

6th July 2006

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West Midlands Regional Assembly Scrutiny Review – Regeneration Zones Revisited

Thank you for your letter of 4th July 2006 enclosing a copy of the final report of the West Midlands Regional Assembly's Scrutiny Review of the Agency's work in responding to the original Scrutiny Review on Regeneration Zones. I would be grateful if you would treat this letter as the Agency's formal response.

I am pleased that the Panel recognised the progress we have made on responding to the recommendations made from the original review. I acknowledge that more needs to be done in some areas, as we identified in the formal hearing. I would reiterate the commitment that the outcome of the review will feed in to the review of the West Midlands Economic Strategy that is underway currently. However the review of the Strategy will not place a hold on work to improve processes and tackle issues related to delivery in respect of Regeneration Zones.

I can confirm therefore, as requested, the Agency will produce an action plan to address the areas identified for action in the conclusion of the report. The action plan will be produced and presented to the Assembly's Strategic Review Group meeting on 25th October 2006, along with an update on progress.

In terms of the review process itself I would echo your comments regarding the improvements made and the maturity of the process. As I stated in the formal hearing, I feel that as a result of the efforts of both the Assembly and the Agency we now have a more constructive and open approach.

John Edwards
Chief Executive