

## **EAST MIDLANDS REGION**

**Chair: Janet Brothwell (Gedling BC)**

The region started the year in a positive way with the creation of the Regional Strategic HR Group. This consists of the Heads of HR from the Counties and Unitaries in the region and representatives of each of 5 County Groups, and PPMA. The County groups are the Heads of HR in that area, including the Districts who will meet regularly to share information and good practice. The chairs of these groups feed into the Strategic Group. Collectively we have considered the priorities for HR in the Region and hope to build a programme to meet the development needs both strategically and operationally.

The Group has met three times during the year, and recently looked at the work of Derby City Council in bringing in contractual changes to employees who had essential car user allowances.

A meeting planned to look at Benchmarking was unfortunately cancelled. Although data is being gathered some based on the old PI set and other information that helped comparisons between organisations.

We are unfortunately suffering from the pressures of the current climate. Many of our members are facing difficult times at work, personally and professionally. There is considerable pressure with the pace of change and the dealing with the challenges that the spending review have brought about. As a consequence it has been difficult for people to prioritise attending meetings and to allocate time for the development of HR in the region.

As we go through 2011 I hope that PPMA along with our colleagues at East Midlands Employers will be able to continue offering opportunities for development and networking. This will be within the context of the constraints of the current environment.

February 2011