

**Agenda Item No. 3(a)**

**WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Board of Directors – 8 December 2006**

**DECISIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

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**1. Purpose of report**

To advise the Board of matters considered at its meeting on 6 October 2006 which are not otherwise the subject of a report to the full Assembly on 25 October 2006. The agenda and accompanying reports are available via the Assembly's website.

**2. Recommendation**

The content of the report be noted.

**3. Background**

The Board at its meeting considered reports on the following items:

**3.1 2006-07 Half Year Review and Draft Revised Budget**

The Board was advised of the key aspects of the Assembly's Half Year Performance Report and received a copy of the Exception Report for submission to Government Office. The Board was asked to note progress against the business plan at the half year and approve a slightly revised budget to meet new and changing priorities in the work programme as identified during the half year review process.

The Board **noted** the performance exception report (attached as appendix B of the original report) and **approved** the proposed revised budget and virements between budget work strands (attached as appendix A of the original report).

**3.2 Transfer of Company Secretary role: Confirmation of Chairman and Vice-Chairs action**

The Board endorsed the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairs in respect of the transfer of the role of Company Secretary from Stephen Hind to Olwen Dutton.

**3.3 Corporate Governance Action Plan – Update**

The Board were advised of the purpose and scope of an ongoing corporate governance review, together with a progress report on review activities.

The review had been instigated by the combined WMRA and WMLGA Senior Management Teams (SMT) in 2005 to carry out a medium term,

more systematic review of corporate governance issues affecting both organisations. The review had covered three broad areas:

- Legal and Constitutional
- Operational Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Performance Management

Set out in Appendix 2 to the report was a schedule of key aspects covered by the review relating to WMRA, with an indication of progress to date and work still outstanding.

The Board **noted** the work to date on reviewing corporate governance issues and **agreed** to receive a more detailed review report at their next meeting.

### 3.4 **Membership structures**

The Board were advised of the memberships of the Regional Assembly, its Board and Regional Partnerships following the AGM held in July and to seek the Board's formal approval to the memberships of the Planning and Housing executive bodies.

Attached at Appendix 3 to the report were the most up to date membership lists for WMRA, its Board and the Regional Planning and Housing Partnership structures, post the AGM in July.

The report advised that, whilst the determination of memberships is generally a matter for the Assembly's acknowledged nominating bodies, it is necessary for the Board to formally approve the memberships of those bodies to which are delegated executive functions and which were therefore formally constituted as committees or sub-committees of the Board. Currently this included the Regional Planning Partnership and Regional Planning Executive and the Regional Housing Executive.

The other stakeholders and business sector membership of the Housing Partnership were still awaited and the membership of the Housing Executive was yet to be determined.

The Board:

- (i) **noted** and received the memberships of the Assembly Company and Board of Directors
- (ii) **approved** the memberships of the Regional Planning and Housing Partnership structures to date set out in Appendix 3.
- (iii) **authorised** the Chairman and Vice-Chairs to approve outstanding members, particularly the Regional Housing Executive when finalised.

### 3.5 **Regional Planning Partnership – Amendment to Partnership Structure and Establishment of a Conformity Panel**

The Board was asked to formally ratify the Regional Planning Partnership (RPP) as a Committee of the Board, approve the establishment of the Regional Planning Executive (RPE) as a Sub-

Committee of the Board and approve the protocols for the RPE to deal with the Regional Planning Body conformity function.

The Board **agreed** that:

- (i) that the establishment of the Regional Planning Partnership (RPP) as a Committee of the Board dealing with the Assembly's Regional Planning Body (RPB) function, and the delegation to it in the initial terms of reference, be ratified.
- (ii) that the revised terms of reference for the RPP (attached as Appendix 1 of the report) be approved and that the RPP have the ability to delegate certain of its functions to a Sub-Committee of the Board.
- (iii) That the establishment of the Regional Planning Executive (RPE) as a Sub-Committee of the Board and the delegation to it of the conformity function of the Regional Planning Body be approved.
- (iv) That the terms of reference of the RPE (attached as Appendix 2 of the report) incorporating protocols for governing the exercise of the conformity function be approved.
- (v) That the changes to the local government membership of the RPP be agreed.
- (vi) That the proposed amendment to the Town and Country (Regional Planning) (England) Regulations, relating to RPB voting structures, be noted.

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