

West Midlands Regional Assembly

Speaking out for the region

The Board of Directors will meet at **the Training Suite, the Regional Partnership Centre, Albert House, Quay Place, Edward Street, Birmingham** on **Friday, 6 October 2006** commencing at **10.15 a.m.**

The agenda will be:-

1. **Apologies**
 2. **Chairman's and Vice-Chairs' Report (verbal update)**
 3. **Decision notes of the meeting held on 2 June 2006 and Matters Arising**
 4. **Draft Decision notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 12 July 2006**
 5. **Company Secretary Report**
Financial:
 - 1) **Audited Accounts 2005-06**

To present the Financial Statements for the West Midlands Regional Assembly Limited for the financial year ended 31st March 2006 as audited by Clement Keys and appendix 1 to this report.

Recommendations

That the Board notes the content of this report and;

 - (i) approves the Financial Statements for 2005-06
 - (ii) approves the re-appointment of Clement Keys for 2006-07
 - 2) **2006-07 Half Year Review and Draft Revised Budget**

A separate report will be produced and tabled at the Board meeting due to the short timeframe between the end of the half year reporting period at 30 September 2006 and the Board meeting.
- Governance:**
- 3) **Transfer of Company Secretary role: Confirmation of Chairman and Vice-Chairs action**

To advise the Board of the action of the Chairman and Vice Chair's in respect of the transfer of the office of Company Secretary.

Recommendation

That the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairs in respect of the transfer of the office of Company Secretary to Olwen Dutton be endorsed.

4) Corporate Governance Action Plan – Update

To provide the Board with an indication of the purpose and scope of an ongoing corporate governance review, together with a progress report on review activities.

Recommendation

That the work to date on reviewing corporate governance issues be noted and that a more detailed review report be considered at the next Board meeting.

5) Membership structures

To inform the Board of the memberships of WMRA, its Board and Regional Partnerships post the AGM held in July and to seek the Board’s formal approval to the memberships of the Planning and Housing executive bodies.

Recommendation

That the Board:

- (i) notes and receives the memberships of the Assembly Company and Board of Directors and
- (ii) approves the memberships of the Regional Partnership structures set out in Appendix 3.

6) Regional Planning Partnership – Amendment to Partnership Structure and Establishment of a Conformity Panel

To seek the Board’s formal ratification of the Regional Planning Partnership (RPP) as a Committee of the Board, approve the establishment of the Regional Planning Executive (RPE) as a Sub-Committee of the Board and approve the protocols for the RPE to deal with the Regional Planning Body Conformity Function. Also to inform the Board of changes to the local government membership of the RPP.

Recommendations

- (i) That the establishment of the Regional Planning Partnership (RPP) as a Committee of the Board dealing with the Assembly’s Regional Planning Body (RPB) function, and the delegation to it in the initial terms of reference, be ratified.
- (ii) That the revised terms of reference for the RPP (attached as Appendix 1) be approved and that the RPP have the ability to delegate certain of its functions to a Sub-Committee of the Board.
- (iii) That the establishment of the Regional Planning Executive (RPE) as a Sub-Committee of the Board and the delegation to it of the conformity function of the Regional Planning Body be approved.
- (iv) That the terms of reference of the RPE (attached as Appendix 2) incorporating protocols for governing the exercise of the conformity function be approved.

- (v) That the changes to the local government membership of the RPP be agreed.
- (vi) That the proposed amendment to the Town and Country (Regional Planning) (England) Regulations, relating to RPB voting structures, be noted.

6. **Policy Issues – Report of the Director of Policy**

(a) **Forward Planning Executive**

To receive a progress report on the establishment of the Forward Planning Executive.

Recommendation

To consider and endorse the terms of reference for the newly established Forward Planning Executive.

(b) **Comprehensive Spending Review 2007**

To note the joint submission made by the Assembly and AWM to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

Recommendation

To note the joint submission made by the Assembly and AWM to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

(c) **Coventry Airport S78 Inquiry: Cost Application**

To advise the Board that a costs application has been made against the Assembly following the Assembly's involvement in the above inquiry.

Recommendation

To endorse the steps taken by the Secretariat in consultation with Assembly Board members, as set out in the report.

(d) **Regional Skills 'Conversation' – Wednesday 25 October 2006**

To seek support to an Assembly discussion on 25 October after the Full Assembly meeting with members Regional Skills Partnership.

Recommendation

To confirm arrangements for an Assembly discussion or 'conversation' on the skills agenda.

(e) **2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games – funding**

To provide an update on matters relating to the preparation of the region's response to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Recommendation

To note the updates.

7. **Revisions of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) - update report**

To provide an update on current progress in bringing forward revisions to both the RSS and RES; and demonstrate that action is being taken to ensure effective linkages between the two processes

Recommendation

To note the contents of the report.

8. **City Regions – Update**

(a) **Birmingham, Coventry and the Black Country City Region**

To advise the Board of correspondence between Ruth Kelly, Minister for Local Government and Communities and Birmingham, Coventry and the Black Country City Region.

Recommendation

To note the correspondence between Ruth Kelly, Minister for Local Government and Communities and Birmingham, Coventry and the Black Country City Region.

(b) **West Midlands Region – Incorporating A City Region and Sub-Regional Approach**

To provide input into and consideration of a draft statement which it is intended will be produced jointly by the Assembly, Birmingham, Coventry and Black Country City Region and Stoke City Region.

Recommendation

To consider and comment on the attached draft statement

9. **Independent Performance Assessment of Advantage West Midlands**

To provide more detailed information regarding the Independent Performance Assessment (IPA) process and the current consultation regarding the self assessment document.

Recommendation

To note the IPA process and arrangements for the assessment of Advantage West Midlands.

10. **Draft Agenda for Assembly Meeting – to be tabled.**

Quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors

Members are asked to note that a quorum for Board meetings is subject to a minimum of 8 directors with at least 4 local government Directors, at least 1 business sector Director and at least 1 Other Stakeholder Group Director being present.