

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

Assembly Annual Conference – 28 January 2008

Report of the Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Assembly Board on progress towards planning of the Assembly Annual Conference due to be held on Monday 28 January 2008 at Aston Villa Football Club, Holte Suite in Birmingham.

2. Recommendation

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

3. Background

3.1 Theme/Title

“Voice of the Region – Speaking out for the Region”.

The general theme of the conference will be about regional values and how these can be harnessed to enable us to project a strong regional voice.

3.2 Structure

The structure will be cabaret style with 10 people per table should there be a maximum capacity of 200 delegates.

3.3 Speakers

Conference facilitator:

Olwen Dutton

Speaker 1 - Conference opening and closing:

Cllr David S Smith

Speaker 2 - Keynote speaker:

Liam Byrne MP has confirmed he will deliver the keynote speech.

Speaker 3 – Business speaker

West Midlands Business Council has been asked to help source a well known business speaker who can speak about using existing values to promote the Region.

Speaker 4 – Inspirational speaker

- Lord Bill Morris has been approached. His speech would focus on developing existing partnerships.

Speaker 5 - Summary speaker

Olwen Dutton

3.4 **Workshops**

Workshop discussion topics

Morning

- What are the key strengths of our partnerships and how can these be taken forward to help the West Midlands improve its performance and profile?
- What regional values must we harness and promote to enable us to project a strong regional voice?

Afternoon

- How has the framework for partnership working (the West Midlands Regional Concordat) strengthened our regional partnerships?
- How can we further develop the Concordat so that it remains central to our partnership working post SNR?

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