

**Agenda Item No. 14(b) – for information**  
**WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Board of Directors – Friday 10 March 2006**

**Regional Partnership Sustainable Development reports to the  
Assembly Annual General Meeting - proposal for process**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1. To outline a proposal for the submission of reports by Regional Policy Partnerships to the Assembly Annual General Meeting on the contribution their work has made to sustainable development in the region.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. That the proposal is noted and the proposed process followed.

**3. Background**

- 3.1. At its October 2005 meeting the West Midlands Regional Assembly approved a proposal that the Assembly should adopt sustainable development as the central principle of all its work. This included a commitment to monitor the contribution of the work of the Assembly, through the Regional Partnerships, to sustainable development in the West Midlands.
- 3.2. It has been agreed that each of the Assembly-led Partnerships will submit a report to the Assembly's Annual General Meeting setting out how their work has contributed to the region's sustainable development objectives. The remainder of this paper sets out a proposed process for the production and submission of the report and for a feedback mechanism to inform future work programmes.

**4. Proposal**

- 4.1. It is proposed that the relevant officer of the Assembly Secretariat should liaise with the Chair of their Policy Partnership to determine the most appropriate arrangements for production of the report. For example, a task group might be established for this purpose. It will be for each Partnership to determine the most appropriate arrangement for its own circumstances.
- 4.2. It is proposed that, in order to provide some consistency between reports, the scoping checklist included at Appendix 2 of the current consultation draft of the Regional Sustainable Development Framework should be used as a template for the report. A slightly amended version of the checklist, tailored more closely to the process of evaluating performance rather than scoping issues, is included as an appendix to this paper.

- 4.3. Partnerships should use the checklist template to identify:
- a) How their work during the financial year 2005-2006 has contributed to each of the region's sustainable development objectives as set out in the RSDF
  - b) Opportunities for further contribution in the next 12 months (i.e. the financial year 2006-7)
  - c) Any major challenges or conflicts of interest which may arise to make sustainable outcomes more difficult to achieve
- 4.4. Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) has identified a number of Policy Ambassadors from within its membership whose role is to advise and support regional partners in specific policy areas and to provide a conduit into SWM and the expertise, advice and support its wider membership can provide. The relevant SWM Ambassador will be available to advise on the preparation of the report should this support be required.
- 4.5. It is proposed that Partnership reports should be submitted to the Assembly via the sustainable development policy officer by May 31<sup>st</sup>. This deadline is proposed in order to allow approximately six weeks in advance of the Assembly AGM during which SWM will prepare an overall analysis of the reports and a single set of recommendations. SWM's report will be submitted to the Assembly AGM with the detailed reports from each of the Partnerships appended. This single overall report will provide an overview of how well the various policy work streams are helping to contribute to sustainable development in the region, as well as identifying any gaps and providing pointers for future work plans.
- 4.6. SWM's analysis of the Partnership papers will also form the basis for SWM's Policy Ambassadors' priority setting and guidance to Policy Partnerships for the coming year.

## **5. Further information**

- 5.1. The current paper will be submitted to all of the Assembly-led Partnerships (Planning, Transport, Housing, Environment, European and International, and Health) and will also be copied to partner-led Partnerships (including the Rural Affairs Forum, Culture West Midlands, and Regional Skills Partnership) for information and with an invitation to submit a similar report to the Assembly AGM.

### **Contact Officer**

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## Appendix: Checklist template

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
<b>Developing thriving sustainable communities:</b>		
Ensuring easy and equitable access to services and opportunities, including jobs and learning, regardless of ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality, background or location	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Enabling communities to participate in the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Addressing poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantage	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Improving health and reducing health inequalities by encouraging and enabling healthy lifestyles as well as protecting health and providing health services	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Has the Partnership's work contributed?</b>	<b>Comments: how/why not?</b>
Providing decent and affordable housing for all, of the right quantity, type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environments	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Reducing crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Improving opportunities to participate in the diverse cultural and recreational activities the West Midlands can offer	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Encouraging physical development with a better balance of jobs, housing and services within each part of the Region in order to meet local needs locally and encourage stable and sustainable integrated communities	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Enhancing and protecting the environment:</b>		
Valuing, enhancing and protecting the Region's environmental assets, including the natural and built environment and the historic environment	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Has the Partnership's work contributed?</b>	<b>Comments: how/why not?</b>
Valuing, enhancing and protecting regional biodiversity	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Land use and development that optimises the use of previously developed land and buildings and creates high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity, promote local distinctiveness and sense of place, and are well-designed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Local stewardship of local environments	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Minimising air, water and soil pollution levels	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Minimising the Region's contribution to the causes of climate change whilst implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Objective	Has the Partnership's work contributed?	Comments: how/why not?
<b>Using natural resources prudently and efficiently:</b>		
Reducing overall energy use through increasing energy efficiency, and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Using natural resources such as water and minerals efficiently	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Promoting and ensuring high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Ensuring the location of development makes efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and helps reduce need to travel, especially by private car	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing road traffic congestion and pollution	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Has the Partnership's work contributed?</b>	<b>Comments: how/why not?</b>
Encouraging and enabling waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Encouraging local sourcing of goods and materials	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Rewarding efficient resource use and encouraging development of alternative and renewable resources where resources are likely to become depleted	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Developing a flourishing, diverse and stable regional economy:</b>		
Achieving sustainable economic growth and prosperity for the benefit of all the Region's inhabitants	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Creating high quality employment opportunities suited to the changing needs of the local workforce, whilst recognising the value and contribution of unpaid work	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Has the Partnership's work contributed?</b>	<b>Comments: how/why not?</b>
Promoting investment in future prosperity	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Encouraging ongoing investment and engagement in learning and skills development	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Encouraging a culture of enterprise and innovation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Promoting and supporting the development of new technologies, especially those with high value and low impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Encouraging corporate social and environmental responsibility, with regional organisations and agencies leading by example	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	