

West Midlands Regional Assembly

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David Marr
Sustainable Futures Division
Government Office for the West Midlands
5 St Philip's Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham B3 2PW

Dear David

West Midlands RSS Revisions

Thank you for your letter of today. I agree, despite the very short time left before the EiP opens on Tuesday, it is as well to make the position clear.

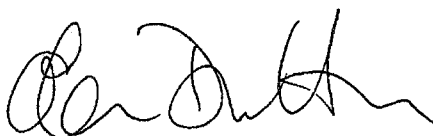
As you know, the Assembly is fully aware of the changes in regional arrangements and legislation and we have been considering this with GOWM and other partners for some time. Indeed, the Assembly has positively considered these issues and has sought to advise the EiP Panel and participants accordingly in a timely manner, in particular through the Assembly's Panel Briefing Notes 1 and 2 (EiP Core Documents CD222 and CD223).

There are two key issues which you raise in your letter. Firstly, there is the inter-relationship between the RSS Phase 3 work and the RSS Phase 2 EiP. I strongly agree that we should seek to provide reassurance to the Panel and all participants about this, particularly to ensure that the Phase 2 EiP proceeds as agreed in order to ensure speedy progress. I suggest that the most appropriate way to do this is to draw on the WMRA Panel Briefing Note 1 (CD222) which explains the Assembly's advice on the inter-relationship between RSS Phases 2 and 3. In respect of the HRA issue, the reference point is the material on Policy SR4 supplied to the Panel by Chris Blakeley from the Assembly on 9 April 2009 on behalf of the Assembly, GOWM and other partners (EiP document: EXAM16).

Regarding the progression of the RSS Phase 3 Revision, I welcome your confirmation of the position regarding the Options consultation proceeding as planned at the end of June. I agree that, once the Options consultation is complete, we need another stock take on how to progress the Phase 3 work in accordance with your suggested way forward, and I am happy to assure you that this will be done.

Finally, as agreed, in order to assist the EiP Panel, it would be helpful if you could forward both your letter and my response to the Panel Secretary as soon as possible and I would be grateful if you would confirm when this has been done.

Yours sincerely



Olwen Dutton
Chief Executive