

 Executive – 18 March 2009		Agenda Item No.
Title:	Local Authority Leaders' Board	
For further information about this report please contact	Chief Executive	
Service Area	Chief Executive	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	December 2008 Minute 638	
Background Papers		

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	n/a	n/a
Chief Executive	25/2/2009	Chris Elliott
CMT	26/2/2009	Mary Hawkins, Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer		
Legal	25/2/2009	Peter Oliver
Finance	25/2/2009	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	2/3/2009	Michael Doody
Consultation Undertaken		
Please insert details of any consultation undertaken with regard to this report. N/A		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		
None		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises the Executive of the proposed regional arrangements in the West Midlands involving the cessation of the West Midlands Regional Assembly and the creation of a Local Authority Leaders' Board (LALB), a Joint Strategy and Investment Board (JSIB) and of the need to agree a deputy to act as a substitute for the Leader of the Council on the LALB.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Executive notes the proposed new regional governance arrangements.
- 2.2 Councillor Les Caborn is nominated to act as deputy for the Leader of the Council for meetings of the Local Authority Leaders' Board.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The proposed new regional governance arrangements arise in response to the Government's proposals from the Sub National Review of Economic Development. These proposals end the role of regional assemblies and their function in respect of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) are transferred. To ensure democratic representation and involvement the Government proposes that there ought to be Boards of the Local Authority Leaders which would have joint responsibility for signing off a proposed Single Integrated Strategy, incorporating the RSS and other required strategies.
- 3.2 In the West Midlands the local authorities, with Advantage West Midlands, had already arrived at this approach as the one appropriate to follow. It is now intended that the West Midlands Regional Assembly will cease as from July 2009. A Local Authority Leaders' Board has already been established. A Joint Strategy and Investment Board comprising six of the Local Authority Leaders and Board Members of AWM has been established to take Executive responsibility for the overall strategy and investment programme.
- 3.3 The Leader of each Unitary, County and District Council is eligible to attend the LALB and one District Leader now sits on the JSIB. It has recently been agreed that deputies can attend but they must be named. In the case of this Council it is proposed that the substitute is Councillor Les Caborn who is Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.
- 3.4 Work is being undertaken to examine the officer support for these arrangements and especially given that these new arrangements have implications for the staff of the West Midlands Local Government Association. Scrutiny arrangements are also being examined. In both cases a further report will come to the Executive.
- 3.5 Similar work is being considered at the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire sub region.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The proposed new arrangements have been deliberated over quite a long period of time and given the Government's requirements there is now little option.
- 4.2 Substitutes for the LALB need to be able to carry the "political" authority of their Council and so deputy leaders are sought but in the absence in our case of constitutionally a deputy leader, the Deputy Leader of the ruling group seems appropriate.

5 BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 This proposal has no financial consequences.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 This proposal has no policy implications.