

**WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
29 October 2008**

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**Draft Notes of the Regional Assembly Board of Directors Meeting  
Held on 24 September 2008**

**Chairman: Cllr David S Smith**

**Present:**

John Lines (Birmingham), Jo Jones (Shrewsbury & Atcham), Elizabeth Newman (OSG), Roger Phillips (Herefordshire), Chris Saint (Stratford-on-Avon), Ken Taylor (Chairman- WMLGA, Coventry), Roger Stoke (WMBC), Roger McKenzie (OSG), Beris Williams (Herefordshire), Terry Dix (Staffordshire), Steve Eling (Sandwell), Keith Austin (Telford & Wrekin), Albert Bore (Birmingham) and Bob Badham (Sandwell)

**In attendance:**

Olwen Dutton (WMLGA/WMRA), Sharon Doak (WMLGA/WMRA), Rose Poulter (WMLGA/WMRA), Philip Atkins (Staffordshire) and John McGuigan (Coventry)

**1. Apologies**

The following apologies were **noted**:

Sarindar Singh Sahota (WMBC), Rex Roberts, OBE (Staffordshire) and Roger Evans (OSG)

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

**3. Chairman and Vice-Chairs' Reports**

The Chairman advised of his recent visit to Poland where he met with the Marshall of Lodz. There were a number of new links emerging from companies within the West Midlands region including software companies and Shropshire Fire.

**There were no reports from the Vice Chairs.**

**4. Draft Decision Notes of the Assembly Board of Directors Meeting held on 18 June 2008 and Matters Arising**

The Board **noted** the decision notes. There were no matters arising.

5. **Draft Decision Notes of the Assembly Annual Meeting held on 9 July 2008 and Matters Arising**  
The Board **noted** the decision notes.

***Matters Arising:***

***P4 - Item 10 SNR Consultation Regional Response***

Members requested clarity of the involvement of the Business and Other Stakeholder Groups after SNR. They were advised that there was no more clarification available at this point but assured that partnership working had added value and the WMRA would encourage and promote this to be continued.

The Chairman of WMLGA (Cllr Ken Taylor) had met with James James Watkins and Barrie Williams from WMBC and advised that communications were continuing and action was being taken.

***P6 – Item 13 Future of Regional Scrutiny***

Members queried and were assured that Scrutiny work was continuing and was still on course.

	<p><b><i>Note for Members – SNR:</i></b> <i>Following the SNR consultation process which closed in June, the Government has indicated that it may issue a response by the end of September.</i></p> <p><i>If a response has been received before the Board meeting, a paper giving further advice and information will be tabled.</i> <b><i>– A response had not been received.</i></b></p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Company Secretary's Report</b> The Board were provided with an update on general issues. Members <b>agreed</b> to:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Note the details of the report. <b>NOTED</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Approve</b> the use of Staffing Budget to meet the cost of a Culture Policy Lead fee for Sport England. <b>APPROVED</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Delegate authority</b> to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairs, to agree a revised budget for submission to GOWM with the Half Year Report. <b>AGREED</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Discuss, make suggestions and agree</b> the agenda for the Full Assembly meeting on 29 October 2008.</p>

	<p>Members requested an item on the context of Scrutiny and were advised that this would be covered under the SNR item. The agenda for 29 October 2008 was <b>AGREED</b>. Scrutiny to be included in the SNR item was also <b>AGREED</b>.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Notes of the Finance and Audit Committee held on 4 June 2008</b></p> <p>Board Members advised that the notes attached to the agenda were the notes from the FAC held in July 2007 and were not the most current. It was <b>AGREED</b> that officers would look in to this and circulate a current report.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Reviewing the operating arrangements of the Assembly 2008-2010</b></p> <p>The Board received a progress report on the Review of the operating arrangements of the Assembly.</p> <p>A further papers and diagram were tabled which set out the broad context, analysis and rationale and options for changes to the Assembly's operating arrangements.</p> <p>Following discussion at the Board it was <b>RECOMMENDED AND AGREED</b> that the options would be the subject of further consultation before a paper was taken to the Assembly meeting on 29 October 2008. It was made in the context of what was currently understood to be the position with the SNR, although the Government's response to the SNR consultation would be expected around 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and those proposals may need to be changed to reflect this.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Single Integrated Regional Strategy (SIRS)</b></p> <p>The Board received an update on the progress made to date in scoping and shaping the Single Integrated Regional Strategy (SIRS).</p> <p>It was suggested that the Economic Inclusion Panel be included as an agenda item for the Fully Assembly meeting on 29 October 2008.</p> <p>The Board <b>NOTED</b> the progress made.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Regional Funding Advice</b></p> <p>The Board received a verbal update from Rose Poulter.</p> <p>Members were advised that a full report would be made to the Assembly Meeting on 29 October 2008.</p> <p>The verbal report was <b>NOTED</b> <b>AGREED</b> that a full report to be made at the Assembly Meeting on 29 October 2008.</p>

11.	<p><b>West Midlands Partnership Review</b> Members received a brief verbal update on the Partnership Review and were advised that a full report would be made to the Assembly meeting on 29 October 2008.</p> <p>Members <b>NOTED</b> the verbal update.</p>
	<p><b>FOR INFORMATION ITEMS:</b></p>
12.	<p><b>Response to The Business Enterprise Select Committee – Future Role and Responsibilities of the RDAs</b> The Board were informed of the submission made by the Assembly to the Business and Enterprise Select Committee.</p> <p>Members <b>NOTED</b> the submission.</p>
13.	<p><b>Living Well West Midlands - Update Report</b> The Board were updated on the work and progress to date within the portfolio. The report contained an update on the progress of each project as well as an overall progress to date.</p> <p><b>The Board NOTED</b> the report</p>
14.	<p><b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy – Delivery Plan</b> The Board received the Executive Summary on the Regional Health and Well- Being Strategy - Delivery Action Plan.</p> <p>That Board <b>NOTED</b> the report.</p>
15.	<p><b>Regional Spatial Strategy</b> The Board were informed of the recent progress with regard to the RSS Phase 2 and 3 revisions which set out the key future target dates for information.</p> <p>That the contents of this report were <b>NOTED</b>.</p>
16.	<p><b>Regional Policy Partnerships Activity</b> The Board were updated on the key issues undertaken by the Secretariat on behalf of the Board and Assembly Partnerships over the last quarter.</p>
17.	<p>4.11 to the report – Members raised concern over Wales/Cross Border working and were assured that the Chief Executive would follow this matter up with the Welsh Assembly particularly regarding Health &amp; Transport issues</p> <p>A report would be made to the next Board Meeting</p>

	<p>The Board <b>NOTED</b> progress made and <b>AGREED</b> to a report to the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Minutes of the City Region Shadow Executive</b> <b>NOTED</b></p>
<b>18.</b>	<p><b>Advantage West Midlands – Notes from Board Meetings</b> <b>NOTED</b></p>
<b>19.</b>	<p><b>Dates of future Board Meetings 2007/08</b></p> <p>3 December 2008 25 March 2009 10 June 2009</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p>
<b>20.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b> <b>There was no other business stated.</b></p>