

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

**Decision Notes of the West Midlands Regional Assembly Meeting
Held on 29 October 2008
At the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce**

Chairman: Cllr David S Smith (Lichfield DC)

1. Apologies

Apologies and attendance are attached in the Appendix.

2. Members Declarations of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest stated.

3. Chairman and Vice Chairs reports

The Chairman:

Shared his concerns regarding the current economic situation. He stated that that was the need for Local Government to respond quickly with a possibility of 3 million people becoming unemployed. There were no new building contracts being offered in local authorities – these were, in fact, being stopped due to the credit crunch.

He stressed his disapproval of the NLP Study commissioned by Government which had already cost £211,000 with the possibility that this may increase to £250,000. He felt the Study put the Assembly behind in its discussion process and was totally lacking in the understanding of the infrastructures for housing.

The report had caused massive strains on local authorities and to date there had not been any legislation received and felt that this should have been received weeks ago.

The Vice-Chair Dr Sarindar Singh Sahota – Business Sector:

Welcomed David Cairo and Kevin Farrell, from the Business Council attending their first meeting of the Assembly.

He echoed the Chairman's comments on the economy and stressed the major impact that this has had on everybody, with the Business Sector being hit particularly hard with Business premises being demolished so that no business tax would need to be paid.

Business Council's views needed to be included in the decision making of the Operation Review of the Assembly and stressed the successful Partnership work that continued in the region and should continue to do so.

The Vice Chair - Cllr Terry Dix - Local Government Sector:

Agreed with Surindar's comments and reiterated that through the SNR all Partnerships needed to continue to be included.

The Vice-Chair Roger McKenzie – OSG Sector

Agreed with the comments made by the Chairman and the other Vice Chairs with regard to both the SNR and the Economy.

He stated that he would like to see all Partners coming together as they did with MG Rover. The situation needed to be looked at a regional level and approached together. He advised that at a recent TUC meeting it had been stated that some building companies were dismissing their staff and then re-employing them as self employed so that they were no longer responsible for the employees national insurance contributions and their health and safety.

In his closing comments, the Chairman suggested and it was **AGREED** that a Special 'Conversation' Meeting be called on the Economic situation. A date and venue would be circulated to Members.

4. Draft Decision Notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 09 July 2008 and Matters Arising
NOTED

5. Draft notes of the Assembly Board of Directors 24 September 2008
NOTED

6. Company Secretary's Report

The Assembly were provided with an update on general issues.

The report recommended and the Assembly: -

NOTED the details of the report.

NOTED the Quarter 2 Progress Report as submitted to GOWM on 17 October.

AGREED to submit any outstanding Declaration of Interest and Gifts and Hospitality forms.

7. Regional Funding Advice

The Assembly received a verbal report and Briefing note from Rose Poulter.

It was **AGREED** that further updates would be brought to future meetings.

8. Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Review / Nathaniel Lichfield Partnership

Members received a report and were advised on the arrangements for an Assembly response by 8th December 2008 to the GOWM Housing Study undertaken by Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners (NLP) and its impact on the RSS Phase Two Revision.

The report recommended and it was **AGREED** that the Assembly 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 8th December 2008, following the publication of the GOWM Housing Study, and the preparatory work for the Examination in Public (EiP).

9. Reviewing the operating arrangements of the Assembly 2008-2010

The Assembly received a report on the proposed new operating arrangements for the Regional Assembly.

It was recommended and **AGREED** that the Assembly **NOTE** the intended changes to the specific arrangements which were intended to come in to effect from 3 December 2008.

10. Strategic Review of Transport

Members were presented with the findings from the Strategic Review of Transport, examining how transport policy within the region contributed to its success in integrating economic, environmental and societal needs.

Members were advised that the full report was available on the Assembly's website at:-

http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Scrutiny_and_Strategic_Review/Strategic_Review_of_Transport.aspx

The Assembly:-

- discussed and **ENDORSED** the findings of the review panel
- **APPROVED** recommendation R3 made specifically to the Regional Assembly and recommendations R12, R14 and R17 made for the Regional Transport Partnership.

11. Draft Notes of the Regional Housing Executive meeting held on 25 November 2008

Due to the RHE being inquorated, the Assembly were requested and **AGREED** to the ratification of the notes of the RHE Meeting held on the 25 November 2008

FOR INFORMATION

The following items were for information only and were **NOTED**.

12. **West Midlands Partnership Review**

The Assembly received and **NOTED** a verbal update.

13. **Delivering Advantage – Progress Report**

The Assembly were presented with the final Progress Report against Delivering Advantage, including the results of a third party verification of progress reported since 2004.

The Assembly **NOTED** the report against Delivering Advantage and the associated verification report covering progress since 2004.

14. **Report of the Chief Executive – Headline Issues for West Midlands Regional Assembly)**

The Assembly were updated on key issues undertaken by the Secretariat on behalf of the Board and Assembly Partnerships over the last quarter.

The Assembly **NOTED** the progress made.

15. **Economic Inclusion Panel (EIP)**

The background and Membership of the EIP was **NOTED** by the Assembly.

16. **Response to BERR select committee inquiry into RDAs**

Members were informed of the submission made by the Assembly to the Business and Enterprise Select Committee.

The submission was **NOTED**.

17. **Living Well West Midlands – Update Report (Attached)**

The Assembly was updated on work and progress to date..

The report was **NOTED**.

17a. **Invitation to Living Well Annual Conference**
NOTED

18. **Dates of future Meetings 2008/09**

14 January 2009 – Birmingham and Midland Institute

22 April 2009 – Staffordshire County Council

08 July 2009 - TBC

NOTED

Appendix

Authority	Full Member	ATT	Alternate Member	ATT
Birmingham City Council (21)	Cllr Mike Whitby (C) (9)	X	Cllr Len Gregory	
	Cllr Sir Albert Bore (L) (6)	✓	Cllr Ian Ward	
	Cllr Paul Tilsley (LD) (6)	✓	Cllr Ray Hassall	
Coventry City Council (7)	Cllr Ken Taylor (C) (4)	✓	Cllr Kevin Foster	
	Cllr John Mutton (L) (3)	✓	Cllr George Duggins	
Dudley MBC (7)	Cllr Ken Turner (C) (4)		Cllr Adams	
	Cllr David Sparkes (L) (3)	X	Cllr S Ali	
Solihull MBC (5)	Cllr Meeson (C) (3)		Cllr Sleigh	✓
	Cllr Corser (L) (1)		Cllr Hill	
	Cllr Davies (LD) (1)	✓	Cllr T Hodgson	
Sandwell MBC (7)	Cllr S Eling (L) (5)	✓	Cllr W Thomas	
	Cllr A Ward (C) (1)		Cllr M Docker	
	Cllr S Smith (LD) (1)	✓	Cllr J Underhill	
Walsall MBC (7)	Cllr O'Hare (C) (4)	X	Cllr Andrew	✓
	Cllr Chambers (L) (2)		Cllr Oliver	
	Cllr D Shires (LD) (1)		Cllr I Shires	
Wolverhampton City Council (6)	Cllr N Patten (C) (4)		Cllr B Findlay	✓
	Cllr Bilson (L) (2)	X	Cllr T Singh	
Herefordshire Council (4)	Cllr Roger Phillips (C) (2)	✓	Cllr H Bramer	
	Cllr Terry James (LD) (1)		TBA	
	Cllr J Williams (I) (1)	✓	TBA	
Stoke-on-Trent City Council (5)	Cllr Joy Garner (L) (1)		Cllr Mark Davis	
	Cllr James (City Indep.) (1)		Cllr Brian Ward	X
	Cllr Ibbs (C and I A) (1)		Cllr Lee Wanger	
	Cllr Jean Bowers (LD) (1)	X	Cllr Paul Billington	✓
	Cllr Alby Walker (BNP) (1)		Cllr A Simmonds	
Telford &	Cllr E J Carter (C)	✓	Cllr I Fletcher	

Wrekin (3)	Cllr K Austin (L)	X	Cllr C F Smith	✓
Shropshire County Council (5)	Cllr M Pate (C) (3)		Cllr J Gillow	
	Cllr Peter Francis (LD) (1)		Cllr Nigel Hartin	✓
	Cllr Alan Mosley (L) (1)		Cllr Philip Box	
Bridgnorth DC(1)	Cllr D Beechey (I) (1)	✓	Cllr C Bache	
North Shropshire DC(1)	Cllr David Minnery (C) (1)	X	Cllr Marilyn Patrick	
Oswestry BC(1)	Cllr D Lloyd (C) (1)		Cllr Pat Mansfield	
Shrewsbury & Atcham DC(1)	Cllr P A Nutting (C) (1)		Cllr W Roberts	
South Shropshire DC (1)	Cllr Cecilia Motley (C) (1)		Cllr Martin Taylor	
Staffordshire County Council (8)	Cllr T Dix (L)	✓	Cllr J Taylor	
	Cllr R Roberts (C)	✓	Cllr P Atkins	✓
Cannock Chase DC	Cllr N Stanley (LD) (1)	X	Cllr T Williams	✓
East Staffordshire BC	Cllr A Fox (C) (1)		Cllr David Brookes	
Lichfield DC	Cllr D Smith (C) (1)	✓	Cllr N Roberts	
Newcastle-under-Lyme BC	Cllr Simon Tagg (C) (1)	X	Cllr Robin Studd (LD)	X
South Staffordshire DC	Cllr B Edwards (C) (1)		Cllr Billson	
Stafford BC	Cllr J Highfield (C) (1)	✓	Cllr W Davis	✓
Staffordshire Moorlands DC	Cllr S Ralphs (C&IA) (1)	✓	Cllr A Forrester	
Tamworth BC	Cllr Jeremy Oates (C) (1)		Cllr Danny Cook	
Warwickshire County Council (5)	Cllr Hyde (C) (3)	X		
	Cllr Mick Jones (L) (2)		VACANT	
	Cllr Heatley			
North Warwickshire DC	Cllr Colin Hayfield (C) (1)		Cllr Les Smith	
Nuneaton & Bedworth BC	Cllr David Bryden (C) (1)	✓	Cllr Marcus Jones	
Rugby BC	Cllr N P Campbell (C)	✓	Cllr D Poole	

	(1)			
Stratford-on-Avon DC	Cllr C J Saint (C) (1)	✓	Cllr L Topham	
Warwick DC	Cllr John Hammon (C) (1)	X	Cllr Alan Rhead	
Worcestershire County Council (6)	Cllr George Lord (C) (3)	X	Cllr A Davies	X
	Cllr J Buckley (L) (2)		Cllr P Pinfield	X
	Cllr Liz Tucker LD (1)	✓	Cllr Tom Wells	
Bromsgrove DC	Cllr R Hollingworth (C) (1)		Cllr J Griffiths	✓
Malvern Hills DC	Cllr Serena Croad (C) (1)	X	Cllr R Madden	✓
Redditch BC	Cllr Carole Gandy (C) (1)	✓	Cllr Michael Braley	✓
Worcester City	Cllr S Geraghty (C) (1)	✓	Cllr B Mackenzie-Williams	
Wychavon DC	Cllr Paul Middlebrough (C) (1)	✓	Cllr Judy Pearce	
Wyre Forest DC	Cllr J Champion (C) (1)		TBA	
WMBC	David Caro	✓	Prof. Gerald Bennett	
WMBC	Prof. Michael Clarke	X	Martin Chambers	X
WMBC	Barrie Williams	✓	Prithvi Choprah	✓
WMBC	Arthur Hill		Hilary Hall	
WMBC	Mike Hill	✓	Malcolm Smyth	
WMBC	Frances Beatty	✓	Deborah Walsh	X
WMBC	Geoff Minshull	X	Gary Saunders	
WMBC	Richard Moxon	X	Parminder Singh	
WMBC	Paul Kalinauckas	x	Bruce Undy	
WMBC	Kevin Farrell	✓	Tony Rodger	
WMBC	Michael Mason		Sir William Lawrence	✓
WMBC	Sarindar Singh Sahota	✓	Roger Culcheth	✓

WMBC	Roger Stone	✓		
WMBC	Brian Summers	✓		
WMBC	Roger Trotman	✓		
WMBC	Sarah Faulkner			
OSG	Roger McKenzie	✓	Valerie Broom	X
OSG	Revd John Hall	✓	Alan Weaver	X
OSG	Marcia Lewinson	✓	Yann Lovelock	✓
OSG	Elisabeth Buggins		Dally Panaser	X
OSG	Howard Farrand	X	Donald Mackintosh	✓
OSG	Natalie Hall		Vaughan Owen	
OSG	Chris Welch	✓	Anna Sterckx	x
OSG	Richard Bubb		Richard Quallingham	
OSG	Peter Shirley		Mike Barnes	✓
OSG	Patricia Fairclough	✓		
OSG	Roger Evans	✓		
OSG	Gerald Kells	✓		
OSG	Mike Kinghan	✓		
OSG	Elizabeth Newman	✓		