

Regional Policy Partnerships

Much of the Region's strategic work is guided by regional Policy Partnerships (RPPs), comprising a wide range of interests from across the Region. Some of these partnerships are led by the Assembly, in its regional co-ordinating role, some by other partners. Several people have requested contact details for these Partnerships, so current West Midlands RPPs are listed opposite, together with an officer contact for each.

Culture - Jenny Boylan (j.boylan@wmra.gov.uk)
Energy - Andy Stevenson (andystevenson@advantagewm.co.uk)
Environment - Chris Blakeley (c.blakeley@wmra.gov.uk)
European & International - Esther Knight (e.knight@wmra.gov.uk)
Health - Zena Lynch (z.lynch@wmra.gov.uk)
Housing - Steve Forrest (s.forrest@wmra.gov.uk)
Learning & Skills - Colin Williams (c.williams@wmlga.gov.uk)
Planning - David Thew (d.thew@wmra.gov.uk)
Rural - Kate Docherty (k.docherty@wmra.gov.uk)
Strategic Review Group (scrutiny) - Dagmar Waller (d.waller@wmra.gov.uk)
Sustainable Development - Fran Austins (f.austins@wmra.gov.uk)
Transport - Danny Lamb (d.lamb@wmra.gov.uk)

Speaking Out



Issue 12, Summer 2006

How the Assembly is structured

The Assembly's membership consists of 100 nominated representatives, with 68 members representing local government, 16 representing the business sector and 16 representing other economic and social partners.

The following is the current list of West Midlands Regional Assembly Members at the time of printing:

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Birmingham Sub-Region:

Cllr A Bore (Birmingham)
 Cllr M Whitby (Birmingham)
 Cllr P Tilsley (Birmingham)

Black Country Sub-Region:

Cllr L Jones (Dudley)
 Cllr D Sparks (Dudley)
 Cllr S Eling (Sandwell)
 Cllr A Ward (Sandwell)
 Cllr S L Smith (Sandwell)
 Cllr T Ansell (Walsall)
 Cllr T Oliver (Walsall)
 Cllr I Shires (Walsall)
 Cllr P Bilson (Wolverhampton)
 Cllr P Bradley (Wolverhampton)

Worcester & Hereford

Sub-Region:
 Cllr T M James (Herefordshire)
 Cllr R J Phillips (Herefordshire)
 Cllr B Williams (Herefordshire)
 Cllr Dr G Lord (Worcestershire)
 Cllr J W Buckley (Worcestershire)
 Cllr T A L Wells (Worcestershire)
 Cllr R Hollingworth (Bromsgrove)
 Cllr D Rayner (Malvern Hills)
 Cllr J Cookson (Redditch)
 Cllr S Geraghty (Worcester City)
 Cllr M A Jennings (Wychavon)
 Cllr S J M Clee (Wyre Forest)

Shropshire & Telford

Sub-Region:
 Cllr M G Pate (Shropshire)
 Cllr P Phillips (Shropshire)
 Cllr A N Mosley (Shropshire)
 Cllr D A Beechey (Bridgnorth)
 Cllr D Minnery (North Shropshire)
 Cllr D G Lloyd MBE (Oswestry)
 Cllr P Nutting (Shrewsbury & Atcham)
 Cllr H M Kidd (South Shropshire)
 Cllr K Austin (Telford & Wrekin)
 Cllr I Fletcher (Telford & Wrekin)

Staffordshire & Stoke

Sub-Region:
 Cllr T A Dix (Staffordshire)
 Cllr R Roberts OBE (Staffordshire)
 Cllr R Ibbs (Stoke-on-Trent)
 Cllr C Miller (Stoke-on-Trent)
 Cllr T Doughty (Stoke-on-Trent)
 Cllr N Stanley (Cannock Chase)
 Cllr A J H Fox (East Staffordshire)
 Cllr D S Smith (Lichfield) - **Chairman**
 Cllr S Tagg (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
 Cllr B R Edwards (South Staffordshire)
 Cllr J S Highfield (Stafford)
 Cllr R G Locker (Staffordshire Moorlands)
 Cllr J Oates (Tamworth)

Warwickshire, Coventry

& Solihull Sub-Region:
 Cllr K Taylor (Coventry)
 Cllr J Mutton (Coventry)
 Cllr N Davies (Solihull)
 Cllr H Hendry (Solihull)
 Cllr T Richards (Solihull)
 Cllr R Hyde (Warwickshire)
 Cllr M Jones (Warwickshire)
 Cllr C Hayfield (North Warwickshire)
 Cllr I Lloyd (Nuneaton & Bedworth)
 Cllr C Humphrey (Rugby)
 Cllr C Saint (Stratford-on-Avon)
 Cllr M Begg (Warwick)

BUSINESS SECTOR MEMBERS

with nominating body

Mike Cherry	Federation of Small Businesses
Prof. Michael Clarke	West Midlands Higher Education Association
John Hart	West Midlands Business Council Chairman
Arthur Hill	National Farmers Union
Mike Hill	Confederation of West Midlands Chambers of Commerce
John James	Institute of Directors
Geoff Minshull	Chartered Institute of Building
Richard Moxon	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Chris Newis	West Midlands Co-operative & Mutual Council Ltd
Ben Reid	Business in the Community
Fraser Mitchell	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
Sarinder Singh Sahota	Asian Business Forum
- Vice Chair	
Roger Stone	Country Land and Business Association
Brian Summers	Heart of England Tourism
Roger Trotman	Engineering Employers Federation
Jane Yardley	Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators

OTHER SECTOR MEMBERS

with nominating body

Jay Patel	EMBRACE	Black and Minority Ethnic Communities
vacancy	TBC	Disability
Gerald Kells	West Midlands Sustainability Network	Environment
Valerie Broom	West Midlands Trades Union Council	Trades Unions
- Vice Chair		
Rev'd John Hall	West Midlands Faiths Forum	Faiths
Cavelle Lynch	Agender for Women	Gender
David Littlemore	West Midlands Health Federation	Health
Howard Farrand	West Midlands Federation of Housing Associations	Housing
Brian Woods-Scawen	Culture West Midlands	Culture
Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Newman	West Midlands Association of Parish Councils	Parish Councils
Lee Thompson	Regional Action West Midlands [through UK Youth Parliament]	Voluntary & Community Sector (Young)
Richard Quallington	Regional Action West Midlands	Voluntary & Community Sector (Rural)
Richard Bubb	Regional Action West Midlands	Voluntary & Community Sector (Urban)
Peter Shirley	OSG	Additional Place
Professor David Ashton	OSG	Additional Place
Roger McKenzie	OSG	Additional Place



Transport

are we heading in the right direction?

Visit our website www.wmra.gov.uk

West Midlands Regional Assembly Limited, Albert House, Quay Place, Edward Street, Birmingham B1 2RA. Telephone 0121 245 0200, fax 0121 245 0201, e-mail info@wmra.gov.uk, web www.wmra.gov.uk. Registered in England No. 4860074, registered office as above.

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From the Chairman



David S Smith

Every quarter, when we are preparing the latest issue of Speaking Out I am taken aback by how much we have done and the breadth of work we are involved in.

Despite the many debates about the future of local government and the role of the regions, the remit of Assembly's has continued to increase. For example, this year for the first time we have been involved in providing advice to government on how our Regions Funding Allocations for transport, housing and economic development should be spent. We have also been invited, along with Advantage West Midlands, to make a joint submission to government by the end of September on its 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

The role of regions and in particular how to extend local

influence and encourage Government to hand down powers to local authorities and its partners, was also at the heart of my work as Chairman of the English Regions Network (ERN) - the umbrella organisation for England's eight Assemblies. In July I handed over the chairmanship of ERN to Keith Mitchell, a colleague from the South East Regional Assembly, but will continue to work with Keith to build partnerships with Government Ministers, key politicians and regional partners.

Strengthening our relationships with politicians and Ministers has also been at the heart of our lobbying work around the future of RAF Cosford. We have been working to ensure that the entire Region gets behind the bid for Cosford to become the new defence training super-site, rather than just expecting Shropshire to go it alone. One of the key roles of the Assembly is speaking out for the Region and Cosford is one example of how we will continue to work to ensure our voice is heard.

David S Smith
Chairman

Our European Relationship

What do you think about the Region's Relationship with Europe?

The Assembly is about to start a new strategic review looking at our relationship with Europe.

We are keen to hear your views - either informally or formally by contributing to the evidence gathering stage. If you have an opinion you want to share or know someone we should talk to please let us know.

If you feel you want to be involved in the process or just want to learn more please consider joining the review panel - we are still finalising membership.

For more information contact Dagmar Waller at d.waller@wmra.gov.uk or 0121 678 1054.

In brief

Be part of 2012

The Assembly has continued to lead on the Region's partnership work around maximising opportunities from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. And with only six years to go, the last two months have seen a build up of momentum.

In June the 2012 Roadshow came to the Region - its first stop outside London on the UK tour.



VIPs including Olympic Gold medallist and London 2012 Board member Jonathan Edwards, Olympic Heptathlon medallist Kelly Sotherton, Julian Thomas, an outstanding Sprint prospect and Jude Kelly, Chair of the London 2012 Cultural Committee called in on a number of venues during their day in the West Midlands.

In the morning the Roadshow called in at Hamstead Hall School in Birmingham, the Culture West Midlands conference at Villa Park - one of the Football venues in 2012 and the Alexander Stadium and the High Performance Centre, which is part of the English Institute of Sport network and the base for many of the Region's outstanding athletes across a range of sports.

During a busy afternoon, the Roadshow travelled to Stratford to discuss the tourism and cultural opportunities of 2012 and then on to Kingswinford in the Black Country for a business event hosted by simulator manufacturer, Simworx. The final stop in the Region was Much Wenlock in Shropshire for the closing ceremony of the Much Wenlock Olympian Games.

In July a number of new initiatives have been launched, including the 2012 Tourism Strategy Consultation (for details see www.culture.gov.uk/tourism/tourism2012) as well as the launch of the process for Expressions of Interest for entry in the national Pre-Games Training Camp Manual.

For further information on how the West Midlands is gearing up for the 2012 Games see www.london2012.org/en/gettinginvolved/nation+an+d+regions/west+midlands

Regional Assembly backs Lets Fly Cosford Campaign

With the final decision over the future of RAF Cosford expected in the autumn, the Assembly has been stepping up its support for the base in Bridgnorth to become home to the UK's defence training super-site.

The Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering at RAF Cosford is competing against a site at St Athan in South Wales to secure the multi-million pound Ministry of Defence training contract. A successful bid for Cosford would not only result in an investment of over £600m but also see jobs being doubled to 2,640 by 2010 - many of them highly skilled technical and engineering jobs. If Cosford loses out it is predicted that around 1,200 jobs will go.

Cosford has the potential to be one of the largest single development prospects in the West Midlands, worth between £180m and £220m in additional investment in the Region. This is a huge opportunity and it is critical that the Region comes together to support Cosford.

Cllr David S Smith, Chairman of the Assembly commented: "This bid is not just about securing jobs for Shropshire, if the West Midlands is successful everyone from Leek to Leominster will benefit. It is vital that we demonstrate that the support for Cosford comes from the entire West Midlands Region, not just Shropshire, and we must all continue to lobby our MPs and MEPs to ensure our case is heard. Too often the West Midlands gets overlooked - and we mustn't allow this to happen again."

The Assembly is supporting the working group of key private and public sector partners and potential stakeholders in the Cosford development which is being led by Advantage West Midlands and the Wolverhampton Telford Technology Corridor. The group includes representatives from Black Country Investments, Borough of Telford and Wrekin, Bridgnorth District Council, Learning and Skills Council, Shropshire County Council, Shropshire Chamber and Business Link, Telford College of Arts and Technology, Telford Development Agency and University of Wolverhampton.



New Concordat Launched

Regional Partnership working is thriving, in part thanks to the new West Midlands Regional Concordat which was officially launched on the 12th July at the Assembly's Annual General Meeting.



The Concordat (now in its third edition) provides a framework for partnership working between regional organisations and for the integration of regional strategies. The Concordat Partners share the common aim of working to benefit the people of the West Midlands and through communicating effectively and working more closely together aim to be more efficient in achieving this.

The Concordat is published and promoted jointly by the following regional organisations:

- West Midlands Regional Assembly
- Advantage West Midlands
- Government Office for the West Midlands
- West Midlands Local Government Association
- Regional Action West Midlands
- West Midlands Business Council
- Culture West Midlands
- West Midlands Higher Education Association
- West Midlands Learning & Skills Councils
- Sustainability West Midlands
- West Midlands Rural Affairs Forum
- West Midlands Regional Observatory
- West Midlands in Europe
- RegenWM
- Strategic Health Authority
- Midlands TUC

For more info or to download the Regional Concordat visit: www.wmra.gov.uk

Regional Assembly Conference 2006 Climate Change - The Sustainability Challenge

10th October 2006, 10am-3.30pm
at Litchfield Garrick Theatre

Climate Change is happening - the challenge is no longer just about what we can do to minimise our contribution to its causes, but also how we can adapt to cope with the changes that are already taking place.

This year's Assembly conference will explore the implications of climate change for the West Midlands. Chaired by Assembly Chairman Cllr David S Smith and with leading speakers from national and regional organisations, it will explore how we will need to adapt to the changes already happening and actions to reduce our contribution to further Climate Change. A series of seminars will look at practical solutions in housing, construction and sustainable energy, and explore local authority approaches to climate change through Comprehensive Performance Assessment and the Nottingham Declaration.

To book your free place visit: www.wmra.gov.uk

Mixed News for Region's Transport



There is mixed news for transport in our Region, following the Government's recent announcement about the Regional Funding Allocations for transport. The Department for Transport (DfT) confirmed that 12 of the Region's 21 'firm' Transport priorities are to progress.

The announcement was in response to advice from the Assembly's Transport Partnership which detailed the Region's transport priorities based on an annual budget of around £90m.

The Transport Partnership, which covers not only the urban heartland of Birmingham and the Black Country but also our Shire Counties, worked with transport authorities and other partners from across the Region, to prepare the Region's response.

With Government approval and funding the following schemes are already underway:

- A500 City Road & Stoke Road Junctions (Highways Agency)
- A38 Northfield Relief Road (Birmingham)
- Coventry Primelines Bus Network (Coventry)
- Hagley Road Bus Showcase (Birmingham)
- Outer Circle/Radial Routes (Birmingham/Centro)
- Cradley Heath Town Centre Strategy (Sandwell)
- Rugeley Eastern Bypass Stage 3 (Staffordshire)
- A429 Barford Bypass (Warwickshire)
- Red Routes Package 1 (CEPOG - Met Districts)
- Wolverhampton Centre Access Interchange (Wolverhampton)
- Walsall Town Centre Package (Walsall)
- Coleshill Parkway Multi Model Interchange (Warwickshire)

As part of the announcement a further three schemes were also given the go ahead:

- Birmingham International Airport/National Exhibition Centre Public Transport Access (Solihull)
- Burnt Tree Island (A4123/A461) Junction (Dudley/Sandwell)
- Leamington Spa/Warwick (SPARK) Public Transport (Warwickshire)

In addition a number of schemes were given 'Entry Level' status by the DfT. In essence this gives a green-light for scheme promoters, in the main local authorities, to invest in the necessary technical work to pull together a sound business case for their scheme. The 'Entry Level' schemes include:

- A45/A46 Tollbar End (Highways Agency)
- Selly Oak New Road (Birmingham)
- Tunstall Northern Bypass (Stoke on Trent City)
- Rugby Western Relief Road (Warwickshire)
- Owen Street Level Crossing Relief Road (Sandwell)
- Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network (Dudley)
- West Midlands Urban Traffic Control (CEPOG (Met Districts))
- Darlaston Strategic Development Area (Walsall)

The DfT also requested further information on the 'Value for Money' assessments of the proposed Rotherwas Access Road in Hereford and the Wolverhampton Rail Station improvement scheme before it makes any further decisions on their funding.

As expected, funding for the Midland Metro extensions will depend on the on-going



Transport Innovation Fund decisions, but there is still uncertainty as to the DfT's views on a number of other schemes including:

- Birmingham New Street Station
- A41 Expressway/A4031 Junction
- Brownhills Transport Package
- Longbridge Link Road
- Stourport Relief Road

The DfT have accepted the Region's advice that neither Longbridge Park and Ride or Pant and Llanymynech Bypass (on the border of Wales and the West Midlands) are regional transport priorities.

Councillor David S Smith, chairman of the West Midlands Regional Assembly, confirmed that: "The announcement gives some certainty to funding major transport schemes over the next few years.

"Our advice to Government on the transport investment needs for this Region reflect our priorities to:- regenerate and revitalise our major urban areas and town centres; improve public transport; tackle congestion; and improve accessibility.

"The 'good news' is most obvious in the Black Country and Warwickshire and for existing and potential

employment in places such as Birmingham Airport, Brierley Hill and Darlaston. However, the news is not so good for the railways, and once again our rural areas lose out to the exacting demands of the urban areas."

Given the size of the 'pot', around £90m per year, this funding would never have been enough to deliver New Street Station or Midland Metro on its own. The Government's new Transport Innovation Fund and other funding partners will have to find the 'lion's share' for these. There was disappointment concerning the delay to the proposed Rotherwas Access Road in Herefordshire, particularly given that the majority of the scheme costs had been committed by other funders.

"The Assembly will continue to work with partners and Government to secure the investment in transport infrastructure that our Region needs to reduce congestion, improve the quality of life of our communities and grow our business base", added David Smith.

Moving House - A New Home for the Regional Housing Board

In response to the recent Treasury investigation into the supply of housing, known as the Barker Report, the Government agreed last December 2005 that the Regional Planning and Housing Board's should work much more closely together. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have now written confirming that the Regional Housing Boards will soon be leaving their current homes at the Regional Government Offices and moving to the Regional Assemblies. To mark this important transfer of responsibility for Housing within the Regions, a new Housing Board, to be known in future as the Regional Housing Executive will be launched on Thursday 28 September 2006 at the Repertory Theatre in Birmingham.

The new Regional Housing Executive signals a significant change in Board membership, with the new Executive being an Elected Member-led body, whereas previously it had been a Government Office West Midlands led officer body. From September it will comprise of 18 members - 12 Local Authority members, 3 Business representatives and 3 representatives from Other Stakeholder groups.

This new membership will see the Regional Housing Executive members play a key role in owning and reviewing the Regional Housing Strategy, advising Ministers on housing funding for the Region and in working with the Regional Planning Body to address the challenges presented by issues of affordability and regeneration. There is to be improved co-ordination between the Housing and Planning agendas and the arrival of the Regional Housing Executive will take further Central Government's expectation that Local and Regional Government should working jointly at all levels and across policy areas.

The new Housing Executive will be supported by a Regional Housing Partnership of elected local authority members, business and other stakeholders. In addition there will be an officer - stakeholder Regional Housing Advisory Forum acting to work through the advice needed by the new Housing Executive.

For further information on the Regional Housing Executive, please contact the Assembly's Housing Secretariat on **0121 678 1033/1037**.



Equality and Diversity



The Assembly's recently formed Equality & Diversity Partnership has had a busy first few months hosting consultation events around the roll-out of aspects of the Equality Act 2006. The first event, held on 28th April, consulted on how the Commission for Equality and Human Rights could best be

represented within the Region. Around 60 stakeholders attended and contributed to a proposal paper which was submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government in early June.

The new Commission will commence in 2007 and take

over the work of the Disability Rights Commission, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality (which will join in 2009). The Commission will also cover new areas, such as sexual orientation, transgender, age and religion and beliefs. It is proposed that for the West Midlands, the new Commission is comprised of a small number of staff who have a strategic remit and carry-out work through existing (and new where needed) networks.

Other events included a consultation with the Cabinet Office on the Interim Report of the Equalities Review Panel, which was attended by around 90 people. The final findings of this Report will help set the strategic direction of the new Commission. A small

event was also held on the discrimination of the provision of goods and services in relation to sexual orientation. Representatives covering education, faiths, sports, age, race and health attended and discussed the complex issues which will arise when this new legislation is enacted.

The Partnership is now focusing on consultations on regional strategies covering, health, spatial and economic matters, before the next national consultation - the Discrimination Law Review, which is expected in the summer.

Details of the Partnership's work can be found at: www.wmra.gov.uk

Remember equality and diversity issues affect all of us.

Regeneration Zones "Revisited"

In 2004 the Assembly carried out a scrutiny review of Regeneration Zones; a geographically-based delivery mechanism of the Regional Economic Strategy, which aims to link need with opportunity in the Region's most deprived areas. The issues raised by the final report were considered to be so fundamental that the full Assembly called for a further review to be held to examine the implementation of the recommendations. This assessment took place during May and the final report was endorsed by the Assembly at its AGM on July 12th 2006.

Generally the panel felt that Advantage West Midlands had made progress in implementing the original recommendations but there was a need for additional activity in some areas. This included joining up the three key delivery mechanisms of the current Regional Economic Strategy, developing a clearer understanding of expectations on and capacity of partners within Regeneration Zones and working with partners to develop a clear understanding of the Agency's role and its contribution to holistic regeneration. The Review

also identified a number of process issues including further development of a communications plan, re-examination of proposed delegation levels and sharing real time data about project spend and outputs with Regeneration Zones.

The full report and Advantage West Midlands' response are available on the Assembly website, www.wmra.gov.uk. For further information please contact Dagmar Waller, Regional Scrutiny Manager, d.waller@wmra.gov.uk or **0121 678 1054**.

The 9th Annual Achieving Excellence in Public Health Conference

Over 300 delegates attended this year's conference, which was themed around alcohol and health and included the launch of a new regional report entitled "Alcohol in the West Midlands."

In addition to alcohol and health the conference also showcased the good work being done within the West Midlands on other key public health issues and included workshops on arts and health, child health, crime and health, obesity, public health information, sexual health, smoking and teenage pregnancy.

Alcohol in the West Midlands, A Review of Alcohol and Alcohol Services in the West Midlands', is available to download from WMPHG's website:

www.go-wm.gov.uk/gowm/PublicHealth/

Hard copies are available on request to WMPHG_Enquiries@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

My Region



Simon Murphy,
City Region
Project Director

As befits someone who has supported Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club for more years than I care to remember, I've always been up for a challenge. So it is with my new role as the City Region Project Director working for an Executive Board comprised of eight Council Leaders, the Chairs of the Regional Assembly, Advantage West Midlands, the Learning and Skills Council, and a business community representative. The challenge is to ensure that the City Region and the wider West Midlands are more competitive, more prosperous and more environmentally sustainable, than at present.

As a bit of a West Midland itinerant, I feel well qualified for my job. I am a native of Northfield in Birmingham where my father was a car worker at "the Austin". I grew up in Droitwich when the family

became part of the Birmingham overspill. My West Midland residency was broken by a six year stint studying and lecturing at Aberystwyth University. There followed sixteen years as a citizen of Wolverhampton, working in the Chief Executive's Department of Michael Lyons, and then in a variety of political jobs. The latter culminated in ten years as a Member of the European Parliament, initially for Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton, and then as the Labour representative for Birmingham, Dudley, Shropshire, Solihull and Wolverhampton. With the arrival of children the family relocated five years ago to my wife's home city Worcester to be closer to her parents.

Such a roaming life has afforded me an insight into the potential of our region, and also of the constraints that hold it back. Many of the constraints are due to the relationship between

central and local government in England. Others however are being tackled now by the City Region Executive Board. This will create quicker and more focussed strategic decision making and policy delivery which will lead to the more efficient and democratic use of existing public funding. This in turn will lever in new levels of private sector investment.

The potential that City Region working can release will be of benefit to many parts of the West Midlands. And for me, being based in the Partnership Centre at Albert House is a very good way of keeping in touch with the wider regional agenda...

Some jobs are more than just a job. The City Region Project Director post is just such a job for me. And, as I look forward to yet another year of pain and angst at the Molineux, I know that it will not just be my life as a football fan that will be full of challenge.

Urban & Rural Renaissance

Are we achieving urban and rural renaissance? Not entirely, according to the findings of a new report from the Assembly.

The Report, entitled 'Contextual Monitoring for Urban and Rural Renaissance' found that urban renaissance has yet to hit its stride, with many long-term problems such as low educational achievement, higher levels of deprivation and a lower quality of life continuing to persist. However there were some signs of improvements particularly in one of the most significant categories of crime - burglary, where levels are falling.

In terms of rural renaissance, the picture varies between accessible and remoter rural areas. Overall, the research found only modest evidence of rural renaissance and in fact the majority of the data indicates that many problems which the policy was established to address still remain.

The Report, which was commissioned from the West Midlands Regional Observatory, looks at the position and progress of the Region in a number of areas including; Education, Skills and Employment, Migration and Quality of Life, and Transport and Environment.

The findings will provide a base-line for monitoring the progress of the West Midlands in achieving its goal of regenerating both the urban and rural parts of the Region.

A copy of the full report can be downloaded from the Assembly website at www.wmra.gov.uk and the Observatory website at www.wmro.org.uk

