

**EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
REGIONAL SCRUTINY BOARD  
28 June 2006**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 28 JUNE 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 G Ridge Cllr B Kirby Cllr I Fleetwood (sub) Cllr R Parker</p> <p><b><u>ESEP Representatives:</u></b> Mr F Lucas Ms P Zadora</p>	<p><b><u>LGA Representative:</u></b> Cllr A Grant Cllr M Hill Cllr G Lammie Cllr M Radulovic Cllr J Ashton Cllr P Valentine</p> <p><b><u>ESEP Representative:</u></b> G Lammie T Roache</p>	<p><b><u>GOEM</u></b> Marie-Laure Huke</p> <p><b><u>Emda</u></b> Bryan Jackson Abby Johnson-Brennan Michael Carr Glenn Harris Diana Gilhespy Steve Mulligan</p>	<p>Stuart Young Matthew Wheatley Lynn Benton</p>

1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.1	Apologies were received from Cllr A Grant, Cllr M Hill, Cllr G Lammie, Cllr M Radulovic, Cllr J Ashton, Cllr P Valentine, Mr. G. Lammie and Mr. T. Roache.	
1.2	Martin Traynor welcomed Members to the meeting and introduced Bryan Jackson, the Chair of <i>emda</i> who was standing in for the <i>emda</i> Board representative.	
2.	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>	
2.1	Martin Traynor declared that he is Interim Chair of Leicester Shire Economic Partnership and also declared an interest in East Midlands Business.	
2.2	Cllr Roger Begy declared that he is Chair of Lincolnshire and Rutland LSC and a Board member of the Welland Partnership.	
3.	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March 2006</b>	
3.1	The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
4.	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
4.1	All action points were completed and any matters arising were either previously distributed or covered under the agenda. Members were asked to note that a glossary of acronyms was enclosed with the papers.	
5.	<b>Final Report – Scrutiny Review</b>	
5.1	<p>Pat Zadora introduced the Scrutiny Review, ‘Local Area Urban Regeneration, Partnership Working and the RES’. The review as produced with the support of Meridian Pure consultants. Pat thanked <i>emda</i> and GO-EM for their close involvement in the development and management of the review.</p> <p>Martin Traynor commended Pat Zadora and the Secretariat on the quality of the report.</p>	
5.2	Diana Gilhespy welcomed the broad thrust of the review and noted that most of the recommendations flow from the first recommendation on the establishment of a regional leadership executive. Cllr Roger Begy noted that the Assembly had, some months ago, been lukewarm about the regional leadership executive that was then proposed, however the Scrutiny Review identified the clear need for better regional co-ordination.	
5.3	<p>Marie-Laure Huke confirmed that GO-EM would be pleased to formally respond to the Scrutiny Review.</p> <p><b>The Regional Scrutiny Board agreed to:</b></p> <p><b>a. Endorse the final draft report, attached as Appendix 5(a) subject to;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘supersede’ on page 17 be changed to ‘complement’</li> <li>• On para 2.10, page 6, the consultant is asked to cross-check their reference to the ‘quality of life dropping’</li> </ul>	<b>GO-EM</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Agree delegated authority to the Chair of RSB and Pat Zadora, as lead Member for this review, to approve any potential amendments.</li> <li>c. Subject to any amendments, invite the full Assembly to consider the final report.</li> <li>d. Subject to any amendments, agree to publish this report and its dissemination to regional and sub-regional partners.</li> <li>e. Approve the Way Forward detailed in Section 4 of this report</li> <li>f. On behalf of the Assembly, thank partners and officials at <i>emda</i> and GOEM for their time, effort and commitment in supporting this regional scrutiny review.</li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Scrutiny Panel Review – Regional Skills Development</b>	
6.1	Stuart Young introduced the report, noting that the Skills review forms a key part of the 2006/07 program and that the skills agenda is crucial to moving the region forward.	
6.2	Bryan Jackson wanted to know how the RSB review was going to add value to what is a massive subject where one could easily get side-tracked.	
6.3	Cllr Roger Begy emphasised that the report needs to be very focused and it is important there are 2 or 3 members from the business sector involved. The region will have to make some hard choices and that the focus of the review should be on the ESP and the effectiveness of delivery.	
6.4	Stuart confirmed that the review will focus on the effectiveness of <i>emda</i> and the ESP, noting <i>emda</i> 's marginal funding role and reported that an understanding had been reached with the LSC over their involvement in the review.	
6.5	Michael Carr noted that the ESP had only been operational for a year.	
6.6	RSB member Gordon Lammie was suggested as a potential panel chair.	<b>SY</b>
6.7	First panel meeting is to be August/September and with suitable dedication of resources the aim is to complete the review by January 2007.	
	<p><b>The Regional Scrutiny Board agreed to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Endorse the remit for a scrutiny panel review into regional skills development as set out in Section 3 of the report.</li> <li>b. Submit to the secretariat any expression of interest to serve on the panel.</li> <li>c. To approach Gordon Lammie to chair the review panel.</li> <li>d. Propose to the secretariat any other individuals appropriate for potential panel membership.</li> <li>e. Endorse the use of consultancy support for the Panel Review.</li> <li>f. Agree to the Secretariat supporting the establishment and on-going requirements of this panel</li> </ul>	

7.	<b>Revised RSB Terms of Reference</b>	
7.1	It was agreed to delete the brackets on page 60 around 'public/publicly funded'.	
7.2	<b>The Regional Scrutiny agreed to endorse its revised Terms of Reference as attached in Appendix 7(b)</b>	<b>SY</b>
8.	<b>emda's Independent Performance Assessment</b>	
8.1	Glenn Harris introduced a presentation on the forthcoming Independent Performance Assessment of <i>emda</i> by the National Audit Office (NAO). Glenn confirmed that NAO will be 'on site' at <i>emda</i> from 4 <sup>th</sup> December and that <i>emda</i> would have to publish their 'Self Assessment Report' by 6 <sup>th</sup> November.	
8.2	<p>Glenn noted that interim evaluation of their initial self-assessment questionnaires returned by partners indicated that <i>emda</i> had strengths in the RES consultation process, having clear targets, taking tough decisions, strong evaluation relative to other RDAs, strong governance and good innovation. However, consultation highlighted that <i>emda</i> also needed to improve on business engagement in their board, strategic leadership, communication, learning from past experiences, engaging in LEGI and LAAs and assessing partners' capacities, although a positive 'direction of travel' was often noted.</p> <p><b>The Regional Scrutiny Board agreed to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Consider the draft emerging findings as reported by <i>emda</i>.</b></li> <li><b>b. Endorse the proposed 'Way Forward' as detailed in Section 4</b></li> </ul>	
9.	<b>Regional Economic Strategy</b>	
9.1	Abby Johnson-Brennan gave a detailed verbal update on the progress of the RES and an initial consideration of the lessons learnt to date. Abby confirmed that <i>emda</i> would report to the next meeting of the RSB with a considered view of what could be done differently next time.	<b>emda</b>
9.2	Abby confirmed that the DTI had given verbal assurance that they were content for the RES - 'A Flourishing Region' to be published. Abby noted that <i>emda</i> 's extensive public consultation and detailed evidence base had been praised by government and colleagues in other RDAs. The RES was taken to 100 events – seminars, boards, groups etc, presented to 1400 regional stakeholders over the time. 500 substantial written contributions were received. Advertising posters increased hits to <i>emda</i> 's website significantly.	
9.3	The RES would be printed and disseminated by 20 <sup>th</sup> July and formally launched at <i>emda</i> 's Annual Public Meeting on 29 <sup>th</sup> September. Abby indicated that <i>emda</i> would now be moving on to developing, with partners, the RES Implementation Plan and developing comparators to the East Midlands for the Index of Sustainable Economic Wellbeing.	
9.4	In response to a question from Frank Lucas about whether the Minister had approved the RES without seeing the SEA's Environmental Statement, Abby confirmed that the Minister	

	had been advised by her Civil Servants that the SEA process had been appropriately carried out.	
9.5	<p>Stuart asked Abby to consider in her later report to RSB if there were areas where the effectiveness of RSB/Assembly engagement could be improved upon in future revisions of the RES.</p> <p><b>The RSB noted the verbal report.</b></p>	<b>emda</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Business Champions</b>	
10.1	Glenn Harris introduced the report on Business Champions noting that the Business Champions provide enhanced business support for delivery of RES and that the recently concluded Business Champions review considered all possibilities including discontinuing the Business Champions.	
10.2	Cllr Roger Begy noted that the concept of business champions had been well received on its inception but the initiative appeared to have become 'tired'.	
10.3	Glenn reported that the new 'Business Champions' contract contained much clearer and more measurable outputs. Abby confirmed that there will be a renewed focus on the quality rather than quantity of champions.	
10.4	Bryan Jackson reported that he had spoken personally to 10 or 11 of the business assisted through initiatives supported by Business Champions and had heard that their input was very well appreciated. Bryan considered that the initiative offered a structure and framework to ensure high quality volunteering and mentoring opportunities.	
10.5	Pat Zadora noted that the new contract should measure genuine additionality rather than encourage members to report as an output of the initiative that which they would have previously done anyway.	
10.6	<p>Bryan and Abby stated that they would positively encourage partners other than <i>emda</i> to draw on the resource of Business Champions.</p> <p><b>The Regional Scrutiny Board agreed to consider the briefing note attached as Appendix 10(a) and discuss the Business Champions programme for consideration by <i>emda</i> as part of its further development.</b></p>	
<b>11.</b>	<b><i>emda</i> SSP Review</b>	
11.1	<p>Members noted the item. Pat Zadora commented that it was clear that SSPs were 'creatures of <i>emda</i>' rather than being more widely owned sub-regional partnerships that they had had the potential to be.</p> <p><b>The Regional Scrutiny Board noted the contents of this report and <i>emda's</i> progress as detailed in Appendix 11(a).</b></p>	

12.	<b>emda Chief Executive Report and Annual Performance Report</b>	
12.1	Appendix 12(c) – Questions to <i>emda</i>	
	<p><i>emda 2005-6 Annual Performance Report</i></p> <p>a) Whilst <i>emda</i>'s strong performance in achieving their output targets is very welcome, what is the process for the review of <i>emda</i>'s Corporate Plan and the re-evaluation of its targets? (p5)</p>	
12.2	<p>Ordinarily the Corporate Plan would be up for review before March 2007. However, with the Comprehensive Spending Review being delayed by a year, DTI have asked <i>emda</i> to defer their Corporate Plan review until March 2008. Now that <i>emda</i> can capture and record Business Link outputs, <i>emda</i> will make recommendations in July to increase their 'businesses assisted' and 'people assisted to get a job' targets.</p> <p>b) How does <i>emda</i>'s disaggregated output performance compare with the profile of East Midlands population and employment in rural, urban and deprived areas? In which areas does <i>emda</i> consider that further targeting may be beneficial? (p7)</p>	
12.3	<p>30% of the region's population live in rural areas and 17% in 'disadvantaged' areas. The stated outputs compare reasonably favourably to this profile. <i>Emda</i> would also consider outcomes and impacts rather than solely outputs to inform potential policy changes.</p> <p>c) How does <i>emda</i> quantify the impact and benefit of the 'Strategic Added Value' activity details in Section 6 and Appendix 1? (p30-33 &amp; p44-54)</p>	
12.4	<p>There is considerable debate on this issue/ DTI have moved to ask RDAs to 'demonstrate' rather than quantify their strategic added value (SAV). DTI look for 6 types of SAV – strategic catalysis, strategic leadership, engagement, strategic influence, leverage and synergy. Work continues with DTI to establish the 'logic chain' on SAV. <i>Emda</i> continues with its thorough evaluation programme.</p> <p>d) How does the SSPs contribution to the targetry framework compare to the expected profile? In which areas does <i>emda</i> consider that improvements should be made? (p37)</p>	
12.5	<p>SSPs have collectively exceeded all their profile targets with the exception of target 5 - 'regeneration investment leveraged'. SSPs are working to improve their output forecasting. Sub-Regional Investment Plans (SRIPs) will help SSPs capture outputs that were not recorded in the past.</p> <p><i>Chief Execs Report for May</i></p> <p>Para 2.13 What is <i>emda</i>'s role in the two-year DCLG project to develop business improvement Districts (BIDs) in Worksop, Broxtowe, Derby and Melton</p>	

	Mowbray?	
12.6	<i>Emda</i> has not played a direct role but was consulted over the choice of areas. <i>Emda</i> support the Association of Town Centre Managers (ATCM) to support BIDs rather than supporting BIDs directly.	
	Para 3.2 Has <i>emda</i> had any indication from the DTI that they are looking to amend Single Programme Appraisal Guidance (SPAG) for RDAs, potentially in response to the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) report, and, if so, what is the programme for this?	
12.7	DTI have indicated that they are looking to amend SPAG in response to the SDC report, and have asked Office of Project Advice & Training (OffPAT) – chaired by Jeff Moore, to advise.	
	Para 3.11 What is the role of Derby and Derbyshire SSP (DDEP) in the Prince of Wales Peak Initiative?	
12.8	DDEP and <i>emda</i> are both members of the project partnership. <i>Emda</i> are funding the preparation of a Business Plan. The partnership is looking to help farmers adapt to CAP reform. Initiatives supported, include a ‘dairy wagon’.	
	<b>Other Issues</b>	<b><i>emda</i></b>
12.9	Cllr Roger Begy asked for further information to be provided on the outputs and outcomes of Social Enterprises East Midlands. (SEEM).	
12.10	Cllr Begy suggested that <i>emda</i> ’s proposed study into migrant workers would benefit from discussions with other groups that have already undertaken work in South Lincolnshire on this issue. Cllr Begy welcomed <i>emda</i> ’s support for the development of a Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) for logistics and supply chain management. Bryan Jackson noted that this model was also supported by the National Automotive Skills Academy.	
13.	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
13.1	Martin Traynor thanked out-going Regional Scrutiny Board members for their contributions over the past 12 months.	
13.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
13.1	19 <sup>th</sup> October 2006 – PERA.	