

**DRAFT DECISION NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD ON 25 APRIL 2007**

Chairman: Cllr David S. Smith (Lichfield)

1. Apologies and Attendance

The apologies and attendance are attached as Appendix 1

2. Members' Disclosures of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest stated.

3. Chairman's and Vice-Chairs' Reports

Cllr David S Smith (Chairman) Referred to the Cross Border Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Welsh Regional Assembly and gave brief feedback from 5 March 2007 event.

He advised that funding for WMRA had been confirmed from the DCLG

He informed the WMRA that Councillor Charles Miller from Stoke-on-Trent City Council had sadly passed away the week before. He was an full Member on the Association and Assembly and the Chairman gave condolences on Behalf of the Association and Assembly.

He further advised that New Local Government Network had produced a paper entitled "Delivering Regional Governance Across England" and stated that the paper gave no clear indications on the work of the Assembly at a regional level. He invited his Vice Chairs' to comment:-

Dr Sarindar Singh Sahota (Vice-Chair – West Midlands Business Council) Highlighted how working with Local Authorities and Others has added value to work practices and requested that this go forward into future working.

Valerie Broom (Vice Chair – Other Stakeholder Group) Agreed with Surindar and added that the Assembly's success was due to Partner working in the West Midlands.

Decision notes of the:

- 4. **Assembly meeting held on 17 January 2007**
- 4a. **The notes of the meeting on 17 January 2007 were agreed as a true record.**

Matters Arising

Page 2 Item 8 – Living Landmarks Big Lottery

The Assembly were advised that the Chief Executive had written to the Environment Agency and was awaiting a response.

Action: The Chief Executive to chase up a response letter.

Assembly Board held on 9 March 2007

- 4b. **The notes of the Board meeting held on 9 March were noted.**

CORPORATE ISSUES

- 5. **Company Secretary's Report**

2007-10 Business Plan and Budget

The Assembly was presented with the Business Plan and Budget for 2007-10 which had been approved at the Assembly Board meeting on 9 March 2007.

Members were requested to endorse the decision of the Board and formally adopt the 2007-10 Business Plan and Budget.

The Assembly endorsed and formally adopted the Business Plan and Budget for 2007-10.

Corporate Governance Issues

The Assembly were updated on Corporate Governance issues and activity as noted by the Board of Directors on 9 March 2007.

The report requested that the Regional Assembly noted:

- (a) the detail of the report.
- (b) the information on Company Law Reform and that each

Assembly Member should personally familiarise themselves with the changes in respect of Directors duties.

- (c) the need to update the Register of Interests and that each Assembly Member should **submit** an updated declaration form.

Members requested that they receive a letter confirming when their accounts have been received.

The Assembly noted the report.

Action: The Assembly write to Members confirming when their accounts have been received.

Alignment of WMLGA Executive Committee and the WMRA Board of Directors

Members of the Regional Assembly were advised of the Executive Committee's decision to seek alignment of future meeting dates of the Board and WMLGA Executive Committee. The Board of Directors had agreed this principle and it was requested that the Assembly endorse this decision. Dates of future meetings would be available at the next full Assembly meeting.

The Assembly endorsed the decision of the Board.

Action: Dates of the Meetings be shared with the Assembly at their next meeting in July.

POLICY ISSUES

6. Annual Monitoring Report

Members received a verbal update report from John Deegan, Strategic Director, Environment and Economy, Warwickshire CC. A copy of the Executive report was tabled at the meeting.

Members noted the verbal update

7. Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

Members received a report which provided them with an update on the current progress in bringing forward the revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and to inform them of the work schedule to bring forward the development of the Phase 2 Preferred Option and the Phase 3 Project Plan.

It was recommended that the contents of the report be noted.

The Assembly noted the report.

8. Regional Economic Strategy (RES)

Members received a report and verbal update from Tim Gebbels and Nick Paul of AWM that sought to provide an update on the review of the West Midlands Economic Strategy (WMES). A copy of the near final version of the consultation draft of the WMES was attached. It was highlighted that the draft had yet to be considered by the Advantage West Midlands Board and may therefore be subject to further change.

It was recommended that progress to date with the WMES review be noted.

The Assembly noted the progress to date.

9. Climate Change Action Plan

Members received a report, the purpose of which was to seek the endorsement of the Regional Assembly to the Climate Change Vision for the Region, the arrangements for governance and accountability and the process for the preparation and consultation on the Draft Climate Change Action Plan.

It was recommended that the Regional Assembly:

- Endorsed the Climate Change Vision for the Region;
- Supported the proposed arrangements for governance and accountability for measures to tackle climate change within the Region, as set out in the report and Appendix 1 to the report;
- Endorsed the process for the preparation and consultation on the Regional Climate Change Action Plan.
- As a first step to encourage all local authorities in the region to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration or similar local declarations by the anniversary of the Regional Conference in October 2007.

The Assembly **agreed** to the recommendations as set out above.

10. Future Regional Governance Arrangements

Members received a report that sought to present to them a critique of

the context for regional governance, current issues affecting this and to assist a discussion for Assembly members about the options to develop this within the West Midlands.

The report recommended that:-

To give consideration to the development of a regional strategic partnership; and the key issues which should be contained within that to deliver most effectively the key strategic issues for the region.

Following discussion at the Association meeting prior to the Assembly it had been agreed to change the recommendation to read:

The WMLGA/WMRA explore the mechanisms for future partnership and the key issues that should be identified to deliver most effectively the key strategic issues for the region.

The Assembly were requested to endorse the amended recommendation.

The Assembly endorsed the amended recommendation.

11. European Strategic Review

The Assembly received a report that presented the findings from the strategic review examining the approach taken at a strategic level to regional engagement with the European agenda. The report advised that the complete publication, "Its Only Brussels?", could be accessed on the Assembly's website.

The report recommended that the Assembly:

- discussed and endorsed the findings of review panel
- approved those recommendations made for the Regional Assembly and for the European and International Partnership

The Assembly agreed the recommendations as set out above.

12. Regional Policy Partnerships Activity

The Assembly received an update report on the current status and activities of Regional Partnerships, established by or working closely with the West Midlands Regional Assembly.

The report recommended that the Regional Assembly considered the report.

The report was noted.

13. Scrutiny and Strategic Review Update

The Assembly received a report that updated them in respect of recent Scrutiny and Strategic Review activity.

The report requested that the Assembly note the content of the report.

The content of the report was noted.

FOR INFORMATION

14. Regional Policy Partnerships Activity

The Regional Assembly received a report and were updated on the current status and activities of Regional Partnerships, established by or working closely with the West Midlands Regional Assembly.

The report recommended that the Regional Assembly consider the report.

The Assembly **considered** and **noted** the Policy Partnerships Activity.

15. Scrutiny and Strategic Review

The Assembly were provided with an update report in respect of the recent Scrutiny and Strategic Review activity.

The Assembly was recommended to note the content of the report and offer comments as appropriate.

The Assembly **noted** the report. No comments were received.

16. Date of Next Meeting

18 July 2007 at Austin Court, Birmingham

**West Midlands Regional Assembly
Apologies/Attendance – 25 April 2007**

**Apologies – West Midlands Regional Assembly
Wednesday 25th April 2007**

Howard Farrand
Doug Mahoney
Roger Trotman
Rob Sykes
Trudi Elliott
Cllr Keith Austin
Cllr Mrs P Bradley
Simon Geraghty
Barrie Mackenzie Williams
Cllr Mick Jones
Cllr Stephen Clee
Prof Michael Clark
Cllr Ken Taylor
Cllr Ted Richards
Cllr Claude Bodenham
Cllr John Mutton
Cllr Mike Whitby
Cllr Alex Fox
Cllr Peter Phillips and David Gibson (sub)
Cllr Graham Myatt
Cllr Margaret Begg
Mike Cherry
Richard Moxon
Pat Fairclough
Cllr Duggins
Richard Quallington
Richard Bubb

**Attendance – West Midlands Regional Assembly
Wednesday 25th April 2007**

Cllr David S Smith (Chairman)

Cllr R Badham

Cllr T Dix

Cllt P Atkins

Cllr C Saint

Cllr P Tilsley

J Taylor

S Eling

Cllr D Beechey

Cllr J Jones

Cllr R Roberts

Cllr I Fletcher

Cllr V Fletcher

Cllr M Pate

Cllr E Tucker

Cllr D Lord

Cllr A Bore

Cllr M Heatley

Cllr R Hyde

R Stone

B Summers

J Hall

B Undy

S Sahota

R McKenzie

V Broom

P Shirley

J Howell

G Kells

P Davies

M Hill

N Paul

G Bennett

E Buggins