

WEST MIDLANDS LEADERS BOARD

13th July 2009

2.00 – 4.00pm

Rooms 1 and 2,
Regional Partnership Centre, Albert House, Quay Place, Edward Street, Birmingham

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Draft notes of the meeting held on 15th April 2009 and matters arising (*attached*)
3. Constitution and Membership (*attached*)
4. Ratification of Chairman and Vice Chairmen
5. Supporting Governance Structures for WMLB (*attached x3*)
6. Transport (*attached x2*)
 - Regional Transport Action Plan (**For decision**)
 - RFA Transport Management Programme (For information)
 - Delivering a Sustainable Transport Programme (For information)
 - Governance (**For decision**)
 - High Speed 2 (**Presentation and discussion**)
 - Birmingham International Airport (**Presentation and decision**)
7. Prospective Ministry of Justice relocation to Birmingham
8. Update on progress of the Examination in Public
9. Any other business
10. Dates of next meetings, all 2.00 – 4.00pm:

28th October 2009

19th January 2010

13th April 2010

13th July 2010

Draft Notes West Midlands Leaders Board

15 April 2009

Attendance

Cllr Roger Philips, Herefordshire (Chair)	Cllr Ken Taylor, Coventry
Cllr Brian Edwards, South Staffordshire	Cllr Ken Meeson, Solihull
Cllr June Griffiths, Bromsgrove (substitute)	Cllr David Smith, Lichfield
Mayor Mark Meredith, Stoke on Trent	Cllr John Taylor, Staffordshire
Cllr Paul Middleborough, Wychavon	Cllr Mike Whitby, Birmingham
Cllr Simon Tagg, Newcastle under Lyme	Cllr Alan Farnell, Warwickshire
Cllr Neville Patten, Wolverhampton	Cllr Malcolm Pate, Shropshire
Cllr Leslie Topham, Stratford upon Avon	

Mark Barrow, Newcastle Under Lyme
Richard Carr, Wolverhampton
Peter Davenport, Shires Advisor
Olwen Dutton, WMLGA
Ron Hilton, Staffordshire
Rose Poulter, SNR Transition Team
Dagmar Waller, WMLGA
Paul Watson, Solihull, SNRAG Chair
Paul Spooner, Homes and Community Agency (for agenda item 4)
Simon Murphy, city Region (for agenda item 5)

1. Apologies

Cllr Dr George Lord, Worcestershire	Cllr Roger Hollingworth, Bromsgrove
Cllr John Champion, Wyre Forest	Cllr Carole Gandy, Redditch
Cllr Bill Thomas, Sandwell	Cllr Alex Fox, East Staffordshire
Cllr Judith Dalgarno, Stafford	Cllr Andrew Eade, Telford & Wrekin
Cllr Simon Geraghty, Worcester	Mark Rogers, Solihull
Jim Graham, Warwickshire	Andy O'Brien, East Staffordshire
Stephen Hughes, Birmingham	Jack Hegaty, Wychavon

2. Notes and Matters arising from previous meeting held on 9 February 2009

The draft notes were agreed.

At the last meeting it was agreed that a report on Transport Governance would be presented. Cllr Phillips explained that this would be brought to a future meeting as further work was underway to develop this further. The proposals would be based on local government taking a lead role recognising the involvement of other partners.

3. Regional Funding Advice

Richard Carr, Wolverhampton Chief Executive, gave a presentation that included the outcomes of a recent meeting with Ian Austin, Regional Minister, and senior civil servants to discuss the RFA. This highlighted the need to ensure the Region was seen to be speaking with one voice consistently. The presentation also outlined the programme management arrangements currently being developed for the 20 Impact Investment Locations to maximise our collective ability to deliver these. Ultimately the intention was to extend these arrangements to all RFA funding streams and ideally to the investments being made by other public agencies.

Key issues from the following discussions included the need to convince Government Departments of the Region's ability to project manage effectively, the need to develop

effective liaison arrangements with other Regions such as the East Midlands and Wales to progress projects that have a cross boundary impact and to ensure that all projects are deliverable and that sponsors, including local authorities are honest and open about the barriers to delivery or possible slippage.

4. **The Homes and Community Agency**

Paul Spooner, Regional Director, outlined the Agency's plans for working with individual local authorities to support the development of housing, create infrastructure for growth and deliver sustainable communities. He identified priorities over the next 3 years as;

- Unblocking stalled projects and maintaining momentum in the housing market (and asked Leaders to contact him about any such projects that the Agency may be able to assist with)
- Aligning all public investment to support renewal and growth in the region's priority areas (including the 20 Impact Investment Locations)
- Developing a long-term commitment to 'place' through the Single Conversation

He made clear commitment to both rural and urban areas, to alignment with the Regional Spatial Strategy, and complimented Leaders on the practical approach being demonstrated by local authorities. During questions, he clarified the HCA's neutrality in relation to eco-towns and that the Agency had no land interests in the Middle Quinton site. If funding was under the direct control of the HCA funding decisions could be expected within three weeks. However it would take longer if decisions had to be referred to CLG.

5. **City Region**

Cllr. Whitby, Birmingham and Simon Murphy, City Region Director, provided a summary of the Birmingham, Coventry and Black Country City Region's submission to become one of two "forerunner" City Regions expected to be announced in the Budget on 22 April 2009. If successful this had the potential to unlock additional funding for the area. During the subsequent debate, the Board was given some reassurance that this initiative was being pursued in a way that would compliment the work of the Leaders Board. It was emphasised that the development of the City Region would take place within the context of the Leaders Board and that the proposals would not result in changes to Regional priorities and RFA projects. It would be important to ensure that the connectivity between the City Region and Leaders Board is understood more widely within the Region.

6. **Impact of the Recession on West Midlands' Local Authorities**

In response to the request at the last meeting, Mark Barrow, Chief Executive Newcastle under Lyme and lead Chief Executive for this work area, presented initial results from the current assessment of the impact of the recession at local authority and ward level being carried out by the Regional Observatory. This would enable targeting of resources and the influencing of Government departments such as DWP. The West Midlands as a whole was seeing the greatest falls in business activity and steepest drops in employment across all the English regions. It was clear that LAA's and Community Strategies would be the ideal mechanism to focus actions and every effort was being made to influence Government accordingly.

He also highlighted the recent completed WMLGA publication 'Weathering the Storm and Preparing for Recovery' - available at www.wmlga.gov.uk/Policy_Areas/Recession/Introduction.aspx which identifies

measures being taken by local authorities across the Region. This will be evaluated in order to identify and promote those interventions which seem to be most effective.

7. Members Panel

Olwen Dutton introduced a paper detailing progress made in establishing the Members Panel agreed at the last meeting. Membership had been finalised with representatives from the Leaders Board and political groups. This group would have an advisory and engagement role with decisions to be taken by the Leaders Board. The first meeting would take place on 6 May 2009.

She also informed the meeting that CLG had largely confirmed funding for 2010/1011 as well as for the new financial year.

8. Any Other Business

The Examination in Public of RSS Phase 2 Revision will open on Tuesday 28 April at the Molineux stadium in Wolverhampton and was programmed to run until 28 June 2009.

The Leaders Board agreed a change of name suggested by Cllr. Ken Taylor. The LALB will now be known as West Midlands Leaders Board (WMLB).

Cllr Brian Edwards suggested that named substitutes may benefit from attending a meeting of the Leaders Board with their Leader. This was agreed providing that attendance was arranged with the Secretariat in advance.

Cllr Malcolm Pate raised concerns regarding the level of attendance at this meeting.

Cllr John Taylor requested that possible alternative venues were explored although Cllr Ken Taylor pointed out that this could have significant cost implications.

9. Dates of Next Meetings

All 2.00 to 4.00 pm

13 July 2009

28 October 2009

19 January 2010

13 April 2010

13 July 2010

West Midlands Leaders Board

13 July 2009

Constitution and Membership Report

1. **Purpose**

- 1.1 To adopt a constitution for West Midlands Leaders Board as recommended by the West Midlands Local Government Association Council.
- 1.2 To advise on the approach which has been taken to ensure membership arrangements are in place for the WMLB, West Midlands Local Government Association (WMLGA) and West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA).

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Leaders Board:
 - a) adopt the Constitution attached for the time being;
 - b) agree the nominations to the Regional Assembly and the Strategy Advisory Panel and agree that the membership of the Regional Assembly Board, the Regional Housing Executive and the Regional Planning and Environment Executive is rolled forward; and
 - c) agree to receive a report at the October meeting to consider Member appointments.

3. **Background**

- 3.1 The attached report will be discussed at the West Midlands Local Government Association Council on 8 July 2009. There will be a verbal report on the outcome of this at the start of this agenda item.

4. **New Branding**

- 4.1 New branding has been developed to accompany the change to the West Midlands Leaders Board. The new logo is shown below:



ASSOCIATION COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING – 8 JULY 2009

Constitution and Membership Report

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To set before the Association Council a resolution which moves the Association Council to the new organisation.
- 1.2 To advise members of the approach which has been taken to ensure membership arrangements are in place for the WMLB, West Midlands Local Government Association (WMLGA) and West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the West Midlands Local Government Association Council **resolves** to:
 - a) **change its name** from West Midlands Local Government Association to West Midlands Leaders Board;
 - b) **adopt a Revised Constitution** attached; and
 - c) **recommend** that the West Midlands Leaders Board adopts this constitution at its first formal meeting on 13th July 2009.
 - d) **recommend** that the WMLB considers nominations and member appointments at its meeting on 13th July meeting.

3. Background

- 3.1 Over the last year members have been discussing changes to the way in which local government organises itself across the West Midlands. Whilst the catalyst for this was the Sub National Review (SNR), there was also a recognition that the WMLGA should take this opportunity to look at itself and build upon its past successes and history to move into a modern organisation. This should promote the region and the role of local government as effectively as possible, focusing on the key issues which arise from time to time (particularly, at present, the economy) and delivering the services wanted by its members.
- 3.2 This has been accompanied by the setting up of the Regional Forum of Leaders, now the West Midlands Leaders Board (WMLB) and the arrangements put in place with the Regional Development Agency (RDA) around the shadow Joint Strategy and Investment Board (JSIB). After the enactment, planned later this year, of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill which, amongst other things implements the SNR and abolishes the Regional Assembly it is

- intended that the JSIB will deal with the matters around the single regional strategy which will fall to the responsible regional bodies (the WMLB and RDA).
- 3.3 Throughout this time has been recognised that there should only be one regional organisation for local government and that there was a strong desirability within the new organisation for local government in the West Midlands to be able to organise itself effectively to provide the voice and leadership that only this sector is legitimately able to do. Whilst the emphasis of the WMLB was to be on the leaders of councils, the debates around the move from the existing arrangements also recognised the importance of maintaining a political buy-in from the wider membership and of maintaining the group structure. It was also recognised that the WMLB must be more streamlined and able to prove that it provided continued value for money to its membership, particularly in light of the current tough financial times.
- 3.4 Whilst not everything is yet finalised and indeed cannot be before the final details of the Bill are known, particularly concerning transfer of the functions of the Regional Assembly; it is considered that the Annual General Meeting of the WMLGA should mark the formal transfer of the regional organisation to the new WMLB. The Executive Committee agreed this approach at their meeting on the 10th June and agreed to recommend that the Association Council agrees the resolution detailed above.
- 3.5 At this time of year the Membership of the Association, the Assembly and the various partnerships and subgroups are refreshed. Given that we are in the process of change, these arrangements will be somewhat different this year. Sections 6 and 7 of this report provide further details.

4. **Constitutional Issues**

- 4.1 Attached as Appendix 1 is the suggested constitution for the WMLB, which contains the amendments, agreed at the Executive Committee meeting on the 10th June. It should be emphasised at this point that this is part of a phased process which will probably see a completely new constitution drawn up for the WMLB sometime over the next year when the final details of the Act are known.
- 4.2 The major changes to the WMLB constitution from that of the WMLGA are:
- The name changes to the West Midlands Leaders Board;
 - The members are still the individual councils. However, representation moves from being politically proportionate to one made up of the leaders of councils but the votes allocated to each council do not change;
 - It provides the Chairman with a casting vote;
 - It emphasises the importance of skills and experience as the major criteria for selection of members to sit on representative groups and panels - at present these groups are not defined;
 - There is no Executive Committee in future;
 - It replaces the role of the Secretary with that of the Chief Officer of the organisation and removes reference to the Regional Chief Executives Group (although this will continue);
 - It simplifies some of the procedural issues.

Should the changes to the Constitution be adopted by the WMLGA and then by the WMLB, the website, letterheads, etc, will be changed to West Midlands Leaders

Board, and staff, contractors, etc, will be notified of the change of name. In legal terms this is a name change only so there are no implications for staff in terms of TUPE, or for member authorities so far as the responsibility or division of assets and liabilities is concerned.

5. West Midlands Regional Assembly

- 5.1 The Assembly will continue in existence as, for the present, it remains the Regional Planning Body and will remain so until the Act is in force. The Assembly also has housing powers. Further guidance about how the Government expects regional bodies to work with the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) and the JSIB is expected shortly. At present the Assembly will continue to exercise its formal role until the changes are clarified and the necessary regional arrangements agreed.
- 5.2 The Assembly also exercises other roles, for example with regard to transport through the Regional Transport Partnership; Europe through the European Strategy Board and Health through the Regional Health Partnership, which is facilitated via GOWM.
- 5.3 It is anticipated that over the course of the current financial year the current partnerships will change to new arrangements. The Member Panel discussed how these might operate to support the SNR issues at its meeting in May and the paper which was before them is appended. This is still very much work in progress.
- 5.4 Local Authorities, currently through the WMLGA, but through the WMLB subsequent to 13 July, are responsible for nominating elected members to the Assembly. Councils have been asked to roll forward their current membership where possible, but are able to nominate as normal if they need to.

6. Nominations to Existing WMLGA, and WMRA Structures

- 6.1 The existing nominations are shown in Appendix 3. Whilst these nominations would normally be made at the WMLGA AGM; as the appointments will be effective when the WMLB has succeeded the WMLGA it is recommended to agree that these appointments are passed through to the WMLB.

There are a few points which it may be useful to note, as follows.

6.2 WMLGA Association Council

Councils have been requested to roll forward their existing nominations to the July AGM meeting; unless they wish to nominate new members due to for example elections or change of Leadership. They have also been told that they need not provide nominations thereafter, as the new constitution refers to the Leader and his or her nominated substitute.

6.3 West Midlands Regional Assembly

Councils have been requested to roll forward their existing nominations to the July AGM meeting unless they wish to nominate new members due to for example elections or change of Leadership.

6.4 WMRA Board

Out of a maximum of 14 places for Local Government Directors there are currently two vacancies for local government on the Board.

6.5 WMRA Strategy Advisory Panel

The WMRA Regional Housing Partnership and Regional Planning Partnership were dissolved last year and replaced by the Strategy Advisory Panel. Each authority has been asked to nominate two members to the Panel.

6.6 WMRA Regional Housing Executive and Regional Planning and Environment Executive

The two Executives will need to remaining existence due to the Assembly Constitution. In light of this members are asked to recommend to the WMLB that the current Membership of the two Executives is rolled forward.

7. **Portfolio Holders and member representation on external bodies**

7.1 The WMLGA appoints portfolio holders which in many cases are also the chairs of partnerships for the WMRA. At present the list of portfolios is as follows:

- i) Asylum and Refugee Issues;
- ii) Children and Education;
- iii) Cultural Affairs;
- iv) Employment and Improvement;
- v) Environment;
- vi) Europe and International;
- vii) Rural Affairs;
- viii) Social Inclusion;
- ix) Health;
- x) Housing;
- xi) Planning;
- xii) Transport.

7.2 At the last meeting of the Association it was agreed that portfolios would be phased out as and when there need for them in the new arrangements ceased. The continuation of portfolios will be a matter for the WMLB but some existing portfolio holders are likely to be needed to undertake their roles with the Assembly until new arrangements are effective.

7.3 The WMLGA also appoints members to sit on a number of outside bodies, these are listed in Appendix Three to the Member Panel Report. Some of these are statutory or national requirements such as the Arts Council and the Committee of the Regions. In other cases, the WMLGA has received a request which it has

acceded to. Historically appointments have followed a politically proportionate method. In the new arrangements this will be replaced by the approach that the most important criteria for selection should be the possession of the necessary skills and experience for the role.

Olwen Dutton

Chief Executive

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WEST MIDLANDS LEADERS BOARD

CONSTITUTION

1. Title

- (i) The West Midlands Leaders Board. ("The Board")

2. Membership

- (i) All principal Councils in the Region of the West Midlands shall be eligible for membership of the Board.

3. Purpose

- (i) To represent and promote the regional interests of the local authorities in the West Midlands Region and the communities they serve.

4. Objectives

- (i) To secure a strong, coherent regional voice for local government in and to promote the West Midlands in relation to regional, national and international issues.
- (ii) To provide a focus and mechanisms for regional collaboration in policy areas where regional working will promote economic, social and environmental prosperity and drive even more added value.
- (iii) To provide 'value added' services to support organisational development and improvement activities.

5. Representation at meetings of the Board

- (i) Local Authorities in membership of the Board may be represented at its meetings by its leader or their duly nominated substitute and the meetings of the leaders shall be called the West Midlands Leaders Board (WMLB) (or such other name as the leaders shall from time to time determine).
- (ii) The leader of each authority or their duly nominated substitute shall exercise the number of votes allocated to the authority indicated in Annex 1.
- (vi) The Board may agree for other persons to attend and/or speak at its meetings, but such persons shall not be eligible to vote at any meetings of the Board.

6. Voting

- (i) In the event of a vote being necessary at a meeting of the Board the voting scheme at Annex 1 will be used in conjunction with the voting protocols at Annex 2 and the Standing Orders of the Board at Annex 3.

(ii) The person presiding at any meeting of the Board of any kind shall in the case of an equality of votes have a casting vote in addition to any vote he or she may be entitled to exercise as a member of the Board.

7. Meetings of the Board

- (i) The Board shall hold an Annual General Meeting, normally in June, to conduct the following business:-
 - (a) Election of the offices of Chair and Deputy Chairs and the appointment of such other lead members as it may decide;
 - (b) Constitutions of Member Groups, their membership and Terms of Reference;
 - (c) Establishment of, and amendments to, Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation if required;
 - (d) Annual report(s) to the Board;
 - (e) Schedule of meetings for the ensuing year;
 - (f) Outturn budget report and appointment of auditors;
- (ii) And at least one further meeting, unless otherwise agreed by the Chair and one of the Deputy Chairs, to consider the work plan, budget and subscriptions for the ensuing financial year.
- (iii) Other meetings of the Board may be held as required and may be summoned by the Chief Officer.
- (iv) An Extraordinary Meeting of the Board must be called by the Chief Officer at any time subject to receipt of a requisition from the authorities in membership of the Board holding not less than 1/3 of the votes. Such a requisition shall specify the business to be considered at the meeting.

8. Elected Officers of the Board

- (i) The Board shall elect a Chair and two Deputy Chairs for a two year period, subject to annual review.
- (ii) The Chair shall preside at meetings of the Board provided that if the Chair is absent from a meeting one of the Deputy Chairs will preside. If the Chair and Deputy Chairs are all absent from a meeting the Board shall elect another member to preside at the meeting.

9. Member Panel

- (i) There shall be a Member Panel which will provide a mechanism for engaging Members from the political groups, comprising of four local Authority Leaders, including the WMLB Chair and Vice Chair and one elected member nominated by each of the four regional political groups (Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent).

10. Annual meeting for all elected members

- (i) There shall be at least one meeting per year to which all elected members should be invited.

11. Political Groups

(i) The four regional political groups (Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent) will be facilitated by the WMLB secretariat to meet at least twice a year and in addition at the annual meeting for all elected members.

12. Other Member Arrangements

- (i) The Board will determine other member arrangements as deemed appropriate for the conduct of its business and which it may vary from time to time.
- (ii) Any elected member of any member authority may be appointed to sit on a Panel, Reference Group or Task and Finish Group of the Board provided that due regard is given to ensure as far as is possible that member groups reflect the necessary skills and expertise required for the particular role
- (iii) The Board may co-opt to the membership of Panels, Reference Groups Task and Finish Groups and other member arrangements any person with specialist skills or experience in order more effectively to pursue its purpose and objectives but such persons co-opted shall not exercise a vote.

13. Conduct of Business

- (i) Notice of meetings shall be given by the Chief Officer. The period of notice for meetings of the Board shall be 28 clear days.
- (ii) Agenda specifying the business to be transacted shall be circulated by the Chief Officer not less than 7 clear days before a Board meeting. Agenda for meetings of the Board shall be determined by the Chief Officer in consultation with the Chair.
- (iii) A Quorum for the Board shall be members representing local authorities in membership of the Board holding at least 1/3 of the votes capable of being cast. The Quorum for other boards, panels and groups shall be 1/3 of the appointed membership.
- (iv) The Chief Officer in consultation with the Chair may, in cases of urgency, act on behalf of the Board in pursuance of its objectives and current policies
- (v) The Board shall determine other procedural matters by adopting such Standing Orders, Schemes of Delegation and Political Conventions as it deems necessary following a report from the Chief Officer

14. Corporate Responsibilities and Sub-Regional Groupings

- (i) The Board shall act, wherever possible, on the basis of consensus and views expressed by elected officers of the Board shall reflect this approach. Where voting is necessary, it shall be in accordance with the scheme and protocols at Annexes 1 and 2. Dissenting views may be recorded in the minutes.
- (ii) The Board may make such appointments to outside bodies as it thinks fit
- (iii) The Board may establish or recognise other groupings for any other purposes it deems necessary, especially in recognition of the diversity of the region.

15. Staff

- (i) The Board will employ a Chief Officer and such other staff and officers as may be determined from time to time.

16. Amendments to the Constitution

- (i) The Constitution and operating protocols of the Board may be amended by a simple majority of those present and voting with the exception of items relating to Purpose, Objectives, the nature of the subscription scheme and voting allocations which must be the subject of a 2/3 majority of the votes capable of being cast by those Councils in membership of the Board at that time.

17. Finance and Administration

- (i) The budget and a report on subscriptions for the ensuing financial year shall be presented to a meeting of the Board
- (ii) The Board may not invest, lend or borrow money or acquire or dispose of land and buildings without obtaining specific approval at a meeting of the Board.
- (iii) The Chief Officer shall be authorised to sign documents on behalf of the Board.
- (iv) Subscriptions paid by Authorities in membership of the Board shall be determined on the basis of a scheme approved by the Board. Such a scheme shall have regard to the differences in size and type of authorities existing in the region
- (v) The Board's financial year shall run from 1 April to 31 March.
- (vi) All contributions shall become due on 1 April in every year. The Board shall have power to terminate the membership of any member authority whose subscription is not paid by 1 September of any year after a demand in writing has been sent to that member authority, notwithstanding the subscription shall remain duly payable.
- (vii) Accounts of all funds held by or on behalf of the Board shall be prepared annually and shall be audited by auditors to be appointed annually at the Annual Meeting of the Board.
- (viii) Indemnity - Each constituent authority, by accepting membership of the Board, undertakes jointly with each of the other constituent authorities, whilst it is in membership, to underwrite any liabilities that are not ultra vires and may be incurred in the name of the Board with its authority.

17. Resignation

- (i) Any member authority wishing to terminate its membership shall give not less than 12 months' notice in writing to the Chief Officer to expire on 31 March in any year.
- (ii) Any member authority shall, upon ceasing to be a member of the Board, forfeit all right to and claims upon the Board and its property and funds. The resigning member authority shall pay such amount representing the authority's share of responsibility towards liabilities incurred by the Board (formerly WMLGA) on behalf of member authorities including any related contingent staff liabilities. Such share to be

calculated on the last day of the authority's period of membership (31 March), based on the proportion with which the subscription paid by the authority bears to the total subscriptions of the Board.

18. Dissolution

- (i) A motion for the dissolution of the Board must be approved by 3/4 of the votes capable of being cast by local authorities in membership of the Board.
- (ii) Following agreement to the dissolution of the Board, the Chief Officer shall be responsible for disposing the assets/liabilities of the Board and the apportionment of responsibility for receiving proceeds and/or meeting liabilities shall be based on the proportion with which the subscription paid by the authority bears to the total subscriptions of the Board.

WEST MIDLANDS LEADERS BOARD

Voting Structure

Authority	Vote	
Worcestershire CC	6	
Worcester DCs (6 x 1 vote each)	<u>6</u>	12
Herefordshire Unitary	4	4
Shropshire Unitary	5	5
Telford and Wrekin Unitary	3	3
Staffordshire CC	8	
Staffordshire DCs (8 x 1 vote each)	<u>8</u>	16
Stoke-on-Trent Unitary	5	5
Warwickshire CC	5	
Warwickshire DCs (5 x 1 vote each)	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u> <u>55</u>
Birmingham	21	
Coventry	7	
Dudley	7	
Sandwell	7	
Solihull	5	
Walsall	7	
Wolverhampton	<u>6</u>	<u>60</u> <u>115</u>

WEST MIDLANDS LEADERS BOARD

Voting protocols for WMLB

1. Voting Principle

Voting strengths relate to the authorities and therefore mechanisms should be flexible enough to enable authorities with multiple votes to maximise their vote when required.

2. Voting protocols:-

(a) Representation and Voting:-

(i) These protocols will apply to full meetings of the Board and to such Member Groups of the Board or representations on other bodies determined by the Board, as the Board may from time to time decide. "One member one vote" will apply to other meetings.

(ii) Each authority shall have the number of votes identified in Annex I to be exercised by the Authority leader or their duly nominated representative.

(iii) Votes are not transferable between authorities and may not be exercised by officers.

(iv) For each meeting the Chief Officer shall maintain a 'named votes list' showing the names of the members entitled to be present at that meeting and the votes attached to each.

(b) Voting Procedure

(i) The Chair initially to seek approval to motions by voice agreement.

(ii) If the indication by voice is not clear the Chair may, or if requested by any member, shall seek a show of hands.

(iii) If, because of the multiple vote arrangements, on a show of hands the decision remains in doubt, the Chair may, or if requested by a number of members equivalent to 10 votes must, initiate a named vote where the Chief Officer uses a voting list which indicates the voting members and the numbers of votes each has at that meeting. In these circumstances decisions will be based on a majority of the votes cast in accordance with the voting totals.

Annex 3

STANDING ORDERS FOR THE REGULATION OF PROCEEDINGS AND BUSINESS OF THE WEST MIDLANDS LEADERS BOARD (WMLB)

1. Meetings of WMLB

- 1.1 WMLB shall meet not less than twice a year, one of which shall be designated the Annual General Meeting, to be held not more than 15 months and not less than nine months after the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- 1.2 Notice of the date, time and venue shall be sent to members not less than 28 calendar days before each meeting.
- 1.3 An agenda specifying the business to be transacted shall be sent to members not less than 7 calendar days before each meeting.
- 1.4 No other business except as specified in the agenda shall be transacted except with the approval of a majority of votes present at that meeting.
- 1.5 Extraordinary meetings of WMLB may be called at the request of the Chair, or in his/her absence one of the Deputy Chairs, or by request in writing to WMLB's Chief Officer signed by members representing at least 20 votes and giving the purpose of the meeting. The Chair, or in his/her absence one of the Deputy Chairs, may agree in exceptional circumstances that the period of notice of date, time and venue for extraordinary meetings be less than 28 days

2. Quorum

- 2.1 No business shall be transacted at any meeting of WMLB unless members representing at least 39 votes are present at that meeting.

3. Chair

- 3.1 Meetings of WMLB shall be presided over by the Chair of WMLB, or in his/her absence one of the Deputy Chairs
- 3.2 In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chairs another member of WMLB may be chosen as Chair for any particular meeting by the majority of the votes present at that meeting.
- 3.3 The decision of the Chair of any WMLB meeting on all points of procedure and order, and interpretation of Standing Orders, is final.
- 3.4 In Standing Orders, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12 reference to the Chair shall mean the Chair of the meeting in question.

4. Attendance Record

- 4.1 At every meeting of WMLB each member shall enter his or her name in an attendance book, or on such other form of record provided by WMLB's Chief Officer, from which attendance of members will be recorded.

5. Minutes

- 5.1 The minutes of the previous meeting of WMLB sent to members with the agenda will be taken as read.
- 5.2 Any motion or discussion on the minutes can only relate to their accuracy. Subject to such motions or discussions, the Chair shall sign the minutes as a correct record.

6. Order of Business

- 6.1 The order of business at WMLB meetings shall normally be as listed on the agenda but the Chair may, at his/her discretion, alter the order in which business is taken at the meeting.

7. Motions not requiring notice

- 7.1 The following motions may be moved without notice:-
- (a) Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chairs of WMLB
 - (b) Appointment of a Chair for the meeting;
 - (c) Relating to the accuracy of the minutes, closure, adjournment, order of business, or next business;
 - (d) Appointment of any Member group or Lead Member for any purpose;
 - (e) Appointment of members of WMLB to other bodies;
 - (f) Adoption of reports and recommendations of, Member Groups or Officers and any consequential resolutions;
 - (g) Amendment to recommendations of Member Groups or Officers;
 - (h) Leave be given to withdraw motions;
 - (i) Amendment to motions;
 - (j) A motion to exclude the public;
 - (k) By the Chair;
 - (l) Suspending Standing Orders.

7.2 All other motions will require fourteen clear days notice to the Chief Officer unless agreed by the Chair or in his/her absence one of the Deputy Chairs and will be included upon the agenda for the meeting

8. Rescission of Preceding Resolutions

8.1 Resolutions of WMLB passed within the previous six months cannot be rescinded, nor can a notice or amendment to the same effect as one which has previously been decided against within the preceding six months be proposed. This Standing Order shall not apply to motions moved by Member Groups.

9. Rules of Debate

9.1 A motion or amendment, other than motions to adopt reports and recommendations of Member Groups or Officers, shall not be discussed nor recorded in the minutes of the meeting unless it is proposed and seconded by members of WMLB.

9.2 An amendment to a recommendation or other motion must be either:-

(i) to leave out words;

(ii) to leave out words and to insert or add others, or

(iii) to insert or add words.

Any such amendment must not have the effect of introducing a new proposal into, or negating, the original motion.

9.3 Whenever an amendment has been moved and seconded, no second or subsequent amendment can be moved until the previous amendment has been disposed of, although notice of any number of amendments can be given without speaking to them.

9.4 If an amendment is rejected, other amendments may be moved on the original motion. If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended will become the substantive motion upon which any further amendment may be moved.

9.5 An amendment or other motion may be withdrawn by the proposer with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the WMLB meeting.

9.6 The proposer of a motion may, with the consent and of the WMLB meeting, alter a motion if the alteration is one which could have been moved as an amendment thereto.

9.7 No member shall address the meeting more than once on any question but the proposer of a motion or an amendment has the right of reply at the close of the debate, with the proposer of the original motion having the final right of reply before the amendment is put to the vote. Neither may introduce any new matter in exercising the right of reply.

- 9.8 When seconding a motion a member may reserve his/her speech until a later period of the debate.
- 9.9 When speaking, members must address the Chair. However, when the Chair rises no member may continue speaking. The debate will only continue when the Chair resumes his/her seat.
- 9.10 The Chair will determine the order of priority of speakers on any matters.
- 9.11 Without the consent of the WMLB meeting, which shall be given or refused without debate, no speech by the proposer of a motion or amendment shall exceed ten minutes in length and no other speech shall exceed five minutes in length.
- 9.12 No member, unless rising on a point of order or personal explanation, may interrupt the speech of another member, nor impute motives or use offensive expressions to any member or officer.
- 9.13 A member may rise to a point of order or on a personal explanation, but a personal explanation must be confined to some material part of a former speech by that member at the same meeting which may have been misunderstood.

10. Voting

- 10.1 If the Chair considers that the question has been sufficiently discussed he/she will put the motion to the vote.
- 10.2 Every question shall in the first instance be determined by voice "aye" or "no" but the Chair may, and if the question be challenged must, take a show of hands. If members entitled to cast 10 or more votes and representing at least two constituent authorities rise and demand a division then the names for and against shall be taken down in writing and entered in the minutes and the question shall be determined by the total votes cast having regard to the number of votes each member is entitled to cast in accordance with the voting protocols of WMLB.
- 10.3 Where, immediately after a vote is taken and it is not taken down in writing in accordance with (ii) above, and any member present at the meeting so requests, a record shall be made in the minutes of the meeting of whether the member voted for or against the motion or whether the member abstained from voting.
- 10.4 In the event of equality of voting the Chair shall have a second or casting vote in addition to any vote to which he or she may be entitled as a voting member.

11. Adjournment by Chair

- 11.1 The Chair may adjourn the meeting for as long as he/she wishes and any business not conducted at that time will be considered at the next meeting.

12. Notices

- 12.1 All notices and communications required by these Standing Orders to be sent or delivered may be sent by post or by agreement by electronic means, and any such notice or communication shall be deemed to be received on the day on which in the ordinary course of first class post it would be received or on the day it was transmitted electronically.

13. Variations and Revocation of Standing Orders

- 13.1 Any motion to vary or revoke these Standing Orders shall, when proposed and seconded, be referred to the Leaders Board without debate or discussion.

14. Suspension of Standing Orders

- 14.1 Any of the preceding Standing Orders (other than Standing Order 13) may be suspended at any meeting of WMLB, as regards any business on the agenda for such meeting, providing the majority of the votes present at the meeting so decide.

Member Panel – Papers and Minutes

**West Midlands Leaders Board – Member Panel
6 May 2009**

Discussion Paper

1. Background

- 1.1 The changes in regional governance arrangements proposed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, currently before Parliament, were developed as a consequence of the Sub National Review (SNR). In the West Midlands significant progress has already been made with the establishment of a shadow Joint Strategy and Investment Board (JSIB) and the West Midlands Leaders Board (WMLB).
- 1.2 There has been a recognition that the West Midlands Local Government Association needs to work differently to support local authorities within the changing regional landscape. It has been agreed that a new organisation be established as a single voice for local government within the Region that will also encompass support required by individual local authorities.
- 1.3 The current economic climate means that now, more than ever, local government needs to work coherently to:
 - articulate the needs of the Region and the local government sector;
 - ensure projects, including those identified within the Regional Funding Advice, are delivered;
 - influence Government and regional agencies, for example Advantage West Midlands and the Homes and Community Agency;
 - improve the performance of local authorities;
 - continue to develop a strategic approach within the Region through the Single Integrated Strategy (SIRS).

2. Members Panel

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Leaders Board on 9 February 2009 it was agreed to establish a Members Panel to test ideas out about the development of the Member Structures required to support the Board. Member Panel discussions will inform the development of formal proposals regarding structures to be submitted to the next meeting of the West Midlands Leaders Board (WMLB) on 13 July 2009.
- 2.2 It was also agreed that the Member Panel would consist of four LALB representatives (Chair, Vice Chair, plus two others) and representatives

of the four political groups. Following requests for nominations membership has been finalised as:

Cllr Philip Atkins	Conservative (Staffordshire)
Cllr Albert Bore	Labour (Birmingham)
Cllr Roger Hollingworth	Bromsgrove
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire (WMLB Chair)
Cllr Ken Taylor	Coventry
Cllr Paul Tilsley	Liberal Democrat (Birmingham)
Cllr Mike Whitby	Birmingham (WMLB Vice Chair)
Cllr JB Williams	Independent (Herefordshire)

- 2.3 Appendix 1 details a draft brief terms of reference that reflect the initial focus for the Member Panel.

3. **Member Structures**

- 3.1 There is general agreement to the principle that the WMLB should be supported by a combination of a small number of standing and task and finish member groups replacing the more complex arrangements of portfolio holders and partnerships. This will provide both a focus on priority areas and flexibility.
- 3.2 Appendix 2 suggests how Member task groups under the WMLB could engage with wider local authority membership and with possible advisory panels to the shadow JSIB. The Member Panel is asked to consider this approach and in particular the listed questions.

4. **Nomination to Outside Bodies**

- 4.1 WMLGA currently nominate representatives to a number of outside bodies. Due to the current constitution these appointments are made on a politically proportionate basis across the membership. Appendix 3 identifies the most significant current appointment excluding those to the LGA as these are made by individual authorities/political groups. Work is currently underway to examine the effectiveness and continued need for member level involvement in these groups and to consider where member influence is best placed.
- 4.2 Throughout the discussions about move to a leadership model it has been emphasised that in moving to a leadership model the key criteria for the choice of a member is the possession of the necessary skills and experience. This is so whether the places are politically filled - as with for example nominations via the LGA; or otherwise. The Member Panel are asked to consider how such nominations could be made in the future, taking into account the criteria suggested above and the role of both the Leaders Board and the political groups in this.
- 4.3 There is a particular issue, referred to at the Executive Committee of the WMLGA in March, about forthcoming nominations to the Committee of the Regions (CoR). The LGA intends to set out for regions a 'Job Description' to highlight to those members interested what the demands

of the role will be including a requirement to report back to their respective region on their activities.

4.4 Regions will be asked by the LGA to provide a list of six names by 31 July. This should be based upon the political balance across the region, following the June elections. Nominations going forward to the LGA should also include a statement by the applicant member setting out their interest and experience of working in this field.

4.5 The advice from the LGA is that these six names should comprise two direct regional nominations:

- one male;
- one female;
- one full one alternate.

These nominations will be guaranteed a place on the CoR. The remaining four will go into the national top up pot – to enable the LGA to produce a balanced list taking into account, not only experience, but also region, gender, party, ethnic origin, type of authority, disability. Individuals will be able to represent more than one category in this list. These regional lists would not however preclude the LGA nationally adding names. The pot would also be used to top up the delegation throughout the mandate as inevitably members lose their seats or move on for other reasons.

4.6 In the light of the above criteria Members are asked to consider how the nominations should be made from the West Midlands.

Olwen Dutton
Chief Executive

Appendix 1

West Midlands Leaders Board – Members Panel

Draft Terms of Reference

1. **Purpose**

- 1.1 The Members Panel is an advisory group to the West Midlands Leaders Board (WMLB). Its initial focus will be advising on the development of Member structures to support the WMLB.

2. **Membership**

- 2.1 It should consist of four Local Authority Leaders, including the WMLB chair and Vice Chair and one elected member nominated by each of the four regional political groups (Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent).

3. **Role**

- 3.1 To advise the WMLB of:

- Appropriate member structures to support the delivery of its aspirations;
- Suggested nomination mechanism for any member structure agreed by WMLB;
- Relevant concerns from Members within the Region.

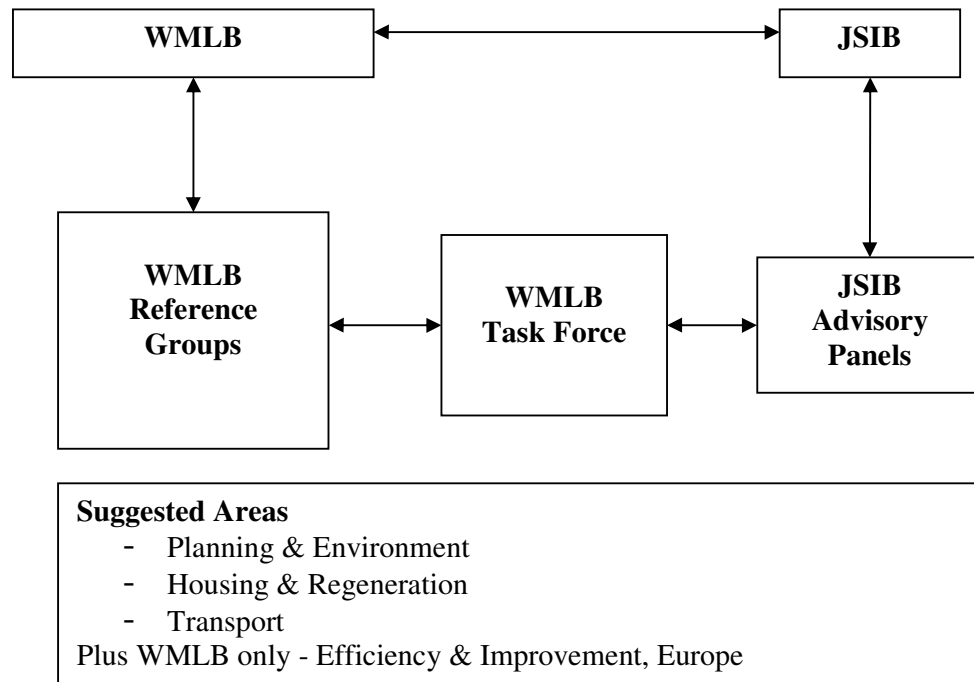
- 3.2 It will also provide a mechanism to formally engage the main political groupings within the Region

4. **Reporting Requirements**

- 4.1 The Chair of the Members Panel will provide regular progress reports to WMLB. In addition detailed reports may be required in respect of specific activity requested by WMLB.

Appendix 2 Member Structures

- 1.1 The diagram below illustrates how Member task groups under the WMLB could engage with wider local authority membership and with possible advisory panels to the shadow JSIB. Three types of groups are shown.
- 1.2 WMLB Reference Groups
 - Are intended to provide policy advice and local intelligence to the WMLB and Task Groups. It is suggested that they operate virtually, meeting only as and when business requires.
- 1.3 WMLB Task Groups
 - Small focused groups of Elected Members appointed by WMLB providing expertise and advice to it. These could also represent WMLB on JSIB advisory panels.
- 1.4 Shadow JSIB Advisory Panels
 - To progress the SNR agenda and associated activities. Proposals regarding these are expected to be taken to the next Shadow JSIB meeting on 28 May.



2. **Role of Member Panel**

2.1 The Member Panel is asked to advise on the general approach proposed and the effectiveness of this in enabling wider member engagement. In particular views are requested on the following questions:

2.2 WMLB Reference Groups

- How effective will these be in engaging the most appropriate LA representatives?
- How should the membership of these be decided?
- Should membership numbers/type vary between each forum?
- Are these the right subject areas?
- What should the balance be between virtual/actual activity?
- How will these inform the Panels/be informed?

2.3 WMLB Task Groups

- Are these the right groups?
- In particular, is it better to deal with housing and planning separately or in a single group?
- Should they be standing or task and finish?
- Is the local government representation into these correct?
- Should the chairs of the Panels be members of shadow JS&IB/Leaders?
- How should membership be decided?
- How will these feed in to the WMLB/JSIB?
- Should other groups including European and RIEP governance arrangements follow the same model?

2.4 JSIB Advisory Panels

- Are the Panels supporting the shadow JS&IB the right ones?
- How should local government be represented on these groups and any other Shadow JS&IB may wish to establish?
- How should the local government panels feed into these advisory groups?

Appendix 3 Representation on Outside Bodies

The table below indicates direct nominations already made or recently requested, excluding those made to Assembly Partnerships. In addition Members also sit on other bodies such as the National LGA and Advantage West Midlands Board by virtue of nomination by individual authorities, political groups or by an open application process.

Body	Number	Names
RegenWm Board	1 or 2	Not nominated - recent request
Arts Council West Mids	6 3 Con 2 Lab 1 LD	Chris Saint – Stratford (Con) Colin Ablitt – Lichfield (Con) Terry James – Herefordshire (LD) Richard Chattaway – Warwickshire (Lab) Cllr Muhammed - Bham (Lab) Vacancy – Met (Con)
Rural Affairs Forum	1	JB Williams – Herefordshire (Ind) Alternative Sebastian Bowen – Herefordshire (Ind)
Sustainability WM	1	Judith Pearce – Wychavon (Con)
Tourism WM	1	Chris Saint - Stratford
Regional Observatory	1	Ken Taylor – Coventry (Con)
England Volunteering Council – West Mids	1	Terry Dix – Staffordshire
Provincial Council	13 6 Con 4 Lab 2 LD 1 Ind	Jack Harrison – Coventry (Lab) Derek Davis – Staffordshire (Lab) Peter Kane – Bham (Lab) John Mutton – Bham (Lab) Cllr Johnson – Coventry (Con) Cllr Martin – Dudley (Con) Cllr Fowler – Warwickshire (Con) Cllr Holland – Newcastle Under Lyme (Con) Cllr Davies – Solihull (LD) Cllr Gopsil – Wychavon (LD) Cllr Sutton – Malvern (Ind) Cllr Hardman – Worcestershire (Con) Cllr Barrow – Shropshire (Con)
Enterprise Board	1	David Smith - Lichfield

Programme Monitoring Committee	5 3 Con 1 Lab 1 LD	Philip Atkins – Staffordshire (Con) Adrian Blackshaw – Herefordshire (Con) Ken Taylor – Coventry (Con) Roger Lawrence – Wolverhampton (Lab) Paul Tilsley – Birmingham (LD)
WMiE Management Committee	1	Sir Albert Bore – Birmingham (Lab)
RIEP – Members Steering Group	6 3 Con 2 Lab 1 LD	Norman Davis – Solihull (LD) Phil Atkins – Staffordshire (Con) Vacancy (Serena Croad) (Con) Paul Middleborough – Wychavon (Con) Pauline Hinton – Sandwell (Lab) Mick Jones – Warwickshire (Lab)

**West Midlands Leaders Board
Members Panel**

Notes of Meeting held on 6th May 2009

Attendance

Cllr Philip Atkins	Conservative Group (Staffordshire)
Cllr Sir Albert Bore	Labour Group (Birmingham)
Cllr Roger Hollingworth	Bromsgrove
Cllr Ken Taylor	Coventry
Cllr Paul Tilsley	Liberal Democrat Group (Birmingham)
Cllr JB Williams	Independent Group (Herefordshire)

Olwen Dutton	Chief Executive
Jim Graham	Warwickshire
Rose Poulter	SNR Transition Team
Dagmar Waller	WMLGA

Apologies

Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire
Cllr Mike Whitby	Birmingham

1. Cllr Atkins agreed to act as Chair.
2. Olwen Dutton introduced the discussion paper. There was a general agreement to the underlying principles that the new structures should have the ability to be more inclusive and that selection of any representatives should primarily be based on skills, knowledge and ability.

3. Structures

- 3.1 Key issues discussed included the relationship between the Leaders Board and JSIB and the need for a two way communication between the Reference Groups and JSIB Panels. There was a general discussion regarding sub regional working.

It was suggested that structures based on the proposals are introduced and assessed after 12 months. These could evolve as necessary for example in response to other panels that could be established by the JSIB.

It will be crucial to ensure effective communication.

- 3.2. Reference Groups - General
 - Should provide for wider engagement/connection with local authorities but membership should be restricted to authorities with a clear role.

- Recognition that these will not be decision making bodies
 - The discussions of these groups should be focussed on influencing the agenda
 - Will also inform/be connected to the WMLB
 - To be chaired by a local authority Leader
 - Should focus on strategic level
- 3.3 JSIB Panels - General
- WMLB to nominate local authority representatives
 - May wish to meet separately as well as with Panel
 - Authorities represented should be Met/non Met rather than Met and Shire/Shire districts
 - Representatives should be the “right people” for the role
- 3.4 Planning and Environment
- Reference Group Membership - all authorities
- 3.5 Housing and Regeneration
- Membership – appropriate authorities – based on core local authority responsibilities but Counties probably be included given their wider roles
- 3.6 Transport
- Membership – 14 transport authorities
 - Other authorities that wish to be involved should provide reasons for this
 - Role of Integrated Transport Authority within the reference group and panel will require clarification
- 3.7 REIP – will need to be brought fully into the WMLB structure
- 3.8 Europe – the current structures are appropriate, membership is being reviewed but will continue broadly doing the same things
- 3.9 Other areas – consideration should be given to how the WMLB communicates and influences the activities of existing Member/officer networks e.g. Education, Children’s Services to ensure a more joined up approach. If needed input to other policy areas, e.g. economic development, could be provided by task and finish groups.
- 3.10 Support – resources to support activity are limited therefore this should be focused on supporting core business – agreed that the identified panels so far represent this in policy terms
4. **Wider Member Engagement**
- 4.1 There should be at least one meeting per year which will be open to all local authority members with consideration given to form and content of this. In addition it was agreed that the political groups were important and must be continued. Three political group meetings per year (one

linked to the annual meeting) would be facilitated through the secretariat.

4. **Nomination to Outside Bodies**

4.1 Nominations by WMLGA will be made by WMLB if continuation of these is considered appropriate. It will be important to nominate the right person with skills, expertise and who is best able to put forward the West Midlands' views. Nominated individuals should represent the region' s view rather than their own, attend meetings and provide feedback to WMLB.

4.2 There is a need to review the bodies WMLGA currently nominates to in order to assess what they deliver in conjunction with identifying those that WMLB wishes to influence in the future.

4.3 Cllr Sir Albert Bore explained that the LGA had amended the Committee of the Regions nomination process.

5. **Constitutional Changes**

5.1 Olwen Dutton explained that the minimum amount of constitutional changes to move from current WMLGA arrangements to a Leaders Board organisation will be taken to the Executive meeting on 10th June and presented at the AGM on 8th July 2009. The Constitution states that in order to amend as desired a 2/3 majority of the whole membership is required. Every effort will be made to encourage attendance via Chief Executives and Leaders.

6. **Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the members Panel should meet quarterly. Agreed dates will be circulated as soon as possible.

Appendix Three

WMLGA Appointments for 2008/09

Chairman (Conservative)	-	Cllr Ken Taylor (Coventry)
(Chairman of Regional Assembly)	-	Cllr David Smith (Lichfield))
Senior Vice-Chair (Lab)	-	Cllr Terry Dix (Staffordshire)
Junior Vice-Chair (Lib Dem)	-	Cllr Paul Tilsley (Birmingham)

Distribution of 6 balancing places for WMRA as agreed by Group Officers

Conservative Members

3 Members	VACANT (due to Shropshire Districts)
	Cllr Phil Atkins (Staffordshire)
	Cllr John Lines (Birmingham)

Labour Members

2 Member	Cllr Bob Badham (Sandwell)
	Cllr Charles Smith (Telford)

Liberal Democrat Members

1 Member	VACANT (due to Shropshire Districts)
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Portfolio Holders:-

	Member and Authority
Asylum and Refugee Issues (C)	VACANT (due to Shropshire Districts)
Children and Education (C)	VACANT
Cultural Affairs (C) #	Cllr Chris Saint (Stratford)
Employment and Improvement (LD)	Cllr Norman Davies (Solihull)
Environment (L) #	Cllr Keith Austin (Telford and Wrekin)
Europe & International (L) #	Cllr Albert Bore (Birmingham)
Rural Affairs (I) #	Cllr JB Williams (Herefordshire)
Social Inclusion (C) #	VACANT (due to Shropshire Districts)
Health (L) #	Cllr Steve Eling (Sandwell)
Housing (C) #	Cllr John Lines (Birmingham)
Planning (C) #	Cllr Rex Roberts (Staffordshire)
Transport (C) #	Cllr Roger Phillips (Herefordshire)

(# positions that may or which do demand a seat on the WMRA Board)

Executive Committee 2008/09 (26 members)

	Metropolitan Districts	Counties	Unitaries	Shire Districts	Grand Total
Conservative	6	2	1	5	14
Labour	5	2			7
Liberal Democrat	2	1	1		4
Independents			1		1
TOTALS	13	5	3	5	26

NOTE: Committee to be constituted from Association council members and to include Chairman and Vice-Chairs and as far as possible Portfolio Holders determined by the 'balancing places' will be ex-officio on the Committee

Conservative Members

Metropolitan Authorities
6 Conservative Members

Cllr Mike Whitby (Birmingham)
Cllr John O'Hare (Walsall)
Cllr Ken Taylor (Coventry)
Cllr Ken Meeson (Solihull)
Cllr Ken Turner (Dudley)

County Authorities
2 Conservative Members

Cllr John Lines (Birmingham)
Cllr Rex Roberts (Staffordshire)

Unitary Authorities
1 Conservative

Cllr Malcolm Pate (Shropshire)
Cllr Roger Phillips (Herefordshire)

District Authorities
5 Conservative Members

VACANT (due to Shropshire Districts)
Cllr David Smith (Lichfield)
Cllr Phil Atkins (East Staffordshire)
Cllr Chris Saint (Stratford on Avon)
Cllr Paul Middleborough (Wychavon)

Labour Members

Metropolitan Authorities –
5 Labour Members

Cllr Albert Bore (Birmingham)
Cllr Steve Eling (Sandwell)
Cllr Peter Bilson (Wolverhampton)
Cllr John Mutton (Coventry)
Cllr David Sparks (Dudley)

County Authorities –
2 Labour Members

VACANT (Cllr Terry Dix)
Cllr Mick Jones (Warwickshire)

Liberal Democrat Members

Unitary Authorities – 1 LD member
Metropolitan Authorities – 2 LD members

Cllr Terry James (Herefordshire)
Cllr Paul Tilsley (Birmingham)
Cllr Norman Davies (Solihull)
Cllr Nigel Hartin (Shropshire)

County Authorities – 1 LD member

Independent Members

Unitary – 1 Independent member

VACANT (due to Shropshire Districts)

Ex Officio Members

PH Social Inclusion and Asylum & Refugees
PH Rural Affairs
PH Environment
AWM Board Representative

Cllr JB Williams
Cllr Keith Austin
Cllr Roger Lawrence

**Finance and Audit Committee 2008/09
(formally Resources Panel) – WMLGA**

The Full Members are the positions of Chairman Senior and Junior vice Chair. Three alternates are to be nominated, one for each full member and should reflect the political affiliation of the full member and be a full voting member of the Executive Committee

Full Member

Chairman (C) Cllr Ken Taylor
Senior Vice Chair (L) VACANT
Junior Vice Chair (LD) Cllr Paul Tilsley

Alternate Member

Cllr Rex Roberts (Staffordshire)
 Cllr Steve Eling (Sandwell)
 Cllr Norman Davis (Solihull)

**West Midlands Regional Assembly Board of Directors
2008/09**

Local Authority Members

Chairman (C)	Cllr David Smith (Lichfield) (Leader)
Senior LA Vice Chair (L)	VACANT (Cllr Terry Dix)
Junior LA Vice Chair (LD)	Cllr Paul Tilsley (Birmingham)
Business Vice Chair	Sarinder Singh Sahota
OSG Vice Chair	Roger McKenzie
Cultural Affairs (C)	Cllr Chris Saint (Stratford)
Environment	Cllr Keith Austin (Telford and Wrekin)
Europe & International	Cllr Albert Bore (Birmingham)
Rural Affairs	Cllr JB Williams (Herefordshire)
Social Inclusion (C)	VACANT (due to Shropshire Districts)
Health	Cllr Steve Eling (Sandwell)
Housing (C)	Cllr John Lines (Birmingham)
Planning (C)	Cllr Rex Roberts (Staffordshire)
Transport (C)	Cllr Roger Phillips (Herefordshire) (Leader)
Planning Partnership Vice Chair (L)	Cllr Bob Badham (Sandwell)
Housing Partnership Vice Chair (LD)	VACANT (due to Shropshire Districts)
Roger Stone	Business Sector
Barrie Williams	Business Sector
Frances Beatty	Business Sector
John Hall	OSG
Elizabeth Newman	OSG
Roger Evans	OSG

Regional Housing Executive

All Members were nominated from the Regional Housing Partnership Membership:

Chair - Cllr John Lines (Birmingham)
Vice Chair - VACANT (due to Shropshire Districts)
(both above positions demand a seat on the WMRA Board)

(12 Local Govt Members)

As per template below. Representation must include Local Government Chair and Vice-Chair as above with the other 10 members drawn from RHP. Consideration must be given to appropriate representation from the four Housing Market Areas.

- Metropolitan Members: 3 Conservative, 2 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat
- Shire Members: 4 Conservative, 1 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat

Conservative Members

Metropolitan Authorities
3 Conservative Members

Cllr John Lines (Birmingham)
Cllr McCracken (Walsall)
Cllr P Bradley (Wolverhampton)
Cllr J Jarvis (Herefordshire)
Cllr Judy Pearce (Wychavon)
Cllr Robert Hardwick (East
Staffordshire)
Cllr R Marshall (Staffordshire)

Shire Authorities
4 Conservative Members

Labour Members

Metropolitan Authorities
2 Labour Members
Shire Authorities
1 Labour Member

Cllr Linda Bigham (Coventry)
Cllr Peter Bilson (Wolverhampton)
Cllr Carol Dean (Staffordshire)

Liberal Democrat Members

Metropolitan Authorities
1 Lib Dem Member
Shire Authorities
1 Lib Dem Member

Ongoing VACANCY
VACANT (due to Shropshire Districts)

EUROPEAN MEMBER STRUCTURE

European Strategy Board (8 Local Govt Members)

As per template below. Membership *must* include European Strategy Portfolio Holder.

Conservative Members

Metropolitan Authorities	Cllr Ken Taylor (Coventry)
2 Conservative Members	Cllr Mike Whitby (Birmingham)
Non Metropolitan	Cllr David Smith (Lichfield)
3 Conservative Members	Cllr Phillip Atkins (Staffordshire)
	Cllr Martin Heatley (Warwickshire)

Labour Members

Metropolitan Authorities	Cllr Albert Bore (Birmingham)
1 Labour Members	
Non Metropolitan (in 08/09 the Labour Group decided to nominate 2 metropolitan authorities)	Cllr Roger Lawrence (Wolverhampton)
1 Labour Member	

Liberal Democrat Members

Metropolitan Authorities	Cllr Paul Tilsley (Birmingham)
1 Lib Dem Member	

Programme Monitoring Committee (AWM)

5 Members to represent the sub regional areas. Proposed split for consideration by the groups:

Conservative Members (3)

Coventry / Warwickshire / Solihull	Cllr Ken Taylor (Coventry)
Staffordshire Sub region	Cllr Phillip Atkins (Staffordshire)
Shropshire Sub region	Cllr Adrian Blackshaw (Herefordshire)

Labour Members (1)

Black Country	Cllr Roger Lawrence (Wolverhampton)
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Liberal Democrat Member (1)

Birmingham	Cllr Paul Tilsley (Birmingham)
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Regional Transport Partnership (currently 4 Local Govt. Members)

2 Members to be appointed by WM Joint Committee's Transport Strategy Co-ordination Board

2 Members to be appointed from non-metropolitan LTP authorities.

1 of the members must be the Transport Portfolio Holder

Conservative Members (2)

One Metropolitan

Cllr Angus Adams
(Dudley)

Substitute

Cllr G Richards
(Solihull)

One Non Metropolitan

Cllr Roger Phillips
(Herefordshire)

Labour Members

One Metropolitan

Cllr John McNicholas
(Coventry)

Cllr Roger Horton
(Sandwell)

Liberal Democrat Members

One Non Metropolitan

Cllr Jerry Roodhouse
(Warwickshire)

WMRA Health Partnership

4 local government members – one to be the Portfolio Holder for Health

Conservative Members

1 District Member

Cllr Alex Fox (East Staffordshire)

1 Unitary Member

Cllr Ken Meeson (Solihull)

Labour Members

1 Metropolitan Member

Cllr Steve Eling (Sandwell)

Liberal Democrat Members

1 County Member

WMRIEP Members Steering Group

Chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Improvement and should comprise of representatives from a District; County; Unitary and Metropolitan Authority, together with one portfolio holder respectively for Adult and Children's Services. Nominations should be either Leaders or carrying responsibility for Improvement within their authority.

3 Conservatives, 2 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat.

Conservative Members

3 Members

VACANT (due to Shropshire Districts)
Cllr Paul Middleborough (Wychavon)

Cllr Phillip Atkins (East Staffordshire)

Labour Members

2 Members

Cllr M Jones (Warwickshire)

Cllr P Hinton (Sandwell)

Liberal Democrat Members

1 Member

Ongoing VACANCY

The Following groups were dissolved in 2008/09:

- Strategic Review Group
- Regional Housing Partnership
- Regional Planning Partnership
- Regional Environment Partnership

West Midlands Leaders Board

13 July 2009

Supporting Governance Structures for WMLB

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper considers the advisory/support structures which the West Midlands Leaders Board (WMLB) is likely to require initially to enable it to operate effectively and strategically and to punch its weight. The paper includes issues relating to the WMLB's secretariat arrangements and details how the Leaders Board will influence and provide leadership to the shadow Joint Strategy & Investment Board (JS&IB) and its support structures.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the WMLB agree to the development of a three year plan based on a 10% reduction in subscriptions, year on year and comment on the proposals in section 5.

3. Introduction

The proposed WMLB and JSIB support structures and arrangements considered in this paper are intended to:

- ensure that local government provides real leadership of the regional agenda;
- provide support to constituent local authorities;
- provide support to the six local government representatives on the Shadow JS&IB;
- enable elected Members to engage in and influence the regional agenda by participating in Reference Groups which will advise the Leaders Board and its work with the shadow JS&IB and be accountable to the Leaders Board;
- Champion the cause of the region's local authorities to government.

In addition it is important that the proposed new arrangements are:

- flexible and fit for purpose;
- supported by good channels of communication between the Leaders Board and local authorities;

- operate within limited financial resources and agreed officer support arrangements.

4. **Background**

4.1 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill is the enabling legislation for much of the activity associated with the Sub National Review (SNR). In particular it will:

- create a new duty on local authorities to assess economic conditions;
- require regional development agencies and local authorities jointly to produce a single integrated regional strategy (SIRS);
- and provide powers for councils to co-operate in promoting economic development.

4.2 The Bill is scheduled to complete its passage through Parliament by July but commentators are suggesting that autumn is more likely.

4.3 Over the last year, work has been underway to develop mechanisms by which local government and AWM can discharge their new duties in relation to the SIRS via the shadow Joint Strategy and Investment Board. Regular reports on this work have been made to the Leaders Board. In addition, the WMLGA has been reviewed in light of the role of the Leaders Board to ensure that a local government representative body is developed that is fit for purpose and cost effective. The democratic structure of this organisation is mostly considered elsewhere on your agenda.

4.4 A short piece of work on the structure and function of the secretariat was commissioned from Black Radley to provide an independent perspective on this and complement the work carried out by the existing secretariat, supported by Chief Executives. This has highlighted the need for the WMLB to be focused and for clear lines of accountability between Leaders, the WMLB chief officer and local authority chief executives.

4.5 Underpinning this work is the recognition that in the interests both of the sector and the West Midlands, a leadership role is required that only local government can provide. It is essential that a strong and effective organisation provides a focus for the leadership role that is 'future proofed' against any future government policy.

4.6 Developing priorities for activity include economic issues, reflecting the recession, developing the regional strategy, providing the Employers Organisation services and other activities including European engagement. A further review will be required of the services provided to member authorities; including costs and funding arrangements.

5. **WMLB Arrangements**

5.1 In order to develop the focus and future structure of the WMLB secretariat, it is proposed that a three year plan is developed with a draft being presented for

discussion at the next meeting on 28 October 2009. It is proposed that this Plan is based on a 10% year on year reduction in subscription levels to member authorities. Therefore, the Plan will entail examining how services are provided and funded.

- 5.2 A key focus will be on providing perceptible value for money for member authorities, targets linked to identified priorities and transparent arrangements around leadership, regional voice and a policy role. Ultimately, this may require that a new constitution is brought forward at some point.
- 5.3 The Regional Partnership Centre is funded by member subscription and is expected to undergo significant changes during the period of the proposed three year plan, which will provide a reduced headcount. Project type activities funded externally such as Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands will also come to the end of their predicted life which will have an impact upon future accommodation needs.
- 5.4 CLG have confirmed that funding for the next financial year will be allocated to Leaders Boards in respect of the regional strategy in a similar way to existing Assembly funding, albeit with a 10% cut. As it is expected that CLG will continue to exercise considerable control over how the funding is spent it is likely that this will be ring fenced to regional strategy work. If so, this will be used to provide the WMLB element of the essentially virtual team being developed in conjunction with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) to support the SIRS. Any separate support for the shadow JS&IB will require funding and the role and format of that support must be clearly identified, agreed and understood.
- 5.5 The significant subsidy provided by the WMLGA to the Assembly throughout its existence, although reduced in recent years, is no longer sustainable. The future development of the regional strategy will be funded from resources specifically allocated to it, working as is now the case with officers from member authorities.
- 5.6 The regional strategy will also need to be funded by AWM's existing provision for the preparation and monitoring of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). Most regions are experiencing some difficulty in identifying RDA spending on this due in part to different budgetary processes. CLG has recognised that funding for the development of the regional strategy needs in part to come from existing RDA budgets and have raised this with DBIS.
- 5.7 The following section of the report outlines the proposed support structures for the shadow JS&IB and considers how the wider local government family in the region can advise, support and input into these arrangements.

6. **Shadow JS&IB Arrangements**

- 6.1 Appendix 1 is an 'aunt sally' diagram of the support groups that the shadow JS&IB may require. This has been developed by the SNR Transition Team on the back of informal discussions with regional partners from the Assembly, local government and is supported by the Chief Executives Task Force. It was given broad support by the shadow JS&IB at their meeting on 28 May. Key features to note and discuss are:

- The proposed Panels should meet when required, in agreement with the shadow JS&IB, taking account of the SIRS development, implementation and monitoring cycle.
- Economic/Business Panel - The inclusion of this Panel reflects a suggestion from the business representative organisations that they could work with the shadow JS&IB via 'some sort of business forum'. It been suggested that the current principally business led Council of Economic Advisors could become or act as the Economy/Business Panel. Local government and other regional partners will also want to play into this Panel. Informal discussions with colleagues leading the skills agenda in the region indicate that they would want to connect their work into this Panel via the Regional Skills Partnership. The panel would provide advice to the shadow JS&IB.
Chair – TBD
- Transport Panel – Responsibilities to include the development, delivery (including monitoring and overseeing the management of the associated implementation and funding programmes) and performance management of the SIRS and associated activities.
Membership - 4 Metropolitan Authorities - Including member(s) from the Integrated Transport Authority, 4 non Metropolitan Authorities, 1 AWM, 1 Business Representative, 1 Other Stakeholder Representative
Chair – Local Government Leader
- Housing & Regeneration Panel - Responsible for ensuring that housing and regeneration activities are coordinated to make the strongest possible contribution to sustainable economic growth and the SIRS. Informs the shadow JSI&B in its regional strategic management and leadership role. In particular, supporting the JSIB in the monitoring and management of the housing components of RFA and advising and making recommendations to JSIB accordingly.
Membership – Total 10 – 6 Elected Members, one from each of the Housing Market Areas – North, West, South and 3 from the Central Area, 1 AWM, 1 Homes and Communities Agency, 1 Business Representative, 1 Other Stakeholder eg WM Housing Federation or West Midlands Voluntary & Community Sector Housing Network.
Chair – Local Government Leader
- Planning & Environment - Responsible for ensuring that planning and environmental activities are coordinated to make the strongest possible contribution to sustainable economic growth and the SIRS. Informs the shadow JSI&B in its regional strategic management and leadership role.
Membership – Total 12 - 4 Met and 4 Non Met Authorities of which 2 should be Shire Districts, 1 AWM, 1 DEFRA 'family' (Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage, British Waterways), 1 Business Representative, 1 Other Stakeholder eg West Midlands Sustainability Forum/Bio Diversity Forum or 1 MADE (Midlands Academy for Design in the Environment)
Chair – Local Government Leader
- Citizens & Communities Panel – this Panel or something akin, would enable social, community and people issues to be factored into discussions on the

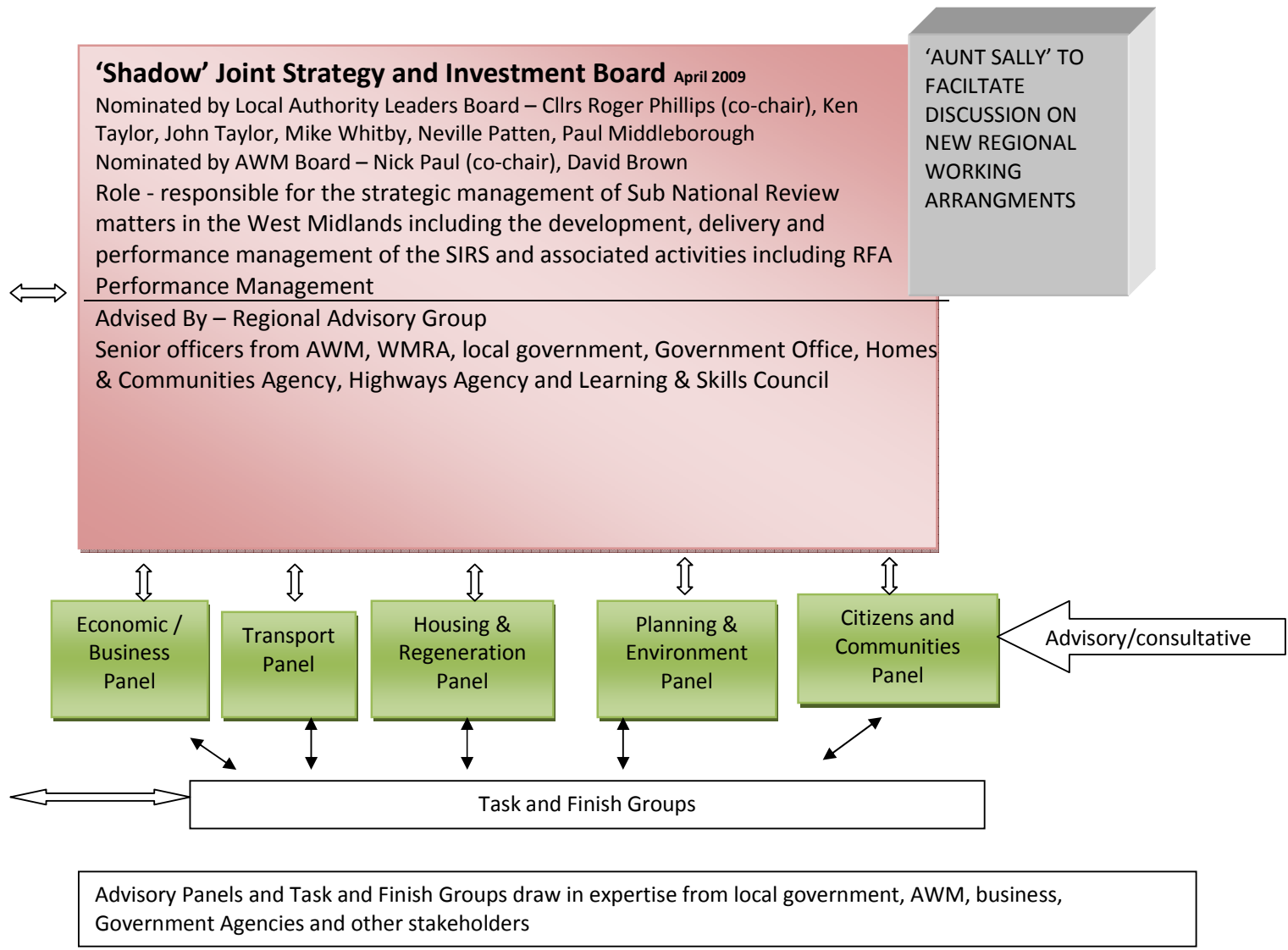
SIRS. Such a Panel could link to (or in some cases replace) existing Partnerships e.g. Equalities and Diversity and Health. Further discussions with partners are pending.

Chair – TBD

- 6.2 Appendix 2 sets out the structures which will enable the wider local government family to engage with their representatives on the Shadow JS&IB Panels via thematic Reference Groups. It is proposed that the Leaders Board nominate elected Members onto the shadow JS&IB Panels, in the numbers suggested above. It is anticipated that these will be Leaders or portfolio holders and have sufficient time and expertise to bring a strong local government voice into each of the Panels. In turn the elected Members on the Panels will be part of and also supported and advised by (local government) Reference Groups. It is anticipated that a mechanism for nominating members to these will be developed over the summer, discussed with the Member Panel and brought to the Leaders Board in October.
- 6.3 The Reference Groups will have a dual purpose. Firstly, to provide advice and views to WMLB and elected Members on the Panels and in addition when required provide a mandate for elected Members on the Panels enabling them to speak with authority debates and decision making. Secondly through the wider membership of the Reference Group, ensure that all local authorities are informed and engaged in the SNR agenda and associated activities.
- 6.4 It is proposed that the Reference Groups meet when required and not at fixed points in time, operate as virtual discussion groups using email and with the agreement of the Leaders Board.
- 6.5 WMLB is asked to comment on the proposals in this paper and provide a strategic steer for the way forward.
- 6.6 Early work has focussed on ensuring that the governance and officer support structures for Transport are reengineered. This is described in further detail in the Transport Report elsewhere on this agenda. In the same way that the SNR Transition Team has worked with officers from local government, AWM etc on Transport governance and officer support arrangements, it is proposed that similar work commence in respect to Housing and Regeneration Panel and Planning and Environment Panel. Progress will be reported to the meeting of the Leaders Board on 28 October 2009.

Authors: Rose Poulter
 Olwen Dutton

- Single Integrated Regional Strategy - Key Steps**
- Visioning and Scenario Planning
 - Project Plan setting out for consultation:-
 - subject areas
 - evidence base
 - involvement of stakeholders
 - risk management
 - Drafting the SIRS
 - develop evidence base
 - engage stakeholder
 - appraise issues and options incorporating SEA and HRA
 - EIP Panel to consider evidence
 - Testing the Draft SIRS
 - Consultation
 - EIP
 - Signing off the SIRS
 - Implementation
 - Monitoring



DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

WEST MIDLANDS LEADERS BOARD

JOINT STRATEGY & INVESTMENT BOARD



Planning & Environment Reference Group

Membership 33 all authorities

Core Group – WMLB Planning Task Group (4 Met & 4 Non Met inc 2 Districts)

Purpose – to advise/inform WMLB and local government reps on shadow JS&IB

Planning & Environment Panel

Chair:- Elected Member/Leader

Membership:-

4 Met and 4 Non Met Authorities of which 2 should be Shire Districts nominated by WMLB (Planning Task Group)

1 DEFRA 'family' (Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage, British Waterways)

1 AWM

1 West Midlands Sustainability Forum/Bio Diversity Forum

1 Business

1 MADE (Midlands Academy for Design in the Environment) (OSG)

1 Higher Education



Housing & Regeneration Reference Group

Membership 33 all authorities

Core Group – WMLB Housing Task Group (6 Elected Member Chairs of Sub Regional Housing Partnerships)

Purpose – to advise/inform WMLB and local government reps on shadow JS&IB

Housing & Regeneration Panel

Chair:- Elected Member/Leader

Membership:-

6 Elected Member from each of the Housing Market Areas – North, West, South and 3 from the Central Area nominated by WMLB (Housing Task Group)

1 Homes and Communities Agency

1 AWM

1 Business

1 Other Stakeholder

1 Higher Education



Transport Reference Group

Membership - 14 transport authorities?

Core Group – WMLB Transport Task Group (4 Met and 4 Non Met)

Purpose – to advise/inform WMLB and local government reps on shadow JS&IB

Transport Panel

Chair:- Elected Member/Leader

Membership:-

4 Met - inc from Integrated Transport Authority

4 non Met - local authority leaders /transport leads? nominated by WMLB (Transport Task Group)

1 AWM

1 Business

1 Other Stakeholder



Plus Efficiency & Improvement, Europe, including City Region to work within WMLB arrangements and Economy Others?

West Midlands Leaders Board

13 July 2009

Transport

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the paper is to bring Members up to speed on the regional transport agenda and the leadership role required of Local Government in progressing the agenda. In considering this paper it is important to remember that transport is a key component in the delivery of growth within the region and this relationship is highlighted throughout the paper. Leaders are also asked to discuss and agree new transport governance arrangements.
- 1.2 This cover report provides a very short summary of the key issues and recommendations; with further detail set out in 6 appendices. In addition there will be presentations/discussions on High Speed 2 and Birmingham Airport.

2. Regional Transport Priorities Action Plan

Key Issues

- 2.1 The Regional Transport Priorities Action Plan was published in December 2008. Subsequently a package of documents was published in May 2009 which set out further details and revised short term actions. It's important to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan and report progress to partners, as it provides a mechanism for coordinating the implementation of projects of regional importance as well as those included in the Regional Funding Advice. A monitoring process is being developed which will complement the more detailed requirements of the delivery of RFA set out below. Alongside of this, work will commence in the early autumn on an annual progress report and revised action plan to be published in December 2009.

Recommendation

- 2.2 a. To endorse the work being undertaken to develop a robust monitoring process and development of an annual progress report and revised action plan for publication in December 2009.

3. Regional Funding Advice (RFA) Transport Management Programme

Key Issues

- 3.1 An approach is being introduced which monitors progress against milestones on all schemes, rather than which monitors expenditure alone. The data collected draws on information required by DfT supplemented by information about the objectives of the scheme and its outcomes. This approach complements and over time will become an integral part of the approach central to the RFA Programme

Management process, beginning with the monitoring of deliverability and spend across the region's 20 Impact Investment Locations.

Recommendation

- 3.2 a. That the approach is noted, and supported.

4. Delivering a Sustainable Transport System

Key Issues

- 4.1 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System' (DaSTS) is the Government's proposal for developing a long term strategic transport planning and investment programme for National, International, City and Regional transport networks.
- 4.3 The Department for Transport (DfT) requires regions to identify a small number of priorities and a draft work programme to develop the evidence base, by 30th June 2009. The shadow Joint Strategy and Investment Board (JSIB) is responsible for providing the Stage 1 response. The Stage 1 response document will be circulated to WMLB in advance of the 13th July 2009 meeting.
- 4.4 Further details on the approach being taken and the 'fit' with the broader transport agenda is given in appendix 3.

Recommendation

- 4.5 To note the report in appendix 3.

5. Governance

Key Issues

- 5.1 Consideration of proposals for re-engineering the region's transport governance and officer support arrangements in line with the requirements of the emerging SNR/SIRS agenda and the key role that local government has in respect to transport in the West Midlands.

Recommendations

- 5.2 a. The governance and officer support arrangements set out in appendix 4 are agreed as a basis for continued discussion with AWM and partners via the shadow JS&IB.
- b. That officers are authorised to continue to develop the proposals set out in appendix 4.

6. High Speed 2

Key Issues

- 6.1 Introduction to the work programme and remit for High Speed 2 Ltd which has been created by Government to consider the case for new high rail speed services from London to the West Midlands and beyond. This item will be accompanied by a short presentation to facilitate discussion.

Recommendation

- 6.2 The Leaders are asked to consider what the region requires from a high speed rail network in relation to the economy and regeneration, connectivity and society etc.

7. Birmingham International Airport

Key Issues

- 7.1 BIA is a key asset of the West Midlands region and is established in policy as its principal airport. It is also recognised as a key priority for investment through the Regional Transport Priorities process and RFA. However, BIA is much more than transport infrastructure. It is a key driver of the regional economy and this has been influential in the development of the objectives & provisions of the Airport Company's Master Plan for the period to 2030. A first step in the implementation of BIA's Master Plan is the extension of its main runway. This item will be accompanied by a short presentation to facilitate discussion.

Recommendation

- 7.2 It is recommended that WMLB endorse the priority accorded to BIA runway extension and urge AWM and others to work together to resource it's early implementation.

Authors:- Rose Poulter, Danny Lamb, Peter Davenport, Heather Crocker, Paul Watson

Regional Transport Priorities Action Plan

Recommendation

To endorse the work being undertaken to develop a robust monitoring process and development of an annual progress report and revised action plan for publication in December 2009.

Key Issues

This paper provides an update on the work undertaken to produce the Regional Transport Priorities Action Plan

In August 2007 the West Midlands Regional Minister, Liam Byrne, tasked the Regional Transport Partnership, the West Midlands Regional Assembly and Advantage West Midlands to liaise with partners to agree and set out our transport priorities.

Working closely with a broad range of partners including Local Transport Authorities, Centro, the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority, Highways Agency, Network Rail, West Midlands Business Council and the West Midlands Business Transport Group, the West Midlands Regional Assembly and Advantage West Midlands jointly led work which identified nine Regional Transport Priorities:

- Birmingham New Street Station;
- Birmingham International Airport - Runway Extension and surface access;
- M5/M6 Capacity Improvements and Motorway Box Active Traffic Management;
- Rail Freight Upgrades - Peterborough and Southampton to Nuneaton;
- Regional Rail Capacity, both for passengers and freight;
- Black Country 'strategic transport spine';
- North Staffordshire Integrated Transport Package;
- New Growth Points / Settlements of Significant Development;
- Smarter Choices

The nine priorities were published in December 2007 following which work was undertaken to develop an Action Plan for delivery.

The Action Plan was developed in conjunction with a wide range of partners, and with support from representatives from each of the organisations leading the Priorities, (Birmingham City Council, Birmingham International Airport, Centro, Highways Agency, Network Rail, Local Transport Authorities and Stoke-on-Trent City Council).

It maps the contribution that the nine regional Transport Priorities make to delivering regional objectives and identifies the key actions required by the scheme promoters, lead organisations and regional partners to ensure their timely delivery. It is a 'living document' that adapts and reacts to new and emerging influences whether they be the result of the economic downturn, changes in funding availability or housing growth targets.

The document was launched by the Regional Minister, Ian Austin MP on 15th December 2008. The document is available via this weblink:

http://www.advantagem.co.uk/documents/download.aspx?id=tcm:9-16564&file=/Images/Regional%20Transport%20Priorities_080109_tcm9-16564.pdf&title=

In addition documents outlining details for each of the priorities together with updated actions were published on 11th May 2009.

The next stage is to introduce a monitoring process to oversee progress in taking forward the delivery of the priorities. This will be developed to align with the evolving RFA monitoring process. Work to develop a progress report and updated action plan will commence in the autumn for publication in December 2009.

Regional Funding Advice (RFA) Transport Management Programme

Recommendation

That the approach is noted, and supported by Local Transport Authorities.

Key Issues

As part of the submission Local Authorities agreed to develop better ways of working with the Department for Transport (DfT) to address the experience of recent years where schemes have slipped and spending has been falling short of that programmed. An approach is being introduced which monitors progress against milestones on all schemes, rather than expenditure alone. The data collected draws on information required DfT supplemented by information about the objectives of the scheme and its outcomes. This approach complements and over time will become an integral part of the approach central to the RFA Programme Management process beginning with the monitoring of deliverability and spend across the region's 20 Impact Investment Locations. Colleagues have been supportive and the overall aim is to have in place by September a far more complete picture of the milestones for schemes and their funding requirements to facilitate a proactive approach.

In 2008/9 expenditure slightly exceeded expectations at £45m but still fell well short of the allocation of £93m. Some of the reasons for this are, over-optimism in timescales and expenditure by scheme promoters, and the complexity of the approvals process for schemes costing more than £5m. The resources are now being put in place to address this by allocating additional block funding to Staffordshire County Council to specifically support the investment required from the current under-spend. This draws on the advice set out in an independent review undertaken for the Regional Transport Partnership last year, a number of other initiatives set out in the advice, and the experience and expertise available within Local Authorities.

Subsequent to the submission a number of variations have been agreed with DfT, Selly Oak New Road – additional expenditure to maintain progress, and Wolverhampton Interchange – additional costs and potential early Regional Infrastructure Fund scheme. The Regional Infrastructure Fund is a programme funded from the transport allocation that provides advance capital funding to allow schemes to be implemented which facilitate development where the development partner is unable to fund the works in the short term. The current proposal is that the programme will be administered by AWM with appropriate steering and management arrangements to be determined.

It is too early to comment on the current financial year, and future years in the absence of a response from Government to the Advice. However all promoters are now aware of the importance of making timely progress and a programme of

engagement meetings have been arranged between the lead Local Authority Chief Executive, an AWM Corporate Director, and senior DfT representatives to maintain progress. A key element in delivering schemes is the importance of maintaining progress, particularly on the largest schemes in the programme, Birmingham New Street, and A45/A46 Toll Bar End. The Highways Agency has now published the statutory orders for the latter scheme and the outcome of the inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase Order for New Street is awaited.

Work is in progress to review the submitted Transport programme to ensure that it is up to date and to reflect funding changes. In addition a commitment was given at the time of submission to undertake a review in July.

Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS)

Recommendation

To note the report.

Key Issues

1. In November 2008 the DfT published 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System' (DaSTS), which sets out the Government's proposals for developing a long term strategic transport planning and investment programme for National, International, City and Regional transport networks.

2. DaSTS follows on from 'Towards a Sustainable Transport System' (published in October 2007) which fed into and supported the production of the Regional Transport Priorities Action Plan (RTPAP) and the Regional Funding Advice (RFA) in February 2009.

3. In April 2009 the DfT provided guidance for Leaders' Boards and Regional Development Agencies, on how to develop their DaSTS responses. The shadow Joint Strategy and Investment Board (JSIB) has responsibility for providing the West Midlands' response, and (given that the response has to with the DfT by the end of June 2009) has agreed that the response will be signed-off by the co-chairs.

4. The Regional Advisory Group (RAG) is working with the DfT to complete Stage 1 (30th June 2009). JSIB have made it clear that the Stage 1 response – identifying a small number of priorities and associated work programme - will be founded on the strategic priorities set out in RTPAP and RFA. The DaSTS process benefits from the positive working relationship established with the DfT through the development of the RTPAP and RFA.

5. RAG has established a Steering Group supported by a Project Group to take the work

programme forward. The Steering Group is chaired by Mark Pearce (AWM) and comprises:

- Ron Hilton, Local Authority Chief Executive;
- Olwen Dutton, WMRA/LGA;
- Geoff Inskip, Centro;
- Anne Jones, Highways Agency;
- Dave Marr, GOWM;
- Richard Eccles, Network Rail; and

- Danny Lamb, (Project Group Chair) WMRA/LGA

6. The Project Group has a similar composition to the Steering Group and includes a DfT

advisor. Consultants have been commissioned to provide support and additional capacity for Stage 1.

7. In parallel with the work on City and Regional network, the DfT is progressing projects for the National and International networks. Our Stage 1 work takes account of the “hotspots” the DfT has identified. Several “hotspots” are consistent with our regional priorities and we intend to work with the DfT on a number of joint studies including – Access to Birmingham, London to Scotland North South Corridor, Freight from Road to Rail, Influencing Travel Behaviour, Integrated Demand Management and HGV Accidents.

8. The immediate Stage 1 response is being produced in line with the DfT guidance. It builds on the evidence and stakeholder engagement that supports the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Regional Economic Strategy (RES), RTPAP and RFA2.

NOTE – the Stage 1 document will be circulated to WMLB in advance of the 13th July 2009 meeting.

9. It is important to note that for the period between July 2009 and March 2011 the DfT has allocated up to £2m for each region to support the DaSTS work programme. The potential areas where the DfT suggests this funding could be utilised are:

- Improving modelling capability;
- Employing consultants for strategic work;
- Training existing staff to improve analysis and modelling capability and/or ability to act as intelligent client;
- Employing additional personnel to support the DaSTS workstream;
- Funding partners to consider options; or
- Supporting consultation within the region.

10. To unlock the DfT’s funding they require a contribution of some 25% from the region, this is an important element of DaSTS process. Regional partners are identifying how they can provide support in-kind, through a combination of staff input, relevant on-going studies as well as possible financial contributions.

11. It is important that the DaSTS process attempts to take account of uncertainty – including the current economic climate and the unknown outcome of the RSS Phase

2 revision. With such critical uncertainties in mind it is envisaged that the DaSTS work programme will produce evidence that will be subject to sensitivity testing to consider different outcomes e.g. different levels/distribution of housing growth.¹² Further DfT guidance is expected in July 2009 which is likely to indicate key milestones over the next two years with the DaSTS process to be complete in 2011.

Regional Transport – Governance

Recommendations

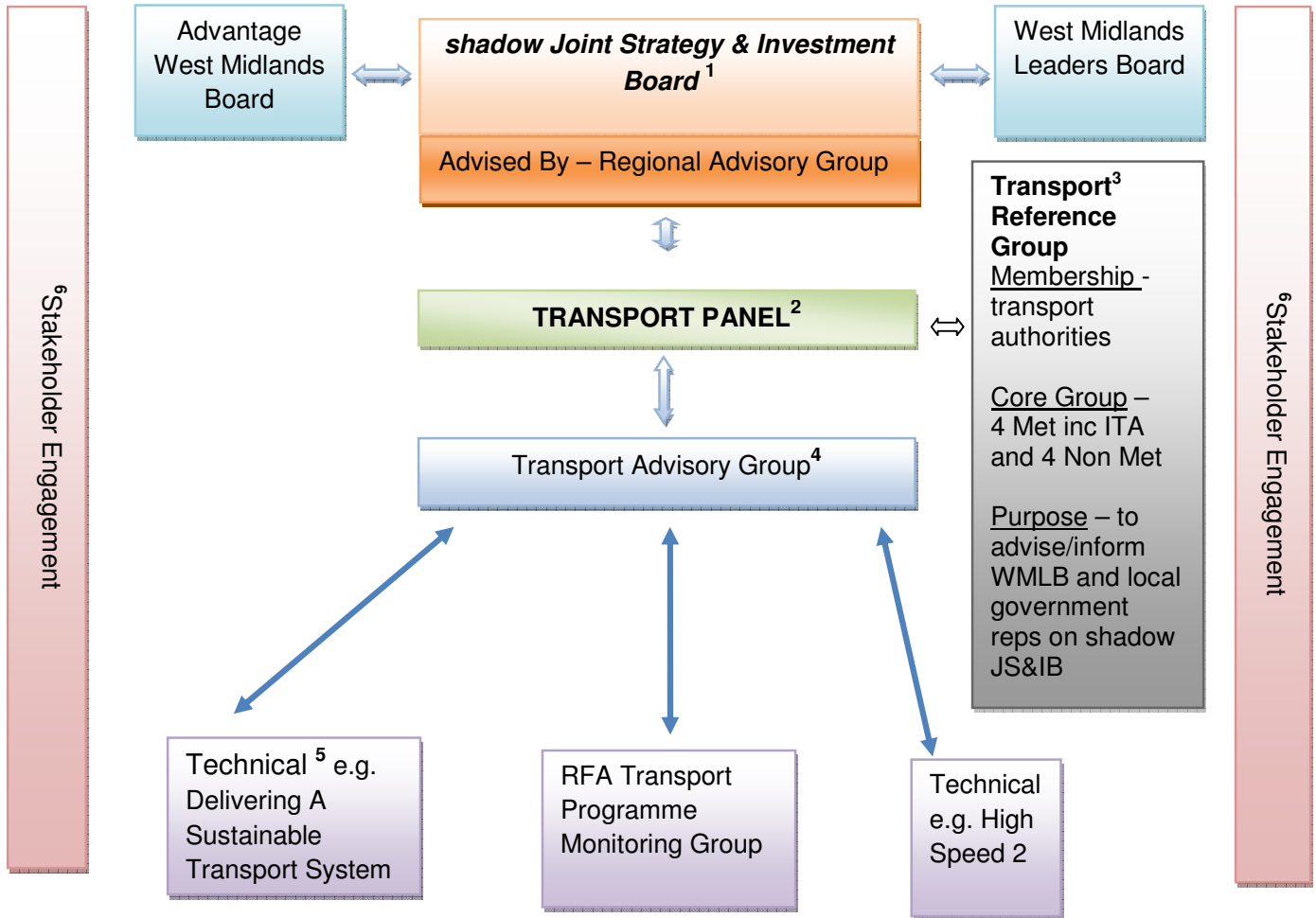
- a) The governance and officer support arrangements set out in appendix 4 are agreed as a basis for continued discussion with AWM and partners via the shadow JS&IB.
- b) That officers are authorised to continue to develop the proposals set out in appendix 4.

Key Issues

As this paper demonstrates, transport has always been a significant issue for the West Midlands. The regional transport agenda is currently shaped by the big issues of Regional Funding Advice (including transport), High Speed 2 and 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System'. As we take forward the SNR it has become clear that existing regional transport governance arrangements, embodied in the Transport Partnership and its supporting officer groups, require adjustment to ensure they are fit for purpose. At the request of lead elected members and the shadow Joint Strategy & Investment Board early work has focussed on ensuring that the governance and officer support structures for Transport are re-engineered.

This briefing sets out the initial thinking on defining the purpose, membership and officer support arrangements in respect to a new Regional Transport Panel, which would support the shadow JS&IB. It also acknowledges and is complementary to the work commissioned by West Midlands Leaders Board which reviewed transport governance in line with the requirements of the Local Transport Act (LTA). The LTA provides transport authorities (currently all the 7 Mets as one transport authority, and each of the 4 Unitaries and 3 Counties) with the opportunity to extend their duties as Integrated Transport Authorities and review the geographical area they cover.

PROPOSITION - REGIONAL TRANSPORT WORKING ARRANGEMENTS



1 Shadow Joint Strategy & Investment Board

Purpose

Responsible for the strategic management of Sub National Review matters in the West Midlands including the development, delivery (including monitoring and overseeing the management of the associated implementation and funding programmes) and performance management of the SIRS and associated activities. The shadow JS&IB will provide the strategic leadership for the region in its relationship with DfT, DCLG, BERR and other Government Departments.

Shadow JSIB is advised by the **Regional Advisory Group** of Chief Executives, and senior officers – AWM, Local Government, WMRA, HCA, HA and LSC (and successor bodies). Secretariat support is provided by the SNR Transition ‘virtual’ Team

2 Transport Panel

Purpose

Provide shadow JSIB with strategic guidance on regional transport policy. Overseeing the delivery of regional transport policy and schemes within Regional Funding Advice (RFA). Supporting shadow JSIB with the monitoring and management process of the transport components of RFA, Highways Agency, and Network Rail delivery programmes and transport policy and strategy matters.

Membership

Chair – Local Authority Leader (drawn from below)

Members

4 Metropolitan Authorities - local authority leaders /transport leads Including member(s) from the Integrated Transport Authority.

4 non Metropolitan Authorities - local authority leaders /transport leads

1 AWM

1 Highways Agency

1 Business Representative

1 Other Stakeholder Representative

Advised by Transport Advisory Group.

Secretariat Support provided by new Regional Local Government Body (successor to WMLGA) working with key transport officers and partners to provide the policy support.

3 WMLB - Transport Reference Group – local government only

Purpose

Advise/inform WMLB and local government reps on shadow JS&IB.

Membership

Local transport authorities and elected members on Transport panel

Advised by local government officers from Transport Advisory Group.

Secretariat Support provided by new Regional Local Government Body (successor to WMLGA) working with key transport officers to provide the policy support.

4 Transport Advisory Group

Purpose

Supports and advises the Regional Transport Panel and advises shadow JSIB via the Regional Advisory Group of the Panel/Forum's recommendations. It oversees the programme monitoring and management of RFA, RTPAP, HA, NR and other transport delivery activity alongside policy and strategy activity. The Group will also establish and set the terms of reference for the supporting Technical Groups including a RFA Programme Monitoring Group and task and Finish Groups. The Transport Advisory Group will take responsibility for ensuring that business, transport operators and other stakeholders are contributing to the technical and task and finish groups; it will also review the place of existing groups such as the Regional Rail Forum.

Membership

Chair – Local Authority Chief Executive

Senior officers from Local Government, GOWM, WMRA, AWM, HA, Centro, Network Rail,

Secretariat Support provided by new Regional Local Government Body (successor to WMLGA) working with key s transport officers and partners to provide the policy support – working with officers supporting shadow JS&IB and regional Advisory Group.

5 Supporting Technical Groups and/or Task and Finish Groups

Purpose

These will be limited in number and provide technical advice to the Transport Advisory Group on transport policy and delivery matters. They should have a clear role and remit and where necessary they should be established on a task and finish basis. They will also provide the opportunity to engage key elements of expertise i.e. BIA. The terms of reference for each group are agreed by TAG.

Membership

Each Supporting Technical Group Chair to be appointed by Transport Advisory Group.

Chairs to report to Transport Advisory Group

Chair to agree secretariat and membership for each group with chair of Transport Advisory Group

6 Stakeholders

Arrangements to keep stakeholders informed of regional transport activity will need to be put in place eg email and ½ yearly seminar etc The SNR Virtual Team will develop a proposition for consideration by the Regional Advisory Group/Transport Advisory Group.

Interface with the Department for Transport (DfT)

The interface with DfT should be managed and co-ordinated as follows:

- Regional Advisory Group - focus on regional strategic issues, and engaging shadow JSIB at appropriate times;
- Transport Advisory Group – development of propositions, more detailed liaison with DfT on relevant issues and coordination of regional and sub-regional working and overall management of RFA Transport Programme;
- RFA Transport Programme Group - day to day operational monitoring/information sharing;
- Local and Integrated Transport Authorities - individual project liaison.

Next Steps

The robustness of this approach is dependent on support and buy-in from a range of key partners and stakeholders. Understanding of the key challenges and issues together with a transparency of the rationale for this structure needs to be shared and discussed with key players.

Subsequent stages will include discussion with key partners and developing terms of reference for the Panel and supporting groups. In addition further work is required to ensure the regional and emerging sub regional arrangements are compliant with the Local Transport Act and LDEDC Act. It is anticipated that this would be discussed with the the WM Leaders Board and Transport Partnership in July and operable in September. Some partners and existing groups will not feature directly in the new arrangements, but will continue to be valued consultees and sources of expert advice; this will need to be communicated sensitively.

High Speed Rail

Recommendation

- a) The Leaders are asked to discuss what they consider region requires from a high speed rail network in relation to the economy and regeneration, connectivity and society etc.

Key Issues

The Shadow JSIB has agreed to provide a response to HS2 on behalf of the West Midlands region. This paper sets out the background and work being undertaken by regional partners.

Government announced the formation of High Speed 2 Ltd to consider the case for new high rail speed services from London to the West Midlands and beyond. The HS2 work programme is being undertaken in four packages:

- London (including connection to HS1),
- Heathrow Interchange,
- West Midlands,
- Line of route/intermediate station and maintenance/stabling.

The HS2 West Midlands Work Package will focus on the route options to, as well as through, and terminal and parkway station options in and around, the West Midlands conurbation.

HS2 have established a West Midlands Stakeholder Group to gain input and views, share evolving thinking on, and secure support for, the emerging proposition; through this they hope to secure region wide consensus for their proposition on a high speed rail link between London and the West Midlands.

Alongside of this, a small West Midlands technical working group comprised of HS2, Network Rail, Government Office for the West Midlands, Advantage West Midlands, Birmingham City Council, Centro and the Highways Agency has been established to examine and the advise the HS2 Board on a range of technical issues. This is technical work will have limited circulation; HS2 will not be making this available for consultation.

In order that regional partners can understand the benefits of, and take forward the case for, high speed rail a number of pieces of consultancy work are being undertaken in parallel to that work being done by HS2. This work is being shared with HS2 to inform the development of their proposition.

Firstly, Greengauge 21 is developing the case for a high speed rail network across the English Regions considering five broad corridors; this work is supported by

Birmingham City Council, Advantage West Midlands and Centro amongst other organisations across the English Regions and Scotland. The work will help us to understand how the West Midlands will link into, and benefit from, a high speed rail network. This work is due to be completed in the summer and report in the September.

In parallel, research is currently being undertaken by Birmingham City Council, Advantage West Midlands and Centro to examine potential route options, local regeneration opportunities, an estimation of the wider economic benefits from local service opportunities and an estimation of the employment impacts of HS2. This will be shared with, and used to inform the work being undertaken by, the HS2 company. This work is programmed for completion in early August. This item will be accompanied by a short presentation to facilitate discussion.

Birmingham International Airport

Recommendation

It is recommended that WMLB endorse the priority accorded to BIA runway extension and urge AWM and others to work together to resource its early implementation.

Key Issues

BIA is a key asset of the West Midlands region and is established in policy as its principal airport. It is also recognised as a key priority for investment through the Regional Transport Priorities process and RFA. However BIA is much more than transport infrastructure. It is a key driver of the regional economy and this has been influential in the development of the objectives & provisions of the Airport Company's Master Plan for the period to 2030.

A first step in the implementation of BIA's Master Plan is the extension of its main runway.

This will:-

- provide direct access to the region's under-developed markets in Asia & Australasia
- enhance the region's connectivity to international markets, especially the knowledge based and high added value sectors targeted by AWM
- facilitate the attraction of inward investment to the West Midlands
- support the development of long haul tourism in the region
- help the promotion of Birmingham as a Global City
- deliver substantial numbers of new jobs

Planning permission for the runway extension is due to be issued imminently and an investment package to deliver its early implementation is being put together by BIA and other stakeholders.

This item will be accompanied by a short presentation to facilitate discussion.