

NEWS RELEASE



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Assembly expresses bitter disappointment over Cosford decision

At its quarterly meeting, held today (Wednesday 17th January) the West Midlands Regional Assembly passed a resolution expressing its deep disappointment following the Government's announcement that RAF Cosford has not been successful in securing the defence training contract from the Ministry of Defence.

Instead the Ministry of Defence opted for a site at St Athan in South Wales which is backed by successful bidders, Metrix.

The Chairman of the West Midlands Regional Assembly, Cllr David S Smith: commented: "We are desperately disappointed that the West Midlands has been snubbed by government in not bringing this vital facility to Cosford.

"The location, facilities and resources clearly made Cosford the best choice. We offer the best communications with the rest of the Country, a skilled local workforce and a strong manufacturing base. The entire Region was behind Cosford and it is a disgrace that the West Midlands has lost out again."

The Assembly will work with local authorities and partners over forthcoming weeks to look at the implications on the local and regional economy, in order to understand how best to support the area through the ongoing revisions of the Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy. - ENDS -

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Notes to editors:

1. The West Midlands Regional Assembly ('the Assembly') represents a wide range of democratic, social and economic interests throughout the West Midlands region.
2. The Assembly's membership consists of 100 nominated representatives, with 68 members representing the local authority, 16 representing the business sector and 16 representing other economic and social partners.
3. The Assembly provides a platform for organisations to consider matters of common concern including: regional planning, transport, economic prosperity, sustainability, culture and Europe. It also supports regional policy forums and task groups on social inclusion, faith, housing, life long learning/skills, health, rural and community safety/crime reduction.
4. The Assembly works in partnership with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) the regional development agency (RDA), the Government Office West Midlands (GOWM), Regional Action West Midlands (RAWM) the West Midlands Local Government Association (WMLGA) and other regional and local organisations from across the West Midlands region.
5. The Assembly is the Regional Planning Body, and is also responsible for scrutinising the operation of the region's RDA, Advantage West Midlands.
6. For further information, visit our website www.wmra.gov.uk