

## **East Midlands (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 3.00pm  
Ramada Hotel, Swingbridge Road, Grantham**

### **Agenda**

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#### **Future Meeting Dates** (these meeting dates coincide with the meetings of the 9Cs)

- Friday 11 September 2009 – Rutland County Council, Oakham
- Friday 4 December 2009 - County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire

*All meetings will commence at 2.00pm*

**East Midlands (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board  
Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 6 March 2009 at 2.00pm  
Leicestershire County Council**

- Present:**
- Cllr Hilary Jones – Derby City Council
  - Cllr John Williams – Derbyshire County Council
  - Cllr Ross Willmott – Leicester City Council
  - Cllr David Parsons CBE – Leicestershire County Council
  - Cllr Martin Hill OBE – Lincolnshire County Council
  - Cllr Jim Harker – Northamptonshire County Council
  - Cllr Jon Collins – Nottingham City Council
  - Cllr David Kirkham – Nottinghamshire County Council
  - Cllr Terry King – Rutland County Council
  - Cllr Ernie White – Blaby District Council
  - Cllr Lewis Rose OBE – Derbyshire Dales District Council
  - Cllr Neil Clarke – Rushcliffe Borough Council
  - Cllr Gary Porter – South Holland District Council
  - Cllr Sandra Barnes – South Northamptonshire District Council
  - Steve Atkinson – Chief Executive, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
  - Michael Rich – GOEM
  - John Sinnott – Chief Executive, Leicestershire County Council
  - Jane Todd – Chief Executive, Nottingham City Council
  - Stuart Young – East Midlands Regional Assembly
- Apologies:**
- Cllr Roger Begy OBE – Rutland County Council
  - Jonathan Lindley - GOEM
- In Attendance:**
- Lisa Hopkins (Minutes) – East Midlands Regional Assembly

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair</b>	
1.1	Stuart Young invited nominations from Members to elect a Chair.	
1.2	Cllr David Parsons was nominated by Cllr Jim Harker and seconded by Cllr Ernie White.	
1.3	Members were then invited to nominate a Vice-Chair.	
1.4	Cllr Jon Collins was nominated by Cllr Ross Willmott and seconded by Cllr John	

		<b>ACTION</b>
1.5	Williams. Cllr David Parsons and Cllr Jon Collins were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.	
1.6	Cllr Ernie White asked whether a District Leader could formally be involved at some level, eg through agreeing an additional Vice Chair.	
1.7	Cllr David Parsons stated that this would be considered by himself, the Vice-Chairman and Stuart Young and a response given at the next meeting.	<b>DP/JC/ SY</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>The SNR and 'Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill'</b>	
2.1	Stuart Young informed Members that this paper is for information. He stated that this Bill addresses a range of issues, specifically the legislative arrangements for SNR.	
2.2	Cllr Terry King enquired in relation to the 'fall back' position of decision-making resting with the RDAs should agreement failed to be reached in each region.	
2.3	Stuart Young informed that he understands that the LGA is considering proposing an amendment to ensure that the RDAs alone are not the 'fall-back' position.	
2.4	Cllr Lewis Rose enquired regarding amendments to the Bill and what (and when) will be enacted.	
2.5	Stuart Young detailed the legislative process and timetable. A further report on the progress of the Bill will be taken to a subsequent meeting of the (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board.	<b>SY</b>
2.6	<u>Resolutions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members noted the contents of this report.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Local Authority Leaders' Board</b>	
3.1	Stuart Young informed Members of the role and responsibilities of the Leaders' Board. Members were also invited to consider the draft constitution and proposed working arrangements.	
3.2	Stuart Young confirmed to Members that this Board will operate in 'Shadow'	

		<b>ACTION</b>
	form until legislation is enacted and roles and responsibilities formally transfer from EMRA.	
3.3	Cllr Neil Clarke enquired whether 2 'alternate Member's can be nominated from District Leaders within each county area.	
3.4	Upon discussion it was agreed to nominate only 1 'alternate Member' to ensure continuity and engagement.	
3.5	Members agreed to the following amendments to the constitution:	
3.6	Under <b>item 5 – Terms of Office</b> the following to be removed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Leader of the District Council from each County area should be appointed for a period of one year. The nominating District Authorities within each County area are then free to nominate an alternative Leader or re-appoint the existing Member.</li> </ul> <p>To be replaced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Districts in each County area will be responsible for nominating its Member (and 'named alternate' Member) for the timescale that they regard as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<b>SY</b>
3.7	Members expressed concerns re openness and transparency and it was agreed that meetings will be open to the public.	
3.8	Therefore under <b>item 9.8 – Openness Policy</b> the following is to be removed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meetings of the Board will not be open to the public.</li> <li>▪ All papers will be deemed confidential until they are considered by the Board.</li> </ul> <p>To be replaced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meetings of the Board will be subject to the same rules of openness as apply to normal meetings of Councils.</li> </ul>	<b>SY</b>
3.9	Cllr Lewis Rose enquired regarding the legal liability and accountability of the Local Authority Leaders' Board. Stuart Young confirmed that this would be similar to current regional planning body arrangements.	

		<b>ACTION</b>
3.10	Michael Rich asked whether there may be a named substitute for a representative from Government Office. It was agreed to have a named substitute in order for continuity.	<b>SY/MR</b>
3.11	Cllr Jon Collins suggested that initially meetings of the formal Board are held every 2 months rather than quarterly.	
3.12	The constitution also needs to state Vice-Chair throughout rather than Deputy Chair.	
3.13	With the above amendments, Members agreed the constitution. The revised draft constitution is attached to these minutes as appendix 1.	
3.14	<p><u>Resolutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members noted the contents of this report.</li> <li>▪ Members considered and agreed the draft East Midlands Local Authority Leaders' Board constitution.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Regional Change Management Plan</b>	
4.1	Stuart Young informed Members that the Change Management Plan is required to be submitted to Government by 31 March 2009.	
4.2	A Joint Advisory/Strategy Board is to be established to lead on the development of the Regional Strategy which can then be referred to both the Leaders' Board and <i>emda</i> Board for endorsement.	
4.3	Michael Rich reiterated that this is an agreement on implementing SNR proposals and is not legally binding on partners.	
4.4	Stuart Young highlighted a number of proposals for membership of the sub-board and Members considered the various options.	
4.5	Cllr David Parsons reported on the recent meeting with Bryan Jackson, Chair of <i>emda</i> . He stated that <i>emda</i> suggested a compromise of 3+3 on the 'sub-board' with the Chair being a Local Authorities representative.	
4.6	Members discussed this revised option.	
4.7	Cllr Lewis Rose expressed concerns in relation to the Peak District National Park not being represented on the sub-board.	

		<b>ACTION</b>
4.8	Members agreed to the option of a 3+3 sub-board, although reservations were expressed in relation to this proposal.	
4.9	Members further discussed proposals for securing Stakeholder engagement in the new arrangements. It was agreed that current proposals should be further considered and the Change Management Plan should identify the principles that should underpin the preferred model for Stakeholder engagement.	
4.10	<p><u>Resolution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members supported the (draft) Regional Change Management Plan, subject to confirmation of a Joint Board of 3 Local Authority Members and 3 representatives from <i>emda</i>, along with the development of subsequent proposals for securing formal stakeholder engagement.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Wider Regional Governance and Local Government Arrangements</b>	
5.1	Stuart Young proposed that SNR provided an ideal opportunity to establish a more 'fit for purpose' regional governance structure.	
5.2	He stated that Cllr Martin Hill is currently leading a review of Local Government East Midlands.	
5.3	Cllr Martin Hill stated that the review is going well and a decision will soon be made on the Membership numbers for East Midlands Councils.	
5.4	After the Full Assembly meeting in July 2009, there will be a final meeting of Local Government East Midlands in order to formally 'wind-up' and bring it within the Assembly's Governance structures.	
5.5	Cllr Martin Hill confirmed proposals that the East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership will report to the Local Authority Leaders' Board.	
5.6	Cllr David Kirkham commented on the role of scrutiny and support for Local Authority Scrutiny.	
5.7	A further discussion followed in relation to available resources to support any scrutiny function.	
5.8	Cllr Neil Clarke supported the resource and funding proposals and supports the pro-rata funding proposals in relation to the District Councils.	

		<b>ACTION</b>
5.9	Cllr Jon Collins stated there is still more work to be undertaken in relation to regional governance and resources and requested that Chief Executives further consider these issues.	<b>SY</b>
5.10	Stuart Young confirmed that further proposals can be developed through the Chair and Vice-Chair.	
5.11	He also confirmed that CLG are committed to funding the new arrangements in relation to the development and delivery of the Regional Strategy.	
5.12	Cllr David Kirkham felt the revised/confirmed set of proposals would need to be developed for the next meeting.	
5.13	<u>Resolution</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members agreed that further work be undertaken by the Chair, Vice-Chair and their respective Chief Executives and that this be reported to a future meeting of the Board</li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Regional Economic Cabinet</b>	
6.1	Members considered a report detailing the work of both the Regional Economic Cabinet and the Regional Economic Council.	
6.2	Members will receive regular updates on the work of both the Cabinet and Council.	
6.3	<u>Resolutions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members noted the contents of this report.</li> </ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Schedule of Meetings</b>	
7.1	Future meetings are scheduled for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Friday 12 June 2009, 2.00pm – Lincolnshire County Council</li> <li>▪ Friday 11 September 2009, 2.00pm - Nottinghamshire County Council</li> <li>▪ Friday 4 December 2009, 2.00pm - Derbyshire County Council</li> </ul>	

## **Constitution**

### **1. Name**

- 1.1 The Board shall be known as 'The East Midlands Local Authority Leaders Board' (hereinafter called 'the Board').

### **2. The Region**

- 2.1 The geographical area covered by the Board (hereinafter called 'the region') shall comprise Derby City, Derbyshire, Leicester City, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Rutland and for Regional Strategy purposes, the Peak District National Park.

### **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

- 3.1 The roles and responsibilities of the Board shall be to:
- a) Create a sense of identity and direction for the region.
  - b) Improve the quality of life for people who live and work in the Region by incorporating the principles of sustainable economic growth and development, social inclusion, and wider sustainability into all the activities of the Leaders' Board and influencing other regional partners in these respects.
  - c) In conjunction with *emda*, joint responsibility for agreeing the Single Regional Strategy, including its drafting, implementation and monitoring of its delivery.
  - d) Influence Government in those critical areas where its decisions are vital for the region's future.
  - e) Influence key regional strategies and investment plans, e.g. Regional Funding Advice.
  - f) To provide leadership on behalf of Local Government in the region.
  - g) To promote the interest of the region nationally and internationally and with Government and European agencies.
  - h) To act as the decision-making executive for any regional local government organisation.
  - i) Approve and amend the Constitution and Standing Orders.
  - j) Appoint its Chair and Vice Chair.
  - k) Appoint representatives to outside bodies.
  - l) Establish any sub-groups, appointing their Chairs and determining their terms of reference.

#### **4. Membership of the Board**

4.1 The Board will consist of 14 Members. Membership will be on the basis of:

- a) Leader of each of the Unitary and County Authorities (9 Members).
- b) Leader from one District Authority in each of the County areas (5 Members).

#### **5. Terms of Office**

5.1 The following terms of office are proposed:

- The Leader of each Upper-Tier Authority is a 'permanent' member of the LALB.
- The Districts in each County area will be responsible for nominating its Member (and 'named alternate' Member) for the timescale that they regard as appropriate.

#### **6. Alternate Members**

6.1 Members of the Leaders' Board may authorise a 'named alternate member' who, in the event of a nominated member being unable to attend any meeting of the LALB, may attend, speak and vote on their behalf at that meeting.

6.2 Consequently, it is suggested that:

- a) Upper-Tier Authority representatives may nominate the Deputy Leader from their Authority as their 'named alternate member'.
- b) District Authority representatives may nominate a 'named alternate member' who is a Leader of a District Authority within their County area.
- c) Only 'named alternate members' should be permitted to attend the meetings of the Local Authority Leaders' Board.

#### **7. Termination of Membership**

7.1 In accordance with the membership requirements of the Local Authority Leaders' Board, as specified in section 4, any member wishing to resign from the Board may do so at any time by writing to the Secretariat.

7.2 In the case of District Authorities, the Secretariat shall arrange with the District

Authorities in that County area for a replacement member to be nominated as soon as is practicable.

- 7.3 Any Member shall cease to be a member of the Board if s/he ceases to be a Leader of the Local Authority to which he/she has been elected.

## **8. Participating Observers**

- 8.1 Local Authority Chief Executives and the Regional Director of GOEM shall be invited to attend meetings of the Board as participating observers. These participating observers shall be entitled to receive all papers circulated for consideration at Board meetings and shall be entitled to speak at such meetings but shall not be entitled to participate in any vote.
- 8.2 Local Authority Chief Executives and the Regional Director of GOEM shall nominate a 'named substitute' who, on their behalf, may attend as a participating observer at any meeting of the LALB.
- 8.3 At the discretion of the Board, representatives from outside bodies may be invited to attend a full or part meeting of the Board.

## **9. Meetings of the Board**

### **9.1 Annual Meeting**

- 9.1.1 The Annual Meeting of the Board shall be held in July of each year for the purposes of appointing a Chair and Vice Chair, considering making any necessary amendments to this Constitution and any associated Standing Orders.

### **9.2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

- 9.2.1 At each Annual Meeting the Board shall elect from amongst its members a Chair and a Vice Chair. Any vacancy arising in any of these offices shall be filled at the next meeting following the occurrence of the vacancy.

### **9.3 Frequency of Meetings**

- 9.3.1 The Board shall meet quarterly on such days and at such times as it shall have determined at the Annual Meeting unless in the opinion of the Chair, in consultation with the Vice-Chair, the business to be transacted does not warrant the holding of a meeting, or s/he considers that an additional meeting is warranted.
- 9.3.2 A Special Meeting of the Board shall be convened on a minimum of 21 clear

days.

- 9.3.3 Notice following receipt by the Secretariat of a request from the Chair or from not less than five Members.

#### **9.4 Place of Meetings**

- 9.4.1 Meetings of the Board shall rotate amongst Members of the Board.

#### **9.5 Quorum**

- 9.5.1 The quorum for meetings of the Board shall be one quarter of its regular or alternate Members.

#### **9.6 Voting**

- 9.6.1 The preferred method of decision making at all meetings of the Board and sub groups shall be by consensus, but if any Member requests a ballot then each Member shall each have a single vote.

#### **9.7 Agenda and Reports**

- 9.7.1 Copies of the Agenda for meetings of the Board shall be circulated to Members normally at least seven days before the meeting, together with any relevant reports and documents.
- 9.7.2 Unless otherwise agreed in advance, papers shall be circulated by post and also via email.
- 9.7.3 Matters for inclusion in the agendas and any other reports or documents shall be sent to the Secretariat at least 10 days before the meeting.

#### **9.8 Openness Policy**

- 9.8.1 Meetings of the Board will be subject to the same rules of openness as applies to normal meetings of Councils, specifically public admission to meetings and public access to documents.
- 9.8.2 All papers unless of a sensitive and/or personal nature, will be placed on the relevant website and available for public access in advance of meetings of the Board.

**10. Alterations to the Constitution**

- 10.1 Alterations to this Constitution shall be made only by the Board at each Annual Meeting or any Extraordinary General Meeting. This is on the basis of a simple majority with the Chair having a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

**East Midlands (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Delivering the Regional Change Management Plan**

**SYNOPSIS**

Each region was required by Government to agree a 'Regional Change Management Plan' in order to deliver the roles and responsibilities envisaged by the proposed SNR legislation.

The following paper updates Members on the delivery of the Regional Change Management Plan specifically in relation to the two outstanding issues for agreement:

- Establishment of the Joint Advisory/Strategy Board.
- Arrangements to support stakeholder engagement and consultation in the development and delivery of the Regional Strategy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to:

- Note the agreed Regional Change Management Plan submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.
- Agree East Midlands (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board representatives on the Joint Advisory/Strategy Board.
- Agree a Chair of the Joint Advisory/Strategy Board.
- Note the stakeholder consultation event held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Government required each region to agree a Regional Change Management Plan. This was agreed by partners (specifically EMRA, *emda* and Local Authorities) by the end of March 2009.
- 1.2 The Change Management Plan represents the agreement between *emda*, EMRA and Local Authorities in implementing the proposals of SNR as set out in the proposed Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill.
- 1.3 The SNR governance arrangements are required to be implemented by April 2010 (at the latest). EMRA has business plan commitments and funding until March 2010 and is committed to facilitate the transfer of its roles and responsibilities to the new arrangements.

## 2. The Regional Change Management Plan

- 2.1 It should be noted that Regional Change Management Plan is the *immediate* response of the East Midlands to SNR. In the timeframe available to us, we proposed a governance structure that is compliant with both the 'letter and spirit' of SNR whilst allowing the region sufficient flexibility to further develop or amend some of the proposals should this become appropriate in the future.
- 2.2 The Change Management Plan outlines how the regions will meet its co-responsibility obligations for the Regional Strategy, specifically:
  - EMRA transition
  - The Establishment of a Local Authority Leaders' Board
  - 'Co-Responsibility': A Strategic Relationship Between *emda* and the Local Authority Leaders' Board
  - Regional Task and Finish Groups
  - Stakeholder Engagement
  - Staffing Structures
  - Resources
  - Approach of *emda* to Agreeing Delegation Arrangements
  - Developing the Evidence Base and Links to Local Economic Assessments
  - Developing and Reviewing the Regional Strategy (RS)
- 2.3 The Regional Change Management Report is attached as Appendix 1.

## 3. Options

- 3.1 The Regional Change Management Plan details a number of issues relevant to the establishment of the (SNR facing) regional governance arrangements.

**a) Joint Advisory/Strategy Board**

- 3.2 Partners agreed on the need to establish a Joint Advisory/Strategy Board in order to deliver upon the 'co-responsibility' of both *emda* Board and the Local Authority Leaders' Board for the Regional Strategy.
- 3.3 In discussions with *emda*, it was agreed to establish a 6 member Joint Advisory/Strategy Board; 3 Members from the East Midlands Leaders' Board and 3 from *emda* Board.
- 3.4 The Joint Advisory/Strategy Board will be chaired by a Local Authority representative.
- 3.5 *emda* Board representatives are from the business sector. *emda* have confirmed their representatives as Steve Brown, Michael Seals and Tricia Pedlar.
- 3.6 Members of the East Midlands Leaders' Board are invited to agree representatives to this Board. With 3 places it is suggested that there is 1 representative each from a City, County and District Authority.
- 3.7 It is suggested that representatives should be geographically balanced to effectively support the consideration of the range of issues that relate to economic and spatial planning (the content of the Regional Strategy).
- 3.8 Members are further invited to agree a Leader to Chair the Joint Advisory/Strategy Board.
- 3.9 The first meeting of the Joint Advisory/Strategy Board is expected to be held in September 2009.

**b) Stakeholders**

- 3.10 It is important that *emda* Board and the East Midlands Leaders' Board agree with stakeholders an effective mechanism for their engagement and consultation in relation to the Regional Strategy.
- 3.11 In order to further develop proposals for stakeholder engagement, EMRA and *emda* (with support from GOEM) organised a consultation event on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009.
- 3.12 Informed by discussion with stakeholders, EMRA and *emda* have commissioned a consultant to develop an independent options paper with associated recommendations.

- 3.13 Any proposals for stakeholder engagement are for agreement by East Midlands Leaders' Board and *emda* Board.

**4. Recommendations**

Members of the Local Authority Leaders' Board are invited to:

- 4.1 Note the agreed Regional Change Management Plan submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.
- 4.2 Agree its representatives on the Joint Advisory/Strategy Board.
- 4.3 Agree a Leader to Chair the Joint Advisory/Strategy Board.
- 4.4 Note the stakeholder consultation event held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009 and subsequent development of proposals for stakeholder engagement and consultation for consideration and agreement by *emda* and East Midlands Leaders' Board.

Dr Stuart Young

Executive Director  
East Midlands Regional Assembly

## Draft Change Management Plan

### The Immediate Response of the East Midlands in Implementing SNR

#### 1 Background

The Change Management Plan represents the agreement between *emda*, EMRA and Local Authorities in implementing the proposals of SNR as set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill.

This Change Management Plan is the *immediate* response of the East Midlands to SNR. In the timeframe available to us, we propose a governance structure that is compliant with both the 'letter and spirit' of SNR whilst allowing the region sufficient flexibility to further develop or amend some of the proposals should this become appropriate in the future.

SNR requires RDAs and Local Authority Leaders' Boards (LALB) to accept a joint responsibility for the Single Regional Strategy (RS), including its drafting, implementation and monitoring of its delivery. Consequently, this Change Management Plan sets out the proposals of the East Midlands for establishing an effective strategic relationship between *emda* and LALB.

The Change Management Plan outlines how the regions will meet its co-responsibility obligations for the RS, specifically:

- The establishment of a Local Authority Leaders' Board
- Approach for developing and delivering the Single Regional Strategy
- Approach for the development of LEAs and their alignment to the RS
- Approach of *emda* for agreeing delegation arrangements
- Stakeholder arrangements
- EMRA transition

This plan has also been developed in line with some key principles which underpin this region's approach to implementing the SNR:

- The East Midlands will develop a Regional Strategy that will deliver sustainable economic growth and contribute to sustainable development. It will also include policies designed to contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.
- The Regional Strategy will be founded upon a credible and transparent evidence base developed jointly by *emda* and the Local Authority Leaders' Board.
- The draft Bill proposes to establish a statutory duty that will be placed on both *emda* and the Local Authority Leaders' Board to jointly develop the RS. This will be reflected in the genuine joint ownership of an integrated RS project plan and an

enhanced approach to collaborative working between the LALB and the *emda* Board and the executive officers who will work to these Boards.

- The Change Management Plan recognises the sub-regional delivery structures for economic development that have been negotiated by *emda* with Local Authorities - consistent with *emda's* accountability for Single Pot funding.

However, this document is not intended to provide comprehensive detail on how all the proposals will be taken forward. While it provides a description of the revised regional architecture that will be implemented in order to meet our SNR (RS) obligations it does not detail a number of more specific arrangements, e.g. managerial structures and the exact date of implementation. Partners acknowledge that there are a number of issues that require early resolution but progress on these is not appropriate until the overarching governance structure is agreed.

## **2 EMRA Transition**

EMRA has agreed its Business Plan 2009-10 with CLG. The Business Plan sets out the activities that EMRA plans to undertake in order to deliver upon its responsibilities as the Regional Planning Body, the Regional Housing Board, scrutiny of the Regional Economic Strategy and wider regional partnership work (e.g. climate change mitigation).

To support this work EMRA receives CLG grant (approx £2.1m).

The Government requires the implementation of SNR and associated governance arrangements by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 at the latest.

EMRA will support the timetable for this transition and specifically consider the issue at its AGM in July 2009. Transition to the new arrangements is permissible before 2010 if regional partners (i.e. *emda*, EMRA, Local Authorities) agree to do so.

## **3 Local Authority Leaders' Board**

Local Authorities are required to formalise their proposals for a Leaders' Board that should be:

- Streamlined and manageable, able to make strategic, long-term decisions, and to engage effectively with their region's RDA.
- Representative of Local Authorities across the whole of their region – including representing key sub-regions, upper and lower tier authorities and the political balance of leaders.
- Comprised of Local Authority leaders and with sufficient authority to act on behalf of all Local Authorities in the region (including National Park Authorities).

In response, the region has established a (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board consisting of 14 members:

- The Leaders of all Upper-Tier Local Authorities (9).

- A Leader from a District Authority in each of the county areas (5).

The '9+5' model is entirely consistent with SNR requirements and the (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board will continue to meet during 2009/10 in order to agree further proposals for the implementation of SNR in the East Midlands.

The Local Authority Leaders' Board will be supported and advised by a Local Government team and a limited number of Chief Executive representatives.

#### **4 'Co-Responsibility': A Strategic Relationship Between *emda* and the Local Authority Leaders' Board**

It is proposed that the *emda* Board and LALB establish a RS Joint Advisory/Strategy Board to oversee the day-to-day work of strategy development, implementation and monitoring work (including the joint evidence base). This Board will ensure that a joint project plan (approved by LALB and *emda* Board) for developing the RS is delivered effectively.

The membership of the RS Joint Advisory/Strategy Board will need to:

- Ensure political ownership and representation of both *emda* Board and LALB.
- Be reflective of the entire remit of the RS.
- Reflect the co-responsibility principles of the SNR
- Be of a small size in order to deliver effective decision-making and leadership to officers working on RS development.
- Have the confidence of both *emda* Board and LALB to enable oversight to take place.

It would be the responsibility of the RS Joint Advisory/Strategy Board to develop (and subsequently oversee the delivery of) the RS. This role would be undertaken in consultation with partners and stakeholders, for the subsequent consideration and endorsement of *emda* Board and LALB. The RS Joint Advisory/Strategy Board would therefore have no executive decision making powers.

It is further proposed that:

- The RS Joint Advisory/Strategy Board should consist solely of representatives from both *emda* Board and LALB.
- Membership of the RS Joint Advisory/Strategy Board should consist of 3 *emda* Board and 3 LALB representatives.
- LALB representatives are 1 County, 1 Unitary and 1 District.
- *emda* Board representatives will be from the business sector.
- The Chair will be a Local Authority representative and is agreed annually by *emda* Board and LALB.

- The RS Joint Board may be the mechanism for the development of further co-responsibility work, e.g. RFA3.

## **5 Regional Task and Finish Groups**

The development of the RS is a 'first requirement' of SNR. The proposed approach adopted to fulfilling this requirement in the East Midlands reflects the principles outlined above.

The proposed functions of the Regional Strategy have been set out in a CLG Policy Paper issued in January 2009 to inform the passage of the LDEDC Bill through Parliament.

In developing, agreeing and implementing the RS it will be important to ensure strong ownership and expertise across the relevant components. A small number of thematic/technical task and finish groups may be required in order to support the consideration of specific and potentially technical issues as part of the RS development process. The establishment of any groups would be at the discretion of the RS Joint Advisory/Strategy Board. There will be no assumption that any existing EMRA or *emda* groups used to support either the RES or RSS will continue but use will be made of existing best practice where appropriate. This is essential if the new governance arrangements are to deliver enhanced collaborative working as required by SNR.

## **6 Stakeholders**

It is important that *emda* Board and LALB agree with stakeholders an effective mechanism for engagement and consultation with stakeholders in relation to the RS.

The Government states their commitment to stakeholder engagement as a 'fundamental feature of the processes for developing and delivering the RS'. There will be a legal duty placed upon *emda* Board and LALB to involve stakeholders and communities in the development of the RS. However, the co-responsibility duty firmly places the responsibility for decision making upon *emda* Board and LALB.

In developing the Change Management Plan, *emda*, EMRA and Local Authorities have taken at 'face value' the Government's proposed co-responsibility duty. Therefore any stakeholder arrangements, while an important component of the regional architecture, will be outside the formal regional governance structure.

The development of proposals for any stakeholder partnership should be led by the stakeholders themselves. It is therefore proposed that stakeholders undertake a review of their working arrangements and propose a genuinely refreshed approach for stakeholder engagement based on the following principles:

- Any partnership or group should support the RS Joint Advisory/Strategy Board in delivering its roles and responsibilities, specifically by acting as a consultative body in the development of the RS.
- Any stakeholder partnership is streamlined but inclusive.
- Membership is accountable and transparent.

- Members are able to authoritatively represent their specific sectors.
- The review is completed and proposals agreed with *emda* and the (Shadow) Leaders' Board by end-July 2009.

In particular, stakeholders should consider two specific models:

- An 'East Midlands Stakeholder Partnership' – a free standing partnership that is independent of *emda* Board and the LALB.
- A 'RS Reference Group' - a bespoke 'task and finish' group established by *emda* Board and LALB to inform the development of the RS.

*Note:* For the avoidance of doubt, a distinction is made (for both options) between statutory investment partners (e.g. the Homes and Communities Agency, the Environment Agency) and those with statutory functions to fulfil in relation to the RS (e.g. to implement the Strategic Environmental Assessment) and wider stakeholders from the business, environmental and social sectors. Consequently, this Change Management Plan proposes arrangements for engaging and consulting with wider stakeholders in the development and delivery of the RS but does not propose arrangements for working with statutory partners. This will be a matter for subsequent discussion and agreement with the individual agencies concerned.

In particular, given their role as a Section 4(4) planning authority, the responsible regional authorities will ensure the specific engagement of the Peak District National Park Authority in planning and development considerations. This engagement will primarily be focused upon the development and delivery of the RS but also includes their appropriate engagement in any structures that support the planning considerations of the Local Authority Leaders' Board.

## **7 Staffing Structures**

EMRA staff are currently employed by Leicestershire County Council who acts as 'host employer' through an arrangement underwritten by members of the 9Cs.

Government guidance states that TUPE/COSOP<sup>1</sup> is expected to apply to Regional Assembly staff alongside the transfer of roles and responsibilities. This would only apply if staff are transferred from EMRA to another organisation. It follows that depending on the revised governance arrangements agreed through this Change Management Plan, TUPE/COSOP may not be appropriate for redeploying the staff that currently work to EMRA.

It is proposed that the co-responsibility of *emda* Board and LALB for the development of the RS is reflected by effectively integrating the relevant staff of both *emda* and Local Government arrangements within a 'virtual' joint team.

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<sup>1</sup> TUPE – Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations  
COSOP – Cabinet Office Statement of Practice (on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector)

The 'virtual' joint team approach is an appropriate immediate response to the challenges of delivering upon *emda* Board and LALB RS co-responsibility and builds upon the approach being undertaken by *emda* and EMRA through the current RSS partial review and the successful Regional Funding Advice process.

The proposed 'virtual' joint team would work to the RS Joint Strategy/Advisory Board. This approach benefits from ease of establishment and TUPE would not apply to either *emda* or EMRA staff. Similarly, there would also be no corresponding transfer of potential pension and redundancy liabilities.

Senior staff of both *emda* and LALB would be accountable to the RS Joint Advisory/Strategy Board for ensuring operational delivery.

The establishment of a 'virtual' joint team does not prejudice the development of a more formalised integrated staffing structure should that be desirable to partners in the future.

## **8 Resources**

To effectively develop and deliver the RS it is important that adequate resources are available to both the *emda* Board and LALB.

Consequently, the LALB and *emda* Board would expect a Government resource commitment to support the new (SNR facing) governance arrangements, employing relevant staff and for project spend linked to the development of the RS, its associated evidence base, conduct of the Examination in Public and associated implementation and monitoring arrangements.

## **9 Approach of *emda* to Agreeing Delegation Arrangements**

*emda* is continuing its approach of allocating funding to sub-regions for delivery of economic development. This approach is consistent with the SNR and will support greater joint investment planning in future. In 2009/10, approximately one third of *emda*'s programme budget will be delivered as part of agreements reached with seven of the nine unitary and county councils. This equates to around £48m of activity over which those local authorities will have the opportunity to develop their own programmes.

In Derbyshire and Nottingham City, agreements are expected to be in place and operational by April 2010. In the meantime, the existing sub regional strategic partnerships will continue to deliver sub-regional economic development in Derbyshire and Nottingham City. The Agreement between *emda* and the unitary and county authorities has been designed to enable local authorities to identify local priorities which align with the Regional Economic Strategy and their local strategies.

The agreements will be underpinned by a Sub Regional Investment Plan (SRIP) agreed with *emda*, and informed by the local economic assessment, which will set out the programme priorities in each of the nine local authority areas. For 2009/10, the existing SRIPs will be used to direct investment, while new SRIPs are developed and agreed to take effect in 2010/11.

While the accountability for spend on projects remains with *emda*, the purpose of the SRIPs is to discuss and agree the priorities for sub-regional spend and agree in principle the large projects that will feature in the economic development programme.

#### **10 Developing the Evidence Base and Links to Local Economic Assessments**

The approach to the production of the evidence base underpinning development of the first RS will be a matter for early agreement between the LALB and *emda* Board. *emda* and EMRA officers have undertaken some initial work to identify a number of key requirements for the Evidence Base that are needed to support the preparation of the RS. A number of these requirements are being addressed as part of ongoing work on the Partial Review of the RSS. Alongside this work stream, *emda* is at an advanced stage in updating the statistical portrait of the region last published as 'The East Midlands in 2006'. The scope of this publication has been expanded to reflect the necessary scope of the RS.

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill establishes a new Statutory Duty on Unitary and County Authorities to produce Local Economic Assessments. These will form a key input to the evidence base required for the Single Regional Strategies, The Government's draft guidance, published in January 2009, calls for a structured dialogue to achieve consistency across each region, in order to maximise the contribution of these assessments to development of the regional strategy.

In the East Midlands this dialogue is progressing well. In summer 2008, *emda* reached agreement in principle with the Heads of Economic Development from the 9C authorities to develop a consistent and collaborative approach to the production of LEAs in the region. A draft LEA template and core indicators have now been developed jointly with nominated research leads in each of the 9C authorities and input from the ONS. Building on this dialogue, it is intended to publish short local profiles, incorporating analysis from each of the 9Cs, as part of the planned update of 'The East Midlands in 2006'. This will represent the first step towards producing the full LEAs that will be a statutory requirement from April 2010.

#### **11 Developing and Reviewing the Regional Strategy**

The LDEDC Bill makes provision for the Secretary of State to designate the existing RSS (expected to be adopted in March 2009) and RES (published 2006) as the Regional Strategy in the first instance, although only the former will form part of the statutory Development Plan for the interim period (until the region reviews this first RS).

The Bill also makes provision for ongoing RSS Reviews or RES reviews to be designated as a review to the extant Regional Strategy. It is anticipated that the Secretary of State will use this power to allow the current RSS Partial Review to continue – which should be completed by late 2011.

However, to bring the extant Regional Strategy fully into line with the new system, a further review will be required. There will also be a need to reflect the final Government guidance on content of the Regional Strategy to be issued following enactment of the Bill.

To facilitate this process, we would expect the RS Joint Advisory / Strategy Board to undertake a full review of the extant Regional Strategy against the Government's requirement as set out in legislation, regulations and guidance, along with emerging issues arising from the annual monitoring process and other published data and research. Following this, a Review Project Plan will be published for consultation.

**East Midlands (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Proposals for a Revised Regional Governance Model for the East  
Midlands**

**SYNOPSIS**

**The implementation of SNR requires a revised regional governance model.**

**A revised structure is proposed that reflects the leadership and strategic delivery responsibilities of Local Authorities.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are invited to:**

- **Endorse the proposed regional governance structure as detailed by this paper and illustrated in diagram 1.**
- **Agree to the further development of proposals for delivering an organisational structure to support Local Government roles and responsibilities at the regional level.**

## **1. Background**

1.1 The implementation of SNR requires the establishment of a revised regional governance model. The specific changes include:

- Regional Assemblies abolished by end-March 2010
- The establishment of a Local Authority Leaders' Board and its co-responsibility with *emda* Board for the development and delivery of the RS.

1.2 It is clear that SNR not only requires a revised regional governance structure but also provides a timely opportunity to rationalise and improve the wider regional partnership arrangements for Local Authorities in the East Midlands.

1.3 A revised regional governance structure is therefore proposed that is streamlined and fit for purpose and reflects the leadership and strategic delivery responsibilities of Local Authorities.

## **2. Scope of the Review**

2.1 The current regional arrangements (in so far as they relate to Local Authorities) include the following partnerships/organisations:

- 9Cs Cities and Counties Partnership
- East Midlands Regional Assembly
- Local Government East Midlands
- Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership

2.2 Any proposals to establish a new and more effective regional architecture should make more efficient use of Local Government resources. In developing these proposals there is an opportunity to establish a single platform that supports the range of Local Authority roles and responsibilities at the regional level.

2.3 In doing so, we should remain sensitive of the need to fully engage both tiers of Local Government and ensure the revised architecture is compliant with partner and SNR expectations.

2.4 For the purposes of this review, the RIEP is not included. However, upon the agreement of a revised structure the position of RIEP and its relationship within the governance arrangements should be further considered.

### **3. Principles of the Review**

3.1 Inevitably, there are a number of organisational concerns associated with any review of regional governance. For the avoidance of any doubt the proposed review is developed within the following principles:

- The review should deliver organisational and operational efficiencies on behalf of Local Government.
- The revised governance arrangements should be developed with the context of the SNR and specifically the Local Authority Leaders' Board.
- Any Local Government support organisation and staff resource should be focused upon the functions of the revised governance structure.
- There is need for a Local Government representative body. This will be called 'East Midlands Councils'. To address the ineffectiveness of current arrangements there is no appetite for recreating 'Local Government East Midlands'.
- Specific consideration should be given to the role of the 9Cs (Counties and Cities) in the revised arrangements.
- The revised regional governance structure should be implemented by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 in accordance with the enactment of SNR legislation and the organisational changes that will result, e.g. dissolution of the East Midlands Regional Assembly.
- While there will be a General Election at the latest in May 2010, the region is obliged to respond to legislation and the requirements placed upon it by SNR.

### **4. Local Authority Leaders' Board**

4.1 The Local Authority Leaders' Board is at the centre of any revised regional architecture from the Local Authority perspective. It will have a number of significant roles and responsibilities and will be the decision making executive for any wider regional Local Government arrangements.

4.2 The 'Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill' only defines a relatively narrow set of roles and responsibilities relevant to the development, delivery and monitoring of the Regional Strategy. Specifically, the Bill provides that the Leaders' Board together with the RDA are the 'responsible regional

- authorities' who are required to draft, deliver and monitor the implementation of the regional strategy.
- 4.3 It is suggested that the Regions' Local Authority Leaders' Board will be formally called 'East Midlands Leaders' Board'.
- 4.4 The LALB will be the strategic decision making body on issues of interest and relevance to Local Authorities at the regional level. A strong regional voice on behalf of local Government is needed to:
- a) To provide leadership on behalf of Local Government in the region and develop effective partnerships with key organisations, e.g. emda, GOEM, Homes and Communities Agency, Environment Agency, Strategic Health Authority and wider stakeholders (including the business, environmental and community/voluntary sectors).
  - b) Create a sense of identity and direction for the region.
  - c) Improve the quality of life for people who live and work in the Region by incorporating the principles of sustainable economic growth and development, social inclusion, and wider sustainability into all the activities of the Leaders' Board and influencing other regional partners in these respects.
  - d) In conjunction with *emda*, joint responsibility for agreeing the Single Regional Strategy, including its drafting, implementation and monitoring of its delivery.
  - e) To inform the Regional Strategy, co-ordinate the development of Local Economic Assessments in partnership with emda and stakeholders.
  - f) Influence Government in those critical areas where its decisions are important for the region's future.
  - g) Influence and agree key regional strategies and investment plans, e.g. Regional Funding Advice.
  - h) To promote the interest of the region nationally and internationally and with Government and European agencies.
  - i) To act as the decision-making executive for any regional local government organisation.
- 4.5 It will be a statutory requirement for each region to have a Local Authority Leaders' Board and they will be statutory bodies by virtue of the fact that an Act of Parliament provides for their establishment.

## **5. East Midlands Councils**

- 5.1 Given the need for the revised governance arrangements to be representative of, and responsive to, Local Government in each region it is generally accepted that there is a role for a regional partnership organisation of all Local Authorities.
- 5.2 While ostensibly a regional partnership organisation of all Local Authorities already exists, for some time questions have been asked whether LGEM is fit-for-purpose as a representative body for Local Government. Many have disengaged and at best it could only be seen to be partially effective.
- 5.3 To deliver a fit-for-purpose representative body for Local Government, LGEM members commissioned a review of its 'form and function'. This review has been led by Cllr Martin Hill, Chair of LGEM. The reformed successor to LGEM, called East Midlands Councils, will be based upon an optional balance between four principles of effective governance:
- Political balance
  - Leadership
  - Streamlined
  - Inclusivity
- 5.4 East Midlands Councils will be developed within the following principles:
- To represent the interest of all 46 Local Authorities in the region.
  - To act as a representative and influencing body.
  - To provide a line of accountability from the Leaders' Board to wider Local Government.
  - To bring together political Group Leaders within the East Midlands Councils structure.
  - To make appointments to national and regional bodies in liaison with the East Midlands Local Authority Leaders' Board.
  - To provide a reporting mechanism for regional Local Government partnerships, e.g. RIEP.
  - To consider how its relationship with national LGA can best be structured.
  - East Midlands Councils would have no executive decision making responsibilities. Its role is to specifically act as a wider Local Government forum.

## **6. Proposals**

6.1 In meeting the principles outlined previously, the following proposals aim to establish a new and more effective regional architecture that makes better use of Local Government resources.

6.2 The diagram attached as Appendix 1 provides an illustration of the revised regional architecture.

### **a) East Midlands Cities and Counties Partnership (9Cs)**

6.3 The Leaders and Chief Executives of the 9Cs have been meeting on a formal basis for almost 18 months. During that period they have concentrated on the value added by bringing the Upper-Tier Authorities together to develop a shared view on economic leadership and strategic focus for the East Midlands.

6.4 Similar to other partnerships of Local Government, the SNR will place greater responsibilities upon Local Authorities and it is therefore an opportune time to review the role of this partnership.

6.5 It is important that the 9Cs are supported in considering issues solely within Upper-Tier competencies. Given the roles and responsibilities of the Local Authority Leaders' Board it is proposed that 9C activity, where it relates to solely Upper-Tier competencies, is most effectively managed through the 9Cs 'Implementation Group' of Chief Executives.

### **b) Staff Support**

6.6 Given the regional nature of the Local Authority Leaders' Board and its specific SNR focus, it is appropriate the Assembly secretariat currently provides support to the (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board.

6.7 Given the need to rationalise the partnership structure at the regional level, it naturally follows that the supporting staffing arrangements appropriately resource the collective roles and responsibilities of Local Authorities at the regional level.

6.8 It is therefore proposed that an integrated staff support structure is established that would work to the revised regional Local Government arrangements through integrating the following staffing arrangements:

- The East Midlands Regional Assembly

- Local Government East Midlands
- 9Cs Secretariat

- 6.9 An integrated staff resource will specifically focus upon the East Midlands Local Authority Leaders' Board but will also relate to the wider Local Government consultative forum. This will support the effective management of Local Authority Leaders' Board roles and responsibilities while also delivering wider efficiency gains to regional Local Government arrangements.
- 6.10 It is accepted that the 9C Chief Executives will need to continue to meet on issues that are specific Upper-Tier Authorities' competencies. The revised regional staff structure may provide support in facilitating these meetings in addition to that provided by the host authority, if required. Similarly, this offer may be extended to any meeting of District Chief Executives.
- 6.11 For clarity, the 9C arrangements, while important, are necessarily outside the formal regional governance structure.

### **c) Resources**

- 6.12 The potential resources (in full or in part) identified to support the revised regional governance arrangements:
- LGEM funding rolled forward into East Midlands Councils. Current Local Authority subscriptions are £9500 per annum, per authority.
  - The contribution of the 9Cs to the Cities and Counties Partnership (2009-10; £15,000 per Authority, per annum).  
This funding will primarily be used to support any policy agenda role for Local Authorities at the regional level and for delivering upon the wider roles and responsibilities of the LALB, particularly in relation to the Regional Strategy.
  - Suggested financial contribution from (all) District Councils (to match the 9Cs contribution, pro rata). This is calculated to be £2052 per Authority.
  - CLG have committed to fund the new arrangements in delivering the Regional Strategy (subject to efficiency savings). CLG has informed EMRA that indicative funding for 2010/11 is £1,894,590.
- 6.13 In order to secure potential efficiency gains, a review of subscription levels will be reported to a subsequent meeting of the Local Authority Leaders' Board once the wider governance structure is agreed.

- 6.14 It is suggested that it would be sensible for the resources to be combined into a single block and partners requested to make one financial contribution to support regional governance and delivery rather than the multiple streams that currently (and will in the future) exist.

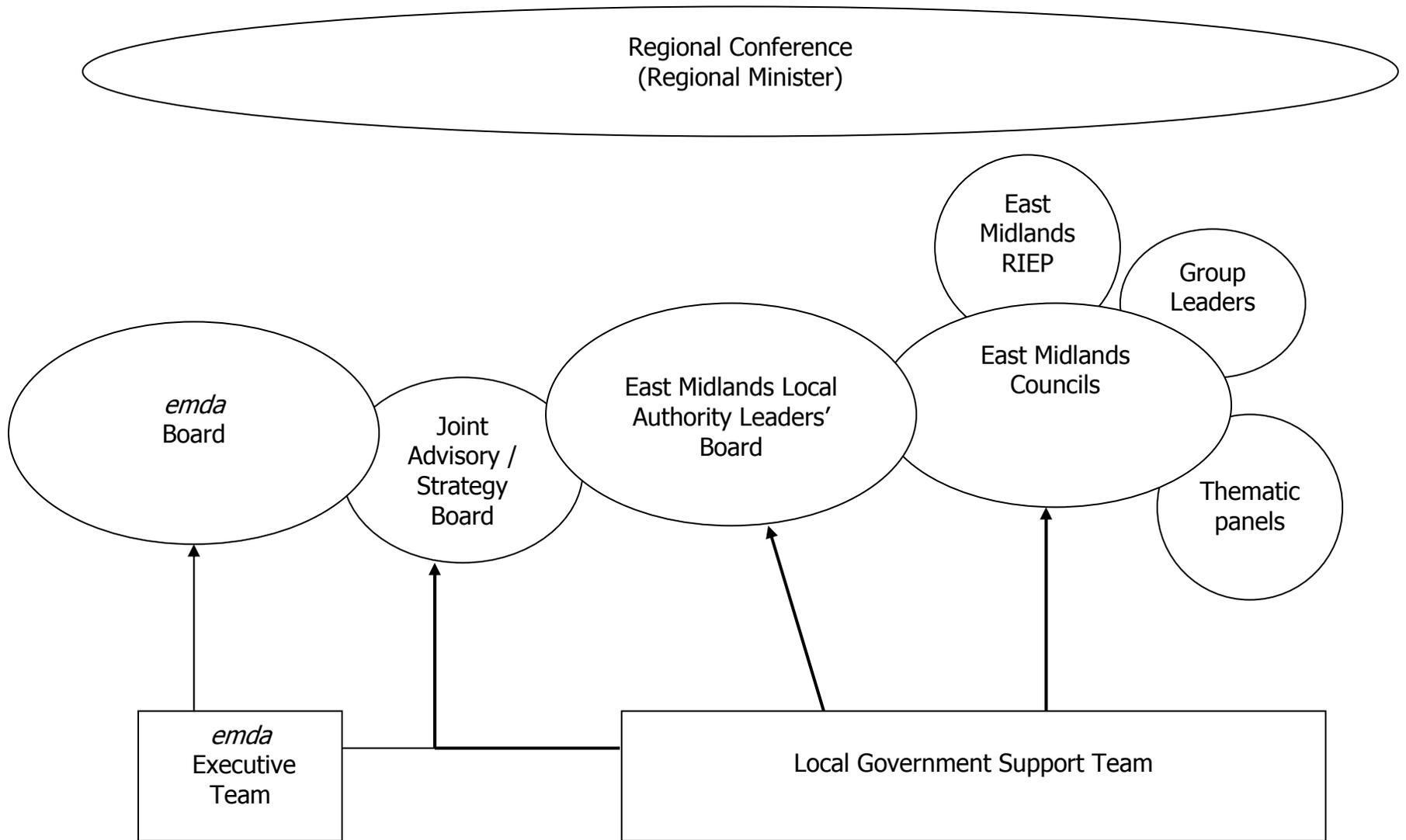
## **7. Recommendations**

Members of the Local Authority Leaders' Board are invited to:

- 7.1 Endorse the proposed regional governance structure as detailed by this paper and illustrated in diagram 1.
- 7.2 Agree the Regions' Local Authority Leaders' Board will be formally be named the 'East Midlands Leaders' Board'.
- 7.3 Agree to the further development of proposals for delivering an integrated staff structure to support Local Government roles and responsibilities at the regional level. This paper will include proposals for partner financial contributions.

Dr Stuart Young

Executive Director  
East Midlands Regional Assembly



**East Midlands (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**The Peak District National Park and East Midlands (Shadow) Local  
Authority Leaders' Board**

**SYNOPSIS**

**This paper provides information on the 'special case' of the Peak District National Park Authority in relation to the development and agreement of a future Regional Strategy.**

**It proposes 'special membership' status for the Peak District National Park where those considerations of the Leaders' Board specifically and solely relate to the Regional Strategy.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are invited to:**

- **Consider the issues outlined in this report.**
- **Endorse the proposal outlined in Section 3, specifically, offering the PDNPA full involvement in discussions relating to the Regional Strategy.**
- **Members, if in agreement, direct the Secretariat to amend the Constitution to reflect this position for agreement at the next meeting of the East Midlands Local Authority Leaders' Board.**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The SNR requires that each region establishes a Local Authority Leaders' Board to enable Local Authorities to act collectively at the regional level. Consequently, Local Authorities are required to formalise their proposals for a Leaders' Board that should be:
- Streamlined and manageable, able to make strategic, long-term decisions, and able to engage effectively with their region's RDA.
  - Representative of Local Authorities across the whole of their region – including representing key sub-regions, upper and lower tier authorities and the political balance of leaders.
  - Comprised of Local Authority leaders and with sufficient authority to act on behalf of all the Local Authorities in the region (including National Park Authorities).
- 1.2 Considerable work was undertaken within the East Midlands to reach agreement on the establishment of a Leaders' Board. The Regional Ministers view, widely supported by Local Authority Leaders, was that Local Government in the region should adopt the proposed '9+5 model' for a Leaders' Board (made up of the Leader of each of the Unitary and County Authorities in addition to a Leader from one District in each of the County areas).
- 1.3 Proposals were mindful of the special status of the Peak District National Park Authority and were agreed on the understanding that they complied with current guidance from CLG.

## **2. National Park Authorities and the (draft) LDEDC Bill**

- 2.1 While at the Committee Stage in the House of Lords, the draft Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill was the subject of much debate, in particular the potential role of stakeholders and the provision for the role of National Parks and Broads Authorities (NPAs) in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of Regional Strategies.
- 2.2 This centred on the concern that their interest should be effectively represented at the regional level, given their national importance and their statutory independence from local government.
- 2.3 John Healey MP, in his letter to Lord Frank Judd (16<sup>th</sup> April 2009), states that where a regional strategy is to cover a National Park or the Broads, NPAs should be guaranteed one seat on the Leaders' Board. It is further stated that this is

- assumed in the three broad criteria which the Secretary of State would use in approving any scheme for a Leaders' Board (as referred to in paragraph 1.1).
- 2.4 However, for the avoidance of doubt, Government proposes to prepare early guidance about Leaders' Boards in which they would clarify that the Secretary of State would not approve a scheme for a Leaders' Board unless any NPA interest are guaranteed at least one seat on the Board.
- 2.5 The Peak District National Park Authority has consistently argued that they wish their interests to be represented in line with this, but that in practice this could be achieved by their appointment as a 'special member', reflecting their special statutory purpose and independence, and that this be reflected in the Leaders' Board's constitution.
- 2.6 In view of this guidance, Government suggested that any potential amendment to the Bill would be unnecessary and would lead to unhelpful duplication.

### **3. The East Midlands' Implications and Suggested Way Forward**

- 3.1 Clearly the position taken by Government in relation to NPAs has an impact on the membership of the Leaders' Board. The East Midlands, in common with some others, does not currently provide for NPA membership.
- 3.2 The only NPA in the East Midlands, the Peak District National Park Authority, has been entirely helpful throughout this process and wish to agree a pragmatic way forward that supports the region to meet its requirements for the Leaders' Board while also ensuring that the PDNPA are appropriately engaged in the development and delivery of the Regional Strategy. In practice, the NPA will expect to have 'special Membership' of the Leaders' Board for the purposes of preparing the Regional Strategy. It will also expect to be a Member of relevant sub groups established for this purpose to prepare and monitor the Regional Strategy and be part of any decision making body arrived at for the purposes of Regional Strategy. It will not expect to use its membership for engaging in debates that it has no *statutory* locus in.
- 3.3 In the past the PDNPA has enjoyed equal status to county and unitary councils as a strategic planning authority (under Section 4(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). Their relationship with the Assembly (in terms of drawing up and monitoring the Regional Spatial Strategy) was formalised in a service level agreement. This gave direct involvement and influence on the content of the submitted strategies; a position given further weight by the Authority's full member status of both the regional planning body/the full

Assembly. Section 62(2) of the Environment Act (1995) applies to all public bodies, including the Leaders' Board, and places a requirement upon them to have regard to National Park purposes.

- 3.4 Inevitably, the role and scope of the East Midlands Leaders' Board will be wider than a sole focus on the Regional Strategy. If given assurances by the East Midlands Leaders' Board that it would be fully included as a member of the Leaders' Board in discussions and decisions that relate solely to the Regional Strategy (whether this is undertaken at full Board or through any sub-groups), the PDNPA would write to CLG/BIS informing them that they are being offered a position equivalent to a seat on the Leaders' Board and as such this would be compliant with Ministerial guidance.

#### **4. Recommendations**

Members of the (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board are invited to:

- 4.1 Consider the issues outlined in this report.
- 4.2 Endorse the proposal outlined in Section 3, specifically, offering the PDNPA full involvement as a 'special member' of the Leaders' Board for discussions and decisions relating to the Regional Strategy.
- 4.3 Members, if in agreement to recommendation 4.2, direct the Secretariat to amend the Constitution to reflect this position for agreement at the next meeting of the East Midlands Local Authority Leaders' Board.

Dr Stuart Young

Executive Director  
East Midlands Regional Assembly

**East Midlands (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**SNR Legislation and Timetable**

**SYNOPSIS**

**This report updates Members on the progress of the Local Democracy and Economic Development Bill currently before Parliament that will implement a number of proposals set out in the SNR.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Members are invited to note the contents of this Report**

## 1. Introduction

1.1 On 4 December 2008 the Government introduced (through the House of Lords) the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill. The Government anticipates that this Bill will receive Royal Assent by summer/autumn 2009 with its subsequent introduction by early 2010. Members are reminded that key proposals include:

- Reforming regional governance structures, specifically to establish a Local Authority Leaders' Board in each region.
- To give *emda* and the Local Authority Leaders' Board joint responsibility for the drafting of the Single Regional Strategy that will subsequently replace the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Regional Economic Strategy.

## 2. Progress

2.1 The Bill has passed to the House of Commons. It has completed the Second Reading and is now progressing rapidly through the Committee Stage without significant amendment so far. CLG expects the Bill to be granted Royal Assent before the summer Parliamentary recess (22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009). However, this is a challenging timetable given other legislative pressures, and as yet there is no date for the Report Stage and Third Reading.

2.2 If Royal Assent is delayed to the Autumn then CLG may still issue the draft Regulations prior to the summer recess. The four Regulations will cover:

- Statutory consultees
- Timetable for Annual Monitoring Reports, using RSS conventions
- Review Project Plans – minimal requirements but covering key milestones
- Access to Information

2.3 As far as the commencement of the provisions of the Bill the first orders are likely to be around the setting up of Leaders' Boards. Irrespective of what new arrangements have been agreed so far in each region there will be a requirement for all regions to consult on a Leaders' Board scheme for the approval of the Secretary of State.

2.4 CLG intend to issue two sets of guidance as follows:

- On Leaders' Boards, which will be non prescriptive and sticking to the broad criteria previously published. There will be broad scope for regions to develop options which suit their individual circumstances. National Parks will need to be accommodated, in accordance with CLG/DEFRA agreement.
- On the process for delivering the Regional Strategy, which will replace the existing PPS11 (Regional Planning) in due course.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 Members of the Local Authority Leaders' Board are invited to note the contents of this report.

Dr Stuart Young

Executive Director  
East Midlands Regional Assembly

**East Midlands (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Regional Housing, Planning & Transport Issues**

**SYNOPSIS**

**This report updates Members on the key Housing, Planning and Transport functions currently undertaken by the Regional Assembly, and gives an indication of the work programme that the Leaders' Board is likely to inherit once the SNR is fully implemented.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are invited to:**

- **Note the contents of this report.**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the key housing, planning and transport functions currently undertaken by the Regional Assembly, and sets out the work program that the Leaders' Board is likely to inherit when the SNR is fully implemented.

## 2. The Regional Plan

- 2.1 The current 'Regional Plan' is the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands. It sets out a broad, long term development strategy for the region. It identifies the scale and distribution of new housing and priorities for the environment, transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, energy, minerals and waste treatment and disposal. The current version of the Regional Plan was published by the Secretary of the State on the 12 March 2009 and is available at: <http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/planning/regional-planning/>.
- 2.2 The Secretary of State has asked the Regional Assembly to undertake a further Partial Review of the Regional Plan on a limited set of issues covering housing, transport and climate change. An options consultation was launched for 14 weeks public consultation on the 30 June 2009. The relevant documentation is available at: <http://www.emra.gov.uk/partial-review>.
- 2.3 The timetable for the Partial Review process is set out below.

30 June 2009	Start of 14 week Options public consultation with interim Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment
6 October 2009	End of Options public consultation
31 December 2009	Submission of any further Section 4(4) Advice to the Regional Assembly
26 March 2010	Submission by the Regional Assembly of a Draft Revised Regional Plan to the Secretary of State, along with a full Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Report and Pre-Submission Statement of Consultation for 12 week public consultation
1 April 2010	Transfer to new arrangements following the wind up of the Regional Assembly (subject to legislation)
September 2010	Likely start of Examination in Public (date to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate)
March 2011	Likely start of 12 week public consultation on proposed changes to the Draft Revised Regional Plan (date to be determined by the Secretary of State)
Autumn 2011	Likely publication of the Revised Regional Plan (date to be determined by the Secretary of State)

- 2.4 As a consequence of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction (LDEDC) Bill currently before Parliament, it is likely that the Government will designate the Partial Review as a review to the new 'Regional Strategy'. The new Regional Strategy will initially comprise the extant versions of the Regional Plan (March 2009) and the Regional Economic Strategy prepared by the East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*).
- 2.5 The Partial Review will become the joint responsibility of the Leaders' Board and *emda* from 1 April 2010. The Assembly is working with *emda* officers on a 'joint team' basis to ensure *emda* are comfortable with the revised Regional Plan as it develops.
- 2.6 Whilst a number of Members will be familiar with the Partial Review through their involvement with the Regional Assembly or briefings from Local Authority planning officers involved in the process, it is important that the Shadow Leaders' Board is now formally advised of this work.

### **3. Monitoring & Implementation**

- 3.1 Under current legislation, the Assembly is required to submit an Annual Monitoring Report for the Regional Plan by the end of February. The current version is available at: <http://www.emra.gov.uk/publications/housing-planning-and-transport/monitoring/7th-east-midlands-regional-spatial-strategy-annual-monitoring-report-2007-08-final-report-february-2009>. There will be a similar requirement for the Leaders' Board and the *emda* Board jointly under the proposed legislation for the new Regional Strategy.
- 3.2 The Assembly has made significant financial investment available to local authorities over the last three years to develop a network of county based electronic monitoring systems that can capture data to support both local and regional requirements, and this process is now almost complete.
- 3.3 A key means of implementing the Regional Plan (and a future Regional Strategy) is through the planning system itself. In particular by ensuring decisions about local development documents and major planning application are made in conformity with the Regional tier of the Development Plan. The Assembly comments on around 50 major planning applications and around the same number of development plan documents per year from a conformity perspective. This work will continue as the joint responsibility between the Leader's Board and *emda* following the implementation of the SNR. *emda* are currently also a statutory consultee in the planning systems in their own right from an economic

development perspective. It is currently unclear how this function will relate to the formal conformity role in the future.

#### **4. Transport Investment**

- 4.1 Under the Regional Funding Allocation Process, the Assembly is responsible for prioritising and managing the regions allocation for major transport schemes. The current investment program stands at around £1.2 billion between 2008/9 and 2018/19, and includes schemes such as A46 Newark to Widmerpool Improvement, the A453 Improvement and a range of other road and public transport investments delivered by the Highways Agency, Network Rail and Local Transport Authorities. Under the SNR, the Assembly's current role will become the joint responsibility of the Leaders' Board and *emda*.
- 4.2 Along with *emda*, the Assembly is also responsible for the development and implementation of the 'City and Regional Networks' element of the Government's 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS)' initiative. Over the next two years this will involve the co-ordination of a series of thematic and geographic transport/land use studies, which will be used to prioritise transport investment in the post 2014 period where current RFA advice is necessarily less specific. The Assembly's role in DaSTS will be inherited by the Leaders' Board once the SNR is fully implemented.

#### **5. Housing Investment**

- 5.1 Under current arrangements, the Assembly is responsible for prioritising and managing public funding to the Homes Communities Agency and to Local Housing Authorities to support:
- development of new affordable housing (currently £111 million p.a.);
  - refurbishment of existing private sector housing stock (currently £27 million p.a.);
  - provision and refurbishment of sites for Gypsies & Travellers (currently £3.5 million p.a.);
  - Research and Sub-regional Fund: (currently 700k p.a.)
- 5.2 These responsibilities will be jointly undertaken by the Leaders' Board and *emda* following the implementation of the SNR. The HCA at national level and the RDA Network have indicated that some form of 'Regional Housing and Regeneration Board' will be required to support decision making on these issues. The Regional Assembly has also expressed a similar view in respect of the East Midlands.

## 6. Climate Change Policy

- 6.1 The Assembly, *emda*, the Environment Agency and GOEM are jointly responsible for the Regional Climate Change Program of Action, which was launched by the Rt. Hon. Hillary Benn MP in February 2009 and is available at: <http://www.emra.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-planning-transport/climate-change-programme-of-action>. It sets out a range of practical measures to address the causes and impacts of climate change in the East Midlands over the next three years. Progress will be reported on a regular basis to the Assembly's Joint Board until the SNR is fully implemented, at which point the Assembly's role will be inherited by the Leaders' Board.

## 7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The Leaders' Board and *emda* will inherit a wide range of responsibilities and a significant work program from the Assembly once the SNR is implemented. This is in addition to the existing economic policy functions of *emda* which the Leaders' Board will also become jointly responsible for, and the longer term task of reviewing the initial version of the Regional Strategy into a single document.
- 7.2 Assembly officers are working closely with *emda* and others to ensure a smooth transfer of responsibilities. A further update will be given to the next meeting of the Leaders' Board.

## 8. Recommendation

- 8.1 Members note the contents of this report.

### Key contacts

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**East Midlands (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Regional Nominations to the Committee of the Regions**

**SYNOPSIS**

The following paper provides information on the Committee of the Regions and the current nomination process for membership.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are invited to:**

- **Endorse Cllr Parsons' nomination as a full member to the Committee of the Regions.**
- **Endorse Cllr Bull's nomination as an alternate member to the Committee of the Regions.**
- **Nominate up to an additional four members for inclusion into the LGA 'pool' for consideration as additional full or alternate members.**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) was set up under the Treaty of Maastricht (1991) as an advisory body consisting of representatives of regional and local authorities. Members are appointed by the European Council on the basis of proposals made by Member States.
- 1.2 The Committee runs in four-year terms, the next running from 2010 to 2014. The 2010/2014 Committee will open at the end of January 2010 with a membership appointed by the Council in late 2009 or very early 2010. Member States, therefore, need to make their proposals to the Council during autumn 2009.
- 1.3 This paper sets out the Government's procedure (in consultation with the LGA) for selecting persons to be 'proposed' to the Council as English members of the UK delegation to CoR.
- 1.4 There are separate arrangements involving the Devolved Administrations for selecting the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish candidates.
- 1.5 Within the framework set up by the Treaties relating to the European Union and domestic legislation, the Government established in 1998 that each of the UK countries has the following share of the UK representation in the CoR:
  - England 16 full seats and 16 alternates
  - Scotland 4 full seats and 4 alternates
  - Wales 2 full seats and 2 alternates
  - Northern Ireland 2 full seats and 2 alternates
- 1.6 The LGA and regional bodies have argued that the distribution of UK membership is inequitable in favour of the Devolved Administrations. However, there are no proposals to change the distribution of seats.
- 1.7 The East Midlands, through the (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board, is invited to submit 2 nominations to the LGA for membership of the CoR (one full member, one alternate).
- 1.8 Current East Midlands' Members of the CoR are Cllr David Parsons (full member) (Conservative, Leicestershire County Council) and Cllr Katrina Bull (alternate member) (Labour, Nottingham City Council).

- 1.9 Both Cllr Parsons and Cllr Bull have expressed a firm interest in remaining a member of the CoR.

## **2. Nomination Procedure**

- 2.1 The Government considers, as previously, that the English representation on the CoR should continue to act as a coherent group representative of England as a whole. Experience has shown that with such an approach the delegation can more effectively contribute to the work of the COR and to the achievement of national objectives at the European level.
- 2.2 Equally the Government recognises the value of links between each of the English regions and the English representation on the COR. Such links should involve regional stakeholders feeding into CoR the experience and needs of the English regions; and, the CoR English representation reporting back to local and regional stakeholders on the Committee's work and their contribution to it.
- 2.3 While it is the LGA that formally proposes nominations to Government, in order to ensure that COR members are representative and have strong and identifiable links to each of the English Regions, the regions have been consulted on the selection procedure and are responsible for nominating 2 preferred candidates. For information the LGA proposed procedure is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The Secretary of State has invited the LGA to put forward their suggested English representation selected on the following basis. Its aim should be to secure, as far as reasonably possible, a coherent and effectively led representation that is balanced in regional and political terms, by type of local authority, and in terms of gender and ethnic origin, and takes into account age and experience of disabilities.
- (a) Following consultation with regional stakeholders (i.e. the Shadow LALB), the LGA will make 2 nominations for CoR membership; one for a full member and the other for an alternate - from each of the 8 English Regions.
- One nomination should be for a man and one for a woman.
- Nominees need to be elected persons legally eligible for CoR membership but need not be members of the nominating body.
- (b) The persons selected by the LGA as regional nominations will, if appointed, be the principal link with individual regions.

- (c) The LGA will select the balance of the membership (14 CoR full members and alternates) with a view to achieving as far as practicable a coherent and effectively led English representation (with appropriate provision for leading members and potential CoR office holders). The selection will be as balanced as possible in terms of political make-up, gender, ethnic origin, and type of local authority, and take into account age and disabilities.
- 2.5 The Government will expect, as previously, to be able to adopt the LGA's suggestions. However, the Secretary of State continues to reserve the right to modify the LGA's suggestions.
- 2.6 As to future casual vacancies, in the case of members proposed by the LGA, the proposed procedure will be for the LGA to put forward a candidate who will maintain the political balance and maintain or improve the gender or ethnic balance.

### **3. Proposed Regional Nominees**

- 3.1 Both Cllrs Parsons and Bull have expressed an interest in continuing their work in the Committee of the Regions.
- 3.2 Consequently, Cllrs Parsons and Bull request Member endorsement of their nominations as a full Member and alternate Member respectively.
- 3.3 Cllr Wilcox (Labour, Derbyshire County Council) is currently a full and active member of the CoR through an LGA nomination.
- 3.4 Cllr Wilcox has expressed an interest in continuing his work in the Committee of the Regions.
- 3.5 Consequently, Cllr Wilcox requests Member endorsement of his inclusion on the region's list for further members for inclusion into the LGA 'pool' for consideration as additional full or alternate members.

### **4. Summary**

- 4.1 Of the 30 English places each region is guaranteed at least two places (one full, one alternate with those being one man, one woman).

- 4.2 Each region can propose up to six names with two names highlighted as the preferred regional representatives. It is suggested that the additional four names are on the basis of one per political party grouping (Conservative, Independent, Labour, Liberal Democrats).
- 4.3 The names from each region (excluding GLA) will go into an England-wide nomination pool from which the LGA will propose:
- (a) The two regional nominations from each of regions.
  - (b) The remaining 14 English names, taking into account the many criteria specified by the CLG, e.g. political party, gender and type of authority. The LGA may include additional names in the nomination pool.
- 4.4 The region therefore should account for regional political balance, type of authority, gender and ethnic balance, age and disability, and a degree of continuity with the existing membership.
- 4.5 The regional nominations should be accompanied by nomination forms to assist the LGA in its final selection. The nomination form is appended to this report.
- 4.6 Those members on the long lists that are not selected for the final list of 32 submitted to CLG will be considered for any future vacancies on CoR should any arise.

## **5. Recommendations**

Members of the Local Authority Leaders' Board are invited to:

- 5.1 Endorse Cllr Parsons' nomination as a full member to the Committee of the Regions
- 5.2 Endorse Cllr Bull's nomination as an alternate member to the Committee of the Regions
- 5.3 Nominate up to an additional four members for inclusion into the LGA 'pool' for consideration as additional full or alternate members.

Dr Stuart Young

Executive Director  
East Midlands Regional Assembly

**PROPOSED PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING PERSONS TO BE PROPOSED AS  
ENGLISH  
MEMBERS OF THE 2010/2014 COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The EU Committee of the Regions (COR) was set up under the Treaty of Maastricht (1991) as an advisory body consisting of representatives of regional and local authorities. Members are appointed by the European Council on the basis of proposals made by Member States.
- 1.2 The Committee runs in four-year terms, the next running from 2010 to 2014. The 2010/2014 Committee will open at the end of January 2010 with a membership appointed by the Council in late 2009 or very early 2010. Member States, therefore, need to make their proposals to the Council during autumn 2009.
- 1.3 This paper sets out the procedure that the Government proposes to follow for selecting persons to be proposed to the Council this autumn as English members of the UK delegation to COR.
- 1.4 There are separate arrangements involving the Devolved Administrations for selecting the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish candidates.
- 1.5 Within the framework set up by the Treaties relating to the European Union and domestic legislation, the Government established in 1998 that each of the UK countries has the following share of the UK representation in the COR:
  - England 16 full seats and 16 alternates
  - Scotland 4 full seats and 4 alternates
  - Wales 2 full seats and 2 alternates
  - Northern Ireland 2 full seats and 2 alternatesThere are no proposals to change this distribution of seats.
- 1.6 A Memorandum of Understanding between the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations provides that each Devolved Administration is responsible for recommending to the UK Government the persons to be proposed to fill that country's established share of representatives within the Committee of Regions.

**THE PROPOSED PROCEDURE**

- 2.1 The Government considers, as previously, that the English representation on the COR should continue to act as a coherent group representative of England as a whole. Experience has shown that with such an approach the delegation can more effectively contribute to the work of the COR and to the achievement of national objectives at the European level.
- 2.2 Equally the Government recognises the value of links between each of the English regions and the English representation on the COR. Such links should involve regional stakeholders feeding into CoR the experience and needs of the English regions; and, the CoR English representation reporting back to local and regional stakeholders on the Committee's work and their contribution to it.
- 2.3 The Government considers that the procedure for selecting the English COR representation should therefore be such as to maintain, as far as possible, a

representation of England as a whole which is representative in terms of politics, gender and ethnic origin whilst ensuring effective links with regional stakeholders. It believes that in order to ensure that COR members have strong and identifiable links to each of the English Regions, regional stakeholders including the Regional Development Agencies and, as appropriate, any local authority leaders boards should have a consultative role in the selection procedure. The Greater London Authority – as England's only directly elected regional body – should make the two nominations for London.

2.4 The Secretary of State therefore proposes to invite the LGA to put forward their suggested English representation selected on the following basis. Its aim should be to secure, as far as reasonably possible, a coherent and effectively led representation that is balanced in regional and political terms, by type of local authority, and in terms of gender and ethnic origin, and takes into account age and experience of disabilities.

- (a) Following consultation with regional stakeholders including the regional development agencies and any local authority leaders boards, the LGA will make 2 nominations — one for a COR member and the other for an alternate - from each of the 8 English Regions. In the case of London, the LGA will seek 2 nominations - one for a COR member and the other for an alternate – from the Greater London Authority.

One nomination should be for a man and one for a woman;

The GLA must have regard to the political balance of its members and such other criteria as the LGA considered necessary to help achieve the objective of a balanced representation. The LGA in framing its criteria should pay particular attention to the need to ensure a representation which is balanced in terms of ethnic composition.

Nominees need to be elected persons legally eligible for COR membership but need not be members of the nominating body.

If the Greater London Authority fails to meet the criteria set by the LGA, the LGA may refer those nominations back to the Greater London Authority requesting an alternative nomination.

- (b) The LGA will select the balance of the membership (COR members and alternates) with a view, having regard to those nominated above, to achieving as far as practicable a coherent and effectively led English representation (with appropriate provision for leading members and potential COR office holders) The selection will be as balanced as possible in terms of political make-up, gender, ethnic origin, and type of local authority, and take into account age and experience of disabilities. The LGA's suggested English representation, therefore, will be made up of 2 persons nominated by the Greater London Authority, and 30 persons selected by the LGA itself. On the basis outlined above, it would be expected that 3 members, at least one of whom should be a full member would be drawn from an ethnic minority background. The persons selected by the LGA as regional nominations will, if appointed, be the principal link with individual regions.

2.5 Having regard to the LGA's suggestions, the Government will decide the persons whom it would propose to the General Affairs Council as English members (and alternates) of the 2010/2014 COR. The Government will expect, as previously, to be able to adopt the LGA's suggestions compiled on the basis described above. However, the Secretary of State continues to reserve the right to modify the LGA's suggestions.

- 2.6 As to future casual vacancies, in the case of members proposed by the LGA, the proposed procedure will be for the LGA to put forward a candidate who will maintain the political balance and maintain or improve the gender or ethnic balance. Similarly, the Greater London Authority would be invited to suggest a candidate who will likewise maintain or improve the balance of the English delegation as a whole.
- 2.7 The LGA may refer a nomination back to the Greater London Authority requesting a replacement, if it considers that the selection of the original nominee would mean that the political, gender, or ethnic minority balance of the English representation as a whole would not be maintained, or if necessary, improved.

**East Midlands (Shadow) Local Authority Leaders' Board  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**East Midlands European Office**

**SYNOPSIS**

**This paper provides Members with information on the roles and responsibilities of the EMEO.**

**The EMEO is the regional European partnership office, based in Brussels, that promotes the interest of the region at the EU level.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are invited to:**

- **Note the contents of this report.**

## 1. EMEO Stakeholders

The East Midlands European Office represents a range of organisations in the region and there is an ongoing process of engaging with new stakeholders. At the time of writing these are:

Arts Council East Midlands	Lincolnshire County Council
De Montfort University	Northamptonshire County Council
Derby City Council	Nottingham City Council
Derbyshire County Council	Nottinghamshire County Council
East Midlands Development Agency	Nottingham Trent University
East Midlands Further Education Colleges	University of Leicester
East Midlands Regional Assembly	University of Lincoln
Government Office East Midlands	University of Northampton
Leicester City Council	University of Nottingham
Leicestershire County Council	Nottinghamshire Enterprise

## 2. Introduction

2.1 England's East Midlands European Office (EMEEO) is a regional European partnership which represents a variety of regional stakeholders in Brussels, including strategic regional bodies, local government and universities listed on page five 5 of this document. EMEEO acts as an interface between these partners and the European Institutions and the multitude of Brussels-based interest groups, European regions and networks. In addition, EMEEO plays a role in making valuable connections within the East Midlands on European related issues and opportunities. This has led the office to supporting the partnership in bringing over €5 million worth of European funding in to the region in the last 12 months alone.

## 3. Role and context

3.1 Managed by the East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) since 2001 on behalf of the wider partnership, EMEEO is committed to offering the highest quality service, enabling the voice of the region to be heard on the European stage. Given that the Single Regional Strategy will not be in place until April 2010, the key regional strategy underpinning the Office's activities remains the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) and associated regional strategies, seeking to improve economic performance and enhance the region's competitiveness. EMEEO's strategic objectives are set within the context of key regional strategies and evolving EU policy developments:

- **Strategic Objective 1 and overarching Strategic Objective:** Consolidate and enhance partnerships and collaboration with new and existing EU members, EU Institutions, Brussels-based organisations and other relevant policy and decision-makers in the UK and Europe.
- **Strategic Objective 2:** Create and maximise opportunities arising from EU Membership, by acting as a conduit for proactive two-way dialogue and by engaging in activities focused on regional and EMEO stakeholders' needs.
- **Strategic Objective 3:** Ensure increased influence on future European policy developments important to the East Midlands.
- **Strategic Objective 4:** Raise the profile of the East Midlands in Europe and help in ensuring that the East Midlands is recognised as a forward thinking and dynamic region.
- **Strategic Objective 5:** Increase the level of participation from the regional partnership through capacity-building activities, as well as widening the partnership base as appropriate.

#### **4. EMEO Partnership and Governance Arrangements**

- 4.1 EMEO is accountable directly to individual partners via the Service Level Agreement (SLA) process. This forms the basis for EMEO's commitment to provide high-quality, well-defined services to each partner. The Office is structured around annual core contributions, with the possibility for stakeholders to build (and pay for) in additional services. This process has continued for 09/10, providing flexibility across the partnership for stakeholders to become involved at the most appropriate level, whilst providing a framework for long terms planning.
- 4.2 There are two core groups that guide EMEO's activity. The Management Group is composed of the Executive Director of EMRA and the Chief Executive of Lincolnshire County Council as a representative for the Office's local government partners. The Group supports *emda* in the day to day management of the Office, through six-monthly meetings focused on performance management, budget, staffing and partnership issues.
- 4.3 The Stakeholder Group (which is composed of all EMEO partners) meets on a six-monthly basis following the Management Group and discusses the general policy direction of the Office and partnership activities. As well as contributing to the ongoing activity of EMEO, this group also represents a useful mechanism for

regional stakeholders to exchange views on European activities, which can lead to additional cross-sector collaboration within the East Midlands.

- 4.4 At the annual EMEO stakeholder group in December, EMEO provides Office partners with an early insight into the changes that will take place within the European Institutions during the coming year. EMEO also provides partners with an opportunity to learn more about the Commission's Legislative and Work Programme and the key issues and implications for the region. Between January to March the EMEO Director meets with all Office partners to discuss their funding and policy priorities, and partner activities are then jointly agreed within each partner's service level agreement. Partner priorities subsequently form the basis of the new Business Plan which is then put forward for approval by the EMEO Management Group in March and shared with partners shortly after.

## **5. Selected Highlights of the Office in 2008/09**

- 5.1 The last twelve months have seen a number of successful activities which have significantly raised the profile of the East Midlands in Brussels, developing key strategic contacts with the Institutions. EMEO has also sought to develop policy capacity within the partnership through a range of tailored workshops and regional events. This will continue on a thematic basis in 2009/10, in particular targeting elected Members through briefings on key priority policy areas. In practice, this will mean maintaining and developing relationships with nominated contacts in each authority and establishing further policy/thematic contacts within those authorities, whilst also keeping main contacts informed.
- 5.2 An example of some of this supported activity over the past 12 months is highlighted below and a short document that details key achievements of 2008/09 is included in the set of papers.

## **6. Strategic Objective 2: Create and maximise opportunities arising from EU membership.**

- 6.1 EMEO has supported a number of successful European-funded projects from the region, including working with Northamptonshire County Council in the development of a project proposal under the Regions of Knowledge strand of the European Framework for Research Programme (FP7) worth over €500,000.
- 6.2 EMEO has developed greater policy capacity in the partnership through the continuation of the regional European Research Framework Programme 7 (FP7) Group, which brings together EMEO's local authority and higher education partners. It seeks to promote greater project cooperation from regional partners

- in developing opportunities under FP7 and encourages strong links between the Office, the regional FP7 support service and the universities. Two project proposals emerged, worth some €3m, following the three initial briefings.
- 6.3 Partners from the European Network of Regions Improving Citizens' Health (ENRICH) network formed a consortium for a successful project proposal under the European Health Action Programme. The €1m project will look at addressing health inequalities in regions by gathering common European data.
- 6.4 **Strategic Objective 3:** Ensure increased influence on future European policy developments important to the East Midlands.
- 6.5 There has been a concerted effort to increase the profile of the region through connections to European networks. The region (represented by EMEO) has now been approached by the Commission's Directorate General for Health to explore using the East Midlands as the first European Platform to tackle childhood obesity in September 2009.
- 6.6 EMEO has promoted enhanced political cooperation with regional political representatives in particular CPMR and Committee of the Regions Members – this has led to Councillor David Parsons being appointed on the internal working group to review the future political structures of the CoR and Cllr Peter Robinson joining a CPMR working group on migration.
- 7. Strategic Objective 4:** Raise the profile of the East Midlands in Europe
- 7.1 EMEO lobbying also secured the official visit of Commissioner for Regional Policy, Danuta Hübner in April 2009 – this visit was led by *emda* and involved key regional partners.
- 7.2 Strategic influencing on external relations policy has led to the development of a high profile regional trade event in July 2009 supported by the Commission to promote inward investment by Chinese and Indian businesses into the region involving the East Midlands China and India Trade Bureaux. The China Policy Institute at the University of Nottingham, with support from EMEO, was successful in bidding under FP7's social sciences and humanities theme. The €1.4m project looks at China's views on the EU. The aim is to improve the two way policy debate between the two major economies.
- 8. Strategic Objective 5:** Increase the level of participation from the regional partnership through capacity building initiatives.

- 8.1 EMEO provided guidance to Lincolnshire County Council in the shaping of their European Strategy. This has developed strategic alliances for the Office within the County Council and led to EMEO taking on a clear advisory role on the County's engagement in European issues.

**9. Local Authority Leaders' Board – Proposed Delegation**

- 9.1 The EMEO is an important resource for the region and one that in order to ensure maximum value, partners should fully exploit.
- 9.2 To support understanding and engagement with the EMEO, and wider European institutions, it is suggested that a small delegation (up to six Members) of Local Authority Leaders' Board Members visits Brussels. In liaison with the EMEO, the secretariat will develop a focused programme of activity.

**10. Recommendations**

Member of the Local Authority Leaders' Board are invited to:

- 10.1 Note the contents of this report.
- 10.2 Submit expressions of interest to visit the Office, relevant European institutions and meet with the region's MEPs.

Dr Stuart Young

Executive Director  
East Midlands Regional Assembly