

**WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
Board of Directors – 5 December 2007**

**Launch of WMES/WMRSS – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform the Assembly Board of the formal launch of the West Midlands Economic Strategy (WMES) on 10<sup>th</sup> December and presentation of the Phase Two Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS).

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Assembly Board note the report.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Both the Phase Two RSS Revision and the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) Review have run concurrently and actions have been undertaken to ensure that they are appropriately aligned and that the two strategies are mutually supportive. This process has required close working with AWM to ensure that our policies, for example, employment land provision and the future development of our towns and city centre are fully aligned and consistent with the principles of the revised WMES.
- 3.2 In taking forward this process a Working Group was established comprising of officers from the Regional Assembly (including RSS Policy Leads and the Assembly's Planning Team) and AWM, to oversee the alignment of the revised RES with the emerging Phase Two Preferred Option and to ensure that the policies in both were mutually supportive, used the same language, and were updated to reflect current thinking on climate change and working towards a shared ambition of creating jobs and homes within sustainable communities.

- 3.3 The revised WMES will be formally launched by Liam Byrne MP, Minister for the West Midlands, at an event on the 10<sup>th</sup> December. At the same time, Liam Byrne will also present the WMRSS Phase Two Revision Draft, which will be formally submitted to the Secretary of State on the 21<sup>st</sup> December.
- 3.4 The event on the 10<sup>th</sup> December will take place at the new Innovation Centre at Longbridge, Birmingham, which will be formally opened by Liam Byrne.
- 3.5 The event will be attended by a number of Regional stakeholders. David Smith will be attending and speaking at the event on behalf of WMRA and invitations have been received by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Regional Planning Partnership.

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