

**EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL
ASSEMBLY BOARD
Minutes for
Friday 5 October 2007**

Held at Pera Innovation Park, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Apologies</u>	<u>In attendance</u>	<u>Secretariat</u>
<p>Chair: Cllr David Parsons</p> <p>Vice Chair: Pat Zadora</p> <p><u>LGEM Representatives:</u> Cllr David Sprason Cllr Martin Hill Cllr Roger Begy Cllr Simon Galton Cllr Jeremy Webb</p> <p><u>ESEP Representatives:</u> John Freeman Tim Garfield Martin Traynor Chris Faircliffe</p>	<p><u>LGEM Representatives:</u> Cllr Jim Harker Cllr Ken Savidge Cllr The Hon Joan Taylor Cllr John Stocks Cllr David Bill</p> <p><u>ESEP Representatives</u> Ian Atkinson</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u> Stuart Young</p>	<p>Peta Lovell</p>	<p>Nigel Rudd Andrew Pritchard Yvette Dearden Alison Neal Lisa Hopkins</p>

1.	Welcome
1.1	<p>Cllr David Parsons welcomed new members of the Board and introductions were made.</p> <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies were received as noted above.</p> <p>Nigel Rudd reported that the timings of the Board meetings were not convenient to all Members. It was agreed by all to look to change the meetings to the morning.</p>
1.2	<p><u>Declaration of Interest:</u></p> <p>In respect of Item 10 - Cllr David Parsons, Leader of Leicestershire County Council, Cllr David Sprason, Leicestershire County Council, Cllr Simon Galton, non-prejudicial Leicestershire County Council, Cllr Roger Begy, non-prejudicial LGEM Chair, Cllr Jeremy Webb, LGEM Board.</p>
2.	Minutes from the Special Meeting 13 July 2007
2.1	The minutes from the meeting held on 13 July 2007 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.
3.	Matters Arising
3.1	These were all covered in the agenda.

4.	Regional Housing, Planning and Transport Joint Board
4.1	<u>Introduction</u>
4.1.1	This report was introduced by Cllr Martin Hill, Vice-Chair Housing, Planning and Transport Board and provided an update on the work of the Joint Board.
4.1.2	He commented that we are still awaiting the publication of the EiP Panel Report. The Transport Group is currently working to prepare for a Transport Regional Funding Allocation 'refresh', which is likely to be requested in advance of a wider RFA2 exercise.
4.1.3	Andrew Pritchard confirmed that the next Joint Board meeting is scheduled for 18 December 2007.
4.2	<u>Questions</u>
4.2.1	Pat Zadora enquired whether the Housing, Planning and Transport Board had discussed the Nottingham workplace parking levy. Andrew Pritchard confirmed that the principle is consistent with the Regional Transport Strategy, but that the level of charging will have to be determined locally.
4.3	<u>Resolutions</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted the content of this report and endorsed the work of the Transport Group in preparing of a likely 'refresh' of the Transport RFA exercise ahead of a wider 'RFA2'
5.	Regional & Communities Policy Board
5.1	<u>Introduction</u>
5.1.1	This report was introduced by John Freeman, Chair, Regional & Communities Policy Board. He summarised the main issues considered by the Regional & Communities Policy Board at its meeting on 11 September 2007 and provided an update on some of the activities and initiatives undertaken to support the Board's work programme.
5.1.2	John Freeman stated that the Climate Change Programme of Action had been slightly delayed, however, a consultation on a draft plan will be launched at EXPO on 16 October 2007.
5.1.3	There is uncertainty in relation to the IRS refresh and the deadline of December. John Freeman stated that not all regions will meet this target.
5.1.4	In relation to the addressing inequalities report, this will be put on the website shortly.
5.1.5	John Freeman reported that Lisa Maltagliati and Isabel Poli will be leaving the European Office. The Board wished to place on record their thanks to the European Office for their help.
5.1.6	John Freeman stated that a new UK Youth Parliament Regional Coordinator has been appointed.
5.2	<u>Questions</u>
5.2.1	Cllr David Sprason reported that the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service have developed the Nottingham Declaration to their requirements and have signed up to this.

5.2.2	Cllr Martin Hill enquired around the role of the Regional Climate Change Coordinator. Yvette Dearden confirmed that this is a full-time post which is jointly funded by <i>emda</i> /GOEM/Environment Agency and EMRA for the region. They will spend time in each of the organisations with a key role being to develop the programme of action.
5.3	<p><u>Resolutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted the issues addressed by the Regional & Communities Policy Board and activities being undertaken.
6.	Regional Scrutiny Board
6.1	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>6.1.1 This report was introduced by Martin Traynor, Chair, Regional Scrutiny Board. The report highlighted the current work of regional scrutiny and summarised the main issues considered by the Regional Scrutiny Board at its meeting on 26 September 2007.</p> <p>6.1.2 Martin Traynor confirmed that the Scrutiny Board are assuming a 'Business as Usual' approach and are pressing ahead with the Business Plan targets.</p> <p>6.1.3 Martin Traynor reported that the scrutiny review into rural development is nearly completed and are looking to bring the report to the Full Assembly meeting in November. Work has started on the Regional Energy Review and also <i>emda</i>'s Corporate Plan.</p> <p>6.2 <u>Resolutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted the issues considered by the Regional Scrutiny Board at its meeting on 26 September 2007 and the current activities being undertaken in order to deliver on the 2007/08 scrutiny work programme.
7.	Presentation on the Implications of SNR
7.1	<p>7.1 Nigel Rudd gave a presentation to Members on the implications of the SNR.</p> <p>7.2 He stated that a consultation paper will be launched before the end of the year which may be more than one paper. Also, 2010 is the likely date for the transfer of functions to take place.</p> <p>7.3 In relation to the 10 Eco Towns, there is no clear suggestion where these should be.</p> <p>7.4 Cllr David Parsons asked that if Government request an increase in the housing numbers for the East Midlands that the Board is kept informed as they may have views on this.</p> <p>7.5 Nigel Rudd stated that in respect of the scrutiny function, papers are being looked at for a way forward in relation to Select Committees.</p> <p>7.6 One of the main areas of risk is staffing and retaining staff in post.</p> <p>7.7 Currently, have not got all of the pieces of information needed yet, but there is a need to start early discussions. The Business Plan may need to be tweaked when recommendations from the Government are known.</p>

8.	SNR Implications
8.1	<u>Introduction</u>
8.1.1	Nigel Rudd introduced this report which summarised the implications of the Sub National Review for the East Midlands Regional Assembly.
8.1.2	Nigel Rudd confirmed that it is CLG's expectation that Regional Assemblies will cease to exist in 2010, when the primary legislation can be implemented.
8.1.3	There will need to be a series of tasks leading up to 2010 and Nigel Rudd asked Board Members to endorse these.
8.1.4	He confirmed that initially EMRA may need to do a draft business plan until all announcements have been made.
8.2	<u>Resolutions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members agreed to maintain a business as usual approach in 2007/08. • Members agreed that preliminary discussion are held with <i>emda</i>, GOEM and others on the management of transitional arrangements 2008/2010 in respect of the Housing, Planning and Transport functions. • Members agreed that preliminary discussions are held with Local Authorities, GOEM and others on the management of transitional arrangements 2008/10 in respect of the Regional Scrutiny function. • Members agreed that discussions are held with <i>emda</i>, GOEM and others to agree the future of Sustainable Development activity within the region. Further consideration will be given to the implications of the SNR on the management of transitional arrangements 2008/10 in respect of the Regional and Communities Policy Board. • Members approved the development of a new transitional Business Plan by December 2007. The new Business Plan will cover the transitional period once the CSR and SNR announcements have been made. • Members will receive a further report in light of the information contained in the CSR announcement and SNR consultation report scheduled for release in December 2007. • Members delegated authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the EMRA Chair and Vice to implement the recommendations of the Board.
9.	Chief Executive's Report
9.1	<u>Introduction</u>
9.1.1	This report summarised the work of the East Midlands Regional Assembly and updated the Assembly Board on current issues.
9.1.2	Nigel Rudd drew members attention to the following issues:
9.1.3	An ERN delegation is meeting with John Healey MP on 10 October 2007.

9.1.4	Andrew Pritchard is currently assisting the Government in workstream areas.
9.1.5	The ESEP group are having discussions re 'Post Assembly' and Pat Zadora confirmed she has held discussions with CLG and is attempting to meet with Hazel Blears in the hope of stakeholders not losing their voice in the region.
9.1.6	Nigel Rudd stated that it is possible that the Assembly will have a funding allocation through to 2010/11 for winding-up. Currently ERN is lobbying the Government for flexibility in relation to the grant spend.
9.1.7	A further update report will go through the next Regional & Communities Policy Board in relation to the North Sea Commission.
9.1.8	The Assembly will support LGEM with the Romanian work programme and visit. John Freeman and Yvette Dearden will be representing the Assembly on this visit in November 2007.
9.1.9	The agenda for the Full Assembly was discussed and agreed. It was agreed that a presentation on Olympic 2012 would be made.
9.1.10	After further discussion it was agreed that the Investment for Health group would respond to Lord Darzi's report which is due out and Cllr Martin Hill would prepare a question in relation to Post Office closures.
9.2	<p><u>Delegations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted and approved these.
9.3	<p><u>Resolutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted the contents of this report and the position statements contained therein.
10.	Corporate Governance Officers Report
	<i>The Chair was handed to Pat Zadora for this item and Cllr David Parsons, Cllr David Sprason and EMRA secretariat left the meeting.</i>
10.1	<u>Introduction</u>
10.1.1	Pat Zadora drew the Board's attention to a letter from David Morgan, Head of Legal Services at LCC, dated 2 October 2007. This presided the context for the discussion.
10.1.2	<p>The following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regards to the identified 'key posts' it was agreed that in discussion with CLG, LCC, LGEM and others a retention package would be determined. In discussion with CLG, LCC and LGEM the notice of redundancy to the 'high-risk' employees will need to be served by LCC at a point likely to be within the next 12-18 months. <p><i>Cllr David Parsons, Cllr David Sprason and EMRA secretariat returned to the meeting to discuss the financial update and the Chair was handed back to Cllr David Parsons.</i></p>
10.2	The budget report was introduced by Alison Neal, Corporate Governance Officer. She reported that the financial position was taken to the Audit Sub Committee in September.

10.3	<p>There is a current underspend at the minute.</p> <p><u>Resolutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted the finance report.
11.	Corporate Performance Report
11.1	<u>Introduction</u>
11.1.1	The Chief Executive gave an update to the Board on the progress of the Regional Assembly against the outcomes/activities of the Business Plan 2007/10 in particular against the Key Performance Indicators set out in the Business Plan.
11.1.2	Nigel Rudd stated that the two key barometers which would be closely measured are the percentage member attendance at meetings and the staff sickness rate. He stated that the sickness levels have been very good for some time, however, he will be keeping a close eye on this over the coming months.
11.2	<p><u>Resolutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted the continuing progress made on the key Performance Indicators.
12.	Any Other Business
12.1	None
13.	Date and Time of Next Meeting
13.1	The meeting scheduled for Friday 7 December 2007 has been cancelled.
13.2	The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 11 January 2008 at 11.00am, in the Mezzanine, Pera Innovation Park.