

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

**Notes of the Meeting held on 23 October 2009
At the Birmingham and Midland Institute**

Chairman: Cllr David S Smith (Lichfield DC)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Assembly were advised that the meeting was not quorum. There were no decisions to be made and it was AGREED that the meeting would go ahead.

1. Apologies

Apologies and attendances 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:

Confirmed that the final meeting of the Assembly would be hosted by Lichfield District Council.

Advised that he attended a meeting that morning with the Regional Minister to discuss the Staffordshire Saxon Gold. The meeting was attended by representatives from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, Tamworth, Lichfield, Birmingham, Museums, AWM and GOWM. The meeting discussed the next steps for the Staffordshire Gold i.e. who it would belong to, where it would be housed etc. The find was a tremendous boost for tourism in the West Midlands.

Commented that he had heard on the television that morning that the recession was nearing an end, though he had not seen any evidence to support this.

Vice Chair - Business Sector: Mr Sarindar Sahota

Stated that the Business Sector had enjoyed working with Local Authorities and the OSG in taking the region forward. He thanked all Business Members for the large part they had played in regional working often attending meetings in their spare time.

Advised that Business Voice West Midlands now had 26 Members including the Chamber of Commerce and the CBI and that Barrie Williams would be the BWVM representative on the JSIB

Further advised that the Regional Action Plan for Construction would be going to the Minister for approval and that the BVMW are currently working on an Action Plan for Textiles.

Mike Barnes for the OSG:

Advised that the OSG are currently working on "3rd Sector Strategic Partners" and they would also be seeking a seat on the JSIB. It is hoped that this group would be up and running by March 2010. Parts of the make up of the OSG i.e. police and fire would not be part of the make of this group and it was not sure at this point where they would fit in but the OSG were committed to continuing partnership working.

4. Draft Decision Notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 8 July and Matters Arising

The Decision Notes were **AGREED** subject to the following amendment:

Item 8 RSS Phase Three Options Document – Bullet Point 7

Members requested that the following be changed from:

- Some planning authorities had concerns regarding Gypsy and Traveller sites – the surveys on which the numbers were based represented actual need. The options addressed aspirations, though some felt this influenced the surveys.

To:

- *Members queried scrutiny as to whether it did meet actual need or whether it was just inspirational figures.*

There was no Matters Arising that were not already on the Agenda.

5. Report of the Chief Executive and Company Secretary

The Assembly was provided with an update on general corporate and financial issues:

- The 2009-10 Q2 Progress Report for submission to GOWM.
- The progress with SNR matters.
- The intention to prepare a publication recording the achievements of the Assembly

- That the January meeting of the Assembly will be postponed to a date in March 2010, such meeting to be the last meeting of the full Assembly before dissolution.

The report recommended and the Assembly duly **NOTED** the report.

6. Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two - Examination in Public

Members received a report and were advised on the publication of the Panel Report for the RSS Phase Two Revision and the key issues/actions arising from the Report.

Members requested that their thanks be recorded to the Officers for their outstanding work.

Members **NOTED** the report.

7. Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Three – Options Document

Members received a report and were:

- updated on key messages emerging from responses to the WMRSS Phase Three Options consultation,
- updated on the outcome of recent discussions following the 9th September “stock-take” meeting relating to the progression of RSS Phase Three workstreams, and
- updated Members on the agreed approach and next steps for developing Interim Policy Statements and Policy Recommendations for the RSS Phase Three workstreams.

The report recommended and Members:

- (a) **NOTED** the key messages emerging from the Options consultation,
- (b) **NOTED** the outcome of recent discussions relating to the progression of RSS Phase Three workstreams, and
- (c) **NOTED** the agreed approach towards developing Interim Policy Statements and Policy Recommendations (including suggested nature of Policy recommendations).

8. Economic Downturn

Members received a report from the Chief Executive and a further report from Business Voice WM. The reports sought to update members on the current economic situation and changes to the Regional Economic Taskforce.

Members **NOTED** the reports.

9. AWM Annual Report

Karen Yeomans from Advantage West Midlands presented the AWM Annual Review to Members.

Karen highlighted the following schemes as being a success during 2008 – this is not a full and comprehensive list of AWM's achievements:-

Gateway Scheme – New Street Station

Longbridge Area Action Plan

Learning and Skills Council – Investments in Bourneville and Sandwell College

Anste – Coventry -National Manufacturing Technology Centre – now located at Anste

Karen advised that AWM are committed to developing the prosperity of Regional and Partnership working.

Members thanked Karen and **NOTED** the Annual Review.

10. Date of Next Meeting

17 March 2010 at Lichfield District Council

FOR INFORMATION:

The following reports were for information only and were **NOTED** by Members.

11. Draft Decisions Notes of Board Meeting held on 30 September 2009

12. Policy Report of the Chief Executive – Headline Issues for West Midlands Regional Assembly

13. AWM Non Confidential Board Notes – May, June and July 2009

14. Any Other Business

There was no other business stated.

Attendance – Full Assembly Meeting – 23 October 2009✓ = Attended **A** = Apologies * = Substitute ** = In attendance

Authority	Full Member	ATT	Alternate Member	ATT
Birmingham City Council (21)	Cllr Mike Whitby (C)		Cllr Len Gregory	
	Cllr Sir Albert Bore (L)	A	Cllr Ian Ward	
	Cllr Paul Tilsley (LD)	A	Cllr Ray Hassall	
Coventry City Council (7)	Cllr Ken Taylor (C)	A	Cllr Kevin Foster	
	Cllr John Mutton (L)	A	Cllr George Duggins	
Dudley MBC (7)	Cllr Les Jones (C)	✓	Cllr Angus Adams	
	Cllr David Sparks (L)	✓	Cllr Shaukat Ali	
Solihull MBC (5)	Cllr Ken Meeson (C)	A	Cllr Ian Courts	
	Cllr Robert Sleigh (L)	A	Cllr Ted Richards	
	Cllr Ian Hedley (LD)		Cllr Tim Hodgson	
Sandwell MBC (7)	Cllr Steve Eling (L)		TBA	
	Cllr Tony Ward (C)		Cllr Michael Middleton	
	Cllr Sadie Smith (LD)		Cllr Joyce Underhill	
Walsall MBC (7)	Cllr Mike Bird (C)		Cllr Adrian Andrew	
	Cllr Keith Chambers (L)		Cllr Tim Oliver	
	Cllr Doreen Shires (LD)	A	Cllr Ian Shires	
Wolverhampton City Council (6)	Cllr Neville Patten (C)	A	Cllr Barry Findlay	
	Cllr Peter Bilson (L)	✓	Cllr T Singh	
Herefordshire Council (4)	Cllr Roger Phillips (C)		Cllr H Bramer	
	Cllr Terry James (LD)		TBA	
	Cllr J Beris Williams	A	TBA	

	(I)			
Stoke-on-Trent City Council (5)	Cllr Ross Irving (C)		Cllr Clive Brian	
	Cllr Brian Ward (I)	✓		
	Cllr Michael Barnes (L)		Cllr Adrian Knapper	
	Cllr Kieren Clarke (LD)		Cllr David Sutton	
	Cllr Alby Walker (BNP)		Cllr Michael Coleman	
Telford & Wrekin (3)	Cllr Eric Carter (C)	A	Cllr Ian Fletcher	
	Cllr Keith Austin (L)	✓	Cllr Charles Smith	✓**
Shropshire Council (5)	Cllr Keith Barrow (C)		Cllr Peter Nutting	
	Cllr Heather Kidd (LD)		Cllr Mary Nicholls	
	Cllr Alan Mosley (L)		Cllr Jean Jones	
Staffordshire County Council (8)	Cllr Philip Atkins (L)	✓	Cllr Mike Lawrence	
	Cllr Rex Roberts (C)	A	Cllr Mike Maryon	
Cannock Chase DC	Cllr Neil Stanley (LD)		Cllr Tony Williams	
East Staffordshire BC	Cllr Richard Grosvenor (C)	A	Cllr David Brookes	✓*
Lichfield DC	Cllr David Smith (C)	✓	Cllr Neil Roberts	A
Newcastle-under-Lyme BC	Cllr Simon Tagg (C) (1)		Cllr Robin Studd (LD)	
South Staffordshire DC	Cllr Brian Edwards (C)	A	Cllr David Billson	
Stafford BC	Cllr James Highfield (C)		Cllr Wilfred Davis	
Staffordshire Moorlands DC	Cllr Sybil Ralphs (C&IA)		Cllr Arthur Forrester	
Tamworth BC	Cllr Jeremy Oates (C)		Cllr Danny Cook	
Warwickshire County Council (5)	Cllr Alan Farnell (C)	A	Cllr Peter Fowler	
	Cllr Bob Stevens (L)		Cllr Martin Heatley	
	Cllr Gerry Roodhouse (LD)		TBC	
North	Cllr Colin Hayfield (C)		Cllr Les Smith	

Warwickshire DC				
Nuneaton & Bedworth BC	Cllr David Bryden (C)		Cllr Marcus Jones	
Rugby BC	Cllr Neil Campbell (C)		Cllr Derek Poole	
Stratford-on-Avon DC	Cllr Chris Saint (C)	✓	Cllr Les Topham	
Warwick DC	Cllr John Hammon (C)		Cllr Alan Rhead	
Worcestershire County Council (6)	Cllr George Lord (C)		Cllr Adrian Hardman	
	Cllr Liz Tucker (L)	✓	Cllr Tom Wells	
Bromsgrove DC	Cllr R Hollingworth (C)	A	Cllr Geoff Denaro	A
Malvern Hills DC	Cllr Philip Grove (C)		Cllr Joe Smith	
Redditch BC	Cllr Carole Gandy (C)	A	Cllr Michael Braley	
Worcester City	Cllr Simon Geraghty (C)		Cllr Roger Knight	✓*
Wychavon DC	Cllr Paul Middlebrough (C)	A	Cllr Judy Pearce	A
Wyre Forest DC	Cllr John-Paul Champion (C)		TBA	
WMBC	David Caro		Prof. Gerald Bennett	
WMBC	Prof. Michael Clarke	A	Martin Chambers	
WMBC	Barrie Williams	A	Prithvi Choprah	
WMBC	Arthur Hill		Hilary Hall	
WMBC	Mike Hill	A	Malcolm Smyth	
WMBC	Frances Beatty	✓	Deborah Walsh	✓
WMBC	Geoff Minshull	A	Gary Saunders	
WMBC	Richard Moxon		Parminder Singh	
WMBC	Paul Kalinauckas		Bruce Undy	
WMBC	Laura Cohen	A	Tony Rodger	
WMBC	Michael Mason		Sir William	✓

			Lawrence	
WMBC	Sarindar Singh Sahota	✓	Roger Culcheth	✓
WMBC	Roger Stone	✓	Julian Dolman	✓
WMBC	Brian Summers		Michael Shepherd	
WMBC	Roger Trotman	A		
WMBC	Sarah Faulkner	A		
OSG	Roger McKenzie	A	Alan Weaver	
OSG	Revd John Hall	A	Donald Mackintosh	
OSG	Marcia Lewinson		Vaughan Owen	
OSG	Elisabeth Buggins		Anna Sterckx	
OSG	Howard Farrand		Steve Holliday	A
OSG	Natalie Hall		Andy Husband	A
OSG	Chris Welch			
OSG	Richard Quallingham			
OSG	Mike Barnes	✓		
OSG	Patricia Fairclough			
OSG	Roger Evans			
OSG	Gerald Kells	✓		
OSG	Mike Kinghan	A		
OSG	Elizabeth Newman			
OSG	Ranjit Bansal			