

NEWS RELEASE

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Regional Assembly Welcomes £70m Government investment into Region

More than £70million of government funding is coming into the Region for investment in transport infrastructure and local authority housing, following recommendations made by the West Midlands Regional Assembly and its partners.

The investment comes in two separate funds, with £50million going to Local Authorities in the Region to spend on improvements to private sector housing stock and a further £20million to be spent on six transport infrastructure schemes across the West Midlands.

The housing money is part of the 2009/10 Regional Housing Pot Allocations and was given in response to recommendations made by the Assembly's Regional Housing Executive. It covers funding to local authorities for improving private sector housing as part of the 'Kick Start' programme and to support local authority 'Regeneration and Growth' work. Other funds have already come to local authorities for their municipal 'Decent Homes' programme.

The second pot of money, which is worth £20.14million, comes from the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) Round 2 and has been awarded to six schemes across the Region. It follows advice from West Midlands Regional Assembly and Advantage West Midlands on a number of Expressions of Interest for potential transport schemes, submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Department for Transport (DfT) by local authorities eligible for CIF funding.

Commenting on the latest funding to come into the Region, Olwen Dutton, Chief Executive of the West Midlands Regional Assembly said;

“This is great news for the Region and should go some way to help addressing some of the challenges of the economic downturn, in particular in relation to housing. Both pots of money should help us to deliver more decent homes, increase the amount of affordable housing available and reduce the numbers of families on waiting lists. In particular the Community

Infrastructure Fund is focused on providing the good transport links needed to turn potential areas of land for new houses into viable communities.”

The six successful Community Infrastructure Fund schemes in the West Midlands are detailed below:

Project Name	Growth Point/Area	Allocation (£m)
Cole Hall Lane Bridge, Birmingham	Birmingham and Solihull	2.11
Icknield Port Loop, Birmingham	Birmingham and Solihull	2.87
Paragon Park, Coventry	Coventry	2.16
Sustainable Transport, Burton on Trent	East Staffordshire	3.3
A38 Grade Separated Junction, Branston, Burton on Trent	East Staffordshire	6.5
West of Worcester Bus Rapid Transit Corridor	Worcester	3.2
Total		20.14

In addition, promoters of a further two potential schemes in the West Midlands have been invited by the Department for Communities and Local Government to bring forward business cases for further consideration. These schemes are Stafford New Growth Point Sustainable Transport Package which is asking for £2.65m and West Bromwich Southern Distributor which is asking for £4.0m. These two schemes, along with a further 24 from across the country, will bid for the remaining CIF Round 2 funds and an announcement on is expected in the summer.

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For further information on the Community Infrastructure Fund contact Danny Lamb, Strategic Transport Advisor on 0121 678 1048

For further information on the Regional Housing Pot contact Emma Kiteley, Senior Regional Housing Advisor on 0121 678 1037

For further information please contact Jo Kite, Head of Communications on 0121 678 1044

Notes to Editors

1. The West Midlands Regional Assembly ('the Assembly') represents a wide range of democratic, social and economic interests throughout the West Midlands Region.
2. The Assembly's membership consists of 100 nominated representatives, with 68 elected members representing the local authority, 16 representing the business sector and 16 representing other economic and social partners.
3. The Assembly provides a platform for organisations to consider matters of common concern including: regional planning, transport, economic prosperity, sustainability, culture and Europe. It also supports regional policy forums and task groups on social inclusion, faith, housing, life long learning/skills, health, rural and community safety/crime reduction.
4. The Assembly works in partnership with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) the regional development agency (RDA), the Government Office West Midlands (GOWM), Regional Action West Midlands (RAWM) the West Midlands Local Government Association (WMLGA) and other regional and local organisations from across the West Midlands region.
5. The Assembly is the Regional Planning Body,
6. For further information, visit our website www.wmra.gov.uk