

# 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, 2 December 2005** commencing at **9.30 a.m.**

The agenda and reports referred to are available on the Assembly website - <http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=113>

The agenda will be:-

## **GENERAL**

1. **Apologies**
2. **Members' Disclosures of Interests**
3. **Chairman's and Vice-Chairs' Report** (verbal update)
4. **Decision notes of the meeting held on 16 September 2005 and Matters Arising**
5. **Decision notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 26 October 2005 – COPY TO FOLLOW**

## **FOR POLICY**

6. **Regional Funding Allocations**

To provide the Assembly Board with a progress report on the development of the Regional Funding Allocations submission from the West Midlands to Government by 31 January 2006.

### **Recommendations**

To note and comment on the attached report.

**For further information please contact:** Rose Poulter –  
Director of Policy, tel no: 0121 678 1024 or email:  
[r.poulter@wmra.gov.uk](mailto:r.poulter@wmra.gov.uk)

7. **Proposed Merger of the Regional Planning Body and the Regional Housing Board and the developing role of Regional Assemblies**

To advise the Board of correspondence received from the Rt Hon David Miliband MP, Minister of Communities and Local Government on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2005, regarding the proposed merger of RPB and Housing Board functions within the assembly (attached as an appendix) and the developing role of Regional Assemblies.

To identify the potential issues arising from the draft revised guidance on the general principles of designation of regional assemblies received with that letter.

**Recommendation**

That the Assembly at its meeting on 18 January 2006 approve the response to the further correspondence in respect of

- (a) Proposals for the merger of the Planning and Housing Board functions
- (b) Draft guidance on the general principles of designation of voluntary Regional Assemblies
- (c) Any modifications to governance arrangements might be required to comply with the guidance.

**For further information please contact:** Trudi Elliott - Chief Executive on tel: 0121 678 1031 or email: [t.elliott@wmra.gov.uk](mailto:t.elliott@wmra.gov.uk)

8. **Review of the West Midlands Economic Strategy – COPY TO FOLLOW (awaiting report from Advantage West Midlands)**

**Scrutiny and Strategic Review**

9. **Key Issues Arising from the Equality and Diversity Strategic Review**

To provide Board Members with an outline of the key issues identified by the Equalities and Diversity Strategic Review and possible areas for recommendations.

**Recommendation**

That Board Members note the issues and possible recommendations.

10. **Draft Reporting and Publication Protocol**

To obtain Board Members views on a proposed reporting and publication protocol for review reports.

## **Recommendation**

That Board Members review and comment on the proposed protocol.

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

## **Corporate Governance**

### **11. Report of the Chief Executive and Company Secretary**

#### **1 Half-Yearly Financial and Performance Report**

To advise the Board of the submission to GOWM of the Assembly's half yearly financial and performance report and to note progress against the business plan at the half year point.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Board considers the performance exception report and any issues arising.

#### **2 Budget and Business Plan 2006-9**

To advise the Board of the approach to setting this year's business plan and budget and agree the timetable for adoption.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Board endorses the submission of a draft budget to GOWM in advance of approval by the Assembly at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006, in line with ODPM's timetable for the Assembly to submit draft budgets to Government Office by 14 January 2006.

#### **3 Expansion of Coventry Airport-Costs of appearing at a Public Inquiry**

To advise the Board of a successful request to ODPM for supplemental funding from their contingency fund to meet the costs of the Assembly as Regional Planning Body (RPB) being asked to attend the above inquiry and to seek approval to a virement within the budget to cover the balance of the costs.

#### **Recommendations**

That the Board approves a virement of up to £12,500 to the legal expenses budget (Strand 29) from the Transport budget (strand 22).

That the Assembly includes a provision in all future budgets for legal expenses.

#### **4 Regional Planning Body – Conformity Role**

To seek the Board’s agreement to exploring the feasibility of varying the Assembly’s arrangements for the determination of conformity of Local Development Frameworks.

##### **Recommendation**

That the Board approves that legal advice be sought on whether alternative arrangements for managing the Regional Planning Body role of determining the conformity of local development frameworks would remain within the limited liability framework of the Assembly company.

#### **5 Members’ Allowances**

To seek the agreement of the Board to the terms of reference for the reconvening of the WMLGA/WMRA Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP)

##### **Recommendation**

That the Board approves the terms of reference for the IRP (Appendix) to reconvene to consider issues of allowances for members of the Assembly

#### **6 RSS Implementation Event**

To seek approval of Board Members to organise a high level event for securing greater buy-in to delivering RSS.

##### **Recommendation**

That the Board agree the proposed RSS implementation event outline as the basis for moving forward.

#### **7 Audit Commission Study - Regional Governance: Is it delivering for Local Government - West Midlands Case Study**

To advise the Board of research into regional governance and whether it is delivering for local government which the Audit commission intends to undertake

##### **Recommendation**

To note the intended Audit commission research and the selection of the West Midlands as a case study

#### **8 High Court Judge Project**

To seek the Board’s support for the efforts being made to see the West Midlands and Birmingham become a national pilot for the permanent relocation of High Court Judges to the region.

### **Recommendation**

Board members are asked to consider supporting the proposal as set out in the report.

#### **9 Regional Energy Advisory Board-Request for Board Member and Position of the Regional Energy Advisor**

To seek a Board nominee to sit on the Board of the Regional Energy Advisory Board and consider the position of the Regional Energy Advisor (as reported at the last Board meeting).

### **Recommendation**

That the Board agree a nominee to sit on the Regional Energy Advisory Board and consider the update provided in respect of the position of the Regional Energy Advisor.

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

### **Staffing Matters – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

#### **12. Employment Matters: Secondment from Home Office**

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

#### **13. Regional Partnership Secretariat - Integrated Organisational Structure**

**For further information please contact:** Trudi Elliott - Chief Executive on tel: 0121 678 1031 or by email: [t.elliott@wmra.gov.uk](mailto:t.elliott@wmra.gov.uk) or Nigel Summers – Regional Partnerships Secretary by email on [nigel\\_summers@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:nigel_summers@sandwell.gov.uk)

#### **14. Draft agenda for the Assembly Meeting – COPY TO FOLLOW**

**For further information please contact:** Daryl Davies – Regional Support Officer on tel: 0121 678 1046 or by email: [d.davies@wmlga.gov.uk](mailto:d.davies@wmlga.gov.uk)

### **Quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors**

Members are asked to note that a quorum for Board meetings is subject to a minimum of 8 directors with at least 4 local government Directors, at least 1 business sector Director and at least 1 Other Stakeholder Group Director being present.

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

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

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