

European Strategy Board

Terms of Reference

The West Midlands Regional Assembly - European Strategy Board has been established - to bring together senior representatives of partners in the region provide a single coherent cross sector voice on European and International policy and funding issues of importance to the Region.

Specifically West Midlands Regional Assembly - European Strategy Board, will

- Highlight the benefits and opportunities of EU membership by shaping and championing the West Midlands' interests and priorities both in Europe and in the Region
- Develop and oversee the implementation of the European Strategy, and its four priorities
- Set the policy framework for the West Midlands in Europe Brussels Office to work within
- Ensure West Midlands is influencing the debate and policy on EU issues of strategic importance to the Region, including Cohesion, Enlargement and future Funding Programmes.

Modus Operandi.

- The Partnership will meet as and when required, but normally 4 times per year
- Secretariat support to be provided by the Regional Partnerships Secretariat, augmented as appropriate by regional partners.
- To be chaired by a Regional Assembly Member. Two Vice Chairs also to be appointed, one local Authority and one other stake holder. All posts to be reviewed every two years.
- To be advised by appropriate officer support groups as agreed by the Partnership.
- Ability to form task and finish groups with specific work areas and timescales.

- Notes of meetings to be public documents posted on the Website and reported to WMRA and other partners where appropriate.
- Meetings to be held in open session with a facility to move to closed session if required.
- The work of the Partnership to be open and transparent.
- Partnership to proceed on the basis of consensus.
- Membership to be kept under review.

Membership

WMRA Nominees

- Local Government (up to 8)
- Business sector, including West Midlands Business Council and WMHEA (up to 4)
- Other Stakeholders (up to 4)

AWM (up to 4)

The Region's MEPs

The Region's representatives on the Committee of the Regions

The Region's Representatives on CLRAE

The Region's MPs – 1 representative from each political group

GOWM (1)

LSC (1)

LA Chief Executive

WMiE Chair

Criteria for Membership

- Members should be nominated by their organisation, sector or constituent group following invitation from the Partnership.
- Members should be senior representatives from organisations or constituent groups who have a broad and deep knowledge of European issues.
- Members will be expected to represent their sector or area of interest and express the views of their organisation or constituent group, but always to have the overall interests of the region as their primary concern in conducting the business of ESB.
- Members will be expected to communicate information and decisions made by the Partnership to others in their sector, organisation or group.
- Members should have the capacity to think and act strategically and have an understanding of, and respect the aims of, other relevant regional strategies.

- Membership will be specific to the named individuals with a nominated alternate if required.
- Members will be expected to provide continuity of attendance.
- Assembly nominated members will be expected to sign the Assembly's Code of Conduct. Other members will be required to respect and abide by the ethical framework provided by the Code of Conduct.
- The membership aims to reflect the diversity of the region's population and geography.

Partnership Support

The ESB shall be supported by a Strategic European Officers Group, which will meet quarterly, will draw on senior officers of the member bodies, and be chaired by the Chief Executive of WMRA/WMLGA.