

## **Addendum 1 – West Midlands Spatial Vision (draft)**

The revival of the West Midlands as a regional powerhouse economy is already underway. Our business base is growing – powered by global leadership in advanced manufacturing, and a world class research base across twelve universities. Our city centres are thriving – giving rise to more start-ups than any other UK city apart from London, and a digital and tech sector which is 90,000 strong and will grow by 20% between now and 2025.

The region lies at the heart of a better connected, dynamic and more inclusive future UK. The Commonwealth Games and City of Culture put the spotlight on our incredibly young, diverse and creative population. They are forging a modern version of the industrial revolution that we in the region started: representing Britain and reaching out to the world.

Our ambition for delivery is clear – we have committed to 215,000 new homes by 2031 in our Land Delivery Plan. And we have pushed for this aggressively because we know that we cannot deliver inclusive growth that is meaningful for our communities without a step change in housing supply and quality. This Spatial Investment and Delivery Plan sets out the action we need to take across the region, including identifying priority growth areas for investment from public bodies and from private investors and developers.

The regional partnership underpinning these ambitions is strong – bound by shared recognition of the need for bold collaboration across sectors, and the need for radical market intervention to unlock brownfield land, build new homes and raise the quality of housing across the region. We have the land supply – a pipeline with over 800 sites – and an impressive checklist of attributes such as transport connectivity, investor commitment and the potential of sustainable financing through significant land value uplift.

We know that unlocking this potential requires a different level of collaboration, and that is set out in this plan. We want to break the mould; to forge a partnership with central government, its agencies, local authorities and the private sector across the region, that brings forward an increased pace of housing delivery but which also innovates in construction, accelerates land release and enhances viability, and which is clear about building communities and places which are high quality, sustainable and inclusive over the long term.

The following pages show how serious we are about this proposition. This Spatial Investment and Delivery Plan is not only critical to our ambitions for housing and employment growth, but is fundamental to ensuring sustainable development through better transport connections and to supporting an industrial strategy for the region that can boost inward investment, raise the skills bar and help bring a set of 21<sup>st</sup> century public services into being. The creation of our Brownfield Institute is testament to this ambition. Our commitments are real: more skilled young people in construction jobs, planning and design principles for that boost social connectivity; and a symbiotic link between housing and transport connectivity made possible by our award winning transport network embedded within the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Our priority growth areas have been identified by the relevant local authorities as areas where there the right combination of available land and existing or planned transport connections to support the ambitious levels of growth the region needs to support its economic vision. This plan will also support and build on the established urban network and network of town centres where significant further growth can be accommodated. It seeks to ensure that the right level of infrastructure is in place to support growth, be that land remediation, transport connectivity, water, power or social and environmental infrastructure such as schools and parks.

We are restless to deliver at pace because we know how important the regeneration of our places is to our people. Good housing underpins everything; and without it we cannot deliver the commitment to a productivity uplift of 5% GVA growth per head which is so fundamental to our Strategic Economic Plan and to the success of UKPLC as a whole. Our partners across the region recognise this, and that is why we they are signed up to support and to deliver this plan.