

## **Matter 2. Spatial Strategy** **(2000 word limit encompasses Matters 2A & 2B)**

### **Matter 2A: Overall Spatial Strategy**

- (i) Does the draft RSS sufficiently express a spatial strategy that addresses the region's priorities for growth, regeneration and investment? Does policy RDF1 provide sufficient detail on the spatial priorities for main development locations?

Halton Borough Council do not wish to submit any additional response in relation to this issue.

- (ii) Do the thematic policies and sub-regional policies amount to a consistent and coherent regional strategy?

The inclusion of sub-regional frameworks at the end of the document, rather than with the Regional Spatial Framework policies in Part 2, is potentially confusing and needs revisiting. Sub-Regional Frameworks should be included within the Regional Spatial Framework policies in Part 2 in order to provide a consistent and coherent regional strategy.

- (iii) Does the spatial strategy provide a framework for improving accessibility to jobs and services particularly by sustainable modes for all parts of the region?

Halton Borough Council do not wish to submit any additional response in relation to this issue.

- (iv) Is it appropriate for the draft RSS to omit the previous designation of Regeneration Priority Areas?

Halton Borough Council do not wish to submit any additional response in relation to this issue.

- (v) Is the Key Diagram fit for purpose and do the Sub-regional Diagrams add value?

In its current format, Halton Borough Council do not consider that the Key Diagram is fit for purpose.

Some of the designations are difficult to distinguish between for example 'Broad Locations for Knowledge Nuclei Sites' and 'Broad Locations for Reserve Sites' which are both hatched in very similar colours. It is suggested that the current colours are changed to create a great visual difference.

There are areas of error, for example the Manchester and Liverpool City Regions should overlap to show Warrington and parts of Vale Royal in both City Regions.

The Key Diagram has a particularly economic focus, missing out many of the other regionally significant designations, such as the RAMSAR or World Heritage site.

### **Matter 2B: City Regions**

- (i) Does the City Region approach adequately address the different pressures and needs of the various parts of the region or are there alternative sub-regional approaches, which better reflect these needs and pressures?

Should there be greater clarity about:

- a) The geographic extent of the three city regions;
  - b) The broad scale of development they should accommodate; and
  - c) Their role in relation to each other and to towns beyond the city regions such as Carlisle and Crewe?
- (ii) Are the City Regions to be treated as being equal or is there a hierarchy?

Halton Borough Council support the Merseyside Policy Unit (respondent number 536) response given to Matter 2B. Halton Borough Council do not wish to submit anything additional to that contained in the Merseyside Policy Unit submission or to the comments provided during our original response to the Draft RSS in relation to Matters 2B.