

NEWS RELEASE

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Transforming transport for the Region

Transport is important to everyone whether it is by road, rail or bus and is used to get to work, education, health providers and leisure facilities or to provide us with the goods we need.

Effective transport systems are critical to the economic and social development of the Region. The lack of appropriate provision will have a disastrous impact on access to jobs, education, services and leisure activities. Regional organisations have been under the spotlight as the West Midlands Regional Assembly examined how partners should work together to achieve better transport outcomes for the Region.

This was the subject of a recent investigation completed as part of the Assembly's scrutiny role. The final report including 18 recommendations was endorsed by the Assembly at its meeting yesterday.

Cllr Terry Dix, Assembly Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Review Panel said:
"Journeys are made for a variety of reasons and vary in complexity. A good transport system that links across all modes and administrative boundaries is required. Not addressing this will add to the serious impacts of road congestion that the Region is experiencing and fail to make it a great place to live, work, visit and invest in."

The recommendations are intended to ensure that the best use is made of available resources within the Region and that major developments consider transport implications at an earlier stage.

Among the reports recommendations are the need for effective monitoring of regional transport programmes, the impact of demographic changes on future transport needs and the development of practical options to reduce carbon emissions.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About the West Midlands Regional Assembly

1. To view this report please visit the following link
http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Scrutiny_and_Strategic_Review/Strategic_Review_of_Transport.aspx
2. The West Midlands Regional Assembly ('the Assembly') represents a wide range of democratic, social and economic interests throughout the West Midlands region.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The Assembly is the Regional Planning Body, and is also responsible for scrutinising the operation of the region's RDA, Advantage West Midlands.
7. For further information, visit our website www.wmra.gov.uk

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