

**WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Board of Directors – 24 September 2008**

**Review of the operating arrangements of the Assembly 2008-2010**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update the Board on the progress of the Review of the operating arrangements of the Assembly.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 To agree the recommendations set out in the Review of operating arrangements (to follow).

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Sub-National Review proposes substantial challenges for the Assembly during the transition to the new regional arrangements in 2010. During this period it is essential that the Assembly is able to continue to discharge its responsibilities and make robust legally sound decisions.
- 3.2 This needs to be achieved within the context of a diminishing budget and potentially, a decreasing commitment from members to Assembly business as abolition nears.
- 3.3 In order to address these issues, the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008 Assembly meeting endorsed the principle of carrying out a review. This would assess whether existing Assembly arrangements provide for as robust, effective and efficient decision-making as possible leading up to 2010.
- 3.4 The Review has considered the broad range of Assembly functions but in scoping the work, the Review's recommendations will focus on the Assembly's statutory and quasi-statutory responsibilities.

#### **4. Progress**

- 4.1 Following the 9<sup>th</sup> July Assembly meeting a brief internal review of operating arrangements has been undertaken over the summer. The process has included discussions with the chairs and vice chairs of the relevant partnerships.
- 4.2 Due to the availability of senior members over the summer, a few key discussions had still to be held at the time of writing. However, these will have been completed before the Board meets and a paper outlining the proposals, which take into account the view of the chairs will be circulated ahead of the meeting.

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