

West Midlands Regional Assembly

Speaking out for the region

The Regional Assembly will meet at Renewal Conference Centre, Solihull on **23 April 2008** commencing at **11.30a.m.**

The agenda and reports referred to are available on the Assembly website: <http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=442>

The agenda will be:-

1. **Apologies**
2. **Members' Disclosures of Interests**
3. **Chairman's and Vice-Chairs' Reports** (oral update)
4. **Decision Notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 16 January 2008 and Matters Arising (For agreement)**
5. **Notes of the Regional Planning Partnership Meeting held on 25 January 2008 - For ratification**

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

6. **Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration**
Appendix A - SNR Summary
Appendix B - SNR Issues
7. **Company Secretary's Report**
Purpose of Report
To provide the Assembly with an update on general issues:-
 - *2007-08 Year End Report*
 - *2008-11 Business Plan & Budget*
 - *Staffing Update*
 - *Members Declarations of Interest*
 - *WMRSS Phase Two Revision – Extension of consultation 30 June 2008*
 - *Homes and Communities Agency*
 - *West Midlands Regional Assembly 2008 Conference*
 - *ERN Conference – 23 May, Royal York Hotel, York*

Recommendation:-

*The Assembly is asked to **note** the details of this report and in particular the Board Decision at [3.4]*

Appendix 1- Business Plan

Appendix 2 – Letter from Sir Bob Kerlake

8. **Community Transport Infrastructure (CIF)**

Purpose of Report

To inform Members that the Assembly and AWM have been asked by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) and Department of Transport (DfT) to jointly provide the Departments with advice to help them consider which transport schemes (if any) may be funded through the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) and seek their approval to delegate responsibility for the Assembly's response to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Regional Planning Partnership, Regional Transport Partnership and Regional Housing Board.

Recommendation

*Given the short timescale for this process (see Section 4) Members are recommended to **agree** that the Chief Executive should be delegated responsibility to respond on behalf of the Assembly in conjunction with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Regional Planning Partnership, Regional Transport Partnership and Regional Housing Board.*

9. **Strategic Review - the Region's Approach to Post 16 Education, Training and Skills**

Purpose of Report

To present the findings from the strategic review examining the approach taken at a strategic level to regional to post 16 education, training and skills. Both the summary and full report is available on the Assembly's website www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=86

Recommendation

That the Assembly

- discuss and endorse the findings of the review panel*
- approve recommendation ER3 made specifically to the Regional Assembly*

FOR INFORMATION

10a). **Policy Report – Headline Issues for the West Midlands Regional Assembly**

Purpose of Report

To update the Assembly on key issues undertaken by the Secretariat on behalf of the Board and Assembly Partnerships over the last quarter.

Recommendation

That the Assembly considers the report and notes progress made.

Ecotown Consultation

10b). ***Purpose of Report***

To inform the Assembly of the Governments consultation on "Eco-towns – Living a Greener Future" and arrangements to develop a Regional Assembly response.

Recommendation

That the Assembly notes the consultation and arrangements to develop a Regional Assembly response.

11. **The Future of Scrutiny - The West Midlands and Parliamentary Activity**

Purpose of Report

To inform the Assembly of progress being made with the development of new scrutiny and accountability arrangements resulting from proposals within the SNR.

Recommendation

That the Assembly notes progress.

12. **'Connecting to Success' WMES Delivery Framework Consultation Response**

Purpose of Report

To inform the Assembly of the response which WMRA submitted to the consultation on 'Connecting to Success' The West Midlands Economic Strategy (WMES) Delivery Framework consultation.

Recommendation

That the Assembly notes the response.

13. **Transport Conference – 10 March 2008**

Purpose of Report

To provide the Assembly with feedback from the Transport Conference

held on 10 March 2008.

Recommendation

Members are requested to note the report.

14a). **Report on a Proposal for new structures and governance to support Regional European Working**

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to set out proposals for new structures and governance arrangements for regional European working following on from the Strategic Review of the Region's relationship with Europe. This report is a summary of that received by the EIAP on February 22nd 2008 and can be found at <http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=425>

Recommendation

That the Assembly note the report.

14b). **Report from EU Connects**

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update WMLGA on the progress made with the pilot project to establish a region-wide EU funding advice centre - "EU Connects" and outline the succession planning for the unit.

Recommendation

WMLGA is asked to note progress.

Appendix 1

15. a) **Decisions of the Board of Directors – 16 January 2008**
b) **Decisions of the Board of Directors – 22 February 2008**
c) **Decisions of the Board of Directors – 12 March 2008**

To advise the Regional Assembly of matters considered by the Board at its meetings on 16 January, 22 February and 12 March 2008

16. **Any Other Business**

To be advised to the Chairman prior to the start of the meeting

17. **Dates of Future meetings:**

09 July 2008 – The Metalforming Centre, West Bromwich

29 October 2008 – Birmingham Chamber of Commerce

14 January 2009

22 April 2009

08 July 2009

2 pm – SNR Conversation

Please complete the attached booking form if you wish to attend the SNR Workshops

General Enquiries: Please contact Sharon Doak, Senior Regional Support Officer. Tel No: 0121 678 1042 or by e-mailing: s.doak@wmra.gov.uk

Enquiries about specific reports: Please contact the officers named in the reports.

The agenda and reports referred to are available on www.wmra.gov.uk

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2 pm – SNR Conversation

I will/will not* be attending the SNR Discussion on 23rd April 2008 at 2.00pm
(* please delete as applicable)

Name:	
Authority/Organisation:	
Telephone Number:	
Email address:	

Please indicate you main area of interest, for example Planning, Scrutiny etc.
