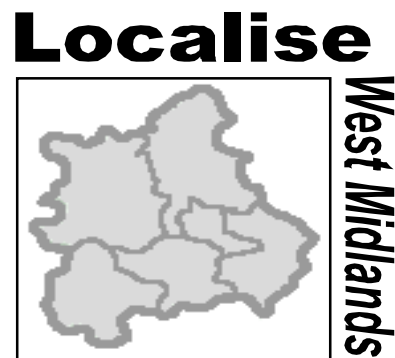


Localise West Midlands

Annual Report Part 1

April 2010 - March 2011



Local economic solutions for sustainability

Localise West Midlands

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Introduction

LWM is a regional not-for-profit think-tank, campaign group and consultancy which aims to promote the social, environmental and economic benefits of local trade, money flows and decision making. We work by researching, supporting and encouraging examples demonstrating the benefits of local sourcing and local money flows and the replication of effective localisation 'pilots' so that they can become mainstream.

Mission Statement

Localise West Midlands is a not-for-profit organisation which exists to promote the environmental, social and economic benefits of:

- Local trading, using local businesses, materials and supply chains
- Linking local needs to local resources
- Development of community and local capacity
- Decentralisation of appropriate democratic and economic power
- Provision of services tailored to meet local needs.

This localisation approach makes economic development and government systems more sensitive to local autonomy, culture, well-being and the responsible use of finite resources, and is growing in popularity with people and organisations all over the world.

Localisation helps build social capital, targets regeneration to meet local needs, maximises local job creation, and reduces transport and CO2 emissions.

To promote this approach across the region LWM will:

- Bring people together with a common interest in localisation
- Provide and publicise information, ideas and examples of good practice
- Facilitate or undertake demonstration projects
- Provide consultancy and other support to groups who are developing localist approaches
- Create supportive networks for localist action
- Challenge the barriers to localisation
- Link with similar projects outside the region and worldwide.

Background

LWM was set up in 2002 by a group of individuals keen to propose solutions as a constructive response to the problems of recent economics.

Our West Midlands focus is intended to make use the region's geographical balance of urban and rural. We also look beyond the region, seeking to catalyse ideas across the UK and to make links with the many organisations all over the world working on a similar agenda

Activities – April 2010 to March 2011

1. Projects and consultancy work

Solving fuel poverty – opportunities from Green Deal and localisation

This year saw the bulk of our research project on using feed-in tariffs and pay as you save schemes to tackle fuel poverty. This was funded by Scottish Power Energy People Trust and undertaken by Phil Beardmore and Jon Morris, informed in part by their work on Birmingham Energy Savers. Since the year end the research report has been promoted and is being launched at our 2011 AGM on 11th October.

The government's Green Deal scheme is more than a golden opportunity to achieve our carbon emissions reduction targets; it could make the difference between a cold, damp, unhealthy home and a warm, affordable home that enhances quality of life. Yet there are serious doubts about whether Green Deal will work for the fuel-poor. This project was to research the pitfalls and the potentials of Green Deal to solve fuel poverty.

How the Green Deal solves fuel poverty is a matter of justice as well as public interest. The funding for subsidising the Green Deal and related programmes to promote renewable energy is to be from charges on energy bills. These charges will take a disproportionately large part of the income of the fuel-poor. If the fuel poor do not benefit to an equivalently high level from these schemes they will be worse off.

The 'Golden Rule' for Green Deal interventions is that work can be paid for by the savings made on fuel bills. The risk of getting this wrong is much more serious for those in fuel poverty – hence the need for more rigorous household assessment.

Fundamental problems specifically around fuel poverty identified in the report include accuracy of assessment to ensure measures will help and will work financially for poorer occupiers; the inadequacy of 'one size fits all' approaches, and issues of lack of trust.

A range of more complex recommendations can be found in the report for resolving these problems so that the Green Deal can help solve rather than exacerbate fuel poverty and economic injustice.



The report can be found on our website

http://localisewestmidlands.org.uk/activities/fuelpoverty_greendeal/

Sustainability & Resilience for Herefordshire

LWM associate Jon Stevens and coordinator Karen Leach worked with organisations in Herefordshire wanting to influence their local plan (Core Strategy) towards sustainability.

We collaborated with Herefordshire Friends of the Earth, Herefordshire in Transition, New Leaf, Hereford Civic Society and Cycle Hereford to organise a training workshop, Sustainability & Resilience for Herefordshire, held on 12th February 2011 with funding from Lush Charity Pot.

Over 60 participants from different groups learned from the Town & Country Planning Association's Hugh Ellis about both the planning system and sustainability policy,



shared knowledge of the major local issues, and worked together on challenging the evidence base and producing policy recommendations for the draft plan on energy, housing, transport, environmental limits and neighbourhood planning.

Feedback was very good, and an enthusiastic group has emerged with a sense of the challenges posed by the new planning system and an appetite to deal with them. This group continues to work together and met again in summer to discuss low impact housing and a planning system that can support it. Meanwhile LWM has used some of the lessons from the event in its wider work on planning. The Herefordshire project has a website at <http://sureherefordshire.wordpress.com>

Extending Localisation

In autumn 2010 we published our Extending Localisation reports on food and retail and an extra section on football finance which was aired on local radio. These can be found on our website. Work on these had started before the election and the policy environment for our recommendations changed considerably around the time of publication. But the reports remain a relevant resource on learning from regional good practice in localising supply chains for sustainability.

Prosperity and Inflation agenda

In July 2010, AWRT granted us £4,800 for work on our campaign to change the way inflation was measured and addressed in the UK. Andrew Lydon led on this project.

Since 2006 we have been closely following the national statistics that had been telling us how we had been enjoying the most sustained boom since the Napoleonic wars. Even then we noticed that it was more like an inflationary bubble because of the way we in the UK under-measure inflation. We began to press the authorities to start measuring it properly, as well as how it differently impacts on different parts of the country and strata of society.

At the end of 2010 the Statistics Authority has now told the Office of National Statistics that they must develop an official position on regional inflation indices and undertake a proper consultation on whether to produce indices based on one or more specific household type; which means that one campaign objective has been achieved. However, in 2011 this has not been progressing very fast.

As part of this funded work we have been regularly producing an Inflation Report as an 'alternative' to the one produced by the Bank of England. These reports which appear on our blog have ended up becoming regular and systematic critiques of the bank which is one of the least accountable in the world and otherwise largely deferred to in the British media. Our reaction to the Authority's decision can be found on one of those regular blogs (<http://s.coop/8qg>), and another significant report on the importance of inflation in the UK and global economies can be found at <http://s.coop/8px>.

During an earlier stage in this project we produced some material for arguing for the Bank of England to become more accountable to the nations and regions of the country. As the Bank of England becomes more clearly responsible for important parts of our current economic failure we hope to look for opportunities to take forward this project as well as take our lobbying on the inflation indices.

Castle Vale Community Asset Transfer

During the last year, LWM has been employed by Castle Vale Neighbourhood Partnership to assess the implications and feasibility of transferring the assets and services of Castle Vale's sporting and leisure facilities – Castle Swimming Pool, Vale Stadium and Playing Fields and Farnborough Conservation Area – to community ownership and control. Following an initial Scoping Study, a Feasibility Study and Business Plan was commissioned; and since the year end LWM has been assisting with negotiations with Birmingham City Council and with the selection of a transfer body. Jon Stevens has led on this work, supported by Tim Render and Jon Morris, and with inputs from Karen Leach and Chris Williams.

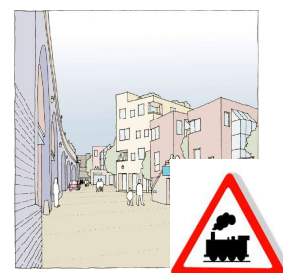
Birmingham Energy Savers

As Birmingham Energy Savers – Birmingham's retrofitting project based on a model designed by LWM and Encraft - has progressed, LWM have maintained a small degree of involvement as consultants in shaping its delivery. This has consisted of Phil Beardmore working with Alison Millwards associates on an evaluation of phase 1, and undertaking a consultation exercise with the third sector.

Phase 3 – which is the phase that scales up the project with an eventual aim to retrofit up to 200 000 properties in total if refinancing is successful - is currently out to tender, and LWM hopes that contractual arrangements are tight enough to ensure that local benefits can be maximised in terms of job creation and local multiplier as well as following the recommendations of our work on fuel poverty and green deal as much as possible.

Digbeth Community Land Trust

Over the year LWM have continued working in partnership with Accord Housing, Birmingham FOE and others to develop a sustainable housing and workspace development under a Community Land Trust structure on vacant land next to the Birmingham Friends of the Earth Warehouse. Accord and LWM's Jon Morris developed a CLT model that incorporated a mutual home ownership element. In July 2010 we met with potential residents in Jul 2010 to test some of the assumptions in the model around costings and control, which received positive feedback with some caution over affordability of rent.



The scheme has now been derailed by High Speed 2 proposals. The site in close proximity to the proposed HS2 terminal and could therefore be 'blighted' for a decade by the potential for other uses if HS2 goes ahead. Meanwhile the Council has indicated an intention to only provide social housing through its own Trust, and Accord have concluded given the difficult circumstances they have no further resources for the project.

We still hope to be able to progress the Digbeth CLT which fitted in so well with the ethos of the neighbouring Warehouse and with the fine grain of the area, and LWM and its partners are all keen to see the model we have developed for an urban CLT progress, so we are investigating other sites in the conurbation in tandem. We are also organising a CLT training day on 19th October with the CLT network.

We were enabled in the Digbeth CLT project by funding from the Tudor Trust.

LWM and its partner organisations was pleased to be presented with a “**Making Birmingham Green Community Recognition Award**”, celebrating the work of members of community groups and voluntary organisations who have helped Birmingham achieve its carbon reduction targets.



This award – to LWM, Accord Housing Association, Birmingham Co-operative Housing Services, Joe Holyoak Architect & urban designer for our work on community land trusts in the city - was presented at the Council Chamber by Transition man Rob Hopkins who also gave a talk on low carbon community activity and transition projects.

Environmental management systems

Towards the end of the year associates Phil Beardmore and Rajeev Prakash undertook training to help businesses and other organisations get accreditation in environmental management – ISO14001. This has now become part of our consultancy offer in helping strengthen the role of small organisations in the economy. The accreditation is often useful in procurement processes as it demonstrates that a certain standard has been reached in environmental management, and so helps businesses to win contracts.

The standard is designed to address the delicate balance between improving profitability and reducing environmental impact. We are hoping to promote this service around the region and have set up a ‘sister’ website for it at <http://lwm-ems.co.uk/>.

Managing Environmental Change in the Rural Urban Fringe

During the year LWM has been a partner in an **interdisciplinary research** project with Birmingham City University (BCU) addressing the need for improved management of the rural-urban fringe. The project is funded by the UK Research Councils’ Rural Economy and Land Use Programme as part of their environmental change agenda.

Led by Dr Alister Scott, the project sits within the newly formed **Centre for Environment and Social Research at BCU**. Chris Crean and Karen Leach have been the LWM contributors. The project takes as its starting point that although the space where town meets country is often amongst the most valued for conservation, recreation and development activities, it is not managed in an effective and integrated manner that takes into account the values and conflicts that result from the different urban and rural pressures. The research is therefore intended to explore the current and changing nature of the rural-urban fringe from a rural as well as an urban perspective, and how change can be managed successfully amid inevitable diversity, conflict and transition.

LWM has a keen interest in policy for the conflicts and synergies between rural and urban areas in the region and has been contributing ideas around the potential for small-scale diverse, distributed economic networks in this fringe area to the RELU project.

LWM held one of four discussion meetings organised by project partners. Ours was a fruitful discussion to identify how a localisation approach can be supported to further sustainable development in the RUF. This expanded on LWM's previous thinking on 'gap analysis', looking at the infrastructure required to meet a known local demand with a known local resource.

We also attended two of the other RELU events: a Rural Affairs Forum workshop and a Be Birmingham conference – "Bridging the rural/urban divide with green economic opportunities for Birmingham & our Local Enterprise Partners" which produced some sound recommendations for cross-boundary economic development appropriate for maximising the resources and character of the RUF, including energy, food and waste schemes. Throughout we have been contributing to the project's papers and discussion. The project finishes in early 2012.



Aston University Lifelong Learning Centre – sustainable development modules

During the previous year LWM had developed two modules – on local food and engaging communities in climate change - with Aston University's Lifelong Learning centre as part of a series of modules on different aspects of sustainable development. We launched these at an event at the Eastside Cafe in Digbeth.

Both modules were part of a series offered by the centre's Sustainable Communities, Urban Regeneration and Environmental Technologies consortium, designed to supply many of the skills and knowledge needed for today's and tomorrow's economy.

Practical Strategies for Local Food (in partnership with [Sense City](#)) aims to develop understanding of local food socially, environmentally and economically and to consider practical and policy-based solutions for a more sustainable food supply. The course will equip students to make better-informed decisions relating to food across a range of sectors and levels of influence, from government to local policy to our own day-to-day choices.

Engaging Communities in Climate Change was developed by climate change specialist Phil Beardmore and aimed to develop students' understanding of how community action can engage greater numbers of people in carbon reduction activity, as well as contributing to wider economic and social renewal. Students will learn good practice in engaging communities on climate change and explore the relationship between social justice and climate change, preparing participants to engage neighbourhoods in practical activity.

LWM working with Sense City, delivered the first module for Aston University over the Spring and Summer this year. The course was run in Bristol as most of the students were from the South West region, so it was more efficient for the tutor to go to the students. Six students enrolled on the course, who came from a range of backgrounds, but mostly from the food sector, either working strategically for Local Authorities or for food marketing

companies. There was one student who was Sustainability Officer for a well-known construction company (who was looking for a career change!), who hoped to incorporate food system knowledge into their company sustainability policy. Another student was the Head of Food & Hospitality for the University of Bristol who was keen to develop a local food policy as part of her role of food procurement for the University. They all enjoyed the course but felt the course was fulfilling a knowledge gap, rather than looking for a qualification as such.



The department at Aston University which was responsible for the modules has now been closed, but there may be plans to offer the modules through a different department, and both Sense City and LWM are interested in delivering versions of the modules in the future - we have recently had expressions of interest in the climate module. More information on both modules can be found on our website.

2. Promotion, networking, policy and organisational development

Thanks to informal secondment of a Future Jobs Fund employee from our landlords Birmingham Friends of the Earth, our redesigned website went live during the year. It now incorporates our blog and is easier for a number of contributors to update. We have also maintained an active twitter presence.

Over the year we have given a number of talks on localisation issues: our AGM event 2010 was held on the theme “Big Society vs. Big Economics: Can we really have localism without decentralising economic power?” Keynote speaker was Sarah Longlands of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies. Talks have also been given to Erdington Townswomens Guild talk on local food in April 2010, the Green Economics Institute Summit in July 2010, an event on regeneration partnership in West Bromwich in October 2010, a West Midlands European Network sustainability workshop in Coventry in November 2010 on the subject of environmental justice, a repeat event in Shrewsbury in February 2011, a Dudley event on the Big Society agenda in November 2010, and a social event of the Lib-Dems Hall Green Constituency branch in March 2011.

Early in 2011 LWM examined the original West Midlands LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) proposals to see to what extent LEPs have aspirations or practical action to support local economic renewal, progressive sustainable local economic development and local multiplier generating enterprise, compared LEP approaches and then made recommendations for encouraging this aspect of LEP activity.

Local Enterprise Partnerships’ purpose is to ‘help strengthen local economies’ and facilitate ‘local economic renewal’ and our report emphasised that

this must include addressing our status as one of the most centralised economies in Europe, generating local economic renewal based around the people and resource flows of functional economic geographies, and supporting decentralisation by ‘empowering



communities to do things their way' and by "strengthening accountability to local people' as outlined in the Localism Bill.

The report focused only on proposals in order to provide a baseline from which LEPs can develop better strategies to genuinely increase economic diversity and the local multiplier, maximise local resources and build thriving local supply chains, as part of a progressive, future-proofed approach to our economy. The report was well received by organisations working with LEPs including Sustainability West Midlands who have referred to it in their work with LEPs and featured in New Start magazine, now under the authorship of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies. We are hoping to find resources to work further on this agenda in the current year.

LWM has continued during the year to address other aspects of the government's Localism agenda, particularly in terms of the planning agenda. We wrote an article for New Start magazine's Localism Bill issue and have contributed to discussions and papers led by Planners Network UK and Friends of the Earth on the links between planning, devolved power and strong local economies, as well as responding to the first National Planning Policy Framework consultation. Jon Stevens ran a workshop at Chamberlain Forum's Resident University in Birmingham on neighbourhood planning, its potential and its pitfalls in spring 2011. LWM continued during the year to participate in the West Midlands Regional Sustainability Forum, the network of sustainability-focused groups working on regional policy.

We also co-authored an article "The credit crisis: a golden opportunity to extend localisation and stimulate genuinely sustainable local economic development" with Julian Lamb of Birmingham City University. This was published some months later in the International Journal of Green Economics, Vol 5, 2011.

Following on from work to develop our consultancy activities in the previous year, a meeting was held with associates in January 2010 to develop ways of working and localisation approaches tailored to likely clients. After this work has continued to 'fine tune' and promote our consultancy offer.

We had also intended to develop a furniture reuse project associated with a household recycling centre (tip) in Birmingham or elsewhere in the conurbation, both to encourage local reuse of resources and to cross-subsidise our other activities. Partly as a result of our activities a pilot project was developed at the Sutton Coldfield tip site in Birmingham, which the well-respected Jericho Foundation are aiming to run. However in the meantime we have found the financial and policy environment is not conducive to new projects and LWM is no longer prioritising this work.

3. Future work and strategy

Combining our consultancy and project activity we have a number of proposals at idea stage or further developed to continue to influence practice and policy towards sustainable development using the tools of localisation, both generically and on specific economic sectors and governance structures. This will include:

- making the case for sustainable development in the localism bill and other planning/policy changes, including proposals from the Sustainable Communities Act process;

working with partners such as Futures Network West Midlands, Planners' Network UK and West Midlands Regional Sustainability Forum.

- using our research analysing Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) against localisation indicators to influence economic development towards local resource use, supply chains and diversity.
- developing workshops and tools on localisation, for use at community, policy/local authority level and with students, aiming for clear communication of sustainable development and how localisation can support it.
- hold events to raise debate on Fair Deal for UK Farmers, measuring economic success, and supermarkets as regeneration.
- continue communicating more effectively using visual and social media, and national networks.
- identifying other localisation-focused organisations worldwide to raise the collective international profile of localised economics in a small way.
- building on our work on Green Deal and fuel poverty, (e.g designing the Birmingham model), to promote approaches that address fuel poverty, community-scale economics and job creation from such schemes and sustainable asset transfer, and promoting these at policy and community levels.

We are also working on a research proposal around 'new era' localised and redistributive economics. In a more diverse and localised economy, more people have more of a stake, which redistributes economic power, reducing disconnection, disadvantage and inequality. It can also reduce society's vulnerability – locally and nationally - to private institutions that are 'too big to fail'; and forms an essential component of localism in the sense of local decision-making.

Most research addressing this tend to deal with the development of micro-projects, and treat community economic development as marginal to the mainstream. Rather than this approach we want to explore, using case study areas and examples we know within the West Midlands, how the 'micro' level economy must relate to the 'macro', and to the actions and policies of economic actors in the public, private and social enterprise sectors which can play a major role in reconnecting and stabilising the economy. We are currently seeking funding for this timely piece of work.

In the wider picture there are clearly implications for LWM's work – as for all of us – in the current economic crises and the collapse of the credit driven economy. The opportunity exists to promote the development of strong localised economies and making new local connections between producers and consumers – local examples benefitting local people but also aggregating across the world into a significant global solution.

Our overarching objectives for 2011-12 remain as follows:

- Promote the whole picture of localisation across and beyond the region
- Develop expertise, evidence and influence on specific localisation issues
- Engage with regional/local policy to bring a localisation perspective
- Develop the organisation to increase our capacity and efficiency to deliver the above.

People

Members of LWM's Board

Over the year the following have been Board members of Localise West Midlands and active participants in the organisation:

Hannah Worth (Chair)

Hannah is a co-founder and associate of the Chamberlain Forum, a neighbourhood think-and-do tank based in Birmingham. She first came to LWM as a volunteer after completing a Masters in Global Ethics. She moved on to manage Birmingham Community Empowerment Network, facilitating community networks that aim to involve people more effectively in local decision making.

George Morran (vice chair)

Currently Secretary of the Campaign for the English Regions and the West Midlands Constitutional Convention. Formerly Senior Research Associate at Aston and Warwick University Business Schools, Director of the West Midlands Regional Forum of Local Authorities, the West Midlands Regional Economic Consortium and Assistant Chief Executive of Dudley MBC.

Jackie Milton (Treasurer)

Jackie has run her own accounting practice for the last eight years, with a special interest in community projects and new business start-ups. She is also a Trustee of the Cwm Harry Land Trust and involved in Lightfoot Enterprises CIC (Household Energy Services), and was formerly a Trustee of Fordhall Farm Community Land Initiative.

Chris Crean

Friends of the Earth's Regional Campaigns Coordinator for the West Midlands. Chris has been involved with Friends of the Earth (FOE) for over twelve years, initially as a campaigner on air pollution and transport in Birmingham and the West Midlands. He also worked for an environmental consultancy on contaminated land and industrial water issues. Chris's responsibilities include developing regional policy, a major strand of which is to develop a solutions approach - one strand of which will be a localisation of the regional economy.

Colin Hines

Founder of the Green New Deal group, author of 'Localization- A Global Manifesto' (Earthscan) and an associate of the International Forum on Globalisation, a San Francisco based alliance of activists, academics and economists developing alternatives to globalisation and free trade. Before that he was the Co-ordinator of Greenpeace International's Economics Unit having worked for the organisation for 10 years.

Andrew Lydon

Andrew Lydon was initially involved in the Labour Party, where he developed his interest in decentralisation and economic development in drafting parts of their Birmingham Council manifesto. Since 1992, when he left Labour, he has been involved in the politics of the regions as a spokesman for the West Midlands New Economics Group and later for Birmingham NHS Concern. Andrew leads the Prosperity and Inflation campaign for LWM.

Jon Morris

(Also LWM associate) Currently housing, planning and regeneration consultant. Former Director of Coventry New Deal for Communities, Chair of Royal Town Planning Institute Housing Panel, Extensive experience in the fields of housing, planning and regeneration, as a practitioner, researcher and lecturer. Jon has also been a member of a number of ministerial advisory groups and an expert witness to the House of Commons Environment Select Committee.

Phil Beardmore

(Also LWM associate) Phil is an environmental and third sector consultant specialising in community action on climate change. He established the Birmingham Sustainable Energy Partnership in 2003 and is still involved in its successor, the Birmingham Carbon Reduction Partnership. Phil led Groundwork's climate change work in the region between 2003 and 2010. He is actively involved in the housing co-operative movement and leads on the Greener Together project which aims to promote greener living among housing co-op members. Phil was recently voted one of the Top 50 Green Leaders in the West Midlands.

Jon Stevens

(Also LWM associate) Jon has worked in the field of community housing and neighbourhood regeneration for almost 40 years. Initially he trained as an architect and went on to work on community action in various posts over this period including Director of Birmingham Cooperative Housing Services (bchs), Community Development Worker for Birmingham Inner Area Study, Organiser of Community Forum in Birmingham, Senior Urban Renewal Officer for Walsall MBC, Neighbourhood Office Coordinator for Birmingham CC, and Tenant and Association Support Manager for the Housing Corporation.

Additional steering group members and associates

The following have been actively involved in LWM's steering group over the year and attend and contribute to our Board meetings, or act as associates for LWM's consultancy activities – or both.

Barbara Panvel

(Steering group) Barbara has brought together different people, organisations and ideas on localisation during her work in both Mumbai and Birmingham, coordinates information flows on the Fair Deal for UK Farmers campaign, and has been involved in LWM since our earliest discussions.

Philip Davis

(Steering group) Phil represents transport consumers nationally and regionally and has extensive public policy experience, consumer and community engagement. A former trade union officer who specialised in lay advocacy and tribunals, he has more recently been a local authority Leader and a voluntary sector CEO. He is now a non-executive director of a number of public and community bodies, including chair of the West Midlands Constitutional Convention.

Max Krafchik

(Steering group) Max Krafchik is a partner in a small consultancy firm with a background in public sector children and young people's services, social policy and local employment projects in the West Midlands. He was keen to contribute on a voluntary basis in the region and has taken on a board/coordinator liaison role for LWM

Pat Conaty

(Steering group, associate) Pat Conaty is a Research Associate of the New Economics Foundation. He has produced a number of recent policy reports on local community banking, rural regeneration and community land trusts, micro-credit for small business, and affordable housing finance for low income homeowners with disrepair problems. He was formerly the Development Director of Birmingham Settlement, an inner city voluntary organisation.

Paul Cobbing

Paul has worked for the last 30 years on environmental issues, from operational land management to policy development and implementation across climate change and the natural environment. As an environmental consultant based in the West Midlands, recent work has included a Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for Birmingham and business planning for the National Flood Forum. He has experience of developing and supporting sustainable development, climate change and environmental networks across the West Midlands, and working with them to progress strategic action. He is convenor of the West Midlands section of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

Rosemary Coyne

(Steering group, associate) Rosemary is a chartered Landscape Architect with extensive all-sector experience in physical and community regeneration and sustainable development including the water and waste industries and construction. She has technical policy and practice expertise and has contributed to production of draft planning policy on a range of issues for Birmingham City Council and other local authorities, and led consultation exercises on sustainability and climate change issues with individuals, community groups and 'leadership' groups. She has worked across the UK as well as living and working overseas including South America, India and Africa.

Rajeev Prakash

(Steering group and associate) Rajeev Prakash has a background in programme and project management – gained through leading multi-agency partnerships and of successfully delivering major regeneration programmes. Rajeev has experience of strategic finance and budget management at the most senior level and he has particular expertise of efficiency and effectiveness reviews, strategy planning and implementation, evaluation and change management. He trained as a town planner, and is a Corporate Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Rosemary Foggitt

(Associate) Rosemary is a qualified solicitor with public and private sector experience. She has conducted a wide range of social policy research in the third and public sectors. Her research experience includes community and small business finance (new economics foundation, Institut für Finanzdienstleistungen), capacity building (London Rebuilding Society), Community Land Trusts (CDS Cooperatives, University of Salford and Housing Corporation). As a member of the LWM team of associates, she worked extensively in the area of sustainable procurement (Be Birmingham – Sustainable Procurement Compact), and subsequently in the Welsh context of food procurement (Powys County Council – community meals service).

Tim Render

(Associate) Tim has significant experience in managing major services and resources as Strategic Finance Director at Nottingham CC and previously as Head of Corporate Finance at Birmingham CC. He also has wide ranging experience in a variety of settings of successfully managing and developing strategies including a Building Schools for the Future programme, community economic regeneration (NDC, SRB, City Challenge), as well as major change projects. He is now active as a non-executive director of a number of public / private partnership companies and as an independent member of a police authority. He is a trustee of several advice and housing charities, and is a governor of a secondary school, an academy and chairs an FE college board.

Staff and others

Coordinator

Karen was involved in setting up LWM, and has been employed as LWM Coordinator since October 2002 , reporting to the Board on its strategy, activities and systems as well as undertaking projects. She previously created the role of Campaigns Support Worker with Birmingham Friends of the Earth, and within this role developed interests in planning, trade and local food. She is also on Birmingham FOE's Management Committee, responsible for the running of community environmental building The Warehouse in Digbeth.

Others

We have had the benefit of working with two placement students from Birmingham University via Regen WM's undergraduate geography placement scheme during the year: Sam Leuty-Milner worked on the Fuel Poverty and Green Deal project, and Peter Baxter worked on the LEPS & Localisation report. Both were a great help to us and we wish them all the best in the future.

We are also grateful to Andrew Jolly of CoSec Ltd for kindly administering our payroll during the year.

If you are interested in getting involved with the work of LWM, as part of the Board, an associate, or more informally, please contact [Karen Leach](#) to discuss this further.

Funding Report

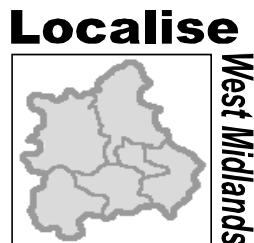
Localise West Midlands gratefully acknowledges financial support for project or core activities during 2009-10 from:

Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation
Tudor Trust
Greening the North
Lush Charity Pot
Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust
Scottish Power Energy People Trust

We are also grateful for the opportunity to have worked with:

Aston University
Birmingham City University
Castle Vale Community Regeneration Services
Centre for Local Economic Strategies
Sustainability West Midlands
Herefordshire New Leaf, Herefordshire Friends of the Earth, Herefordshire In
Transition Alliance, Cycle Hereford, Town & Country Planning Association
Birmingham City Council
Planners Network UK
Sense City (Jayne Bradley)
West Midlands European Network

The final accounts for 2010-11 can be found in Part 2 of the LWM annual report.



Local Economic Solutions for Sustainability

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