



## Role and Structure

The EMBF NW is the key policy advisory and strategic body responsible for the development of sustainable BME business in the North West region and has the overarching responsibility for shaping, challenging and informing regional economic and enterprise policy development and practice. The EMBF NW provides strategic leadership and strategic policy advice to key regional decision makers and stakeholders in order to empower Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) businesses to maximise their full potential for the benefit of the region's economy.

EMBF NW strategic partners and stakeholders are NWDA, Business Link Northwest, Learning & Skills Council and UK Trade & Investment. EMBF NW comprises a number of voluntary board members whose task it is to drive policy making activities and ensure good governance. In this role, the board provides the EMBF NW's interface with key strategic partners at national and regional level.

The EMBF NW board draws upon the expertise of individuals who have a wealth of experience from the private and public sector in BME business issues. The EMBF NW has strong, direct links to the BME business community through its board members and delivery partners. Its thinking and policy development will continue to be shaped and informed by a close affinity to grass roots BME



BME Enterprise for Growth Conference & BEEAM Awards, Croydon Town Hall Tuesday 31st July 2007

Aim: To review the challenges faced by BME Enterprise and organisations and how to learn from some of the positive initiatives and actions; which has assisted BME Enterprise to grow and develop; thereby contributing to the economy over the past 20 years.

To increase awareness of key regional and national initiatives which will impact on Ethnic Minority Businesses and enterprise growth in the future, we will review LEGI, Train to Gain Programmes, Access to Finance and working in partnership for engagement of BME Employers and Enterprise.

The 2012 Olympics will have a fundamental impact on the UK business sectors who wish to benefit from the contract opportunities over the next 4 to 5 years. An estimated 10 billion pounds will be spent to make sure the Olympics are the best ever; this includes insuring that BME communities and businesses are ready for the opportunities. We will discuss in detail how to become "Contract Ready" and winning contracts.



Presentation by the Vice-chair Qassim Afzal showing EMBF NW dvd and the power-point, received very well by delegates keen to learn about the work of the Forum. Platform shared with key leaders and policy makers that included Mark Gibson, Director General from the Department of Business, Enterprise & Regulation Reform (DEBRR ex DTI) and Lee Jasper, the Policy Director, Equalities and Policing to the Mayor of London, included CEO of the London Business Network on the procurement opportunities from the 2012 Olympics, the Leader of Croydon Council the Head of Communications at Lloyds TSB Bank on 'Effective Communications key to SME's success'

