



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

25 January 2005

1.30pm at Regional Assembly Offices, Melton Mowbray

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Notes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting
3. Sustainable Development and Scrutiny Project
(Interview by Forum for the Future) *
4. Environmental Infrastructure Project *
5. Climate Change Update:
 - 30 November workshop
 - Sustainable design and construction project *
6. Dates of Meetings in 2005
7. Any Other Business

**To be followed by a meeting to discuss Showcasing Good Practice event –
SD EXPO 2005**

* paper attached

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Item 3

BACKGROUND INFORMATION PREPARED BY FORUM FOR THE FUTURE

Introduction to Interview

As part of EMRA's scrutiny function, Forum for the Future have been asked to undertake a project reviewing EMDA's commitment and delivery of sustainable development. Specific objectives include:

- Whether there exists a genuine commitment to SD principles within EMDA.
- The strengths and weaknesses of EMDA's corporate endorsement of SD principles.
- How any top-level EMDA endorsement of SD feeds through to its operational activities including its delivery mechanisms.
- Stakeholders views as to the performance of EMDA on delivering SD
- The lessons that EMDA can learn from best practice in other regions in the UK and Europe.
- How EMDA can improve it's SD performance.

As part of this project, Forum would like to gain feedback and information from the Promoting SD group which will help to inform the review, and gain advice on what areas the project should cover. We would therefore like to ask the group the following key questions:

- What level of commitment do you think EMDA has to sustainable development?
- How does EMDA promote and encourage sustainable development throughout the region?
- Has anything changed as a result?
- What areas would you consider that EMDA are strong on delivering SD and which areas are weaker?
- What could EMDA do to improve it's own environmental, economic and social performance?
- Do you know of any examples of how EMDA has influenced business to become more sustainable/ incorporated sustainability into regeneration projects?
- What were the critical success/failure factors?
- Are there any questions you think we should be asking (and of whom)?

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Item 4

ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT UPDATE

1. Introduction

At the last Regional Policy Board meeting the appointment of consultants was agreed to conduct a scoping study to map existing and potential green infrastructure in a number of discreet areas in the East Midlands. The purpose of this report is to keep the Promoting SD Group up to date with progress on the project.

1.1 Background

The study will identify a number of areas which (as far as possible) represent a wide range of locations, but with a deliberate emphasis on areas under pressure for development and those facing socio-economic challenges. The overriding purpose is to show what can be done, with an aim of rolling it out as widely as possible across the region.

2. Action and progress made

- An inception meeting of the steering group took place on 3 December. Key points raised included:
 - The total area of GI to be mapped was agreed at 100sq km.
 - A key data set – the General Land Use Database (GLUD) could be utilised by the consultants if statutory agency members of the steering group requested the information from central government. This would save time and (thus) money.
 - The project will be used by Ordnance Survey at the Creating Sustainable Communities Summit, to be held in Manchester 31 January and 1st and 2nd February at the end of January, on their exhibition stand. Greenwood will be used as an example and will show a sequence of images using the GLUD database to show the application of OS/ ODPM products and data to the East Midlands study. It will advertise the potential benefits that this type of technology can provide.
 - Two workshops to be undertaken, the first on 12 January and the second on 18 March.

- The workshop on 12 January took place at EMDA's offices and included over 30 delegates from across the region. It was a very well run and extremely successful workshop. Progress was made in identifying how GI relates to constituent organisations' policies and priorities, what functions and typologies should be mapped, which areas could be surveyed and the potential barriers to improving the provision of GI. There was a great deal of enthusiasm and expertise evident on the day and it is clear that a wide range of organisations have a genuine interest and role to play in the aims of this project. This bodes well, particularly in terms of the future uptake and use of the scoping report.
- The Forestry Commission are currently in discussions with the same consultants to cover the Greenwood area as one of the study areas, as a separate, but intricately linked project to map GI. As mentioned above, this will feature as the example used by the OS at the Summit in Manchester at the end of January.

3. Next stages

- The consultants will now complete the main body of work and map the GI that exists in the identified areas using a variety of data sets. The opportunities for enhancement will also be mapped, together with an assessment of the barriers to this.
- 3.1 Consultants will produce an interim report for discussion on 11 February by the steering group.
 - 3.2 A second workshop will be held on the 18 March, with the final report due to be produced in April.

Alison Hepworth
Policy Adviser (Environment), EMRA

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Item 5

CLIMATE CHANGE – SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

1. Phase I – Research Study

1.1 The first phase of the project has been completed and the final report is available on the Regional Assembly's website – www.emra.gov.uk. It included a review of international, national and regional good practice with a more detailed evaluation of eight regional examples to highlight the costs and benefits of incorporating sustainable design techniques and features.

1.2 Based on the recommendations from the study, a steering group was formed to carry forward Phase II of the project. The two key elements of this second stage include a design competition and planning toolkit.

2. Phase II – Design Competition and Planning Toolkit

2.1. A competition is being organised for design professionals to help mainstream sustainability within the design process of new developments in the region. The competition also incorporates an element of professional development that will help to equip regional design teams with the knowledge to help them deliver the design brief. The first part of the competition is a concept design for a real site and the winners of this stage will win a small cash prize. These will then be eligible to tender for the final development of the project.

2.2 An information leaflet for the competition has been produced for the announcement of the competition on the 17th of January 2005 – copies will be circulated at the meeting. It provides more details about the competition and includes a timetable. Work on the competition brief has reached an advanced stage and is due to be distributed in April 2005. Similarly, work on training needs analysis for the professional development programme has been completed. The development of a syllabus for the training, which will be in the form of three one-day workshops, is underway. The workshops will be run in June 2005. Loughborough University is taking the lead role in this work in association with the University of Nottingham. An awards ceremony will be held in December 2005 and will pave the way for the winners to tender for the building project.

2.3 The second element of phase II of the project also involves the development of a toolkit for planners and developers. It is being developed to mainstream sustainability within the planning and development stage of developments in the region. This will include many elements of good practice within the region and will also signpost to important information across the UK. This piece of work is due to be completed by the end of March 2005.

Yvette Dearden
Head of SD, EMRA