

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

DECISION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD ON 8 JUNE
2007

Chair: Valerie Broom (OSG) in the Chair

1. Apologies and Attendance

The Apologies and Attendance of Board members are attached as Appendix A

2. Chairman's and Vice Chairs' Report

The Chair reported that following the recent local elections Claude Bodenham was no longer an elected member and that David S Smith had been made Vice Chair of the City Region Board.

The Business Sector Vice Chair reported that Brian Summers would be stepping down from the Assembly Board. The Board wished Brian well and thanked him for his valuable contributions to the Board.

3. Decision notes of the Board of Directors

3a. Decision notes of the Board of Directors held on 9 March 2007 and Matters Arising

Amendment: To include Valerie Broom's apologies.

The notes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on 9 March 2007 were **agreed** as a true record subject to the addition of the above amendment being made.

Matters Arising

Item 5 (1) (b)

The Board Members requested that their concern be noted regarding the recent reports on BIA's lack of important connections throughout Europe i.e. Berlin and also of the recent media reports regarding security at the airport.

Item 5 (2)

The Board were advised that the DCLG had now approved the Contingency Fund.

4. Draft Decision Notes of the Assembly Meeting held on 25 April 2007

The decision notes were noted subject to the following amendments:

Missing item on British Waterways. The WMBC requested that this item be incorporated into the minutes and followed up by the WMRA.

Whilst the new style of noting meetings was acknowledged, Members sought assurances that reference was made to comments raised in discussions as appropriate. The Board was advised that the Assembly Secretariat would review the manner in which meeting notes were presented.

Noted: The Board noted the decision notes of 25 April 2007 subject to the above issues being reviewed.

5. Report of the Chief Executive and Company Secretary (1) 2007-10 Business Plan and Budget

The Board received an update report on the 2007-10 Business Plan & Budget which had been accepted by DCLG, the funding agreement letter had been received to confirm a total budget of £2,517,502. DCLG had also approved the request for a legal contingency of £18,705 and a general contingency which at the year end was £2,529.

The Board was advised of proposed changes and variations outlined in detail in the report as;

Staffing Variations

The report proposed to fund 50% of a Press/PR Officer post; an early return from secondment of a policy officer to support climate change and an Agreement had been reached with the University of Birmingham to fund a three year project for a PHD student to research effective engagement mechanisms with MPs and MEPs.

The effect of changes was an additional £18,334 to the staffing costs of 2007-08 to be met within the existing budget.

RSS Phase 2

The report advised that there would be a need to revisit the Centres Study work previously undertaken to provide updated information for RSS Phase Two and an indication of cost for this work was in the region of £25,000.

The Board (a) **noted** the detail of this report and (b) **approved** the proposed changes to the establishment and variations.

(2) 2007-10 Final Progress Report

The Board received a report advising them that the 2006-07 Final Progress Report had been submitted to Government Office and had been reviewed.

The Board **noted** the details of the report.

(3) Membership Issues

The Board received a report which sought their consideration and agreement on pertinent issues relating to membership of Assembly governance structures.

The Board

- (a) **endorsed** Roger Evans' nomination as Vice Chair – Other Stakeholders of the Regional Planning Partnership.
- (b) **noted** the process of nominations to the Regional Assembly
- (c) **agreed to**, in the spirit of openness and transparency, to encourage members of all three sectors and across the Assembly's governance structures, to make available for publication on the Assembly's website Members' contact e.mail addresses.

(4) IRP for Members Allowances Scheme

The Board received an update on the work of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the development of an Assembly allowance scheme.

The Board **noted** the update and **agreed** that the report be considered by a future meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee prior to consideration by the Board.

(5) Audit

The Board received a report which advised of the Audit work in progress.

Roger Stone requested a copy of the current insurance policies.

It was agreed that

- (a) **The Board noted the report.**
- (b) **That Roger Stone be provided with a copy of the**

current insurance policies.

6. **Priorities of the Regional Partnership Centre (RPC)**

The Board was requested to consider and agree one set of Priorities for the Regional Partnership Centre which integrated the strategic objectives of West Midlands Regional Assembly, West Midlands Local Government Association, Centre of Excellence and West Midlands in Europe for the period 2007 to 2010.

Members considered the report and requested that an additional recommendation be made to read *"that the Priorities set out in appendix one to the report are firstly considered by the WMBC and the OSG prior to submission to the Association and Assembly meetings on 18 July 2007."*

The report recommended:

- (a) that the Priorities set out in appendix one to the report were agreed for the Regional Partnership Centre for the period 2007 to 2010.
- (b) that the Priorities provide the context for the annual work programmes for West Midlands Regional Assembly, West Midlands Local Government Association, Centre of Excellence and West Midlands in Europe for the period 2007 to 2010.

The Board **agreed** to the recommendations subject to the additional recommendation being made.

7. **Statement of Values of the Regional Partnership Centre**

The Board received a report that sought to secure endorsement for a Statement of Values for the Regional Partnership Centre – West Midlands Regional Assembly, West Midlands Local Government Association, Centre of Excellence and West Midlands In Europe.

Following discussion the Board requested that the following amendments be made:-

- **Learning:** Members requested that the wording be reconsidered.
- **Equity:** Members requested that the word equity be changed to **equality**
- That the recommendation be changed to read:

Prior to approving a Statement of Values for the Regional Partnership Centre – West Midlands Regional Assembly, West Midlands Local Government Association, Centre of Excellence and West Midlands in Europe attached at appendix 1 to the report that the WMBC and OSG have the opportunity to discuss and make comments to the report prior to submission to the Full Assembly on 18 July 2007.

The Board

agreed to the recommendation subject to the above amendment being made.

8. Smart Growth Midlands Way

Members received a report that advised them of the status and content of the Smart Growth – Midlands Way Action Plan.

The Board gave their support to the Smart Growth – Midlands Way Action Plan, and in so doing endorsed the following caveat and comment:-

Caveat

Transport Partnership members “noted the report and commented that inter-regional working on airports’ access needed further consideration”. (26/09/06)

Members were not convinced that the case for further investment to support surface access at Birmingham International Airport would be assisted by forwarding a joint case with East Midlands Airport as each airport had a unique set of issues and development plans.

Comment

- 1 West Midlands Regional Assembly would continue to engage with EMDA, EMRA and strategic authorities in the East Midlands, including work on the RSS Preferred Option for Phase Two revision. The purpose being to secure shared benefits and synergy in line with the respective RSS’s.
- 2 That work on Midlands Way must not detract time, effort, resource or capacity away from delivering against the new West Midlands Economic Strategy when it is agreed later this year.

The Board **agreed** to support the Smart Growth – Midlands Way Action Plan subject to the caveat and comment outlined above.

9. Development of the Housing Allocations Strategy

The Board received a report which provided an updated overview of the development of the West Midlands [Regional] Housing Allocations Strategy 2008-2011 (WMHAS0811).

The Board **noted** the content of the update.

10. Access to Finance Scrutiny Review – Consultation and Key Issues

The report informed the Board of progress with this scrutiny review and of issues which would be addressed in its recommendations.

The Board **noted** the report and encouraged individual members submit responses during the consultation process as appropriate.

11. The Regional Approach to Post 16 Education, Training and Skills Strategic Review – Progress Report

The report provided the Board with an outline of the progress to date in the Strategic Review of The Regional Approach to Post 16 Education, Training and Skills.

The Board **noted** the content of the report.

12. Climate Change

The Board received a verbal update on the Climate Change Agenda and taking it forward. They were advised that the Assembly Secretariat had met with the Environment Agency and would also be meeting with GOWM. A full report would be made available to Members on 18 July 2007.

13. Draft Agenda for Assembly Annual Meeting – 18 July 2007

The Board **agreed** the draft Agenda for the Assembly Annual Meeting on 18 July 2007.

14. Dates of Future Board and Full Assembly Meetings

The Board agreed the following dates for future meetings.

Board of Directors

26 September 2007

5 December 2007

12 March 2008

18 June 2008

Full Assembly

24 October 2007

16 January 2008

23 April 2008

9 July 2008

15. Any Other Business

Elizabeth Newman requested that the Assembly write to DCMS in support of funding from the Comprehensive Spending Review for the Museum, Libraries and Archives. She was advised that the Assembly could not support individual submissions and had made their own regional submission with AWM for funding across the West Midlands. It was requested and **agreed** that the Assembly advise MLA them of the Assembly's position.

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES OF
THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD ON 8 JUNE 2007

Present: Valerie Broom (Unison/OSG) in the Chair

Cllr Rex Roberts, OBE (Staffordshire)
Cllr Jo Jones (Shrewsbury & Atcham)
Cllr Albert Bore (Birmingham)
Cllr Keith Austin (Telford & Wrekin)
Cllr Chris Saint (Stratford-on-Avon)
Cllr Paul Tilsley (Birmingham)
Cllr Bob Badham (Vice Chair RPP/Sandwell)
Cllr John Lines (Birmingham)
Trudi Elliott (GOWM)
Phil Davis (RAWM/OSG)
Sarindar Sahota (WMBC)
Brian Summers (WMBC)
Roger Stone (WMBC)
Roger McKenzie (TUC/OSG)
Elizabeth Newman (Parish Councils/OSG)
Roger Evans (Vice Chair RPP/OSG)

Officers in attendance:

Sharon Doak
Dawn Manning
Jim Graham
Rose Poulter
Sian Clark
Sharon Phillips

Apologies:

Olwen Dutton (WMRA)
Heather Kidd (South Shropshire)
Barrie Williams (WMBC)
David S Smith (Lichfield)
Terry Dix (Staffordshire)
Roger Phillips (Herefordshire)