



The North West Plan REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY (RSS) Partial Review

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Newsletter One April 2008

Welcome to the first newsletter for the North West Plan Partial Review.

In this newsletter you will find out about;

- Timetable changes
- Comments on the Draft Project Plan
- The Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Video

For more information take a look at the updated website at <http://www.northwestplanpartialreview.org.uk>, email the Partial Review on NWPPR@cagconsult.co.uk or phone the free phone line on 0800 389 4276.

No internet access?

If you do not have internet access and need a paper version of partial review questionnaires, please let us know as soon as possible.

Timetable changes

Timetable for Partial Review of RSS Revised at the Request of Government

As a consequence of a discussion with CLG \ GONW officials in mid March, NWRA has agreed to shortening the timescale for the RSS Partial Review.

This revised timescale was discussed and agreed at the NWRA Executive Board meeting on Friday 14th March 2008.

The key change is that we have shortened the timescale for preparation and consultation on the options stage, which has had consequential changes to the timetable.

- The Options consultation will now only last 4 weeks, and take place in June 2008 rather than June to September 2008 as previously indicated.
- Consultation on the Interim Draft Policies will now take place in October – November 2008.
- We will be submitting Draft RSS in April 2009.
- The 12 week public consultation period will take place from May to end July 2009.

This means that all engagement activities will now have to fit within these new timetables.

IMPORTANT – we are aware that this new, tighter timescale makes the consultation period very tight. Please make sure that your organisation can discuss the options by getting the next stage on to relevant business agendas asap.

Comments on the Draft Project Plan

35 individuals and organisations have submitted comments to the consultation on the Draft Project Plan, either through using the on line questionnaire or by letter, email or the free phone line.

If you want to view the comments you must be registered on the web site, if you do not have computer access then we can send you a paper copy.

The link to the consultation responses is - www.northwestplanpartialreview.org.uk

Thanks to everyone who took the time to contact us with comments. They have all have been collated and will all be considered.

Some participants made suggestions about how to improve the consultation and we have made immediate changes. The table below shows these.

You said	We will
1 Those without access to the website, who require paper copies need a longer time to respond.	1 Send paper copies to all those we know need them, so that they receive copies on the first day of the consultation stage.
2 We need venues for workshops that are next to major rail stations, so people do not have to get a second bus or train after getting off the train.	2 CAG Consultants will ensure workshops are near transport links where possible
3 When substantive policy is being addressed the 500 word limit per box should be scrapped in order to allow full and comprehensive responses.	3 The 500 word limit is the equivalent of approximately one page of A4 typed. CAG Consultants will monitor whether this needs expanding at the next stage.
4 The design of questionnaires must involve local Gypsies and Travellers and their representative groups.	4 In addition to involving Gypsies and Travellers in designing questionnaires CAG Consultants will seek to involve local Gypsies and Travellers working as peer interviewers.
5 Adding to the restrictions by requiring participants to complete their responses "in one sitting" is a problem	5 In the next stage people completing the questionnaire will be able to save a partially completed questionnaire and come back to it to complete it at a later time.
6 It's great to be involved from the first stage, however we didn't find out about the consultation until 7th March, which left us little time to organise a meeting to discuss the plan and formulate a response.	6 CAG Consultants will continue to raise awareness of the Partial Review process through the CVS network.
7 It is very important that the Project Plan, once agreed, should be adhered to. However, if changes are needed, consultees should be consulted in good time and given a reasonable time to respond.	7 CAG Consultants and NWRA will endeavour to keep to the Project Plan, once agreed. Should changes be made participants will be informed in the first instance via the web site and newsletter
8 Some of the wording used was very confusing and could discourage people from responding. We felt that the issues could be explained in a clearer way.	8 CAG Consultants will review the current wording and try to use more accessible language in the future

In the next newsletter

Look out for the next newsletter soon, where will be telling you about;

- Workshop dates
- 'Do it yourself' workshop resources
- What's happening in the options phase

Contact us

If you want to find out more about the Partial Review of the North West Plan, or if you want to register as a stakeholder then contact us by:

Post: North West Plan Partial Review, Planning, Transport & Housing Directorate

North West Regional Assembly, Wigan Investment Centre, Waterside Drive, WIGAN, WN3 5BA

Email: NWPPR@cagconsult.co.uk **Freephone:** 0800 389 4276 **Web:** www.northwestplanpartialreview.org.uk