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West Midlands Regional Observatory Annual Conference 2009

Ramada Hotel, Penns Lane, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1LH
Tuesday 20th October 2009

“WEST MIDLANDS: Fit for the Future?” Agenda

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| 09:30 | Registration |
| 10:00 | Richard Hyde, Chair of the Observatory’s Partnership Board Welcome |
| 10:05 | Richard Woolhouse, Senior Economist Centre for Cities Currently leading a major project on “Surviving Recession” for Centre for Cities, Richard will give the ‘big picture’ of recession and recovery to start off the day. Amongst other things, he will draw on his experience as a strategist in financial markets for Citibank and Credit Suisse, as well as an economic advisor to the Treasury and Inland Revenue. |
| 10:25 | Rosie Paskins, Chief Executive of the Observatory Rosie will highlight the Observatory’s contribution to the recovery of the region, through providing better evidence to ensure better policy. Rosie will highlight Observatory work over the last year, launching the 2009 State of the Region Synthesis Report, as well as a number of exciting projects going forward. This will include work on recession monitoring, the Integrated Policy Model and the Observatory’s increased role in developing the region’s evidence base. |
| 10:45 | Questions |
| 11:00 | Workshops The workshops will offer delegates opportunity to discuss and debate the issues raised in our book “Fit for the Future” and influence development of the evidence base to inform the Single Regional Strategy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovating out of recession Discussing chapters 7 and 8 of <i>Fit for the Future</i>, with contributions from Cliff Dennett (thoughtengine and book author), Prof. David Bailey (Coventry Business School and book author), Brian MacAulay (Director of Innovation Index, NESTA) and Simon Topman (Chair of the West Midlands’ Chambers of Commerce). 2. Re-engaging communities in the new economy Discussing chapters 6 and 10 of <i>Fit for the Future</i> and what needs to be done to ensure everyone emerges from the recession together, with contributions from John Lee (Government Office WM) and Tim Warner (Jericho Foundation). 3. Skills for the emerging economy Discussing chapter 5 of <i>Fit for the Future</i>, with contributions from Pat Jackson (Director of Skills, Advantage West Midlands) and Mike Beasley (Chair of the Regional Skills Partnership and book author). 4. Environment & Economy Discussing chapters 4 and 9 of <i>Fit for the Future</i>, plus an additional chapter on ‘Green Infrastructure’, with contributions from Bill Heslegrave (Regional Director, Forestry Commission) and Dr. Simon Slater (Chief Executive, Sustainability West Midlands). 5. Regional drivers for the future Discussing chapters 1, 2 and 3 of <i>Fit for the Future</i>, with contributions from Trevor Cornfoot (Deputy Director for the Sub National Review) and Gill Bentley (Birmingham University) / Chris Upton (Newman University College and book author) |
| 12:30 | Lunch |

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| 13:15 | Richard Hyde, Chair of the Observatory's Partnership Board Welcome back |
| 13:20 | Daniel Gidney, Chief Executive of the Ricoh Arena Daniel will give a more local perspective to economic recovery, based on his experiences in Coventry. As one of the region's business leaders, he will focus on issues including skills, culture and tourism (including the Olympic legacy). |
| 13:35 | Sir Roy McNulty and Cllr Roger Phillips (Joint Chairs of the Shadow West Midlands Joint Strategy & Investment Board) As Joint Chairs of the JS&IB, Sir Roy McNulty and Cllr Roger Phillips will make the link to the forthcoming regional strategy and how the evidence base to support it will be developed. |
| 14:05 | Questions |
| 14:15 | Workshops <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Innovating out of recession2. Re-engaging communities in the new economy3. Skills for the emerging economy4. Environment & Economy5. Regional drivers for the future |
| 15:45 | Closing plenary question panel An opportunity for questions generated throughout the day to be put to a panel of experts, including authors from the "Fit for the Future" book. Panel includes: Dr. Chris Upton (Newman University College and book author), Prof. David Bailey (Coventry Business School and book author), Revd. Colin Marsh (Regional Action WM Board member and West Midlands Region Churches Forum), Zahid Nawaz (Equality & Human Rights Commission) and Julie Robson (Learning & Skills Council), Mike Grace (Natural England). |
| 16:30 | Close |