

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

25 March 2009

Assembly Board of Directors

The Draft RSS Implementation Plan 'Supplement'

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present the Board with the Draft RSS Implementation Plan 'Supplement' for its endorsement.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Board endorses the attached report for publication and submission to the RSS Examination in Public

3. Background

- 3.1 An RSS Implementation Group was established in the Autumn, 2008 as a sub-group of the RSS Co-ordination Group. Its main purpose was to further develop and update the Draft Implementation Plan (submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2007) in order to present a clear case on implementation and infrastructure issues at the forthcoming EiP.

- 3.2 The attached 'Supplement' represents the output from the work of the Group over the last 6 months. It is structured in 2 parts.

- **Part One** is a compendium of separate updates encompassing material on a number of significant changes that have occurred over the last 15 months since the original Implementation Plan was submitted.
- **Part Two** sets out a broad delivery prospectus for each sub-region (following an agreed brief) and updates the Investment Framework set out in Appendix B of the original document. In each case, this material has been prepared or co-ordinated by strategic authorities.

3.3 In practice, the Supplement will now provide an important reference point for helping the Assembly respond to matters and issues identified by the EIP Panel and must therefore be available by the end of March to support Assembly submissions. It is for this reason that it is being submitted to the Board for endorsement.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Although at the present time there are clearly many continuing changes and uncertainties (i.e. economic and procedural) which are likely to influence delivery, taken together with the Draft Implementation Plan, the Supplement provides a framework to help guide the implementation of the RSS.

4.2 The Supplement has been produced to a tight timetable and has very much depended on the help and support of a range of partners, particularly the strategic authorities who have led on the preparation of the sub-regional assessments in Appendix B. The Board may wish to record their thanks to the authorities for this work

Mark Middleton
Director of Policy

John Pattinson
Head of Planning

David Thew
Strategic Advisor
RSS Implementation