

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1.	Apologies for Absence	Councillor Mike Bird (Walsall), Jonathan Browning (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP), Councillor Steve Claymore (Tamworth), Councillor Shaun Davies (Telford & Wrekin), Councillor Steve Eling (Sandwell), Councillor David Humphreys (North Warwickshire), Councillor Abdul Khan (Coventry), Tim Pile (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP), Councillor Bob Sleigh (Solihull) and Stewart Towe (Black Country LEP).
2.	Chair's Remarks (if any)	<p><b>(a) Councillor Qadar Zada, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council</b> The Mayor welcomed Councillor Qadar Zada to his first meeting following his recent election as Leader of Dudley MBC. He confirmed that Councillor Qadar Zada would take portfolio lead responsibility for environmental matters.</p> <p><b>(b) Jaguar Land Rover</b> The Mayor announced the creation of a 'task force' that was being set up to support Jaguar Land Rover and its employees following the recent announcement of 4,500 redundancies.</p>
3.	Minutes - 9 November 2018	The minutes were agreed as a correct record.
4.	Forward Plan	Items of business to be reported to future meetings were noted.
5.	Financial Monitoring Report 2018/19	<p>(1) The financial position as at the end of November 2018 was noted.</p> <p>(2) The Business Rates Growth allocation to the WMCA for 2018/19 was noted.</p>

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
6.	WMCA Draft Budget 2019/20	<p>(1) The consolidated revenue budget monitoring position as at 30 November 2018 was noted;</p> <p>(2) The draft WMCA consolidated revenue budget, summarised in Section 4, was approved for consultation and scrutiny. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the budget requirement for transport delivery 2019/20 comprising two elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) £114.7m a year to be funded from the existing transport levy mechanism; and</li> <li>(ii) a transfer from earmarked reserves of £1.0m.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) the WMCA Operational budget requirement for 2019/20 of £103.1m comprising of six elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) £84.2m Adult Education spending to be funded for the first time from Adult Education Budget funding devolved by the Department for Education;</li> <li>(ii) £10.6m to be funded from other devolution deal grants;</li> <li>(iii) £4.6m to be funded from Constituent Authority fees (fees to remain at the same level as 2018/19);</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1032 352 2047 424">(iv) £0.4m to be funded from Non-Constituent Authority and observer fees (fees to remain at the same level as 2018/19);</li> <li data-bbox="1032 464 1738 499">(v) £2.2m to be funded from other income; and</li> <li data-bbox="1032 539 1608 574">(vi) a transfer from reserves of £1.1m.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="842 614 2056 681">(3) The Mayoral Office budget for 2019/20 of £0.8m, to be funded from existing Mayoral capacity funding of £0.8m, was approved for consultation and scrutiny.</p> <p data-bbox="842 721 1966 788">(4) It was noted that the Mayor had indicated that there would be no mayoral precept during the remainder of his current term of office.</p> <p data-bbox="842 831 1966 898">(5) The WMCA’s indicative 5 year Medium Term Financial Plan, as set out in Paragraph 7.2 and Table 8, was noted.</p> <p data-bbox="842 943 2056 1010">(6) The Transport Capital Programme, as set out in Section 8 and Appendix 4, was approved for consultation and scrutiny.</p> <p data-bbox="842 1054 2074 1121">(7) The planned spend on the Investment Programme over the 3 year period, as set out Appendix 7 and in Section 9, was noted.</p> <p data-bbox="842 1166 2018 1272">(8) It was approved that surplus cash balances generated from the Collective Investment Fund were to be used to support the WMCA Operational Budget, thus minimising Constituent and Non-Constituent Authority contributions.</p> <p data-bbox="842 1316 2033 1415">(9) The intention, as detailed in section 8, to launch a commercial housing fund in 2019/20 to enable the Housing Delivery Team to become self-sufficient with effect from 2021/22 onwards was noted.</p>

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
7.	Appointment of Interim s151 Officer	Linda Horne was appointed as Interim s151 Officer and Interim Director of Finance and Carl Pearson as Deputy Interim s151 Officer with effect from 14 December 2018.
8.	West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy	The draft Local Industrial Strategy was endorsed for further discussion and agreement with Government, and the Strategic Economic Development Board was given delegated authority, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economic Growth, the Mayor and the WMCA Chief Executive, to agree any further amendments that arose in discussion with Government, where they were consistent with the overall strategy as currently drafted.
9.	Regional Energy Strategy	<p>(1) The WMCA formally adopted the Regional Energy Strategy following the approval and endorsement of all three LEP Boards and the Strategic Economic Development Board.</p> <p>(2) Within the Local Industrial Strategy, the Regional Energy Strategy was recognised as a key delivery mechanism and energy was identified as a cross-cutting infrastructure enabler of economic growth and social inclusion.</p> <p>(3) The Mayor and WMCA would seek an Energy and Power Deal with Government during 2019 to take forward the Regional Energy Strategy and to institutionalise a regional delivery capability.</p> <p>(4) The WMCA would fund development work to secure this deal using available</p>

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
		<p>Investment Programme funds, subject to satisfactory business cases being provided.</p> <p>(5) The Strategic Economic Development Board would continue to monitor and supervise delivery of the Regional Energy Strategy.</p>
<b>10.</b>	Refreshing our Approach to Culture	<p>(1) Work to develop a Cultural Leadership Board in collaboration with the sector was approved.</p> <p>(2) A review of the current Culture, Creative Industries &amp; Tourism Advisory Group to provide expert working group support to the new Cultural Leadership Board was approved.</p>
<b>11.</b>	Devolution of the Adult Education Budget 2019/20	<p>(1) The approach to regional commissioning of the Adult Education Budget in relation to the 2019/20 Academic Year, as outlined within the report, was approved.</p> <p>(2) Authority was delegated to award contracts and issue grant agreements to be funded by the Adult Education Budget, in line with the commissioning approach outlined within the report, to the Director of Productivity &amp; Skills in consultation with the s151 and Monitoring officers and the Portfolio Lead for Productivity &amp; Skills.</p> <p>(3) It was agreed that the Skills Advisory Board, with support from local authority and Local Enterprise Partnership officers, would monitor progress and impact</p>

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
		and recommend any future changes to the deployment of Adult Education Budget funding.
<b>12.</b>	West Midlands Bus Byelaws	<p>(1) The introduction of byelaws on the West Midlands bus network was supported in principle.</p> <p>(2) The commencement of byelaw application process and public consultation framework detailed in section 6 was approved.</p>
<b>13.</b>	Regional Road Safety Strategy	<p>(1) The West Midlands Regional Road Safety Strategy was agreed and endorsed.</p> <p>(2) The proposed governance arrangements of a new Regional Road Safety Strategic Group to drive forward the Strategy, other future regional initiatives as outlined in chapter 5, and any new regional funding opportunities for road safety in the region was endorsed.</p> <p>(3) The Regional Road Safety Strategy Group was authorised to develop a Regional Road Safety Action Plan incorporating the measures and initiatives, as set out in chapter 5 of the Regional Road Safety Strategy.</p>
<b>14.</b>	Feedback from Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Mayor's Question Time: Budget	<p>(1) The Mayoral Q&amp;A event held with members of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee on 12 December 2018 was noted; and also noted was:</p> <p>(a) The committee's views on the need for the WMCA to engage with</p>

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
		<p>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee in the process to develop the budget, and that the consultation timescales should allow the committee to review the draft budget proposals in sufficient time to enable it to undertake its role effectively.</p> <p>(b) The committee’s comments and observations on how the WMCA measured the effectiveness and impact of how it allocated its resources.</p> <p>(2) The recommendations of Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee arising from the Mayoral Q&amp;A event (section 5 of the report) were approved as set out below:</p> <p>(a) The WMCA should seek to establish a robust budget consultation process for future annual budgets, which built in and ensured adequate time for proper scrutiny. It should also consider the use of innovative ways to consult with residents and the younger generation of the West Midlands (eg. live streaming consultation events) which could help raise the general awareness and profile of the WMCA.</p> <p>(b) The current performance framework should align with the budget framework to enable the outputs and achievements to be seen, with Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee to be engaged in the development of future performance management frameworks, including pre-scrutiny consideration of the proposed report on performance management/delivery monitoring due to be considered by the WMCA Board on 8 February 2019.</p> <p>(c) The Transport for West Midlands’ performance data was currently reviewed by Transport Delivery Committee on a regular basis, however it was considered that the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee’s Budget</p>

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
		<p>Working Group should review transport performance data, on an exception basis, and question how it related to budget spend.</p> <p>(d) WMCA to establish a policy document that defined its approach to the delivery of social housing and that also identified the percentage of social housing and affordable housing it wished to achieve within the West Midlands area.</p> <p>(e) In addition to social value and procurement, when making investments the WMCA should also look at a number of other measures including equality and diversity, inclusive growth and environmental improvement to achieve a carbon neutral environment. These key issues should therefore be included in any project appraisal process.</p> <p>(f) The review of the Ring and Ride service, including the integration of other forms of local transport schemes (including community/hospital transport) be prioritised for consideration during 2019/20, rather than being a 'medium term' aim. The Board should note that the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee would be happy to support the portfolio holder and Transport Delivery Committee in trying to achieve this.</p> <p>(g) WMCA to give priority to developing an Arts &amp; Culture Strategy and Physical Activity Strategy, to establish unique selling points for the region, which set it apart from its peers, reflected its diverse nature, achieved physical/mental health benefits and built on the success of achieving the Commonwealth Games and City of Culture to the area.</p> <p>(3) The following questions being asked of the Mayor (section 6 of the report) which, in accordance with the WMCA's constitution, he was required to provide</p>

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
		<p>a written response to the committee within two months, were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee to review the draft proposals for the establishment of the Youth WMCA, and to receive an update on its purpose, remit, timescales for its establishment and lead officer(s) or Portfolio Lead from the WMCA.</li> <li>(b) Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee to receive performance data statistics for each portfolio lead area.</li> <li>(c) Acknowledging that there was a large underspend on the national Affordable Housing Investment Fund and that it was expected that the WMCA would apply for a share of this funding pot, Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee would like to receive an indication of the level of funding the WMCA would apply for and the expectations it would like to achieve in terms of affordable and social housing.</li> <li>(d) Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee to receive a map of the WMCA investments in relation to areas of deprivation within the West Midlands.</li> <li>(e) In respect of the funding assumptions and risks, Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee would like to receive periodic reports on the details of those red rated risks within the Strategic Risk Register, together with an update on the work that was being undertaken to de-risk them. In particular, the committee would like to receive details of how the Capital Programme would be re-adjusted in those 3 areas of the programme where funding had not been assured prior to Quarter 4 of the 2019/2020 financial year.</li> <li>(f) With regard to Inclusive Growth, Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee would</li> </ul>

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
		<p>like to receive a report on how the gap in income levels and deprivation across the region were to be closed, outlining which key measures within the Business Plan would achieve this and the targets/timescales/data sets that would be used to monitor the delivery of Inclusive Growth.</p> <p>(g) Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee to receive a report on proposals for future public consultation on the key activities of the WMCA, including consideration of an annual Residents’ Opinion Survey.</p> <p>(h) The committee notes that the Mayor agreed with and supports the ambition to achieve carbon neutral forms of transport. So, following on from its previous recommendation relating to the introduction of Sprint routes (using low/zero emission methods as in Nottingham) in time for the Commonwealth Games in 2022, the committee would like to receive a report from Transport for West Midlands giving options for trying to achieve this.</p> <p>(i) The Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee would like to know (if these concessions were not to be included within the 2019/20 Transport Levy), when travel concessions were likely to be extended to include ‘WASPI’ women and ex-service personnel in the future?</p> <p>(j) The Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee would like to be kept informed on the likely costs of the Mayoral election in 2020, and how these costs were to be funded.</p> <p>(k) The Mayor suggested that, in order to get a better overall picture, a ‘piece of work’ could be carried out to establish the net effect of the Adult Education Budget being transferred to the WMCA, and the closure of</p>

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
		individual programmes delivered locally and funded by European Structural Investment Fund. Overview & Scrutiny Committee would like to be kept informed of the outcome of any such review.
15.	Wellbeing Board - 31 October 2018	The minutes were noted.
16.	Investment Board - 1 November 2018	The minutes were noted.
17.	Transport Delivery Committee - 5 November 2018	The minutes were noted.
18.	Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - 12 November 2018	The minutes were approved.
19.	Investment Board - 19 November 2018	The minutes were noted.
20.	Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 20 November 2018	The minutes were approved.
21.	Skills Advisory Board - 21	The minutes were noted.

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 11 January 2019**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
	November 2018	
<b>22.</b>	Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 26 November 2018	The minutes were approved.
<b>23.</b>	Investment Board - 10 December 2018	The minutes were noted.
<b>24.</b>	Friday 8 February 2019 at 11.00am	The date of the next meeting was noted.