

NEWS RELEASE



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Business speaks up about transport's contribution to regional success

The business community will have the opportunity to air their views about transport's contribution to the Region's success when they give evidence to a Strategic Review panel in Birmingham this month.

Invited businesses are expected to talk about transport issues facing the Region and their involvement in developing and implementing solutions that can be integrated into the wider regional planning function.

The Review panel will also meet with West Midlands Business Transport Group to explore how business matters are addressed by planning issues in the Region. Areas for discussions will include:

- Effectiveness of engagement with key business organisations and
- Barriers to developing and implementing major transport projects.

This process is part of a strategic Review of transport, looking at how transport is contributing to the Region's success. The Review will be taking evidence until March next year. Views from a variety of stakeholders are being sought. Objectives of the Review are to assess the:

- impact of regional transport structures and funding arrangements
- influence of Regional transport policy at national, inter-regional, sub regional and local levels
- integration of transport with other policy areas
- barriers to effective delivery

Cllr Terry Dix, Panel Chair and Assembly Vice Chair, said: "Transport is crucial to the on going development of the Region and in ensuring that people can access essential services, work and leisure facilities. We are particularly concerned with how regional transport priorities can deliver improvements."

Individuals and organisations with interest in the transport agenda are being asked to submit evidence. This can be done either by putting together a written submission or giving verbal evidence at one of the panel hearings or discussion events.

For more information contact Dagmar Waller at the Regional Assembly on 0121 678 1054.

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Issued by:

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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

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6. For further information, visit our website www.wmra.gov.uk.
7. The West Midlands Declaration on Climate Change is based on the Nottingham Declaration, a public statement of commitment by local authorities to tackle climate change (see www.nottinghamdeclaration.org.uk). The West Midlands Declaration was signed in November 2006 by Cllr David Smith, Chairman of West Midlands Regional Assembly; Olwen Dutton, Chief Executive of West Midlands Regional Assembly; and Ian Pearson MP, then Minister of State for Climate Change and Environment.

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