

West Midlands Regional Assembly Business Plan 2006-07

Final Progress Report: 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

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Business Plan Progress Report

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20 April 2007

Introduction

I am pleased to present the West Midlands Regional Assembly final report for 2006/07.

The year has signified further growth for the Regional Assembly; primarily in the extension of its role across the regional strategic infrastructure of the West Midlands. We have taken on additional responsibility for the Regional Housing Board and established a new Regional Housing Executive and supporting infrastructure, systems and procedures. This is enabling us to ensure that the Regional Housing Strategy continues to support the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) by facilitating improved availability of a range of quality evidence to secure housing choices across the Region; addressing issues of affordability and contributing to urban and rural renaissance for balanced and sustainable communities.

In addition, this Assembly has undertaken many additional tasks not in the business plan that have required significant commitment but which have given leadership on key strategic issues across the Region such as Climate Change where the Assembly has the lead role; cross border working with the Welsh Assembly Government with the first cross border Memorandum of Understanding developed and formally signed by the West Midlands Regional Assembly and Welsh Assembly Government; as well as a £6.8m bid to the Big Lottery Fund for the 'Living Well in the West Midlands' portfolio projects for Health and Wellbeing.

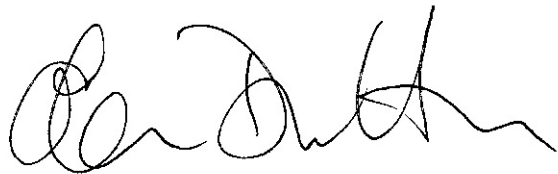
Of course, our priority has been around the Regional Spatial Strategy where we have worked closely with Advantage West Midlands to align the RSS revision with the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) review evidence base and process, and we have conducted a very successful Examination in Public for the Black Country Study, which is the first stage of the RSS revision.

The performance report indicates that 92% of tasks are either completed or well under way. The timescale for some tasks has slipped, but this has invariably been through either a change of emphasis, where we have chosen to adapt to changing circumstances, or it has been because other tasks have had to take priority. Only 8% of tasks fall into the off target or not going to happen category and there are clear reasons for this detailed in the exception report.

I believe these results clearly demonstrate the hard work and commitment of the small officer team at the Assembly; the significant value of resources provided through partnership working via member authorities; and not least the support of the local authorities, councilors and those who represent the business and other stakeholder groups in their enthusiasm and commitment to the work of the Assembly. I am grateful for their time, support and commitment in developing the work of the Assembly, and so promoting the cause of the West Midlands around its urban and rural areas together with its economic opportunities and challenges.

We are a small organisation, but our influence is widespread. We must be quick to understand and adapt to changing circumstances and over the coming year we have set ourselves even more challenging targets. We must also have regard to the political climate, and recognise that the outcomes of the Sub National Review and the Comprehensive Spending Review may have significant implications for us. However, I do believe that the value of regional working has been firmly established and that Assemblies are showing that they are able to take on new responsibilities and deliver those to great effect.





Whatever we are asked to do in the future we will do our best to deliver as we are asked to; in partnership and with the overwhelming belief that this region has still much more to offer than it has yet delivered.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olwen Dutton', written in a cursive style.

Olwen Dutton
Chief Executive

Reporting Methodology

Each individual work strand of the Business Plan has been reviewed and the **WMRA Business Plan Progress Report (Work Strands)*** includes a progress column using a symbol system to identify performance progress against the key actions/tasks and this progress report focuses on 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 |

The **Performance Exception Report** provides a detailed explanation for those tasks identified as being 'Off Target' or 'Not Going To Happen'.

The Performance Exception Report also commences with a section on any **Additional Tasks Undertaken** that were not in the original business plan, but that have proved to be a key activity during the year.

Performance Management Exception Report

| Additional Tasks Undertaken (not in Business Plan) | | |
|---|--|---|
| Activity & Timetable | Additional Task Undertaken | Board Approval |
| Work strand 15 – RSS Implementation | | |
| Prioritisation – CSR07 (15.4) | Joint submission by WMRA and AWM to Her Majesty’s Treasury on CSR07 | Chair/Vice Chairs 22.9.06 Board endorsement 6.10.06 |
| Support development of the new RES to secure synergy and alignment with RSS | Joint signatory with AWM to Policy Choices document | Board endorsement 8.12.06 |
| Work strand 18 – RSS Revision Phase 2 | | |
| Align RSS Revision with RES Review evidence base and process (18.13) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adjusted RSS Revision Timetable ▪ Correspondence between Yvette Cooper MP and the Chairman, Cllr David Smith | Board Agreed 2.6.06 Board noted 6.10.06 |
| Work strand 19 – Urban & Rural Renaissance | | |
| Advocate RSS renaissance agenda – City Region (19.3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extensive officer involvement in Birmingham, Coventry & Black Country City Region ▪ Member involvement in Executive Board | Progress reports regularly submitted to the Board and full Assembly |

| Activity & Timetable | Additional Task Undertaken | Board Approval |
|--|---|--|
| Work Strand 33 - Social Inclusion | | |
| Regional Leaders Summit in Jan 2007 | Held summit with Meg Munn MP as keynote speaker | |
| Regional Presence of the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Officer and member involvement with CEHR Transition Team to inform appropriate regional presence for new Commission. ▪ Lead in establishment of ERN group to inform the regional presence of the CEHR. | Board endorsed development 02.06.07 |
| Worked with AWM/GOWM to develop equality audit assessment for ERDF 2007-13 | Implemented recommendation of Strategic Review via consultation event | |
| Contributed to Equalities Review | Leading on strategic direction for CEHR | |
| Work Strand 35 – Rural | | |
| Cross Border Working with the Welsh Assembly Government. | Cross Border Memorandum of Understanding developed. Officer groups to take develop a Cross Border Action Plan to deliver. | Memorandum signed by the Chairman in March 2007. |

Task off target ☹️☹️☹️

| WS No | Activity | Remedial Action |
|--|---|--|
| Work strand 14 – Communications | | |
| 14.1.2 | Produce and launch Scrutiny Annual Report | Now to be published in May 2007, to allow inclusion of outcomes of European review. Annual report will include a section on performance indicators. (see 30.1.1) |
| Work Strand 15 – Implementation | | |
| 15.1 | Update Implementation Framework including refining detailed implementation plan. | An interim refreshed implementation plan was prepared for December 2006. The full revision of the Implementation Plan will be completed by October 2007 to take on board RSS Phase 2 Preferred Option. |
| 15.2.1 | Review Communication Plan March 07 | This will now be handled as an integral part of the Review of the Implementation Plan within Phase 2 of the Partial Revision. Anticipated completion October 2007. |
| Work strand 24 – Housing | | |
| 24.2 | Build new RHS monitoring into the wider Monitoring arrangements under RSS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiate sub regional Housing Market Area Partnership engagement in monitoring | Partial work has already been undertaken by the Research team at Worcestershire CC to develop a Monitoring framework but will continue during the remainder of 2007. The process to monitor Local Authority spend of Capital Housing funding is due to commence in Spring 2007. |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | The Sub Regional Housing Market Area Partnerships (HMAP) have not had the capacity for involvement in Monitoring, due to their work on Joint Sub-Regional Housing Market Area and Needs Assessments, Joint Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessments and development of their Sub-Regional Housing Investment Strategies. Each HMAP will begin contributing from Spring 2007 and increase their degree of contribution as these tasks are completed (Autumn/ Wnter 2007). |
| WS No | Activity | Remedial Action |
| Work strand 30 - Strategic Review | | |
| 30.1.1 | Scrutiny Annual Report | Now to be published in May 2007 to allow inclusion of outcomes of European review. Annual report will include section on performance indicators. |
| 30.3.4 | Support for Skills Scrutiny Review (Aug 06 to Feb 07) | SRG agreed to postpone AWM scrutiny until May 2007 (or Feb if clusters not required) due to development of RES review evidence base and impact of IPA process on AWM. Following agreement to carry out the strategic review "The Region's Approach to Post 16 Education, Learning and Skills", SRG agreed to postpone the skills scrutiny review until after completion of this strategic review enabling a more focused scrutiny review to be informed by the wider strategic review |
| 30.4.1 | New Review 1 – to be identified Access to Finance | Strategic Review Group agreed to postpone scrutiny reviews during the IPA process Evidence gathering commenced in March and consultation will take place during June 2007. |

| WS No | Activity | Remedial Action |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Work strand 31 - Health | | |
| 31.5 | Preparation of a new action plan to improve access to Transport and Services. | Preparation of a new Action Plan was deferred because partners felt that the transport work plan should emerge from the development of the Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy. All RHP workplans will be reviewed and revised as part of the implementation process for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Sept 07 onwards). |
| Work strand 32 - Europe | | |
| 32.1.1 | To enable more effective delivery of the West Midlands European Strategy by rationalising regional EU and international affairs delivery structures. | The West Midlands Regional Assembly Strategic Review of Regional European Working makes 11 recommendations to be undertaken between June 2007 and June 2009 which will alter current structures resources and responsibilities. A dedicated resource is to be allocated to implement the recommendations which relate to (1) Strategic direction (2) Level of resources (3) Simplifying structures (4) Integrating work across WMRA policy areas (5) Using elected representatives (MEPs and CoRs) more effectively. |
| 32.1.2 | Develop the Virtual Secretariat to support European partnership groups and projects. | |
| 32.2 | To enable more effective delivery of the West Midlands European strategy by working with the RDA to agree clear work areas and policy priorities for regional partners including the West Midlands Brussels Office. | |
| 32.3.1 | To provide effective support to the regions members of the CoR and Congress | |

| WS No | Activity | Remedial Action |
|---|--|---|
| Work strand 38 – Regional Energy | | |
| 38.3.1 | Maintain a Regional Energy Advisory Board to advise and support the implementation of RENS | <p>Funding for the Regional Energy Board has been prematurely cut by the DTI and therefore the Regional Energy Advisory Board has stepped down pending clarification of the organisation of Regional Energy support. AWM has approved a Board paper which has recommended greater involvement by AWM in regional climate change issues, and this includes agreement in principle to support the work of the Energy Office beyond 2006/07.</p> <p>Arrangements to link this to the climate change regional working and advice and support have still to be clarified and agreed.</p> |

Task not going to happen ☠☠☠

Work Strand 19 – Urban and Rural Renaissance

| WS No | Activity | Board Approval/acknowledgment |
|--------|---|---|
| 19.1.2 | Reinvigorate urban renaissance working group. | Decision taken not to develop an urban network due to the work being undertaken on the City Regions Agendas which should deliver a similar function around delivery of urban renaissance. Assembly Secretariat & Board actively participating in City Region member and officer groups. |

Work Strand 30 – Strategic Review

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 30.3.3 | Clusters Scrutiny Review (June-Nov 06) | SRG agreed to postpone AWM focused scrutiny until Feb 2007 due to development of RES review evidence base and impact of IPA process on AWM Final Evaluation of Delivery Mechanisms Report awaited in order to identify if scrutiny of Clusters is still appropriate Following completion of final evaluation report and assertion by AWM that issues would be addressed within the RES and any revised delivery arrangements, SRG agreed that a separate scrutiny review would not add value. |
|--------|--|--|

Work Strand 33 – Social Inclusion

| | | |
|--------|--|---|
| 33.1.2 | Develop the Regional Equalities Agenda; Implement a regional programme of awards utilising existing award processes | No funding for awards programme so now linked into Business in the Community E&D Awards |
|--------|--|---|

Financial Report & Tables

A summary of the financial activity is set out in two tables to provide a profile across the two bid periods and a summary table with full year costs and final virements/funding positions.

Table 1 – WMRA 2006-07 Activity Profiled across Bid Periods

This report provides detail of all Assembly activity including that funded by other partners, for the two six month periods set against the revised budget and profiled into planning and non planning activity.

Table 2 – WMRA 2006-07 Final Totals and Virements

This report provides an overview of the year totals including;

- totals for planning and non planning expenditure
- final virements to the revised budget
- DCLG funded activity
- other partner funded activity

Key Notes to the Financial Report

- DCLG Planning Expenditure is £1,847,198 [81%] (including a legal contingency £18,705) and Non Planning expenditure is £423,199 [19%], with a general reserve of £2,529 accounting for the full funding allocation of £2,272,926.
- Partner contributions were £387,773.
- Bank interest £16,320 (net of corporation tax) is to be set aside as a reserve on the year.

- A sum of £20,000 (including vat) has been utilised to help meet costs of the expansion of the Regional Partnership Centre and some of this may yet be converted to capital assets during the annual audit process.

CLG Virements in the Final Period





- At the quarter 3 review the RSS Revision budget (WS18) identified for sub-regional foci and potential environment technical work was not required and was available for virement to support other priorities. Implementation (WS15) had an identified additional need for funding to begin work and strengthen the implementation study. An additional allocation of £40,000 in 2006-07 enabled us to tender for a study of the quality and depth needed and to begin this work sooner than anticipated.
- Within the Environment work strand (WS26) some additional work was undertaken with partner support of £7,300.
- Scrutiny received an initial 50% contribution from the LSC to commence work on their review which will be completed in 2007-08.
- The Health work strand (31) includes additional funding from WMPHO to extend the policy officer support until December 2007 as well as around £8,830 of Big Lottery funding to cover the cost of a consultant to develop phase 2 of the West Midlands bid to the BLF.

Table 1: (excel file)

Table 2: (excel file)

Year End Progress Report - All Work Strands

Reporting Methodology:

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|---|---|
|  | 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 |









| Work strand: 10, 11, 12, 13 CORPORATE | | | | | |
|--|------------|--|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Strategic Objective: To ensure good governance of the Assembly | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: Probity, transparency, efficiency and accountability | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Corporate Governance | 10/13.1 | Corporate Governance Action Plan | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Output to include Implementation of Revised Risk Management Process ▪ Revised Financial Process Systems ▪ Revised Appraisal System - outcome greater efficiency | June 2006 |
| | 10/13.2 | Risk Management | ☺ | | October 2006 |
| | | | ☺ | | October 2006 |
| Training/Capacity Building | 11.1 | Corporate training for staff and members | ☺ | Annually Revised Appraisal System | Ongoing |
| Members' Expenses | 12.1 | Remuneration panel review & advice on expense scheme | ☹ | Implement appropriate scheme | June 2007 |
| Regional Leadership | 13.4 | Review of the Regional Concordat | ☺ | Clarity on leadership roles and contributions of key organisations in light of Regional Funding Allocations | Spring 2007 |
| Financial Management | 13.5 | Preparation of Annual Budget and monitoring process. Implement Efficiency Proposal | ☺ | Streamlined management structures and clear process for budget monitoring and reporting | October 2006 |
| Compliance | 13.6 | Ensure compliance with legal/regularity regime | ☺ | Reduce risk of challenge | Ongoing |
| Probity | 13.7 | Implement Regional Code of Conduct for Planning. Once agreed, induct members | ☹ | Clear accountability and probity demonstrated | Spring 2006 - Spring 2007 |
| Audit | 13.8 | Annual Audit Programme | ☺ | Internal Audit function in place and reporting to Audit Committee 07-08 | Ongoing |

| Work strand: | | 14 COMMUNICATIONS | | | |
|---|------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| Strategic Objective: | | To communicate the purpose, status and work of the Assembly to appropriate audiences and raise the profile of the Region | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: | | Raised profile, comprehension of and engagement with the Assembly and raised positive profile of the Region | | | |
| Work Area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Support the delivery of the Assembly's work | 14.1.1 | Deliver campaign and publications to support Phases 2 & 3 of the RSS Review | ☺ ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of Options Document for Phase 2 • Publication of Draft Project Plan and Project Plan for Phase 3 and launch | Autumn 06 Jan 07 Spring 07 |
| | 14.1.2 | Produce Publications for Scrutiny and Strategic Reviews | ☹ ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication and launch of Scrutiny Annual Report • Production of summary leaflets for each Review | Delayed from March to June 07 Ongoing |
| | 14.1.3 | Produce publications and campaign to support RSS implementation work | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant audiences aware of and engaged with RSS, support documents produced | Ongoing |
| | 14.1.4 | Assist SWM with publication and launch of RSDF v 2 | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report produced and launch | May 06 |
| Communicate Assembly's work to Members and Partners | 14.2.1 | Publications | ☺ ☺ ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce Annual Report • Produce Business Plan • Produce quarterly Speaking Out Newsletter | June 06 June 06 Ongoing |
| | 14.2.2 | E-newsletters | ☹ ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to e-newsletters produced by partners • Produce new electronic newsletter for Assembly (10 per year) | Ongoing Ongoing |

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|---|--------|--|--------|---|------------------------|
| | 14.2.3 | Conference and Events | 😊 😊 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly AGM and Annual Event • Ensure Assembly is represented at partner events and conferences including AWM, RAWM, WMiE, LGA | July/Oct 06 Ongoing |
| | 14.2.4 | Website | 😊 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new website is up to date and is a useful resource for Members and Partners | Ongoing |
| Communicate Assembly's role and work to wider public audience | 14.3.1 | FOI | 😊 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage process for all FOI enquiries. 38 requests were received and responded to during the last 12 months. | Ongoing |
| | 14.3.2 | Website | 😊 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that new website is kept up to date | Monthly |
| | 14.3.3 | Press Releases | 😊 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce 5 press releases per quarter (see KPI below). Significantly exceeded KPI, by issuing 46 press releases (17 RSS related) over the last 12 months which achieved 480 hits in the media. | Ongoing |
| | 14.3.4 | Media monitoring, handling and response service | 😊 😊 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant media aware of existence and work of Assembly • Assembly seen as credible voice of region | Ongoing Ongoing |
| | 14.3.5 | Accessibility of information | 😊 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure procedures are in place to enable production of all material in appropriate formats that meet the needs of the region's population | Ongoing |
| Support Regional Marketing Strategy | 14.4 | Ongoing work with MTR team at AWM to deliver Regional Marketing Strategy | 😊 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange MTR presentation/event for key audiences: local authorities (WMLGA), other stakeholders (RAWM) and youth (UKYP) | Change to ongoing |

| | | | | | |
|--|------------|--|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | | ☹ | • Ongoing use of Regional Library | Ongoing |
| Work strand: 15 IMPLEMENTATION | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: Implementation of RSS so as to deliver balanced and sustainable development | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: Increase in the speed and quality of the delivery of RSS so as to deliver its vision by 2021 | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Implementation Framework | 15.1 | Update Implementation Framework including refining detailed implementation plan. | ☹ | An interim refreshed implementation plan was prepared for December 2006. The full revision of the Implementation Plan will be completed by October 2007 to take on board RSS Phase 2 Preferred Option. | March 2007 |
| Awareness Raising | 15.2.1 | Review Communications Plan | ☹ | This will now be handled as an integral part of the Review of the Implementation Plan within Phase 2 of the Partial Revision. Anticipated completion October 2007. Higher quality proposals supporting RSS and greater use of RSS and conformity processes | March 2007 Now Apr 07 |
| | 15.2.2 | Influence potential future regionally significant development proposals | ☹ | | On-going |
| Training | 15.3 | Assessment of performance and suitability of Preferred Training | ☺ | 50% of authorities attended but in future | July 2006 |

| | | Partner approach to training programme on the new planning system. | | will deliver to individual LAs or sub-regional as well as formalised inductions for new members | |
|--|------|--|-------------------|---|--|
| Prioritisation | 15.4 | Support Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) process. | ☺ | Improve quality of advice to Government on RFA. Input into Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. | Ongoing |
| Brownfield Land | 15.5 | Participate in developing a regional brownfield land agenda. Including potential financial contribution to research. | ☺ | Assist in the removal of a key obstacle to delivering RSS urban renaissance objectives. Input into the RES review. | Ongoing |
| Work strand: 16 MONITORING | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: To provide an objective and accurate assessment of the impact and implementation of RSS. | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: To cost effectively enable (i) the assessment of progress towards the RSS and inform its Review, (ii) an assessment of the wider context in which the Regional Strategies operate, (iii) harmonise monitoring activities of Regional Strategies. | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| [16] Monitoring | 16.1 | To fulfill the Regulations appertaining to the monitoring of RSS through the RSS monitoring framework | ☺ ☺ ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Responsibility: Preparation of Annual Monitoring Report to include consideration of sub-regions, policies not being implemented recommended issues for policy review. Collection and review of monitoring framework defined data Through membership of the ERN Monitoring Liaison Group influence | Feb 2007 Ongoing Ongoing |

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| | | | | and contribute to the development of future monitoring requirements and share experiences and good practice with other Assemblies. | |
| 16.2 | To provide WMRA and its partners with an enhanced understanding of progress towards the RSS Objectives |    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancements to statutory responsibility via preparation of detailed monitoring reports on Housing & Employment Policy areas. • To hold a Regional Stakeholder's event to share findings and inform future policy development/review. • Continued support and development for the WMRA GIS-based monitoring system (WRADAR). Support Policy leads' information requirements with pertinent & timely info. | <p>May 2006</p> <p>June 2006 Ongoing (use other events to promote RSS) ongoing</p> | |
| 16.3 | To integrate RSS information and monitoring requirements with those of other strategies |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To rationalise the various Regional Strategies' monitoring frameworks to ensure maximum cross-over • To develop joint approaches to the monitoring of the Regional Strategies • Where appropriate develop themed monitoring publications reporting on progress more than one strategy • To acknowledge and implement the emerging monitoring requirements in respect of SEA and SA Guidance • To develop Regional approach to Contextual and Outcomes monitoring | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>RSS/RES ongoing As above</p> <p>Housing by June Nov 2007</p> <p>By March 2007</p> <p>Ongoing</p> | |

| Work strand: 17 CONFORMITY | | | | | |
|---|------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| Strategic Objective: Local Development Documents (LDD's) and regionally significant development which conforms to the RSS and contribute to delivery of its 2021 vision | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: All LDD's and regionally significant planning applications contribute to realising the region's RSS vision. A timely and efficient conformity function. | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Conformity | 17.1 | General conformity of Development Plans. | ☹ | Assessment and opinion issued within statutory deadline of 42 days. During 2006/07 the Assembly provided 13 formal opinions to Local Planning Authorities. All opinions made within 42 days. | 42 days. Ongoing work |
| | 17.2 | General conformity of regionally significant planning applications. | ☹ | Assessment and opinion issued within statutory deadline of 21 days or agreed deadline with Local Planning Authority. During 06/07 the Assembly provided formal opinions of conformity in respect of 23 planning applications. All responses were made within 21 days or agreed date. | 21 days or agreed date. Ongoing work |
| | 17.3 | Respond to pre submission development plans and pre application consultations. | ☹ | Responses to pre submission development plans within deadlines requested by the local planning authority. During 2006/07 the Assembly provided 31 informal opinions to Local Planning Authorities. All of which were made on time. | 42 days or agreed date. |

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|------|--|---|---|---|
| | | | Responses to pre application consultations within statutory deadline of 21 days or agreed deadline with Local Planning Authority. No pre application consultations received in 06/07 | 21 days or agreed date. |
| 17.4 | Internal Monitoring - production and maintenance of database recording the Assembly's formal conformity advice and outcomes following that advice. | ☺ | Database produced to aid reporting in respect of 17.1 and 17.2 and annual statutory consultee report to CLG. The outcome of the advice given is also monitored and reported to the RPP/RPE. | Extended to November 2007. Now complete |
| 17.5 | Monitoring of implementation of Conformity Protocol by Development Plans Sub-group. | ☺ | Development and review of Conformity Protocol | Ongoing |
| 17.6 | Liaison and development of best practice with RPB colleagues via ERN Conformity Group. | ☺ | Develop system for cross boundary referral of regionally significant planning applications. | October 2006 |
| 17.7 | Promotion and marketing | ☺ | Increased awareness with target audiences for example Local Planning Authorities staff and Members, including induction of new Members. | Ongoing |
| 17.8 | Support RPB position on LDD's and regionally significant planning application at inquiry. | ☺ | Integrity of RSS/RPB position/policy maintained. | Ongoing |
| 17.9 | Continued support and development of training programme on the new planning system with preferred trainer. | ☺ | Good take up of training course offered but in future will deliver training to individual LAs or sub-regional, as well as formalised inductions for new members | Ongoing |

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|-------------------------------------|------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | 17.10 | Review outcome of Coventry Airport Inquiry together with costs and capacity required to represent the Assembly | ☹ | Evaluation report for Assembly Board on lessons learnt | July 2006 (outcome still not known Decision due Spring/Summer 07) |
| Work strand: 18 RSS REVISION | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: | | To undertake 'revisions' to the approved Regional Spatial Strategy, as required by the Secretary of State, in order to ensure that it continues to provide a framework to guide the sustainable development of the West Midlands | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: | | That the 'revisions' to the RSS (Phases 1-3) are undertaken in line with the RSS Outline Management Plan and meet the provisions of PPS11 | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Phase 2 | 18.1 | To analyse the responses to the consultation on the Draft Project Plan | ☺ | A report to the RPP in May 2006 highlighting the key issues and concerns identified through the consultation process | May 2006 |
| | 18.2 | To prepare and publish a final Project Plan incorporating changes resulting from the consultation responses | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report to the RPE recommending changes to the Project Plan Re-publication of the Project Plan | April 2006 June 2006 |
| | 18.3 | To complete all necessary technical work to enable the completion of 'briefs' to guide work of S4(4) authorities | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All relevant technical work completed and added to WMRA website Dependent upon receipt of ONS household projections at Strategic Authority level in order to establish 'housing scenarios' | April 2006 |

| | | | | |
|------|---|--------|--|--|
| 18.4 | To prepare 'briefs' to guide the S4(4) authorities in providing 'advice' to the RPB on the development of Options (i.e. take into account the available evidence base, sub-regional spatial relationship inc Housing Market Areas, the need for open and inclusive working and SA requirements) | ☺ | A report setting out the details of the briefs to be approved by the Regional Planning Executive in February 2006 and reported to the RPP in May 2006 | May 2006 |
| 18.5 | Preparation of 'advice' to the RPB by the S4(4) authorities | ☺ | Submission of 'advice' to the RPB by the S4(4) authorities | May 2006 |
| 18.6 | Development of Partnership 'Reference Groups' | ☺ | Establishment of working arrangements for a range of RSS Reference Groups to enable effective partnership engagement in the RSS Phase 2 (and subsequently Phase 3) revision process | April 2006 |
| 18.7 | Development of 'Options' as a basis for consultation | ☺ ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of an 'Options' Report by the RPP before the Summer recess. The adjustment of the timetable was agreed by the Minister Yvette Cooper MP. (i.e. need for 'special' meeting) Publish the 'Options' report for consultation | July 2006 Oct 06 Sept 2006 Jan 07 |
| 18.8 | Develop SA/SEA of the 'Options' report - see WS27 | ☺ | | |
| 18.9 | Consultation of 'Options' report | ☺ | Undertake wide-ranging consultation on the 'Options' report including appropriate arrangements at the sub-regional dimension | Oct/Nov 06 Jan 07 |

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| | 18.10 | Development of Preferred Option | ☹ | Involvement of S4(4) authorities and other partners in the development of the Preferred Option | Winter 2006 Spring 07 |
| | 18.11 | Development of SA/SEA on Preferred Options report (See WS 27) | ☹ | | |
| | 18.12 | Undertake technical work to address Phase 3 issues | ☺ | All relevant work completed and added to WMRA website | March 2007 |
| Work strand: 19 URBAN AND RURAL RENAISSANCE | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: To create towns and cities where people choose to live and rural areas that people are not forced to leave | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: Renaissance activity that contributes to the quality and sustainability of our towns, cities and rural areas | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Support the Urban and Rural Renaissance Working Groups | 19.1.1 | Maintain rural network and further develop work plan actions to implement RSS | ☹ | Utilise rural network to devise, own and implement RSS rural renaissance activity. | Ongoing |
| | 19.1.2 | Reinvigorate urban renaissance working group | ☹ | Establish new urban network and refresh work plan for urban renaissance | |
| Support RSS Phase 3 Critical Rural Services Study | 19.2 | Carry forward rural services scoping study into Phase 3 of the review | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality input into phase 3 study/RSS policy Use scoping study to inform implementation and preparation for Phase 3 | March 2007 |
| Advocate RSS renaissance agenda | 19.3 | Engage with external strategies and initiatives e.g. RES, city-regions, Black Country Study, Rural | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and influence strategies and initiatives to implement RSS renaissance objectives Improve quality of advice to | On-going |

| | | Delivery Framework, Midlands Way to ensure positive links to RSS renaissance agenda | | Government on RFA. Input into CSR 2007 | |
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| Work strand: 20 PARTNERING & PARTICIPATION | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: | | To increase partner and community involvement and participation in the work of the Assembly, particularly in respect to RSS activity. | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: | | A representative Assembly which encourages all of its communities to engage and participate in its work and that of partners and stakeholders to help deliver their vision. | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| To ensure full engagement of other stake holders in work of the RA | 20.1 | Co-ordination and support of OSG. | ☹ | Full representation and review of impact of OSG | Ongoing |
| To ensure full engagement of business community in work of the RA | 20.2 | To ensure full engagement of business community in the work of the Assembly | ☹ | WMBC representation and review of impact of business sector | Ongoing |
| To ensure full engagement of local authorities in the work of the RA | 20.3 | Co-ordination and support of local authority representation | ☹ | LA representation and review of impact of local govt. | Ongoing |
| Effective partnership working | 20.4 | Continue to review the composition and effectiveness of Assembly partnership structure | ☹ | Effective and representative partnerships | Ongoing |
| To fully engage the community in RSS work | 20.5 | Work with partner organisations to engage groups in relevant aspects of RSS work | ☹ | Engage groups in RSS. Over the past year considerable efforts have been expended in building the contribution of partner | Ongoing |

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| | | | | organisations to the work of the Assembly. In respect of the RSS, the latest consultation attracted 1300 responses and an increasingly wide range of organisations are now involved in the Task Group, working groups and various Steering Groups associated with the Review. Building on earlier work, there is also an ongoing discussion with a range of organisations (including professional bodies, representative groups as well as delivery agencies) with view to enhancing their involvement and mutual alignment of activity. | |
| Work strand: 21 BLACK COUNTRY STUDY | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: To undertake Phase One 'revision' to the approved Regional Spatial Strategy as required by the Secretary of State in order to ensure that it continues to provide a framework to guide the sustainable development of the West Midlands, focusing on the sub regional area of the Black Country | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: That the Phase One revision to the RSS is undertaken in line with the RSS Outline Management Plan and meet the provisions of PPS11 | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Phase 1 | 21.1 | Analysing the responses to the consultation on the Options | ☺ | A report to the RPP in April 2006 highlighting the key issues and concerns identified through the consultation process | April 2006 |
| | 21.2 | Develop in consultation with partners and stakeholders the Preferred option | ☺ | A report to the RPP recommending the preferred option | April 2006 |

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| | 21.3 | Submission to the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 12 and 13 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 | ☺ | Submitted documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed revision SA Report Pre submission consultation statement Supporting technical documents | May 2006 |
| | 21.4 | Preparation for the Examination in Public | ☺ | Representations and submissions prepared in timely manner | Dec 2006 |
| Work strand: 22 TRANSPORT | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: Improve significantly the Region's transport systems | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: Evidence that the Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) has influenced the broad range of cross-cutting policy areas | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Influence European and national policies and programmes | 22.1 | Advocate and 'Champion' the RTS, to co-ordinate delivery programmes and integrate with other policy areas | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the RTS is influenced by and influences relevant European/national policies/plans/programmes including Regional Funding Allocations and the CSR 2007 Increase awareness Synergy with [15] Implementation (Performance Indicators) and [16] Monitoring | On-going |
| Shape the Local Development Documents (LDD) | 22.2 | Work with local authorities to ensure their planning and transport policies, plans and programmes deliver the RTS | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the RTS is integrated with WM LDDs/LTPs Synergy with [15] Implementation (Performance Indicators) and [16] Monitoring | On-going |

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| Review and Update the Transport Delivery Plan (TDP) | 22.3 | Review and update the original TDP (March 2005) | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised TDP Synergy with [15] Implementation (Performance Indicators) and [16] Monitoring | Spring 2007 |
| RSS Revision | 22.4 | Complete RSS Revision Phases 1-3, including transport linkages with housing, sub-regional foci and rural services | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical advice and develop policy for revised RSS/RTS Synergy with [15] Implementation (Performance Indicators) and [16] Monitoring | Autumn 2008 |
| Work strand: 24 HOUSING | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: | | To improve the range and quality of housing choice across the region and to address issues of affordability | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: | | To implement the Regional Housing Strategy 2005 in support of the RSS, thereby facilitating improvements to the regions Housing Markets and contributing to urban and rural renaissance balanced and sustainable communities | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Review of Shared Evidence Base | 24.1 | Receive CURS Stage 3 report | ☺ | Contribute to the debate on RSS Review policy implications for the RSS and the development of sub regional housing strategies | End April 2006 |
| Monitoring | 24.2 (cross ref to 16.3) | Build new RHS monitoring into wider Monitoring arrangements under RSS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of housing monitoring framework | ☹ | Track implementation of RSS and RHS in support of urban renaissance | June 2006 Ongoing |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate Sub regional Housing Market Partnership | ☹ | Inform Sub regional HMA Partnership Joint Housing Work | June 2006 Ongoing |

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| | | <p>engagement in monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of RHS monitoring into Phase 2 of RSS | ☹ | Inform review of policy - RSS/RHS | Dec 2006 Ongoing |
| Advising on housing research budget (part of single pot) | 24.3 | To support Sandwell MBC and RHB with client briefs for research topics to be commissioned | ☺ | Essential research to be commissioned as agreed with RHB June 2005 | April 2006 onwards per RHB agreed schedule |
| Implementation of RHS | 24.4.1 | Establish protocols for co-ordination of Regional Assembly Housing team, GOWM and Housing Corporation and maintain joint liaison meetings | ☺ | Meet with GOWM Housing team and HC Investment team and implement protocols for HMA Partnerships | Feb 2006 and regularly thereafter - frequency to be agreed |
| | 24.4.2 | Establish and maintain Regional institutional engagement with all four sub regional housing market area partnerships | ☺ | Development of sub-regional housing strategies and other joint work | Feb 2006 onwards |
| | 24.4.3 | With planning colleagues and Housing Corporation undertake detailed housing and planning information gathering | ☺ | Extend the understanding of housing needs and planning issues at the local authority level to better inform RHS/RSS reviews | Complete by end April 2007 |
| | 24.4.4 | Strategic networking within the Region, and continued involvement in ;- Rural Housing Network BME Network Regional Homelessness Group | ☺ | Extend the understanding of how the RHS is being applied thematically and extend the WMRA facilitation in each thematic area subject to resources | Ongoing |

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| | | SP Regional group and Sub regional housing partnerships | | | |
| Maximise the delivery of affordable housing | 24.5 | Produce guide on Good Practice for the West Midlands LAs to maximize the delivery of affordable housing with the aim of ensuring improved officer and member understanding of the regions affordable housing needs | ☺ | Initiate Region-wide engagement and start the development of a good practice guide Publish guide to Affordable housing Aim to focus creative energy on tackling top political priority in many parts of the region | All July 2006 Delivered Nov 2006 |
| Contribution to Policy development and projects of: RSS Partial Review 2 Re-examination of housing needs (subject to funding approval) | 24.6.1 | With RHP/RHB inform potential review process; Subject to the release of ONS household projections - recalculate the sub regional affordable and social housing requirements with the revised RSS housing land release figures. | ☺ | Technical preparation of Brief and package for tendering Revised RHS table [3.12] | April 2006 In line with RSS Partial Review Phase 2 |
| Regional Funding Allocations | 24.6.2 | Work with AWM/GOWM & other assembly partners to secure appropriate structures to facilitate Regional Funding Allocations. | ☺ | Take forward the work submitted to Government in Jan 2006 Future activity subject to ODPM Guidance and CSR 2007 | Dec 2006 |

| Work Strand: 25 REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD | | | | | |
|---|------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| Strategic Objective: To improve the quality of Regional Planning and Housing leadership and decision making, in order to improve the range and quality of housing choice across the region, maximize the supply of affordable housing and to address issues of affordability | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: To have a Regional Housing Strategy which supports the RSS, thereby facilitating improved availability and contributing to urban and rural renaissance with balanced and sustainable communities | | | | | |
| Work Area/Objective | No: | Key Action/Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Establish new Regional Housing Board and secretariat arrangements | 25.1 | Engage and consult with key partners | ☺ | New RHB established and systems/procedures in place | Proposals to ODPM end Jan 2006 operational target Sept 2006 |
| Recruit new staff and establish new team | 25.2 | Recruit and induct team | ☺ | New staff recruited | Operational target Sept 2006 |
| Annual monitoring of RHS | 25.3 | Align monitoring of RHS with monitoring of RSS | ☺ | Integrated monitoring system under development. Inform review of policy RSS & RHS | Housing Market Summary delivered December 2006 |
| Allocation of Single Pot | 25.4 | Draft the Regional Allocation Strategy 2008-11 | ☺ ☹ | Allocation of Single Pot support RHS priorities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review allocations with Housing Corporation for 2007/2008 ▪ Prepare allocations with Housing Corporation for 2008/201 | Sept 2006 June 2007 |

| Work strand: 26 REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT & WASTE PLANNING | | | | | |
|--|------------|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Strategic Objective: To protect and improve the region's environment | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: Conserved and enhanced quality of urban and rural environments and prudent and efficient use of natural resources. | | | | | |
| Work area/objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output/Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Provide leadership, advice and development of regional environmental planning integrated with the RSS review; RSS Review Phases 1-3: | 26.1 | Participate in the integration and development of policy and technical work across different phases | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide technical advice and develop policy for phase 2 ▪ Phase 3 develop technical advice | Autumn '06 |
| | | | ☹ | | Spring '07 |
| RSS Implementation: | 26.2.1 | Develop guidance on Biodiversity Enhancement Areas | ☺ | BEA guidance issued to LPA and other stakeholders | March 2007 |
| | 26.2.2 | Complete roll out of Landscape Characterisation approach and into RSS | ☺ | Landscape Character approach rolled out to LAs and stakeholders | March 2007 |
| | 26.2.3 | Develop brownfield land action plan for MUAs | ☺ | Brownfield land action plan produced | March 2007 |
| | 26.2.4 | Complete Green Infrastructure prospectus and initial scoping report | ☺ | Prospectus completed | March 2007 |

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| RSS Waste Planning: | 26.3 | Development of regional waste report/strategy | ☺ | Completion of regional waste report/strategy | December 2006 |
| RSS Aggregates Planning: | 26.4 | Production of RAWP Annual report | ☺ | Completion of RAWP Annual Report | Sept 2006 |
| Contribute to policy development and projects of: | 26.5 | West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of Regional Biodiversity Delivery plan • Delivery of SITA Enriching Nature programme | June 2006 March 2007 |
| | 26.6 | West Midlands Historic Environment Forum | ☺ | Review of Draft Regional Historic Environment Strategy/ Heritage Counts report 2006. | March 2007 |
| | 26.7 | West Midlands Regional Environment Partnership | ☺ | Production of revised EP Forward Plan | May 2006 |
| | 26.8 | National ERN Environment Group network/ERN defra/RTPI EPP network | ☺ | Lead and influence national environmental policy agenda, building regional links and with national LGA including review of national waste strategy/ national and EU flood risk policy and climate change policy | ongoing |
| | 26.9 | West Midlands Forestry and Woodland Forum | ☺ | Production of Regional Forestry Framework policy. Delivery Plan 2006-08 (see WS37) | June 2006 |

| Work strand: 27 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | | | | | |
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| Strategic Objective: To develop a region where everyone enjoys a high quality of life, meeting their aspirations and needs without prejudicing quality of life for other communities and future generations | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: To increase the policy integration and delivery of sustainable development into RSS and across other regional strategies | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Deliver Assembly's high-level commitment to SD | 27.1 | Engage with SWM to implement ongoing programme of support to Assembly and Partnerships | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership SD working reports to Assembly AGM | July 2006 |
| Embed regional sustainable development objectives in regional/local strategic policies and plans | 27.2 | Development of RSDF and integration of RSDF objectives into policy development and review of key regional strategies | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion and launch of RSDF version 2 Promotion of RSDF including maintaining and updating RSDF website Use of RSDF in Partial Review of RSS Promote use of RSDF in review of RES | June 2006 |
| | | | ☹ | | [Ongoing] |
| | | | ☺ | | Autumn 2006 |
| | | | ☺ | | Autumn 2006 |
| Regional Planning To promote sustainable development through integration of sustainability appraisal into RSS reviews and promote use in RES. | 27.3.1 | Prepare the Black Country SA Report, advise EIP process | ☺ | SA Report produced, to influence RSS options report and development of preferred option | Spring '06 |
| | 27.3.2 | Finalise aims and methods for monitoring and respond to adverse effects | ☹ | Monitoring methods prepared | Ongoing |
| | 27.3.3 | Complete Final Black Country SA report | ☺ | Completed SA Report | Summer '06 |

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| | 27.4.1 | Prepare the RSS Phase 2 revision SA Scoping Report, consultation and Final report | ☺ | RSS Phase 2 SA Scoping Report | April 2006 |
| | 27.4.2 | Develop and refine options and assess effects. Develop monitoring proposals | ☺ ☹ | SA report. Options assessed and refined in light of SA Monitoring proposals being developed as part of Preferred Option development. | Autumn 2006 July 2007. |
| Policy Integration and Development | 27.5 | Integration of RSS SA work with SA/SEA of the RES | ☺ | Joint work with AWM through RSS Task Group on Sa/SEA of RSS and RES | Autumn '06 |
| Work strand: 28 ECONOMY | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: Take forward RSS Prosperity for All | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: To ensure that PA policies are taken forward in LDFs and initiate preparation for the RSS revision process | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Reassessment of strategic employment land designations | 28.1 | RSS policy lead with WMELAG to coordinate | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake technical work and develop into Preferred Option for RSS Phase 2 Revn Further development to feed into Preferred Option | May 06 |
| | | | ☹ | | May 07 |
| Identification of strategic network of centres | 28.2 | RSS policy lead with Centres Group to co-ordinate. | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress completed technical work into Preferred Option for RSS Phase 2 Revision Further development to feed into Preferred Option | May 06 |
| | | | ☹ | | May 07 |

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| Identification of warehousing and distribution facilities | 28.3 | RSS policy lead with WMELAG to co-ordinate. | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress completed technical work into Options for RSS Phase 2 Revision Further development for feed into preferred option | May 06 |
| | | | ☹ | | May 07 |
| Support for the Regional Economic Development Officers Group | 28.4 | Facilitate an effective network and sub groups (eg Cluster Group) as appropriate Support in implementing RSS and lead role for WMRA on RES review | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide economic policy advice to WMRA including response to RES review (to summer 2007). Development and implementation of work plan | Ongoing |
| | | | ☹ | | |
| Work strand: 29 LEGAL EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: To ensure the Assembly is appropriately represented and advised particularly on RPB conformity matters | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: Ensure adequate funding for legal advice and representation | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Legal/External Advice | 29.1 | To agree a representation protocol to establish if, how and when the Assembly as the RPB is represented at any public inquiries | ☺ | To defend the integrity of the Regional Spatial Strategy on behalf of the Secretary of State | December 06 |
| | 29.2 | Take such advice as required to ensure compliance with all statutory and legal requirements on the company | ☹ | Compliance with legal requirements and thereby maintain probity, reputation and performances | Reactive |
| | 29.3 | To establish a Legal Advisory Group | ☹ | To provide an early consultation facility on issues of legality | March 2007 July 2007 |

| Work strand: 30 SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC REVIEW | | | | | |
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| Strategic Objective: To improve the region's collective performance in addressing key regional priorities and AWM's performance in respect of delivering the regional economic strategy | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: Improved policies and delivery mechanisms that reflect the needs of the region. To examine the effectiveness of Advantage West Midlands and delivery partners in relation to the Regional Economic Strategy and Tasking Framework. | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome (with reference to Performance Indicators) | Delivery - Target Date |
| Support Scrutiny and Strategic Review process | 30.1.1 | Support and advise Strategic Review Group | ☺ ☹ ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 meetings per year • Publication of annual report • Preparation of annual scrutiny performance indicator report | Quarterly Annual report to be published in May/ June 2007 Will form part of annual scrutiny report |
| | 30.1.2 | Budgetary Control | ☺ ☺ ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of planned activities within allocated budget • Quarterly reports • Preparation of Annual Budget | |
| | 30.1.3 | Development of process to monitor implementation of review recommendations | ☺ ☺ ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop process with Advantage West Midlands/Government Office West Midlands • Strategic Review Group agreement • Trial of process | May 2006 Oct 2006 Jan 2007 |

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| | 30.1.4 | Assessment of impact of IPA on scrutiny process | ☺ ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of pilot IPAs Amendment of processes | Sep 2006 Mar 2007 |
| | 30.1.5 | Liaison with Protocol Partners | ☺ ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly meetings with GOWM Regular discussions with AWM | |
| Scrutiny of Advantage WM | 30.2.1 | Annual Report by AWM to Assembly | ☺ ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of intent/content Formal report to full Assembly | May 2006 Oct 2006 |
| | 30.2.2 | Scrutiny outcomes to contribute to RES Revision | ☺ ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal discussions with AWM/GOWM Written contributions as appropriate | Up to summer 2007 |
| Scrutiny Reviews | 30.3.1 | Rural Renaissance | ☺ ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Report to be submitted to Assembly Publication of review summary | April 2006 May 2006 |
| | 30.3.2 | Regeneration Zone Revisited | ☺ ☺ ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on draft report Final Report to be submitted to Assembly Publication of review summary | May 2006 July 2006 Aug 2006 |
| | 30.3.3 | Clusters | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of evidence gathering Consultation on draft report Final Report to be submitted to Assembly Publication of review summary | June 2006 July 2006 Oct 2006 Nov 2006 |
| | 30.3.4 | Support for Skills | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation Evidence gathering stage Consultation on draft report Final Report to be submitted to Assembly Publication of review summary | July 2007 Oct 2007 Dec 2007 Jan 2008 Feb 2008 |
| Scrutiny Review | 30.4.1 | New Review 1 - to be | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation | Jan 2006 |

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| Strategic Review | | identified Access to Finance | ☹ ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence gathering stage Consultation on draft report | May 2007 Jun 2007 |
| | 30.4.2 | New Review 2 - to be identified The Region's Approach to Post 16 Education, Learning and Skills | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation | Mar 2007 |
| | 30.4.3 | The Regions Relationship with Europe post 2006 | ☺ ☺ ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation Evidence gathering stage Consultation on draft report | May 2007 Jan 2008 Feb 2008 |
| ERN Regional Accountability Group | 30.5 | Provision of Chair and Secretarial Support | ☺ ☺ ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Meetings Scrutiny Conference - Members Links with other organisations | Quarterly Jan 07 Ongoing |
| Work strand: 31 HEALTH | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: | | To work in Partnership to address health inequalities, ensure better health and to improve quality of life in the West Midlands | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: | | To deliver effective action on all Regional Health Priorities thereby contributing to improved health | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome (with ref to Performance Indicators) | Delivery - Target Date |
| Support the Regional Health Partnership | 31.1 | Set up and support four Regional Health Partnership meetings | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four meetings held | Ongoing |
| Develop a Regional Health Strategy | 31.2.1 | Set up and support six Officer Group meetings | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six meetings held | Ongoing |

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| | 31.2.2 | Draft a Regional Health Strategy based on improving health and well being and reducing health inequalities in the West Midlands | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of a draft 5yr Regional Health Strategy based on collation of data from LSPs, LAAs and community plans • Align RHP workplans to Regional Health Strategy • Make links to the new West Midlands Strategic Health Authority subject to consultation | <p>Draft July 06 Now March 07</p> <p>July 2006 onwards* After consultation April 2006 Onwards*</p> |
| Promoting; -Physical Activity, Food and nutrition, -Impact of 'NHS as a Corporate Citizen' -Developing Effective Health Alliances | 31.3 | Progress all actions from the Physical Activity Workplan, Healthy Alliances Workplan, NHS as a Corporate Citizen Workplan and; Food and Nutrition Workplan | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress on all actions identified | Ongoing* |
| Reducing Tobacco consumption | 31.4 | Progress actions in the Draft Delivery Plan for Tobacco Control and Smoking Cessation in the West Midlands | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress on regional priorities in the Draft Delivery Plan for Tobacco Control and Smoking Cessation in the West Midlands • Review work in association with the West Midlands Tobacco Control Network | Ongoing* April 2006 |
| Improving Access to Transport and Services | 31.5 | To prepare a new action plan | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan approved • Work on actions commenced | <p>April 2006 Summer 07 After consultation</p> |












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| Ensure Health informs the RSS review process | 31.6 | Health matters to be considered as part of RSS review | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report from RSS and Health event to go to RHP Support RSS reference group | Jan 2006 Ongoing* |
| Health Proofing of Regional Policies | 31.7 | Incorporate health matters into Policy development | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of a 'Policy watch' tool against which policy/plans can be 'health proofed' | Ongoing* |
| Work strand: 32 EUROPE | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: For the West Midlands to be regarded as a world class region within Europe | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: For the west midlands to engage fully with the institutions of the EU | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Develop drive and deliver the WM European Strategic Framework 2004-2010 | 32.1.1 | To enable more effective delivery of the West Midlands European Strategy by rationalising regional EU and international affairs delivery structures | ☹ | Clear terms of reference for EU partnership groups and their reporting lines into the Assembly's EIAP | May 06 Now Feb 07 |
| | 32.1.2 | Develop the Virtual Secretariat to support European partnership groups and projects | ☹ | Ongoing financial commitment from partners | Feb 07 |
| | 32.1.3 | Work with strategic regional partners to deliver the new 2007-2013 Structural Funds Programmes | ☹ | Programming document(s) Delivery Structures | Ongoing |
| Enable members of the Assembly to engage effectively with systems of European and International | 32.2 | To enable more effective delivery of the West Midlands European strategy by working with the RDA to agree clear work areas and policy priorities for regional partners including the West | ☹ | Jointly agreed work programme - Assembly/AWM/WMiE | May 06 |

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| governance in the best interests of the region | | Midlands Brussels Office | | | |
| Support and facilitate the development of effective European understanding and engagement across Assembly regional policy partnerships | 32.3.1 | To provide effective support to the regions members of the CoR and Congress | ☹ | Establish a network of policy leads to cover the relevant CoR commissions and Congress work | May 06 To be agreed |
| | 32.3.2 | EU engagement across WMRA Policy partnerships | ☹ | Regular briefings to Policy partnerships and the Assembly as appropriate to ensure that members develop an understanding of and engagement with EU policy and funding issues | Ongoing |
| Ensure that the WM RSS links into the ESDP | 32.4 | Link RSS to Euro Spatial Development perspective | ☺ | The partial review of the RSS will take account of relevant EU issues and the West Midlands strategic framework | Ongoing |

NB: The delivery dates above ☹ have slipped due to the WMRA Strategic Review of Regional European Working which makes eleven recommendations to be undertaken between June 2007 and June 2009, which will alter current structure resources and responsibilities (see also the exeption report).

These recommendations relate to;

- (1) Strategic direction.
- (2) Level of resources.
- (3) Simplifying structures.
- (4) Integrating EU work across WMRA policy areas.
- (5) Using elected representatives, MEPs and CoR members more effectively.

| Work strand: | | 33 SOCIAL INCLUSION | | | |
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| Strategic Objective: | | To achieve equality of access and opportunity in all aspects of life for all the region's inhabitants | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: | | Integration of social inclusion objectives into regional strategies and operating plans thereby contributing to a more truly inclusive region | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Implement outcomes from the Strategic Review of Equalities and Diversity | 33.1.1 | Develop new structures |     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Core Membership for new Partnership Body Agree terms of reference and methods of operating Develop links with appropriate Officer Groups Develop secretariat arrangements | April 2006 June 2006 Sept 2006 Sept 2006 |
| | 33.1.2 | Develop the Regional Equalities Agenda |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree Work Plan Work with Partnership to develop branding Support Concordat partners in carrying out audits Identify mechanisms to enable sharing of information Implement a regional programme of awards utilising existing award processes | May 2006 Sep 2006 Spring 2007 Jan 2007 Mar 2007 |
| Strengthen the social aspect of Sustainable Development in the region | 33.2 | Work with Sustainability West Midlands to; |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include social aspects within the revised RSDF Strengthen and support Membership from the social | April 2006 Ongoing |

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| | | | ☺ ☺ | sector • Raise the profile of the social aspect of Sustainable Development • Contribute to the RES revision process | Ongoing Up to summer 2007 |
| Support the RSS Partial Review Process | 33.3 | Enable input from key organisations and networks | ☺ ☺ | • Establish RSS reference group • Feed into options and preferred option stages | April 2006 Ongoing |
| Work strand: 34a CULTURE | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: To make the West Midlands a special place offering the best through a wide range of cultural all. choice for the greatest number of people contributing to prosperity and health for all. | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: To support the implementation of Regional Cultural Strategy Actions Update & the development of the new Regional Cultural Strategy | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| To support the implementation of the RCS Actions Update & the preparation of the new Regional Cultural Strategy (inc tourism) | 34.1 | Actively participate in and ensure Assembly engagement with Strategy preparation & consultation process | ☹ | • Further proposals for joint working across the Cultural sector at the local & sub-regional level • Co-ordinated cross-sectoral working between local & sub-regional partnerships & regional agencies | Ongoing |
| To play a lead co-ordinating role in regional work to maximise opportunities from the London 2012 | 34.2 | Support & lead (where appropriate) regional structures and ensure effective regional representation in national | ☹ | A region capitalising on 2012 opportunities with well-developed legacy plans | Ongoing |

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| Olympics | | structures notably the Nations & Regions Group | | | |
| To support policy leads for Phase 3 of RSS revision ensuring input to the process from the cultural sector focusing particularly on Quality of Life issues and recreational space | 34.3 | Secure technical information. | ☺ | An RSS that supports the strategic objective of making the West Midlands a special place offering the best through a wide range of cultural choice for the greatest number of people contributing to prosperity and health for all. | spring 2007 |
| With Culture WM, ensure wide cultural input to the RES Review | 34.4 | | ☹ | Submission to RES Review. | Up to spring 2007 |
| To provide input to the Assembly and relevant Policy Partnerships on regional cultural matters & ensure they are briefed on new policy developments including changes to policy on casinos (Gambling Bill) | 34.5.1 | Regular briefings to Policy Partnerships & the Assembly as appropriate to ensure members develop an understanding of & engagement with cultural policy, funding or relevant legislative issues | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed & engaged Assembly on cultural issues • Strategic co-ordination (e.g via support of WM Tourism Officers with HET, TWM & AWM) to further implementation of the Visitor Economy | Ongoing |
| | 34.5.2 | With the Assembly lead on European & International Policy supporting Culture WM project-focused programme in European & International Development. | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing capacity in the cultural Sector to meet the relevant aspirations of the European Strategic Framework • Co-ordinated cross-sectoral working between regional agencies | Ongoing |

| Work strand: 34b SKILLS | | | | | |
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| Strategic Objective: To support the implementation of the RSS in relation to skills priorities, and continue to build linkage with the Regional Skills Partnership (RSP) | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: To have delivered effective action in supporting the implementation of the RSS and the priorities of the RSP | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| To support the work of the Regional Skills Partnership | 34.6.1 | Regional Assembly to continue observer status on the RSP Board | ☹ | Attendance at RSP Board Meetings | Ongoing |
| | 34.6.2 | Establish local authority Chief Executive representation on RSP Board | ☺ | Local authorities actively engaged in Implementation of RSP priorities | April 06 and ongoing |
| | 34.6.3 | Provide support to ensure elected members are aware of skills issues/priorities and provide feedback to the RSP | ☹ | Delivery of a range of member briefing sessions, including induction, with support of regional advisor | April 06 and ongoing |
| To ensure that the RSS supports the implementation of the skills priorities and identifies opportunities for joint action on key shared priorities - to be fed into RSP | 34.7.1 | Bi monthly meeting between regional advisor and regional assembly to share agendas | ☹ | Bi monthly meetings undertaken Delivery of a range of strategy briefings to RSP and Regional Assembly | Ongoing |
| | 34.7.2 | Ongoing liaison with Regional Skills Advisor to ensure timely advice on skills implications for the delivery of the RSS | ☹ | A RSS that supports the implementation of the regional skills priorities | Ongoing |

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| To ensure that the Review of the RES supports the implementation of the skills priorities | 34.8 | To facilitate links between non-exec RSP Board champions and WMRA leads on the RES Review | ☹ | A RES that supports the implementation of the regional skills priorities. The Board meeting on 6 th October decided that the outcome is not within the control of WMRA and the Work area/objective is confused. This should focus on ensuring the RES skills work strand supports RSS implementation in line with strategic objectives. | Ongoing |
| Work strand: 35 RURAL | | | | | |
| Strategic Objective: Rural interests to be fully engaged in regional policy development and delivery | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: Renaissance of the rural areas in the West Midlands | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Engagement of the rural interests in regional working and policy development | 35.1 | Support for and engagement with the WM Rural Affairs Forum Management Committee and secretariat | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inclusive and effective WMRAF • Providing leadership on rural issues • Overseeing development of the Rural Delivery Framework and providing rural input to strategy development, implementation and sound advice to the Assembly | Ongoing |
| | 35.2 | Support for the rural portfolio holder and Assembly/LGA members of the RRAF | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A well informed, active, effective portfolio holder taking forward a targeted work programme • Members attending and effective | Ongoing |
| Regional Rural Accord Group | 35.3 | Support for and engagement with the regional Rural Accord Group | ☹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear relationship between Rural Accord Group and RRAF • Effective group providing technical advice to the Rural Affairs Forum and developing and delivering RDF | Ongoing |

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| Monitoring, Evaluation & Review | 37.2.1 | To fulfil the requirements for monitoring and reviewing the WMRFF | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To publish Annual Report highlighting achievements of Year 1 Delivery Plan and progress towards objectives of WM Forestry Framework | June 06 |
| | 37.2.2 | To review the established monitoring system | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refreshed monitoring pro-forma ensuring fit for purpose | September 06 |
| | 37.2.3 | Provide WMRA and Woodland & Forestry Forum with enhanced understanding of progress towards WMRFF objectives | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of detailed reports to Steering Group (Quarterly), and Forum (twice yearly) | June 06 Sept 06 Dec 06 March 07 |
| | 37.2.4 | To contribute to RSS Quality of Environment monitoring requirements | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced quality of environment monitoring indicators incorporated as part of RSS Phase 3 Review | Ongoing |
| Linking work of Action Plan Manager to WMRA policy Partnerships and RSS Implementation | 37.3.1 | To attend, report and update as required, Assembly task groups, officer groups and partnerships | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery Plan and forestry policy effectively driven into other RSS implementation | March 07 |
| | 37.3.2 | Liaise with other policy staff and partner networks to ensure there is a forestry dimension to all policy development and implementation | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery Plan and forestry policy effectively driven into other RSS implementation | March 07 |
| Supporting work of the Regional Woodland & Forestry Forum | 37.4.1 | Maintain and support the Forum and existing Forum Task Groups | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 meetings held each year for each | March 07 |
| | 37.4.2 | Set up and support new task groups as identified by needs and opportunity | ☺ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 meetings held each year for each | March 07 |

| Work strand: 38 REGIONAL ENERGY | | | | | |
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| Strategic Objective: To implement the WM Regional Energy Strategy Action Plan | | | | | |
| Desired Strategic Outcome: By 2020 to have delivered the WM commitment to the climate change challenge, having ensured a sustainable, secure and affordable supply of energy for everyone and strengthened the regions economic capability | | | | | |
| Work area / Objective | No. | Key Action / Tasks | Progress April 07 | Output / Outcome | Delivery - Target Date |
| Action plan for the implementation of the RENS | 38.1 | Develop the Action Plan for the implementation of the RENS | ☺ | • Action plan 2006 - 07 prepared and implementation begun | Aug 06 |
| Regional leadership for the implementation of the RENS | 38.2 | Maintain appointment of Regional Energy Advisor and support of a regional energy office | ☺ | • Clear leadership is being given to the region on the implementation of the RENS by the Assembly and other regional partners | Ongoing |
| Engagement of partners in the delivery of the RENS | 38.3.1 | Maintain a Regional Energy Advisory Board to advise and support the implementation of RENS | ☹ | • The input and engagement of the partners is retained in the implementation of the Action Plan | Ongoing |
| | 38.3.2 | To provide policy advice and input to the Assembly and all the regional Policy Partnerships on the regional energy issues | ☺ | • Good quality advice on energy issues is provided to the other regional bodies and these bodies are better informed about the impact of energy issues on their work | Ongoing |
| Securing Resources for the longer term implementation of the RENS | 38.4 | Prepare a business plan and bidding document to DTI Look to establish other income streams to support the action plan | ☺ | • Funding secured for the long term implementation of the Action Plan and support for the Regional Energy Office | Oct 06 |
| Monitor Progress of the RENS | 38.5 | Develop a monitoring strategy with the Regional Observatory | ☺ | • Positive progress against targets and Action Plan is recorded and reported | Mar 07 |