

## WMES Delivery Framework Monitoring and Update

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider the outputs from the first annual monitoring and update of the West Midlands Economic Strategy (WMES) Delivery Framework.

### 2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 To note the first annual Monitoring Report against the WMES Delivery Framework.
- 2.3 To endorse the updated WMES Delivery Framework.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 Advantage West Midlands has committed to monitoring progress against - and updating - the WMES Delivery Framework on an annual basis. The first monitoring and updating process began in October 2008. Four documents have been produced as a result, for publication in July 2009:

- An updated Delivery Framework – a light touch update, taking account of progress to date and changed circumstances;
- A Monitoring Report – summarising overall progress against the actions/tasks set out in the Delivery Framework;
- An external Verification Report (produced by Regeneris Consulting) – validating the stated progress set out in the Monitoring Report; and
- A Synthesis Report – bringing together information from the Monitoring Report with other sources of evidence about regional performance (including performance against outcome indicators and evaluation findings).

- 3.2 Copies of the first two documents – the Updated Delivery Framework and the Monitoring Report are attached. The other two documents – the Verification and Synthesis Reports will be available on the WMES pages of the Advantage West Midlands web site shortly.

#### **4. The monitoring and updating process**

- 4.1 The monitoring and updating process commenced in October 2008 and relied heavily on information from the 'strategic lead' organisations or partnerships identified in the Delivery Framework.
- 4.2 Regeneris Consulting were appointed to undertake a verification of reported progress against the actions/tasks set out in the Delivery Framework. This task is being undertaken on a sampling basis, with one third of the actions/tasks being covered annually over a three year period. A much more robust approach has been taken to verification of reported progress than was the case for the previous WMES. We expect this increased emphasis on performance management to yield significant benefits in terms of delivery of the WMES going forward.
- 4.3 Sustainability West Midlands were also commissioned to undertake a review of the application of - and reporting against - the underlying principles. A summary of their findings is included in the Monitoring Report and a separate, more detailed report, is also available. As with the tougher approach to verification, we expect this increased focus on monitoring the application of the underlying principles to yield significant benefits going forward.

#### **5. Headline findings**

- 5.1 The Monitoring Report shows that majority (just over two thirds) of tasks are on track (green), with just under one third reporting some difficulties (amber), which are being addressed. Only one task was deemed to have severe / unresolved issues (red). The economic downturn is having/will continue to have an impact on delivery. Overall, the application of the underlying principles has progressed well and the reporting process has encouraged ownership and understanding of the issues by the relevant strategic lead bodies.
- 5.2 The task that received a red grading (which fell within Action 3.4.2) was, *'Higher Education Institutions, Further Education Colleges and independent providers working through the joint consultative forums with the Association of Colleges and the Association of Learning Providers to ensure that they align their plans with the priorities within this Action Plan.'* Partners felt that much more work is required in order to be able to report progress against this task. Work to address this issue is being taken forward through the refresh of the Skills Action Plan.

**6. Next Steps**

- 6.1 The updated Delivery Framework and the outputs from the monitoring process will be published in July.
- 6.2 A number of lessons have been learned through this first year of progress monitoring and updating. These will be used to help improve the process going forward.