

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

**Decision Notes of the West Midlands Regional Assembly Meeting
Held on 14 January 2009
At the Birmingham Midlands Institute**

Chairman: Cllr David S Smith (Lichfield DC)

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:

Highlighted the high attendance at the meeting and emphasised that this in itself reflected the importance of the Regional Assembly.

Reminded members that this was a time of transition and partners contributions/cross sector opinions were still very much valued as there were still resolutions to be made particularly regarding the RSS.

Economic Downturn – There would be no new houses built in the next 12 months, there is no funding and peoples' livelihoods are at stake with contracts ending and redundancies being made. It has an impact on all – the homeless, businesses, people with young families, all are affected.

The Vice Chair - Cllr Terry Dix - Local Government Sector:

Agreed with Chairman, as a Councillor for 42 years this was the worst economic crisis he had seen. Now is the time to be grasping climate change, businesses and industry – we are the greatest country for manufacturing and the West Midlands is the lead on this. We should not talk ourselves down.

The Vice-Chair Roger McKenzie – OSG Sector

Reaffirmed that it is time now more than ever for partnerships to work together – our partnership has given us strength. We need to ensure that the partnerships arrangements continue somehow.

Advised Members that Carmel Kerr had now returned the Home Office and gave thanks for her hard work and commitment on Equality and Diversity. Requested that Equalities stay high on the agenda.

Vice Chair - Business Sector: Mr Barrie Williams (*For the Vice-Chair Dr Sarindar Singh Sahota*) –

Agreed with the Chairman and other Vice Chairs and referred back to the 1980's recession where companies had work sharing rather than redundancies known as 'temping' for short time working compensation.

4. Draft Decision Notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 29 October 2008

AGREED

5. Matters Arising

To amend the spelling of David Cairo to Caro.

There were no other matters.

6. Draft notes of the Assembly Board of Directors 3 December 2008

NOTED

Roger Stone requested that there be a place for a Member of the Business Council on the Leaders Board.

7. Company Secretary's Report

The Assembly were provided with an update on general issues.

- 2008-09 Q2 Progress Report
- 2009-10 Draft Business Plan & Budget
- Members Declarations of Interest
- Reviewing the Operating Arrangements of the Assembly 2008-2010

The Assembly was requested and **AGREED** to:-

- a) **Note** the 2008-09 Q2 Progress Report
- b) **Approve** the 2009-10 Draft Business Plan & Budget
- c) **Note** the current position with regards to outstanding Declaration of Interests forms.
- d) **Note** the WMRA Operational Review proposals which were put forward and agreed at the Full Assembly on 29 October 2008. These were subsequently adopted with immediate effect at the Assembly Board Meeting held on 03 December 2008.

With regard to d) above – Strategy Advisory Panel - Roger Stone queried why there was only one Vice Chair rather than 3 as with other groups. It was agreed that this would go to the Assembly Board meeting on 2 February for clarification.

8. Planning Appeal Decisions

Members received a and **NOTED** a report that advised that there had been three Public Inquiries resulting from appeals made to a number of planning applications that were either refused or not determined by South Staffs District Council.

9. Parliamentary Regional Accountability – Regional Select and Grand Committees

The Assembly was provided with an update of progress in establishing the West Midland Regional Select and Grand Committees

Members **NOTED** the progress to date

10. Regional Funding Advice

The Assembly were informed of the arrangements that were being made to respond to the Government's request for advice on how the funding coming into the region for transport, housing and economic development should be spent.

The report recommended that the Assembly agreed to **NOTE** the arrangements being made to respond to the Government's request for Regional Funding Advice for the period to 2018-2019.

11. Impact on West Midlands Regional Assembly following the Government response to SNR Consultation

On 25th November the government published its response to the many submissions that it had received to its consultation following the publication of the sub national. A summary of the response was attached to the report. The response reaffirmed that regional assemblies would not continue to be the regional planning body and that their funding will be discontinued at the end of March 2010 and arrangements would need to be put in place to ensure an effective transition.

The report also went to the Assembly Board of Directors on 3 December 2008. The report recommended, and Members agreed, that an additional meeting be arranged to assist with the effective transition. Subsequently this meeting had been arranged for 2 February 2009.

Members were invited to discuss the government's response and its implications for the assembly. The following comments were made:

- The Business Sector have been excluded from decision making. Business want a seat at the 'top table' not as an advisory body. Every time economy/economic is mentioned business should be included. Councillors who have their own businesses have divided loyalties whereas the business sector is solely about businesses.

- Further work needs to be done with Local Authorities and the RDA's to reach solutions.
- New Homes and the Community/Highways Agency also want to be involved.
- There has been an arrogant attitude from Local Authorities. Consultation with partners is crucial and should not just be pushed aside.
- AWM do not represent businesses.
- OSG are going to continue to work with partners across the region. It seems sensible to link with businesses, local authorities, GOWM and the RDA.
- There is a need to go beyond partnership working and look for practical ways forward to continue.
- The Assembly Board in February and March would discuss the life expectancy of the WMRA and would discuss the needs/mechanism to be put in place to take the region forward.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** that this item be brought back to a future meeting.

12. Eco-Towns, Middle Quinton Judicial Review

The Assembly was informed of the Government's consultation on the Draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) on Eco-towns and Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Middle Quinton location.

The Assembly was requested to provide views on the emerging draft Regional Assembly response to the Government's consultation:-

- Members requested that a recommendation be made to read:
"Agree in principle unless it is not in agreement with the RSS."

The Assembly **NOTED** the report and **AGREED** to the recommendation made as outlined above.

FOR INFORMATION

The following items were for information only and were **NOTED**.

13. Regional Policy Partnerships Activity

14. Minutes of the City Region Executive

4 June 2008

10 September 2008

15. Advantage West Midlands Board Notes

30 September

28 October

25 November

16. Dates of Future Assembly Meetings

22 April 2009

08 July 2009

17. Any Other Business

There was no other Business stated.

Appendix

Authority	Full Member	ATT	Alternate Member	ATT
Birmingham City Council (21)	CLlr Mike Whitby (C) (9)		CLlr Len Gregory	
	CLlr Sir Albert Bore (L) (6)	✓	CLlr Ian Ward	
	CLlr Paul Tilsley (LD) (6)	✓	CLlr Ray Hassall	
Coventry City Council (7)	CLlr Ken Taylor (C) (4)	✓	CLlr Kevin Foster	
	CLlr John Mutton (L) (3)		CLlr George Duggins	
Dudley MBC (7)	CLlr Ken Turner (C) (4)	✓	CLlr Adams	
	CLlr David Sparkes (L) (3)	✓	CLlr S Ali	
Solihull MBC (5)	CLlr K Meeson (C) (3)	✓	CLlr Sleight	✓
	CLlr Corser (L) (1)		CLlr Hill	
	CLlr N Davies (LD) (1)	✓	CLlr T Hodgson	
Sandwell MBC (7)	CLlr S Eling (L) (5)	✓	CLlr W Thomas	
	CLlr A Ward (C) (1)		CLlr M Docker	
	CLlr S Smith (LD) (1)	✓	CLlr J Underhill	
Walsall MBC (7)	CLlr O'Hare (C) (4)		CLlr Andrew	
	CLlr Chambers (L) (2)		CLlr Oliver	
	CLlr D Shires (LD) (1)		CLlr I Shires	
Wolverhampton City Council (6)	CLlr N Patten (C) (4)		CLlr B Findlay	
	CLlr Bilson (L) (2)		CLlr T Singh	
Herefordshire Council (4)	CLlr Roger Phillips (C) (2)	✓	CLlr H Bramer	
	CLlr Terry James (LD) (1)	✓	TBA	
	CLlr J Williams (I) (1)	✓	TBA	
Stoke-on-Trent City Council (5)	CLlr Joy Garner (L) (1)		CLlr Mark Davis	
	CLlr James (City Indep.) (1)		CLlr Brian Ward	
	CLlr Ibbs (C and I A) (1)		CLlr Lee Wanger	
	CLlr Jean Bowers (LD) (1)		CLlr Paul Billington	
	CLlr Alby Walker (BNP) (1)		CLlr A Simmonds	
Telford &	CLlr E J Carter (C)		CLlr I Fletcher	

Wrekin (3)	CLlr K Austin (L)	✓	CLlr C F Smith	
Shropshire County Council (5)	CLlr M Pate (C) (3)		CLlr J Gillow	
	CLlr Peter Francis (LD) (1)		CLlr Nigel Hartin	
	CLlr Alan Mosley (L) (1)		CLlr Philip Box	
Bridgnorth DC(1)	CLlr D Beechey (I) (1)		CLlr C Bache	
North Shropshire DC(1)	CLlr David Minnery (C) (1)		CLlr Marilyn Patrick	
Oswestry BC(1)	CLlr D Lloyd (C) (1)		CLlr Pat Mansfield	
Shrewsbury & Atcham DC(1)	CLlr P A Nutting (C) (1)		CLlr W Roberts	
South Shropshire DC (1)	CLlr Cecilia Motley (C) (1)		CLlr Martin Taylor	
Staffordshire County Council (8)	CLlr T Dix (L)	✓	CLlr J Taylor	
	CLlr R Roberts (C)		CLlr P Atkins	✓
Cannock Chase DC	CLlr N Stanley (LD) (1)		CLlr T Williams	
East Staffordshire BC	CLlr A Fox (C) (1)	✓	CLlr David Brookes	✓
Lichfield DC	CLlr D Smith (C) (1)		CLlr N Roberts	
Newcastle-under-Lyme BC	CLlr Simon Tagg (C) (1)		CLlr Robin Studd (LD)	
South Staffordshire DC	CLlr B Edwards (C) (1)	✓	CLlr Billson	
Stafford BC	CLlr J Highfield (C) (1)		CLlr W Davis	
Staffordshire Moorlands DC	CLlr S Ralphs (C&IA) (1)		CLlr A Forrester	
Tamworth BC	CLlr Jeremy Oates (C) (1)		CLlr Danny Cook	
Warwickshire County Council (5)	CLlr Hyde (C) (3)	✓		
	CLlr Mick Jones (L) (2)	✓	VACANT	
	CLlr Heatley			
North Warwickshire DC	CLlr Colin Hayfield (C) (1)		CLlr Les Smith	
Nuneaton & Bedworth BC	CLlr David Bryden (C) (1)	✓	CLlr Marcus Jones	
Rugby BC	CLlr N P Campbell (C)	✓	CLlr D Poole	

	(1)			
Stratford-on-Avon DC	Cllr C J Saint (C) (1)	✓	Cllr L Topham	
Warwick DC	Cllr John Hammon (C) (1)		Cllr Alan Rhead	
Worcestershire County Council (6)	Cllr Hardman(C) (3)	✓	Cllr A Davies	
	Cllr J Buckley (L) (2)		Cllr P Pinfield	
	Cllr Liz Tucker LD (1)		Cllr Tom Wells	
Bromsgrove DC	Cllr R Hollingworth (C) (1)	✓	Cllr J Griffiths	
Malvern Hills DC	Cllr Serena Croad (C) (1)		Cllr R Madden	✓
Redditch BC	Cllr Carole Gandy (C) (1)	✓	Cllr Michael Braley	
Worcester City	Cllr S Geraghty (C) (1)		Cllr B Mackenzie-Williams	
Wychavon DC	Cllr Paul Middlebrough (C) (1)	✓	Cllr Judy Pearce	✓
Wyre Forest DC	Cllr J Campion (C) (1)		TBA	
WMBC	David Caro	✓	Prof. Gerald Bennett	
WMBC	Prof. Michael Clarke		Martin Chambers	
WMBC	Barrie Williams	✓	Prithvi Choprah	✓
WMBC	Arthur Hill		Hilary Hall	
WMBC	Mike Hill		Malcolm Smyth	
WMBC	Frances Beatty		Deborah Walsh	✓
WMBC	Geoff Minshull		Gary Saunders	
WMBC	Richard Moxon		Parminder Singh	
WMBC	Paul Kalinauckas	✓	Bruce Undy	
WMBC	Kevin Farrell		Tony Rodger	
WMBC	Michael Mason		Sir William Lawrence	✓
WMBC	Sarindar Singh Sahota		Roger Culcheth	✓
WMBC	Roger Stone	✓		

WMBC	Brian Summers			
WMBC	Roger Trotman	✓		
WMBC	Sarah Faulkner	✓		
OSG	Roger McKenzie	✓	Valerie Broom	
OSG	Revd John Hall	✓	Alan Weaver	
OSG	Marcia Lewinson		Yann Lovelock	✓
OSG	Elisabeth Buggins		Dally Panaser	
OSG	Howard Farrand		Donald Mackintosh	
OSG	Natalie Hall		Vaughan Owen	
OSG	Chris Welch		Anna Sterckx	
OSG	Richard Bubb		Richard Quallingham	
OSG	Peter Shirley		Mike Barnes	
OSG	Patricia Fairclough			
OSG	Roger Evans			
OSG	Gerald Kells	✓		
OSG	Mike Kinghan	✓		
OSG	Elizabeth Newman			