

**EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS**

**MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

**REPORT FOR INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

**Richard Penn**

**February 2011**

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## **1 Introduction and background**

- 1.1 This report sets out a revised Members Allowances scheme for East Midlands Councils (EMC) resulting from the changes in regional governance arrangements – ‘localism’ replacing ‘regionalism’ as the guiding principle – following the General Election in May 2010.
- 1.2 There is no statutory requirement for EMC, unlike for local authorities, to make a Members Allowances scheme. However, in November 2009 EMC commissioned the Local Government Employers Consultancy Unit to make proposals for a Members Allowances scheme to a newly established East Midlands Councils Independent Remuneration Panel. The Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 1021 and 1022), which came into force on 1 May 2003 set the context for the scheme which was adopted by the Executive Board in April 2010.
- 1.3 Although there was no legal requirement for EMC to commission an independent study to propose a new Members Allowances scheme it followed good practice by doing so. An Independent Remuneration Panel (again not a legal requirement but again representing best practice) was established in 2010 to recommend an appropriate framework to the then East Midlands Leaders’ Board. It was agreed that the Panel should commission a review of the scheme in early 2011 to test the robustness and validity of the agreed scheme in light of the continuing development of the regional agenda in the East Midlands and its impact on the new regional organisations and their Members. It should then undertake further reviews of the scheme when appropriate.
- 1.4 The Executive Board meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010 agreed that the Executive Director should undertake a review into the viability of East Midlands Councils. The terms of reference for this review were agreed as:
- a) Level of political support.
  - b) Level of organisational support from proposed membership.
  - c) Proposed roles, responsibilities and services.
  - d) Resources – the financial position.
  - e) Medium to long-term sustainability.

The review specifically considered the future of associated partnerships, e.g. EM IEP and there was recognition that the financial situation and the pressures on local authority budgets required a corresponding change in the work and resource structure of East Midlands Councils.

- 1.5 A full range of options for East Midlands Councils was considered including closure from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. From discussions with Leaders of constituent authorities it was clear that there was general political and organisational support for East Midlands Councils to continue. However, the organisation would need to be substantially different to reflect the different priorities of Local Government and the extremely tight financial context.
- 1.6 The following three options were considered based on a different range of roles and responsibilities with correspondingly different officer support structures and on the assumption that the EM IEP resources are formally brought within the East Midlands Councils structure.

**a. 'Service Based' Model**

This model proposes a significantly different role and corresponding secretariat structure for the organisation. East Midlands Councils would operate through a much smaller organisational structure and focus on its role as the regional employers' body, providing HR and Member Development Services but with less focus on any strategic policy advice or political representative role. The primary role of the organisation under this model would be on service provision for member authorities. This model would deliver substantial cost savings from the current structure and would require less organisational/secretariat support. While there is capacity for some strategic policy advice, briefings and intelligence – it is a much-reduced model that necessarily has less capacity to offer a full representative and consultative support role.

**b. 'Service Plus' Model**

The principal difference of the 'Service Plus' model from the 'Service Based' model relates to the capacity to deliver strategic policy advice and a representative role in addition to improvement and efficiency leadership and support across the Local Authority sector. This model provides a greater focus on the political representative role in addition to delivering services for Local Authorities.

**c. 'Maxi' Model**

The principal difference of the 'Maxi' model from the 'Service Plus' model relates to greater capacity to support activity across the range of Local Government roles and responsibilities. The model is largely based upon the current structure and resource base of East Midlands Councils (minus CLG grant for Regional Strategy purposes). Consequently, while the resource savings are less there remains greater capacity within the model to respond to service and strategic support demands of Local Authority members.

**East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership**

There will be an on-going need for sector-led support in delivering efficiency and productivity improvement activity post March 2011. It is envisaged that a much smaller staff compliment working within East Midlands Councils would manage the residual EM IEP programmes (sub regional/regional) and a legacy regional efficiency and productivity programme.

**1.7 The preferred option for the future of East Midlands Councils**

At its meeting on 10 December 2010 the EMC Executive Board decided to support the 'service plus' option and to proceed with immediate implementation of this decision to enable transition to the new model by April 2011. The resource implications of each model were clearly spelt out to the EMC Executive Board and a sum of £20,000 per annum for 'Members Expenses' was included compared with the £69,000 in the 2010/11 budget. The decision of the Executive Board and the resulting financial provision has set a clear context for my review of members allowances for 2011/12.

## 2. Executive Summary

The decision by the EMC Executive Board to support the 'service plus' option and to proceed with immediate implementation of this decision to enable transition to the new model by April 2011 has formed the basis for my recommendations for an appropriate Members Allowances framework from April 2011 onwards which is within the £20,000 of resources clearly identified for Members Allowances in the EMC Executive report of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010

### A. Basic Allowances

<b>Role</b>	<b>Per Year (2011/12) £</b>
Members of East Midlands Executive Board	600

### B Special Responsibility Allowances\*

<b>Role</b>	<b>Per Year (2011/12) £</b>
Chair of EMC/Executive Board	4,000
Deputy Chair of Executive Board	900
Other members of Management Group	900
Chair of the RIEP, the Strategic Migration Board and the Regional Employers Board (x 3)**	900

(\*Limits on Special Responsibility Allowances:

*no post holder should be entitled to receive more than one SRA at any one time)*

(\*\* to be recharged to RIEP and Strategic migration board)

#### Note

• <b>Basic Allowances – 18 x £600</b>	<b>£10,800</b>
• <b>Special Responsibility Allowances</b>	<b><u>£11,200</u></b>
	<b>£22,000</b>
<b>Less recharge to RIEP &amp; Strategic Migration</b>	<b>(1,800)</b>
<b>Total potential annual cost</b>	<b>£20,200</b>

### Implementation

The proposals contained in this report should be adopted from 1 April 2011 or as soon as reasonably possible after that date to take effect immediately.

### **3 The brief**

- 3.1 I was commissioned in December 2010 by EMC to consider what changes to the current members allowances scheme would be appropriate in the light of the decision of the EMC Executive Board to move to a ‘service plus’ model from April 2011.
- 3.2 This Report is the outcome and has been constructed to provide clear advice to the EMC Independent Remuneration Panel that was established in 2010.
- 3.3 My approach has been to consider the available evidence to enable me to consider various options and to propose a Members Allowances framework appropriate to the objectives of the new organisation and the roles to be played by individual councillors, particularly those in leadership roles.
- 3.4 The terms of reference for the exercise were:
- to propose a Members Allowances scheme for the new EMC organisation that would appropriately and reasonably reward those elected members directly involved in the new governance arrangements from 1 April 2011 in the roles undertaken at the regional, national, and international level on behalf of EMC
  - to consider the appropriateness and level of any Basic Allowances for any member
  - to consider the appropriateness and level of any Special Responsibility Allowance for :
    - i. the Chair and Vice Chair of the EMC Executive Board
    - ii. the Members of the EMC Executive Board
    - iii. the members of subsidiary Boards
  - to have regard to the budgetary implications (affordability) and public acceptability of any proposed scheme. In agreeing to the funding for the ‘service plus’ model members have accepted that there will be reduced funding for members allowances and that it will be necessary for individual members, particularly those in leadership roles, to do much the same as previously but for considerably less reward.
- 3.5 In addition, I have proposed that the current arrangements for indexation and for dealing with pension entitlement and Care Allowance be continued.

## **4 Remuneration for elected members**

- 4.1 The report on '*Members Remuneration*' that was part of the work of the Councillors Commission in 2008 emphasized that member remuneration should not be seen as an incentive for service as a councillor, but nor should lack of appropriate remuneration be a barrier. Remuneration arrangements should encourage people from a wide range of backgrounds and with a wide range of skills to serve as councillors. Those who participate in and contribute to the democratic process should not suffer unreasonable financial disadvantage as a result of doing so. Councillors should be compensated for their work and their remuneration should have regard to the full range of commitments and complexity of their roles, not least for those who accept additional responsibilities for which a Special Responsibility Allowance is provided.
- 4.2 These principles should underpin any Members' Allowances scheme for any democratic organization and it is appropriate for any proposed scheme to be the subject of consideration and endorsement by a designated Independent Remuneration Panel. Such a Panel has now been established as part of the regional governance arrangements in the East Midlands.
- 4.3 Maintaining the democratic values of local government is not cost-free. Councillors are elected to represent the interests of local people and to undertake the governance of local communities. They receive remuneration in return for the contribution they make, including any bodies to which they are appointed in their capacity as elected members.
- 4.4 As a means of promoting and safeguarding local democracy, in proposing the framework for the Members Allowances scheme for the East Midlands regional organisations, I have adopted the following principles to underpin my proposals:

### **Clarity**

In general, the simpler the remuneration scheme, the clearer it is, the better understood by council-tax payers, and the easier it is to administer.

### **Recompense**

Remuneration needs to adequately reward all councillors for the responsibility they carry in serving their communities and in contributing to the governance of the organisations on which they sit or to which they are appointed. The framework should provide additional recompense for those given greater levels of responsibility.

### **Accountability**

Council-tax payers have the right to receive value for money from public funds committed to councillors' remuneration. Consequently, organisations should make information available about the activity of councillors in support of public services, and councillors should be prepared to give a publicly accessible account of their organisation-related activity.

## **Quality**

The governance, scrutiny and regulatory duties incumbent upon a councillor in modern local government require continuous quality improvement. As a result, councillors should be prepared to undertake such training and personal development opportunities as are necessary to acquire the competencies required to properly discharge the duties for which they are remunerated.

## **Consistency**

The remuneration scheme should be applied through a framework that promotes consistency and is fair.

## **Acceptability**

Remuneration should not be so great as to require a significant diversion of organisational resources from other priorities.

## 5 Roles and Responsibilities

- 5.1 The Government announced its intention to abolish the statutory responsibilities of Leaders' Boards and to cease associated CLG grant from April 2011. As a result, a rapid wind down of the strategy directorate of the East Midlands Leaders' Board/East Midlands Councils was completed. This involved a number of staff being made redundant in June 2010 and a radical organisational review to meet the requirements of the organisation while still enabling the delivery of a range of services, some of which are income generating.
- 5.2 The context for EMC has clearly changed – 'localism' has replaced 'regionalism' – but there remains general political and organisational support for an East Midlands Councils organisation to exist. However, the organisation will be substantially different from that which currently exists to reflect the different priorities of local government and the extremely tight financial context. Inevitably, any ongoing regional partnership for local authorities will need to be based on a structure that focuses on essential services solely resourced through local authority subscriptions, programme/project funding and fee-earning/consultancy services. We are only at the start of the 'localism' programme and there is no certainty about what collaborative arrangements may be required in the short to medium term. The increasingly 'permissive' environment allows local government the freedom and flexibility to manage voluntary partnerships at its discretion. Alongside this, however, is the increased pressure upon resources and the cessation of funding from central government to fund such partnerships.
- 5.3 Economic development, housing, planning and transport represent many of the strategic issues that local authorities have worked together on in recent years. However, the development of Local Enterprise Partnerships, appropriately led by sub-regional/local partners, clearly demonstrates the basis for future working on these issues. While EMC is able to provide a consultative and collaborative role, it will not be the lead body for the implementation of such proposals or for the Government's localism agenda.
- 5.4 EMC is an unincorporated voluntary partnership body that undertakes the role of the regional employers organisation. Leicestershire County Council acts as the accountable body. The key conclusion is that there remains general political and organisational support for an East Midlands Councils organisation to exist. However, the organisation will be substantially different from to reflect the different priorities of local government and the extremely tight financial context.
- 5.5 In future EMC will continue to
- represent the interest of all 46 local authorities in the region.
  - act as a representative and influencing body.
  - provide a line of accountability from the EMC Executive Board to wider local government.
  - make appointments to national and regional bodies in liaison with the EMC Executive Board.
  - provide a reporting mechanism for regional local government partnerships.
  - determine how its relationship with national LGA can best be structured.

5.6 The EMC Executive Board is the strategic decision making body on issues of interest and relevance to Local Authorities at the regional level. A strong voice on behalf of local government is needed to:

- provide leadership on behalf of local government in the region and develop effective partnerships with key organisations, e.g. Homes and Communities Agency, Environment Agency, Strategic Health Authority and wider stakeholders (including the business, environmental and community/voluntary sectors).
- influence central government in those critical areas and agree key strategies and investment plans, e.g. Regional Funding Advice.
- act as the decision-making executive for EMC.

5.7 In particular, EMC will provide a forum for the management of a number of other regional local government focused roles and responsibilities including:

- Strategic Migration Board
- Regional Employers Board
- Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership

### **The ‘Service Plus’ Model**

5.8 The key feature of the ‘Service Plus’ model is its capacity to deliver strategic policy advice, a representative role and improvement and efficiency support across the public sector in the region. The model provides a focus on the political representative role in addition to delivering services for local authorities. This model, while similar to that provided under the current arrangements, focuses upon a more limited set of core objectives and delivers associated cost savings through a smaller secretariat structure.

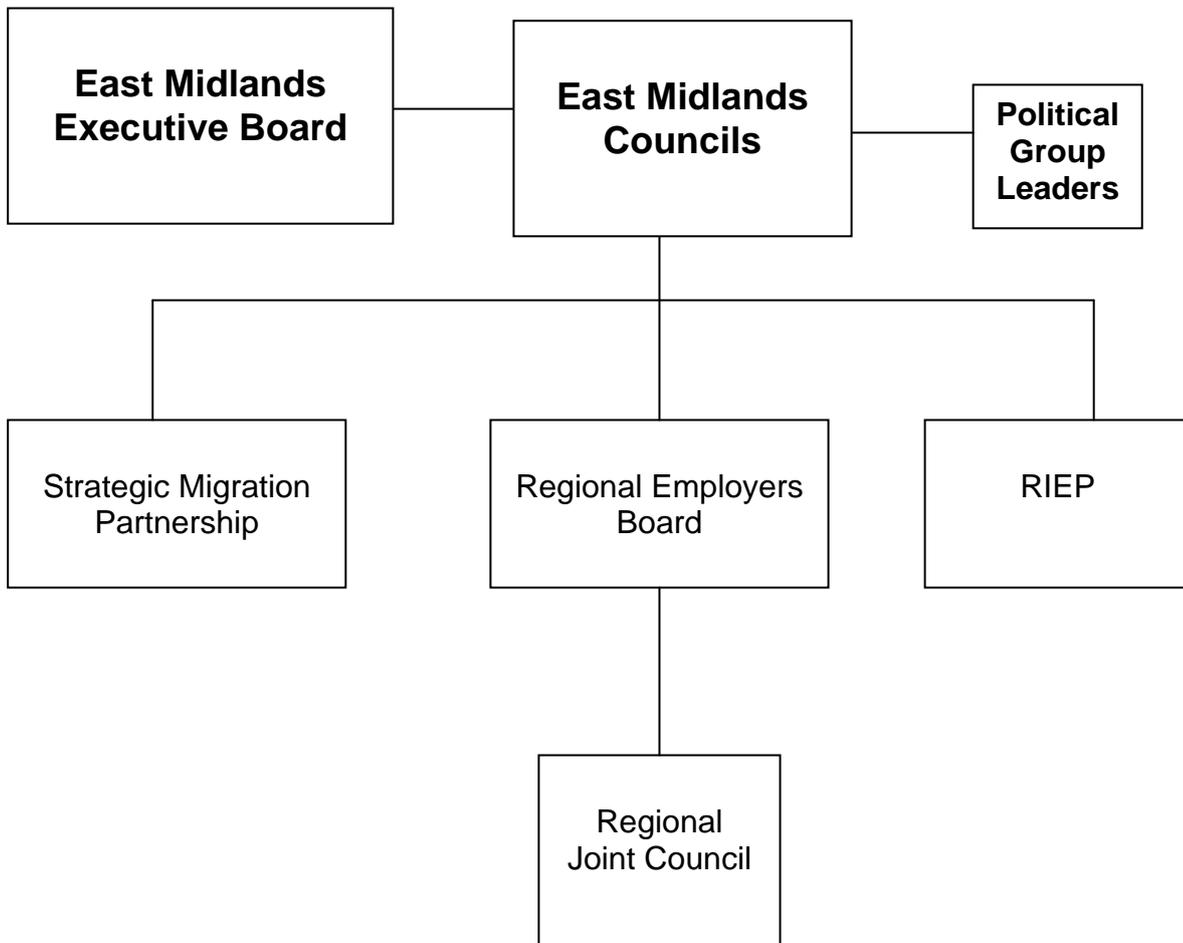
5.9 The focus of activity will be:

- getting a better deal for Councils from Government by maximising collective influence on key issues of common concern and providing a direct route for dialogue with Ministers.
- maximising the influence and benefit for Councils from existing regional programmes and funding, e.g. European structural funds (ERDF, ESF, RDPE) and RIEP.
- getting a better deal for Councils from the LGA, where the LGA is seeking to represent the views of Local Authorities in the East Midlands.
- delivering efficiency savings for councils through HR and Member development services, policy advice and wider support to Local Authorities on a marginal cost basis.
- maximising the benefits for councils of EM IEP ‘legacy’ funding through the provision of strategic management and governance.
- maximising investment and infrastructure provision for local communities through collective action and influence.

## **6 Governance**

- 6.1 An Executive Board will continue to provide the strategic management of the organisation.
- 6.2 The existing governance structure was established to deliver upon statutory roles and the previous collaborative agenda. It will be necessary to refocus resources and reconsider the governance arrangements to meet the needs of a refocused organisation.
- 6.3 The current board structure will be simplified. The Executive Board is ideally placed to undertake the strategic management of all activity of East Midlands Councils. This will include EM IEP work. This would enable the simplification of the Board governance structure and reduction of costs.
- 6.4 Separately funded activity, i.e. EM IEP, migration, or boards that require joint arrangements, i.e. regional employers', will continue in their role and be accountable to the Executive Board as per current arrangements.
- 6.5 The roles/ 'portfolio responsibilities' of members will reflect the 'service plus' model for EMC.

**The new regional governance model for the East Midlands**



## **7 Proposals for a revised members allowances scheme**

### **7.1 East Midlands Councils**

- No ‘ordinary’ member of East Midlands Councils should receive any Basic Allowance. The assumption is that those appointed to East Midlands Councils as representatives of their ‘host’ councils are recompensed for their involvement through the allowances they receive from those ‘host’ councils. Similarly, any travel and subsistence costs resulting from attending meetings of the East Midlands Councils should be recovered by claims to their host authorities that should bear that cost. It is unlikely that any ordinary member of the East Midlands Councils would attend more than two meetings each year as a result of their membership
- The Chair of East Midlands Councils will also be the Chair of the East Midlands Executive Board. The Chair will be recompensed for his/her role as Chair of the East Midlands Councils through the allowance paid for chairing the Executive Board.

### **7.2 East Midlands Executive Board**

- Each of the 18 members of the East Midlands Executive Board should receive a Basic Allowance to recognise the contribution they each make to the work of this key regional organisation. The estimated time commitment in preparing for and attending meetings of the Board including necessary consultations with those they represent is 6 days per year at a daily rate of £100 (based on one-third of the IDeA daily rate for ‘peers’ etc) – a BA of £600 per year for each member.
- The Chair of the East Midlands Executive Board will also chair East Midlands Councils. It is estimated that this role will require an additional commitment of 20 days per year at £200 per day (based on two-thirds the IDeA daily rate for ‘peers’ etc) – an SRA of £4,000 per year
- The work of the Vice Chair of the East Midlands Executive Board will entail an additional 6 days per year at £150 per day (based on half the IDeA daily rate for ‘peers’ etc) – an SRA of £900 per year

### **7.3 Subsidiary bodies**

- The work of the four members of the Management Group (other than the Chair of the Executive Board) will necessitate an additional 6 days per year at £150 per day (based on half the IDeA daily rate for ‘peers’ etc) – an SRA of £900 per year.
- The work involved in the roles of Chairs of East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Board (RIEP), the Strategic Migration Partnership and the Regional

Employers Board will necessitate an additional 6 days per year at £150 per day (based on half the IDeA daily rate for ‘peers’ etc) – an SRA of £900 per year each

- Any travel and subsistence costs resulting from attending meetings in connection with the work of the East Midlands Executive Board, the work of Chair of East Midlands Councils and the work of Chairs of subsidiary Boards should be recovered by claims to their host authorities that should bear that cost.

7.4 The tables below summarise my proposals for a Members Allowances framework:

**A. Basic Allowances**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Per Year (2011/12) £</b>
Members of East Midlands Leaders’ Board	600

**B Special Responsibility Allowances\***

<b>Role</b>	<b>Per Year (2011/12) £</b>
Chair of EM Council/Executive Board	4,000
Deputy Chair of Executive Board	900
Other members of Management Group	900
Chairs of the RIEP**, the Strategic Migration Partnership and the Regional Employers Board (x 3)	900

(\*Limits on Special Responsibility Allowances:  
no post holder should be entitled to receive more than one SRA at any one time

\*\* This will be recouped from the RIEP budget)

**Note**

• <b>Basic Allowances – 18 x £600</b>	<b>£10,800</b>
• <b>Special Responsibility Allowances</b>	<b><u>£11,200</u></b>
	<b>£22,000</b>
<b>Less recharge to RIEP &amp; Strategic Migration</b>	<b>(1,800)</b>
<b>Total potential annual cost</b>	<b>£20,200</b>

It is also worth noting that only 9 of the 98 councillor members of the East Midlands Council will receive a Special Responsibility Allowance, a much smaller percentage than is the case in respect of local authority Members Allowances schemes where it is more usual for up to a maximum of 50% of councillors to receive an SRA.

## 7.5 Other relevant issues

- **Indexation**

Basic Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances should be indexed to whatever annual increase that is applied to the salaries of officers of East Midlands Councils. The index should be applied from 1 April 2011 and endorsed annually thereafter at subsequent Annual Meetings.

- **Pensions**

Those councillors who receive allowances through East Midlands Councils for their work on behalf of East Midlands Councils and the East Midlands Leaders' Board should be entitled to join the LGPS.

- **Care Allowance**

The Care Allowance should be made available to those eligible councillors who have children or dependent adults in their care and who incur expense in the provision of such care whilst undertaking 'approved' duties. Any payment should be made only on presentation of receipts provided by formal carers.

- **Implementation**

The proposals contained in this report should be adopted from 1 April 2011, or as soon as reasonably possible after that date, to take effect immediately.

## **Appendix 1 East Midlands Councils**

East Midlands Councils came into being on 1 April 2010.

### **Purpose**

East Midland Councils

- is a consultative forum for local government in the East Midlands.
- represents the interest of local councils to national government and other organizations
- Enables local councils to work together on key issues of common concern
- supports the improvement and development of local councils and their workforce
- brings together political group leaders
- makes appointments to national and regional bodies
- provides a reporting and governance mechanism for regional local government partnerships e.g. Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP)
- establishes and maintains an effective relationship with the national Local Government Association (LGA)

### **Membership**

All 46 local authorities in the East Midlands are members of East Midlands Councils.

East Midlands Councils has 98 members from:

- 92 Local Authority Members
- 2 Fire and Rescue Authority Members
- 2 Police Authority Members
- 2 Parish and Town Council representatives.

### **Chair**

The Chair is Cllr David Parsons, who is also the Chair of the East Midlands Executive Board.

### **Meetings**

Meetings will be held twice a year.

## **Appendix 2 East Midlands Executive Board**

### **Purpose**

The Executive Board is the strategic decision making body of East Midlands Councils on issues of interest and relevance to Local Authorities at the regional level. A strong voice on behalf of Local Government is needed to:

- Work collaboratively with central government and its agencies to support the development and delivery of the localism agenda.
- Engage partners in processes for determining major investment priorities.
- Provide a reporting and governance mechanism for local government partnerships on specific issues, such as local government Regional Employers Organisation and the Improvement & Efficiency Partnership.
- Engage with national, European and international institutions (including other sub-national bodies) to influence policy and practice for the benefit of local authorities within the East Midlands.
- Provide support, advice and best practice to local authorities on issues including employee education and training, management practice and development, employee relations, human resource management, and elected Members development.

### **Membership**

The Executive Board comprises 14 local council leaders with authority to act on behalf of all local councils in the East Midlands. Leaders of the 4 main political groupings represented on East Midlands Councils and the Chair of the Peak District National Park Authority also attend and make a full contribution to Board meetings.

### **Chair and Vice Chair**

The Chair of the Executive Board is Cllr David Parsons CBE, the Leader of Leicestershire County Council. The Vice Chair is Cllr Jon Collins, the Leader of Nottingham City Council.

### **Meetings**

The Executive Board will meet 4 times a year.

## **Appendix 3 Management Group**

### **Purpose**

- To ensure that an adequate risk management framework and associated control environment is in place.
- To ensure that the financial and non-financial performance is properly monitored.
- To have proper oversight of the financial reporting processes.
- To have responsibility for establishing and recommending policy on all finance and audit matters.
- To review on a quarterly basis non financial performance, and the half year and annual financial statements before submission to the Executive Board and East Midlands Councils, focusing particularly on
  - (i) any changes in work programmes and/or accounting policies and practices
  - (ii) significant adjustments resulting from any audit
  - (iii) the ‘going concern’ assumption
  - (iv) compliance with accounting standards
  - (v) compliance with legal requirements
  - (vi) review and update of the Risk Register
- To discuss concerns or issues arising from the interim and final audits, and any matters the auditor may wish to discuss (in the absence of the Executive where necessary).
- To consider the major findings of internal investigations and the response of EMC Executive.
- To consider other issues, as identified by the Executive Board and East Midlands Councils.

### **Authority**

The Group is authorised by the Executive Board and East Midlands Councils to investigate any activity within its terms of reference. It is authorised to seek any information it requires from any employee. All employees are directed to co-operate with any request made by the Management Group.

The Group is authorised by the Executive Board and East Midlands Council to obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary.

### **Membership**

The group will consist of 5 members - the four political vice chairs of EMC plus the joint Chair of East Midlands Councils/Executive Board. A quorum shall be three members.

It is anticipated that the Group will operate on the basis of consensus. If required, voting at meetings shall be by show of hands and shall be by way of a simple majority. The Chair shall have a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

### **Frequency of Meetings**

Meetings shall be held quarterly, prior to any meetings of the Executive Board. The external auditors may request a meeting if they consider that one is necessary.

## **Appendix 4 East Midlands Improvement & Efficiency Partnership**

### **Purpose**

Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships were set up following the publication of the National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership Board supports the delivery of lasting improvements and efficiency to Local Authorities in the East Midlands.

### **Membership**

There are currently 14 local authority elected members.

### **Chair**

The Chair is Cllr Martin Hill.

### **Meetings**

The RIEP will meet 4 times a year.

## **Appendix 5 Regional Employers' Board**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Regional Employers' Board is to allow senior members to provide a steer on employment issues and councillor development, representing the interests of local authorities across the region. The Regional Employers' Board forms the Employers' Side of the Regional Joint Council.

### **Membership**

The Regional Employers' Board is made up of elected representatives from local authorities in the East Midlands. The 15 elected members reflect the political balance of the region.

### **Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair of the Regional Employers' Board is Cllr Ian Fleetwood, Lincolnshire County Council. The Vice Chair is Cllr Ken Savidge, North East Derbyshire District Council.

### **Meetings**

The Regional Employers' Board will meet quarterly.

## **Appendix 6 East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership**

### **Purpose**

The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership provides a regional advisory, development and consultation function for member organisations from the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors - for the co-ordination and provision of advice, support and services for migrants. The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership is funded partly by the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) Enabling Grant. The purpose of the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership is to:

- Consider the impact of migration on the region.
- Consider UKBA and East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership member organisations proposals for any change as they affect the region; and make recommendations to influence and shape proposed new legislation, policy initiatives, and operational change.
- Monitor the impact of migration on community cohesion, housing, education, employment, health and other services.

### **Membership**

The Regional Strategic Migration Partnership Board has four elected members providing political representation to the group. The 4 elected members reflect the political balance of the region.

### **Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair of the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership Board is Cllr David Sprason, Leicestershire County Council. The Vice Chair is Cllr Fiona Martin, East Lindsey District Council.

### **Meetings**

The Regional Strategic Migration Partnership Board will meet quarterly.