

# **The West Housing Market Area**

## **Standing Conference**

**Sub-national review: the new regional  
arrangements**

**West Midlands Housing Issues**

**A Overview**

**21st October 2009**

**Ludlow**

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# Sub-national review: the new regional arrangements

Why .....

# Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration

- Budget 2006 Government announced a review of sub-national economic development and regeneration, or SNR.
- considered how to strengthen economic performance in England's regions, cities and localities, as well as how to tackle persistent pockets of deprivation.

# Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration

Published July 2007: three principles ;-

1. ensuring policy is managed at the right spatial level,
2. ensuring clarity of roles, and
3. helping places to reach their potential

Achieving four objectives:

1. empowering LA.s to promote economic development + neighbourhood renewal, + added flexibilities & incentives to promote sustainable economic growth

# Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration

Achieving four objectives cont,

2. supporting LA.s to work together, across the sub-regional level to promote economic development,
3. streamlining the regional tier - simplified structures, streamlined decision-making & improved accountability,
4. reforming central Government's relations with regions and localities.

31 March 2008, consultation document,

*Prosperous Places: taking forward the review of subnational economic development and regeneration*

# Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration

25th Nov 2009 Government response.

- A summary of LA views nationally : Yes to reform, Yes to Single RS , No to RDAs as the lead body.
- The RDA and the Local Authorities Leaders Board to share joint responsibility for developing and submitting the Strategy to Ministers - including an EiP process; and
- for developing the delivery framework and monitoring
- duty to consult with stakeholders (and communities), but stakeholders will not be part of the sign off process
- No regional scrutiny role for local government,
- Regional Select Committees will do necessary scrutiny

# Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration

## Government response cont.

- RS to deliver sustainable economic growth; an implementation plan and annual monitoring
- new statutory duty for LA.s to prepare a local economic assessment
- MAAs with statutory duties; and to allow for the creation of statutory sub regional authorities for economic development (Economic Improvement Boards)
- No RDA delegation funding to LA.s – new JSIB will secure appropriate delivery mechanisms.

# Sub-national review: the new regional arrangements

Where are we now?....

# Regional Strategy

Government are creating a new powerful policy vehicle:

- Just the one :Single – Regional Strategy
- Focused: on Economy and Spatial Policy but needing a clear People dimension: now to incl. Housing
- Challenging : Integrated – conceptually challenging
  - Organisationally & Culturally
  - Professionally
  - Statutory & regulatory silos
  - Data & evidence
  - Process of forging consensus across spheres of policy
- Statutory under the new legislation (Hence the ‘powerful’ reference)
- (Potentially voluntary if done by local inter-authority agreement)
- To be developed jointly by Local Authorities & Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) – the Relevant Regional Authorities

# Regional Strategy

- Introducing the Relevant Regional Authorities
- RRAs are the West Midlands Leaders Board (WMLB) and Advantage West Midlands (AWM) with GOWM
- WMLB (33 Local Authority Leaders) est. July 2009
- Shadow Joint Strategy & Investment Board (6+6). To be responsible for producing the Regional Strategy
- JSIB supported by Democratically led Advisory Panels (Planning & Env, Transport, Housing & Regeneration, plus others?)
- Regional Housing Structures 'continuity' – CLG 10 August 2009

West Midlands Leaders Board

Advantage West Midlands



**'Shadow' Joint Strategy and Investment Board** September 2009

Nominated by Local Authority Leaders Board – Cllrs Roger Phillips (co-chair), Ken Taylor, Philip Atkins, Mike Whitby, Neville Patten, Paul Middleborough

Nominated by AWM Board – Sir Roy McNulty (co-chair), David Brown

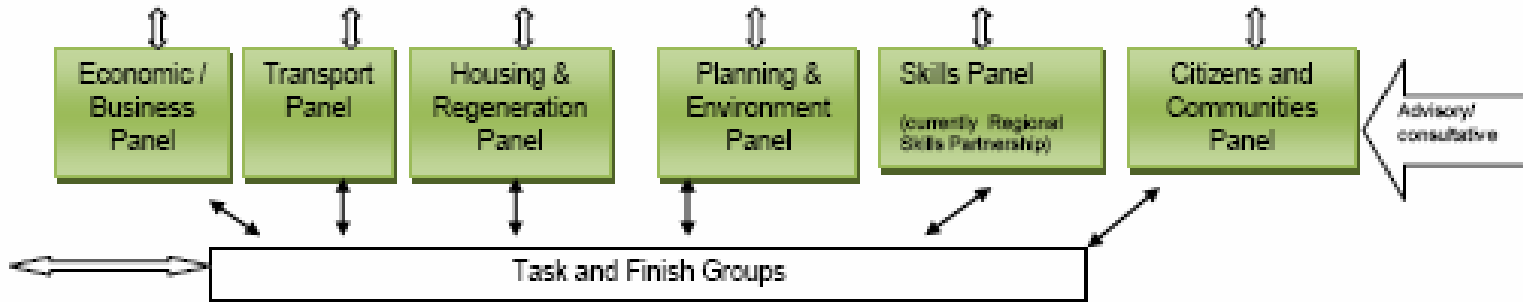
Role - responsible for the strategic management of Sub National Review matters in the West Midlands including the development, delivery and performance management of the SIRS and associated activities including RFA Performance Management

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Advised By – Regional Advisory Group

Senior officers from AWM, WMRA, local government, Government Office, Homes & Communities Agency, Highways Agency and Learning & Skills Council

'AUNT SALLY' TO FACILITATE DISCUSSION ON NEW REGIONAL WORKING ARRANGEMENTS



Advisory Panels and Task and Finish Groups draw in expertise from local government, AWM, business, Government Agencies and other stakeholders

# Progress - Governance

- November 2008 shadow Joint Strategy & Investment Board met for first time
- November 2008 West Midlands Leaders met for first time
- Regional Funding Advice 2 to HMG Feb 2009
- July 2009 West Midlands Local Government Association changed its name to West Midlands Leaders Board
- From April regional governance diagram has been shared and discussed with many

# The Changing Face of Regional Governance

- Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Bill
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading 13 October 2009
- Royal Assent - November
- Removes Regional Assemblies
- New WMLB as one of two RRAs ( Relevant Regional Authorities)
- Introduces statutory Regional Strategy
- Regulations consultation
- 1 April 2010 implementation

# Sub-national review: the new regional arrangements

Next.....

# Government Consultation on Regional Strategies

- One high level strategic response from JS&IB, AWM Board and West Midlands Leaders Board, including:-
  - Leaders Board High level response
  - Technical Paper (annex) on West Midlands experience of taking forward the RES and RSS including the Examination in Public

30 October 2009

# Strategy for the West Midlands - Key Steps

- Visioning and Scenario Planning
- Project Plan setting out for consultation:-
  - subject areas
  - evidence base
  - involvement of stakeholders
  - risk management
- Drafting the SIRS (Strategy for the West Midlands)
  - develop evidence base
  - engage stakeholder
  - appraise issues and options incorporating SEA and HRA
- EiP Panel to consider evidence
- Testing the Draft SIRS
  - Consultation & Examination in Public (continuous)
- Signing off the SIRS
- Implementation
- Monitoring

**Implementation/  
Investment Plan**



# In the mean time :Other Regional Implications

- RSS 2 Panel Report – Housing figures
- SoS's Proposed Changes, consultation.
- RSS 3 – Gypsy & Traveller Pitch Regional Policy Statement
  - GOWM support / Material consideration
- Both carry forward into RS
- HCA , Single Conversations & Investment Plans, RS and the Housing and Regeneration Panel

# The Strategy for the West Midlands

That's the story so far.....