised Regional Plan changed to overcome your objection.

Purpose of the report

1. This report sets out the consultation response of South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership to the Draft East Midlands Regional Plan (DRP), developed by the East Midlands Regional Assembly.

South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

2. South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership (SDLSP) is the local strategic partnership body for the District of South Derbyshire. It was formally established in October 2003.

3. The Partnership Board is the 'executive arm' of the partnership, providing strategic direction and acting as a 'champion' for local issues. It has 24 places, 6 from each of the local government, public, private and voluntary/community sectors. A list of the current organisations represented on the LSP board is at annex A. The District Council provides the Secretariat and Accountable Body functions.

4. The focus of work for the SDLSP is on the delivery of the South Derbyshire Community Strategy (Community Strategy). This was 'officially' launched at a public Forum event in July 2005 and covers the period 2005 to 2010. The Strategy has 6 themes: creating opportunities for all, safe communities, healthy communities, a vibrant economy, a sustainable environment and lifelong learning and culture. Working groups chaired by board members support these 6 themes.

5. Delivery of the Community Strategy is through an action plan and the 2006 to 2008 plan was approved in July 2006.

Developing the SDLSP response to the consultation

6. The SDLSP board resolved to respond to the consultation at its meeting 16 November 2006. As the DRP has far and wide reaching implications for South Derbyshire the board felt it important to engage a wider audience of stakeholders as well as LSP partners.

7. The SDLSP held an event to discuss the draft plan. At the meeting Peter White (Chair of the Housing Advisory Group and 3 Cities Sub-Regional Strategy Group) and District and County Council officers gave details about the

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plan. Perspectives were also given from health, education, transport and communities. Through a series of workshops, delegates discussed the draft plan and the implications for South Derbyshire around the themes of: housing, environment, transport and employment. The issues arising from the workshops and the plenary sessions have been used to formulate this response.

Summary of key issues

8. *In summary the key issues that have been identified by the SDLSP are as follows and set out in more detail below: -*

- Issue 1 – Accessibility of the draft regional plan and the consultation*
- Issue 2 – The need for an integrated approach*
- Issue 3 – Recognising the needs of shire districts*
- Issue 4 – Need for more flexibility in locating and phasing of housing development*
- Issue 5 – The need for adequate infrastructure*
- Issue 6 – Provision of affordable housing*
- Issue 7 – Developing a vibrant economy*
- Issue 8 – The need to address cross-border issues*

Issue 1 – Accessibility of the draft regional plan and the consultation

9. *A key priority set out in the Community Strategy is creating opportunities for all by improving communication, consultation and involvement with local people.*

10. *The SDLSP had concerns about the accessibility of the document and the arrangements for consulting local people and groups about a plan, which will have a long-term impact on the district.*

11. *Fundamentally it was felt that the document was written in 'planning speak', which to many stakeholders was difficult to understand, thus limiting its accessibility to the community.*

Issue 2 – The need for an integrated approach

12. *The Community Strategy is based on a vision of 'working together for a better South Derbyshire'. This vision is being delivered through the 6 interrelated themes set out in para. 4 above.*

13. *Whilst the SDLSP recognises the needs of a growing population, it does feel that the DRP needs stronger integration between housing, transport and employment issues in order to promote sustainable communities where people want to live, work and visit. Without this the SDLSP believes its vision for*

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South Derbyshire will be compromised and its efforts to secure sustainable communities frustrated.

Issue 3 – Recognising the needs of shire districts

14. It is the opinion of the SDLSP and its partners that the DRP focuses on the regeneration of the cities of Derby and Nottingham at the expense of shire districts.

15. Although South Derbyshire is a largely rural district with a large number of scattered villages and other settlements, the former coalfield areas based in Swadlincote and the District's southern parishes continue to be in need of regeneration.

16. Partners have identified that a whole district approach is required so that the South Derbyshire Community Strategy vision of 'working together for a better South Derbyshire' is realised.

Issue 4 – Need for more flexibility in locating and phasing of housing development

17. Partners indicated a strong belief that housing development should be determined locally through the Local Development Framework (LDF). It was felt that the LDF should determine the options for the 2 major brownfield sites in the District (Drakelow and Willington). They considered that the proposals in the DRP are inflexible and provide insufficient choice for local communities. One point raised by a delegate at the event was "the RSS is top down and City dominated."

18. Partners were specifically concerned about the location of new development on the fringes of Derby city. They considered that brownfield sites within the city should be used before greenfield sites in South Derbyshire, in order to protect the countryside. Furthermore, they have concerns about the protection of the character of rural villages and also the need to avoid their stagnation as a result of new development.

Issue 5 – The need for adequate infrastructure

19. The SDLSP and its partners feel very strongly that the DRP does not recognise the need that further growth in South Derbyshire must be supported by the necessary infrastructure including road networks and public transport, education, healthcare and community and voluntary services.

20. At the SDLSP event, specific concern was raised by the partners about the impact of new development on the environment, disruption to communities whilst development takes place, the adequacy of the existing infrastructure to meet current and future needs and the risk of flooding in parts of the district.

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21. Partners had many issues regarding the adequacy of the highway network and public transport and questioned the relevance of 'smart choices', when in some parts of the district people had no choice but to travel by car. Concerns about noise control and night flights at East Midlands Airport (Nottingham, Derby and Leicester) were voiced as well.

Issue 6 – Provision of affordable housing

22. The Sustainable Environment theme of the Community Strategy identifies the need to provide more affordable homes in rural areas.

23. Partners expressed concerns about the need for sufficient resources to be made available to make affordable housing happen.

Issue 7 – Developing a vibrant economy

24. A priority of the Community Strategy is to encourage inward investment and doing business in South Derbyshire. Partners had concerns about the re-use of employment land for housing leading to increased pressure on brownfield sites for this housing. Partners felt that the provision of employment land needs to be identified to complement housing development.

25. Partners had specific concerns about the employment potential of warehousing and distribution bases and where these 'large sheds' should be located.

26. The SDLSP has a 'flagship' action to "improve access to employment opportunities for local people". This action will aim to: -

- Improve workforce skills and encourage participation in further and higher education,
- Identify and break down barriers to employment opportunities like: transport, health etc.
- Promote volunteering and mentoring that maximises opportunity for both employees and employers
- Promote skills for life initiatives.

The SDLSP feel that the DRP does not fully address this area.

27. The partners felt that Swadlincote town centre issues, particularly economic based were important. They believe that insufficient consideration has been given to their importance and related facilities such as public transport.

Issue 8 – The need to address cross-border issues

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28. The district of South Derbyshire is bordered by the City of Derby to the north and the towns of Burton-upon-Trent to the west and Ashby-de-la-Zouch to the east. The communities of South Derbyshire look to neighbouring areas for employment, healthcare, shopping and leisure activities.

29. Partners identified the need for improved transport communication links with these neighbouring areas, in particular a growing demand for a 3rd crossing over the River Trent. Furthermore, the potential for improving access to jobs and travel at East Midlands Airport (Nottingham, Leicester and Derby) should be realised and addressed through a stronger reference to a rail link to the airport.

30. A number of service providers are based outside of the South Derbyshire district in terms of their strategic planning for example: health, police etc. The SDLSP believes the DRP needs to give strong reflection and support for addressing cross-border issues with community services.

Concluding comments

31. The SDLSP has sought to develop an inclusive Community Strategy that reflects the concerns of the people of South Derbyshire. It believes that the issues raised above, as part of the consultation on the DRP will have major impacts on the delivery of the Community Strategy and the realisation of its vision.

32. The SDLSP has welcomed the opportunity to take part in this consultation and would further welcome the opportunity to discuss the issues raised at the examination in public.

**South Derbyshire LSP Secretariat
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Civic Offices
Civic Way
Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE11 0AH**

Tel. 01283 595755

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ANNEX A – List of LSP Board members as at 30 November 2006

Local Authority Sector

Councillor Barrie Whyman MBE	Leader - South Derbyshire District Council
Frank McArdle	Chief Executive - South Derbyshire DC
Councillor John Wilkins	South Derbyshire DC
Councillor Heather Wheeler	South Derbyshire DC
Councillor Joyce Sanders	Derbyshire County Council
Councillor Evadne Robbins	Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

Other Public Sector

Ch. Supt. Jack Russell	Derbyshire Constabulary
Vicki Price	Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust
Melanie Alsop	Learning & Skills Council
Karen Jones	Trident Housing Association
Jeff Dolby	Environment Agency
Simon Caines	Connexions

Voluntary and Community Sector

Jo Smith	South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Services
Glenys Williams	Old Post Regeneration Association
Gary Wain	Groundwork Erewash Valley
Julie Batten	People's Express
Graeme Royall	Citizens' Advice Bureau
1 Vacancy	

Private Sector

David Parkin	Derbyshire Business Link
Clive Keble	The National Forest Company
Karen Bradley	Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd

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*John Oake
Colleen Hempson
Ian Philiskirk*

*Sharpe's Pottery Trust
Nottingham East Midlands Airport
Provencale*

Please return form to:

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Tel: 0115 971 2769

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