

The Board of Directors will meet at **the Training Suite, the Regional Partnership Centre, Albert House, Quay Place, Edward Street, Birmingham** on **Wednesday 26 September 2007** commencing at **11.30 a.m.**

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Chairman's and Vice-Chairs' Report (verbal update)**
4. **Draft Decision Notes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on 8 June 2007 and Matters Arising (Available)**
5. **Draft Decision Notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 18 July 2007 and Matters Arising(Available)**

*Matters Arising - Item 8 - West Midlands Regional Assembly
Membership 2007/08*

- (i) **Strategic Review Group**
Chair – currently Other Stakeholder nominee
Vice Chair – currently Local Government Nominee

Two nominations were put forward for the Chair of the Strategic Review – Cllr Philip Atkins and Roger McKenzie. Following the meeting discussions took place and it was agreed that Roger McKenzie would continue to Chair the Group and Cllr Atkins would continue his position as Vice Chair.

The Board is now requested to **endorse** that proposition.

FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

6. Company Secretary's Report

Preparing for the Half Year Review & Progress Report

Purpose of the Report

To advise the Board of work in progress, to produce the Half Year Review and Progress Report to Government Office.

Recommendation(s)

*The Board is asked to **note** the details of this report and **approve** new RSS funding priorities and the approach to recruiting to the Head of Planning and the Strategic Planning Adviser posts within the Policy Directorate.*

*Furthermore the Board is asked to **delegate authority** to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairs, to agree a revised budget for submission to GOWM with the Half Year Report.*

Coventry Airport Public Inquiry

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Board with an update on Coventry Airport.

Recommendation(s)

*It is recommended that the Board **endorses** a proposal that the Chief Executive writes to CLG to seek their approval for the Assembly to now utilise the contingency sums of £21,234 (legal and general) carried forward from 2006-07 to meet other RSS priorities such as detailed in [1.5]to the report.*

Members Allowances Scheme

Purpose of the Report

To propose a postponement of the consideration of a Members Allowances Scheme for the Assembly.

Recommendation(s)

A separate report from the Finance & Audit Committee is to follow including a proposal from the Independent Remuneration Panel on a Members Allowances Scheme.

In view of the potential implications of the Sub National Review and the expectations that Assemblies will be asked to reduce operating budgets next year, it would be advisable for Board Members to have an opportunity to give due consideration to the proposal at a time when they will also have access to the Half Year Review and other emerging SNR cost implications / priorities.

Therefore the CEO respectfully proposes that the Board **notes** the detail of the report and **postpones a decision on a Members Allowances Scheme until 5 December Board Meeting.**

Corporate Issues - General

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Board with an update on general corporate issues.

Recommendation

That the board **notes** the detail of the report and agrees to the proposal for adopting the new model code of conduct.

Membership of Governance Structures

Purpose of the Report

For the Board to receive the memberships of WMRA, its Board and Regional Partnerships post the AGM held in July and for sectors to be encouraged to ensure all outstanding vacancies to Partnerships and their Executives are filled promptly.

Recommendation(s)

That the Board

- (i) **Notes** and **receives** the memberships of the Assembly Company and Board of Directors
- (ii) **Notes** and **agrees** the memberships of the West Midlands Regional Assembly's Planning and Housing Partnerships and their Executives as set out in Appendix B
- (iii) **Notes** the membership of the Partnerships (other than Planning and Housing) as set out in Appendix C.
- (iv) Encourages the sectors to ensure that outstanding vacancies are filled and authorises the Chairman and Vice-Chairs to approve nominations once they have been received.

Membership on other Regional Bodies

Purpose of the Report

The West Midlands Regional Assembly has a nominating body status to various regional bodies. Below is noted those bodies to which the WMRA directly provides representatives.

Recommendation(s)

That the Board:

- i) notes the representation on other regional bodies as noted below
- ii) reconfirms the representation (if appropriate) or request nominations to known vacancies

7. **Report of the Finance and Audit Committee**

Notes of the FAC Meeting 18 July 2007

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Board with the notes of the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held on 18 July 2007 (Appendix 1) and to make recommendations to the Board in respect of the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on a Proposal for a Members Allowances Scheme (Appendix 2).

Recommendation

*That the Board **notes** the content of this report and **receives** the recommendations.*

IRP Proposal for a Members Allowances Scheme

Background

An Independent Remuneration Panel was convened during the summer and was provided with terms of reference to develop a Members Allowances Scheme for the Regional Assembly. The panel was chaired by Dr Declan Hall of the University of Birmingham. Dr Hall presented the IRP proposal to the Finance and Audit Committee at their meeting on 18 July.

Recommendation(s)

In consideration of the IRP Proposal FAC would also like to recommend to the Board that;

- a) The existence of WMLGA Allowances Scheme was a key driver for efficiency savings in the proposed Assembly Scheme and therefore **any savings should be shared equally between the two funding bodies** (following the same model that is currently operated in respect of the Chairman's Allowance).*
- b) To implement a scheme in 2007/08 **the costs would have to be met from existing budgets** (so requiring a re-prioritisation of expenditure) and costs for 2008/09 would need to be built into the business planning and budget setting process.*
- c) It is recommended that the Board may wish to give some consideration to the issue of the **number of meetings** attended by those in roles leading statutory functions compared to that of non statutory and the correlation between the two proposed levels of allowance.*

8. **Assembly Conference – 28 January 2008**

Purpose of the Report

To update the Assembly Board on progress towards planning of the Assembly Annual Conference due to be held on 28 January 2008 at a venue in Birmingham.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note progress and offer any comments, concerns or suggestions

9. **Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration**

Purpose of the Report

To provide The Board with an outline of ongoing discussions from various senior groups regarding the Sub-National Review.

Recommendation(s)

That the Board note the outline.

That Board discuss the report and comment as appropriate.

10. **Report of the Director of Policy – Headline Issues for West Midlands Regional Assembly**

Purpose of Report

To update the Assembly Board on key issues undertaken by the Secretariat on behalf of the Board and Assembly Partnerships over the last quarter.

Recommendation

That the Board considers the report and notes progress made.

11. **Draft New West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy and Action Plan**

FOR INFORMATION

12. **Minutes of the City Region Shadow Executive – To follow**

13. **Strategic Review of The Regional Approach to Post 16 Education, Training and Skills**

14. **Draft Agenda for the Full Assembly Meeting 24 October 2007 – To be tabled**

15. **Advantage West Midlands – Notes from Board Meetings**

16. **Dates of future Board Meetings 2007/08**

5 December 2007

12 March 2008

18 June 2008

17. **Any Other Business**

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.