

Agenda Item No. 4

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Board of Directors – 6 October 2006

DRAFT DECISION NOTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 12 JULY 2006

Chairman: Cllr David S. Smith (Lichfield)

ITEM	DECISIONS/REPORTS
Declarations of Interest	No declarations were made at this meeting.
Chairman & Vice Chairs' Oral Reports	<p>Councillor David S Smith (Chairman – Elect) referred to the following points during his report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He referred to the continuing evolution of the Assembly and acknowledged the accountability of its members who had all taken part in an election process to secure their membership.▪ He congratulated Michael Frater on the news of his appointment to the post of Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council.▪ He highlighted West Midlands individuals who had been commended in the Birthday Honours list. He advised that he would write on behalf of the Assembly Members to offer their congratulations. <p>Valerie Broom (Vice-Chair – Other Stakeholders) referred to the following points during her report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ She believed that much progress had been made in joint working across the sectors – with all members equal partners in the process. Each have participated in an election process.▪ She recognised the strength of the skills and life experience each member brought to the table.▪ She paid tribute to David Littlemore (Health) and Chris Bonnard (RAWM – OSG Secretariat) and thanked them for their impeccable support during their time with the Other Stakeholder Group. <p>Sarrindar Singh Sahota (Vice-Chair – West Midlands Business Council) referred to the following points during his report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He paid tribute to Bob Michaelson, the former Chairman of the Institute of Directors in the West Midlands, who died tragically as a result of injuries sustained in a road accident in early May.

- He echoed the previous sentiments expressed regarding the evolution of the Assembly and the contributions made to joint working across the sectors.
- He felt the work of the Assembly was enhanced by the contributions of the West Midlands Business Council.
- He congratulated Cllr David S Smith on his receiving an honorary doctorate from Staffordshire University, in recognition of his role in championing e-government across the region.
- He also congratulated John Edwards on his receiving an honorary doctorate from Aston University.

Welcome Professor Michael Clarke offered a warm welcome to the Assembly on behalf of Birmingham University.

Election of Chairman 2006/07 The Assembly **elected** Cllr David S Smith as Chairman of the West Midlands Regional Assembly for 2006/07.

Election of Vice-Chairs 2006/07 The Assembly **elected** the following Vice-Chairs of the West Midlands Regional Assembly for 2006/07:
Cllr Terry Dix (Staffordshire CC) - Local Government
Valerie Broom - Other Stakeholders Group
Dr Sarrindar Singh Sahota - Business Sector

Decision Notes of the Assembly Meeting of 5 April 2006 **Housing Partnership and Executive – Governance Arrangements**

Roger Stone (WMBC) had previously received an assurance that the governance arrangements for the Housing Partnership and Executive would be reviewed in the future. This had been omitted from previous decisions.

The notes of the last meeting on 5 April 2006 were **agreed** as a true record subject to the above amendment being made.

Assembly Board of Directors 2006/07 The Assembly **agreed** the membership of the Board of Directors for 2006/07 in accordance with the amended constitution; all to be full Members of the Assembly:-
Cllr David S Smith (Lichfield) - Chairman
Cllr Terry Dix (Staffordshire CC) - Local Government
Valerie Broom - Other Stakeholders Group
Dr Sarindar Singh Sahota - Business Sector

Local Government Sector (12)

Keith Austin (Labour, Telford and Wrekin)
Bob Badham (Labour, Sandwell)
Claude Bodenham (Independent, South Shropshire)
Sir Albert Bore (Labour, Birmingham)
Steve Eling (Labour, Sandwell)
Jo Jones (Conservative, Shrewsbury and Atcham)

John Lines (Conservative, Birmingham)
Roger Phillips (Conservative, Herefordshire)
Rex Roberts (Conservative, Staffordshire)
Chris Saint (Conservative, Stratford-on-Avon)
Paul Tilsley (Liberal Democrat, Birmingham)
Vacancy (Regional Housing Partnership – Vice-Chair)

Business Sector (3)

John Hart
Brian Summers
Roger Stone (acting)

Other Stakeholders Sector (3)

David Littlemore.
Roger McKenzie
Cllr Elizabeth Newman

These nominations took account of the request for each sector to ensure that the Chair and Vice-Chairs' of the Regional Planning Partnership were included in their nominations to the Board.

**Special
Business:**

Changes to the Articles of Association

The amendments to the Articles of Association together with an explanatory note were set out on the agenda. The Assembly **agreed** that the Articles of Association be amended by:

- 1.1 deleting the references to 21 and 13 in Article 10 and replacing them with references to 22 and 14 respectively; and
- 1.2 deleting the following words at the end of Article 21.1 "*the economic, social and environmental well being of the people of the West Midlands.*" and replacing them with the words "*charity and anything incidental or conducive thereto.*"
2. The Assembly **agreed** that the Memorandum of Association of the Company be amended by making the deletions and substitutions shown in the attached document marked "M" including .the insertion of a new paragraph 3.9 to read "to be the Regional Housing Board for the West Midlands Region and fulfil functions pursuant to such status"; and
3. that the name of the Company be changed to "West Midlands Regional Assembly".

**West
Midlands
Regional
Assembly
Membership**

The report of the Company Secretary which set out the current Assembly Member structure and sought endorsement to the arrangements to approve outstanding membership issues was considered.

2006 – 2007

The Assembly:

- (a) **noted** the current membership structure of the West Midlands Regional Assembly as set out in the appendices to the report;
- (b) **requested** that the Assembly's nominating bodies finalise their nominations to the various groups at their earliest opportunity;
- (c) **agreed** that a resolution be proposed at the Annual General Meeting amend the Memorandum of Association of the Assembly by the insertion of a new paragraph 3.9 to read " to be the Regional Housing Board for the West Midlands Region and fulfil functions pursuant to such status";
- (d) **agreed** that a resolution be proposed to the Annual General Meeting of the Assembly to amend the Articles of Association to increase the number of Directors from 21 to 22 and the maximum number of "A" Directors from 13 to 14;
- (e) **approved** the revised Terms of Reference for the European and International Affairs Partnership following a review by the Partnership;
- (f) **endorsed** the current lead member arrangements, and delegated authority to the Chairman and Vice-Chairs of the Assembly to approve outstanding nominations, for the following officers for 2006/7:-
 - (i) **Regional Planning Partnership/Executive**
 - Chair – Local Government nominee
 - Vice-Chair – Business sector nominee
 - Vice-Chair - Other Stakeholder nominee
 - Vice-Chair - Local Government nominee
 - (ii) **Regional Housing Executive / Partnership**
 - Chair – Local Government nominee
 - Vice-Chair – Business sector nominee
 - Vice-Chair - Other Stakeholder nominee
 - Vice-Chair - Local Government nominee
 - (iii) **Regional Transport Partnership**
 - Chair – Local Government nominee
 - Vice-Chair – Business sector nominee
 - Vice-Chair – Other Stakeholder nominee
 - (iv) **Regional European and International Affairs Partnership**
 - Chair – Local Government nominee
 - Vice-Chair – AWM Board Member

- (v) **Regional Environment Partnership**
Chair – currently Local Government nominee
Vice Chair – to be confirmed
- (vi) **Regional Health Partnership**
Chair – Other Stakeholders Group nominee
Vice Chair – currently Local Government nominee
- (vii) **Regional Equalities and Diversity Partnership**
Chair – currently Local Government nominee
(appointed March 2006)
- (viii) **Strategic Review Group**
Chair – Vice-Chair Other Stakeholders Group

West Midlands Regional Assembly Annual Review

The Assembly was advised the copies of the Annual Review had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Scrutiny and Strategic Review: Regeneration Zones Revisited

Valerie Broom (Chair of the Strategic Review Group) presented a report detailing the findings from the scrutiny review assessing the extent to which Advantage West Midlands had implemented recommendations from the review of Regeneration Zones completed in 2004. (The complete report and Advantage West Midlands' formal response could be accessed on the Assembly's website.)

This assessment commenced in April 2006 with evidence sessions held during May 2006. Advantage West Midlands had made a commitment that the final report would inform the current revision of the Regional Economic Strategy.

The Panel felt that Advantage West Midlands had made progress in implementing the recommendations from the original report although it identified a need for further activity in some areas.

The final report identified ten key areas of activity for Advantage West Midlands within the context of the current Regional Economic Strategy.

- Supporting Regeneration Zones in responding to changes in the policy and delivery environment
- Continued development of appropriate and inclusive Zone governance arrangements in the Black Country
- Linkages between delivery mechanisms
- Understanding of Partners' expectations, responsibilities, capacity and ability to deliver
- Corporate communication issues including understanding of Advantage West Midlands' role and communication with wider partners
- Completion and use of the Zone Charter

Regional Partnerships Contribution to Sustainable Development – SWM

- Continued development of realistic Zone budgets
- Encouraging use of the indicators developed by WMRO at a Zone level
- Re-examination of delegation levels
- Development of an IT solution to allow sharing of real time project spend and output data.

In addition, it requested that Advantage West Midlands develop an action plan to address the areas identified for submission to the Strategic Review Group for discussion at its next meeting.

Sarindar Sahota (Panel member) welcomed the open and helpful attitude shown by Advantage West Midlands throughout the assessment.

The Assembly

- (i) **endorsed** the report "Regeneration Zones Revisited: an assessment of how Advantage West Midlands have responded to the 2004 Scrutiny Review", and
- (ii) **expressed** their thanks to the Panel for their efforts.

The Assembly received a presentation from the Chair of Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) Bernard Doyle on the Regional Partnerships' contribution to sustainable development in the Region.

In March, the Assembly's Board of Directors approved a process for Partnership reporting to the Assembly AGM on their contribution to sustainable development. Following this, the Assembly Partnership Chairs were formally invited to submit a report on their contribution to sustainable development in the region based on the objectives set out in the Regional Sustainable Development Framework.

Reports were submitted to the Assembly Secretariat in late May and early June, and forwarded to SWM for analysis and recommendations for future work.

During his presentation he:

- thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak to the Assembly Annual General Meeting which reflected the Assembly's commitment to sustainable development
- referred to this commitment being reinforced in October 2005 when sustainable development was adopted as the central principle of all its work.

The presentation set out:

- progress made by Region's partnerships over the past year in terms of delivering sustainable development
- the results from individual partnership reports on their contribution to sustainable development - a commitment the Assembly made as part of the 2004 strategic review of sustainable development delivery

He:

**Regional
Economic
Strategy
Review –
update**

- was pleased to report an encouraging start by the partnerships with considerable progress made of the past year
- welcomed the increased awareness and understanding of sustainable development issues and that partnerships were increasingly working together, cutting across old policy boundaries which was crucial for delivery of sustainable development.
- acknowledged the impact on regional policy and strategy citing involvement in the steering group for RSS and reference group for RES and the inclusion of sustainable communities in the Regional Housing Strategy as examples.
- In conclusion, he was pleased to launch Version 2 of the Regional Sustainable Development Framework. This had been the result of considerable – and valuable – consultation with partners and represented the regional expression of sustainable development objectives. SWM was looking forward to working with Concordat Partners and Regional Policy Partnerships and supporting them in using the RSDF to inform their work

The report and the presentation were **noted**.

The Assembly received an update on the review of the Regional Economic Strategy.

The Regional Economic Strategy sets out the action the region needs to undertake to improve economic performance by both building on strengths and addressing the market failures that hold the regions economy back.

The current review of the RES would consider the agreed actions which would be required to ensure existing targets for 2010 were met but would also look beyond that milestone to 2020 to establish what the region would need to do to continue to improve economic performance.

Work had been undertaken to ensure as much alignment as is possible between the RES review and the Partial Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy, this will continue throughout the two processes.

All partners were encouraged to register directly with AWM to participate in the review and to receive updates on progress. The registration form could be completed at <http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/wmesreview.html>

A Regional Reference Group had been set up to provide high level guidance and support to the review. The group met for the first time in early June and members took the opportunity to reemphasise the need for this review and for the resultant RES to be properly owned by the region.

During Phase Two of the review 'expert panels' would be set up to offer expertise and ideas for the developing options for intervention to ensure that the vision is achieved.

Government guidance placed clear emphasis on the importance of developing a RES built upon a strong evidence base. To that end, five Evidence Base Project Groups had been established to support the five strands of work being taken forward which are:

- a. Future Prospects for the Region's Economy
- b. Analysis of Drivers of Productivity and Employment
- c. Economic Geography
- d. Evaluation of the Impact of the WMES
- e. Evaluation of Regeneration Zones, High Technology Corridors and Clusters

A brief description of each of the project groups could be found in Appendix Two. WMRA/WMLGA and the Regional Economic Development Officers Group (REDOG) were represented on each of the five project groups and provide an opportunity to input into the development of the evidence base.

Emerging findings from the Project Groups were presented at the first meeting of the Regional Reference Group in early June. Details of the emerging findings for each of the project groups can be found in the presentations on the AWM RES Review website

<http://www.advantagewm.co.uk/wmesreview.html>

Brian Summers (WMBC) considered transport to be a critical issue for the regions economy which is not picked up by any of the 5 evidence gathering streams. He stated that the RES is the appropriate vehicle for highlighting transport as a means of driving economic success.

Nick Paul (Chairman – AWM Board) was encouraged by early feedback received and welcomed the continuing partner participation in the process. This would be reflected in the detailed policy options in October. He shared the views expressed regarding transport and recognised that the business case was strong. He reported that the lack of transport investment had been raised at a meeting with the Minister Douglas Alexander.

The Assembly **noted** the update.

Policy Issues – Report of the Director of Policy

Launch of Regional Concordat

The Assembly was invited to adopt and launch the third Regional Concordat.

The purpose of the Concordat was to provide a framework for partnership working between regional organisations and for the integration of regional strategies. It was an agreement that reflects partners' respective roles and shared responsibilities, including the co-ordination and alignment of regional strategies.

Recent additions to the list of Concordat partners previously reported were the Strategic Health Authority and the

Regional TUC. West Midlands Association of Parish Councils had committed to signing up to the next iteration of the Concordat. The third version of the Regional Concordat was available at the Assembly meeting.

The Assembly **endorsed** the third Regional Concordat.

RSS Phase One: Black Country Study

The Assembly received an update in relation to the RSS Phase One Revision: The Black Country Study.

On 26 April 2006, the Regional Planning Partnership (RPP) approved the draft RSS Phase One Revision: the Black Country document together with other documents making up the submission to the Secretary of State. Following its submission on 31st May, a period of consultation began on 1st June and would run until 23rd August. An Examination in Public of key issues would be held in January 2007.

The Black Country Consortium had acted as agents to the Regional Planning Partnership on the Phase 1 Regional Spatial Strategy Review for the Black Country.

The partnership, between the four Black Country local authorities and the private sector, had developed a common purpose to its future direction and achieved a regional consensus from the Regional Planning Partnership for the RSS submission on the Black Country.

A presentation on the Black Country Study had been requested at the Assembly's last meeting.

During the presentation, Sarah Middleton outlined:

- why the Black Country needs to change.
- what needs to be done – that's our strategic direction and scale of change – spatial and non spatial.
- and where that change needs to take place within the context of the Regional Spatial Strategy; and
- how that change will be brought about – through the delivery strategy.

A copy of the presentation was available through the Assembly website.

Brian Summers (WMBC) commended the Black Country Study to members, however expressed some concerns about the transport plan which relied heavily on rail use and lacked detail.

Cllr Rex Roberts (Chairman of the Regional Planning Partnership) on behalf of the Assembly, offered thanks to Sarah Middleton and the team for their work in support of the Black Country Study.

The presentation on the Black Country Study was **noted**.

RSS Phase Two Update

The Assembly received an update in relation to RSS Phase Two Revision.

The RSS Strategic Management Steering Group (RSS SMSG) met on 8 June 2006 to discuss the advice received from the

Strategic Authorities through the Section 4(4) brief. CRSS – SMSG, a senior officer group of key regional organisations chaired by the Partnerships Secretary, agreed to recommend to the Regional Planning Partnership that an adjustment to the timetable set out in the Project Plan would be prudent.

This would enable the Assembly to take into account:-

- The ODPM/DCLG Household projections figures published in April and fully understand the implications for the Region and its component parts. (N.B. Demand relating to the household projections could be in the order of 576,000 additional households to 2026, beyond that set out in the RSS.)
- Further discussions with the Strategic Authorities
- Greater alignment with the RES Review timetable

Initially this adjustment would result in a three month delay to the development of the Options, however taking into account the Christmas period, election period and summer recess, the final submission date was predicted to be December 2007.

GOWM had expressed concern with the change in submission date, however would welcome greater alignment with the RES Review. Meetings were being arranged to discuss greater alignment at a working level.

The report was **noted**.

Health - Update on Regional Strategy

The Assembly received an update on the development of the Regional Health Strategy.

Scoping work to inform the development of the Regional Health Strategy had been carried out and to date, the response from the Partnerships named in the report had been extremely positive and the development of a Regional Health Strategy welcomed. Further scoping work was planned in July with the remaining Partnerships.

A team was being pulled together with the West Midlands Public Health Group to begin to draft the strategy, with a view to a consultation draft being available towards the end of the year.

The update was **noted**.

Big Lottery Fund - Well Being Bid

The Assembly was advised that the Assembly secretariat was currently exploring the feasibility of being the accountable body for the Big Lottery Fund Well Being Programme.

The Big Lottery Fund had made up to £165 million available for the Wellbeing programmes in England between 2006-09. It was expected to make no more than twenty awards with most being well over the minimum portfolio size of £1 million. Portfolios were required to operate at national or regional level and be made up of a number of individual projects which together form a cohesive strategy to help deliver the programme outcomes. Whilst interest had been

expressed, a lead body for the West Midlands regional portfolio had not been identified. There was broad support from partners for the Assembly to take on this role.

The Well-Being programme focuses on three strands: mental health, healthy eating, and physical activity. These strands reflect some of the priority areas for health in the region reflected by the Choosing Health for The West Midlands report published. These strands also reflect the focus of activity for the Assembly's Regional Health Partnership.

The 'Standard Application' process had two stages:

- Lead applicants would need to complete an outline of the strategy for the projects included within the bid and details of the types of organisations they were likely to work with. The first stage application had to be with the Big Lottery by 28 July 2006.
- Assuming this was successful a more detailed application form would need to be submitted by 1 March 2007.

As an interim measure, a West Midlands Well-Being proposal and template for expressions of interest had been issued. Currently an 'interim' steering group (chaired by the Regional Assembly), was pulling together the expressions of interest.

Discussions had taken place with GOWM regarding the Assembly taking this lead role and staff secondments, the use of office space and the finance audit team's experience had been offered. In addition, the Strategic Health Authority was willing to add their support and expertise in performance management. These costs would need to be built into the bid.

There were a range of issues which the Assembly and partners needed to thoroughly explore. It was recommended that partners continue to test the feasibility of developing a bid.

Subject to confirmation from the Assembly, it was intended to submit an outline bid by 28th July to the Big Lottery Fund. An outline bid headed up by the Assembly would imply commitment to becoming the Regional Lead body.

David Littlemore (Chair of the Regional Health Partnership) spoke in support of the proposals and felt the potential benefits to the region were considered.

The Assembly expressed **support** for the proposal as outlined.

**Proposal for
Assembly
Annual
Conference –
The
Challenge of**

The Assembly was advised of the work currently being undertaken to scope out and explore the possible theme of climate change for the Assembly's Annual Conference.

The proposed Conference would consider a stronger regional leadership on climate change, building on the work of the West Midlands Climate Change Partnership and Energy West

Climate Change for the Region

Midlands and consider what key actions were needed to strengthen taking forward this important agenda, to co-ordinate and monitor action and increase the engagement and leadership across all sectors.

The Regional Environment Partnership had established a small task group of key partners to scope out and develop the programme and to co-ordinate the Conference agenda with other related climate change work in 2006.

The Assembly **supported** the proposal to develop the theme of climate change for the Regional Assembly Annual Conference.

Smart Growth – Midlands Way

The Assembly was advised of recent and forthcoming matters in respect to Smart Growth - Midlands Way.

During 2005 there was little activity on Smart Growth – Midlands Way. Recent activity on other fronts such as City Regions, Northern Way and Science Cities together with encouragement from ODPM to refocus Smart Growth – Midlands Way, had led to a rekindling of interest.

Consultants had been commissioned to move Midlands Way forward focussing on:- Tackling Shared Productivity Challenges, Enhancing Connectivity, Promotion & Positioning, and Encouraging Sustainable Growth.

Existing collaboration had helped identify a series of three key principles that should help guide future joint working:

- Activities should make a demonstrable contribution to closing the Midland's GVA gap.
- All proposed actions should have a clear rationale for a Midlands wide approach. The concept of added value is a pivotal criterion.
- Activities should not overlook the practicalities of making collaboration happen.

A seminar was anticipated over the summer period to present the redrafted document and receive views on the approach being proposed.

The update was **noted**.

Assembly's role as a Regional Voice

The Assembly's roles as Regional Advocate and Regional Planning Body

The Assembly considered a report on how to reconcile potential conflicts between the Assembly's role as a regional advocate of significant development proposals and its statutory function as Regional Planning Body.

Concerns had been expressed that the ability of the Assembly to fulfil its broader role as a regional voice, which might include lobbying on economic and social development grounds for proposals considered to be regionally significant, may be fettered by its more specific role as Regional Planning Body (RPB) which might require at some stage the consideration of the conformity of planning applications arising from such proposals in relation to the Regional

Spatial Strategy.

Whilst it would be unreasonable to restrict the Assembly from fulfilling that wider advocacy and lobbying role it was important to ensure that it did so within a framework that secured maximum protection from legal challenge for the Assembly as RPB.

A set of principles and protocols were proposed which would govern how it managed the interface of these roles. These were in addition to the Assembly Code of Conduct and would in due course be incorporated in any Code of Good Practice and Guidance adopted in relation to the exercise of regional planning functions.

Eversheds, the firm of solicitors currently undertaking work on behalf of all Assemblies, via ERN, on probity issues relating to regional planning had been consulted and some small amendments suggested by them incorporated.

The Assembly **adopted** the protocols set out below to govern the Assembly's approach to managing its different roles as regional advocate and Regional Planning Body:

- The overriding responsibility of the Members of the Assembly is to act in the best interests of the region and its population. The Assembly's ability to represent those interests may sometimes be constrained by the statutory functions it is required to undertake.
- It is right and proper that the Assembly can promote and lobby for developments that are deemed to be of regional significance i.e. will lead to economic, social or environmental benefits which extend directly or indirectly across the region or a significant part of it.
- However the Assembly will not knowingly support a development proposal that will conflict with provisions of the Regional Spatial Strategy and wherever possible will obtain informal advice from its Regional Planning Body prior to embarking on/pursuing an advocacy campaign.
- Furthermore, because of the likely sensitivity and complexity of RSS conformity issues, members of the RPB delegated to deal with conformity shall, at all times and to the best of their ability, maintain an impartiality and objectivity in relation to such developments, including by:-
 - refraining from active engagement in any Assembly activities to promote proposals or projects
 - making clear through statements and actions that the Assembly's general position will not prejudicially influence the consideration of specific planning issues
 - withdrawing from debate and decision where it is considered appropriate.

Support for

A report which sought to develop a more active role for the WMLGA and WMRA in support of RAF Cosford as the location

RAF Cosford

for a new defence training 'supersite' and to report action to date was considered.

On 5th April 2006, the WMRA and WMLGA had both agreed to provide more active support for the bid to develop RAF Cosford as a MOD training 'supersite', which was in direct competition to a bid for the St Athan site in South Wales. The MOD decision had been put back until the Autumn so there was continuing opportunity to promote the West Midlands proposal.

The Board had subsequently determined to be much more proactive. Initial activity had focused on contact with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) to establish how the WMLGA/WMRA could support their work.

The Chairman had since written to all the region's MPs to seek their active involvement in supporting the bid. A good number of responses from individual MPs had been received either indicating support and/or confirming action already taken.

In addition a press release had been issued declaring the Assembly's support for the bid and the Chairman had written to the relevant Defence Minister to emphasise its regional importance.

AWM was extremely pleased the Assembly had actively joined the 'Let's Fly Cosford' campaign. What further activity the Assembly could undertake to support the latter stages of the campaign would be the subject of further discussion.

This might include senior people around the region, particularly in local authorities, formally endorsing the value of the Cosford proposal outside of the local or sub-regional context. Also that a number of senior colleagues be sought to act as champions for RAF Cosford including dealings with media and MPs etc. Assembly members and constituent bodies should promote the bid at every appropriate opportunity e.g. with meetings with MPs, MoD Ministers or civil servants.

Promotional material relating to the 'Let's Fly Cosford' campaign was available at the meeting.

The Assembly's support for the bid to develop RAF Cosford as a defence training supersite, including actions to date and further activity as detailed in the report was **endorsed**.

For Information items

Decisions of the Board of Directors

A report was submitted advising the Assembly of matters considered by the Board at its meeting on 2 June 2006 which were not otherwise the subject of a report to this meeting.

The content of the report was **noted**.

Policy Partnerships Report

A report setting out the current activities of the Regional Policy Partnerships, established by or working closely with the Assembly was considered.

The Assembly **noted** the Policy Partnership activity as set out in the report.

Chairman

DRAFT

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

**ATTENDANCE
12th July 2006**

Attendance: Councillor David S Smith (Lichfield) Chairman

Local Government:

Cllr Philip Atkins (Staffordshire), Cllr Keith Austin (Borough of Telford and Wrekin), Cllr Bob Badham MBE (Sandwell), Cllr David Beechey (Bridgnorth), Cllr Mrs Margaret Begg (Warwick), Cllr Peter Bilson (Wolverhampton), Cllr Claude Bodenham (South Shropshire), Cllr Sir Albert Bore (Birmingham), Cllr R Chattaway (Warwickshire), Cllr Norman Davies (Solihull), Cllr Terry Dix (Staffordshire), Cllr Doughty (Stoke on Trent), Cllr Brian Douglas-Maul (Walsall), Cllr Brian Edwards (South Staffordshire), Cllr Steve Eling (Sandwell), Cllr S Geraghty (Worcester), Cllr Richard Hyde (Warwickshire), Cllr Roger Ibbs (Stoke on Trent), Mark Meredith (Stoke on Trent (Mayor)), Cllr Alan Mosley (Shropshire), Cllr Jeremy Oates (Tamworth), Cllr Malcolm Pate (Shropshire), Cllr Roger Phillips (Herefordshire), Cllr Peter Phillips (Shropshire), Cllr Ted Richards (Solihull), Cllr Chris Saint (Stratford), Cllr Sadie Smith (Sandwell), Cllr David Sparks (Dudley), Cllr Simon Tagg (NBC), Cllr Paul Tilsley (Birmingham) and Cllr Tony Ward (Sandwell).

Other Stakeholders Group:

Valerie Broom, Howard Farrand, Rev'd John Hall, David Littlemore, Yann Lovelock, Cavelle Lynch, Roger McKenzie, Elizabeth Newman, Richard Quallington and Peter Shirley.

Business Sector:

Mike Cherry, John Hart, Mike Hill, Steven McLaughlin, Richard Moxon, Sarindar Singh Sahota, Roger Stone, Brian Summers and Jane Yardley.

In attendance:

Fran Austins (WMRA), Chris Bonnard (RAWM), Michael Frater (Regional Partnerships Secretary), Steve Hind (WMRA), Julie Mackenzie (RAWM), Edwin Martin, Rose Poulter (WMRA), John Sharpe (SWM), Dagmar Waller (WMRA), James Watkins (WMBC) and Sherman Wong (WMRA).