

## A4 BLACK COUNTRY IN THE REGION

- A4.1 **The Black Country Study is a key contributor to Regional Spatial Planning.** It underpins the draft RSS Phase One Revision for the Black Country. The Study supports the West Midlands Regional Assembly's draft RSS Phase One Revision to the Secretary of State. The document illustrates the technical work undertaken to help determine the appropriate form of urban renaissance in the Black Country, consistent with the principles of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy, and demonstrates the deliverability of the Revision Proposals.
- A4.2 The Study has taken a longer perspective than RSS. It looks towards a longer term Vision to 2031 in order to map out direction of specific planning strategy which the current RSS takes to 2021. It conforms with the RSS spatial vision for the West Midlands to 2021 which provides the overarching spatial and statutory planning context for the Black Country Study to 2021. **It articulates the Black Country Strategy to achieve urban renaissance in this Major Urban Area as required by RSS.** In planning terms it needs to be read in conjunction with the RSS. RSS sets out planning policies for housing, economic development, environment, transport etc which remain in force. The RSS Review Submission documents, which take forward the planning component of this Study, do not therefore repeat policies which are already set out in the approved RSS for the West Midlands.
- A4.3 The RSS is closely aligned with other West Midlands regional strategies, such as the Regional Economic Strategy and the Regional Housing Strategy. Whilst the RSS Phase One Review acknowledges this, the wider Black Country Study, by bringing new evidence and policy thinking forward for this significant sub-region, is intended not only to take forward these regional strategies but also to provide material which should be taken into account in action plans to implement those strategies and in review of those strategies.