



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 16 January 2019

Time: 10.00 am **Public meeting** Yes

Venue: Room 116, 16 Summer Lane, Birmingham, B19 3SD

Membership

Councillor Peter Hughes (Chair)	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Cathy Bayton	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Paul Brown	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Dean Carroll	Shropshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Mike Chalk	Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Stephen Craddock	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Stuart Davis	Joint Coventry/Solihull Representative
Councillor Peter Fowler	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Josh Jones	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Tariq Khan	Coventry City Council
Councillor Angus Lees	Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils
Mike Lyons	Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Ian Shires (Vice-Chair)	Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils
Councillor Stephen Simkins	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Joe Tildesley	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Lisa Trickett (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Sarah Windrum	Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Quorum for this meeting shall be 13 members

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact:

Contact Tanya Patel, Governance Services Officer
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AGENDA

No.	Item	Presenting	Pages
Meeting Business Items			
1.	Apologies for Absence	Chair	None
2.	Declarations of Interests Members are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they have in an item being discussed during the course of the meeting. In addition, the receipt of any gift or hospitality should be declared where the value of it was thought to have exceeded £25 (gifts) or £40 (hospitality).	Chair	None
3.	Minutes of the previous meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 November 2018 • 26 November 2018 	Chair	1 - 10
4.	Forward Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMCA Board • Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee • Environment Board • Housing & Land Delivery Board • Investment Board • Overview & Scrutiny Committee • Public Service Reform Board • Transport Delivery Committee • Wellbeing Board 	Chair	11 - 20
5.	Response to Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Mayor's Question Time: Policy	Deborah Cadman	21 - 28
6.	Low Emissions Strategy	Dr Simon Slater	29 - 36
Date of next meeting			
7.	Monday 25 February 2019 at 10am	Chair	None
8.	Exclusion of the Public and Press [In accordance with s100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of the Act].	Chair	None
9.	Capital Projects Delivery - Focus on Metro (Wednesbury - Brierley Hill)	Nafees Arif	None



West Midlands Combined Authority

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 20 November 2018 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Peter Hughes (Chair)
Councillor Cathy Bayton
Councillor Liz Clements
Councillor Mike Chalk

Councillor John Cotton
Councillor Stuart Davis
Councillor Tariq Khan
Councillor Ian Shires (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Stephen Simkins

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local
Authorities
Birmingham City Council
Joint Coventry/Solihull Representative
Coventry City Council
Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and
Wolverhampton Councils
City of Wolverhampton Council

In Attendance

Councillor Mike Bird
Gareth Bradford
Councillor Daniel Barker
Councillor Jackie Taylor

Portfolio Lead for Housing & Land
Director of Housing Regeneration
Association of Black Country Authorities
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Item No.

19. Inquorate Meeting

In accordance with the WMCA's constitution, the meeting was inquorate. The recommendations contained within the minutes would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 11 January 2019 for formal approval and adoption.

20. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joe Tildesley (Solihull), Councillor Ken Wood (Birmingham), Councillor Stephen Craddock (Walsall), Councillor Ian Shires (Association of Black Country Authorities), Councillor Angus Lees (Dudley), Councillor Dean Carroll (Shropshire), Councillor John Glass (Nuneaton & Bedworth), Paul Brown (Black Country LEP) and Mike Lyons (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP).

21. Chair's Remarks

(a) Inquorate meeting

Discussions were held regarding the quorum not being met and the issues posed with the quorum being of a high number. The Monitoring Officer advised the committee that discussions were being held with

Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government in regards to the quorum level as to whether there was an opportunity to set this as a lower level. Councillor Ian Shires highlighted that the high quorum only applied to this committee, and that the Housing & Land Delivery Board did not operate under the same process, which is resulted in an inconsistent approach.

22. Call In Procedure

(a) Provisions within the Constitution relating to Call-In

The Monitoring Officer outlined the requirements for a call-in as outlined within the constitution, highlighted that the committee must scrutinise the decision within 10 clear working days of the call-in being made. The decision for a call-in would fall away if the timescale had not been met unless the Chair and Vice-Chair of the board concerned and the relevant portfolio leads agreed to an extension period.

(b) Call-In Town Centres Programme

The Chair stated that all but one member, of those committee members present, had knowledge or oversight of the Town Centres Programme report before receiving papers following the Housing & Land Delivery Board.

Councillor Ian Shires stated that the reasons for the call-in was not due to the decision on, or the selection of the chosen town centres, but related to the process in which town centres were selected. This view was echoed by Councillor Stephen Simkins and Councillor Cathy Bayton.

Councillor Mike Chalk also commented that the lack of forward plans for Board being made available to committee for consideration did not aid pre-decision scrutiny, and had probably led to the call-in.

23. Housing & Land Delivery Board - Town Centres Programme

The Chair welcomed both the Director of Housing & Regeneration and Councillor Mike Bird, Portfolio lead for Housing & Land, and invited them to give an outline of the decision making process undertaken for the Town Centres Programme leading up to the decision taken on 25 October 2018.

The Director of Housing & Regeneration explained that initially, Housing & Land Delivery Board members had specifically requested that the Combined Authority begin to look at town centre regeneration, which led to a paper being submitted to the Leaders meeting on the 20 July 2018. This paper included the principles of the Town Centres Programme and also sought agreement for expressions of interest to be submitted from the Constituent Local Authorities, outlining the key deliverables against housing regeneration.

On the 23 August 2018, an email was then sent to all Chief Executives which set out clearly the process that would be taken forward to identify town centres and the criteria to be used. The Town Centres were nominated and selected after discussions with officers from the Constituent Local Authorities, with no political input during the selection process. The

nominated Town Centres were taken to both the Leaders meeting held on the 12 October 2018, and subsequently to the Housing & Land Delivery Board on the 25 October 2018. The Director of Housing & Regeneration stressed that all seven Local Authorities were involved in the decision-making process, and that, in his view, the decision-making process for Town Centres Programme was clear.

The Director of Housing & Regeneration further explained that initially there were 17 Town Centres nominated for consideration; and the chosen centres were selected by officer sub-group. The Director of Housing & Regeneration was therefore of the opinion that appropriate individuals / boards had sight of the relevant paperwork, and been involved in the decision making process.

Councillor Stephen Simkins referenced Annex A: Recommended Wave One Town Centre Summary and highlighted that the information provided relating to Bilston was dated 2014, and that there were similar historic data relating to other centres. He questioned therefore how an informed decision could have been taken without current and up to date information and data provided. He also questioned whether officers from Wolverhampton City Council's Regeneration Section had been fully involved in the process.

Councillor Mike Bird stated that the questions should be directed towards officer and members at the seven local authorities relating to how their internal reporting mechanisms worked as, from his view, the information/analysis collated was based on what officers had provided to the Combined Authority.

During subsequent discussions, Committee Member identified that the provision of forward plans by relevant Boards, along with useful engagement with Portfolio Leads were both areas for improvement, as it was pointed out that Committee could add value to the decisions being made. Moving forward, the Director of Housing & Regeneration and Portfolio lead agreed to implement and share the Housing & Land Delivery Board forward plan and to provide short summaries on the decision made at meetings.

Councillor John Cotton, Chair of the Governance working group, highlighted that the Town Centres Call-In should be used as a case study, to draw learning from, but also to help identify mechanisms for committee to have sight of and given access to relevant information.

The WMCA Board be recommended that:

- (1) No further action be taken in response of the Town Centres Programme decision called-in from the meeting of the House & Land Delivery Board on the 25 October 2018.
- (2) A protocol for relationships between scrutiny and WMCA Leadership Team / Portfolio leads be developed.
- (3) WMCA Board and Committees have clear forward plans which were up to date and shared with Overview & Scrutiny committee members, in order to aid pre-decision scrutiny.

- (4) Pre-decision scrutiny be embedded within the WMCA.
- (5) A review of the constitution in response of the call-in process be undertaken.
- (6) The review of governance arrangement to continue, including quorum levels of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- (7) To enable effective scrutiny, additional resources to identified.
- (8) Overview & Scrutiny to engage / participate in discussions regarding the next devolution deal.

[NB: Councillor Stephen Simkins declared an interest in this due to being a councillor for the ward Bilston East.]

The meeting ended at 12.15 pm.

Public Document Pack



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 26 November 2018 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Peter Hughes (Chair)	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Dean Carroll	Shropshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor John Cotton	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Josh Jones	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Tariq Khan	Coventry City Council
Councillor Angus Lees	Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils
Councillor Ian Shires (Vice-Chair)	Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils
Councillor Stephen Simkins	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Joe Tildesley	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance

Tom McNeil	Strategic Adviser to the Police & Crime Commissioner
David Jamieson	Police & Crime Commissioner
Jonathan Jardine	Chief Executive, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Andy Street	Mayor of the West Midlands
Councillor Kath Hartley	Chair of Transport Delivery Committee
Councillor Jackie Taylor	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Daniel Barker	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Julian Grubb	Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local Authorities

Item Title No.

24. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Craddock (Walsall), Councillor Cathy Bayton (Birmingham), Councillor Stuart Davis (Joint Coventry/Solihull representative), Councillor Mike Chalk (Worcestershire) and Mike Lyons (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP).

25. Inquorate Meeting

In accordance with the WMCA's constitution, the meeting was inquorate. The recommendations contained within the minutes would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 11 January 2019 for formal approval and adoption.

26. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

27. Forward Plans - Overview & Scrutiny Committee and WMCA Board

The Committee considered forward plans of items that were to be reported to future meetings of the WMCA Board and this Committee.

It was recommended to the WMCA Board that:

(1) Items on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee forward plan be noted.

(2) WMCA Board and committees should have clear forward plans which were up to date and shared with Overview & Scrutiny Committee members.

28. Consultation for the Transfer of West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner Functions

The Chair welcomed the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Mayor to the committee, and invited both of them to share their views and to provide any input into the consultation.

The Director of Public Service Reform gave a presentation to the committee, outlining the background of the proposal and the current journey to date. The second devolution deal included an expectation (from the Government) that WMCA and the Police & Crime Commissioner work together to look at a detailed governance model and timetable for transferring the role and powers of the Police & Crime Commissioner to the elected Mayor. Within the proposed consultation timeline, this committee and the Police & Crime Panel both would have opportunities to scrutinise the process.

The Director for Public Services Reform clarified that there would be a ring-fence of public money for the purpose of policing and clear access of data when completing the online consultation questions. The concerns expressed by committee members that the second devolution deal would become void, if the transfer of powers from the Police & Crime Commissioner to the Mayor did not take place, were confirmed as inaccurate, and some of the commitments outlined in the second devolution deal had already been delivered.

Councillor John Cotton questioned whether the robust consultation could be considered to be robust due to the short time period between phase 1 of the consultation closing and phase 2 opening. He requested reassurance that the responses being sought were dealt with in an appropriate way, and also asked what the outcome would be if the feedback from the principle consultation was not to agree to the proposals. The Monitoring Officer accepted that the timescales set were constrained but that WMCA Board asked for the consultation process to be as robust as possible and to include a two-stage consultation process for a period of eight weeks. Consideration also had to be given to the timing of the local elections and pre-election period.

It was highlighted that the transfer of power to the Mayor was not already decided and required ratification and agreement by constituent authorities, and in the Mayor's words was 'not a done deal'.

The Chair advised the committee that members had already exerted influence in the wording of the final consultation documents used in the Stage 1 consultation, resulting in sections being removed from both the introduction and one of the questions, to ensure the removal of any potential bias within the document.

With regard to the cost of the consultation, the Mayor highlighted that all costs were currently being covered by the Combined Authority with current costs estimated at around £24,000.

Councillor Joe Tildesley indicated that he had previously served on the West Midlands Police & Crime Panel, and for this reason expressed his concerns as to whether the Panel acted effectively as a robust scrutiny of the Police & Crime Commissioner, and similarly, the Mayor, should the transfer take place. He indicated that, in his opinion, provisions needed to be made for scrutiny of the Mayor's police powers to be carried out independently by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, or sub-committee set up for this purpose. This was the view shared by the Chair and, other member, and the Mayor indicated that he would not be against this.

David Jamieson, Police & Crime Commissioner was provided with an opportunity to share his views which included information on the police force, a range of serious crimes, the budget, and the high volume of 999 and 101 calls. David Jamieson expressed that the service deserved proper attention and scrutiny. David Jamieson expressed concerns around the consultation taking place over the Christmas / holiday period with a feeling of it being hurried. He also questioned the wording and nature of the questions outlined within the consultation document. The Police & Crime Commissioner also highlighted that Greater Manchester had been given two years to consider the governance changes, and he felt that it would be sensible to gain experience from Greater Manchester, before entering into a transfer of powers. He further pointed out that whilst he, as Police & Crime Commissioner was an elected representative, the Deputy Mayor overseeing and leading on policing would not be.

In outlining his position the Mayor advised the committee that he believed that this transfer would allow delivery of better outcomes for residents in the West Midlands, and this process was building on what had already been achieved. He stressed however that the independence of the police force remained at the heart of this process, and with both the Fire Service and Police transfer to WMCA, effectively both of the main emergency services would be together under one governance model. In his opinion this should enable better coordination of those emergency services.

It was recommended to the WMCA Board:

- (1) That the presentation delivered to members outlining the consultation for the transfer of the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner

Functions be noted.

- (2) That Overview & Scrutiny Committee's comments on the stage 1 consultation questions be noted.
- (3) That Overview & Scrutiny Committee be provided with the feedback of both stage 1 and 2 consultations.
- (4) That Overview & Scrutiny Committee's role in Scrutiny of police and crime powers undertaken by the Mayor in this role be clearly defined within the final model for approval.

[N.B: Councillor Joe Tildesley and Councillor Julian Grubb declared a personal interest in this.]

29. WMCA Governance - Presentation

The Chair proposed that the Monitoring Officer should provide members of Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a copy of a presentation outlining the role of governance within the Combined Authority.

30. Devolution 2 Update

The Director of Strategy provided members with an update on the progress of the WMCA Devolution deal and Combined Authority's approach to the wider devolution agenda. The overall ambition for WMCA was to move away from a Devolution process which was defined by events, particularly fiscal, moving more towards a process in which engagement was much more constructive, seamless and collaborative, allowing for discussions with Government on how to work together better to achieve ambitions in the region.

Councillor Stephen Simkins sought assurances that members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would have an input into the next devolution deal, and the Chair proposed that the Director of Strategy actively engaged with the chairs committee's of the working groups.

The committee considered that it was vitally important to be a part of the process, to provide an input and to ensure that clear accountability was visible, and also that input from the committee was facilitated in a timely, positive and constructive manner.

Councillor Josh Jones believed that a system should be in place whereby essential decisions required sign off by relevant Chairs and Portfolio Leads. The committee asked for assurance that they would have an input into the review the WMCA of Governance and Constitution.

The Director of Strategy highlighted that, in terms of the spending review taking place in autumn next year, WMCA were forward planning and believes that, as plans developed there were multiple opportunities for the committee to be engaged in the process before formal conversations start with Government.

It was recommended to the WMCA Board:

(1) That the comments made by Committee to be noted.

31. Local Industrial Strategy

The committee received an overview from the Director of Strategy on the Consultation for the West Midlands Industrial Strategy. The West Midlands agreed to be a trailblazer and develop the UK's first Local Industrial Strategy. It was noted that the consultation document was not designed as a draft version on the strategy but to gather discussion, set out the issues and key opportunities for the region.

Consultation feedback so far suggested that:

- there was insufficient emphasis on drawing out employment needs and how that factored into plans;
- there needed to be more clarity on the needs of different areas ;
- the needs of rural areas needed to be addressed more;
- Brexit would need to be addressed explicitly within the final version.

The Local Industrial Strategy would be taken to the Strategic Economic Delivery Board and WMCA Board for sign off in January 2019. Following a request from the Chair the Director of Strategy agreed to circulate the Terms of Reference and membership of the Strategic Economic Delivery Board. In terms of governance of this committee, the Economy Portfolio did not have a delivery board therefore the chair of the Governance Working Group, Councillor John Cotton, agreed to revisit the governance arrangements to find the appropriate structure.

Councillor John Cotton asked for confirmation of the definition of 'inclusivity' in terms of this strategy, and how this linked to WMCA activities. The Director of Strategy confirmed joint work was being undertaken with the Director of Public Services Reform to unlock the potential to have a positive impact on the economy.

With regards to long-standing productivity problems in the region, the Director of Strategy highlighted that national work was being undertaken to better understand the productivity puzzle. The Committee shared concerns around the need to access education and the need to address this further, as well as funding being channelled to those most in need and to areas of deprivation. Councillor Jackie Taylor emphasised the need to ensure diversity occurs across all job levels to ensure individuals feel they had contributed and added value.

The Chair expressed his concern that, as an emerging sector artificial intelligence and robotics had not been identified within the consultation document. He also felt that the final strategy document should try to re-balance the income disparities in different parts of the region by encouraging, or focusing, investment in such 'high-tech' industries within areas of greater deprivation.

It was recommended to the WMCA Board:

(1) That the comments made by the Committee be noted.

32. Overview & Scrutiny Committee Working Groups - Progress Update

The Committee considered a report from the Scrutiny Officer on the developments and programme in relation to the work of the five working groups.

Further to the call-in made by committee, Councillor Ian Shires reported that he had met with the Director of Housing & Regeneration and had agreed that the committee would now receive:

- pre-decision scrutiny regarding the Housing and Regeneration Strategy;
- for further scrutiny a summary of the key decisions and conversations held within the Housing & Land Delivery Board;
- a forward plan of the Housing & Land Delivery Board.

Councillor Angus Lees advised that following attendance at the Transport Delivery Committee, this committee should note that there was a delay on six major key projects due to issues with Network Rail. He and other committee members felt that this highlighted how important it was for the WMCA Board to recognise the need for robust scrutiny of transport functions, which was presently not being delivered through the Transport Delivery Committee, as this was not its remit.

It was recommended to the WMCA Board that:

(1) The comments made by the committee be noted.

(2) The progress made in respect of the working groups be noted.

(3) The proposed work programme for the working groups be approved.

33. Tuesday 16 January 2019 at 10.00am

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting ended at 2.15 pm.

WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN: FEBRUARY 2019 - JULY 2019

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
WMCA 2019/20 Budget, Precept and Levy	To agree proposals for the 2019/20 WMCA budget, precept and levy.	8 February 2019	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Medium Term Financial Plan	To approve the plan.	8 February 2019	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Park & Ride Strategy	To approve to Park & Ride Strategy.	8 February 2019	Yes	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
Common Approach to Cycling	To approve the West Midlands Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan	8 February 2019	Yes	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
Performance & Programme Office Delivery and Monitoring	To consider proposals.	8 February 2019	No	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Governance

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Police & Crime Commissioner Governance	To consider consultation responses and seek approval to submit scheme to Home Office.	22 March 2019	Yes	n/a	Henry Kippin	No	Governance
New Stations Outline Business Case - Packages 1 & 2	To approve the outline business cases in respect of new rail stations Willenhall - Darlaston	22 March 2019	Yes	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
Budget Monitoring 2018/19	To review the latest budget monitoring position.	12 April 2019	No	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Budget Monitoring 2018/19	To review the latest budget monitoring position.	28 June 2019	No	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Police & Crime Commissioner Governance	To seek approval for the Order for PCC governance.	July 2019	Yes	n/a	Henry Kippin	No	Governance



WMCA Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - Forward Plan

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Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Lead Officer
Strategic Risk Register	To receive an update on the Strategic Risk Register	15 April 2019	Lorraine Quibell
Annual Internal Audit Report	To note progress on audits	15 April 2019	Peter Farrow
Outturn Report 18/19	To approve the Outturn Report	15 April 2019	Tim Martin
Provisional Value for Money Report	To consider a report on value for money considerations	15 April 2019	Grant Patterson
WMCA Annual Governance Statement	To approve the Annual Governance Statement	15 April 2019	Tim Martin
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Strategic Risk Register	To receive an update on the Strategic Risk Register	21 June 2019	Joti Sharma
WMCA Annual Accounts	To approve the WMCA Annual Accounts	21 June 2019	Linda Horne
WMCA Audit Findings	To receive an update from external audit	21 June 2019	Grant Patterson
WMITA Pension Fund - Audit Findings	To receive an update from external audit	21 June 2019	Grant Patterson/ Terry Tobin

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Lead Officer
Contingency Meeting - Accounts		15 July 2019	Linda Horne
WMCA Constitution	To receive an update on the reviewed Constitution.	TBC	Tim Martin

WMCA Environment Board: Action Plan 2018/19 (version 10.9.18)

	Objectives from WMCA 18/19 Annual Plan	1 st Feb 2019 Board	7 th June 2018 Board
1	<p>Improve WMCA overall organisational performance on sustainability external and internal impact</p> <p>The Environment Board will publish an action plan and report progress on moving the WMCA to become 'best in class' within two years (September 2020). The WMCA will address capacity gaps identified within the organisation and partners to deliver the plan.</p>	Results from annual national sustainability activities benchmark of CAs good practice and independent annual progress review by Sustainability West Midlands to inform future priorities and programmes to meet September 2020 target.	
2	<p>WMCA area sustainability and environment performance</p> <p>Reporting of WMCA area performance by SEP sustainability indicators against 2030 targets – carbon, air quality, health inequality.</p>	Agree additional targets for new indicators for clean growth (productivity vs emissions), fuel poverty, renewable energy, waste, and natural environment.	Results from annual sustainability metrics and benchmarking with other CAs to inform next year priorities and programmes.
3	<p>External communications, awards, and campaigns to promote scaling up of good local practice as part of partnership with Sustainability West Midlands</p> <p>The WMCA will improve internal and external communication on WMCA activities around sustainability to help identify and promote good practice, enable constructive challenge and help local partners to engage and work together more effectively.</p>	Agree communications and good practice networks, events and awards plan for next 2 years.	Report on benchmarking of good local practice by business, NHS, universities, and councils that could be scaled up and inform next year priorities and programmes.
4	<p>Development of Low Emissions Strategy with partners</p> <p>The WMCA will work towards a longer-term roadmap supported by business and local partners to tackle overall air quality issues within the next 10 years, while working with local authority partners on shorter-term priorities.</p>	Review of draft strategy and recommendation for adoption by WMCA Board.	
5	<p>Development of Natural Environment approach as part of partnership with West Midlands Natural Capital Roundtable</p> <p>The WMCA will work with natural environment partners, businesses, and Government to develop a long-term natural capital investment strategy to help coordinate and attract investment to improve the state and use of natural assets.</p>	Review approach and progress on supporting investment in natural assets and local priorities.	

6	<p>Development of Local Industrial Strategy with partners “The WMCA will work to ensure local strengths in clean growth sectors of transport, buildings and energy, as well as the importance of the natural environment, form a key part of the new Local Industrial Strategy, with the ambition to become the UK’s first Combined Authority Clean Growth Industrial Strategy. “</p>	<p>Review potential risks and opportunities from sustainability and resilience review of strategy – e.g. climate risk, and potential new programmes and activities flowing from the new strategy including waste, housing retrofit and green business support.</p>	
7	<p>Development of Green Energy investments as part of partnership with Energy Capital The WMCA will consider recommendations from Energy Capital and the Regional Energy Commission on innovation zones.</p>		<p>Progress update from Energy Capital on progress and any future support required.</p>
8	<p>WMCA external funding and buildings. The WMCA will promote key sustainability opportunities within WMCA key investment sites to lever local partners’ expertise and innovation opportunities to maximise benefits. The WMCA will review, and if required, update current sustainability criteria within WMCA funding and monitoring system and building standards.</p>	<p>Review of WMCA and partners key investment sites sustainability standards e.g. Commonwealth Games. Agree any future standards required.</p>	<p>Review of WMCA funding system and criteria for non-building projects e.g. skills, transport, business support. Agree any future standards required.</p>
	<p>WMCA internal estates, operations, and communications The WMCA will improve internal communication on WMCA activities around sustainability to help identify and promote good practice, enable constructive challenge and help local partners to engage and work together more effectively.</p>		<p>Report on internal environment strategy, communications, performance of own estates and impact of accredited Environmental Management System. Identify any other good practice to be aware of.</p>

WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Forward Plan

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Lead Officer/Member
16 January 2019			
Forward Plans	To received up to date forward plans for all other Boards / Committees.	16 January 2019	Chair
Mayor's Response to Q&A Policy	To receive a response from the Mayor's office regarding the Policy Q&A	16 January 2019	TBC
Capital Projects Delivery – Focus on Metro (Wednesbury – Brierley Hill)	To receive an update on a particular transport area.	16 January 2019	Sandeep Shingadia / Nafees Arif
Low Emissions Strategy	To receive an update on the development of the Low Emissions Strategy.	16 January 2019	Simon Slater
25 February 2019			
Forward Plans	To received up to date forward plans for all other Boards / Committees.	25 February 2019	Chair
Housing & Regeneration Report	To review progress in terms of Housing & Regeneration	25 February 2019	Councillor Mike Bird Gareth Bradford
Working Groups - Progress Reports	To review progress to date on the respective working groups	25 February 2019	Lead member for respective working groups
PCC Report	To provide an update on the proposal / consultation stages.	25 February 2019	Henry Kippin

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Lead Officer/Member
Annual Business Plan 2019/20	To receive and comment on the Annual Business Plan 2019/20	25 February 2019	Linda Horne & Louise Cowen
Mayor's response to Q&A Budget	To receive a response from the Mayor's office regarding the Budget Q&A	25 February 2019	TBC
12 April 2019			
Forward Plans	To received up to date forward plans for all other Boards / Committees.	12 April 2019	Chair
Health and Wellbeing - Progress Update	To review progress in respect of the health and wellbeing agenda	12 April 2019	Councillor Izzi Seccombe Sean Russell
Working Groups - End of Year Review	To undertake an end of year review on the working groups	12 April 2019	Lead member for respective working groups
To Be Confirmed			
Productivity & Skills – Regional Skills Plan	To receive a progress report on the Productivity and Skills agenda	Date to be determined	Councillor George Duggins Julie Nugent
Legacy of Commonwealth Games	To receive a report on the legacy of the Commonwealth Games in terms of health, skills, housing & development	Date to be determined	

TRANSPORT DELIVERY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING		REPORT AND AUTHOR	AGENDA SETTING MEETING	
<i>Date of Meeting</i>	<i>Date Final Reports to be submitted to Governance Services</i>		<i>Date of Meeting</i>	<i>Date Reports to be submitted to Governance Services</i>
4 February 2019	24 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Operations Business Report (Phil Hewitt) • Metro Investment Programme Update (Phil Hewitt/Judith Watt) • Third Generation Tram Procurement (Phil Hewitt) 	21 January	16 January
4 March 2019	21 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Monitoring Report (Linda Horne) • Capital Programme Delivery Monitoring Report (Sandeep Shingadia) • Park & Ride Update Pete Bond (Richard Mayes) • Rail Business Report Malcolm Holmes (Tom Painter) • Bus Business Report Pete Bond (Edmund Salt) 	18 February	13 February
20 May 2019	9 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Games Capital Projects Update (Sandeep Shingadia) • Financial Monitoring Report (Linda Horne) 	TBC (local elections)	29 April

TRANSPORT DELIVERY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING		REPORT AND AUTHOR	AGENDA SETTING MEETING	
<i>Date of Meeting</i>	<i>Date Final Reports to be submitted to Governance Services</i>		<i>Date of Meeting</i>	<i>Date Reports to be submitted to Governance Services</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Programme Delivery Monitoring Report (Sandeep Shingadia) • Safer Travel Update (Mark Babington) 		
24 June 2019	13 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Services Performance Report (Sarah Jones) • Bus Alliance Update Pete Bond (Edmund Salt) • Cycling Charter Progress Update Hannah Dayan 	10 June	5 June



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	16 January 2019
Report title	Response to Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Mayor's Question Time: Policy
Accountable Chief Executive	Deborah Cadman, Chief Executive email: deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk Tel: (0121) 214 7200
Accountable Employee	Tim Martin, Head of Governance email: tim.martin@wmca.org.uk Tel: (0121) 214 7435
Report has been considered by	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) To note the responses provided, and consider any further questions or requests for information.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 A Mayoral Q&A session was held on 28 September where members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee questioned the Mayor Andy Street on issues relating to air quality, transport, housing and other policy-related matters.
- 1.2 This report provides a formal response to those points raised by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the Q&A session and a subsequent meeting of the Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1 On Friday 28 September, members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee met at the Civic Centre in Wolverhampton to hold a Q&A session with the Mayor. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee then met on 9 October to further consider its findings and a number of recommendations were put forward to the WMCA Board.
- 2.2 On 9 November, the WMCA Board considered this report, together with a number of recommendations for the WMCA Board to consider that arose from the responses provided by the Mayor.
- 2.3 The WMCA's constitution requires the Mayor and/or the Authority to respond within two months of receiving a report from its Overview & Scrutiny Committee, indicating what action it proposed to take in respect of matters drawn to its attention.
- 2.4 The WMCA Chief Executive will be available at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to answer any further questions arising out of the answers provided by the Mayor within this report.

3. Overview & Scrutiny points for consideration

- 3.1 Set out below is the response to the questions raised by Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 28 September and reported to WMCA Board on 9 November:

(a) To provide a detailed breakdown on how the Mayor has utilised the £2m central Government funding allocated to the WMCA to boost mayoral capacity and resources, and whether any of this funding had been, or was intended to be, allocated to support an effective scrutiny function.

£2m Mayoral Capacity Funding (MCF) has been allocated to WMCA from the Mayoral Capacity Fund. It is currently proposed that £1.362m be used to part fund the Mayoral Office budget for 2018/19 and 2019/20. The Mayor's Office currently does not have an identified revenue stream and so the MCF funding offers a solution in the short term. The Mayor's Office budget is largely made up of posts and the associated travel expenses and IT support.

It is proposed that £0.083m be used to fund a policy advisor role (currently filled by a secondment from PWC and previously from KPMG) which is largely supporting and managing the 5G Programme. These costs are committed within 2018/19.

A further £0.254m is allocated to provide support on Industrial Strategy programme development (including Local Industrial Strategy and Brexit). This includes short term consultancy support and also the recruitment and onward funding for a small team to support the Director of Strategy

In addition there is £0.155m to provide support on WMCA's Public Service Reform agenda including Inclusive Growth, Radical Prevention and System Collaboration. Specifically in 2018/19 there is £0.026m committed for support to embed the Inclusive Growth Framework within WMCA with the expectation that other specific projects will follow next financial year.

Finally £0.045m has been allocated to support costs associated with proposed governance changes and transitions of functions.

With regard to the resourcing of Overview and Scrutiny, the WMCA Scrutiny function has been bolstered by 1 post during 2018/19, this is funded from the overall WMCA approved budget and currently none of the £2m MCF allocated is intended to be used to support scrutiny within the organisation. The Head of Governance is currently looking at ways to increase resource within the Scrutiny function going forward. If current budget proposals are approved a further post will be created in Governance Services which will increase capacity to support all meetings of the Authority including Overview and Scrutiny.

(b) To provide greater clarification on the extent to which the Mayor is utilising the powers provided within the Bus Services Act 2017 in respect of bus franchising.

The Bus Services Act 2017 provides a series of powers for the Mayoral Combined Authority areas including greater powers on partnership schemes, new Enhanced Partnerships and also powers to franchise buses, as well as provision for additional data from bus operators. We currently work with the Bus Alliance and other partnerships to drive positive outcomes, including an increase in paid bus patronage.

The leaders of the WMCA asked TfWM to undertake a high level assessment of these powers and their potential use during 2018. As part of that process there was a clear need for greater clarity on the requirements for, and from, the bus network within the policy framework to support Movement for Growth by the WMCA. This has been developed in the form of a Vision for Bus which was supported and approved in November 2018 by the WMCA.

As outlined in that report, a delivery plan is being developed from the Vision for Bus that will include an assessment of the potential use of powers from the Bus Services Act 2017. This is proposed for Spring 2019 and will consider franchising powers, but will also consider use of the other powers available within the Act for the future operation of buses in the West Midlands region and the delivery of the Vision for Bus. The Bus Services Act is legislation that is untested to date and needs careful and due consideration.

(c) To provide further details on the support being provided by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) to ensure vehicles operated on subsidised routes achieve high standards of environmental emissions.

TfWM are now tendering for bus services with requirements for operators to provide prices for the highest emission standards (Euro VI). This has allowed TfWM to renew some tenders for Euro VI standards which are the standards being considered by Clean Air Zones and other initiatives. There is a cost to providing this standard as those vehicles are more expensive which is why the tender process has to be mindful of not pricing services out of reach and inadvertently removing essential services from a community altogether by demanding higher standards.

This is why parallel to this TfWM are working with Government, all local authorities and all bus operators through the West Midlands Bus Alliance to attract further Government funding to support improved emission standards and also help bring down the costs from commercial bus operators for the tenders. Since 2015, Bus Alliance partners have successfully attracted over £10 million worth of funding to support vehicle improvements to buses that play a part in delivering subsidised services. This will have an impact on reducing the costs of future increases over time and help allow the network to benefit from increased levels of Euro VI vehicles over the next two years with at least 50% buses at a minimum of Euro VI standard by the end of 2020, although the Bus Alliance continues to work to push this figure further.

(d) To provide further details on the number and percentage of housing delivery programme targets that would be designated as 'affordable homes', and also social housing.

The WMCA is ambitious about securing a significant increase in affordable and social housing supply and quality across the region. This underpins the Housing Deal agreed with Government in March and the WMCA's housing and regeneration programmes and activities.

Precise housing delivery programme targets, including the percentage of housing designated as affordable and social housing, are a matter agreed and set by local planning authorities via their respective Local Plans and not the WMCA. The WMCA is not a planning authority and therefore does not set precise targets for these measures on sites or across council areas.

The WMCA supports councils to maximise the provision of affordable housing on sites it is actively involved in unlocking and delivering and in its work with investors and developers enabling local authorities to achieve their agreed targets. We are currently developing proposals for an affordable housing deal with Government.

(e) To provide further information of the economic benefits that the Mayor envisages for the region as a result of hosting the Commonwealth Games 2022, and how this will contribute to the region's inclusive growth.

It is anticipated that the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games will generate a £526 million boost to the West Midlands region (source: PwC economic impact analysis). Between 500,000 and one million additional visitors are expected to visit Birmingham and the wider region over the 11-day sporting event. The Games would support an average of 4,526 workers per year from 2018 to 2022. We will ensure that the opportunity of the Games is used to ensure delivery of increased numbers of affordable housing, transport connectivity is enhanced and that local residents have access to employment and skills development opportunities.

3.2 In addition to the questions above, there were four recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee arising from the Mayoral Q&A event:

(a) A report on Brexit, and the implications for the region, be presented to the WMCA Board as soon as possible, as it is considered that there is a need for a co-ordinated regional approach on the potential impacts and mitigations of Brexit.

The Combined Authority is supporting the Birmingham City Council's Brexit Commission

which produced a compilation of analysis of potential impacts Birmingham and the West Midlands on the region on 22 November. Their report is available here:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2318/brexit_impact_analysis

Through the Commission, the WMCA is also supporting coordinating work streams. A briefing paper will be provided to WMCA Board members summarising the latest position and activity.

- (b) Any WMCA Air Quality Strategy should be drafted in co-ordination with all constituent authorities, and include reference to impact on non-constituent authorities; also the WMCA should develop a region-wide database for all local authorities to input into, and to access information.**

The WMCA Board has agreed that the WMCA should prepare a Low emissions strategy and Action Plan focussed on air quality (and greenhouse emissions). One of the key objectives will be to support and accelerate local action. It will complement the work being undertaken by authorities and will include developing and sharing good practice and emerging solutions to support the work of individual local authorities and TfWM.

The preparation of the strategy will be overseen by the WMCA Environment Board which includes elected members from all constituent member Local Authorities. The strategy development is being steered by an officers group with the full involvement of the local authority air quality officers group, who have already provided representation.

The scope of the strategy is the 3 LEP geography and therefore the constituent Local Authorities will be liaising with their neighbouring non-constituent Local Authorities, as the strategy is developed.

Data and best practice collected during the development of the regional plan would be shared with local authorities.

- (c) The WMCA should provide leadership on vehicle emission standards impacting on air pollution, and therefore any decision on the engine type to be used in the proposed Sprint vehicle should avoid the use of diesel; and WMCA should seek to be the market leader in environmental emissions.**

The vehicles to be used on Sprint services will be 18 metre articulated vehicles, as agreed by WMCA Board in September 2017. The vehicles used must meet the Sprint Standards. This includes the requirement for emissions standards to be Euro VI technology or above.

We are currently in the process of determining the operator model for Sprint, with an operator expected to be selected by early 2019. It is proposed that TfWM will work with the operator to define the best model to be used for Sprint operations, bearing in mind the need to meet the delivery timescale and emissions standards.

All types of propulsion systems will be considered and evaluated as part of the procurement process with the operator. The delivery of the three priority Sprint routes for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games will be a significant factor in determining the choice of propulsion system. This does not preclude the consideration of different propulsion systems for the future Sprint routes.

We will keep partners and stakeholders updated as this market engagement progresses.

- (d) Overview & Scrutiny Committee should undertake pre-decision scrutiny on any proposals or recommendations arising out of the Ring & Ride review prior to its consideration by the WMCA Board.**

Collaboration and involvement sit at the heart of the WMCA and how it operates, and the principle of seeking different perspectives, views and experiences to inform policy and decision-making is very much part of that. The principle of pre-decision scrutiny and the critical friend challenge and transparency it can provide to major strategic policy development is therefore welcomed. There is a commitment to work with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny to consider how the positioning and involvement of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is proportionate and timely, mutually beneficial, and is complementary to the engagement and challenge already inherent in the WMCA policy development process. We will consider the request regarding the Ring & Ride review in that process.

TfWM is undertaking this work (which is still at an early stage) on the instruction of the Portfolio Lead Member and, having assessed the recommendations of the Ring and Ride review, will then seek approval for their implementation using the governance procedures of the WMCA.

4. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of the recommendations of this report. Section 3.1(a) relates to the allocation of £2m Mayoral Capacity Funding provided by government.

5. Legal Implications

Arrangements for Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny are dealt with in the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 and in the Authority's Constitution. As set out elsewhere in this report, the provisions require the Mayor and/or the Authority (as appropriate) to respond to a specific report or recommendations. This report fulfils those requirements.

There are no other specific legal implications arising from this report.

6. Equalities Implications

There are no direct equalities implications in relation to this report. However, future work may be impacted from an equalities perspective in the following areas:

Bus Services Act and Vision for Bus: Bus is the most affordable and most commonly used means of public transport for people for lower socio-economic backgrounds, people with disabilities and young people. People from the poorest fifth of households catch nearly 10 times as many buses as trains, but buses become much less popular as household incomes rise. It is therefore important that the vision considers and embeds key affordability, inclusion and accessibility considerations to ensure bus travel is equally accessible to all. An equality impact assessment of the vision deliverables will therefore be required.

Affordable homes and social housing: Housing inequalities are prevalent in the West Midlands. Pakistani/Bangladeshi and black adults are more likely to live in substandard accommodation. 31% of Pakistani/Bangladeshi people live in overcrowded accommodation, while for Black people the figure is 27% and for white people it is 8%. Moreover, 1 in 3 households with a disabled person still live in non-decent accommodation. An increase in social housing supply is likely to have a positive impact on these groups but the need for accessible housing should also be prioritised.

Commonwealth games: Employment inequalities are rife in the West Midlands and youth unemployment is also higher than average. The games are a good opportunity to address some of these inequalities through employment for under-represented groups and should form part of the games employment strategy.

7. Inclusive Growth Implications

While this is a report to provide clarification and updates to be noted, Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) Members should consider the following implications for future work:

- **Local Industrial Strategy (LIS):** in 19/20, planning will start for delivery of the LIS, in conjunction with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and other Government departments. There is risk that Brexit will disrupt this process because of potential delays and shifting priorities, both for the Shared Prosperity Fund and more broadly. Consequently, WMCA's proposed investment into LIS programme development – while having no implication for inclusive growth in itself – will need to be deployed with regard to this fast-changing picture.
- **Embedding the Inclusive Growth Framework:** this work will be led by the Inclusive Growth Unit (IGU), to ensure that all investment (capital and revenue) delivers inclusive growth. This should have positive implications for 'business as usual' inclusive growth, and the IGU would welcome the input of O&S into this process.
- **Strategic Vision for Bus:** as one of the most affordable modes of mass transit, bus travel has an important role to play in delivering inclusive 'modal shift', one of the indicators within the 'Affordable, Safe and Connected Places' dimension of the Inclusive Growth Framework. It is also a contributor to the air quality indicator of the 'Sustainability' dimension. As such, delivery of the Vision Objectives is critical to building an inclusive economy, and appropriate evaluation measures such as space for buses, miles of route, convenience, safety, and affordability will need to be present in order to evidence progress towards that goal.
- **Social housing:** under the 'Affordable, Safe and Connected Places' dimension of the Inclusive Growth Framework, an increase in the supply of social housing should improve the homelessness and housing affordability indicators. In the absence of other regulatory powers, it will be difficult to improve these indicators without such an increase.
- **Brexit:** the disruption (including to business cashflow), impact on trade and potential for interest rate volatility are all risks to inclusive growth. While much of the control over Brexit mitigation sits at Westminster and Whitehall, an overview of the risks and mitigations planned at local and regional level would help in understanding the scale of the challenge.
- **Air quality strategy:** such strategies are an important part of a transition to a low carbon economy, and should impact positively on both the 'Health & Wellbeing' and 'Sustainability' dimensions of the Inclusive Growth Framework. However, it will need to take account of the latest research into 'just transition' to ensure that people are supported through the process.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1 There are no further specific implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

9. Schedule of Background Papers

- 10.1 WMCA Board report: Report of Councillor Peter Hughes – Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committee Mayor’s Question Time: Policy - 9th November 2018



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	16 January 2019
Report title	West Midlands Low Emissions Strategy and Action Plan – Progress Update
Accountable Chief Executive	Deborah Cadman, OBE Chief Executive of the WMCA Email: Deborah.Cadman@wmca.org.uk Tel: (0121) 214 7200
Accountable Employee	Dr Simon Slater Head of Environment Email: Simon.Slater@wmca.org.uk Tel: (0121) 214 7804
Report has been considered by	Not Applicable

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note the content of this report and appendices.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper is to update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress of the West Midlands Low Emission Strategy and Action Plan.

2. Progress to date

- 2.1 The WMCA Board approved the production of the West Midlands Low Emission Strategy and Action Plan in July 2018 and delegated the draft scope to the WMCA Environment Board to approve in September 2018. Comments on this draft scope at the Environment Board meeting and from the steering group members of TfWM, the Local Authority air quality officers network and the WMCA Environment Board advisory group, were then incorporated into the final scope. This has included a re-emphasis on local 'added value', sharing of good practice, and local ownership raised previously by the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 To raise awareness and further ownership in November and December the WMCA Environment Team have presented to officers and councillors as part of regional public health and transport events on air quality and the West Midlands Environment Pollution officers network.
- 2.3 A steering group has been appointed which meets on 21st January to finalise the development and implementation plan. This group is made up of representatives from the WMCA constituent councils covering air quality and low emission issues, who will also liaise with non-constituent councils. The group also includes representatives from industry, public health, and Transport for West Midlands, and is led by the new WMCA Environment team.
- 2.4 Appendix 1 covers the latest scope of the West Midlands Low Emission Strategy and Action Plan prepared for the steering group.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 The original timescales have changed to allow time required for the approval process by the Environment Committee and Board and feedback from partners. The latest indicative timescales are:
- January 21st - Inception Meeting with Steering Group to finalise implementation plan
 - February 1st – Progress report to WMCA Environment Board
 - April / May – Meeting of Steering Group to finalise draft actions / recommendations
 - June 7th – WMCA Environment Board agree final actions and recommendations within strategy for adoption by WMCA Board.
 - July – WMCA Board approval of strategy
 - August/September – formal launch of strategy and action plan.

4. Wider WMCA Implications

- 4.1 This proposal helps strengthen the WMCA delivery of the environment and the delivery of key Manifesto, SEP, and annual plan commitments.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The CA will provide support to the production of the Strategy and Action Plan.

6. Legal Implications

None at this stage.

7. Equalities Implications

7.1 Part of the WMCA sustainability review and benchmarking focused on the health inequalities agenda between the gap between the worst and best performing areas with the WMCA SEP area, and by gender. This work will support partners improving air quality and the creation of jobs which help begin to address these inequalities.

8. Inclusive Growth Implications

See above.

9. Geographic Implications

9.1 This covers the CA geography covered by the SEP.

10. Schedule of Background Papers

Appendix 1: Progress Update for Steering Group 8th January 2019.

Scope of WM Low Emission Strategy (updated version 4 8.1.19)

The WMCA Board previously approved the production of the Low Emission Strategy in July 2018 and delegated the draft scope to the WMCA Environment Board to approve in September 2018. There were some minor comments on this draft scope at the Board meeting and from the steering group members of TfWM, the Local Authority air quality officers network and the WMCA Environment Board advisory group. These comments are incorporated in the latest version below, and were approved with the Environment Board minutes by the WMCA Board on 9th November. The next steps is to use this scope to guide the development of the strategy with the steering group and partners.

Objectives and outcomes of a West Midlands Low Emissions Strategy and Action Plan:

- **Support for local action** - Joint action between local authorities, the WMCA and other stakeholders where this will accelerate existing agreed local plans to tackle air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Social, economic, and environment outcomes** – accelerated activity will result in improved health, such as reduction in premature deaths and health inequalities, economic productivity, such as reduced congestion and attraction of new business, and an improved natural environment.
- **Attract investors** - help to scale up opportunities to attract investors to fund innovation, manufacturing and deployment of solutions both locally and for export. Underpin the WMCA ambition to produce the UK's first 'clean, inclusive, and resilient growth' local industrial strategy and inform relevant bids such as future Industrial Strategy 'grand challenges'.

The format of the Strategy and Action Plan

This is flexible to meet the objectives, however it is likely to include:

- The strategy setting out:
 - the nature of the problem,
 - links with other local and regional strategies,
 - rationale for the focus on particular actions,
 - and delivery mechanisms either through existing plans and activities or new activity.
- The action plan with:
 - a clear set of actions and owners
 - success measures, milestones, and monitoring.
- The evidence base and methodology used to allow future updates of the strategy and action plan. This is to include:
 - some form of scoring matrix on how the actions were prioritised against criteria such as rationale/value for regional action, ease/cost of implementation, and scale of impact.
 - Maps and graphs covering the sources and concentrations of different emissions.
- To review and recommend appropriate delivery structures e.g. Joint Low Emissions Unit

The Geographic area

The strategy is to cover the same area covered by the WMCA Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and draft Local Industrial Strategy. This is the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) of the Black Country, Greater Birmingham and Solihull, and Coventry and Warwickshire.

There will need to be a recognition of the diverse economic geography and good practice of urban and rural areas. However the prioritisation of actions will need to be focused on where there is a concentration of emissions and health impacts, which is likely to be in the WMCA constituent members urban areas.

Emissions and targets covered

Greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change covered by the UK Climate Change Act and the 2050 target of an 80% reduction on 1990 levels. At the SEP level this is a 2030 target of 40% reduction on 1990 levels. This is currently monitored by the WMCA Performance Management Framework indicator PMF E.1. of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (CO₂e).

Emissions that contribute to air quality and have the highest impact on health covered by the draft UK air quality strategy with 2020 and 2030 targets for reduction. These are:

- fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) reduction against the 2005 baseline by 30% by 2020, and 46% by 2030.
- particular matter (PM₁₀) reduction against the 2005 baseline to 50% or less of UK population living in areas with concentrations of (10 µg/m³) by 2025
- ammonia (NH₃) reduce emissions against the 2005 baseline by 8% by 2020 and 16% by 2030.
- nitrogen oxides (NO_x) reduce emissions against the 2005 baseline by 55% by 2020, and by increasing 73% by 2030.
- sulphur dioxide (SO₂) reduce emissions against the 2005 baseline by 59% by 2020, increasing to 88% by 2030.
- non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs) reduce emissions against the 2005 baseline by 32% by 2020, increasing to 39% by 2030.
- ozone (O₃) as secondary pollutant to ensure it does not increase as NO_x reduces and keeps within EU limits.

At the SEP level the target is to reduce the number of poor air days (a 4 or higher in the Defra Daily Air Quality Index to reflect likely legal breaches of the pollutants and the beginning of health warnings) from 40 in 2016 to 1 by 2030. This is currently monitored by the WMCA Performance Management Framework indicator PMF E.2. of number of days scoring '4' or higher on the Daily Air Quality Index. The index covers a basket of most of the current pollutants in the draft air quality strategy e.g. PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, NO_x, SO₂, Ozone. However it omits NH₃ and NMVOCs which need to be reviewed as part of the new strategy.

Timescales for Strategy and Action Plan (2019-2030)

The strategy should align with the Single Economic Plan (SEP) and Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and the alignment with many of the national air quality targets and 'grand challenge' of clean growth and mobility set out in the national industrial strategy. Therefore the new strategy should cover the period when the Low emissions strategy is launched in early 2019 to 2030.

Consultation and stakeholder involvement

The strategy is not statutory and will be drawing on existing local plans and knowledge which have already been subject to detailed consultation. Therefore the focus will be to consult with the local authorities and regional stakeholders on a strategy and plan for joint working to accelerate existing agreed local action, rather than engage directly with the public locally. This will include working closely with the University of Birmingham that has recently won a significant research contract to develop the air quality monitoring and intelligence for the WMCA area.

This strategy will support the decision made by Birmingham City Council, after public consultation, on a local Clean Air Zone.

Where possible the strategy is required to build on existing good practice and development experience from other Combined Authorities who have developed similar strategies, especially Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, and the London Integrated Environment strategy.

Potential solutions will include the alignment of a variety of existing or planned activity that could help support existing local action from the role of green infrastructure to public transport, working practices, and technology and services.

Governance of the development of the strategy

The WMCA Environment Board and supporting officers and partners will be the group overseeing the development of the strategy to ensure it 'adds value' and through joint working at scale will help accelerate existing local good practice driven by individual local councils. This Board will ultimately recommend the final strategy for approval by the Mayor and WMCA Board.

There will be a strategy steering group dealing with the day to day development of the strategy. This is:

- Dr Simon Slater – WMCA Head of Environment - to Chair the group and manage the consultant
- Jake Thrush – TfWM – to act as link to TfWM colleagues
- Keith Budden – CENEX – to act as link to WMCA Environment Board and also private sector
- Nick Powell – Chair of WM Environment Protection Group - Black Country Local Authorities– to ensure ownership and identification of regional joint actions that will benefit local action
- Mark Wolstencroft – Birmingham City Council - (and liaison with other councils within LEP area e.g. Redditch) - – to ensure ownership and identification of regional joint actions that will benefit local action
- Dominic Towey - Solihull Council– to ensure ownership and identification of regional joint actions that will benefit local action.
- Steve Dewar – Coventry Council (and liaison with Warks CC) – to ensure ownership and identification of regional joint actions that will benefit local action
- Duncan Vernon - Public Health Birmingham City Council – to ensure link to latest health data and support from Public Health network

Timescales for development of Strategy and Action Plan

The original timescales have changed to allow time required for the approval process by the Environment Committee and Board and feedback from partners. The latest indicative timescales are:

- January 16th 2019 – Progress report to WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- January 21st - Inception Meeting with Steering Group to finalise implementation plan
- February 1st – Progress report to WMCA Environment Board
- April / May – Meeting of Steering Group to finalise draft actions / recommendations
- June 7th – WMCA Environment Board agree final actions and recommendations within strategy for adoption by WMCA Board.
- July – WMCA Board approval of strategy
- August/September – formal launch of strategy and action plan.

Note if actions and early wins identified during the development process with partners to improve coordination and local implementation, then joint working will occur earlier. However, any key region wide actions requiring additional investment and support by the WMCA and partners will require approval as part of the final strategy and action plan.

END

Additional information in the detailed brief used to identify consultants to help develop WMCA and partners Low Emission Strategy and Action Plan.

Background

In July 2018 Birmingham began the consultation process on developing a Clean Air Zone (CAZ). To support this local action the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board and Mayor agreed to strengthen the WMCA Environment Board and progress the development of a supportive strategic approach to air quality covering the whole WMCA area.

Informal consultation with internal and external stakeholders including local authorities showed that there was clear appetite for the West Midlands to develop a strategic approach on Air Quality and a low emissions strategy and delivery plan which would be similar to the approach used by Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, and partly by London in their new Environment Strategy. This is emerging good practice for our major urban areas.

This strategic plan will be steered by the new Environment Board and agreed by WMCA Board.

Emerging principles for a West Midlands approach to Air quality will be considered by the board but could include:

- Build on existing powers and duties of individual local authorities, who remain responsible for delivery and direction in their areas.
- Keep a strategic approach to improving air quality by continuing to measure an overall basket of air quality indicators, and greenhouse gases, not just Nitrogen Dioxide.
- Develop a grand challenge to address clean growth and mobility as part of WMCA Local Industrial Strategy and bid for Government funding.
- Develop a Low Emissions Strategy to help coordinate monitoring, grand challenge actions, and scale up local good practice.
- WMCA to use Environment Board Delivery Plan to lead by example, through building standards, transport contracts etc.

Useful Background Documents

WMCA Annual Plan 18/19 (useful background to WMCA, TfWM and partner bodies)

<https://www.wmca.org.uk/media/2273/wmca-annual-plan.pdf>

Strategic Economic Plan – 2016 (Overall Economic Plan for 3 LEP geography and the basis for the new local industrial strategy)

<https://www.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/strategy>

West Midlands Movement for Growth and Delivery Plan to 2026 – September 2017 (Strategic Transport Plans to support the Strategic Economic Plan)

<https://www.tfwm.org.uk/strategy/movement-for-growth/>

West Midlands Draft Energy Strategy – May 2018 (3 LEP Geography useful context although more focused on energy than carbon emissions)

<https://www.energycapital.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/A-Regional-Energy-Strategy-for-the-West-Midlands-Final-Consultation-1.pdf>

WMCA Sustainability Metrics Report – May 2018 (including air quality and carbon emissions)

<http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/combined-authority-sustainability-benchmarking-technical-report-analysis-of-metrics-2018/>

West Midlands Low Emissions Towns and Cities Programme (2011-16) previous extensive programme

https://go.walsall.gov.uk/low_emissions_towns_and_cities_programme

Sustainability West Midlands advice to WMCA on developing strategic approach to air quality – May 2018 (includes stakeholders involved in developing approach, existing good local practice and that of other Combined Authorities)

<http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/WMCA-Strategic-Air-Quality-Briefing-v18may18.pdf>

Creation of WMCA Environment Board – July 2018 (includes in annex summary of agreed approach to producing low emissions strategy)

<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/documents/s1878/Report.pdf>

END

Any initial queries to WMCA Head of Environment simon.slater@wmca.org.uk