

Panel Question (i)

Does the strategy communicate a clear, sustainable and appropriate vision for the sub-region? If not how should the strategy be modified? In particular:

- **do the proposals for employment, housing, transport and the environment amount collectively to a coherent and appropriate vision for the sub-region;**
- **are the proposals for employment land (of various kinds) appropriate and achievable;**
- **are the transport proposals adequate and logical in relation to the strategy as a whole;**
- **is adequate attention paid to issues of climate change and the protection of the environment;**
- **are there any other material deficiencies, which you perceive in the plan as it affects the sub-region;**
- **do you believe the proposals to be deliverable, through the development plan system or in other ways?**
- **how will the sub-regional sub-area priorities be monitored?**

1.1 The process that has underlain the development of policies in each of the sub-regions is set out in section 2 of the Technical Appendix to the Submitted Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). A balance has been struck to produce a concise Draft RSS between thematic policies that cover sub-regional aspects including housing and employment land requirements, and specific sub-regional policies that address the functional relationships and strategic policy deficit principles set out in PPS11¹. To ensure consistency between sub-regions within the Draft RSS, the sub-regional policies are set within the context of overarching policy frameworks such as DP1 and RDF1, and relevant thematic policies.

1.2 The vision that emerged for the Liverpool City Region was developed initially through the first detailed proposals² and latterly in the sub-regional policy work³ produced by the partnership of local authorities and other key stakeholders within the city region area that formed the major contribution to sub-regional policy development for the area within the Draft RSS. The vision and policy framework in the sub-regional position statement is closely interlinked with the work undertaken for the first version of the City Region Development Programme (CRDP)⁴ for the Liverpool City Region.

1.3 The proposals for employment, housing, transport and the environment need to be considered both in terms of what is set out within the sub-regional section of Draft RSS, and must be read across to other parts of Draft RSS to produce a collective policy whole that is a coherent and appropriate vision for the sub-region.

1.4 In terms of employment, the policies complement the framework set out in Policies W1 to W4. The Assembly's statement for matter 3A sets out the evidence

¹ Paragraph 1.13, Planning Policy Statement 11 (**PP11**)

² Liverpool City Region First Detailed Proposals provided to NWRA for the Options Consultation, March 2005

³ See the various versions of the Liverpool City Region Spatial Policy Position Statement (last version October 2005).

⁴ The Liverpool City Region – Transforming Our Economy, Mersey Partnership and Stakeholders, May 2005

base that derived the employment land requirements for the traditional sub-regions of the shire counties and former metropolitan areas in the North West. It is acknowledged that a difficulty therefore arises in apportioning an employment land requirement to the city region. A number of respondents in the public consultation highlighted the need for district level employment land figures. A potential approach to deriving district level employment land figures is discussed in Briefing Paper 7⁵. If the proposed approach was deemed to be appropriate, it would then be possible to produce employment land requirements for the city region. The broad locations identified in Policy W2 are included in the Liverpool City Region Diagram, and are referenced in the city region policies where appropriate. Local employment opportunities are covered in the city region policies and cross refer to Policy W3.

1.5 With regard to housing, the over-arching framework for the city region policies is set by Policies L2 to L5, and includes Policy L4 that provides the quantum of new housing development to be delivered within the local authority areas that make up the City Region. The detail regarding the sub-region's housing provision and distribution is set out under Matter 8B.

1.6 Each sub-region contains a policy that sets out the key priorities for the sub-region including transport which is aligned to various RT policies in the Draft RSS. In the case of the Liverpool City Region, policies RT1, RT3, RT4 and RT8 are specifically cross referenced in policy LCR1. The remaining RT policies are linked into the sub-regional policy frameworks in the same manner as the rest of the policies in the Draft RSS in line with the approach outlined in paragraph 1.3 of Draft RSS. Moreover, the transport priorities in the sub-regional policies are in accordance with the Regional Funding Allocation submitted advice for the city region.

1.7 In line with the approach set out in paragraph 1.3 of Draft RSS, the sub-regional policies need to be read across with policy DP1 that sets out the approach required to deal with climate change, and policies EM1 to EM5 plus RDF5, which provide the key aspects for environmental protection.

1.8 The Implementation Plan⁶ sets out a programme for delivery for the Draft RSS, and is covered in detail by statements for Matters 11A and 11C. The monitoring of sub-regional priorities will be incorporated into the Annual Monitoring Report process for RSS. The Assembly produces a monitoring manual each year – the next version will incorporate the necessary mechanisms for sub-regional monitoring. Moreover, monitoring is likely to be undertaken by sub-regional partners as part of their Local Development Frameworks which can feed into the regional monitoring framework.

Panel Question (ii)

Does LCR4 adequately reflect the policies and strategy emerging from the West Cheshire/ North East Wales sub-regional strategy?

2.1 Work on the preparation of a non-statutory sub regional spatial strategy (SRSS) for the cross border area of West Cheshire/North East Wales was commissioned as

⁵ Briefing Paper 7 - Apportioning Employment Land by Local Authority, NWRA, September 2006

⁶ Draft Implementation Framework, NWRA, January 2006

a direct consequence of the RPG13 Public Examination. Briefing Paper 5⁷ sets out the background and progress on this work.

2.2 The text in Draft RSS reflects the emerging policy development in this ongoing project as at autumn 2005. At the same time that Draft RSS was submitted to the Secretary of State in January 2006, a public consultation exercise was underway on the draft SRSS. As a result of this consultation exercise the partnership of central and local government and agencies have revised the strategy to take account of responses plus the outcomes of a Strategic Environment Assessment. The final revised strategy was approved in early October 2006.

2.3 As a consequence of these revisions to the SRSS plus the responses to the Draft RSS consultation, the Assembly accept that there will need to be a debate on whether RSS policy needs to be revised.

⁷ Briefing Paper 5 - West Cheshire\ North East Wales Sub-Regional Strategy and its relationship to the RSS, NWRA, September 2006