

**Assembly Board of Directors
Notes of a Meeting held on 25 March 2009
At the Regional Partnership Centre**

Present: Cllr David S Smith, Chairman (Lichfield DC)

Keith Austin (Telford & Wrekin), Steve Eling (Sandwell), Terry Dix (Staffordshire), Albert Bore (Birmingham), Beris Williams (Herefordshire), Rex Roberts, OBE (Staffordshire), Roger Stone (WMBC), Elizabeth Newman (OSG), and Jo Jones (Shrewsbury & Atcham)

In attendance:

Cllr Ken Taylor (Chairman – WMLGA – Coventry City Council), Olwen Dutton (WMLGA/WMRA), Sharon Doak (WMLGA/WMRA), Cllr Philip Atkins (Staffordshire), Cllr Serena Croad (Malvern Hills), Cllr Kenneth Turner (Dudley), Mark Middleton (WMRA) John Pattinson (WMRA), David Clarke (WMRA), James Russell (Advisor – WMRA) and James Watkins (WMBC)

1.	<p>Apologies Apologies were received from: -</p> <p><i>Councillors:</i> John Lines (Birmingham), Bob Badham (Sandwell) and Chris Saint (Stratford)</p> <p><i>Business Council Members:</i> Sarindar Sahota (Vice Chair) and Barrie Williams</p> <p><i>Other Stakeholder Group Member:</i> Roger McKenzie (Vice Chair)</p>
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest There were no declarations stated</p>
3.	<p>Chairman and Vice Chair's Reports <i>The Chairman:</i> Welcomed Tim Bryan from Culture to the meeting and advised</p>

	<p>that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport announced that Regional Cultural Consortiums would cease to exist from the end of this financial year.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that his thanks, on behalf of the Board and the Assembly, be given colleagues of Culture West Midlands and gave sincere praise and recognition to the work they had achieved over the last 5 years.</p> <p>Tim thanked the Chairman for his kind words and returned the sentiments on behalf of Brian Woods-Scawen for Culture West Midlands. He felt confident that CWM would be leaving behind a strong evidence base for future work and advised that funding would still be available for research at WMRO and the work for 2012 would continue through AWM.</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Newman (for the Vice Chair OSG):</i> Expressed OSG's concerns of their position with regard to their position in future working and emphasised the need for continued partnership working.</p> <p><i>Roger Stone (for the Vice Chair Business Council):</i> Reminded Members that the Assembly had appointed the Business Council to lead on work with Milton Keynes South Midlands (MKSM) and this had now begun.</p> <p>Advised that the Business Council are lobbying the Construction Secretary to drive out the recession by creating more house building.</p> <p><i>Terry Dix (Vice Chair LA)</i> Advised that they are also looking at the effects of the economic downturn. Wrekin had gone into administration. Working with the County Council to ensure that cashflow continues moving so that this is not held back causing further problems.</p> <p>Advised that his role as Leader would not end on 6 June but would continue until 18 June as he is in a unique position as Chairman of the Council/.</p>
4.	<p>Notes of Meeting held on 3 December 2009 AGREED subject to the following amendment being made:-</p>
5.	<p>Matters Arising <i>Attendance: To include Cllr Paul Tilsley (Birmingham) and Rvd John Hall (OSG)</i> 10. Government Response to SNR Consultation <i>Roger Stone reminded Members that at the meeting on 3</i></p>

	<p><i>December he, Cllr Ken Turner and Elizabeth Newman had disagreed with the Membership of the Joint Strategy and Investment Board (JSIB) and requested that their concerns be recorded regarding the lack of Business and OSG Membership on the JSIB.</i></p>
6.	<p>Notes of a Special Meeting 25 February 2009 AGREED</p>
7.	<p>Matters Arising There were no matters arising.</p>
8.	<p>Chief Executives Report Members received updates on the following:</p> <p>Members Declarations of Interests (Dols) Members were reminded of their responsibility to update or notify any changes to their Dols. NOTED</p> <p>Retrofitting for the Future – Low Carbon Housing – developing a baseline for refurbishment in the West Midlands Members were advised that the report was launched on Monday 23 March 2009, at the Orange Studio in Birmingham and was a well attended event.</p> <p>Members requested that their thanks and appreciation be given to the Housing Team for this piece of work.</p> <p>The Strategic Forum for Central Wales and the West Midlands Members raised their concerns regarding Cross Border issues and Healthcare which was clearly an issue. They were advised that would be a conference on 2 April and encouraged Members attendance to put their views across. These concerns would also be followed up at the Full Assembly on 22 April 2009.</p> <p>AGREED that the invitation and programme for 2 April 2009 be circulated to those Members wishing to attend.</p> <p>Equality And Diversity (Social Inclusion) Members were advised that Laird Ryan had been appointed as the Strategic Adviser for Equality and Diversity on a 6 month contract.</p>

	NOTED
9.	<p>Progress on the SNR Change Management Programme (CMP) Members received a report requesting they note progress and endorse the Change Management Programme which would go forward to Government Office.</p> <p>Members made the following comments:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMBC strongly re-emphasised their desire to have a seat on the decision making body. WMBC are in discussion with the CBI and would not be happy if there is not a Business Representative on the JSIB. • Members requested that this item be the main item for discussion at the Full Assembly Meeting on 22 April 2009. <p>Members NOTED the progress made and ENDORSED the CMP to go forward to GOWM.</p> <p>It was AGREED that this item would form the main discussion at the full assembly meeting on 22 April 2009.</p>
	<p>ADDITIONAL ITEM - West Midlands Select Committee The Board received a tabled report and were informed of the make up and first inquiry of the West Midlands Select Committee.</p> <p>The report recommended and it was AGREED that the Board endorse the Assembly to submit written evidence to the Committee to be signed off by the Chairman and Vice Chairs.</p>
10.	<p>RSS Phase Two: Implementation Plan Supplement The Board were presented with the Draft RSS Implementation Plan 'Supplement' for its endorsement.</p> <p>The Board ENDORSED the report for publication and submission to the RSS Examination in Public</p>
11.	<p>RSS Phase Three: Options Document Members received a draft of the RSS Phase 3 Options consultation document for consideration and approval.</p> <p>The report recommended and the Board:</p> <p>(a) APPROVED the draft RSS Phase 3 Options document for publication at the start of the consultation period on 29th June 2009.</p>

	<p>and</p> <p>(b) AGREED that responsibility for approving any minor changes prior to printing of the document be delegated to the WMRA Director of Policy.</p>
12.	<p>Business and Enterprise Committee: Regional Development Agencies and the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill</p> <p>The Board were advised of the publication and key findings of the Business and Enterprise Committee's report on Regional Development Agencies.</p> <p>The Board NOTED the report.</p>
	<p><u>FOR INFORMATION:</u></p> <p>The following reports were NOTED</p> <p>13. Policy Report of the Chief Executive – Headline Issues for West Midlands Regional Assembly</p> <p>14. West Midlands Regional Assembly Agenda – 22 April 2009, Staffordshire CC</p> <p>15. Advantage West Midlands (Available)</p> <p>16. Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 10 June 2009 – Regional Partnership Centre</p>