

West Midlands Regional Assembly

Speaking out for the region

The Board of Directors will meet at **The Regional Partnership Training Suite, the Regional Partnership Centre, Albert House, Quay Place, Edward Street, Birmingham** on **Friday, 16 September 2005** commencing at **10.15 a.m.**

The agenda and reports referred to are available on the Assembly website - <http://www.wmra.gov.uk/AssemblyBoardMeeting-16September2005.htm>

The agenda will be:-

GENERAL

1. **Apologies**
2. **Members' Disclosures of Interests**
3. **Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairs of the Board of Directors**
4. **Chairman's and Vice-Chairs' Report** (verbal update)
5. **Decision notes of the meeting held on 24 June 2005 and Matters Arising**
6. **Decision Notes of the Audit Committee held on 24 June 2005**
7. **Decision notes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 July 2005**

FOR DECISION/POLICY STEER

8. **Assembly Commitment to Sustainable Development**

To inform Board Members of ongoing work to promote sustainable development in regional working

To invite the Board to consider a proposal to be submitted for approval by the Full Assembly in October that the Assembly should formally adopt sustainable development, as the route to maximising current and future quality of life for all, as the central principle of its work, in order to meet its existing commitments and to fulfil the recommendations of the 2004 strategic review of sustainable development in the region.

Recommendations

That the Board:

- a) endorse the proposal that sustainable development should be adopted as the central principle of Assembly working; and
- b) agree that the proposal be submitted to the full Assembly for approval on 26 October 2005.

For further information please contact: Fran Austins - Sustainable Development Policy Officer on tel: 0121 678 1018 or by email: f.austins@wmra.gov.uk

9. Regional Funding Allocation - 'Rolling Briefing Note'

To provide a summary of Government's proposals set out in 'Regional Funding Allocations' and to outline action required by regional partners to submit West Midlands advice on funding priorities for housing, economic development and transport to Government by 31 January 2006.

Recommendations

To note and offer views on the proposed action.

For further information please contact: Rose Poulter – Director of Policy, tel: 0121 678 1024 or email: r.poulter@wmra.gov.uk

10. Review of the West Midlands Economic Strategy

The purpose of this report is to inform the Assembly Board of advice received from Advantage West Midlands (AWM) regarding their proposed approach to the forthcoming review of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).

Recommendation

That the Board note proposed approach and agree to a more detailed report being brought to the full Assembly meeting in October.

For further information please contact: Rose Poulter – Director of Policy, tel: 0121 678 1024 or email: r.poulter@wmra.gov.uk

11. ODPM Consultation: Planning for Housing Provision

To note that the Assembly Board Chair and Vice Chairs together with the Chair and Vice Chairs of Planning Partnership have agreed and signed off a response to the ODPM's consultation paper 'Planning for Housing Provision'.

Recommendation

To support the action taken by the Assembly Board and Planning Partnership's chair and vice chairs, in submitting a response to ODPM to the consultation document 'Planning for Housing Provision'.

For further information please contact: Rose Poulter – Director of Policy, tel: 0121 678 1024 or email: r.poulter@wmra.gov.uk or Steve Forrest - Strategic Housing Advisor on tel: 0121 678 1064 or email: s.forrest@wmra.gov.uk

12. **West Midlands Region – Incorporating a City Region Approach**

To provide a discussion paper setting out the emerging City Region debate and set that debate in the context of the Assembly's core activities and regional agenda.

Recommendation

To discuss the issues raised in this report.

For further information please contact: Rose Poulter – Director of Policy, tel: 0121 678 1024 or email: r.poulter@wmra.gov.uk

13. **The Region's response to London's successful bid for the Olympics and Para-Olympics in 2012**

To advise the Board of progress since the Full Assembly meeting on 15th July 2005.

To endorse the draft composition and terms of reference of the regional 2012 leadership group and nominate an alternate member.

Recommendation

- a) That the Board endorse the draft composition and terms of reference of the west Midlands 2012 regional leadership group.
- b) To endorse Cllr Chris Saint Regional portfolio holder for culture as the WMRA member of the leadership task group and nominate an alternate for him

For further information please contact: Trudi Elliott - Chief Executive on tel: 0121 678 1031 or email: t.elliott@wmra.gov.uk or Jenny Boylan - Policy Officer on tel No: 0121 678 1029 or email: j.boylan@wmlga.gov.uk

14. **Regional Engagement in the European Agenda**

To seek the Board's agreement to the future approach to regional engagement in the European agenda.

Recommendation

- a) That the existing principal regional partnership arrangements of the Regional Assembly European and International Affairs Partnership (EIAP) and the West Midlands in Europe Partnership (WMIÉ) continue for the time being.
- b) That the Board endorse a closer alignment of the EIAP and WMIÉ through cross membership and co-ordination of objectives and activities
- c) That the Assembly contribute to and support a cross agency virtual European secretariat.

For further information please contact: Trudi Elliott - Chief Executive on tel: 0121 678 1031 or by email: t.elliott@wmra.gov.uk or Glynis Whiting - Director – West Midlands in Europe on tel: 003227402717 or by email: glynis.whiting@westmidlandsineurope.org

15. **Regional Energy Office**

To update the Assembly Board on the progress made on implementing the Regional Energy Strategy.

To outline the proposal and rationale for extending the Regional Energy Advisor's contract for a further 6 month period with the option for a further 6 months pending Board approval.

Recommendation

- a) The Board notes the content of the report and in particular the proposed date for the launch of the Regional Energy Office - Energy West Midlands.
- b) That the Board endorses the 6 month extension of the contract for the Regional Energy Advisor.

For further information please contact: Adrian Smith - Director – Energy West Midlands on mobile tel: 07876 576880 or email: a.smith@wmra.gov.uk

FOR INFORMATION ITEMS

16. **Scrutiny Review of High Technology Corridors – Final Report**

To present a copy of the recommendations arising from this scrutiny review together with Advantage West Midlands' response to the Board for information. The complete report, which can be

accessed on the Assembly's website, will be submitted to the Full Assembly on 26 October and is being published on Thursday 8 September.

Recommendation

That the Board note the recommendations of the scrutiny report and Advantage West Midlands' response

For further information please contact: Dagmar Waller - Strategic Review Officer on tel: 0121 678 1054 or email: d.waller@wmra.gov.uk

17. Casinos – Potential Impacts for the Region

This report seeks to provide information in respect to the key legislative and administrative changes arising from the Gambling Act 2005 as they relate to the provision of new casino enterprises within the U.K., and to seek views on the form of Regional Assembly/Regional Planning Body submission, if any, which should be considered to engage with the Government's Advisory Panel once it is established.

A summary of the potential economic impacts identified by research commissioned in other regions is presented along with an update on the level of known casino developer interest within the West Midlands.

Recommendation

- a) To note the report and that further technical advice will be prepared by the Regional Advisory Group for consideration by the Board and other key regional Partnerships/groups as set out in para. 3.20.
- b) To offer initial views on the issues and options set out in this paper.

For further information please contact: Rose Poulter – Director of Policy, tel: 0121 678 1024 or email: r.poulter@wmra.gov.uk or Paul Rigby - Staffordshire County Council for RSS Centres Group

Corporate Governance

18. First Quarter Budget and Performance

To report the results for April to June 2005-06 against budget as set out in Appendix A to this report.

This report also highlights any significant variations to the budget that have been identified in the first quarter analysis and proposes a number of virements as set out in the revised budget at Appendix B to this report.

Recommendations

- (a) That the Board **notes** the detail of the report and indicative savings on staffing.
- (b) That the Board **approves** the proposed virement of £42,000 from the Staff budget [WS10] to support other work strands as summarised below and detailed in the proposed revised budget at Appendix B.
 - [WS13] £29,000 of savings are committed to support increased Operational costs [3.2.2]
 - [WS29] £5,000 of savings are committed to support Planning Legal Expenses [3.2.4]
 - [WS32] £8,000 of savings from the European post be reallocated as a working budget for Europe [3.2.5]
- (c) That the Board note that this re-allocation of funds is best explained as a £21,000 saving on Planning salaries utilised to fund £21,000 of legal and planning related operational costs. The balance of the virements for Europe and Operational costs are being met from savings on other salary costs.
- (d) That the Board considers and agrees that the Assembly should aim to provide support of £5,000 for the 2012 London Olympics with a view to meeting this sum from any further savings identified later in the year [3.2.3].

For further information please contact: Trudi Elliott - Chief Executive on tel: 0121 678 1031 or by email: t.elliott@wmra.gov.uk

19. **Audited Accounts**

To present the Financial Statements for the West Midlands Regional Assembly Limited for financial year ended 31st March 2005 as audited by Clement Keys and appended to this report.

The Board should note that there has not been opportunity to present this report to the Audit Committee in advance of this Board meeting.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board should note the content of this report and carefully consider the presentation from Clement Keys and;

- a) Approve the Financial Statements for 2004-05
- b) Confirm a depreciation policy for Computers at 33%
- c) Confirm if the 'Directors' would want to make any comment within the final accounts

- d) Recommend re-appointment of Clement Keys as auditors for 2005-06

For further information please contact: Trudi Elliott - Chief Executive on tel: 0121 678 1031 or by email: t.elliott@wmra.gov.uk

20. **Company Secretary's Report**

To consider various company related matters.

Regional Assembly Membership – update

The Board is asked to approve the Assembly membership to date.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to approve the Assembly membership as set out at the meeting.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Board is asked to consider various appointments to outside bodies.

Recommendations

- (i) The Board is asked to determine the appointments to the West Midlands Regional Observatory and MLA – West Midlands: The Regional Council for Museums Libraries and Archives based on the expressions of interests received.
- (ii) That the position regarding the Sustainability West Midlands appointment be noted.
- (iii) The Board is asked to consider the appointments of an Alternate Member for the West Midlands Rural Affairs Forum and a Full Member to the Shropshire Partnership - Sustainable Communities Steering Group
- (iv) To receive an update on the Committee of the Regions Nominations process for 2006 – 2010

Composition of Audit Committee

To set out a proposed amendment to the composition of the Audit Committee following the increase in board size agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

Recommendations

That the existing terms of reference be amended to increase the composition of the Audit Committee from four to eight members, to comprise two members from each sector of Assembly membership, all drawn from the Board of Directors.

That the remaining terms of reference be unchanged.

Feedback from Annual General Meeting and Partnership Event – July 2005

To provide the Board with feedback from the Annual General Meeting and Partnership event.

Recommendation

That the Board consider the proposal for the 2006 event.

For further information please contact: Trudi Elliott - Chief Executive on tel: 0121 678 1031 or by email:

t.elliott@wmra.gov.uk

21. Implementing Job Evaluation

This report aims to inform Board members of the implementation of Job Evaluation by WMLGA, identifying the background, approach to be adopted and potential implications for the Assembly.

Recommendation

That the Board note the contents of the report and comment accordingly.

For further information please contact: Colin Williams - Director of People and Organisational Improvement, tel: 0121 678 1020 or email: c.williams@wmlga.gov.uk

22. Draft agenda for the Assembly meeting

General Enquiries: Please contact Daryl Davies, Regional Support Officer. Tel No: 0121 678 1046 or by e-mailing: d.davies@wmra.gov.uk

Enquiries about specific reports: Please contact the officers named in the reports.

The agenda and reports referred to are available on www.wmra.gov.uk

Please direct any requests for translation, interpretation, large text or audio tape versions of this document to access@wmra.gov.uk or tel 021 245 0200. All requests will be dealt with on an individual basis.