

West Midlands Regional Assembly

Speaking out for the region

Agenda Item No. 16 (for information)

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY Assembly Meeting – 16 January 2008

Draft Decision Notes of the Regional Assembly Board of Directors Meeting held on 5 December 2007

Chairman: Cllr David S Smith

Present: Cllr John Lines, Cllr Paul Tilsley, Cllr Roger Phillips, Cllr Bob Badham, Cllr Keith Austin, Cllr Steve Eling, Cllr Terry Dix, Serena Croad, Cllr Chris Saint, Roger Stone, Sarindar Sahota.

In attendance: Nina Dawes (Deputy Partnership Secretary), Cllr Ken Taylor (Coventry City Council), Sharon Palmer (RAWM), Olwen Dutton, Rose Poulter and Sharon Doak (WMRA)

The Chairman opened the meeting and advised that due to non attendance from the OSG the meeting was not quorum. He informed that any decisions made at the meeting would need to be ratified by the full Assembly in January. He suggested that the Board have a short meeting prior to the commencement of the full meeting on 16 January 2008.

1. **Apologies for non attendance:**

The following apologies were noted:

Cllr Rex Roberts, Cllr Jo Jones, Rt Rvd John Hall, Elizabeth Newman, Roger McKenzie and Roger Evans

2. **Declarations on Interest**

The were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **Chairman and vice Chairs Report**

The Chairman advised the Board of the concerns regarding SNR. The government had still not made it clear as to the way forward to 2010. He felt it was important that work continued with the Business and Other Stakeholder Sectors.

He advised that a Transition Board had been created with

colleagues from AWM and GOWM and that he had a seat on the Board.

Dr Sahota as the Vice – Chair Business sector advised the Board that the Business Council intended to continue to provide full participation the work of the Assembly and highlighted the added value that the Business Council had brought at a strategic level.

4. **Draft Decision Notes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on 26 September 2007 and Matters Arising**

The draft decision notes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on 26 September 2007 were **noted**.

Matters Arising

Roger Stone requested information relating to the progress of the issues relating to British Waterways. Olwen Dutton **agreed** to follow this matter up.

5. **Draft Decision Notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 24 October 2007 and Matters Arising**

The draft decision notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 24 October were **noted**.

There were no matters arising.

6. **Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration**

The Assembly Board were provided with an update on matters within the West Midlands around the Sub National Review (SNR), in particular, the transition arrangements being developed between the Assembly, AWM, Local Government and GOWM.

The Board considered the report and noted the position regarding scrutiny arrangements.

7. **Transport Challenge**

The Board received a report that informed of the on-going process to respond to the Regional Minister's 'Transport Challenge'

The report advised that in August 2007 Liam Byrne announced a West Midlands 'transport challenge'. He had requested that Cllr Roger Phillips (Chair, Regional Transport Partnership), Olwen Dutton (Chief Executive, West Midlands Regional Assembly), John Edwards (Chief Executive, Advantage West Midlands) and GOWM should produce a 'game plan' that addressed the Region's transport priorities and maximised the forthcoming Local Transport Bill.

In response to the report Board members made the following comments:-

- Concern was raised regarding the Black Country spine – this needed to be clarified as the second line of the Metro system. A Metro Network was greatly needed and this point should be made strategically and needed to be reinforced.
- Disused/unused rail lines need further investigation.
- There needed to be more alignment with the RES/RSS as transport appeared to be becoming detached.
- Discussions needed to be undertaken with Network Rail. It was important to use experiences constructively and advise them of the transport needs of the West Midlands.

The Board **noted** the on-going process and the next steps.

8. **Company Secretary's Report**

The Board received a report that provided them with an update on general issues which indeed information on:-

2007-08 Half Year Progress Report
Member Allowances Scheme
City Region Company
2008-09 Budget Planning
Members Declarations of Interest
Outside Bodies – MLA West Midlands

The Board **agreed** to:

1. endorse the 2007-08 Half Year Progress Report (appendix A).
2. approve a recommendation not to change current practice in respect of Allowances.
3. approve a recommendation to take up a share option in the new City Region Company.

9. **WMES/WMRSS Launch 10 December 2007**

The Board received a report that informed of the formal launch of the West Midlands Economic Strategy (WMES) on 10th December and presentation of the Phase Two Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS).

The Board **noted** the report.

10. **Regional Sustainable Development Framework – Refreshed**

The Board were provided with a draft version of the “refreshed” Regional Sustainable Development Framework (RSDF) and their endorsement was sought.

The Board **endorsed** the refreshed RSDF subject to ratification by the Full Assembly on 16 January 2008.

11. **Assembly Conference – 28 January 2008**

The Board was updated on progress on the planning and preparation of the Assembly Annual Conference due to be held on Monday 28 January 2008 at Aston Villa Football Club, Holte Suite in Birmingham.

The Board were advised that the general theme of the conference would be about regional values and how those could be harnessed to enable the projection of a strong regional voice.

Members **noted** the progress and were advised that all Chief Executives had been written to emphasising the importance of the Conference.

12. **Policy Headlines**

The Board received a report and were updated on key issues undertaken by the Secretariat on behalf of the Board and Assembly Partnerships over the last quarter.

The Board **noted** the progress made.

FOR INFORMATION:-

The following reports were **noted** for information only.

13. **The Equality and Diversity Partnership: Future Options**

14. **Minutes of the City Region Shadow Executive – 19 September 2007**

15. **Advantage West Midlands – Notes from Board Meetings in July and September 2007**

16. **Draft Agenda for the Full Assembly Meeting 16 January 2008**

17. **Dates of future Board Meetings 2007/08**

12 March 2008 – The Regional Partnership Centre

18 June 2008 – The Regional Partnership Centre

18. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business discussed.