

**EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL  
ASSEMBLY BOARD  
Minutes for  
Friday 11 April 2008**

Held at Pera Innovation Park, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray

| <b><u>Present:</u></b>   | <b><u>Apologies</u></b>   | <b><u>In attendance</u></b>                                | <b><u>Secretariat</u></b>                                       |
|--|---|--|---|
| <u>Chair:</u><br>Cllr David Parsons<br><br><u>LGEM Representatives:</u><br>Cllr Martin Hill<br>Cllr Ken Savidge<br>Cllr David Sprason<br>Cllr Roger Begy<br>Cllr The Hon Joan Taylor<br>Cllr John Stocks<br>Cllr David Bill<br>Cllr Simon Galton<br><br><u>ESEP Representatives:</u><br>John Freeman<br>Martin Traynor<br>Chris Faircliffe | <u>LGEM Representatives:</u><br>Cllr Jim Harker<br>Cllr Jeremy Webb<br><br><u>ESEP Representatives</u><br>Pat Zadora<br>Tim Garfield<br>Ian Atkinson<br><br><u>EMRA Secretariat</u><br>Yvette Dearden | Heather Parker<br>(EM RIEP Support<br>Team)<br>Peta Lovell | Stuart Young<br>Andrew Pritchard<br>Alison Neal<br>Lisa Hopkins |

|           |   | <b>ACTION</b> |
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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Welcome</b>  |               |
| 1.1       | <u>Apologies</u><br>Apologies were received as noted above.   |               |
| 1.2       | <u>Declaration of Interest:</u><br>All Members in respect of Item 9, Number 4 – Special Responsibility Allowances.                                      |               |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Minutes from the Meeting held on 11 January 2008</b>   |               |
| 2.1       | The minutes from the meeting held on 11 January 2008 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.  |               |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Matters Arising</b>  |               |
| 3.1       | These were all covered in the agenda.   |               |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Regional Housing, Planning and Transport Joint Board</b>   |               |
| 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. |               |

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| 4.1.2     | Cllr Hill reported on the review of the regional plan and how the process will take place. He confirmed that the A46 scheme was unaffordable in the RFA8 programme, however the A453 scheme can go ahead.  | AP            |
| 4.1.3     | It was stated that there are 3 proposed Eco-town sites in the region and a response will be issued on these following the Joint Board meeting on 5 June 2008.  |               |
| 4.2       | <u>Questions</u>   |               |
| 4.2.1     | Cllr Simon Galton enquired what involvement the Assembly will have in relation to Eco-towns and asked what discussions have taken place.   |               |
| 4.2.2     | Andrew Pritchard informed that no formal discussions have taken place, only informal discussions have been held at Officer level. A Planning Policy Statement will be issued from Government to set the national policy context.   |               |
| 4.2.3     | Cllr David Sprason advised of the Eco-town Advisory Board which has been set-up by Government and asked whether EMRA can engage with the Chair, John Walker.   |               |
| 4.2.4     | Andrew Pritchard to explore this possibility.  |               |
| 4.3       | <u>Resolutions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members noted the content of the report</li> </ul>   |               |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Regional &amp; Communities Policy Board</b>   |               |
| 5.1       | <u>Introduction</u>  | AP            |
| 5.1.1     | This report was introduced by John Freeman, Chair, Regional & Communities Policy Board. He summarised the main issues considered by the Board at its meeting on 11 March 2008 and provided an update on some of the activities and initiatives undertaken to support the Board's work programme. |               |
| 5.1.2     | John Freeman reported on the effort to ensure that the key strands of work of the Board are completed prior to the July AGM.   |               |
| 5.1.3     | There is to be a special launch event in June on Climate Change.   |               |
| 5.1.4     | The IRS Review has been completed and this will be presented at the Full Assembly meeting.   |               |
| 5.1.5     | The Regional Public Health Strategy Review is being led by the Strategic Health Authority and there is currently considerable negotiation.   |               |
| 5.1.6     | John Freeman stated that inequalities remain a significant feature and an issue that the region should address.  |               |
| 5.1.7     | EMRA Board Members wished to place on record their thanks to Yvette Dearden and wished her well for the future.  |               |
| 5.2       | <u>Questions</u>   |               |
| 5.2.1     | Cllr David Sprason felt that the issues of Health Inequalities and fuel poverty needed to be kept on top of the agenda.  |               |

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| 5.3       | <u>Resolutions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members noted the issues addressed by the Regional &amp; Communities Policy Board and activities being undertaken.</li> </ul>   |               |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Regional Scrutiny Board</b>  |               |
| 6.1       | <u>Introduction</u>   |               |
| 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 31 March 2008.                            |               |
| 6.1.2     | Martin Traynor stated that the review into Regional Energy has now been completed. The Business Support review has now started and Cllr Roger Begy will Chair this.   |               |
| 6.1.3     | He reported on Regeneration East Midlands which the Assembly contributes £15,000 per annum to support activities and it has been decided that this can be used to fund a variety of work areas and not solely for 'Intelligence East Midlands'.                                 |               |
| 6.2       | <u>Resolutions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members noted the issues considered by the Regional Scrutiny Board at its meeting on 31 March 2008 and the current activities being undertaken in order to deliver on the 2008/09 scrutiny work programme.</li> </ul> |               |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Corporate Governance Officers Report</b>   |               |
| 7.1       | This report was introduced by Alison Neal, Corporate Governance Officer, EMRA. The report summarised the work to ensure appropriate levels of Corporate Governance within the Assembly.   |               |
| 7.1.1     | Alison Neal reported that the Audit Sub Committee met on 1 April 2008 and approved the accounts as at 31 March 2008. There was a small underspend of £10,000 and this will be put into reserves.  |               |
| 7.1.2     | She reported on the quarterly budget profile within the Business Plan which may pose a risk to the Assembly.  |               |
| 7.2       | <u>Questions</u>  |               |
| 7.2.1     | Martin Traynor enquired regarding a dilapidation fund. Alison Neal confirmed that this is budgeted for within the transitions costs and is also being lobbied with CLG.   |               |
| 7.2.2     | Cllr Joan Taylor enquired around the virement for staff travel/mileage and asked why this has increased.  |               |
| 7.2.3     | Alison Neal confirmed that this budget has stayed the same for a number of years and has not taken into account increase in cost. She confirmed that the Audit Sub Committee had approved this virement.  |               |
| 7.2.4     | Alison Neal to write to Cllr Joan Taylor with a full explanation.   | <b>AN</b>     |

|           |  | <b>ACTION</b> |
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| 7.3       | <u>Resolutions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members noted the contents of the report.</li> <li>Members noted that EMRA continues its pressure to amend the planned CLG quarterly financial claims, due to the significant risk which it may pose to our ability to deliver against Business Plan.</li> </ul>   | <b>SY</b>     |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Corporate Performance Report</b>  |               |
| 8.1       | <u>Introduction</u>  |               |
| 8.1.1     | Stuart Young, Head of EMRA, 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.   |               |
| 8.1.2     | He stated that it is pleasing EMRA have delivered against all their KPIs.  |               |
| 8.1.3     | There are still vacant seats on Boards which are from the Labour Group. Cllr Joan Taylor stated that she is finding it difficult to fill these vacancies. However, she confirmed that she does not wish to transfer these seats to other parties.  |               |
| 8.1.4     | Members agreed that it is important the work of the Assembly continues and the need for representation at meetings.  |               |
| 8.1.5     | The Board wished to place on record their thanks to staff in the delivery and achievement of the KPIs.   |               |
| 8.2       | <u>Resolutions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members noted the continuing progress made on the Key Performance Indicators.</li> </ul>   |               |
| <b>9.</b> | <b>Head, East Midlands Regional Assembly's Report</b>  |               |
| 9.1       | <u>Introduction</u>  |               |
| 9.1.1     | Heather Parker from East Midlands Centre of Excellence was welcomed to the meeting.  |               |
| 9.1.2     | This report summarised the work of the East Midlands Regional Assembly and updated the Assembly Board on current issues.   |               |
| 9.1.3     | Cllr David Parsons introduced the item on the Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) Board. He thanked Pat Zadora and ESEP Members for their help with this.   |               |
| 9.1.4     | He stated that Government are holding back £1.3million of the funding until CLG concerns relation to delivery and governance are addressed.  |               |
| 9.1.5     | Stuart Young outlined the proposal to move from a 3 Board EMRA structure to a 4 Board structure. It is proposed that the existing Members of the EMIP Steering Group Board will become Members on the new RIEP Board with the possibility of 2 additional Members. Membership will be reviewed at the AGM along with the other Boards. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the RIEP Board will be Members of the EMRA Board. |               |

|            |   | <b>ACTION</b> |
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| 9.1.6      | Heather Parker confirmed that the total funding for 2008/09 will be £9million and the RIEP Support Team is available to support all Local Authorities in the Region.  |               |
| 9.1.7      | Cllr Joan Taylor expressed concerns in relation to the incorporation of this Board into the EMRA governance structure.  |               |
| 9.1.8      | <p>A discussion took place regarding the incorporation of RIEP Board into EMRA governance structures. A vote took place on whether this Board should be brought into the EMRA governance structure with the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 7</li> <li>• Against 3</li> <li>• Abstained 2</li> </ul>  |               |
| 9.1.9      | Stuart Young highlighted the following from other areas of his report:  |               |
| 9.1.10     | The Business Plan has been submitted and timescales were met working under delegation. Formal sign-off and grant confirmation has not yet been received from CLG.   |               |
| 9.1.11     | In relation to Special Responsibility Allowances, there have been no significant changes to the roles and responsibilities and the proposal is to increase these allowances by 2.475% for 2007 (this is the figure of the public sector pay award for LCC/Local Government). It was stated that if roles and responsibilities change significantly then a review panel will be arranged. This has been endorsed by Audit Sub Committee.   |               |
| 9.1.12     | The SNR Consultation document has been released by Government and a response will be issued to this. It was recommended that an EMRA Board sub-group be established to manage this process.   |               |
| 9.1.13     | John Freeman reported on the proposal for a review of the Regional & Communities Policy Board.  |               |
| 9.1.14     | There will be a full review of this Board at the next EMRA Board Meeting and then the decision will be taken to the AGM in July 2008.   |               |
| 9.2        | <p><u>Resolutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members noted the contents of this report and the position statements contained therein.</li> <li>• Members endorsed the addition of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) Board into EMRA Governance structure and the terms of reference of this Board into EMRA Governance structure.</li> <li>• Members endorsed EMRA's Business Plan 2008-11.</li> <li>• Members endorsed the Special Responsibility Allowance increase in accordance with the public sector pay award.</li> <li>• Members endorsed the suggested approach for developing EMRA's response to the SNR consultation document.</li> <li>• Members endorsed the proposed review of Regional and Communities Policy Board.</li> </ul> |               |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Any Other Business</b>   |               |
| 10.1       | Cllr David Parsons thanked Cllr Joan Taylor for her work on the Regional Assembly, as this may be her last meeting. Cllr Taylor is taking on the role of  |               |

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|            |   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
|            | Chair of Nottinghamshire County Council.  |                    |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>  |                    |
| 11.1       | The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 27 June 2008 at 11.00am, in the Mezzanine, Pera Innovation Park. | <b>All to Note</b> |

DRAFT