

NEWS RELEASE

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Regional Assembly appoints new Planning Team Leader

The West Midlands Regional Assembly has appointed John Pattinson as its new Head of Planning.

John is taking over from David Thew who is stepping down from this role after eight years of leading the Assembly's work on shaping the Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands Region.

Mr Pattinson has lived and worked in the West Midlands Region for over 30 years and joins the Assembly from Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council where he has worked as general manager for Planning and Development for the last three years.

He will be joining the Assembly at a time when the organisation is preparing for the Examination in Public of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision.

John is keen to stress that the West Midlands has an 'excellent tradition' of working together on the planning of the Region.

He said: "I believe that it is very important that we maintain that tradition of partnership working and to rise to the new challenges facing the West Midlands in the 21st Century."

Olwen Dutton, Chief Executive of the Assembly said: "The future of planning in this Region is an important area where we need to see progress. The challenge now is for the Assembly and our partners to ensure this further progress is made and we are pleased to have John joining us to lead a new team to make this happen."

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Attach image of John Pattinson

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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