

## **ORGANISATIONAL OVERHAUL FOR 'NEW LOOK' ASSEMBLY**

A comprehensive review of the Assembly's organisational structure and systems was endorsed by members when they met in Leicester on 12 September.

The new chief executive, Nigel Rudd has been charged with developing proposals for organisational reform following a comprehensive review and consultation carried out for the Assembly by the Office of Public Management.

The changes will see revisions of the current Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) Policy Forum and task group structure, to a simplified structure based around three boards; a regional policy board, regional scrutiny board and regional planning board.

The planning board (already established) covers the statutory spatial planning function the Assembly is required to carry out. All the Assembly's scrutiny functions will be overseen by the scrutiny board and the policy board will cover all the Assembly's policy development work.

The plans will be endorsed by the Assembly when it meets in December. Further details about the organisational review can be viewed on the Assembly's website at [www.eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk](http://www.eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk)

Progress on the organisation's move to incorporation was also reported to members at the meeting in Leicester. A draft Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association were endorsed as the basis for further progress towards the formation of a company.

The Assembly's Steering Group was authorised to resolve outstanding issues around the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Arrangements for the employment of staff (currently by the East Midlands Regional Local Government Association) will be confirmed following discussions between the EMRLGA and Assembly representatives.

### **PANELS AGREEMENT FOR SCRUTINY ROLE**

---

The formation of scrutiny panels to underpin the Assembly's scrutiny of the region's economic strategy and the work of East Midlands' development agency, *emda*, were endorsed by Assembly members.

Scrutiny panels mark a change in focus for the Assembly, in its ambition is to become more strategic and less operational in its approach to the scrutiny of regional bodies, and the panels will be tasked with examining specific strategies and initiatives in detail.

## **Annual Report**

***The Assembly's annual report for 2002/2003 is now available.***

***Copies can be requested from the Assembly on 01664 502563, or in writing to Assembly's offices at The Belvoir Suite, Council Offices, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray LE13 0UL. You can also request copies by email via Simon Brian at [simon@eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk](mailto:simon@eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk)***

---

## CONSULTATION HELPS BUILD HOUSING STRATEGY

*The regional strategy for housing investment was submitted to the Minister in July. The new Regional Housing Board is preparing the housing strategy drawing on input from sub-regional and interest groups.*

*It is also tendering for additional research work to be undertaken before presenting a draft to the Assembly's meeting in December. Consultation between January and mid-February next year should mean that the strategy can be agreed and launched in March, although the exact deadline is still to be determined by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.*

### **ASSEMBLY MEETING DATES**

The next meeting of the Assembly will be held on the morning of 12 December at Rushden and Diamonds FC, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire. Full details will be available nearer the date, on the Assembly's website at [www.eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk](http://www.eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk) The venue for the meeting scheduled for 19 March 2004 has yet to be confirmed.

### **LIFE MAGAZINE**

The next issue of the Assembly's new regional interest magazine will be published around mid-October; the deadline for editorial contributions is September 29. The magazine is available free of charge to businesses, local authorities, agencies and voluntary sector organisations in the region.

Copies can be obtained by emailing the Assembly at [info@eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk](mailto:info@eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk) or by calling on 01664 502563. Enquiries regarding editorial contributions should go to Jeremy Waterfield on 0116 270 5462 or by email to Jeremy at [bixgroove@aol.com](mailto:bixgroove@aol.com)

### **Planning consultation underway**

A seminar on the implications of draft Milton Keynes and South Midlands sub-regional strategy was held in Northampton this week to inform the public consultation process. In addition, the views from this seminar and consultation with several of the Assembly's task groups will be fed back to the IRS Policy Forum meeting on 10 October and the Planning Board meeting on 16 October.

### **Planning guidance enquiry**

The Public Examination for the latest regional planning guidance (RPG) proposals prepared for the East Midlands will be held in November. The examination is being held at Nottingham Moat House Hotel, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, beginning on November 18 and will last for nearly three weeks.

The panel will be chaired by Alan Richardson and will produce the report that provides the basis on which the Secretary of State decides whether any changes are needed before the draft guidance can be issued as revised Regional Planning Guidance. For more information e-mail: [rpg-eastmids.goem@go-regions.qsi.gov.uk](mailto:rpg-eastmids.goem@go-regions.qsi.gov.uk)

### **Your views on community safety**

Assembly members and regional organisations are being urged to comment on a new Assembly publication, Viewpoints on Community Safety, which has been published in draft form. The document can be viewed via the Assembly's website at [www.eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk](http://www.eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk)

### **A sustainable approach**

'Towards a regional Energy Strategy' has been published and comments and input are invited. The document can be viewed via the Assembly's website or at [www.energy4enterprise.org.uk](http://www.energy4enterprise.org.uk) It describes the work that will be necessary to reduce energy use, improve energy efficiency and achieve significant take-up of renewable energy at local and regional level.

---

For more information about the Assembly telephone 01664 502563 or email [info@eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk](mailto:info@eastmidlandsassembly.org.uk)  
You can write to the Assembly at  
The Belvoir Suite, Council Offices, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray LE13 0UL