



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

3rd July 2006 – 10.00 am

To be held at Environment Agency Trentside Offices, Nottingham
(location map attached)

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Notes from Previous Meeting
3. Securing the Regions' Futures*
 - Future of Promoting SD Group
 - Defra Partnership and Innovation Fund
4. Project Updates:
 - Climate Change, including sustainable design and construction
 - East Midlands Expo 2006
 - Behavioural Change
 - Public Procurement
5. Any Other Business
6. Date of Next Meetings – start time 10am:
 - Thursday 28 September
 - Thursday 18 January

* Report attached

**EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD ON 16TH MAY 2005 AT DERBY CITY COUNCIL OFFICES**

Present

Alan Smith	Groundwork East Midlands
James Luger	EMDA
Bettina Lange	EMEL
Clark Field	EMFEC
Diane Whitehead	GOEM
Joan Travis	Derby City Council Member
Helen Ross	Nottingham City PCT
Keith Melton	EMAGE
Lucy Care	EMRA/Derby City Council Member
Nick King	Environment Agency
Yvette Dearden	EMRA
Nick Brown	Nottinghamshire County Council
Hugh Fenton	EMAGE/Wellingborough LSP
Tony Marmont	Beacon Energy
Helen Chadwick	EMRA
Mike Meech	GOEM
Andrew Jenkins	Boots plc

Apologies

Simon Drury (Chair)	Center Parcs Ltd
Paul Fleming	De Montfort University

	[YD chaired in SD's absence.]
1.	Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting
	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting:</p> <p>Item 6 – wording queried as suggested that vocational training was only available to young people. Action: YD to rephrase.</p> <p>Item 4 - KM highlighted that he had suggested biannual running of design competition, with real building from region again. Action: SD&C steering group to consider.</p> <p>Item 3 - YD had tried to reorganise a meeting with Belinda Davis. The agenda had moved on, however, and in light of the timing the key messages from the Group had been reiterated to Belinda.</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed subject to above amendments.</p>

2.	<p>Progressing Climate Change Programme</p>
	<p>NK presented a report on the work of the Climate Change Steering Group (EMCCSG). He highlighted the current programme, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bid to CCF - awareness raising aimed at University students (due to hear in June) • Nottingham Declaration - aimed at LAs and supported nationally by EST, UKCIP and others. EMCCSG aim is for all EM councils to sign. Toolkit being piloted in EM • Report on biodiversity and climate change <p>NK highlighted that EM and WM are the only regions without a climate change co-ordinator in post - increased activity has been reported in the other regions as a result. In most regions, the co-ordinator post has been supported by a partnership of regional organisations.</p> <p>All agreed that a co-ordinator would be useful and should be progressed. Action: EMRA, EA, emda and GOEM to discuss best way forward.</p> <p>Discussion on ideas for CC agenda covered a wide range of issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to recognise the increasing price and scarcity of fuel • Opportunities for innovative biofuels and other alternatives • The health agenda and changing delivery in light of climate change • Extending Nottingham Declaration to other public sector bodies • Need to continue to take a holistic approach • Link to consumption, sustainable product design and the issue of whole life costs versus bottom line. • Role of spatial planning, including transport • Role of energy strategy and energy hierarchy • Growth agenda and need to produce current buildings to a very low carbon target • The need to continue to include issues relating to adaptation <p>Agreed 'big idea' to encompass these actions - to be a carbon neutral region by 2050.</p> <p>Action: Climate Change Group and Energy Group to meet to discuss joint working.</p> <p>Action: 'Big idea' to be considered as part of bid for Defra Partnership and Innovation Fund.</p>
3.	<p>Sustainable Public Procurement Project</p>
	<p>The project report is in its final stages - the work was completed in March. Report split into 2 main sections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers • Adding Value

	<p>CF reported that the barriers are fairly well understood and that areas where the region can add value have been identified as part of the project. The project has also formed the basis for the continuing work by the Regional Centre of Excellence and emda is also taking elements of the agenda forward.</p> <p>Action: Clark Field to send Final Report to group when completed.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Securing the Regions Future</p> <p>YD reported that this government document was launched in the region by Elliot Morley during his visit in April. The document calls for each region to appoint a body to act as Regional SD Roundtable. These roundtables would need to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed jointly by regional bodies • Act as critical friend, challenging regional partners • Have a common set of purposes <p>The PSD group is cited as being able to mirror a roundtable.</p> <p>YD invited views on the type of roundtable EM needs to feed into early meeting with emda and GOEM. View of group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSD group is doing a good job and is delivering • PSD is well networked • Needed to avoid a talking shop • Closer involvement of an MP would be beneficial • Need for resource to support • PSD does do many of the things RT asked to do, but would need additional responsibility to fulfil DEFRA requirements, although DEFRA is not prescriptive <p>Action: EMRA, emda and GOEM to meet to discuss way forward.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Project Updates</p> <p>EXPO</p> <p>YD provided an update, including the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXPO on 12th October, aiming for 800 people. • EMCBE is a new partner this year. • Theme “Buying for the future” – sustainable procurement. Three strands - construction, food & drink and energy. To include meet the buyer sessions. • Side meetings to be held, where practical. • Flyer for exhibitors currently being developed. <p>Suggestions from group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable transport between railway and pride park should be considered. • Sessions to explain what Sustainable Procurement is would be useful. <p>Behavioural Change</p> <p>Under the direction of the steering group, EMRA is gathering evidence of current</p>

	activity and also of projects/initiatives that will help the steering group define where regional working can add particular value in relation to this issue.
6.	Any Other Business
	<p>TM advised group of construction supply chain work to be taken forward under the Sustainable Design and Construction agenda and also of the forthcoming TV programme on climate chaos. Also described opportunities for new technology for hybrid diesel/hydrogen engines that are seeking funding.</p> <p>NB indicated this is his last meeting as he is going to NZ to work for the NZ government - the group will therefore need a new LA rep.</p> <p>BL asked on behalf of EMEL about the Environment Challenge. YD advised this was an Environment Group issue.</p> <p>HR invited YD and SD to attend a future Planning Sustainability and Health Impacts meeting that would inform the Public Health Agenda.</p> <p>KM reported on a planned conference to target business in relation to sustainable development and is hoping to tie in with EXPO, but still at an early stage.</p> <p>MM advised that GOEM are helping deliver a pilot with a school in Leicester to help to deliver SD using a toolkit from Scotland.</p> <p>AS advised that ENVIRON has now become Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire.</p> <p>HC advised ENVIRON were publishing information on their Green Doctor Scheme and would circulate to group.</p> <p>JT highlighted the problem of reconciling growth of tourism and consumer purchasing with sustainable development.</p> <p>AJ said he had enjoyed his first meeting and had found it useful.</p> <p>YD thanked Derby City Council for hosting the meeting.</p>
9.	Date of Next Meeting
	Monday 3 rd July – 10am

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

3 July 2006

Item 3

SECURING THE REGIONS' FUTURES

1. Background

- 1.1 At its last meeting on 16 May, the Promoting Sustainable Development Group discussed 'Securing the Regions' Futures: Strengthening delivery of sustainable development in the English regions' - available at <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/documents/securing-the-regions-futures.pdf>
- 1.2 In this document, each of the three regional delivery agencies (GOEM, EMRA & *emda*) is tasked with specific actions (outlined in Appendix 1) and a broader requirement to collaborate more effectively around regional sustainable development delivery. To support this aim, 'Securing the Regions' Futures' calls for the existing regional sustainable development Round Tables (or equivalent bodies) to become SD delivery 'champion bodies' formed around six principles (Independent, inclusive, influential, capable, well-networked and financially sustainable).
- 1.3 Whilst the document accepts that regions would determine their own, more detailed objectives for the champion body, a common set of functions were also identified as follows:
 - 1) Raising the profile of regional sustainable development issues, based on sound evidence
 - 2) Identifying opportunities for catalytic projects, based on joint working and achieving outcomes beyond the remit of single agencies/organizations
 - 3) Providing a 'critical friend' function to strengthen sustainable development within regional plans, policies and programmes.

2. Future of Promoting Sustainable Development Group

- 2.1 'Securing the Regions' Futures' also states that regional sustainable development roundtables should be appointed jointly by Government Offices, Regional Assemblies and Regional Development Agencies. In light of this, representatives from GOEM, EMRA and *emda* met on 26 May 2006 to discuss the Government's response and consider how best to strengthen the form and function(s) of the Promoting Sustainable Development Group.

- 2.2 At this meeting, it was agreed that a regional consultation and options analysis be undertaken to inform a form/function review of the existing Promoting Sustainable Development Group in light of 'Securing the Regions' Futures'. The consultation would also help to establish issues of sustainable development co-ordination, leadership, delivery and accountability within the region. This was also agreed at the extra meeting of the Promoting Sustainable Development Group on 14 June.
- 2.3 EMRA, emda and GOEM also agreed that a commonly agreed concordat, shared amongst GOEM, EMRA, *emda* and regional stakeholders, should be developed. This would help to integrate sustainable development into policies and processes and strengthen sustainable development delivery in line with the Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) Framework and allow for greater levels of co-ordination and accountability.
- 2.4 Endorsed at Chairman/Chief Executive level, the concordat would complement the IRS Framework by establishing a clear direction for the sustainable development agenda and its delivery across the three regional organisations. It would strengthen the ability of the Roundtable to act as a 'critical friend' to the three organisations, as appropriate. The public reporting of progress on the sustainable development agenda would be made via the annual State of the Region report.

3. Defra Partnership and Innovation Fund

- 3.1 As a result of *Securing the Regions' Futures*, Simon Drury received a letter in mid May from Defra. It invited the Promoting Sustainable Development Group to identify and put forward eligible activities/projects for grant funding from Defra's 'Sustainable Development Partnership and Innovation Fund'.
- 3.2 There is up to a maximum of £46k in 2006/7 and £72k in 2007/8 available for each region – this also requires match funding. The funding is intended to add value to successful regional activities/projects, as opposed to replacing other regional funding sources. The work programme is intended to be a series of deliverable projects set against a regional 'big idea', which Defra suggest should relate to one or more of the 4 UK Sustainable Development Strategy priorities and reflect regionally specific sustainable development challenges (e.g. water stress).
- 3.3 An extraordinary meeting of the Promoting Sustainable Development Group was held on 14 June. The funding proposals were discussed and agreed at this meeting, further developed at a follow-on meeting on 21 June and also discussed at the Climate Change Steering Group meeting on 23 June. GOEM will submit the completed proforma to Defra by 30 June. The final proforma will also be circulated to this Group for information.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Promoting Sustainable Development Group is asked to discuss the detail and scope of:**
- i. the regional consultation and options analysis, as described in paragraph 2.2 above and**
 - ii. a regional concordat for sustainable development, as described in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 above.**

Yvette Dearden
Acting Head of Regional Policy and Sustainable Development
East Midlands Regional Assembly
yvette.dearden@emra.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

Securing the Regions' Futures Summary

	Next Steps/SDC recommendations	Securing the Regions' Futures/Govt response	Securing the Regions' Futures commitments
Regional Development Agency	The SDC recommended that (i) target setting and performance appraisal processes should be reviewed for RDAs, that (ii) RDAs need to frame their development of the RES around SD principles and that they should (iii) incorporate SD in accountability frameworks.	Agreed	<p>1. Government (DEFRA) will work with RDAs in 2006 to further publicize how RDAs can contribute to sustainable economic productivity</p> <p>2. A review of the Single Programme Appraisal Guidance (SPAG) will commence in April 2006, with target completion for the final guidance by Autumn 2006</p>
Government Office	The SDC recommended that (i) Government Offices should have SD as their primary purpose, (ii) they should produce their own SDAP and that (iii) Regional Directors should have a key SD leadership role.	Government will ensure that SD is strengthened within GOs by embedding SD principles with GO business planning, workforce development and performance management systems - a mainstreaming rather than 'bolt-on' approach.	<p>1. GOs will ensure that SD principles are embedded in business practices and external partnership working.</p> <p>2. Greater connections and articulation between GO activities and Departmental SDAPs</p> <p>3. GOs to work with DEFRA/RCU to identify aspects of <i>all</i> of the PSAs (within the GO Performance Framework) relevant to Government SD priorities, and develop a tailored reporting mechanism which will capture the SD contribution at the team level.</p> <p>4. The GO Peer Review process will incorporate aspects of SD performance</p> <p>5. (<i>reinforcing 1</i>) - GO staff to have access to SD awareness raising and training/development programmes</p> <p>6. GOs will work to align with and implement the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate</p>

<p>Regional Assembly</p>	<p>The SDC recommended that (i) the role of RAs with regard to sustainable development was clarified, and redefined if necessary as their primary purpose.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>1. Government will publish new guidance for RAs which clarifies their SD delivery role</p>
			<p>2. Government will invite regions to report by the end of September 2006 on how their own regions' high level strategies (IRS, IRF, RSDFs) reflect the 'essential ingredients' ('Securing the Regions' Futures', p17)</p>
			<p>3. All regions should have refreshed/revised their IRS/IRF/RSDFs by Dec 2007 to incorporate the 'essential ingredients' and the UK Sustainable Development Strategy</p>