

## **Draft media release**

### **9 August 2010**

## **Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury to continue working together on development planning**

Gloucester City, Cheltenham Borough and Tewkesbury Borough Councils have renewed their commitment to working together on the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) following the Coalition Government's recent abolition of the South West Regional Spatial Strategy (SW RSS).

The JCS is being prepared as the main planning document setting out the future for development across the three authorities. The SW RSS set housing and employment targets that the JCS was expected to deliver. When the SW RSS was scrapped, the fate of the JCS was questioned. The three councils debated how best to proceed in light of the Government's changes and committed to continue working together, having agreed that the JCS should develop local targets to guide future development in the area, independent of the former SW RSS.

To ensure the JCS is clear and transparent, the JCS team is developing a robust evidence base which will inform decisions made during the planning process. This evidence is available for public viewing on the JCS website <http://www.gct-jcs.org/EvidenceBase/Home.aspx> and includes, for example, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Housing Market Assessment and Hotel Study. Other evidence is currently in preparation, including the Employment Land Review.

The Urban Extensions Boundary Definition Study (UEBDS) published on Monday 9 August was developed to help deal with planning applications received in the areas identified as urban extensions in the RSS. This document identifies the potential development boundaries of these urban extensions but with the abolition of the SW RSS, the status of the UEBDS has changed.

Councillor Steve Jordan, Chair of the Joint Core Strategy Member Steering Group, said: "The UEBDS is a technical assessment of options proposed by a Regional

Strategy that no longer exists. It is a much-anticipated piece of work and the Member Steering Group felt it should be published, in a spirit of openness, despite changes to the national and regional planning context.

“The UEBDS reflects a point in time and provides useful information but it will not predetermine development options across the area. The RSS housing and employment targets have gone. We must now set our own targets, and then determine where best to locate the necessary development. We have a great opportunity to take a fresh look at how we accommodate development in a way that reflects the needs of our communities.”

ENDS

---

**Contact: Katie Sandey, communications team leader, telephone 01242 775050  
or email: [Katie.sandey@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:Katie.sandey@cheltenham.gov.uk)**