

Regional Strategy Working Arrangements and Structures

Update to Stakeholders – February 2010

1. Introduction

As stakeholders will be aware, discussions have been ongoing for some time regarding the working arrangements and governance structures that will be required to support the development, implementation and monitoring of the new Regional Strategy from 1 April 2010.

As the Responsible Regional Authorities (RRAs), the East Midlands Leaders' Board (EMLB) and *emda* have established a Joint Strategy Advisory Board (JSAB) that will support the RRAs in their new joint responsibility for the Regional Strategy. Much of the debate over the past six to nine months has been concerned with the structures that will be required to support the JSAB and the appropriate engagement of stakeholders within these structures.

It is clear that in order for the region to develop and deliver a high quality Regional Strategy, effective engagement and participation of stakeholders is required at all stages of the Strategy's development (including its evidence base), implementation (including joint investment planning) and monitoring.

The approach set out in this paper was agreed by the JSAB at its meeting on 29 January 2010 and we will now start working with stakeholders to implement it.

We believe that that approach builds on the views expressed by stakeholders both directly to us and at the July and November events last year. However, we are aware from recent discussions with stakeholders that there are some outstanding issues around membership, and we will be working with the relevant nominating bodies over the coming weeks to resolve them.

The JSAB has also agreed that a review of the working arrangements should take place in a year's time in order to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and, if necessary, any required changes are made.

2. JSAB Supporting Structures

2.1 Advisory Groups

The Sustainable Development Advisory Group (SusDAG) and the Stakeholder Advisory Group (StAG) will provide an overarching, cross-cutting input to the Strategy development, implementation and monitoring process. They will complement each other, with the SusDAG providing a key opportunity for statutory agency input and the StAG providing a forum for non-statutory stakeholder engagement (across all key stakeholder communities). It is this cross-cutting role that differentiates these Groups from the thematic Working Groups, which will have, by definition, a narrower, thematic or specialist policy role. The Advisory Groups will also have key responsibilities in relation to the statutory requirements for Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment, and the Statement of Community Involvement.

The Terms of Reference for both Advisory Groups are annexed to this paper.

2.2 Thematic Working Groups

It has been widely acknowledged that the breadth and scope of the Regional Strategy will require *emda* and the EMLB to draw upon the knowledge and expertise of partners and stakeholders from the public, private and third sectors across the region. Whilst the Advisory Groups detailed above, will help to look across the breadth of the Strategy, the Joint Strategy Team will need some support that can look at specific policy issues or themes in more depth, hence the requirement for a number of thematic Working Groups.

There will be 4 Working Groups:

- Housing & Regeneration;
- Sustainable Transport;
- Economy & Skills; and
- Environmental Infrastructure.

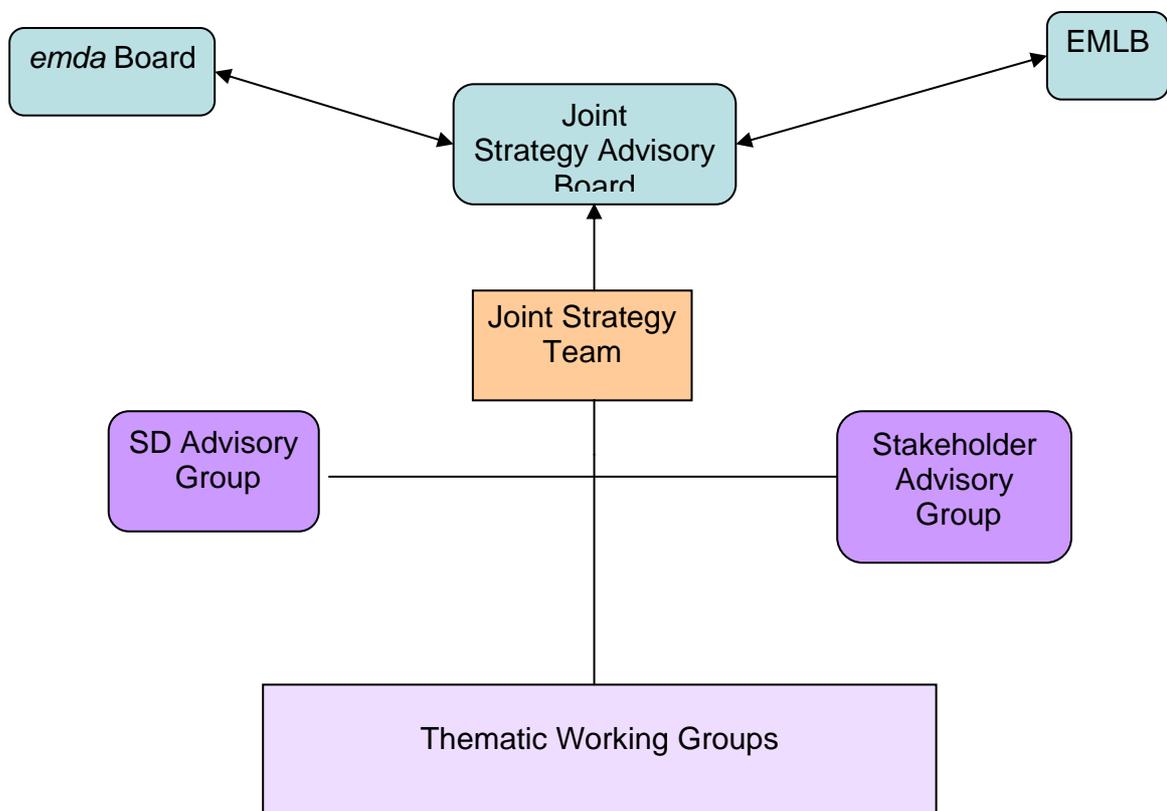
The Working Groups will support the JSAB and the Joint Strategy Team in relation to a number of key thematic areas and will have a range of bespoke functions relevant to their particular policy areas. However, all Working Groups will have the same set of core functions:

- To support the Joint Strategy Team in providing advice and guidance to the JSAB on the role and contribution of (*policy area*) in promoting sustainable economic growth and contributing to sustainable development;

- To provide advice on the evidence base needed to support the development of the RS;
- To provide advice on the development of RS policy (including the analysis of data/evidence and the development of options);
- To provide advice on the development of an RS Implementation and Investment Plan; and
- To review RS monitoring information and provide advice on any action that may be required.

In terms of membership, these Working Groups will be made up of policy and technical specialists, and will therefore not include local authority elected members. Clearly, it is very important that elected members are engaged at an early stage in the policy development process to ensure broad ownership by local government of the final product. As a result, the EMLB is considering the establishment of a small number of 'Member Panels' within the East Midlands Councils (EMC) structure to secure early member engagement on key decisions.

Detailed Terms of Reference and membership proposals for the Working Groups are currently being drafted for consideration by the JSAB at the start of March.



3. Next Steps

We will now move forward with establishing the StAG and SusDAG liaising closely with the identified nominating bodies and individual members. It is anticipated that we will be able to move forward with the establishment of the Working Groups in mid March (following endorsement by the JSAB).

The individual and collective input of stakeholders into this process has been very valuable to us and is much appreciated. We look forward to continuing to work with stakeholders in the same positive manner to ensure that there is a smooth transition to the new arrangements.

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Stakeholder Advisory Group Terms of Reference

1. Advisory Group	Stakeholder Advisory Group (StAG)
2. Chair	To be nominated by the StAG Organisation tbc
3. Lead Contact	tbc Organisation Joint Strategy Team
	Telephone tbc Email tbc

4. Mission

To advise the Joint Strategy Advisory Board (JSAB) from a stakeholder perspective on the development, implementation and monitoring of the East Midlands Regional Strategy, maintaining a focus on how the Regional Strategy can best meet the objectives of sustainable economic growth and sustainable development.

5. Functions

- To advise the JSAB on the development, delivery and ongoing review of the Statement of Community Involvement.
- To consider and contribute to the development of Regional Strategy review projects plans.
- To provide strategic input to the Regional Strategy evidence base and consider policy options, ensuring that both meet the objectives of sustainable economic growth and sustainable development.
- To provide a forum within which relevant issues can be raised with the JSAB.

6. Membership

It is proposed that all members of the StAG should:

- Be representative of key interests from the region;
- Be nominated by a region-wide non-statutory grouping or body by an open and transparent process; and
- Act as representatives rather than delegates but ensure information is disseminated widely within the relevant sectors.

Reflecting the mission and functions of the Stakeholder Advisory Group, and the focus of the Regional Strategy, it is proposed that the majority of members come from three main sectors: business, third sector and environment. It is further proposed that the nomination process for each sector should operate through already established mechanisms: EMBF (Business) One East Midlands and Social Enterprise East Midlands (Third Sector) and East Midlands Environment Link (Environment).

It is not envisaged that statutory agencies with a specified role in the Regional Strategy process should be included in the StAG, as these are national bodies accountable to Government, not the region. However, they would be key members of the Sustainable Development Advisory Group and a number of the Working Groups. In addition, organisations delivering statutory functions (health, housing etc) are not included in the StAG, but will be represented via the Working Groups.

There are, however, a number of other interests that do not fit easily into the three groupings but which have a key stake in the Regional Strategy .e.g trade unions. Provision has therefore been made for a limited number of additional members, to be agreed by the JSAB.

A Chair and Vice Chair of the StAG would be elected by its membership on an annual basis. It is envisaged that the Chair of the StAG would act as the key link to the Joint Strategy Team and the JSAB, as required.

Name	Organisation / Network
1.	Business (EMBF nominee)
2.	Business (EMBF nominee)
3.	Business (EMBF nominee)
4.	Third Sector (ONEEM / SEEM nominee)
5.	Third Sector (ONEEM / SEEM nominee)
6.	Third Sector (ONEEM / SEEM nominee)
7.	Environment (EMEL nominee)
8.	Environment (EMEL nominee)
9.	Environment (EMEL nominee)
10.	Other (Trade Union)
11.	Other (Regional Cultural Partnership)
12.	Other (HE/FE)

Sustainable Development Advisory Group Terms of Reference

1. Group

Sustainable Development Advisory Group (SusDAG)

2. Chair

tbc **Organisation** tbc

3. Lead Contact

tbc **Organisation** Joint Strategy Team

Telephone tbc **Email** tbc

4. Mission

To advise the Joint Strategy Advisory Board (JSAB) on the integration of sustainable development principles in the Regional Strategy development, implementation and monitoring processes.

5. Functions

The Sustainable Development Advisory Group will work closely with the Joint Strategy Team and the Regional Strategy Working Groups in discharging the following functions:

- To advise the JSAB on the integration of sustainable development principles into the Regional Strategy, and on the relationship between sustainable economic growth and sustainable development.
- To act as a reference group for the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the requirements of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, Health and Equality Impact Assessments), and EU Habitats Regulations Assessments, providing strategic and technical advice to the contractors appointed by the Responsible Regional Authorities.
- To advise the JSAB on policy integration across a range of different perspectives, highlighting any areas of conflict and suggesting alternative approaches as appropriate.
- To advise the JSAB on the development of indicators to monitor the sustainable development performance of the Regional Strategy as part of the Annual Monitoring Report process.
- To review RS monitoring information and advise the JSAB on any action that may be required as a result.

6. Sustainable Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

The purpose of the Regional Strategy is to provide a long term strategic framework for the region which delivers the outcome of sustainable economic growth and contributes to sustainable development. To ensure the Regional Strategy focuses on sustainable economic growth and fully embeds sustainable development principles the Sustainable Development Advisory Group will advise the JSAB and support the Working Groups in considering a number of cross cutting issues:

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Development of a low carbon society (including regional carbon reduction targets).
- Social wellbeing, including equalities issues (race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion & belief, rural, socio-economic disadvantage, etc).

7. Membership

The membership of the SusDAG has been informed by the need to reflect the social, economic and environmental issues central to sustainable development. In addition, the membership of the group reflects the need for detailed technical sustainable development capabilities drawn from the statutory, private and third sectors:

	Name	Organisation / Network	Sector
1.		Independent Chair: to be determined	Academic
2.		Natural England	Statutory
3.		Environment Agency	Statutory
4.		English Heritage	Statutory
5.		Highways Agency	Statutory
6.		Homes and Communities Agency	Statutory
7.		NHS East Midlands (Strategic Health Authority)	Statutory
8.		Government Office East Midlands	Statutory
9.		Third Sector: Social (OEM/SEEM nominee)	Third
10.		Third Sector: Environment (EMEL nominee)	Third
11.		Business Sector: (EMBF nominee)	Private
12.		Office of National Statistics	Statutory
13.		East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum	Third
14.		Faiths Forum East Midlands	Third
15.		Sustainable Development Commission	Watchdog
16.		Equalities and Human Rights Commission	Watchdog