

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

29 October 2008

Transforming Transport - Strategic Review Of Transport

Report of the Review Panel Chair

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1. **Purpose**

- 1.1 To present the findings from the strategic review examining how transport policy within the region contributes to its success in integrating economic, environmental and societal needs. The full report is available on the Assembly's website [http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Scrutiny\\_and\\_Strategic\\_Review/Strategic\\_Review\\_of\\_Transport.aspx](http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Scrutiny_and_Strategic_Review/Strategic_Review_of_Transport.aspx)

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Assembly
- discuss and endorse the findings of the review panel
  - approve recommendation R3 made specifically to the Regional Assembly and recommendations R12, R14 and R17 made for the Regional Transport Partnership.

3. **Background**

- 3.1 In October 2006, an Assessment of the Regional Economy commissioned by the Strategic Review Group identified delivery of transport infrastructure improvements as a potential area for review. Following discussions with partners, Strategic Review Group agreed that an examination of how regional transport policy contributed to the Region's success in integrating economic, environmental and societal needs would add most value to regional thinking.
- 3.2 The Review Panel was chaired by Councillor Terry Dix and the Vice Chair was Peter Shirley OSG. All Panel members have dedicated a significant proportion of their time to complete the review. The review commenced in October 2007 and consisted of ten evidence sessions attended by over 70 individuals.

3.3 Progress in implementing review recommendations will be monitored initially by the Strategic Review Group. Ongoing monitoring arrangements will be developed as part of new regional scrutiny arrangements.

#### **4. Report Recommendations**

4.1 The rationale for each recommendation is discussed within the main body of the report. The report recommends that:

R1 The Regional Minister for the West Midlands takes forward the recommendations of this review urging Government and regional partners to implement them. Initial reactions should be reported to the wider Region at the event being planned to launch the Regional Transport Priorities Transport Challenge Action Plan in December 2008 and progress reported at subsequent appropriate events and opportunities.

Outcome – to ensure that the issues identified in this report are addressed

R2 That DfT ensures that TaSTS becomes a high profile national transport framework that provides clear guidelines for approaches within regions recognising the urgent need to deliver.

R3 Advantage West Midlands and West Midlands Regional Assembly transport leads actively explore working at a strategic level with other regions to co-ordinate RFA submissions as appropriate. A progress report to be submitted to the RTP in March 2009 detailing how this has impacted on RFA Round 2

R4 The Strategic Transition Group ensures regional partners develop appropriate support arrangements for key policy areas. Initial discussions should take place by December 2008.

R5 A Regional Transport Lead is selected from the highest level of the new regional governance structures by April 2009. This individual is to be given a mandate to work on behalf of regional partners and chair the Regional Transport Partnership or its successor body

R6 Advantage West Midlands, in its expected new role of leading the development of SIRS during 2009, ensures that the approach to the new strategy focuses on challenges rather than specific policy areas. This will highlight the inter-relationship between policy areas, especially between planning and transport, and encourage integration.

- R7 The Government requires any new Integrated Transport Authority to have responsibility for ensuring Local Transport plans within the Region conform with the SIRS.
- R8 Advantage West Midlands, in its expected new role of leading the development of SIRS during 2009 utilises TaSTS to develop a regional integrated transport framework that addresses issues of cross boundary and inter-modal travel
- R9 Advantage West Midlands by September 2010, in its expected new role of leading the development of SIRS, works with other partners to effectively link the different elements of major projects to ensure that delivery plans address planning and sequencing of expenditure across all policy areas
- R10 DfT revises future RFA guidance to include revenue funding for transport projects in addition to that allocated for maintenance and a requirement for regional management of the programme
- R11 The proposed RFA Advisory Group develops regionally specific guidelines for future RFA rounds by December 2008 that includes some commissioning of projects, assessment of deliverability and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- R12 RTP establish a Member Management Sub Group to be in place by April 2009 to assess the implications of progress with individual projects on the wider RFA transport programme with quarterly reports submitted by the Chair to the full RTP.
- R13 As part of the development of wider regional governance structures, a small advisory group is established to support the Regional Transport Lead together with a wider and inclusive Regional Transport Body by April 2010.
- R14 Regional Equalities and Diversity Partnership, the Economic Inclusion Panel and Regional Transport Partnership commission work to address the wider implications of demographic change within the Region by September 2009. This should assess how anticipated changes, including numbers and distribution will impact on transport needs by 2020
- R15 Regional partners work together to ensure that parking standards within the Regional Spatial Strategy are changed to support the delivery of lorry parks.

- R16 A regional code of practice for effective consultation is developed by regional partners to be completed by April 2010.
- R17 RTP ensures that by October 2008 regional assessments of proposed RFA projects include the legal duty of project sponsors and relevant partners to demonstrate their various obligations to address environmental issues including biodiversity.
- R18 Advantage West Midlands together with the Innovation and Technology Council, build on research due in June 2009 into transport emissions within the Region in order to develop practical options for reducing carbon dioxide emissions across all transport modes.

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