

Agenda Item No. 6

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY Assembly Meeting – 18 January 2006

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS – ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT

Report of the Director of Policy

1. Purpose

To consider the draft West Midlands Regional Funding Allocations – Advice to Government – attached.

2. Recommendations

i) That the Assembly endorses the approach being taken to the content and arrangements for finalising the West Midlands Regional Funding Allocations – Advice to Government – attached.

ii) That the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Assembly have delegated responsibility to sign-off the final document in conjunction with the Chairman and Chief Executive of AWM and the Director of Government Office.

3. Background

3.1 Guidance to the regions on preparing advice on regional funding allocations was issued by HM Government on the 21st July 2005. This guidance sets out:

- Regional transport funding allocations for three years, up to and including 2007-08, in line with the regional housing and economic development allocations, (the economic development allocation is the RDAs' Single Budget), that had already been published; and
- Indicative longer term planning assumptions for regional allocations, up to 2015/16, across the three funding streams.

3.2 The Government is asking for advice on our regional priorities in transport, housing and economic development; *'showing how these relate to each other to form a coherent, credible and strategic vision for improving the economic performance of the regions; and how these priorities are aligned to resources'*. This advice will be used as an input to policy development in advance of the next Budget.

3.3 The format of the advice is to be no longer than 30 pages, including maps and tables, although reference can be made to other documents providing the advice itself is free-standing. The closing date for submission is 31st January 2006.

4. **Detail**

4.1 The preparation and drafting of the advice has been informed by debate and discussion at officer meetings, Full Assembly meetings, the Board and Assembly Partnerships, especially Transport and Planning. It has also been discussed within Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) and at AWM's Board and at joint meetings with Assembly, GOWM and AWM. It therefore represents a joint approach to the challenge set by Government.

4.2 Attached is the draft 30 page submission. Pages 2 and 3 contain the Executive Summary.

4.3 Please note that the draft attached to this report is subject to further editing. The substance of the advice will not change but it is important that the key messages from the West Midlands are clearly stated – some further refinement is thus needed.

4.4 Please also note that a revised draft will be available at the Assembly meeting on 18 January and posted on the website by 12.00 on 17 January 2006.

4.5 The Assembly is requested to agree that the Chairman and Chief Executive have delegated responsibility to sign-off the final document in conjunction with the Chairman and Chief Executive of AWM and the Director of Government Office.

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