

Agenda Item 8

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

23 April 2008

Community Infrastructure Fund

Report of the Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 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 .

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 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

3.0 Background

3.1 In March 2008 CLG and DfT wrote to the Assembly stating that they have written to local authorities in the Region with details of how to submit Expressions of Interest for the £200m capital funding available through CIF. The fund is specifically for capital for transport schemes that support housing growth in Growth Areas, Growth Points and Eco-towns. Following the announcement of the two potential Eco-Towns in the Region, the Assembly received a follow-up letter confirming a slight change to the timetable.

4.0 Timetable

4.1 The timetable for this process is extremely short. Local Authorities that wish to apply for CIF for Growth Points, need to submit their Expressions of Interest by 21st April 2008 and for Eco-Towns by 19th May 2008. Local Authorities should also inform the Assembly/AWM when they submit their Expressions of Interest.

4.2 The Assembly/AWM need to provide their advice on the priority of the transport proposals (for both the Growth Points and Eco-Towns) by 30th May 2008.

4.3 In July 2008 the CLG/DfT will announce which transport proposals should be taken forward to develop full business cases. The business cases need to be complete by October 2008. Successful schemes should be announced in February 2009.

4.4 The £200m capital is expected to fund most schemes during 2009/10-2010/11.

5.0 Regional Prioritisation Process

5.1 The Assembly secretariat is working with AWM to consider how best to respond. This work is progressing quickly under the guidance of the Assembly's Chief Executive and AWM's Corporate Director for Economic Regeneration.

5.2 The details of the Region's process will be shared with all Local Authorities that submit Expressions of Interest.

5.3 The output from this work will be shared with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Regional Planning Partnership, Regional Transport Partnership and Regional Housing Board, in advance of the Assembly's Chief Executive agreeing a response.

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