

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Is Advantage West Midlands fulfilling its role in addressing the Region's skills challenge?**

This is the question posed by West Midlands Regional Assembly as part of its statutory responsibility for scrutinising the work of Advantage West Midlands, the Regional Development Agency.

This Scrutiny Review, which starts this month, aims to examine how the Agency is working with partners to support the skills agenda. This will build upon the recently completed Strategic Review requested by the Regional Learning Skills Council (LSC) which looked at how skills, education and training could be improved within the Region.

This short and focussed scrutiny activity will take evidence until early July and is likely to consider:

- the relationship between Advantage West Midlands and key partners including the Regional Learning and Skills Council
- how AWM's role enables the development and implementation of skills programmes and projects
- the support provided for the development and implementation of the Skills Action Plan

Olwen Dutton, chief executive of the Assembly said: "The skills shortage facing this Region is a matter that must be addressed quite urgently. This scrutiny review seeks to assess how effectively Advantage West Midlands is carrying out this critical work and its impact on the Region."

Individuals and organisations are invited to submit evidence to this review. This can be done either by providing a written submission or giving verbal evidence at one of the panel hearings or discussion events.

For more information contact Daryl Davies at the Assembly on 0121 678 1046.

**ENDS**

## **Notes to editors:**

1. To read the full report of the review and the 13 recommendations made, visit [www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp? =326](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp? =326).
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](http://www.wmra.gov.uk)

**For any additional information please contact Jay Rana, press officer on 0121245 0181 or [j.rana@wmra.gov.uk](mailto:j.rana@wmra.gov.uk)**

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