

West Midlands Regional Assembly Business Plan 2007-08

Progress Report April-September 2007

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19 October 2007

Business Plan Progress Report

Introduction & Reporting Methodology

Each individual work strand of the Business Plan has been reviewed and the enclosed **WMRA Business Plan Progress Report (Work Strands)*** includes a progress column using a symbol system to identify performance progress against the key actions/tasks. Performance monitoring is exception reporting.

	TASK COMPLETED
	TASK ON TARGET (we will deliver on time)
	TASK OFF TARGET (either we will be late or over budget)
	NOT GOING TO HAPPEN

An accompanying **Performance Exception Report** will provide a detailed explanation for those tasks identified as being 'Off Target' or 'Not Going To Happen'.

This report also includes a section on any **Additional Tasks Undertaken** that were not in the original business plan but that have been a key activity during the period.

WMRA Business Plan 2007-08

Performance Management Exception Report 30 September 2007

Task off target ☹☹☹		
WS No	Activity	Remedial Action/Reason
Work Strand 16 - RSS Monitoring		
16.2	1) Publish an annual Employment Land Study June 07 2) Further develop the joint monitoring of the RHS and RSS through the annual Housing Market Report Oct 07 3) Publish a biennial report considering the Green Belt June 07 4) Hold an Annual Stakeholder Conference Oct 07	Non-statutory RSS Supplementary Monitoring Reports delayed due to pressures of RSS Revision on Policy Leads. All will be ready for a January 2008 publication with a Stakeholders event in early new year.
Work strand 30 – Scrutiny & Strategic Review		
30.3	Strategic Review Activity – Reviews of Post 16 Skills, Education and Training and Transport Oct 07 and April 08	Timescale revised by Strategic Review Group to 'scope up' expert evidence for skills review with Final Report on Skills due March/April 2008 Final Report Transport now due July 2008

Work strand 31 - Health			
31.2		Publication of final Regional Health and Well-being strategy – Launch June 07	Timescales revised by Regional Health Partnership as consultation extended to 11 th July. Final strategy to be published and presented at Full Assembly January 2008
Work Strand 32 – Europe			
32.1		EU Connects unit established and working to project plan April 07	Timescales revised, manager in post and working to project plan, additional staff to follow by Dec 07
Work Strand 34a – Culture			
34a.1		Review of the Regional Cultural Strategy July 07	Timescales revised. Culture West Midlands are now going to launch, in January 08, a year long consultation exercise of cultural issues in which they will develop and publish 3 main evidence papers - 'culture and prosperity', 'culture and places' and 'culture and people'. Responses to these and to associated seminars will underpin a brand new Cultural Strategy that is due for publication in January 2009.
Work Strand 35 - Rural			
35.3		Rural proofing of Regional Cultural Strategy	See above
Tasks not going to happen ☠☠☠ - None			





Additional Tasks Undertaken (not in Business Plan)

Activity & Timetable	Reason	Board Approval
Work Strand 10 - Staffing		
Development of a set of Transport Priorities, input into a Regional Skills Delivery Plan and discussion on future regional working arrangements post 2010 when the Assembly is abolished.	Additional activity by Assembly with partners was required following the publication in July 07 of the Review of Sub-National of Economic Development and Regeneration	Not applicable
Changes to the staffing establishment first half year	Need to strengthen climate change, communication resource	8 June 2007 – CEO Report
Work Strand 16 – RSS Monitoring		
Greenbelt biannual report	To be published post submission of Preferred Option	Not applicable
Work Strand 18 - RSS Phase 2 Revision		
Re-run Regional Centres Study Model	Originally done in 2004-05 and data needs updating to be relevant	8 June 2007 – CEO Report
Joint Redditch Study	Housing pressure / greenbelt pressure	24 September 2007 – CEO Report
Risk Assessment of Phase 2 Preferred Option	Needed robust info to accompany the preferred option development	24 September 2007 – CEO Report
Work Strand 31- Health		
Big Lottery Well-being fund	Successful bid for £6.79m; work required to set up projects, financial systems & management	AGM 12 July 2006 the Assembly expressed support for the proposal. Formal bid signed off by Chairman and CEO 1 March 2007.
Work Strand 32 - Europe		
Follow up to strategic review of regional European working	Challenging report to partners, established Project board, rewrite European strategy and structures	April 25th 2007 – Regional Assembly

WMRA Business Plan 2007-06

Performance Management - Progress Report September 2007 (Work Strands)

Reporting Methodology:

	TASK COMPLETED
	TASK ON TARGET (work in progress, we will deliver on time)
	TASK OFF TARGET (either we will be late or over budget)
	NOT GOING TO HAPPEN






New information or amended details shown in blue.

Work Strands – Corporate Activities

STAFFING, OPERATIONAL & PARTNERING AND PARTICIPATION (Work Strands 10-13 and 20)						
Strategic Objective: Ensure sound corporate governance and practices that engender stakeholder engagement						
Risk Assessment High Score 9: Insufficient staff resource to effectively deliver the work programme; Mitigation - Engagement with GOWM/DCLG to ensure sufficient funding levels and work to maintain/develop partner support.						
No	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sept 07	Outcome	Date / Who
10.1	1,246,311	Provide an effective and responsive Assembly Secretariat	Full complement of staffing	☺	Business Plan Objectives delivered	Annually WMRA
11.1	£10,000	Establish Corporate Training & Induction Plan for staff/members	2007-08 Corporate Training Plan New Member Induction Pack	☺	Priority training funded and staff / members equipped for the role	Annually WMRA
12.1	£15,000	Implement a Members Allowances/Expense Scheme	Allowances Scheme established	☺	Ensure key posts are occupied	April 2007 WMRA
13.1	DCLG £132,771 ERN SLA £5,000	Maintain a rolling Corporate Governance Action Plan for; Risk, Compliance and Probity	1. Corporate Governance Report to the Board 2. Internal Audit Report	☺ ☺	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Robust Systems ▪ Effective Financial Management ▪ Mitigated Risks 	Annually WMRA
13.1	Total £137,771	Implement and Monitor Regional Code of Conduct for Planning	Regional Code of Conduct for Planning	☺	Clarity and consistency of approach for members/officers	Ongoing WMRA
13.2		Provide Regional Leadership to ensure the aims of the Regional Concordat are achieved	1. Regional Concordat 2. Scrutiny review (see WS30)	☺ ☺	Clarity on leadership roles and contributions of key organisations in light of RFA	Ongoing WMRA

COMMUNICATIONS (Work Strand 14)

Strategic Objective: To effectively communicate the purpose and work of the Assembly and help to create a positive profile for the Region

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sept 07	Outcome	Date / Who
14.1	£40,000	Communicate the Assembly's work to members, partners, stakeholders, public and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report and Business Plan produced Scrutiny/Strategic Review Annual report Electronic 'Update' newsletter for policy areas Annual Conference 	   	Raised profile of the work of the Assembly and key issues affecting the Region Greater comprehension of and engagement with the Assembly and its work.	June 07 Ongoing Ongoing Autumn 07 All WMRA
14.2		Support Regional Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support AWM in communicating key messages with Local Authorities 		More positive perception both within and outside the Region	Ongoing AWM & WMRA

Work Strands – Regional Planning, Housing and Transport

RSS IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND CONFORMITY (Work strands 15, 16, 17)						
Strategic Objective: Provide a robust monitoring system to track the progress and implementation of the RSS. Continue to develop the Conformity Protocol for use by the RPB as a key tool for implementing the RSS with public and private agencies						
No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sept 07	Outcome	Date / Who
15.1	£45,000	Provide an ongoing framework for the implementation of the RSS	Annually Refreshed Implementation Framework.	☺	Implementation of RSS which delivers balanced and sustainable development	December 2007 WMRA
15.2		Support the submission of the Phase 2 Preferred Option	Phase 2 Draft Implementation Plan to be prepared to accompany the submission of the Preferred Option.	☺	Clarity of implementation-related implications of the Phase 2 Preferred Option and strengthened evidence base for Examination.	Dec 2007 WMRA / wide partnership involvement
15.3		Support the RFA/CSR and associated processes and strengthen links with the implementation of the RSS	A report detailing key infrastructure investment requirements and their phasing.	☺	Clarity of linkage between RSS and LDF/LTP Implementation plans and the planning of investing authorities (eg water, transp)	December 2007 WMRA

15.4		Produce a mechanism for promoting and monitoring the delivery of Regional Transport Priorities (RFA/TDP) that is robust, effective, efficient and easy to understand.	Revised Regional Transport Priorities programme	☹	Strategic transport measures that demonstrate value for money and support behavioural/cultural changes, productivity and sustainability	March 2008 RTP (RTOG RFA Sub-Group)
16.1	Policy leads £58,500 State of Region £25,000	Provide an objective and cost effective assessment of the impact and implementation of the RSS	Publish the statutory Annual Monitoring Report and satisfy all associated requirements. This will be supported by the following reports & activities:-	☹	To establish progress towards the policies and objectives expressed in the RSS and provide an evidence base for policy review	Feb 2008 WMRA
16.2	Reports £48,000 RADAR/ OS £33,500 GIS £82,500 Total £247,500	To develop monitoring so that the interplay between policy areas and the RSS with other strategies are fully developed.	1) Publish an annual Employment Land study 2) Further develop the joint monitoring of the RHS and RSS through the annual Housing Market Report 3) Publish a biennial report considering the Green Belt 4) Hold an Annual Stakeholder Conference	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹	Provide WMRA and its partners with an enhanced understanding of the regional context and interplay with other strategies	1) June 2007 2) Oct 2007 3) June 2007 4) Oct 2007
17.1	£20,000	Providing advice and an opinion of general conformity with the RSS on Local Development Documents	Percentage of advice provided to Local Planning Authorities within statutory timescales (100%)	☺	Effective implementation of the RSS	Ongoing WMRA

17.2		Providing RSS general conformity advice on planning applications of regional significance	Percentage of advice provided to Local Planning Authorities within statutory timescales (100%)	☺	Effective implementation of the RSS	Ongoing WMRA
17.3		Providing general conformity advice with the RSS in respect of pre-application enquiries.	Percentage of advice provided to the relevant enquirers within statutory timescales (100%)	☺	Effective implementation of the RSS	Ongoing WMRA

RSS REVISION PHASE 1, 2 and 3 (Work strands 18.1, 18.2 and 18.3)						
Strategic Objective: Implement the RSS in line with Government guidance, and agreed time-tables.						
No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
18.1.1	Phase 1 £ 30,000	Respond to consultation on Secretary of State's proposed changes to Draft RSS Phase 1 Revision	Response to proposed changes within the consultation period	☹	Ensure the 'Proposed Changes' include appropriate policies to guide the long term renaissance of the Black Country	Response due by the 9 th November 2007 WMRA
18.2.1	Phase 2 £ 75,000	Phase 2 -Prepare submission documents	Development and submission of Phase 2 Preferred Option to SoS.	☹	The development of the Preferred Option for Phase 2 RSS Revision will set out a series of policies that will advise the Government on how the Region can accommodate increased household and related economic growth over the next 20 years, which take into account the impact that such policies will have on climate change whilst establishing policies in relation to transport, centres and waste provision.	Dec 07 WMRA

					The submission of the Preferred Option to the Secretary of State in December 2007 will be dependant on the outcome of the RPP meetings in September 2007 and October 2007 and any if any further advice is received from Government.	
18.2.2	Plans & Comms £70,000	Phase 3 development of the draft Project Plan and submit for consultation.	Submission of Phase 3 Draft Project Plan for consultation and finalisation of Project Plan.	☹	The draft Project Plan will set out, for consultation, the issues to be addressed in the Phase 3 RSS Revision and the process for engaging the public and regional stakeholders. The finalised Project Plan will establish timetable and work programme. The timescales for launching the Draft Project Plan and finalising the Project Plan have been adjusted to avoid overlap with RSS Phase 2 EiP. The adjustment was approved by RPP in May 2007.	Spring-Autumn 2007 WMRA
18.2.3		Phase 2 - Technical work to support submission Assessment of preferred Option Refreshed urban capacity study	Completed Dec 07 (Detailed timetable and topic list available on request)	☹	To ensure robust evidence base	Dec 07 WMRA
18.2.4		Phase 2 - Pre-submission consultation event	Anticipated summer 07 completed pre - RPB sign off	☺	Submission has the support/ understanding of regional stakeholders	Jul-07 WMRA
18.2.5		Phase 2- Sustainability Appraisal of Preferred Option	Submission of SA/SEA	☹	An integrated process, to ensure the test of soundness is met.	Dec-07

18.3.1	Phase 3 Tech Work £145,00	Phase 3 – 1 Draft Project plan Dates associated with Phase 3 are provisional and subject to a full risk assessment after the scoping study is completed 2 Technical work	Launch of Project Plan for consultation	☹	To ensure that the draft project plan reflects all aspirations with achievable objectives The timescales for launching the Draft Project Plan and finalising the Project Plan have been adjusted to avoid overlap with RSS Phase 2 EiP. The adjustment was approved by RPP in May 2007.	April Nov 2007
18.3.2		Phase 3 – Analysis of consultation of PP	Analysis report	☹	To ensure that the analysis feeds into the Section 4(4) briefs and development of Spatial Options The timescales for launching the Draft Project Plan and finalising the Project Plan have been adjusted to avoid overlap with RSS Phase 2 EiP. The adjustment was approved by RPP in May 2007.	Aug-07 January and February 2008
18.3.3		Phase 3 - SA / SEA – Technical Work	Technical work completed for development of spatial options	☹	To ensure that Phase three is based on robust evidence base	Ongoing
18.3.4		Phase 3 – Project Plan	Publication of Project Plan	☹	To set the parameters and timetable for phase3. The timescales for launching the Draft Project Plan and finalising the Project Plan have been adjusted to avoid overlap with RSS Phase 2 EiP. The adjustment was approved by RPP in May 2007.	Sep-07 Apr-08

18.3.5		Communication activity including producing publications and organising events	RSS Phase 2 Publications	☹	Greater comprehension of and engagement with the Assembly and the RSS	Ongoing WMRA
			RSS Phase 3	☹	Launch materials, Annual Monitoring Report and supplementary reports	WMRA
20.1	£30,000	Support to ensure stakeholder engagement via RAWM and WMBC in Assembly work especially the RSS	Stakeholders engaged in all areas of WMRA work especially RSS	☹	Participation and influence of Assembly's activities and voice by all stakeholders	Ongoing WMRA

URBAN AND RURAL RENAISSANCE (Work Strand 19)

Strategic Objective: Secure vibrant and sustainable communities in urban and rural areas through the implementation of the RSS

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
19.1	£40,000	Support the development of the Rural Renaissance agenda via RSS and Phase 3 Revision	Rural reference Group and Partners engaged and influencing work plan and technical reports	☹	Rural communities enhanced in accordance with the RSS.	Ongoing WMRA and other key rural partners
19.2		Support for Urban Renaissance Agenda via City Regions	City Region activity clarified and agreement gained to coordinate investment.	☹	Sub regional initiatives which contribute to the delivery of Urban Renaissance	Ongoing City Region partners inc WMRA
19.3		Advocate the RSS Renaissance Agenda via other strategies, organisations and initiatives	External strategies and initiatives with positive links to the RSS renaissance agenda	☹	Renaissance of urban and rural communities in the region.	Ongoing, all regional and sub regional partners

TRANSPORT (Work strand 22)

Strategic Objective: Secure a transport infrastructure which supports the urban and rural renaissance of the West Midlands.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
22.1	£39,500	Support RSS Revision Phases 1,2,3	Revised policies in RSS	☹	Outcomes of Phase 3 Revision will be behavioural/cultural changes	See Work Strand 18
22.2		Robust, effective, efficient and easy to understand system to promote and monitor the delivery of Regional Transport Priorities (Regional Funding Allocations/ Transport Delivery Plan)	Revised Regional Transport Priorities programme	☹	Strategic transport measures that demonstrate value for money and support behavioural / cultural changes, productivity and sustainability.	Spring 2008 WRMA
22.3		Interface and converge the RTS with other strategic policies	Quarterly report identifying the RTS input to strategic consultations programmes	☹	RTS objectives met and policies delivered	WMRA quarterly

HOUSING (Work Strand 25)

Strategic Objective: Provide advice to Government on regional housing allocations and support phases 1, 2 and 3 of the RSS Revision.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
25.1	DCLG RA £25,000 DCLG RH £7,920 Partners £73,594 Total £106,514	Support to the RSS Review	Affordable Housing calculations, updated policy CF 5 in the RSS	☺	Place making for mixed and Balanced communities	Dec 2007 RHE
25.2		Regional Allocations Strategy	A Regional Allocations Strategy 2008-11 fully consulted on with appropriate partners and submitted to Ministers	☺	Continued implementation of the Regional Housing Strategy – Investment Priorities to address extreme affordability issues, PSA targets for Decent Homes, Pathfinder, low demand regeneration and renewal in the furtherance of Urban Renaissance	July 2007 RHE
25.3		Gypsies and Travellers bids	To receive bid evaluations and report advice to RHE for various bid rounds	☺	Investment aimed to address shortfall in supply of pitches and improvement in the quality of existing pitches. This year's bid round completed June 2007	Ongoing RHE

25.4		Monitoring	a) To input into the RSS Annual Monitoring Report and Plan, Monitor and Manage Report to develop b) to develop Local Housing Authority outcome monitoring subject to DCLG advice	☹	To provide Regional Housing Executive (RHE) clarity on performance /delivery of targets of local authorities and RSLs against Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Housing Strategy policies, including, urban & rural renaissance, meeting affordable housing needs and creating mixed and balanced communities.	Ongoing WMRA
25.5		Direct and co-ordinate the work of the sub-regional Housing Market Area Partnerships to implement the Regional Housing Strategy	Attend sub-regional Housing Market Area Partnership meetings to help them implement the RHS. Support their work on joint local housing market area needs assessments	☹	Sub-regional implementation of the Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) to create pathways of housing choice and mixed and balanced communities	Ongoing with submissions required for CSR07 by June 07 and RHAS by June 07 WMRA
25.6		Promote WMRA and work through national and regional bodies to influence the national policy agenda	Attend DCLG / GOWM / ERN / CIH / NHF events and advisory processes as appropriate. Also contribute to engagement with the NHPAU	☹	To influence national policy on housing and housing related issues	Ongoing WMRA and partners
25.7		Research Programme (housing)	To commission new research or update research undertaken previously, as identified in the Regional Housing Strategy 2005	☹	To continuously improve the evidence base supporting the Regional Housing Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy to provide a sound basis for housing investment decisions	Ongoing WMRA

25.8	DCLG £ 42,000 (Cfwd)	Work with regional and sub-regional partners to secure Strategic Housing Market Assessments	4 quality assured SMHAs for the sub-regional housing market areas	☺	A better understanding of sub-regional housing markets as a basis for future monitoring of RSS housing policies. Ultimately sustainable communities providing a range of appropriate housing type, tenure and size	Dec 2007 WMRA
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ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE PLANNING (Work Strand 26)

Strategic Objective: Support phases 1, 2 and 3 of the RSS Revision and ensure that new Government guidance is heeded and put into practice at the regional level.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
26.1	£63,500	Development of policy and technical work into RSS Phase 2 Revision and Phase 3	Regional Waste Strategy within RSS.	☺	Greater certainty over provision of waste facilities	July 2007 RTAB/WMRA
26.2		Work with regional agencies NE, EA, EH etc to secure mutual & shared benefits.	Example : Development of Black Country Brownfield Land Action Plan Complete pilot studies on BEAs (statutory areas in the RSS for enhancement which the RA is working with Natural England to promote and develop with local authorities and other partners) and carry into further areas.	☺	Acceleration of remediation of derelict and contaminated land Integrated approach to biodiversity enhancement	Various partners and dates tba

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Work Strand 27)

Strategic Objective: Support phases 1, 2 and 3 of the RSS Revision by ensuring a robust Sustainability Appraisal is in place. Leading the West Midlands climate change agenda.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
27.1	£75,000	Sustainability Appraisal of RSS Partial Review Phase 2 and 3	Report; Sustainability Appraisal of RSS Partial Review Phase 2 Preferred Option	☹	Ensure a sustainable RSS	Dec-07
27.2		Sustainability Appraisal of RSS Partial Review Phase 3	Report - Sustainability Appraisal of RSS Partial Review Phase 3	☹	Fulfil mandatory requirement for RSS under Section 39(2) Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	Date tba
27.3		Preparation for implementation of Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change	Toolkit to assess climate change impact of new developments	☹	Reducing Co2 emissions from new developments Publication of PPS1 delayed so project now starting early 2008	April 2008 WIP
27.4		Climate Change Task Force to Develop Climate Change Action Plan	Regional Climate Change Action Plan	☹	Fulfil commitments of WMRA Climate Change Declaration	WMRA Jul 2007 Oct 2007

27.5	(a) Support Sustainability West Midlands to act as SD independent advisor/champion to the Assembly and support West Midlands Sustainable Development Officers Network to secure professional and policy advice	Deliver technical and policy advice on SD to WMRA Partnerships and Officer networks	☹	Demonstrate leadership on SD as outlined in DTI/ ODPM/DEFRA's "Securing The Region's Futures"	Ongoing
	(b) Promote RSDF and its use in development and review of all regional strategies	Update RSDF in line with "Securing the Region's Futures"	☹	Integration of SD principles	Dec-07

ECONOMY AND CENTRES (Work Strand 28)

Strategic Objective: Support phases 1, 2 and 3 of the RSS Revision and ensure that the revision process, use of evidence and development of policies is aligned with the RES Review.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
28.1	£39,000	Ensure work being undertaken in association with DCLG 'growth point' initiative is taken into account in the RSS Phase 2 Revision process	'Growth point' proposals reflected in the submission of the Preferred Option (and evidence base) to the Secretary of State	☹	Ensure that monies available from the growth point initiative are drawn down to support key proposals within the RSS Phase 2 Revision Preferred Option	01/12/2007 WMRA / DCLG
28.2		Ensure effective alignment between the RSS (including on-going Phase 1,2 and 3 Revisions) and the WMRES Review	RSS Strategy and Policies integrated in the RES Review and vice versa	☹	Economic development proposals in the RES review in line with the RSS aims for Urban and Rural Renaissance	31/12/2007 WMRA / REDOG

LEGAL (Work strand 29)

Strategic Objective: Secure appropriate legal support and advice in the development and implementation of the RSS.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
29.1	£27,000	Ability to seek legal advice on matters relating to the WMRA role in issuing conformity opinions on LDDs and regionally significant planning applications	Effective and sound Conformity Protocol which is 'fit for purpose' and not vulnerable to legal challenge	☹	Reduce the risk of legal challenge and financial threat to work programme	Ongoing WMRA

SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC REVIEW (Work Strand 30)

Strategic Objective: Provide a robust scrutiny process over AWM's activities and working with regional partners to undertake strategic reviews of key policies and activities to secure greater co-ordination and impact of regional strategies and partnership working.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
30.1	DCLG	Scrutiny Reviews - AWM and economic performance	Completion of 2 Reviews	☹	• Improved understanding of AWM role in review area	Final reports in July 2007 and January 2008 New Review 2 starts Feb 2008
	£29,000	Access to Finance	Scoping of one new Review	☹	• Clarification of issues	
	LSC £20,000	Support for skills agenda	Publication of 2 Reports with recommendations for improvement	☹	• Improved effectiveness of AWM intervention in areas of failure	
	TOTAL £49,000	New Review 2 TBA				All WMRA

30.2		<p>Ongoing Scrutiny of AWM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWM annual report • Monitoring recommendations • Implications of IPA outcome & Improvement Plan • Comments on AWM Corporate documents 	<p>Annual Report to Assembly</p> <p>Annual report to SRG</p> <p>Report to SRG</p> <p>Submissions to AWM</p>	<p>☹</p> <p>☹</p> <p>☺</p> <p>☹</p>	<p>Transparent accountability</p> <p>Understanding of progress</p> <p>Scrutiny and IPA coherence</p> <p>Reinforcing scrutiny issues</p>	<p>Oct 07/AWM</p> <p>Dec 07WMRA/AWM</p> <p>July 07/WMRA</p> <p>As required/WMRA</p>
30.3		<p>Strategic Review Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach to Post 16 education, training and skills • Effectiveness of Concordat • Transport 	<p>Two final reports</p> <p>One draft report</p>	<p>☹</p> <p>☹</p> <p>☹</p>	<p>Improved understanding of Regional Partner roles</p> <p>Identification of issues</p> <p>Improved regional working</p>	<p>Final reports Oct 07 and April 08</p> <p>Draft report Feb 08</p> <p>All WMRA</p>
30.4		<p>ERN Regional Accountability Group</p>	<p>Four meetings</p>	<p>☹</p>	<p>Shared good practice</p>	<p>Quarterly Assemblies</p>

Work Strands – Policy Integration & Development



HEALTH (Work strand 31)


Strategic Objective: Lead the development of Regional Health and Well-Being Strategy.

	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
31.1	DCLG £10,000 DOH £19, 687 TOTAL £29,687	Support Regional Health Partnership meetings and then publish work plans	Meetings held and work plans advanced	☺	Regional Health and Well-Being Strategy published and adopted by regional partners and used to influence development of regional strategies. Implementation plan agreed outcome in future years: progress towards agreed targets.	Feb-08
31.2		Consult and publish a Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Consultation held on draft strategy Strategy published	☺ ☹	Improving health and well being across the West Midlands long term	Consultation Feb-May 07 Launch June 07 (led RHP/ WMPHG)
31.3		Lead and support development of Big Lottery Fund Regional Well Being bid 'Living Well in the WM'	Submission of stage 2 regional bid for the Big Lottery Well Being Fund	☺	Stage 2 portfolio submitted to BLF based on projects supporting regional priorities for Physical Activity, Mental Health and Food and Nutrition, outlined in the Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	Mar-07

EUROPE (Work Strand 32)




Strategic Objective: Ensure the West Midlands is able to influence EU policy and funding programmes to benefit the Region.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
32.1	£15,000	Establish WM EU Connects to facilitate transnational working—initially focussing on projects relating to the EU programmes for Life Long Learning and Competitiveness and Innovation	Unit established and working to deliver project plan		Partner resource for better co-ordination of specific elements of transnational activity, such as partner search Additional EU funds to region.	Apr07 Oct07 WMRA/AWM/W MiE
32.2		Lead transnational priority of the new EU Competitiveness and Employment programme. Concentrating on proposals designed to overcome specific regional economic weaknesses as identified in the Operational Programming document	Priority working group established and working to deliver the priority planning phase.		Partners able to work with and learn from other EU regions to meet specific regional economic underperformance, such as the low level of collaboration between universities and business in exploiting commercially viable innovation.	Likely to commence Autumn 2007 WMRA – with agreement from partnership programme.

32.3		Jointly host regional European Partnership event with West Midlands in Europe; to showcase successful regional projects and identify policy developments and funding opportunities in future	Annual event held		Partners better informed and more aware of activity within the region, policy developments and funding opportunities	Autumn 2007 WMRA/WMiE
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COMMUNITY COHESION [Equality & Diversity] (Work Strand 33)

Strategic Objective: Lead the development of the Region's Community Cohesion agenda.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
33.1	£10,000	Develop and oversee the implementation of the 2008/09 Action Plan for the Equality & Diversity Partnership, with particular reference to community cohesion	Regional Leaders' Summit		Improvements in relation to equality & diversity, social inclusion and community cohesion issues across the region and the "equalities" strands	Jan-08
			Action Plan for 2008/09			Mar-08 WMRA/EDP WMRA
33.3		Provide expert advice on Equality & Diversity, community cohesion and Social Inclusion issues to regional strategies, including RES/RSS/RHS, Scrutiny Reviews	Reports on the findings for submission to WMRA		Equality & diversity, social inclusion and community cohesion issues and solutions identified in regional strategies	See work strands 18,19 and 31

33.4		National Strategies and the European Agenda.	Provide WMRA input into relevant national & EU agendas	☹	Better understanding of WM community cohesion agenda by Government & EU	WMRA
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CULTURE (Work Strand 34a)

Strategic Objective: Strategy and the regions work into 2012 London Olympics.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
34a.1	£9,000	Support the preparation of the new Regional Cultural Strategy (inc tourism) and subsequent action planning	Co-ordinated cross-sectoral working between local & sub-regional partnerships & regional agencies at a strategic level	☹	Range of cross-sectoral and policy links reflected in Strategy development	Lead Culture Consortium with WMRA Jul -07
34a.2		Maximise opportunities from the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games	WM Regional Structures for the 2012 Games e.g. WM Leadership Group supported with WMRA input	☹	A region capitalising on opportunities from the 2012 Games with well-developed legacy plans	Ongoing

34a.3		Support policy leads for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the RSS revision by ensuring input from the cultural sector	Cultural issues and opportunities reflected fully in both phases of RSS revision and subsequent RSS implementation	☹	RSS that helps make the WM a special place; contributing to prosperity and health for all	See WS18 WMRA/CWM/ SportEngland WM et al
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SKILLS (Work Strand 34b)

Strategic Objective: Raise the profile of the regional skills agenda in conjunction with regional partners inc. AWM and LSC.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
34b1	£1,000	Supporting the Regional Skills Partnership	Assembly observer status on the RSP Board	☺	Improved two way information	On-going
34b.2		Ensuring RSS and WMRES consistent on skills issues in terms of policy/implementation	Co-ordination of WMRES and RSS review processes and consistency of policy options.	☹	Integration between RSS and WMRES on regional skills issues	On-going WMRA / AWM

RURAL (Work Strand 35)

Strategic Objective: Ensure that rural issues are adequately reflected into regional work and policy.

	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
35.1	£10,000	Engagement of the rural interests in regional working and policy development	Support for and engagement with the WM Rural Affairs Forum, the WMRAF Management Committee and Secretariat	☹	The profile of rural issues and priorities raised in the region. Body of expertise providing support and advice on regional strategies and initiatives which are appropriate for rural areas	WMRA ongoing
35.2		Regional Rural Accord Group	Support from WMRA to the Regional Rural Accord Group	☹	Effective delivery agencies working at a strategic level to provide technical advice and to ensure the Rural Delivery Framework is delivered.	Accord Partners Ongoing
35.3		Regional Rural Proofing of RSS Phases 2 and 3, Regional Health & Wellbeing Strategy, Regional Cultural Strategy and the Regional Heritage Strategy	RSS Phase 2 Preferred Option July 07 RSS Phase 3 Options Dec 07 Health & Well-being July 07 Culture October 07	☹ ☹ ☺ ☹	Rural areas valued and benefiting from growth are not unduly disadvantaged	Ongoing WMRA and other partners

FORESTRY (Work Strand 37)

Strategic Objective: Secure a strong Forestry Framework which influences and supports other key regional strategies.

No.	INPUT £	Process	Outputs (KPI)	Sep-07	Outcome	Date / Who
37.1	DCLG £10,000	Lead the development and implementation of the West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework (WMRFF)	Preparation of the rolling action plan 2007-2010; completing the third year of implementation	☺	Viable inclusive forestry and woodland sector benefiting from co-ordinated activity, closer partnership and networking	Jun 2007 WMRFF
37.2	GOWM, Natural England, Forestry Commission, AWM £65,000	Collecting and collating data and information in order to compile the Annual Report 2006-2007	Publishing Annual Report 2006-2007	☺	Providing Forum partners, networks and stakeholders with an enhanced understanding of progress of the WMRFF	Jul 2007 WMRFF
37.3	Total £75,000	Linking the work of the Action Plan Manager to the Assembly policy partnerships and RSS Implementation, ensuring a forestry dimension to all policy development/ implementation	Reports and updates for Assembly task groups, officer groups and partnerships	☹	Forestry policy effectively driven into other RSS implementation	Mar 2007 WMRFF

Financial Tables

Table 1 – September 2007 Bid Report

This report provides detail of actual expenditure for the first half of the year (April-September) set against the original budget and bid profile.

Data has been analysed as;

- The original budget and allocation across planning and non planning activity
- Actual Planning expenditure compared to budget profile and the identified variance
- Actual Non-Planning expenditure compared to budget profile and the identified variance

This is a report on all financial activity of WMRA, including that funded by other partners. Therefore, a further narrative is included in the table in respect of discrete DCLG funding and a brief explanation of the key variances.

Table 2 – September 2007 Virements & Revised Budget

A budget monitoring and review exercise was undertaken in preparation for this report and the outcome was that the full allocation of funding will be required and expended in the year, but already we have been able to identify some early virements to address changing/emerging priorities.

The Assembly Board delegated responsibility to the Chairman and Vice Chairs to approve a revised budget which they have done.

Sept 07 Bid Report TABLE 1										
INCOME	WS	Original Budget	Planning	Non Planning	Budget Bid 1 Planning	Actual Q1&2 Planning	B1 Planning Variance	Budget Bid 1 Non Planning	Actual Q1&2 Non Planning	B1 Non-Plan Variance
DCLG Assembly Funding	1a	2,423,712	2,066,051	357,661	938,704	938,704	0	170,856	170,856	0
DCLG RHE Funding	2	93,790	93,790		46,895	46,895	0			0
DCLG Legal Contingency	1b	18,705	18,705		18,705	18,705	0			0
DCLG General Reserve	1c	2,529	2,529		2,529	2,531	2			0
Partners Support RHE	3	115,594	115,594		115,594	108,000	-7,594			0
LSC Support for Scrutiny	4	20,000		20,000			0	20,000	20,000	0
Forestry/Rural Partners	5	65,000		65,000			0	65,000	85,856	20,856
Department of Health / Big Lottery	6	19,687		19,687			0	19,687	29,427	9,740
English Regions Network	7	5,000		5,000			0	5,000	5,000	0
Other Activities	8	0		0		20,484	20,484	0	28,561	28,561
Total		2,764,017	2,296,669	467,348	1,122,427	1,114,835	-7,592	280,543	311,139	30,596
EXPENDITURE										
Corporate										
Staffing	10	1,246,311	1,011,177	235,135	505,588	452,168	-53,420	117,567	141,217	23,650
Staff Training (CPD)	11	10,000	8,100	1,900	8,100	8,100	0	1,900	1,900	0
Members Allowance	12	15,000	12,150	2,850	0	2,428	2,428	0	569	569
Operational	13	137,771	111,595	26,176	55,797	65,465	9,668	13,088	15,356	2,268
Communications	14	40,000	32,400	7,600	16,200	3,103	-13,097	3,800	728	-3,072
<i>Sub Total</i>		<i>1,449,082</i>	<i>1,175,421</i>	<i>273,661</i>	<i>585,686</i>	<i>531,264</i>	<i>-54,422</i>	<i>136,355</i>	<i>159,770</i>	<i>23,415</i>
Planning, Housing & Transport										
Implementation	15	45,000	45,000		22,500		-22,500			
Monitoring	16	247,500	247,500		74,250	66,487	-7,763			
Conformity	17	20,000	20,000		10,000	3,000	-7,000			
RSS Revision Phase 1	18a	30,000	30,000		30,000	0	-30,000			
RSS Revision Phase 2&3	18b	290,000	290,000		145,000	58,911	-86,089			
Urban & Rural Renaissance	19	40,000	40,000		20,000	9,750	-10,250			
Partnering & Participation	20	30,000	30,000		15,000	15,000	0			
Transport	22	39,500	39,500		19,750	17,565	-2,185			
Housing	25	148,514	148,514		74,257	13,615	-60,642			
Environment	26	63,500	63,500		31,750	21,750	-10,000			
Sustainable Development	27	75,000	75,000		37,500	3,698	-33,802			
Economy	28	39,000	39,000		19,500	0	-19,500			
Legal Expenses	29	48,234	48,234		34,734	0	-34,734			
<i>Sub Total</i>		<i>1,116,248</i>	<i>1,116,248</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>534,241</i>	<i>209,776</i>	<i>-324,465</i>			
Strategic Review	30	49,000		49,000				34,500	18,330	-16,170
Policy Integration & Development										
Health	31	29,687		29,687				24,687	25,361	674
Europe & International Policy	32	15,000		15,000				7,500	5,918	-1,582
Community Cohesion	33	10,000	5,000	5,000	2,500	5,000	2,500	2,500	5,782	3,282
Culture & Skills	34	10,000		10,000				5,000	0	-5,000
Rural	35	10,000		10,000				0	0	0
<i>Sub Total</i>		<i>74,687</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>69,687</i>	<i>2,500</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>2,500</i>	<i>39,687</i>	<i>37,061</i>	<i>-2,626</i>

Other Activities										
Forestry & Rural Accord	37	75,000		75,000				70,000	28,872	-41,128
Other Activities	38	0						0	21,981	21,981
<i>Sub Total</i>		75,000	0	75,000	0	0		70,000	50,853	-19,147
Total		2,764,017	2,296,669	467,348	1,122,427	746,040	-376,387	280,542	266,014	-14,528

DCLG Funding and Key Variances (Table 1)

- WS10 **Staffing** – the overall variation is due to the 2007-08 pay award still not yet being determined and implemented whereas the budget included an estimate of 2.5% for this.
- WS12 **Members Allowances** – the cost should have been split across the two bid periods. and at present the only cost is in respect of the Chairman as the Board is yet to make a decision on a broader allowance scheme.
- WS13 **Operational** – we do not expect the overall budget to be any higher than estimated but some costs came in sooner than expected.
- WS14 **Communications** – timing of some expenditure has been a little delayed partly due to staff changes and partly due to the Annual Conference being postponed to later in the year.
- WS15 **Implementation** – Due to delays in the Government publishing Phase 1 for consultation the Assembly agreed a revised timetable with GOWM and this has an impact on expenditure across the two bid periods and explains many of the variations across planning activities.
- WS16 see WS15
- WS17 **Conformity** – despite many efforts to chase local authorities for their invoices in respect of the Planning Partnership Agreements not all have submitted their 50% fee by the end of September.
- WS18a **RSS Revision** Phase 1 – the budget included an allowance for follow up work in respect of the Secretary of State’s Proposed Changes to Draft RSS. This is now not needed and the sum will be utilised for Phase 2&3 activity.
- WS18b **RSS Revision** Phase 2&3 – agreed changes to timetable with GOWM influences phase 2 and pushes planned activity for period 1 into period 2. Also some of the activity is currently a work in progress with contracts in place but as yet no costs recorded.

- WS19 **Urban/Rural** – a change to how we deliver the urban aspect of this work strand means that the cost can be reduced and vired to support additional work required in RSS Phase 2&3.
- WS25 **Regional Housing Executive** – CLG funding is utilised to primarily meet staffing costs which are included in the staffing work strand. The variance shown here is in respect of partner contributions to which have not been utilised as yet.
- WS26 **Environment** – the variance on this work strand is in respect of funds allocated for smaller activities and this fund has now been transferred to meet more urgent needs around RSS Phase 2 on Appropriate Assessments.
- WS27 **Sustainable Development** – affected by delayed timetable.
- WS28 **Economic** – awaiting local authority invoices for their Planning Partnership Agreements.
- WS29 **Legal** – held pending outcomes of Coventry Airport and a separate letter now drafted to CLG for permission to utilise this legal contingency to meet RSS activity.
- WS30 **Strategic Review** – the partner contribution has not yet been utilised.
- WS33 **Social Inclusion** – the full CLG funded element has been utilised and partner contributions are supporting activity for the rest of the year.
- WS34 **Culture & Skills** – there will not be a charge for this as the Assembly contribution is an in-kind support for the Regional Cultural Strategy.

Activity that is **NOT** funded by DCLG budgets:

- WS8 **Income for other activity** – variety of partner contributions for activity comprising; transport (£1k), Waste (£5k), Social Inclusion (£5.5k), Europe (£1.5k), Energy (£21k), EUConnects (£4k) and Bank interest net of Corporate Tax of £11k.
- WS13 **Operational** costs are supported by a £5,000 ERN SLA and the balance of costs is DCLG funded.
- WS31 **Health** – the income and expenditure levels for Health will be higher than the budget as it will now include activity supporting the BIG Lottery health and Well Being Project but the CLG funding will be limited to £10,000 as budgeted.
- WS37 **Forestry** – this work strand is mainly partner funded with a £10,000 contribution from WMRA, with expenditure spread across the year and some programme costs now due to fall in period 2.
- WS38 **Other Activities** – this includes the expenditure related the to Energy income (the Assembly is administering a final year on the SHAP contract); and the costs associated with the EU Connects project.

Table 2 – September 2007 Virements & Revised Budget 2007-08

INCOME	WS	Original Budget	Virement	Revised Budget	Reason
DCLG Assembly Funding	1a	2,423,712		2,423,712	
DCLG RHE Funding	2	93,790		93,790	
DCLG Legal Contingency	1b	18,705		18,705	
DCLG General Reserve	1c	2,529		2,529	
Partners Support RHE	3	115,594		115,594	
LSC Support for Scrutiny	4	20,000		20,000	
Forestry/Rural Partners	5	65,000	20,856	85,856	Additional partner income
Department of Health / Big Lottery	6	19,687	9,740	29,427	Additional partner income
English Regions Network	7	5,000		5,000	
Other Activities		0	44,561	44,561	Partner funds plus £16k estimated Bank Interest
Total		2,764,017	75,157	2,839,174	
EXPENDITURE					
Corporate					
Staffing	10	1,246,311	32,035	1,278,346	Extra RSS resource for last quarter
Staff Training (CPD)	11	10,000	1,039	11,039	Surplus used to support corporate training plan
Members Allowance	12	15,000	-8,000	7,000	If no Allowances Scheme some budget released
Operational	13	137,771		137,771	
Communications	14	40,000		40,000	
<i>Sub Total</i>		<i>1,449,082</i>	<i>25,074</i>	<i>1,474,156</i>	

Planning, Housing & Transport					
Implementation	15	45,000	40,000	85,000	Prof advice to firm up implementation plans
Monitoring	16	247,500	-6,500	241,000	Reduced print costs
Conformity	17	20,000	0	20,000	
RSS Revision Phase 1	18a	30,000	-30,000	0	Not required - vire to support Phases 2&3
RSS Revision Phase 2&3	18b	290,000	64,960	354,960	CO2 emissions, centres update, Redditch study
Urban & Rural Renaissance	19	40,000	-20,500	19,500	Change in delivery of urban outside of policy lead
Partnering & Participation	20	30,000	0	30,000	
Transport	22	39,500	0	39,500	
Housing	25	148,514	0	148,514	
Environment	26	63,500	-15,000	48,500	Priority shift to support Appropriate Assessment
Sustainable Development	27	75,000	-6,300	68,700	Reduction in printing cost for RSDF
Economy	28	39,000	0	39,000	
Legal Expenses	29	48,234	-43,234	5,000	No longer a threat from Coventry Inquiry
<i>Sub Total</i>		<i>1,116,248</i>	<i>-16,574</i>	<i>1,099,674</i>	
Strategic Review	30	49,000	0	49,000	
Policy Integration & Development					
Health	31	29,687	9,740	39,427	Extra partner contribution to end Dec 07
Europe & International Policy	32	15,000	7,500	22,500	WMRA match funding for EUConnects
Community Cohesion	33	10,000	0	10,000	
Culture & Skills	34	10,000	-10,000	0	Now in-kind support
Rural	35	10,000	0	10,000	
<i>Sub Total</i>		<i>74,687</i>	<i>7,240</i>	<i>81,927</i>	
Other Activities					
Forestry & Rural Accord	37	75,000	30,856	105,856	10K extra from WMRA for SR to do extra rural work
Other Activities	38	0	28,561	28,561	Partner funding activity
<i>Sub Total</i>		<i>75,000</i>	<i>59,417</i>	<i>134,417</i>	
Total		2,764,017	0	2,839,174	