

## Chapter 10

# Implementation and Monitoring

### Implementation

- 10.1** The policies in this RPG will be implemented by numerous mechanisms. Many of these are set out in the preceding Chapters but it is expected that these will necessarily change and evolve over time.
  - 10.2** To realise the Spatial Strategy set out in this RPG will require the contribution and active participation of many partners and stakeholders at Regional and local levels. In producing the draft RPG the WMLGA established an inclusive process which provides a good basis for that participation, and the transfer of the RPB role to the West Midlands Regional Assembly will help this to evolve. PPG11 emphasises the importance of implementation measures and the RPG supporting document “Towards an Implementation Framework” identified key actions necessary for implementation, including potential changes to organisational structures and inter-organisational relationships. The Study also suggested a number of themes to be addressed. These include: establishing clear visions at Regional and sub-regional levels; the need for stronger Regional co-ordination in planning, monitoring and the strategic management of development and implementation; recognition of the role and more effective engagement with the private sector; and the need to strengthen the capacity of organisations to deliver action programmes. The Regional Assembly will need to work with other stakeholders to build on this innovative study.
  - 10.3** The West Midlands has a history of partnership working at the Regional level. An important recent example being the Regional Concordat between the Regional Assembly, AWM, GOWM and the WMLGA. This set out a framework for Regional working and a mechanism for the integration of Regional strategies and has recently been reviewed, to incorporate a wider range of Regional partners and to recognise the need to integrate key Regional strategies including RPG. The work on the implementation framework has been an important consideration in this review.
  - 10.4** There is a close relationship between the Regional Economic Strategy (RES), prepared by AWM, and RPG, it is important that these continue to be closely aligned and complementary. The Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) is a key document prepared in the context of the RES and RPG. Both the RES and the RHS indicate the direction of significant resources and consequently play an important role in helping to implement RPG.
  - 10.5** Local authority development plans have a key role by giving local expression to RPG. The RPB will play a crucial part in assessing development plans and other plans and strategies which implement the RPG and accord with its spatial principles. It should give its views on Regionally significant development proposals. The RPB’s findings and actions should be set out in the annual monitoring report.
  - 10.6** The working groups of the RPB will be important in providing advice on progress with implementing RPG, such as transport, employment land and town centre development. These groups should wherever possible continue to incorporate representatives from industry, statutory agencies, other public sector organisations and interest groups. It is important that all authorities within the Region take advantage of opportunities for sub-regional, joint-working arrangements to ensure that administrative boundaries do not obstruct strategic planning objectives.
  - 10.7** The engagement of a broader range of organisations is critical to the delivery of RPG and an important move in the direction of Regional Spatial Strategies which have a greater integration with non land-use planning matters. For the Spatial Strategy to be a success the RPB should actively promote the spatial principles of this RPG with other
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stakeholders, to increase understanding of its purpose and to influence the strategies and investment programmes of other agencies, including health, education and private house building.

- 10.8** At a more local level, local strategic partnerships will provide a general platform for cross sector input into RPG implementation, but more specific groupings such as Regeneration Zone and High Technology Corridor partnerships will also be appropriate to focus action on a specific issue or locality.

## Monitoring

- 10.9** PPG11 emphasises the importance of regular monitoring of the implementation of the RPG strategy so that its effectiveness can be kept under review. The ODPM published good practice guidance on monitoring RPG in November 2002<sup>1</sup>. Revised draft national indicators formed part of the consultation draft Planning Policy Statement 11 – Regional Planning. These have been taken into account in the preparation of this RPG, some indicators may require revision when the national indicators are finalised. National indicators which do not relate to a policy in this RPG have not been included in this RPG, but the RPB will be expected to monitor and report on them.
- 10.10** It is the responsibility of the RPB to carry out this monitoring and review in liaison with GOWM and other partners. The latter, which among others include AWM, the Regional Observatory and the statutory agencies, have important roles to play in monitoring the progress of RPG. Their roles should be co-ordinated by the Assembly so that, where possible, a common evidential base is created and duplication avoided.
- 10.11** Indicators are included in the relevant Chapters. These monitor the context of general conditions in the Region, the implementation of the processes, and the tangible outputs of policies. The annual monitoring report prepared by the WMLGA, together with the ODPM good practice guidance indicators, will provide the context for measuring progress. ‘Headline Indicators’ which measure progress towards the key aspects of the Spatial Strategy are at the end of this Chapter. The success of the policies in the Urban and Rural Renaissance Chapters will be judged by the monitoring of the policies in the topic Chapters. This monitoring, together with analysis of the ‘Headline Indicators’ will show progress towards urban and rural regeneration.
- 10.12** Further work is needed to refine the indicators and targets. In particular, the monitoring of new Regional and sub-regional entertainment, sport and physical recreation, and health and educational facilities should be considered when RPG is reviewed.
- 10.13** The RPB will publish an annual monitoring report and intends to hold monitoring seminars to disseminate information and advise on the implications of monitoring for the Spatial Strategy and the application of policies. These will also have a role in informing the refinement of indicators and targets.

## Review

- 10.14** It is not anticipated that a fundamental review of RPG strategy will be necessary in the short term. The step change in the distribution of housing set out in RPG occurs in 2007. Progress towards achieving the distribution of new housing development set out in RPG will be an important consideration in determining whether a review is necessary. Nonetheless, an early partial review to develop RPG is expected, taking into account important additional information coming forward. An indication of the additional work to inform the review is set out in the Introduction. In particular a key study is proposed for the Black Country to assist in resolving the many inter-connected issues affecting this part of the Region.

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<sup>1</sup> Monitoring Regional Planning Guidance – Good Practice Guidance on Targets and Indicators. November 2002

Headline Indicators to measure progress towards Urban and Rural Renaissance		
Indicator	Relation to Spatial Strategy Objectives	Source of Information
1. Pattern of housing development across the Region.	a, b, c, e	Annual Housing Land Surveys.
2. Pattern of population movement to and from the Major Urban Areas and changes over time.	a	NHSCR migration data.
3. Pattern of employment development across the Region.	a, b, c, e	Annual Employment Land Surveys.
4. Changes in the number of jobs in different parts of the Region over time.	a, b, c, e, f	Annual Business Inquiries.
5. Changes in the % of the population who are economically active in different parts of the Region	a, b	Labour Force Surveys.
6. The pattern of deprivation across the Region.	a, b	Indices of Deprivation.
7. Changes in house prices, relative to the Regional average across different parts of the Region.	a, b, c	Land Registry
8. The pattern of development within and between town centres and the health of town centres.	e, f, i, j	Annual Retail and Office Surveys. Valuation Office. GOAD plans.
9. Percentage of residents satisfied with living in their local community.	a, b, g	ODPM Best Value general satisfaction survey – information available at local authority level
10. Changes in the level of accessibility to employment and key services in different parts of the Region.	h	2005 round of Local Transport Plans and subsequent Annual Monitoring Reports.
11. Patterns and levels of congestion on the Region's primary highway and public transport network.	g, h	Highways Agency (trunk roads) Local authorities (local roads and public transport) Strategic Rail Authority (rail).
12. Changes in the amount of derelict and contaminated land in different parts of the Region.	g	Annual Derelict Land Surveys. Information on contaminated land.
13. Changes in the number of days with poor air quality in different parts of the Region.	g	District Councils. National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory.
14. Changes in the level of crime and people's perception of crime, in different parts of the Region.	a, b	Crime and Disorder Audits. British Crime Survey.