

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. As several people have requested contact details for these Partnerships current West Midlands RPPs are listed opposite, together with an officer contact for each.

Culture - Jenny Drew (j.drew@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 - David Clarke (d.clarke@wmra.gov.uk)
Transport - Danny Lamb (d.lamb@wmra.gov.uk)

Speaking Out



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How the Assembly is structured

The Assembly's membership consists of 100 nominated representatives, with 67 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 Sir Albert Bore (Birmingham)
 Cllr Mike Whitby (Birmingham)
 Cllr Paul Tilsley (Birmingham)
 Cllr John Lines (Birmingham)

Staffordshire & Stoke Sub-Region:

Cllr Terry Dix (Staffordshire)
 Cllr Rex Roberts OBE (Staffordshire)
 Cllr Philip Atkins (Staffordshire)
 Cllr Robert Simpson (Staffordshire)
 Cllr Roger Ibbs (Stoke-on-Trent)
 Cllr Charles Miller (Stoke-on-Trent)
 Cllr Terry Doughty (Stoke-on-Trent)
 Cllr Neil Stanley (Cannock Chase)
 Cllr Alex Fox (East Staffordshire)
 Cllr David S Smith (Lichfield) - Chairman
 Cllr Simon Tagg (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
 Cllr Brian Edwards (South Staffordshire)
 Cllr Stan Highfield (Stafford)
 Cllr Ron Locker (Staffordshire Moorlands)
 Cllr Jeremy Oates (Tamworth)

Worcester & Hereford Sub-Region:

Cllr Terry James (Herefordshire)
 Cllr Roger Phillips (Herefordshire)
 Cllr Beris Williams (Herefordshire)
 Cllr Dr George Lord (Worcestershire)
 Cllr John Buckley (Worcestershire)
 Cllr Tom Wells (Worcestershire)
 Cllr Liz Tucker (Worcestershire)
 Cllr Roger Hollingworth (Bromsgrove)
 Cllr Diane Rayner (Malvern Hills)
 Cllr Jack Cookson (Redditch)
 Cllr Simon Geraghty (Worcester City)
 Cllr Martin Jennings (Wychavon)
 Cllr Stephen Clee (Wyre Forest)

Black Country Sub-Region:

Cllr Ann Millward (Dudley)
 Cllr David Sparks (Dudley)
 Cllr Steve Eling (Sandwell)
 Cllr Anthony Ward (Sandwell)
 Cllr Sadie Smith (Sandwell)
 Cllr Bob Badhan (Sandwell)
 Cllr Tom Ansell (Walsall)
 Cllr Tim Oliver (Walsall)
 Cllr Ian Shires (Walsall)
 Cllr Peter Bilson (Wolverhampton)
 Cllr Paddy Bradley (Wolverhampton)

Shropshire & Telford Sub-Region:

Cllr Malcolm Pate (Shropshire)
 Cllr Peter Phillips (Shropshire)
 Cllr Alan Mosley (Shropshire)
 Cllr David Beechey (Bridgnorth)
 Cllr David Minnery (North Shropshire)
 Cllr David G Lloyd MBE (Oswestry)
 Cllr Peter Nutting (Shrewsbury & Atcham)
 Cllr Jo Jones (Shrewsbury & Atcham)
 Cllr Heather Kidd (S.Shropshire)
 Cllr Claude Bodenhan (S.Shropshire)
 Cllr Keith Austin (Telford & Wrekin)
 Cllr Ian Fletcher (Telford & Wrekin)

Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull Sub-Region:

Cllr Ken Taylor (Coventry)
 Cllr John Mutton (Coventry)
 Cllr Norman Davies (Solihull)
 Cllr Hugh Hendry (Solihull)
 Cllr Ted Richards (Solihull)
 Cllr Richard Hyde (Warwickshire)
 Cllr Mick Jones (Warwickshire)
 Cllr Colin Hayfield (North Warwickshire)
 Cllr Ian Lloyd (Nuneaton & Bedworth)
 Cllr Craig Humphrey (Rugby)
 Cllr Chris Saint (Stratford-on-Avon)
 Cllr Mrs Margaret Begg (Warwick)

BUSINESS SECTOR MEMBERS

with nominating body

Mike Cherry Federation of Small Businesses
 Prof. Michael Clarke West Midlands Higher Education Association
 (Vacancy) West Midlands Business Council
 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
 Dr Sarindar 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 - Vice Chair	West Midlands Trades Union Council	Trades Unions
Rev John Hall	West Midlands Faiths Forum	Faiths
Cavelle Lynch	Agender for Women	Gender
Bryan Stoten	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
Patrica Fairclough	OSG	Additional Place
Roger McKenzie	OSG	Additional Place



Climate Change
is happening
time to make it a regional priority

Visit our website www.wmra.gov.uk

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All requests will be dealt with on an individual basis.

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From the Chairman



David S Smith

The issue of climate change is one which affects us all, each and every one of us across the globe. The ten warmest years since 1850 have all occurred since 1990 and this alone should prompt us to take action now. The UK has to act now to adapt to climate change and to reduce the risk by reducing our contribution to the causes.

Here in the West Midlands I am proud to say some very good things are already happening with almost 50% of our authorities now signed up to the Nottingham Declaration and our own commitment to sign up to this - as the first Regional Assembly to do so.

One key area is the need to effectively communicate around the Region the climate change message. The Assembly Conference last month was a successful tool for doing just this and I was delighted to be

joined by Ian Pearson MP, Minister for Climate Change and Sir Martin Doughty, Chairman of Natural England, as keynote speakers.

By moving this commitment forward, we are well on the way to developing a strong regional movement. To succeed, this movement must be met by an equally strong national agenda.

I would like to call upon Westminster to demonstrate its own dedication to addressing these seminal issues. We know we can achieve much on a local level, but we are often hampered by European and central government policies and guidelines. We now need central government assistance and determination to help us break through these barriers.

Finally I would like to welcome Olwen Dutton who recently joined us as Chief Executive of the Assembly. We looked long and hard for someone of the right calibre to head up our new partnership, and we believe that in Olwen we have found someone with the right mix of experience and vision to make a real difference at the regional level.

David S Smith
Chairman

In brief

Regional Scrutiny - What is it?

"Regional Scrutiny What Is It?" is the name of a new Assembly publication which explains how this key role is carried out. The Assembly has a responsibility for scrutinising Advantage West Midlands (the regional development agency) within the framework of the Regional Economic Strategy. This role is carried out in a number of ways with the main tool being in depth scrutiny reviews of specific areas of activity.

This new document explains what scrutiny and strategic review panels do, what issues are open to regional scrutiny and how the reviews are undertaken.

There are several ways in which organisations or individual members of the public can get involved in the Assembly's scrutiny function. For more information contact Dagmar Waller, Regional Scrutiny Manager, d.waller@wmra.gov.uk or 0121 678 1054 or visit www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=10 to download the publication.



West Midlands Economic Strategy Review

Every three years the West Midlands Economic Strategy (WMES) is reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose; the current review was launched at the end of March. The WMES sets out what the West Midlands needs to do to improve economic performance by both building on strengths and addressing the market failures that hold back the Region's economy.

Phase One of the Review, 'Building the Evidence Base', has been completed and the findings can be viewed at www.advantagewm.co.uk/wmesreview.html

Phase Two of the Review, 'Policy Options', is now underway. A WMES Policy Options Framework document has been produced and makes it clear that during this stage the following areas will not be revisited:

- the overall Vision;
- the existing five Pillars; and
- the key delivery mechanisms, including their rationale and scope, and delivery details.

It will focus on how the Region can best address established challenges using key policy levers, with discussion focused on a specified range of key issues including Enterprise, Skills, Innovation, Competition, Investment, Employment, and Quality of Life. The Government's five drivers of productivity will be used to help structure the development of policy options.

The factors that will guide the development of policy options are:

- the findings from the evidence base, analysis and conclusions of the performance of the regional economy and its sub-regional implications;
- the different levers where the public sector is able to intervene to influence the economy;
- the possible geographical scope of policy tools, including city regions, areas of need, areas of opportunity; and
- the sectoral scope of policy intervention, if any

Phase Two of the revision will be launched at the Advantage West Midlands Annual Conference on the 10th November 2006.

DELIVERING MORE AFFORDABLY - THE NEW REGIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING GUIDE

The urgent need to increase the current rates of delivery of Affordable Housing within the Region has long been recognised and to support local authorities in achieving this, the Assembly is pleased to announce the launch of a new Regional Guide to the Delivery of Affordable Housing. The Guide will be launched on Thursday 16 November 2006 by Cllr John Lines, the Chairman of the new Regional Housing Executive at the Council House in Birmingham City Centre.

The Guide has been produced by a region-wide group of local authorities and other housing bodies to assist elected members who hold a Housing, Planning or Regeneration Portfolio. The Guide includes information on a wide range of policy tools and ideas, which if adopted should increase the amount of affordable housing across the West Midlands. Examples of good practice from both urban and rural authorities are included, together with case studies from authorities in other regions of England. Advice around 'Affordable Living', including energy efficiency and the development of Sustainable Housing developments are also explored.



However, it is hoped that Housing and Planning Officers will also find the Guide useful, encouraging new and innovative means of delivering affordable housing to be considered. Whilst the details provided in the Guide will be brief, signposting to more comprehensive information will be provided.

Copies of the Guide will be distributed to Housing and Planning Portfolio Holders within every West Midlands Authority and will be made available electronically on the Assembly website: www.wmra.gov.uk

For further information please contact the Assembly's Housing Secretariat on 0121 678 1033.

2012 - Lord Coe to visit the Region

Lord Coe is scheduled to visit the Region on Monday 11th December, to promote the benefits of the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to West Midlands' partners. Lord Coe, who is Chair of the London 2012 organising committee, will address Sport England WM's annual conference at the National Exhibition Centre during the morning of his visit.

Later in the day he will travel to Herefordshire to meet: business representatives; young ambassadors and tour the Royal National College for the Blind development. Phase one of the college expansion will include a new student accommodation village and a centre of excellence for sport and complementary therapies which will boost Paralympic training facilities in the Region and prepare people from all over the UK for careers in these fields.

For further information please contact Jenny Drew j.drew@wmra.gov.uk or 0121 6781029



ERN Chairman calls for an informed debate on the future of the Regions

Cllr Keith Mitchell, Chairman of the English Regions Network of Regional Assemblies and the South East England Regional Assembly, has appealed for an informed and comprehensive debate on the future of regional level working.

At a Conservative Conference fringe meeting last month, Cllr Mitchell said: "There is an urgent need for an informed debate on the future of all regional structures and not just Regional Assemblies. The Regional Development Agencies have much larger budgets than the Assemblies but have no vestige of democratic accountability. The same is true of the Government Offices, the Learning and Skills Councils and many other regional quangos."

He added: "What is striking is the diversity of regions. We mustn't prescribe a one size fits all approach. I am also fearful that the modest powers that have come to Regional Assemblies will go back to Whitehall/Westminster if they are abolished without a wide ranging review of the whole regional structure. It is clear to me that many decisions are much better made at a local level than a national one. It is impossible to micro-manage the country from Whitehall".



Regional "Call to Action" on Climate Change

The Assembly wants to see Climate Change moved to the top of the regional agenda and has called for greater regional action following its 2006 conference held last month.

"If we make tackling climate change our priority then I think we can move towards the One Planet Living that we need to be committed to as a Government and as a society."

- **Ian Pearson MP**, Minister for Climate Change, speaking at the Assembly conference.

"Even if we are successful at cutting our emission now and in the future, there is a degree of unavoidable climate change because of CO2 already released into the atmosphere last century."

- **Gerry Metcalf**, Knowledge Transfer Manager, UK Climate Impacts Programme.

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.

The conference (10th October 2006) was hosted at Lichfield's award winning, eco-friendly theatre, the Lichfield Garrick, with almost 300 delegates from a range of regional organisations and businesses in attendance.

Keynote speeches were provided by the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Ian Pearson, MP for Dudley South and Sir Martin Doughty, Chair of the newly formed national environmental body, Natural England, together with challenging contributions from representatives of UK Climate Impacts Programme, Marches Energy Agency, Environment Agency, Warwickshire CC, Carbon Trust, Energy West Midlands, Accord Housing and Marches Wood Energy Network.

Assembly Chief Executive Olwen Dutton, sent out a clear message at the conference - that climate

change needs to be adopted as a regional priority across all sectors. She called on the Government Office and Advantage West Midlands to work with the Assembly and all Concordat partners to include an explicit priority on climate change, as they develop their respective business plans. She tasked all local authorities who have not already done so to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. Business, public sector bodies, the voluntary sector,

communities and individuals were also tasked with working together to adapt and change their practice and behaviour. She also spoke of the tremendous pressure for housing and economic growth and the need to plan and design new communities in a radically different way in order not to add to climate change. In addition she outlined the need for embedding climate change in the planning and development



of all Assembly partnerships: planning, housing, transport, energy, economy and environment, work that will be lead by Cllr Keith Austin, Chair of the Environment Partnership.

Olwen Dutton also called upon each organisation represented at the conference to work with the Assembly to develop a Climate Change Action Plan which will be reported to the Assembly in 2007.

For more information on the Assembly Conference or to view presentations/speeches visit www.wmra.gov.uk

Two Key Messages:

- No matter how well we stop releasing greenhouse gasses today, the climate is already changing and we have to mitigate this by acting now
- Each year that we do not act to mitigate the longer term impacts of climate change means that greater adaptation will be required in later years.

Assembly promotes the Nottingham Declaration

The Assembly is encouraging all local authorities to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change if they have not already done so. 17 of the Region's 38 local authorities have already signed up - almost 50% - the Assembly hopes to see every local authority signed up as a commitment to follow up work at the sub regional and local level.

CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

The Assembly has made a commitment to pushing forward the following 10 actions:

1. Establishment of a Regional Climate Change Task Group. First meeting taking place on 23rd November. Contact: gillian.toogood@telford.gov.uk
2. Production of Regional Climate Change Action Plan for consideration by the Regional Assembly.
3. Climate Change to be adopted as a Regional priority across all sectors and act as fundamental driver into all regional decision making.
4. Climate Change to be integrated in forward planning, business planning and strategy development work of all key regional bodies (Advantage West Midlands, Government Office West Midlands, the Assembly and all the Concordat Partners) and backed up with targets and accountability to the Region.
5. Leaders of business organisations and politicians to integrate climate change as a risk-based activity into their business plans and strategies.
6. The Regional Assembly to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration. Signed by the Assembly at its meeting on 25th October.
7. Encourage all local authorities in the West Midlands to work to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and follow it up through a published Action Plan.
8. Sustainability checklist to be launched and endorsed to push for a step-change in the rate for green design and sustainable construction.
9. All Assembly-led Partnerships to consider key issues and projects that have significant impacts on climate change and develop appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation projects with partners.
10. The Regional Assembly to be accountable for driving forward priority action across the Region.



Gridlock or Growth

In September 2006 the West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities and the Passenger Transport Authority published an important new report 'Gridlock or Growth - Choices and Challenges for the Future'.

The report is not a blueprint, but does make a significant step forward in setting out the evidence about present and future traffic movements and their impact on economic, social and environmental issues.

Designed as a focus for discussion it is hoped that there

will be a wide ranging debate around the scenarios and concepts outlined in the Report. It is the beginning of a process and has tried to set out some of the key issues and some of the initial conclusions.

It also provides sufficient practical information about how particular measures to manage traffic demand might work, including the option of road user charging and supporting transport measures to facilitate real and robust discussion across all seven metropolitan authorities and the Passenger Transport Authority.

The Metropolitan Authorities are seeking views before the closing date for comments on 30 December 2006.

A telephone information line has been set up on **0121 262 6769** and responders are invited to make comments via the web-site at www.westmidlandsltp.gov.uk

or by writing to:

**Transport Innovation Fund Team
Faber Maunsell
Beaufort House
94-96 Newhall Street
Birmingham
B3 1PB**

My Region



Olwen Dutton,
Chief Executive
West Midlands
Regional Assembly

I am a Yorkshire lass by birth (despite my Welsh name!) and grew up mostly in the North. Since then I have travelled around and lived in various parts of the UK, from Newcastle upon Tyne, to London, Wales and Dorset. In all those years, I recall the West Midlands as a place to pass through without stopping on the way to somewhere else.

It seemed as though the West Midlands had an almost foreign familiarity, a place where we weren't sure but we thought they did things a bit differently... And then, at the end of the last century I came to live here, settled down and found I loved it.

I love the variety across the Region, the urban areas, the

countryside, the wide changing environments across just a few miles and the pride that people have in their communities. I love the diverse history, the people and events that changed the world are real here, you can see the way the industrial revolution happened in a magical tour lasting only a few hours. I love the modernity, the breathtaking new developments that are fast appearing, the determination not to accept second best with new investment and of course, I love the shopping!

And I look forward to the Region's future even more. This is a fabulous part of the world, yet we have to have a real ambition and aspiration for the West Midlands; we have to

believe publicly that we can complete the journey from where we are now to becoming a recognised world class Region.

I am a convert to the West Midlands, an incomer and I suppose I have all the zeal of a convert as I am so proud to tell people where I live. That is why I feel so enthusiastic about the Regional Partnership, the vision behind it and the way in which the Region is showing a determination to work together and get the benefits from partnership working for us all. The West Midlands will work because of the talent, persistence and determination, of its people - to succeed.

2007 Comprehensive Spending Review

As part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07), HM Treasury invited the West Midlands Regional Assembly and Advantage West Midlands to "submit joint advice on how we better utilise existing levels of public expenditure to achieve the Government's regional economic performance and regeneration targets". The submission was required to focus on the five drivers of productivity Skills, Enterprise, Innovation, Competition, Investment, including Transport, Planning, Housing and Employment.

The submission builds on the Regional Funding Advice (RFA) the Assembly and Advantage West Midlands jointly submitted in January 2006 and develops our strengths and challenges as a Region around the themes/drivers of productivity.

Whilst the recommendations meet the requirement to remain within current levels of public expenditure, we have sought more influence over public expenditure currently administered by central Government departments. Below is a flavour of the headline messages to HM Treasury.

The West Midlands is a region of ambition with strong partnerships in place to deliver with real potential for economic and housing growth.

The submission makes a strong point that with the right level of investment from Government together with greater regional discretion over the funding the West Midlands will be a real economic asset.

Suggestions to Government include:-

- Allow the Region to lead on the development of West Midlands ESF priorities (currently nationally driven).
- Recognising Business Link as the primary channel through which all publicly funded business support is accessed.
- Locate the Technology Strategy Board at Warwick University with the West Midlands keen to develop stronger engagement with it.
- Greater flexibilities and control to the Region on regional transport investment decisions.
- Recognise the contribution which the Regional Planning Body has made to the growth agenda, but also that it will need additional resource to undertake this role adequately.

The above gives a flavour of the points we made to HM Treasury, the full submission can be found on the Assembly's website:
www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=157



Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Regional Health Partnership is leading on the development of a Regional Strategy for Health and Well-Being for the West Midlands.

The strategy will take a cross-cutting approach to health and well-being, drawing connections between the various aspects that contribute to it. For example: **Health and Transport; Health and Housing; Skills and Health; Culture and Health.**

The Partnership draws on the skills within the Government Office Public Health Group and the Health Impact Assessment Unit, based at The University of Birmingham. It is a multi-sectoral partnership bringing together a variety of public, private and voluntary sector groups and representatives. It promotes work across organisational boundaries.

The main aims of the strategy are as follows:

- To reduce health inequalities in the West Midlands in the broadest sense including economic, environmental and social issues
- To form a regional framework to embody the key health themes emerging from the Local Area Agreements
- To show leadership in the promotion of health issues
- Improving the quality of life of all citizens
- Ensure NHS investment contributes to economic, social and physical regeneration.

The evidence to inform the Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be based on information from the 'Choosing Health for the West Midlands' (www.go-wm.gov.uk/gowm/PublicHealth) report, published by the West Midlands Public Health Group in March this year, which is a report focusing on the health status of the West Midlands population. Other sources of evidence include information from the Regional Lifestyle survey, the State of the Region reports and data from the West Midlands Public Health Observatory.

Scoping work to inform the development of the Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been carried out with key regional partnerships and a multi-disciplinary team has been pulled together to begin to draft the chapters of the strategy, with a view to a consultation draft being available from late November. The consultation period is currently planned from late November to February 2007. Further information about how to become involved in the consultation will be distributed once the details have been agreed.

For further information contact Zena Lynch z.lynch@wmra.gov.uk or **0121 678 1063**