

DRAFT Notes of the Regional Assembly Board of Directors Meeting Held on 10 June 2009

Chairman: Cllr David S Smith (Lichfield DC)

Present:

Sarindar Sahota – Vice Chair (WMBC), Roger McKenzie – Vice Chair (OSG), Cllr Ken Taylor (Chairman – WMLGA/Coventry), Cllr Chris Saint (Stratford), Cllr Rex Roberts (Staffordshire), Cllr Roger Phillips (Herefordshire), Cllr Paul Tilsley (Birmingham), Cllr John Lines (Birmingham), Cllr Keith Austin (Telford & Wrekin), Elizabeth Newman (OSG), John Hall (OSG), Cllr Beris Williams (Herefordshire), Roger Stone (WMBC) and Cllr Phil Atkins (Staffordshire)

In attendance:

Olwen Dutton (WMLGA/WMRA), Rose Poulter (SNR Team), Mark Middleton (WMRA) and Sharon Doak (WMLGA/WMRA), Jenny Venn (Coventry), John Pattinson (WMRA), Stefan Preuss (WMRA), Sharon Phillips (WMLGA/WMRA) and Alan Robertson (Clement Keys)

1.	<p>Apologies Cllr Albert Bore, Cllr Steve Eling, Frances Beatty, Cllr Bob Badham, Barrie Williams, and Roger Evans</p>
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest There were no declarations stated.</p>
3.	<p>Chairman and Vice Chairs Reports <i>The Chairman:</i> Advised the Board that the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill has now reached the House of Commons and legislation is still anticipated in July.</p> <p>Requested that the Assembly and its work continue as 'business as usual' and reminded Members that there are still extremely important pieces of work that continue and that the Assembly are committed to finishing and asked for full support in the transfer of any work/duties that may occur.</p> <p><i>Sarindar Sahota Vice Chair West Midlands Business Council:</i></p>

	Advised the Board of work place training, train to gain and thanked the sector sponsoring them.
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	Roger McKenzie Vice Chair Other Stakeholder Group: Advised that there was nothing to report.
4.	Notes of Meetings
4a.	Special Board Meeting held on 25 February 2009 and Matters Arising AGREED as a true record. There were no matters arising
4b.	Board meeting held on 25 March 2009 and Matters Arising AGREED as a true record. There were no matters arising.
5.	Chief Executives Report Alan Robertson, Auditor, Clement Keys presented the Board with the audited Financial Statements for 2008-09.
5.1	The report recommended the Board: APPROVE the draft Financial Statements for 2008-09*
5.2	AGREED to a proposal to write tangible assets down to a nominal value of £1 in preparation for wind up (<i>Following a show of hands of 8 for and 3 against</i>)
5.3	Unanimously APPROVED re-appointment of auditors Clement Keys for 2009-10 Subject to a recommendation from the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) a meeting of FAC be called to review the accounts before the Assembly AGM. * FAC met on 30 June and recommended the Financial Statements for approval.
6.	Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) The Board were provided with an update on the Department for Transport's (DfT) Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) process. The report recommended that the Board noted the details of the process and supported the decision to sign off Stage 1 as set out below: <i>Stage 1: Agree a short suite of priorities and develop a work programme (by end of June 2009)</i> The Board SUPPORTED the sign off of Stage 1

<p>7.</p>	<p>The Vice Chairman for the Business Council, requested that Brian Summers be appointed as a Member of the Steering Group and was advised that an invitation had already been extended to Jerry Blackett from the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>SNR Change Management Plan The Board were updated on the SNR Change Management Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSG advised that they were content that their involvement was being looked at and welcomed opening up discussions on regional engagements. • A request was made regarding notes/minutes of JSIB and WMLB meetings and when these would be made publically available. It was advised that a website was currently under construction and this should be ready to go live within the next month. • Concern was raised by Members that the original RES was conducted pre-recession and that this would need to be revisited with current trends.
<p>8.</p>	<p>The Board NOTED the report.</p> <p>Policy Area Activity Members received an additional Policy Area Activity report that sought to highlight to Members the more current policy activity that required their attention.</p> <p>The report recommended that the Board note the reports and, where requested, the Board was requested to agree recommendations as outlined below:</p>

	<p>Equality and Diversity (Social Inclusion) <i>Recommendation:</i> The Board NOTED the report.</p> <p>Conformity <i>Recommendation:</i> The Board NOTED the report.</p> <p>Climate Change and Environment <i>Recommendation:</i> The Board NOTED Report</p> <p>Housing <i>Recommendation</i> The support of Assembly Board members is sought to continue to encourage local authorities to continue to promote the Kick Start model as a way of moving from grants to loans for private sector home improvement.</p> <p>The Board AGREED the recommendation and requested that other providers be looked into.</p>
9.	<p>Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two – Examination in Public Mark Middleton updated the Board on the current Examination in Public into the RSS Phase Two Revision, and highlighted issues that had arisen to date.</p> <p>The report recommended that the Board notes the progress to date in presenting and defending the Assembly's policy stance and agrees to receive a further report following the closure of the Examination and on the Panel's subsequent report to the Minister.</p> <p>The Board NOTED the reports.</p> <p>AGREED that a further report be brought to them at the close of the EiP and;</p> <p>The Chairman and the Board gave their thanks and gratitude to those involved in the EiP, WMRA staff, local authority colleagues and partners and gave praise for their excellent work.</p>
10.	<p>The Board were updated on the timetable and process for the RSS Phase Three Revision.</p> <p>The Board NOTED:</p> <p>(a) the provisional timetable for the RSS Phase Three Revision process and</p>

	<p>(b) that the Assembly and GOWM had agreed to review the process for taking forward the Phase Three work through either a revised RSS or single Regional Strategy following the Phase Three Options consultation.</p>
	<p><i>At the close of the meeting the Chairman and the Board gave their thanks and gratitude to Cllr Terry Dix who after 30 years as a Councillor had stood down and was retiring. He wished Terry a long and happy retirement.</i></p>
<p>11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17.</p>	<p>FOR INFORMATION: The following reports were for information and were duly NOTED.</p> <p>Policy Report of the Chief Executive – Headline Issues for West Midlands Regional Assembly</p> <p>Draft notes of the Full Assembly Meeting held on 22 April 2009</p> <p>Draft Agenda for the Full Assembly Meeting 8 July 2009 – Solihull MBC</p> <p>Suggested Dates of future Board Meetings 2009/10 End of September TBC</p> <p>Suggested Dates of future Full Assembly Meetings 2009/10 End of October TBC</p> <p>AWM Non Confidential Board Notes</p> <p>Any Other Business Sarindar Sahota requested that future meetings have an item on the agenda on the State of the Economy</p>