

**EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
REGIONAL SCRUTINY BOARD**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2006

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Apologies</u></b>	<b><u>In attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Secretariat</u></b>
<p><b><u>Chair:</u></b> Martin Traynor</p> <p><b><u>Vice Chair:</u></b> Cllr R Begy</p> <p><b><u>LGA Representatives:</u></b> Cllr D McCrossan Cllr L Neal Cllr P Valentine</p> <p><b><u>ESEP Representatives:</u></b> G Lammie T Roache</p>	<p><b><u>LGA Representative:</u></b> Cllr A Grant Cllr B Kirby Cllr R Mayhew Cllr R Parker Cllr R Parkinson</p> <p><b><u>ESEP Representative:</u></b> V George I Murray</p>	<p><b><u>GOEM</u></b> Marie-Laure Huke</p> <p><b><u>Emda</u></b> Abby Johnson-Brennan Andrew Morgan Anthony Payne Diana Gilhespy Glenn Harris Michael Carr Richard Dickinson Stan Crawford</p> <p><b><u>Globe Regeneration Ltd</u></b> Ivan Annibal</p>	<p>Stuart Young Matthew Wheatley Bridget Redwood</p>

1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.1	Apologies were received from Cllr Robert Parker, Cllr Roy Mayhew, Cllr Barry Kirby, Cllr Andrew Grant, Cllr Robert Parkinson, Mr Vernon George and Mr Ian Murray.	
1.2	<p>Martin Traynor welcomed new Members to the meeting and congratulated Stuart Young on becoming Head of Scrutiny.</p> <p>It was noted that LGEM were still to nominate their final Scrutiny Board member.</p>	
2.	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>	
2.1	Cllr Roger Begy declared that he is Chair of Lincolnshire and Rutland LSC	
2.2	Cllr Peter Valentine declared that he is a Trustee of the National Space Centre	
3.	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2006</b>	
3.1	<p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>It was noted that Gordon Lammie should not have appeared as a Cllr</p>	
4.	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
4.1	<p>All action points were completed and any matters arising were either previously distributed or covered under the agenda.</p> <p><b>Other Issues</b></p> <p>12.9 Stan Crawford informed the Board that this had been a difficult area of work but that an evaluation report on SEEM had been commissioned and it was expected that the results will be available before Christmas. Stuart Young will provide a copy of the report to Board members via email and website once received. <b>SY</b></p> <p>12.10 It was reported that nothing had been completed on the proposed study into migrant workers, but that information would be available at the January meeting. SY agreed to send information across to members when available. <b>SY</b></p>	
5.	<b>Linking it Up Locally? Scrutiny Review</b>	
5.1	Matthew Wheatley introduced the report and comments he had received from Pat Zadora on GOEM and emda's response. He thanked GOEM and emda for their constructive response and added that EMRA will continue to look to GOEM for feedback on actions and Stuart Young will work with GOEM and emda in terms of what is needed.	
5.2	Martin Traynor informed the Board that this report had been considered and agreed at the Full Assembly.	
5.3	Abby Johnson-Brennan informed the Board that a meeting had been held to consider the Terms of Reference of the Regional Co-ordination Forum, which had been very positive.	
5.4	Marie-Laure Huke reported that of the Regional Co-ordination Forum had agreed to meet quarterly and that the next meeting will take place before Christmas.	

5.5	<p>It was agreed that the format of the Progress Report and Final Assessment Report would be clarified between <i>emda</i>, EMRA and GO-EM before its preparation.</p> <p><b>The Regional Scrutiny Board:</b></p> <p><b>a) Noted the joint emda/GOEM response attached as Appendix A</b></p> <p><b>b) Discussed issues arising with emda/GOEM representatives</b></p> <p><b>c) Invited emda/GOEM to provide a Progress Report and Final Assessment Report as detailed in paragraph 2.3 and agreed consultation with emda/GOEM regarding the form of the report</b></p> <p><b>d) Thanked emda and GOEM for their constructive contribution</b></p>	MW/SY
6.	<b>Scrutiny Panel Reviews</b>	
6.1	<p><b>6(a) – Foreign Direct Investment</b></p> <p>Cllr Roger Begy reported the successful outcome of this Panel Review and congratulated emda on the work being done in the field.</p> <p>6.2 Mathew Wheatley informed the Board on the ongoing work to meet the recommendations. Due to consider final report, which will be brought to the January meeting of the Board</p> <p>Michael Carr thanked the Board for deferring the report deadline to January 2007.</p> <p><b>6.3 The Regional Scrutiny Board :</b></p> <p><b>a. Welcomed emda’s update on their implementation of ‘Destined for Success’.</b></p> <p><b>b. Noted that emda’s Final Assessment Report will be available to the Assembly by two weeks prior to the next RSB meeting in January 2007</b></p> <p><b>6(b) – Sustainable Development</b></p> <p>6.4 Mathew Wheatley introduced emda’s Final Assessment Report on their implementation of the recommendations of ‘Towards Sustainable Development’ and welcomed the report.</p> <p>6.5 Anthony Payne informed the Board that this scrutiny review had given emda new ideas and new directions and that some of the recommendations were having an impact within the Agency and beyond. He reported that the Regional Procurement event had taken place and was, again, having an impact. The Scrutiny Review had influenced the thinking when developing the RES, which they will be taking forward through work groups internally.</p>	

<p>6.6</p> <p>6.7</p> <p>6.8</p> <p>6.9</p> <p>6.10</p> <p>6.11</p>	<p>Matthew Wheatley thanked emda for their time and effort in responding to this review.</p> <p>Stuart Young stated that although the Scrutiny Review had come to an end, joint working between emda and EMRA on sustainable development issues will continue, particularly through EMRA's Promoting Sustainable Development Group. Updates can be provided to the Board.</p> <p><b>The Regional Scrutiny Board:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Welcomed emda's Final Assessment Report</b></li> <li>b) <b>Discussed any issues arising from the Report</b></li> <li>c) <b>Agreed that EMRA officers will work with emda representatives to clarify their view on how effective the actions detailed in their report have been, or will be, in achieving the intended benefit of each recommendation.</b></li> <li>d) <b>Formally concluded the 'Towards Sustainable Development?' Scrutiny Review</b></li> </ul> <p><b>6(c) – Regional Tourism</b></p> <p>Matthew Wheatley introduced emda's Progress Report on the implementation of the recommendations of 'Destined for Success' and thanked emda for a very useful report.</p> <p>Roger Begy informed the Board that a meeting between EMT and DMPs had considered issues arising and that the way ahead was a lot clearer. Emda's board are due to consider a report on the future of EMT in December, based on a review undertaken by KPMG. After emda's Board meeting, copies of the KPMG and covering report will be available.</p> <p>He reported that the SSP relationship was working well but that there is still work to be done in the area of relationships with Local Authorities. He reported that 20 different actions had been agreed as a result of the meeting with DMPs to form stronger relationships.</p> <p>Stuart Young stated that LA engagement is a challenge, and that EMRA would be happy to assist in any way.</p> <p><b>The Regional Scrutiny Board:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Welcomed and considered EMT and emda's Progress Report for their implementation of 'The Way Ahead'</b></li> <li>b) <b>Invited emda and EMT to share a final Assessment Report with the Assembly two weeks before the March 2007 meeting of the Regional Scrutiny Board.</b></li> </ul>	<p>SY</p> <p>RD / SY</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Skills Scrutiny Review</b></p>	
<p>7.1</p>	<p>Gordon Lammie introduced a report referring Members to progress in the current regional scrutiny panel review. He highlighted the aim of the review, panel members the focus of</p>	

	the review and the timetable.	
7.2	Board Members were informed that a final report should be considered by the Regional Scrutiny Board in January 2007.	
7.3	Stuart Young informed members of the wide scope of the review and of the work that was being done with other agencies.	
7.4	Ivan Annibal reported that 27 Stakeholder interviews had been done so far with an overall positive response in relation to emda's role. He reported that ESP are currently going through a review of its own and that this would be kept in mind.	
7.5	Cllr Roger Begy suggested that the ESP review could be very interesting and the timing very relevant to the scrutiny review.	
7.6	Glen Harris welcomed the approach taken and stated that this could be very valuable to emda.	
7.7	Stuart Young reported that the East Midlands region had experienced a drop in UCAS applications of 20% and that no other region was facing this.	
7.8	Cllr Linda Neal stated that the focussing of FE provision in Lincolnshire on employment and skills related training did not have the negative consequences some had anticipated.	
7.9	Cllr Danny McCrossan stated that the Government should be looking at a system of preparing people for employment – 16/18 year olds are not job ready	
7.10	Martin Traynor thanked Gordon Lammie and Ivan Annibal for their contributions	
	<p><b>The Regional Scrutiny Board:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Noted the progress of the regional scrutiny panel review into regional skills development.</b></p> <p>b) <b>Noted issues that should be considered as part of this scrutiny review and asked for members to forward any issues they felt should be considered.</b></p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Regional Economic Strategy</b>	
8.1	Stuart Young provided a report referring members to the process of developing the RES and its subsequent Implementation Plan.	
8.2	He stated that the RES review has been a challenge for both organisations in terms of capacity but that EMRA are looking to improve their capacity. He stated that it has been difficult to get the business community engaged and the need to think about this again next time.	

8.3	<p>At the last meeting of the RSB Abbey Johnson-Brennan had been asked to report back with a view of what had worked well in the RES review process and what might be done differently next time. Abby stated that on the whole everything had worked well and that emda and respondents had been geared up in terms of resources. The Consultation process had been better than previous years and the overall response was positive. An excellent job had been done on the evidence base. There were questions as to whether and how to update some of the gaps.</p>	
8.4	<p>Abby considered that the Scrutiny Board had effectively undertaken their role and emda appreciated the support given. In response to a question from Stuart, Abby suggested that, in future, the Assembly might wish to consider how to get the wider Assembly membership engaged in the development of the RES and consequently spreading 'ownership' of it.</p>	
8.5	<p>It was noted that the environmental evidence base being posted on the website at a later time than other evidence, although planned and duly considered in the development of the RES, sent out the wrong message about the importance of environmental evidence to the RES.</p>	
8.6	<p>Overall, emda considered that the RES was publicised very well but that more time could have been allowed to consider the final consultation draft document as it had changed quite substantially from the earlier draft that had been extensively consulted on.</p>	
8.7	<p>Glen Harris reported that most returns for the RES Implementation Plan had been received and that all had been very supportive. He informed that the draft of the Implementation Plan will be brought to the Regional Assembly in December. There was to be a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November to decide how to present the findings in the best way</p>	
	<p><b>The Regional Scrutiny Board:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Noted the development of the RES Implementation Plan</b></li> <li><b>b. Considered the RES review process and noted how the process may be further supported in the future.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Emda's Independent Performance Assessment of RDAs</b>	
9.1	<p>Matthew Wheatley introduced a report updating members on emda and EMRA'S work in preparation for the National Audit Officer's Independent Performance Assessment of emda.</p>	
9.2	<p>It was noted that the NAO would be on site at emda from November and that emda would suggest to the NAO that a workshop be held with Assembly members.</p>	
9.3	<p>It was agreed that Assembly members' involvement should be a small workshop. Andrew Morgan will contact Stuart Young to agree this. Andrew Morgan reported that <i>emda's</i> Self Assessment document should be completed by 25<sup>th</sup> October and published on 7<sup>th</sup> November.</p>	<b>AM/SY</b>

	<p><b>The Regional Scrutiny Board:</b></p> <p>a) Considered the update on progress of emda’s Self Assessment Document  b) Endorsed the Assembly’s engagement in consultation with the IPA Inspectors.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>emda’s Chief Executive’s Report (September 2006)</b>	
10.1	<p>Appendix 12(c) – Questions to <i>emda</i></p> <p>Para 6.1      Could <i>emda</i> update the RSB on the key points made by the RDAs’ collective second submission to the Lyons’ inquiry into local government finance?</p>	
10.2	<p>Abby Johnson-Brennan stated that RDA’s collective submission had largely re-stated the case that they made in their submissions to the Comprehensive Spending Review and Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration, which suggested that regions should be a ‘pivot’ between local and national levels and, amongst other things, the development of regional public service agreements and targets. The submission did not directly address many issues about financing of local government. Abby agreed to provide a summary of her response, which would be distributed to the Board.</p> <p><i>Other issues highlighted by RSB Members</i></p> <p>Q:              In our recent joint submission to the Treasury on the CSR, one of the key recommendations was for <i>emda</i> to take on the role of managing UKTI in the region. Could <i>emda</i> give the RSB further details on how they would undertake this role and highlight the added value they could bring?</p>	AJB/SY
10.3	<p>Michael Carr stated that <i>emda have the strategic lead for attracting Foreign Direct Investment into the region. emda and UKTI have a ‘dual key’ arrangement for trade services and export promotion in the region. It would be beneficial if RDA’s could align this work with other RDA supported business support and FDI work.</i></p> <p>Q:              Our recent scrutiny review, ‘Linking up Locally’, highlighted the fact that there are numerous funding streams that support economic development and regeneration, that would benefit from better alignment of strategies. A common theme in many of these programmes is encouraging business start ups in deprived areas. How does <i>emda</i> propose to try to align different funding streams at the local and regional levels to provide a co-ordinated approach to business start-ups in the region?</p>	
10.4	<p><i>Emda, representing RDAs, are working with the Small Business Service (SBS) and six different government departments to map out and assess all currently available business support products. In the region, there are over 400 products classed as ‘business support’ –40% of which are provided by local authorities. As part of the SBS review, emda and GO-EM have written to Local Authorities asking them to use a provided toolkit to review 34</i></p>	

	<i>products by 24<sup>th</sup> October. The vision is for business support provision to be pooled into a single network, including the 3-cities LEGI bid.</i>	
10.5	Cllr Roger Begy referred to links made between the RES and Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) on page 61 of the Chief Executive's Report. Roger asked what work is being done to address the apparent disconnect between the region planning for 6000 extra jobs in the same time period that it is planning for 20,000 new homes. Stuart Young stated that work was ongoing on this issue and he would provide a written response.	<b>SY</b>
11	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
11.1	There was no other business	
13.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
13.1	January 2007 – date to be confirmed.	