

Agenda Item No. 9

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Board of Directors - Friday 6th October 2006

Independent Performance Assessment of Advantage West Midlands

1. Purpose

To provide more detailed information regarding the Independent Performance Assessment (IPA) process and the current consultation regarding the self assessment document.

The Assembly's response to this process will be circulated under separate cover.

2. Recommendation

That the Board:

- (i) notes the IPA process and arrangements for the assessment of Advantage West Midlands, and
- (ii) comments on the Assembly's response.

3. Background

The 2005 Budget announced that a performance assessment regime would be introduced for all Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) during 2005/6 with the intention to increase transparency and reduce the existing audit burden. It is now apparent that the process has added to this burden. Discussions are underway at a national level to explore the relationship between this process, regional scrutiny and accountability arrangements via Government Offices.

- 3.1 The methodology developed by the National Audit Office (NAO), responsible for the assessment, is based on the streamlined Comprehensive Performance Assessment process. It does, however reflect the differences between Local Authorities and Regional Development Agencies.

4. IPA Process

- 4.1 The main elements of the IPA process are as follows:
 - A published self-assessment by the RDA under a structured set of headings or key lines of enquiry (KLOEs). It is recommended that this draws on the views of stakeholders
 - A review of the self-assessment and supporting evidence by the NAO, leading to focused on-site work at the RDA and with stakeholders to validate the self assessment; and
 - Published assessment including a mark under each KLOE and combined to give a final overall score.

- Development of an improvement plan to be monitored by the Government Office for the region
- 4.2 Key Lines of Enquiry provide the structure for the self-assessment and the NAO assessment;
Aims - What is the RDA, together with its partners, trying to achieve?
- a. KLOE 1 – Ambition
 - b. KLOE 2 – Prioritisation
- Activities** - What is the capacity of the RDA, including its work with partners, to deliver what it is trying to achieve?
- c. KLOE 3 – Capacity
 - d. KLOE 4 – Performance Management
- Achievements** - What has been achieved?
- e. KLOE 5 – Achievement
- 4.3 As part of the assessment, the IPA team will contact a range of stakeholders to gather their views of the RDAs performance. It will also gather the views of different Government departments, from the specifics around lead role activity to the more generalist comment about general RDA relationships and activity.
- 4.4 Each KLOE will be allocated a score which will be combined to give a total out of a possible 24. An overall assessment will be provided; inadequate performance, adequate performance, performing well or performing strongly. The two completed assessments to date have identified the North West Development Agency as performing strongly (20) and East of England Development Agency as performing well (15).
- 5 **Advantage West Midlands**
- 5.1 Advantage West Midlands' is in the last assessment group. All are required to be completed in order to feed into CSR 2007.
 Publication of self assessment – 23 October
 Assessment team on site – 27 November to 8 December
 Draft report – 2 February 2007
 Response – 23 February
 Final report published – 23 March
- 5.2 Advantage West Midlands has formally requested the Assembly is involved in the IPA process. This has been primarily through the Strategic Review Group with input being made to the early drafts of the self assessment. A joint consultation event regarding the draft self assessment was

held on 18 September 2006 and informed the Assembly's response. A list of those who attended is appended to the report.

- 5.3 The NAO team has indicated a wish to meet the Strategic Review Group and the Regional Partnership's Chief Executive prior to the on-site work. Assembly representatives will also be invited to join appropriate focus groups during the on-site work.
- 5.4 The Assembly has worked hard with Advantage West Midlands to develop a scrutiny relationship that allows it to act as a critical friend. Although individual reviews have and will continue to identify issues of concern, these are treated in a positive way. This maturing relationship is clearly demonstrated by Advantage West Midlands' keenness to engage the Assembly, and wider stakeholders in the self assessment process.

Dagmar Waller
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Appendix 1

**Independent Performance Assessment of Advantage West
Midlands
Consultation Event – List of Attendees**

Name	Organisation
Janet Bailey	Orion Management Ltd
Hardial Bhogal	RENEW North Staffordshire
Dr Mark Bobe	University of Warwick
Chris Bonnard	Regional Action West Midlands – OSG Secretariat
Kathryn Burns	UCE Birmingham
Christine Cambridge	QinetiQ
Nic Cole	Government Office for the West Midlands (observer)
Peter Davenport	Shires Advisor on Regional Strategy
Cllr Norman Davies	Regional Assembly Member
Olwen Dutton	Chief Executive – West Midlands Regional Partnership
Cllr Brian Edwards	Regional Assembly Member
Ros Gallagher	Keele University
John Hall	Regional Assembly Member - OSG
Sue Hatton	Government Office for the West Midlands (observer)
Richard Hutchins	Advantage West Midlands
Cllr Mrs Jo Jones	Regional Assembly Member
Paul Lankester	Stratford on Avon District Council
Mick Laverty	Advantage West Midlands
Stephen Lilley	Learning and Skills Council
George Marsh	Chase Norton Construction Ltd
Cllr Paul Middleborough	Regional Assembly Member
Frank Mills	BT
Peter Murray	English Partnerships
Elizabeth Newman	Regional Assembly Member
Rosie Paskins	Advantage West Midlands
Adrian Passmore	RegenWM
Nick Paul	Chairman - Advantage West Midlands Board
Rags Poduval	DTI (observer)
Rose Poulter	West Midlands Regional Assembly
Diane Rayner	AWM Board Member
John Scouller	Warwickshire County Council
Jagdish Shemare	Commission for Racial Equality
Bernadette Shenton	University of Wolverhampton
Cllr David S Smith	Chairman - West Midlands Regional Assembly
Roger Stone	Regional Assembly Member
Roger Sumpton	Advantage West Midlands
John Sutton	Sandwell MBC
Sandy Taylor	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Ken Taylor	Coventry City Council
Dr Pamela Waddell	University of Birmingham
Julian Wain	Solihull MBC
Cllr Tony Ward	Regional Assembly Member
Karen Yeomans	Advantage West Midlands