

West Midlands Regional Assembly

Agenda Item 12

WEST MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Assembly Board of Directors
3 December 2008

Notes of the Regional Planning Executive Meeting Held on 17 October 2008 at the BMI

Present: Cllr Rex Roberts, OBE Staffordshire County Council - Chairman

Councillors: Neil Roberts (Lichfield), Nigel Hartin (Shropshire) and P Douglas Osborne (Birmingham)

Business Council Members: Roger Stone (Vice Chair) and Julian Dolman (WMBC)

Other Stakeholder Group Member: Roger Evans (Vice Chair)

Officers: Marie Greer (AWM), Mark Middleton (WMRA), John Pattinson (WMRA), Richard King (Lichfield), Jo Hill (WMRA), Stefan Preuss (WMRA and Sharon Doak (WMLGA/WMRA)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:-

Cllr Tim Wright (Dudley), Cllr McNicholas (Coventry), Cllr Bob Badham (Vice Chair) and Geoff Minshull (WMBC)

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest stated.

4. Notes of the last Meeting held on 25 June 2008

The notes of the last meeting were **AGREED**

4a. Matters Arising

Item 6 - RSS Update – Phase 2 Revision

Members enquired if any meetings had been held with NLP and were advised that other than the Seminar held on 9 October 2008 no further contact had been had with the Consultants.

Roger Stone noted that NLP had not looked at household projections and household formation rates. He suggested that the Assembly could do some work on this and he was advised that this would be picked up with Clive Lloyd from Worcestershire.

5. RSS Updates:

5a) RSS Phase 2 Update

Members were advised of the latest position on the RSS Phase Two Revision and the implications for Phase Two work over the next year. An oral update was also given at the meeting on Section 3 to the report.

Members were invited to discuss the report / verbal update and the following comments were made:-

- Members expressed considerable concern about the NLP study which undermines the existing RSS Strategy.
- Members strongly felt that the case put forward to the EiP would be one defending the submitted Preferred Option. Members were advised that the Assembly would have to submit its response before knowing the GOWM response to the NLP study and the Preferred Option.
- Members raised the importance of investment requirements to achieve urban renaissance and the infrastructures/amenities needed.
- Concern was raised regarding the NLP proposals including the additional figures for Solihull. It was highlighted that the only land that could accommodate this would be Greenbelt.
- There was no proper consideration of transport, employment, water etc in the NLP Study .
- Members were advised that there would be a Staffordshire and Stoke Planning Forum meeting on 23 October 2008 and that this Forum would report back to the meeting of the RPE.

The report recommended and it was **AGREED**:-

That the RPE note the report and endorse the action to be taken in respect of RSS Phase Two Revision work. This would include the development of the Assembly's response by December 2008, following the GOWM Housing Study, and the preparatory work for the Examination in Public (EIP).

5b) RSS Phase 3 Update

The RPE were updated on the timetable for developing the WMRSS Phase 3 Revisions and progress towards developing draft Options for consultation as part of the Phase 3 Revision process.

Members raised questions regarding the emerging work on provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers and were advised that the advice received from the Section 4(4) authorities had been limited in some cases. There were gaps in the advice in particular in respect of figures for the period 2011 – 2016. Officers had requested further advice on this and the deadline for responses was 17 October 2008. This would be reported back to the next meeting on 18 November.

The RPE **NOTED** the revised draft timetable for developing the WMRSS Phase 3 Revisions; and the progress towards developing draft Options for consultation.

5c) RSS Monitoring

RPE received a report that advised them on the latest position regarding RSS monitoring.

Members **NOTED** the success of the 8th September Stakeholders RSS Monitoring Conference and **AGREED** the proposed approach (paragraph 5.4 to the report) to the production of the February 2009 Annual Monitoring Report

5d) RSS Implementation

Members were advised on the latest position regarding:

- a. the re-establishment of an RSS implementation Group; and
- b. the preparation of Sub-regional Implementation Frameworks as an input to the further development of the RSS Implementation Plan.

Members **NOTED** the establishment of a new RSS Implementation Group and **ENDORSED** the principle that all sub-regions be asked to prepare Sub-regional Implementation Frameworks as a contribution to the updating and development of the RSS Implementation Plan and an input to the RSS Phase 2 Examination in Public (EiP) in Spring 2009.

6. Review of the operating arrangements of the Assembly 2008-2010

The RPE received a report on the progress of the Review on the Operating Arrangements of the Assembly as considered by the Assembly Board at its meeting on 24 September 2008.

The report had been circulated / would be circulated to all Partnerships and endorsement would be sought at the Full Assembly meeting on 29 October

2008 with new arrangements coming into effect on 3 December 2008 following final endorsement from Assembly Board Members.

Members were invited to discuss the report and its appendices and the following comment was made:-

- Members of the WMBC and OSG strongly stated their intention to continue working with the Assembly and their full commitment to partnership working. This should be reflected in the new arrangements.

Members **AGREED** to the recommendations set out in the report.

FOR INFORMATION – The following items were for information only and were **NOTED** by the RPE.

7. National and Inter-Regional Consultations

Members received a report and were informed of:

- The Department of Communities and Local Governments consultation on proposed changes to Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres and the measures the Assembly's Secretariat had set in place to consider and respond to the consultation;
- The Secretary of State's Proposed Changes in respect of Regional Spatial Strategies in the East Midlands, South East and South West and the measures the Assembly's Secretariat had set in place to consider and respond to the consultations.

8. Conformity Update

RPE were informed of recent activity with regard to Local Development Documents and regionally significant planning applications which have been sent to the Regional Assembly, including the decisions made by the Assembly's Conformity Panel. The report also highlights other matters of relevance to the Assembly's conformity work.

9. Update on Shared Evidence Base – Housing

The report provided an update with a summary of the planned Housing research programme in preparation for a selective update of the Regional Housing Strategy 2005, to inform the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) Phase 2 Public Examination and RSS 3 Revision process, and contribute to the development of the Single Integrated Regional Strategy (SIRS).

10. NOTIFICATION: Regional Gypsy and Travellers Seminar

RPE were advised with early notification of the arrangements being undertaken for a technical Regional Seminar on Gypsy & Travellers pitch

provision to be held on 20 November 2008. They were requested to encourage Local Authorities to alert their Planning and Housing Officers to the Seminar, with the view to achieving a good attendance from across the Region.

11. Gypsy and Traveller Site Programme 2008 – Regional Recommendations for Funding

The RPE were informed of the recommendations which the Regional Housing Executive (RHE) would be making to the Minister, in regards to the allocation of Gypsy & Traveller Site Grant Funding – 2008/09 bidding round.

12. A.O.B

There were no items under AOB.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

13. 18 November 2008: Venue: BMI