

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 June 2006** commencing at **9.30 a.m.**

The agenda will be:-

1. **Apologies**
2. **Members' Disclosures of Interests**
3. **Chairman's and Vice-Chairs' Report (verbal update)**
4. **Decision notes of the meeting held on 10 March 2006 and Matters Arising**
5. **Decision notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 5 April 2006**

6. **CEO Recruitment and Interim Management Arrangements**

To inform the Board of the current position regarding recruitment and to seek endorsement to the selection process and interim management arrangements.

Recommendations

- (a) That the steps in hand for the recruitment of a Regional Partnership Chief Executive be endorsed.
- (b) That the interim management arrangements, including the retention of the Senior Director up to and beyond the appointment of a CEO be noted.

7. **Support for RAF Cosford**

To build on the agreement made on 5th April for the WMLGA and WMRA to have a more active role in supporting RAF Cosford as the location for a new defence training 'supersite' and request support from members in some specific areas of work.

Recommendations

- (a) That senior regional representatives, including Leaders/Chief Executives of local authorities in the Region, be asked to formally express their support for RAF Cosford via a written testimonial. These will be placed on the Lets Fly Cosford website and also used by AWM in other promotional activities relating to the Lets Fly Cosford Campaign.
- (b) That a number of senior regional representatives, including Leaders/Chief Executives from across the Region (and particularly outside the Shropshire area) come forward as Spokespeople in order to demonstrate that the entire West Midlands is behind RAF Cosford.

This role to include talking to the media and attending MP briefings in London over the summer.

8. **Policy Issues - Report of the Director of Policy**

(i) Regional Concordat

To advise the Board on progress in updating the Regional Concordat.

Recommendation

To agree the draft WM Regional Concordat for publication and launch in July 2006.

(ii) Regional Funding Allocations and Forward Planning Executive

To provide an update on Regional Funding Allocations.

Recommendation

To note the update on Regional Funding Allocations and the arrangements for the first meeting of the Forward Planning Executive.

(iii) WM Regional Spatial Strategy - Phase One

To update the Board on the draft RSS Phase One Revision: The Black Country.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the position.

(iv) WM Regional Spatial Strategy - Phase Two

To update the Board on the RSS Phase Two Revision.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the position.

(v) City Regions

To provide a brief up date and seek support for an Assembly discussion on 12 July after the formal AGM on the City Regions Approach in the West Midlands.

Recommendation

To confirm arrangements for an Assembly discussion on the City Region approach in the West Midlands.

(vi) A Sustainable Region – Contributions of the Assembly's Partnerships

To advise the Board on progress with establishing a process for reporting by Regional Partnerships to the Assembly AGM on their contribution to sustainable development.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the position.

- (vii) "Securing the Regions' Futures; Strengthening delivery of sustainable development in the English regions" (DTI/ODPM/DEFRA April 2006)

To advise the Board on the Government's plans to strengthen regional delivery of sustainable development.

Recommendation

That the report and its implications for regional organisations are noted.

- (viii) Smart Growth – Midlands Way

To advise the Board of recent and forthcoming matters in respect to Midlands Way.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the position.

- (ix) Regional Economic Strategy Review

To receive an update on the RES Review.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the position.

- (x) Independent Performance Assessment (IPA) for Regional Development Agencies

To advise that Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are now subject to a three yearly assessment led by the National Audit Office (NAO).

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the position.

- (xi) Regional Health Strategy

The board members to agree the process for developing a Regional Health Strategy which is in the Regional Assembly's business plan and fits with the Assembly's objectives of joining up regional strategies.

Recommendation

- (i) That a Regional Strategy for Health is developed under the auspices of the Regional Assembly.
- (ii) That the Regional Health Partnership forms the executive body for the Regional Health Strategy and the Regional Health Officer Group forms a steering group for strategy development.
- (iii) That the Regional Assembly networks and Partnerships assist with the development of the strategy with respect to the scoping work and consultation process.
- (iv) That a Local Authority Chief Executive is nominated to be a Local Authority lead representative with respect to the development of the Regional Health Strategy.

(xii) Regional Strategic Partnership for Equality and Diversity

To advise the Board of the work being undertaken by the Equalities and Diversity Partnership.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the position.

(xiii) 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Update

To update the Board on latest developments around the 2012 Games and WM activity and alert members to current key regional issues.

Recommendation

To note the implications of the regional issues set out below and consider how Assembly members might contribute to work on these in the short-to-medium term.

(xiv) Network Rail Board Membership

To advise the Board of the position regarding Network Rail Board membership.

Recommendation

To consider the current position.

9. **Commission for Equality and Human Rights: A Presence in the West Midlands**

To obtain the approval of Board Members to the regional response in relation to the proposed structure of the regional presence of the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights.

Recommendation

That Board Members agree to the proposal to be submitted to DCLG that the regional presence of the new Commission should:

- a) be a small strategic body working through regional organisations and networks;
- b) work closely with the Equality and Diversity Partnership;
- c) have a member of the Commission sitting on the Partnership;
- d) subject to feasibility, preferably be located with the Regional Assembly; and share corporate services/facilities (all services should be subject to funding being received from the Commission).

10. **Scrutiny Review – Regeneration Zones Revisited – Key Issues**

To provide Board Members with an outline of the key issues identified by the assessment of the implementation of the recommendations made in the Regeneration Zones Review that took place during 2004 and possible areas for further action.

Recommendation

That Board Members note the issues and possible recommendations.

11. Report of the Senior Director and Company Secretary

(a) Regional Partnership Structures

(i) Establishment of Regional Housing Partnership and Executive

To advise the Board on the progress regarding the Housing function arrangements, following the transfer of the Regional Housing Board function which will be fully operational within the Assembly's structures from September 2006.

To seek the Board's approvals required to establish the Regional Housing Executive (RHE) as a Committee of the Board and to the membership structures of both the Housing Executive and the Regional Housing Partnership (RHP).

Recommendations

That the Board notes and endorses the approach being taken for the Assembly to take on board the Regional Housing functions

That a resolution be proposed at the Annual General Meeting of the Assembly to amend the Memorandum of Association of the Assembly by the insertion of a new paragraph 3.9 to read " to be the Regional Housing Board for the West Midlands Region and fulfil functions pursuant to such status".

That a resolution be proposed to the Annual General Meeting of the Assembly to amend the Articles of Association to increase the number of Directors from 21 to 22 and the maximum number of "A" Directors from 13 to 14.

That the RHE be established as a Committee of the Board and the draft terms of reference for the RHE, and the RHP, as appended be approved.

(ii) ~~Regional Planning Partnership—Amendment to Partnership Structure and Establishment of a Conformity Panel~~

(iii) Change of Company Name

To get the Board's agreement to taking the necessary steps to seek exemption from using the word 'limited' in its name.

Recommendations

(a) That a resolution be proposed to the Annual General Meeting of the Assembly to amend Article 21.1 of the Articles of Association to read:-

"If the Company and its subsidiaries (if any) are to be wound up, then subject to the discharge of all liabilities of the Company or the retention of sufficient reserves to discharge the same and to pay the costs of winding up of the Company the remaining assets shall be distributed to such organisation, body corporate, unincorporated association, partnership, firm or statutory body as the

members by special resolution may select provided that the objects of such organisation, body corporate, unincorporated associated, partnership, firm or statutory body are similar to the objects of the Company or are otherwise for the promotion of charity and anything incidental or conducive thereto”.

(b) That resolutions be proposed to the Annual General Meeting of the Assembly to amend the Memorandum of Association:-

- (a) to confirm that paragraphs 3.1 to 3.9 of the Memorandum set out the Company’s objects and paragraphs 3.10 to 3.34 set out the powers the Company may exercise to further those objectives.
- (b) to make explicit that the Company’s profits or other income are to be applied in promoting its objectives.

(iv) Review of Other Partnership Structures (verbal update)

(b) **Financial Matters**

(i) 2005 – 2006 Outturn Report

To advise the Board of the submission to GOWM of the Assembly’s financial and performance report for the year ended 31 March 2006.

Recommendation

That the Board notes the report.

(ii) Legal Contingency Fund 2006 – 2007

To advise the Board of the progress made in establishing a Legal Contingency Fund for 2006-07.

Recommendation

That the Board notes the detail of this report and the impact of a Legal Contingency Fund on the Assembly Budget for 2006-07.

(iii) DCLG Funding Agreement for 2006 – 2007

To advise the Board of a reduction in the DCLG Funding Agreement for 2006-07.

Recommendation

That the Board approves the revision to the Legal Expenses Budget (WS29) of a reduction of £19,000 in response to a reduction in funding offered. That the Board also approves an approach to DCLG for further funds to help meet any additional legal costs that arise during the year over and above the existing legal budget provision for 2006-07 of £56,000.

(iv) DCLG Funding Agreement for RHB 2006 – 2008

To inform the Board of the 2 year Funding Agreement for the Regional Housing Board 2006-08 and to seek approval of the Draft RHB Budget 2006-08 (**Appendix 5**).

Recommendation

That the Board approves the Draft RHB Budget 2006-08 and the recruitment of a RHB Senior Advisor.

(v) Audit Services

To inform the Board of the Audit Services provided by Clement Keys under the new International Auditing Standards and seek approval to sign the attached 'Letter of Engagement'. The Board should note the section 'your responsibilities as Directors' (**Appendix 6**).

Recommendation

That the Board notes the contents of the letters from Clement Keys and authorises the Chairman to sign the Letter of Engagement on behalf of the Regional Assembly Board.

12. Draft Agenda for AGM

13. Confidential report: Staffing Matters

This report would be sent to all Directors in hard copy.

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

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

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