

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 28 OCTOBER 2009

THE EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PLAN

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out the current position with regard to the partial review of the East Midlands Regional Plan, arising from the Cabinet's consideration of the matter on 6 October.
2. The report seeks the Commission's views on the way forward and how it wishes to contribute to the Council's formal advice to the partial review.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

3. The Cabinet considered this matter at its meeting on 6 October 2009 and resolved:
 - (a) That the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) be informed:
 - (i) That the County Council continues to seek a deferral of the review of the housing aspects of the Regional Plan given current economic and housing market uncertainty and the limited availability of data and evidence relating to the impact of the economic downturn on the future requirement for new homes;
 - (ii) That as a Section 4(4) Authority, the County Council will need to take full and proper account of responses made to the Options Consultation Paper by key stakeholders, but that the timetable requiring Section 4(4) Authorities to submit advice by the 31st December 2009 will be insufficient to allow for full and proper consideration of responses from key stakeholders and the subsequent preparation of advice based on firm and

robust evidence;

- (b) That the assessment of the four Options for Growth published by EMRA, contained within Appendix 1 on the report, be noted and submitted to EMRA;
 - (c) That EMRA be informed that in the absence of an alternative proposal for a new settlement and given the compelling evidence against, and the Government's rejection of, Pennbury as a suitable location, Option 4 should be rejected at this stage;
 - (d) That the comments on the Partial Review consultation questions set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved and submitted to EMRA.
- 4. The Cabinet is scheduled to consider its final submission to the Regional Assembly as a Section 4(4) Authority again on 15 December.
 - 5. The Commission is currently scheduled to consider this matter at its meeting on 9 December.

Recommendation

- 6. The Commission is asked to note the current position and arrangements for scrutiny involvement and consultation on the regional Plan and consider whether it wishes to feed any comments in to the review process at this stage.

Background papers

East Midlands Regional Plan Partial Review Options Consultation Paper;
EMRA; June 2009

Sustainability Appraisal of Options; EMRA; June 2009

Advice to Ministers on Housing Levels to be Considered in Regional Plans;
NHPAU; July 2009

2006 based Population Projections; Office of National Statistics; 2008

2006 based Household Projections; Communities and Local Government;
March 2009

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

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List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cabinet report – The East Midlands Regional Plan – Partial Review Options Consultation Paper - 6 October 2009

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equal Opportunities

There are no equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

Environmental Impact

A key concern of the County Council in relation to the Regional Plan review will be to ensure that an appropriate balance is struck between the social, economic and environmental benefits and impacts of policies and proposals in the Plan. Of particular concern at this time is the possible environmental impacts, in terms of unnecessary green field land releases and unsustainable travel patterns, which could result from a review of housing provision at a time when the full impact of the current economic recession on future housing requirements has not been properly assessed.