

West Midlands Regional Assembly

Agenda Item 4

DRAFT Notes of the Regional Assembly Board of Directors Meeting Held on 30 September 2009

Chairman: Cllr David S Smith (Lichfield DC)

Present:

Sarindar Sahota – Vice Chair (WMBC), Cllr Ken Taylor (Chairman – WMLB/Coventry), Cllr Chris Saint (Stratford), Cllr Roger Phillips (Herefordshire), Cllr John Lines (Birmingham), Cllr Keith Austin (Telford & Wrekin), Rvd John Hall (OSG), Cllr Beris Williams (Herefordshire), Roger Stone (WMBC) Cllr Albert Bore (Birmingham), Cllr David Sparks – Vice Chair (LA, Dudley) and Cllr Steve Eling (Sandwell)

In attendance:

Olwen Dutton (WMLB/WMRA), Mark Middleton (WMRA), Sharon Britton (WMLB/WMRA), John Pattinson (WMRA – for part), and Stefan Preuss (WMRA)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Board was addressed by Martin Willey, President of the RTPI. He commended the West Midlands for its long history of partnership working and pleaded for the retention of its intellectual capacity to take the Region out of its difficult times during the recession.

1.	Apologies Frances Beatty, Cllr Bob Badham, Barrie Williams, Cllr Rex Roberts, Roger McKenzie – Vice Chair (OSG) and Roger Evans
2.	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest stated.
3.	Chairman and Vice Chairs Verbal reports <i>The Chairman:</i> Advised the Board that the awaited Panel Report had now been received and had endorsed what we as a region had felt important – Ecotowns were out and the regions concerns regarding greenbelt were in.

	<p>However, he believed that the increase in housing figures and moving housing number across local authorities was not good for the region.</p> <p>The Nathaniel Lichfield report had been rejected.</p> <p>Made a plea that local authority colleagues stay on course with their LDF's and Core Strategies.</p> <p>Advised that he had hosted a visit with The Marshall of Lodz and had taken him around the region where they had experienced excellent business opportunities and hoped that this would continue.</p> <p><i>Sarindar Sahota Vice Chair - Business Voice WM</i></p> <p>Advised that the Business Council had been reorganised and was now known as Business Voice WM and they had had their first meeting where Barrie Williams had been nominated as their representative on the JSIB.</p>
4.	<p>Notes of the last meeting held on 10 June and Matters Arising</p> <p>The notes of the last meeting were AGREED as a true record. There were no matters arising.</p>
5.	<p>Company Secretary Report</p> <p>To Board were provided with an update on general corporate and financial issues:</p> <p>2009-10 Q2 Progress Report</p> <p>SNR</p> <p>Assembly Dissolution & Final Report</p> <p>The Board was recommended to note the details of this report and AGREED to:-</p> <p>Delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairs to agree the 2009-10 Q2 Progress Report for submission to GOWM.</p> <p>Note the progress with SNR matters and approve the preparation of a publication recording the achievements of the Assembly</p> <p>Agree to postpone the January meeting of the Assembly to a date in March 2010, such meeting to be the last meeting of the full Assembly before dissolution</p> <p>ACTION: The Assembly Board and the Full Assembly be notified of future dates as soon as possible.</p>
6.	<p>Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two – Panel Report</p>

	<p>The Board were provided with an update on the progress of the RSS Phase Two Revision following the recent Examination in Public (EIP) and the recent publication of the Panel Report.</p> <p>Members were advised that a Summary of the report was being produced and would be circulated to them on completion. They were also advised that this item would be a substantive item on the agenda for their next meeting.</p> <p>It was recommended that Members note the progress of the RSS Phase Two Revision and the next steps in the process as outlined in the report.</p> <p>AGREED: Summary to be circulated on completion.</p>
7.	<p>Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Three – Responses to the Options Consultation</p> <p>To update the Assembly Board on the responses to the RSS Phase 3 Options Consultation and on interim proposals for progressing the development of policies.</p> <p>Following discussion at the meeting of the Regional Planning and Environment Executive (RPEE) on 22 September the Board had been circulated a Supplementary report which outlined the following:</p> <p>The RPEE recommended that the Board should be reluctant to abandon the Phase 3 Revision process. They felt that weight must be given to the fact that the Phase 3 Revision was well advanced and the policy areas within it were of concern to the region’s local planning authorities who are looking for early guidance for their Local Development Frameworks and would accordingly regret any delay in progressing regional policy in their key areas.</p> <p>They recommended the Board to seek clarification from CLG (via GOWM) on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That work undertaken to date through the Phase 3 Revision could be ‘banked’ and counted as part of the preparation process for the new strategy; and, b) In the interim, weight could be given to Interim Policy Statements (for individual topic areas covered by Phase 3) in decisions on Local Development Frameworks and major planning applications. <p>Finally, the RPEE recommended the Board to confirm that when the matter of Phase 3 is raised at the JSIB, the Assembly provide their view that priority should be given to the preparation of the new Strategy for the West Midlands instead of completing the Phase 3</p>

	<p>Revision Process.</p> <p>The Board AGREED to endorse this approach.</p>
8.	<p>Date of Next Meeting To be circulated to Members</p>
	<p>For information The following reports were for information only and were NOTED by the Board.</p>
9.	<p>Policy Report of the Chief Executive</p>
10.	<p>Draft Decision Notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 08 July 2009</p>
11.	<p>Draft Agenda for the Full Assembly Meeting 23 October 2009</p>
12.	<p>AWM Non Confidential Board Notes</p>
13.	<p>Any Other Business There was no other business stated.</p>