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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **New chair of top local government efficiency body**

The new Chair of the Chief Executives' Task Force, the body that provides strategic direction to the nine Regional Centres of Excellence, is Rob Sykes, the Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Council.

Mr Sykes takes up the helm of the Task Force following the appointment of Tim Byles, the former Chair, as the Chief Executive of Partnerships for Schools, the company delivering the government's Building Schools for the Future programme.

He said, "I will ensure the Task Force continues to provide first class leadership to the regional centres and to the wider local government community. We must focus our efforts on real outcomes that meet the needs of the authorities we serve.

"I think we're entering into an exciting period for local government efficiency. The truly transformational gains in the future will come from effective partnership working right across the public sector agencies."

Worcestershire County Council hosts the West Midlands RCE and Mr Sykes chairs the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership which operates under the umbrella of the West Midlands Local Government Association. It provides direction and co-ordination to the work of the RCE, West Midlands Connects and the regional Capacity Building Fund.

**More...**

## **New Chair continued...**

Mr Byles, who has been Chair of the Task Force since its inception in 2004, said, "I'm confident that I'm leaving local government in a much fitter position to deliver the efficiency and modernisation challenges that lie ahead. I have been privileged to chair the Task Force and I would like to pay tribute to the many people who have worked so tirelessly and ably to make the Task Force the success that it is.

"I wish to congratulate Rob on his appointment who will, I'm sure, provide first-rate leadership to the Task Force and the wider local government community."

## **Note to editors**

1. A photograph of Rob Sykes is attached.
2. The nine Regional Centres of Excellence are the lead change agents for local government efficiency. Uniquely placed to bring councils together, they are run by local government, bring additional capacity and are results focussed. They are supporting councils to secure millions of pounds in efficiencies that are being re-invested in better front-line services.

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