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REAPPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF ADVANTAGE WEST MIDLANDS

Pat McFadden, Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs, today announced the reappointment of Brendan Connor to the Board of Advantage West Midlands.

Pat McFadden said:

"I am pleased to be reappointing Brendan Connor to the Board of Advantage West Midlands. His experience and leadership is extremely important during these difficult economic times.

"The RDA's work providing real help for families in the west Midlands and the businesses on which they depend for their jobs has never been more vital. They are on the frontline of our response to the global downturn and must make the right interventions and investments to help us emerge stronger."

Nick Paul, the Chair of Advantage West Midlands said:

"I am delighted that Brendan Connor will continue as a Board member for Advantage West Midlands for a further three years. His skills and knowledge of low carbon technologies and environmental matters in particular have been, and will continue to be, of great value to the Board".

Notes to Editors

- 1** Regional Development Agency Board posts attract a remuneration of £8,538 per year for a time commitment of a minimum of 2 days per month.
- 2** The reappointment is for a further three years.
- 3** RDAs are business-led organisations, and provide strategic leadership to promote and co-ordinate economic growth and development, enterprise and regeneration, tackling economic differences within their regions as well as driving up the performance of the regions as a whole.

RDAs and Local Authorities, through the new Leaders' Boards, will have joint responsibility for developing and delivering new regional strategies, which integrate the current Regional Economic and Regional Spatial strategies.

New guidance for the single regional strategy will be issued later this year and will be an opportunity to set out a clear national framework for how RDAs, with regional and local partners, will work together to deliver sustainable regional economic growth.

4 The original appointment was made following open competition in accordance with the requirements set down in the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice. All appointments are made on merit and political affiliation plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if any declared) to be made public.

5 Brendan Connor is Chairman of CENEX, the Centre of Excellence for Low Carbon and Fuel Cell Technology, based at Loughborough University.

Educated at Leeds and Bradford Universities, Brendan later served in the Royal Navy before holding civil service appointments in UKAEA and ACAS and then joining the Engineering Employers Federation.

He joined Lucas Aerospace in Solihull as Personnel Director in 1987 before joining TRW as Managing Director of the Electric Steering Division. In 2001 he was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Cosworth Racing in Northampton.

Brendan is Chairman of Governors of the Coventry School Foundation, Trustee of the Royal Air Force Museum, an Independent Member of the West Midlands Police Authority, a non-executive Director of Coventry and Warwickshire Hospitals NHS Trust and a Non-Executive Director of Motorsport Development UK.

6 Within the last five years, Brendan Connor has not undertaken any political activities.

7 Brendan Connor holds ministerial public appointments at West Midlands Police Authority for which he receives £10,499.00, University Hospital of Coventry and Warwick for which he receives £5,406.00 and The RAF Museum where he receives no remuneration.

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