

West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 17 January 2020

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor George Adamson (Cannock Chase), Jonathan Browning (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP), Councillor Shaun Davies (Telford & Wrekin), Councillor Yvonne Davies (Sandwell), Councillor David Hitchiner (Herefordshire), Councillor Sebastian Lowe (Rugby), Councillor Peter Nutting (Shropshire), Tim Pile (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP) and Stewart Towe (Black Country LEP).
2.	Minutes - 8 November 2019	The minutes were agreed as a correct record.
3.	Forward Plan	A forward plan of items to be considered at future meetings was noted.
4.	Chair's Remarks	<p>(a) The Chair congratulated David Stevens on his recent appointment as Chief Executive of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.</p> <p>(b) The Chair welcomed Jackie Homan, recently appointed as the WMCA's Head of Environment, to here first meeting.</p>
5.	Scrutiny Review into the Effectiveness of Transport Delivery Committee in Overseeing the Delivery of WMCA Transport Policies	The report was noted, and the Portfolio Lead for Transport would provide a formal written response to the proposals contained within the report.

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6.	Financial Monitoring 2019/20	<p>(1) The financial position as at the end of November 2019 was noted.</p> <p>(2) It was noted that on 8 November 2019, regulations came into force retrospectively merging the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority Pension Fund with the West Midlands Pension Fund, effective 1 April 2019.</p> <p>(3) The statement of assets and liabilities of the West Midlands Pension Fund and the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority Pension Fund as at the date of transfer, set out in within the report, were noted.</p>
7.	WMCA Draft Budget 2020/21	<p>(1) The consolidated revenue budget monitoring position as at 30 November 2019 was noted.</p> <p>(2) The draft West Midlands Combined Authority consolidated revenue budget was approved for consultation. This included:</p> <p>(a) the budget requirement for transport delivery 2020/21 comprising three elements:</p> <p>(i) £114.7m a year to be funded from the existing transport levy mechanism;</p> <p>(ii) £1.4m to be funded from grant awarded by the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee; and</p> <p>(iii) a transfer from earmarked reserves of £3.65m.</p>

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		<p>(b) the West Midlands Combined Authority Delivery budget requirement for 2020/21 of £142.0m comprising of six elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) £125.8m Adult Education spending to be funded from Adult Education Budget funding devolved by the Department for Education; (ii) £8.3m to be funded from other devolution deal grants; (iii) £4.6m to be funded from Constituent Authority fees (fees to remain at the same level as 2019/20); (iv) £0.4m to be funded from Non-Constituent Authority and observer fees (fees to remain at the same level as 2019/20); (v) £2.2m to be funded from other income; and (vi) a transfer from reserves of £0.8m. <p>(3) The Mayoral Office budget for 2020/21 of £0.8m, to be funded from additional confirmed Mayoral capacity funding of £0.8m, was approved for consultation and scrutiny.</p> <p>(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>(5) An application to the Living Wage Foundation to become an accredited Real Living Wage employer was approved in principle.</p>

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		<p>(6) The West Midlands Combined Authority’s indicative 5-year Medium Term Financial Plan was noted.</p> <p>(7) The draft Transport Capital Programme was approved for consultation.</p> <p>(8) The planned spend on the Investment Programme over the three-year period was noted.</p> <p>(9) It was approved that surplus cash balances generated from the Collective Investment Fund and Residential Investment Fund were used to support the West Midlands Combined Authority Delivery budget, thus minimising Constituent and Non-Constituent Authority contributions.</p> <p>(10) The matters identified by Overview and Scrutiny Committee that arose out of the Mayoral Q&A on 18 December 2019 were noted.</p>
8.	Local Industrial Strategy Implementation Update	<p>(1) The progress to date on delivery against the Local Industrial Strategy and overall economic growth goals, including activity to ensure the economy was more inclusive and resilient to shocks, and that zero carbon priorities were embedded in all activity to deliver economic growth, was noted.</p> <p>(2) The more detailed approach being taken to implementing and managing delivery, including actions being taken to ensure delivery reflected the latest mid-year economic data and informed the future funding asks of Government, was agreed.</p> <p>(3) The next steps, outlined within the report, were agreed.</p>

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9.	#WM2041: Our Actions to Meet the Climate Challenge	<p>(1) The climate green paper was received and endorsed as an important stage in a programme of collaboration, engagement and policy development to address the climate challenge in the West Midlands.</p> <p>(2) The next steps outlined within the report, including the development of an investment pipeline with priority investments as part of the Spending Review / Budget proposition to Government was agreed, and this collaborative task was delegated to the Environment Board, supported by the WMCA executive.</p>
10.	West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit	<p>(1) The progress to date on the establishment of the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit - a collaborative regional approach to addressing violence, vulnerability and exploitation - was noted and welcomed.</p> <p>(2) The WMCA committed to actively working with the Violence Reduction Unit on its prevention agenda - including through agreements for each West Midlands authority to work with the Violence Reduction Unit in ways that added value, supported preventative work in local settings (including targeting funding to the right places), and could be held to account through appropriate local forums.</p>
11.	Strategic Economic Development Board - 5 September 2019	The minutes were noted.

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12.	Housing & Land Delivery Board - 4 November 2019	The minutes were noted.
13.	Transport Delivery Committee - 4 November 2019	The minutes were noted.
14.	Investment Board - 11 November 2019	The minutes were noted.
15.	Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - 12 November 2019	The minutes were noted.
16.	Young Combined Authority - 13 November and 11 December 2019	The report on the activity of the Youth Combined Authority was noted.
17.	Strategic Economic Development Board - 20 November 2019	The minutes were noted.
18.	Investment Board - 16 December 2019	The minutes were noted.
19.	Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 18 December 2019	The minutes were approved.

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Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
20.	Date of Next Meeting	Friday 14 February 2020 at 11.00am