

**EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
REGIONAL SCRUTINY BOARD**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 23rd January 2007

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Apologies</u>	<u>In attendance</u>	<u>Secretariat</u>
<p><u>Chair:</u> Martin Traynor</p> <p><u>Vice Chair:</u> Cllr R Begy</p> <p><u>LGA Representatives:</u> Cllr L Neal Cllr R Mayhew Cllr B Kirby Cllr R Parkinson</p> <p><u>ESEP Representatives:</u> Gordon Lammie Ian Murray Pat Zadora (substitute) Frank Berry (substitute)</p>	<p><u>LGA Representative:</u> Cllr A Grant Cllr R Parker Cllr D McCrossan Cllr P Valentine</p> <p><u>ESEP Representative:</u> Vernon George Tim Roache</p>	<p><u>GOEM</u> Marie-Laure Huke</p> <p><u>emda</u> Stan Crawford</p> <p>Abby Johnson-Brennan Andrew Morgan Cynthia Onions Glenn Harris Michael Carr Steve Mulligan</p> <p><u>REM</u> Andy Turner</p>	<p>Stuart Young Matthew Wheatley Bridget Redwood</p>

1.	Welcome and Apologies	Action
1.1	Apologies were received from Tim Roache, Vernon George, Cllr A Grant, Cllr R Parker, Cllr D McCrossan and Cllr P Valentine.	
1.2	Martin Traynor congratulated Stan Crawford on his OBE and it was noted that Martin Traynor had also been honoured with the OBE in the Queen's New Years Honours List	
2.	Declaration of Interest	
2.1	Cllr Roger Begy declared he was a Board member of the Lincolnshire and Rutland Learning and Skills Council.	
3.	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 th March 2006	
3.1	The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record with the clarification that at point 8.6 - the RES Implementation Plan went to "emda's Board" in December, not to the Regional Assembly.	
4.	Matters Arising	
4.1	Linking it up Locally? Scrutiny Review	
	5.5 Matthew Wheatley stated that this was a work in progress and that a report would be provided to the next meeting. Marie-Laure Huke stated that GO-EM were reviewing the impact of Local Area Agreements (LAAs) on their 'themes' and that road-shows will be held in March for the new LAA performance management framework,	
4.2	6(b) Sustainable Development	
	6.4 Matthew Wheatley informed that this report had been formally concluded at the last meeting but that discussions with emda would be ongoing	
4.3	6(c) Regional Tourism	
	6.9 Stan Crawford reported that emda's board is due to consider a progress report on East Midlands Tourism, which could then be shared with the RSB following the emda board meeting on 25 th January.	AJB / SY
4.4	10 emda's Chief Executive's Report	
	10.2 Abby Johnson-Brennan circulated additional details on the second RDA submission to the Lyons inquiry.	
	Other Issues	
	12.9 Stan Crawford informed that the evaluation report on SEEM would be taken to emda's Board on 26 th February and would be shared with EMRA at the earliest opportunity following that meeting.	AJB / SY
	12.10 It was reported that the Migrant Workers Study would now be presented to emda Board in February, and will be provided to RSB following the Board meeting on 26 th February. SY agreed to send information across to members when available.	AJB / SY

5.	Regional Scrutiny Board Business Plan 2007 - 10	
5.1	<p>Stuart Young introduced a report on the draft scrutiny work programme for the period 2007-10. He informed that the final submission would be made to DCLG on 14th February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Zadora stated that RSB must insist that 'Business Support' is not put back again. SY confirmed the delivery date of 2008/9 • Abby Johnson-Brennan commented that the 6 monthly reporting was under review by the DTI. • In response to a request from Stan Crawford, it was agreed to reschedule the start date of the sustainable procurement review from October 2007 to July 2008 to enable the Assembly to work collaboratively with <i>emda</i> to develop a Sustainable Procurement Plan in advance of the review. <p>The Regional Scrutiny Board :</p> <p>a) Considered the proposed scrutiny work programme</p> <p>b) Agreed to amend the timing of the sustainable procurement review as detailed above</p> <p>c) Agreed to the Chair and Vice Chair having delegated authority to endorse any revisions in advance of its formal submission to DCLG on 14th February 2007</p>	<p>SY</p> <p>MT/RB</p>
6.	Final Draft Scrutiny Panel Report	
6.1	Gordon Lammie presented his draft final report from the Skills Scrutiny Panel review, inviting comments and requesting approval to finalise the report.	
6.2	<p>Martin Traynor thanked Gordon Lammie on behalf of the Board for the time and effort put into this review.</p> <p>Gordon Lammie commented that there are still one or two points to be completed and clarifications which will be made before the report goes public. He stated that esp partners will have the opportunity to comment on the report before the Regional Assembly meeting on 23rd February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michael Carr stated that <i>emda</i> welcomed the positive approach to the review and noted that the review's recommendations had taken into account <i>emda</i>'s previous comments. <p>Cllr Roger Begy suggested that Recommendation 1(d) should make reference to LSC Area Plans. Cllr Begy also noted his concern with the emphasis placed by the Leitch</p>	SY

	<p>Review on Sector Skills Councils. Pat Zadora also noted that EMBF were also disappointed by Leitch’s emphasis on SSCs and did not consider that they adequately represented the view of the business community.</p> <p>SY and MC to discuss prior to Regional Assembly meeting to consider responses from esp partners.</p> <p>Board members were asked to forward any comments to Matthew Wheatley and Stuart Young by Friday 15th February.</p> <p>Regional Scrutiny Board agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To consider and amend as appropriate the final draft report, attached as Appendix 6(a) b) That the draft final report should be shared with members of the esp Executive for their comment. c) To delegate authority to the Chair and Vice Chair of the RSB and the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel, in consultation with panel members, to approve any potential amendments. d) Subject to any amendments, invite the full Assembly to endorse the final report e) Subject to any amendments, agreed to publish this report and its dissemination to regional and sub-regional partners f) Invited <i>emda</i> to share a Scrutiny Action Plan, Progress Report and Final Assessment Report to the time-scale detailed in Section 5 g) Thanked the scrutiny panel members and <i>emda/esp</i> for their time, effort and commitment in supporting this regional scrutiny review, with particular thanks to Martin Traynor and Stuart Young for their involvement . 	<p>SY/MC</p> <p>MT/RB/GL</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Scoping Study: Scrutiny Review into Regional Rural Development</p>	
<p>7.1</p>	<p>Stuart Young introduced a report on current scoping work being undertaken on behalf of the RSB to inform the development of the rural scrutiny review. Members were invited to highlight issues that should be considered as part of the review.</p> <p>Cllr Linda Neal volunteered to lead the scrutiny review on behalf of the RSB. A number of individuals were suggested to act in an advisory capacity to the review.</p> <p>It was noted that previous Scrutiny Board Vice Chair, Cllr Geoff Stevens, is rural lead Board Member at <i>emda</i>.</p> <p>Pat Zadora stressed the importance of considering sustainability and the impact of public procurement in rural areas.</p> <p>It was suggested that a representatives of the Welland SSP and the Leicestershire Rural</p>	<p>SY</p>

	<p>Partnership should be consulted as part of the review.</p> <p>Cynthia Onions noted that <i>emda</i> are conducting an evaluation of the rural strand of the RES which will run from April to October 2007, which may coincide with the engagement phase of this scrutiny review. This is part of the 3 year Evaluation of <i>emda</i> being undertaken by ECOTEC Research and Consulting Ltd. To minimise duplication <i>emda</i> have agreed to share the list of external stakeholders with the RSB's consultants.</p> <p>Stuart Young will meet with representatives of <i>emda</i> in February to discuss the remit of the review. He stated that the final remit should be completed by April. Martin Traynor thanked Cllr Linda Neal for volunteering to lead this review</p> <p>The Regional Scrutiny Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the development of the rural scrutiny review scoping work b) Noted issues that should be included in the remit for this scrutiny review c) Identified Linda Neal to lead this scrutiny review on behalf of the RSB 	<p>SY / CO</p> <p>SY</p>
8.	Foreign Direct Investment Scrutiny Panel Review – <i>emda</i> update report	
8.1	Matthew Wheatley provided a report inviting members to consider <i>emda</i> 's Final Assessment Report and to endorse the proposed way forward.	
8.2	<p>Roger Begy thanked <i>emda</i> for their work on this report and welcomed the progress made in implementing the recommendations.</p> <p>The Regional Scrutiny Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Considered the Final Assessment Report for their implementation of 'Destined for Success' b) Discussed the report c) Formally concluded the 'Destined for Success' Scrutiny Review 	
9.	Business Champions	
9.1	Glenn Harris reported that following a review of the Business Champions initiative, <i>emda</i> had agreed to fund it for a further three years. Carter and Carter had been appointed to manage a refreshed Business Champions programme that more clearly relates to the delivery of the RES	
9.2	Frank Berry noted that the Federation of Small Businesses sponsor 'British Small Business Champions'. Frank agreed to forward the relevant information to Michael Carr and Stuart Young.	FB
10.	<i>emda</i>'s Independent Performance Assessment	

10.1	<p>A verbal update report was given by Glenn Harris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenn began by thanking all of those stakeholders who assisted <i>emda</i> with both the consultation process and the workshops conducted by NAO, including RSB representatives. • <i>emda</i>'s Independent Performance Assessment was concluded on 15th December • A feedback meeting with the Assessors on 22nd January was very positive. • <i>emda</i> will be notified of their preliminary draft score before an announcement in February or March. 	
11	Development of RES Implementation Plan	
11.1	<p>Stuart Young provided a report referring members to the development of the RES Implementation Plan, this was circulated to members as Item 11(a) Appendix:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Zadora commented that only those partners who make an identifiable financial contribution to delivering the RES are currently listed in the Implementation Plan. She raised concerns that this may send out a negative message to other partners who are working to deliver the strategy (such as Engage and EMBF), unless the purpose of the Implementation Plan is more clearly communicated. • <i>emda</i> agreed to make this clear in the published plan. • The final Implementation Plan will be issued to contributing Partners on 30th January and will be circulated to RSB members via Stuart Young. • Glenn Harris noted that <i>emda</i>' will be responsible for producing future revisions of the Plan, on a two year basis. Discussions are progressing with the Regional Co-ordination Forum Steering Group, who are expected to consider the Implementation Plan, using analysis supplied by <i>emda</i>. <p>The Regional Scrutiny Board</p> <p>a) Noted the update report provided by <i>emda</i>, attached as Appendix 11(a) b) Noted the development of the RES Implementation Plan c) Noted the continued need for partner involvement in the delivery of the RES</p>	
12.	Regeneration East Midlands	
	<p>Stuart Young provided a report referring members to recent progress and achievements in the development of Regeneration East Midlands. MT reminded Members that the Assembly Board had asked the RSB to review REM each year and recommend to the Assembly Board whether to the Assembly should continue to support REM financially.</p> <p>RSB were provided with a report from Andy Turner, attached as Appendix 12(a), updating RSB on recent progress and achievements. RSB noted that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REM's proposals and funding application would be going to <i>emda</i>'s February Board Resources Group. <i>emda</i> agreed to shared the outcome of this meeting with RSB Members. • Work was continuing to identify outcome indicators and capture the added value of REM. 	AJB

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Roger Begy commented that REM represented good value for EMRA's contribution of £15k. Cllr Roger Begy commented that REM represented good value for EMRA's contribution of £15k. <p>The Regional Scrutiny Board</p> <p>a) Considered the progress report of REM, attached as Appendix 12(a) b) Agreed to recommend to the Assembly Board to continue to support REM.</p>	
13	emda's Chief Executive's Report (December 2006)	
	<p>A report was provided referring Members to <i>emda's</i> Chief Executive's Report for December 2006 attached as Appendix 13(a)</p> <p>An agreed set of questions had been passed to <i>emda</i> attached as Appendix 13(b).</p>	
Q1 P.1	<p>The Chief Executive's Report refers to the request for advice from RDAs to inform Budget 2007. Can <i>emda</i> provide further detail in relation to the preparatory work being undertaken (e.g. consultation, research) in advance of the response to be prepared by early February 2007?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Abby Johnson-Brennan replied that the RDAs have been consulted by Treasury on three specific issues, the role of the private sector in regional economic development, the impact of RESs on global competitiveness, and improving evaluation of RDA Spend. Yorkshire Forward is coordinating the collective RDA submission. <i>emda's</i> response draws on a wide range of evidence including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the East Midlands <i>Regional CSR submission</i> developed in conjunction with the Regional Assembly; ○ the <i>Sub-National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration</i> (Joint RDA response); ○ <i>emda's</i> submission to <i>the Lyons Inquiry</i> into Local Government, ○ Views of EMBF from a recent meeting on 22 Nov, in relation to the Sub National Review, which has raised some similar issues. 	
P2.5	<p>What will be the involvement of Regeneration East Midlands in the East Midlands Business Improvement Districts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cynthia Onions responded that the contract for BID development work was won by ATCM after an open tender process. The project will address the issue of capacity in market towns and lack of affinity between businesses. RSB asked for future updates on the project and a list of 'early adopters', <i>emda</i> will provide this information prior to the next RSB Meeting. It was stated that ATCM and REM would work together to ensure that the academy will complement, rather than duplicate REM's existing training offer. 	CO / SY

<p>P4.4</p>	<p>Can further detail on the business needs of the black and ethnic minority women's community be provided and when will the research be disseminated?</p> <p>Michael Carr responded. This report investigates the business support needs of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) women in the East Midlands. KMCS and Partners produced the study, in collaboration with Professor Monder Ram, and Professor Sara Carter on behalf of <i>emda</i> and the SBS. The report concluded that amongst the client group there was;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a low level of awareness of what business support was available • little brand recognition of business support providers, and • a wish for mentoring / coaching <p>The report also suggested that public bodies need to make greater efforts to engage with the client group, beyond translating leaflets into different languages.</p> <p>SBS have embargoed the research report until issues with copyright are resolved. When this has been resolved <i>emda</i> hope to disseminate the research as part of the wider women's agenda update which is provisionally planned for May / June 2007</p>	
<p>P4.15</p>	<p>What plans are there to build upon the success of the Mentoring Escalator Project?</p> <p>Michael Carr responded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot scheme of 2005 – adopted in January 2006 • The Pilot had been very successful • It has supported 233 businesses in the region • Preliminary findings from an independent Evaluation undertaken by Strategem have found that that 91% of beneficiaries interviewed were satisfied or very satisfied with the scheme, whilst, 88% rated the scheme as providing good or excellent value for money • In response to these findings <i>emda</i> and 4 SSP's (Alliance, LSEP, GNP and Northamptonshire) have committed in principle to extending the current scheme to run until 2010. • This will be achieved by commissioning of a new contract, which is currently being evaluated by <i>emda</i>'s Shared Resource Centre (SRC) team. • Crucially this new contract will take account of the recommendations of the evaluation report which aim to build on the scope and offer of the Mentoring Scheme, • It is expected that a formal tender will be published later this year (2007). The current scheme is being managed to merge seamlessly with the new contract. 	
<p>4.19</p>	<p>How does the success and attendance of the Universal Start-up Offer (USO) events</p>	

	<p>compare to previous New Business, New Life events held at Castle Donington?</p> <p>Michael Carr responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date emda has held 5 events - Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Northampton and Mansfield. The total number of attendees to date is 1052, another event is scheduled for March in Nottingham for 300 attendees, taking the number of attendees up to 1352. • emda are unable to provide a comprehensive answer because they have not yet conducted a formal evaluation, despite this there were some really positive messages coming out of the events so far: • Although overall numbers were lower than expected, the 'quality' and geographic spread of attendees was far better than at the previous NBNL Events. • emda were successful in targeting harder to reach communities and groups. • As the shows were smaller and more personalised emda were able to have closer engagement with attendees. • Attendees also found it easier to find the help and support they required than at the much larger NBNL events. • emda have allocated money from the Business Plan to repeat this exercise. <p>Discussion</p> <p>Pat Zadora asked about <i>emda's</i> review of funding to ENGAGE and VOICE EM in the voluntary sector, referenced in paragraph 3.5</p> <p>Stan Crawford responded that the <i>emda</i> Board were keen to see a regional lead organisation to represent the whole of the voluntary sector. Discussions were continuing and the evaluation was due to be concluded by Autumn</p> <p>The Regional Scrutiny Board</p> <p>a) Considered <i>emda's</i> Chief Executive's Report for December 2006, attached as Appendix 13(a)</p> <p>b) Considered <i>emda's</i> responses to previously submitted written questions and asked supplementary questions as appropriate.</p>	
14	Date of Next Meeting	
	Wednesday 18th April 2007 at 2pm	