



## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** Monday 2 November 2020

**Time:** 2.00 pm **Public meeting** Yes

**Venue:** This meeting will take place virtually via Microsoft Teams  
[Click here to view the meeting.](#)

### Membership

Councillor Lisa Trickett (Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Cathy Bayton (Vice-Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Ahmad Bostan	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Richard Brown	Coventry City Council
Paul Brown	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Chris Cade	Warwickshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Dean Carroll	Shropshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Mike Chalk	Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Brian Douglas-Maul	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Peter Fowler	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Robert Grinsell	Joint Coventry/Solihull Representative
Councillor Angus Lees	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Mike Lyons	Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Lucy Seymour-Smith	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Stephen Simkins	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Paul Sweet	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Diane Todd	Staffordshire Non-Constituent Authorities
Councillor Kate Wild	Solihull Metropolitan Borough 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  
**Telephone** 0121 214 7689  
**Email** Tanya.Patel@wmca.org.uk

# AGENDA

No.	Item	Presenting	Pages
<b>Meeting Business Items</b>			
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 (a) Monday 7 September 2020 (b) Friday 16 October 2020 (Mayoral Q&A: Policy)	Chair	1 - 8
4.	Chair's Remarks (if any)	Chair	None
<b>Items for Discussion</b>			
5.	Q&A with the WMCA Portfolio Lead for Housing & Regeneration Councillor Mike Bird (a) Opening Comments (b) Questions to the Portfolio Lead (c) Closing Comments (d) To consider any issues or comments to draw to the attention of the WMCA Board when it meets on the 13 November 2020	Chair	None
6.	Recharge West Midlands - Investment Case to Government - Battery Gigafactory	Martin Yardley & Andy Williams	9 - 18
7.	Transport Scrutiny Sub - Committee Minutes (a) 14 September 2020 (b) 19 October 2020	Councillor Cathy Bayton	19 - 28
8.	Forward Plan (a) WMCA Board (b) Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Lyndsey Roberts	29 - 34
<b>Date of the Next Meeting</b>			
9.	Friday 11 December 2020 at 11.00am	Chair	None



## West Midlands Combined Authority

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 7 September 2020 at 10.00 am

#### Minutes

#### Present

Councillor Lisa Trickett (Chair)  
Councillor Ahmad Bostan  
Councillor Richard Brown  
Paul Brown

Councillor Mike Chalk

Councillor Peter Fowler  
Councillor Robert Grinsell  
Councillor Stephen Simkins  
Councillor Diane Todd

Birmingham City Council  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council  
Coventry City Council  
Black Country Local Enterprise  
Partnership  
Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local  
Authorities  
Birmingham City Council  
Joint Coventry/Solihull Representative  
Association of Black Country Authorities  
Staffordshire Non-Constituent Authorities

#### In Attendance

Deborah Cadman  
Louise Cowen  
Julia Goldsworthy  
Adam Hawksbee  
Aisha Masood  
Lyndsey Roberts  
Sean Russell

West Midlands Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
Young Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority

#### Item Title No.

#### 62. Inquorate Meeting

This meeting was inquorate and therefore decisions taken at the meeting would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 18 September 2020 for formal approval.

#### 63. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cathy Bayton (Association of Black Country Authorities), Councillor Angus Lees (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council) and Mike Lyons (Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise).

#### 64. Minutes - 13 July 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13 July 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

#### 65. Chair's Remarks

**(a) Gigafactory**

Prior to committee, the Chair had circulated key information relating to the Gigafactory programme and informed the committee that a deep-dive would be undertaken with further information being provided at its next meeting.

**(b) WMCA Scrutiny Review on the Effectiveness of the WMCA's Governance Structures in Delivering the Policy Objectives of the WMCA**

The Chair informed the committee of her discussions with relevant officers to progress the findings on the governance review previously undertaken. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the delay in the Mayoral elections, the findings of this review had not yet been progressed.

**66. Recharge West Midlands - Creating Grand Central Diagnostics Hub**

The committee received a presentation from the Director of Implementation on the Grand Central Diagnostics Hub at Birmingham New Street station. It was recognised that the region faced significant health inequalities which had only been exasperated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The need to provide quicker access to diagnosis and treatment to those with life-threatening conditions to ensure they could remain in employment as long as possible was highlighted.

The committee expressed its concern over the focus of a health-related initiative, as this was not directly within the remit of the Mayor's powers. The Chief Executive confirmed that this was a pilot and was linked to the WM5G programme, with a focus of 5G technology. She also highlighted that the WMCA had responsibility and powers for public service reform, which provided legitimacy to this initiative.

Councillor Ahmad Bostan expressed his concerns regarding the accessibility of Grand Central being the chosen location, and requested further information on the assessments being completed to indicate that this location successfully met the needs of those suffering from health inequalities. Councillor Richard Brown echoed those concerns around Grand Central being the access point as to those in need in deprived areas.

The Director of Implementation confirmed to the committee that further work was being undertaken to develop the original proposals, and it had only been targeted within Birmingham as this was a pilot project. In regards to volume of footfall, the Director of Implementation highlighted that he had received data from transport colleges which indicated that 50 million individuals accessed Grand Central across the year.

The committee requested further information on the assessment being completed on those individuals from inner city communities accessing Grand Central and those from black, Asian & minority ethnic communities suffering from health inequalities. Information on the suggested individual profile was also requested, as well as the return on investment and target numbers for the usage of the diagnostic hub.

Recommended to the WMCA Board:

- (1) The presentation be noted.

**67. Economic Recovery in the West Midlands**

The committee considered a report from the Director of Strategy providing an update on the progress of the region's economic recovery plan and activity including the 'Recharge the West Midlands' investment proposition. 'Recharge the West Midlands' was the region's collective proposition to Government to stimulate economic recovery and boost business and consumer confidence. Since its submission in June, 18 of the 31 propositions had either been allocated funding or were in policy areas where the Government had allocated money, and the WMCA would continue to push for confirmation of funding for the West Midlands.

The Chair expressed her disappointment that a tracker had not been implemented to cross-reference the bids submitted to Government against what was approved, as had been requested at the last meeting. The Chair requested information in the tracker to show outcomes, outputs and how the bid aligned to the needs of the region impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Director of Strategy undertook to work with the Chair to implement a tracker to provide to committee with the necessary information.

The Chief Executive highlighted that the WMCA would continue to make appropriate bids on Government announcements to respond to the needs of the region, whilst ensuring a focus was maintained on sustaining and growing the economy for the West Midlands and protecting individuals from unemployment. The committee was keen to ensure that value for money was embedded across all propositions. The Chief Executive suggested that at a future meeting, information from the Community Recovery Group and Citizen Panel was considered to be able to scrutinise the feedback received from communities and how this influenced the decision making process.

Recommended to the WMCA Board that:

- (1) The region's overall approach to economic recovery, taking account of short and long-term actions tailored to economic and health conditions, be noted.
- (2) The impact of Government's announcements, including those in respect of the region's 'Recharge the West Midlands' Proposition, and how this provided the basis for influencing the Comprehensive Spending Review, be noted.

**68. Comprehensive Spending Review - Draft Submission Document**

The committee received a report from the Head of Policy & Programme Development on the draft response to the Government's 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review consultation. The submission was broken down into four thematic projects; infrastructure, economy and skills, public services and financial sustainability.

Councillor Bob Grinsell referenced the information provided on the HS2

interchange and how this related to an application considered by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's planning committee on access to parking, ensuring that proposals provided value for money. The Chair also commented on how further proposals should consider the #WM2041 environmental ambitions and the need for investment into transport infrastructure. She also commented on the need to clearly identify which proposals were being prioritised to reflect the needs of the region to make a difference.

Councillor Ahmad Bostan expressed his concern over the ending of the furlough scheme and how the residents of the West Midlands region would suffer and what the WMCA could do to help those struggling with potential redundancies. Further to Councillor Mike Chalk's question on public consultation, the Head of Policy & Programme Development confirmed that engagement had been undertaken with individuals representing varied social-economic groups.

Recommended to the WMCA Board that:

- (1) The comments made by committee be noted and help form the final draft of the consultation response to be considered by the WMCA Board on 18 September 2020.

#### **69. Forward Plan**

The committee noted a forward plan of items that were to be reported to further meetings of the committee and the WMCA Board.

The Scrutiny Officer provided members with an overview of the work programme to be considered by the committee and the Mayoral question times. Members were to provide the Scrutiny Officer with any requests for further information to help with their lines of enquires in preparation for the Mayoral question times.

The Chair informed the committee of her proposals for a task and finish group to consider investments within the Black Country. Members were in agreement to this proposal. The Scrutiny Officer was to draw up a review scoping document for the task and finish group, which would be shared at the next meeting.

The Chief Executive suggested that the committee consider the WMCA's response to the Government's Devolution White Paper, along with the community recovery priorities and the impact of the lifting of the furlough scheme. The Chair welcomed this suggestion and requested that these items, along with the outstanding WMCA governance scrutiny review, be scheduled for the appropriate meetings, including arranging additional meetings of the committee as required.

#### **70. Date of the Next Meeting**

Monday 2 November 2020 at 2.00pm.

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm.



# West Midlands Combined Authority

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Friday 16 October 2020 at 11.30 am

### Minutes

#### Present

Councillor Lisa Trickett (Chair)  
Councillor Cathy Bayton (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Ahmad Bostan  
Paul Brown

Councillor Chris Cade

Councillor Mike Chalk

Councillor Peter Fowler  
Councillor Robert Grinsell  
Councillor Angus Lees  
Councillor Lucy Seymour-Smith  
Councillor Stephen Simkins  
Councillor Kate Wild

Birmingham City Council  
Association of Black Country Authorities  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council  
Black Country Local Enterprise  
Partnership  
Warwickshire Non-Constituent Local  
Authorities  
Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local  
Authorities  
Birmingham City Council  
Joint Coventry/Solihull Representative  
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Birmingham City Council  
Association of Black Country Authorities  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

#### In Attendance

Michael-Akolade Ayodeji  
Councillor Philip Bateman  
Deborah Cadman  
Councillor Liz Clements  
Paul Clarke  
Louise Cowen  
Dan Essex  
Tim Martin  
Aisha Masood  
Lyndsey Roberts  
Councillor Jackie Taylor  
Andy Street

Young Combined Authority  
Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
Young Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
Mayor of the West Midlands

#### Item Title No.

#### 71. Welcome & Introductions

The Chair welcomed the Mayor, members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, members of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee and representatives from the Young Combined Authority to the first mayoral question time of 2020/21 that was focussing on WMCA policy-related matters. She also reported that Councillor Richard Brown had recently been appointed as Coventry City Council's Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance & Resources and congratulated him on this.

**72. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Brown (Coventry), Councillor Dean Carroll (Shropshire authorities) and Mike Lyons (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP).

**73. Declarations of Interests**

Councillor Philip Bateman declared a non-prejudicial interest in respect of his membership of the Canal & River Trust Advisory Board and his receipt of a transport workers pension. Councillor Stephen Simkins declared a non-prejudicial interest in membership of the Canal & River Trust Advisory Board. Councillor Jackie Taylor declared a non-prejudicial interest in respect of her membership of the Midlands Connect Partnership Board and the West Midlands Rail Board of Directors.

**74. Questions to the Mayor**

The Mayor provided an opening statement to members of the committee. He indicated that since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, the most important role for the WMCA had been to ensure that transport services continued to be provided to those where no other transport options were available. He outlined a range of measures taken by Transport for West Midlands in support of this. The Mayor also highlighted other activity of the WMCA during the last six months, including ensuring that adult education providers had continued to be paid, the work of the Recovery Forum and Economic Impact Group in mitigating the impacts being experienced across the region, and the submission to Government of the 'Recharge West Midlands' investment case, which this committee had been given the opportunity to comment on at its meeting on 7 September.

Members in attendance, along with Michael-Akolade Ayodeji and Aisha Masood from the Young Combined Authority, then questioned the Mayor on the delivery and impact of WMCA policies. A range of topics were covered, including matters relating to the WMCA's responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic and community recovery work being undertaken, Government funding allocations to the region arising out of the 'Recharge West Midlands' investment case, further funding asks to support wider recovery work, along with the support required for the different economic sectors and those facing the prospect of imminent unemployment once the Government's furlough scheme ended.

The Chair noted that the Government's furlough scheme was due to end in the coming weeks and there were significant concerns that this would result in a sharp increase in unemployment in the region. She enquired whether this required a more concerted effort to project and support those likely to be impacted, for example by establishing a jobs taskforce, that could offer targeted support where required. The Mayor recognised that it was not possible to protect and retain every job within the West Midlands, but drew attention to the initiatives being undertaken by both the Government and the WMCA to protect as many jobs as possible. These included the WMCA undertaking a co-ordinating role for the Government-funded Kickstart programme which had attracted around 3,000 applications for roles within the West Midlands, and the 'Recharge West Midlands' investment case

which had already secured funding for the region that would, amongst other outputs, support the creation of jobs.

Councillor Cathy Bayton expressed concern at the level of engagement that had been undertaken with the voluntary sector in respect of the proposed resilience fund, given the importance of understanding the sector's needs and vulnerabilities. The Mayor indicated that the voluntary sector resilience fund had yet to be signed off by the WMCA Board and therefore there was still the opportunity for its contents to be influenced by appropriate stakeholders.

Councillor Ahmad Bostan stressed the importance of financial support being provided to businesses impacted by an area being placed into the 'tier 2' local COVID alert level. The Mayor shared this view, and indicated that he had written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging changes to the support scheme to provide greater assistance to business affected by the move into tier 2.

Councillor Lucy Seymour-Smith noted recent studies that indicated over 70% of women wanting to return to work after maternity leave were struggling to do so. The Mayor shared these concerns, accepting that the pandemic was likely to have a disproportionate impact on women and those from disadvantaged communities. Funding was being targeted to try and address these structural issues, highlighting a recent initiative to encourage more women to seek employment in the digital sector. The WMCA was able to help shape, for example through the allocation of its adult education budget to support level 3 training.

Councillor Stephen Simkins expressed his concern that people required to retrain to seek alternative employment may find themselves without income for up to eight weeks during this retraining period. He urged the Mayor to lobby for the quicker payment of support to help people transition back into employment. The Mayor indicated that he was working with local authorities to help where he could, but stressed the need to still ensure proper process was followed with the use of public money.

In response to a question from Councillor Jackie Taylor, the Mayor expressed his personal view that more local responsibility for administering the NHS Track & Trace service should be devolved to the regions, and he continued to press this point. In response to Councillor Angus Lees's concerns regarding protecting the economy, ensuring the safety of businesses and members of the public, the Mayor indicated that he felt a good job had been done in terms of providing the region with clear messaging through, amongst other things, his weekly press conferences and the campaigns ran by Transport for West Midlands on the need to wear face coverings.

Councillor Cathy Bayton stressed the importance of good quality residential development and noted with concern instances of development that did not provide positive living arrangements, including community infrastructure necessary to support sustainable living. She urged the Mayor to be more proactive in pushing for higher quality affordable housing. The Mayor

indicated that the region was out-performing other parts of the country in delivering housing numbers as well as the proportion that were designated affordable. The Government was currently consulting on planning reform proposals and he intended to make his own submission to this consultation to push for higher standards for new development.

The Chair thanked the Mayor for his attendance and looked forward to welcoming him to the 2021/22 draft budget question time session being held with the committee on 11 December 2020.

Recommended:

(The recommendations arising from the Q&A are to be discussed and determined by members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.)

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm.

DRAFT

# Recharge West Midlands Investment Case Gigafactory

WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

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**Martin Yardley**

Chief Executive, CWLEP

**Andy Williams**

Director of Business, Investment and Culture, Coventry City Council



Agenda Item 6

# Background



- **A third of cars produced in the UK** come from the West Midlands
- **1 in 4 engines** and 40% of UK exports are made in the region
- In the region of **46,000 automotive sector employees**
- **£3.2bn in GVA**
- **Home to more than 430 specialist automotive firms**, including 35 of the top 50 global suppliers

**All new cars and vans must be effectively zero emission by 2040**

# What is a Gigafactory?



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- **High volume production facility for automotive batteries**
- **Facility up to 6m square feet (*equivalent of 78 football pitches*)**
- **Private investment of up to £2bn**
- **Employing up to 4,000 people and thousands more in the supply chain.**
- Principally for the automotive sector, but potential applications across industries
- Future of automotive manufacturing
- UK current has very little battery production – existential threat to UK automotive
- Government ambition to deliver a Gigafactory in the UK

# UK Battery Industrialisation Centre

£129m facility funded by Government and WMCA

20,000m<sup>2</sup> manufacturing research facility located close to Coventry Airport

“*Learning Factory*” for automotive batteries

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2017

2018

2019

2020

Q4

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

UKBIC announced  
WMG, CCC,  
CWLEP

UKBIC Ltd  
company  
established

Jeff Pratt,  
Managing  
Director joins

Site planning  
permission  
granted

1<sup>st</sup> equipment  
orders placed  
(Electrode, cell  
assembly)

Ground-  
breaking on  
site

UKBIC Board  
convened

Internal  
building  
fit-out  
commences

1<sup>st</sup> equipment  
arrives on site

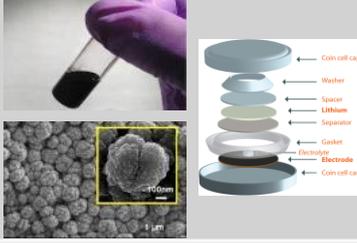
UKBIC team  
moves to site

Machinery  
installation  
continues

Practical completion  
on site and  
commissioning

# UK Battery Industrialisation Centre

UKBIC scope

	Gramme Scale	Kilogramme Scale	Tonne Scale	Giga Scale
				
Characteristic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typically university scale research labs using small quantities of hand-made materials.</li> <li>Used for fundamental materials research and initial half-cell experiments at coin cell scale.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typically corporate R&amp;D pilot line or university / Catapult centre.</li> <li>Used to demonstrate scalability of materials to full size cell, and to develop electrode mixtures, deposition processes and cell formats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typically full-scale manufacturing facilities used at low output rate.</li> <li>Used to develop and validate materials, cell design, manufacturing processes and parameters at industry rates prior to full plant investment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full-scale, high volume manufacturing plant. Typically 6-50GWh/year.</li> <li>Used to deliver very large volumes of cells with no variation or flexibility to chemistry, format or quality. Cost/kWh and process consistency are critical.</li> </ul>



**UKBIC gives us a huge competitive advantage in securing a production at the Gigafactory scale**



# The Need for Regional Action



Department for  
International Trade



ADVANCED  
PROPULSION  
CENTRE

Automotive Transformation Fund

UK Government measures such as a UK-wide trawl for sites suitable for a Gigafactory and the rolling out of a “red carpet” for investors by the Department for International Trade are now underway.

The Automotive Transformation Fund, run by APC sets out to put the UK at the centre of the global transition to zero emissions by supporting R&D and capital investments including investment in Gigafactory.

**These measures will only achieve the best outcome for the UK if we take coordinated action as a region to ensure that the West Midlands secures its future as the heart of the electrified automotive industry.**

# The Opportunity



Presented to government under the **Create green manufacturing jobs** theme of Recharge West Midlands, which requested **£250m** in order to secure a Gigafactory investor in the West Midlands creating over 10,000 jobs in the process.

**Further detailed analysis has since been completed and provided to BEIS:**

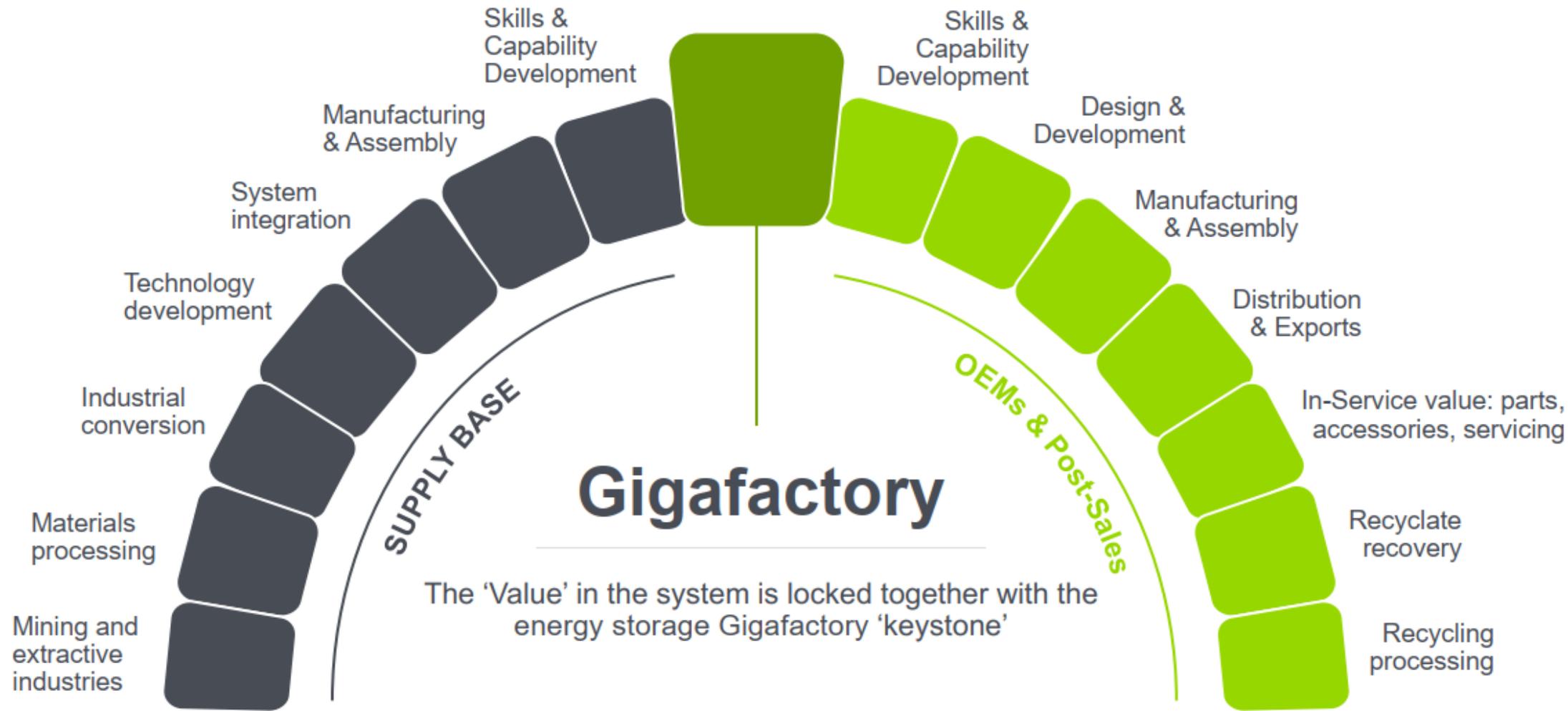
Based on a 28GWh facility:	West Midlands	National
New direct jobs in battery research and manufacturing	4,100	
New indirect jobs in supply chain	6,500	TBD
Job protected in automotive supply chain as it transitions to electrification	46,500	68,500
Gross Value Added	<b>£729.5m</b>	TBD

GVA per worker in the West Midlands automotive industry has been estimated at almost **£70k**.

This would mean that that 10,600 direct and indirect jobs created by a Gigafactory investment would be worth almost **£730m** to the local economy.

# VALUE OF A GIGAFACTORY TO THE UK

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# WMCA Role

The final decision on the location of a Gigafactory will be made by a private investor.

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Available government and regional support will influence this decision, but ultimately it will be commercial one

Our role must be to position the West Midlands as the most competitive and attractive location, and to work to make the most of the supply chain opportunities.





**West Midlands  
Combined Authority**

## **Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

**Monday 14 September 2020 at 10.30 am**

### **Minutes**

#### **Present**

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Rois Ali	Coventry City Council
Councillor Philip Bateman MBE	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Liz Clements	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ken Hawkins	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Gurmeet Singh Sohal	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Jackie Taylor	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

#### **In Attendance**

Dan Essex	West Midlands Combined Authority
David Harris	Transport for West Midlands
Adam Harrison	Transport for West Midlands
Jon Hayes	Transport for West Midlands
Lyndsey Roberts	West Midlands Combined Authority
Anne Shaw	Transport for West Midlands

#### **Item Title No.**

##### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ken Hawkins (Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council) and Councillor Matt Rogers (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council).

##### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Jackie Taylor, Councillor Ian Kettle and Councillor Philip Bateman declared non-pecuniary interests.

##### **3. Welcome & Introductions**

The Chair welcomed all to the first meeting of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee. Each member provided a brief introduction of themselves along with relevant officers to the committee.

##### **4. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

A unanimous decision was made by the committee that Councillor Philip Bateman be appointed as Vice-Chair of the committee.

Resolved:

- (1) Councillor Philip Bateman be appointed as Vice-Chair of the committee.

**5. Members Introduction / Briefing**

Members received a presentation from the Governance Services Manager on the roles, purpose and vision of the Combined Authority, information on the portfolio areas, transport governance and the roles and responsibility of this newly established committee.

The committee also received a presentation from the Transport Strategy and Place Manager on Transport for West Midlands. The information provided gave oversight of historic transport governance, the roles, responsibility, key individuals, funding, investing and challenges for the future for Transport for West Midlands. The committee will receive further information at its next meeting on the Local Transport Plan.

Councillor Philip Bateman requested statistical information on the transport network to allow him to better his knowledge and understand the wider context of commercial network verses the social network developments.

Councillor Liz Clements was interested to understand the committees involvement in the Enhanced Partnership and other policy development opportunities. She was also interested in received information on the Emergency Active Travel Funds and the involvements of the Combined Authority with this.

Resolved:

- (1) The presentations be noted.

**6. Presentation: Student Transport Arrangements - Return to School**

The committee received a presentation from the Director of Network Resilience on school restart. Information provided to the committee related to guidance published by Government on return to schools including transport requirements, along with the funding allocation to support this. Transport for West Midlands main responsibility was to oversee operators on bus, train and trams for all other travellers ensuring an appropriate network was in place.

Councillor Jackie Taylor requested information on how social distancing was being managed across the transport network in terms of keeping young people safe. The Director of Network Resilience assured the committee that lots was being done to keep all individuals using the network safe. Lots of communication tactics had been identified in terms of educating individuals on the need to keep safe whilst using the network as well as information being provided to education establishments, support was also being received from the Safer Travel Partnership and other transport colleagues.

The Chair shared her concerns social distancing on the dedicated school services as it had been reported of the lack of maintaining social distancing. She recognised the positiveness of the provision for transport home for any pupil or student showing symptoms of COVID-19 whilst at school or college.

Resolved:

(1) The presentation be noted.

- 7. Date of Next Meeting**  
Monday 19 October 2020 at 10.30am.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm.

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**Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

**Monday 19 October 2020 at 10.30 am**

**Minutes**

**Present**

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Philip Bateman MBE (Vice-Chair)	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Rois Ali	Coventry City Council
Councillor Liz Clements	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ken Hawkins	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Gurmeet Singh Sohal	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Jackie Taylor	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

**In Attendance**

Helen Davies	Transport for West Midlands
Dan Essex	West Midlands Combined Authority
David Harris	Transport for West Midlands
Kashmire Hawker	Young Combined Authority
Lyndsey Roberts	West Midlands Combined Authority
Anne Shaw	Transport for West Midlands
Sandeep Shingadia	Transport for West Midlands
Laura Shoaf	Transport for West Midlands
Councillor Ian Ward	WMCA Portfolio lead for Transport

**Item Title**  
**No.**

**8. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

**9. Q&A with the WMCA Portfolio Lead for Transport**

The Chair welcomed Portfolio Lead for Transport Councillor Ian Ward, members of the sub-committee and representatives from the Young Combined Authority to the question time that was focussing on transport-related matters.

Councillor Ian Ward provided an opening statement to members of the sub-committee. He informed them on bus patronage numbers since the COVID-19 pandemic, which were now showing a steady rate of growth with buses currently operating at a 50% capacity. Information was provided on the joint working with bus operators to ensure that a sufficient level of service had been maintained across the region. An update on Metro infrastructure was also provided. In respect of consultation on future Emergency Active Travel

funds, Councillor Ian Ward indicated that the Secretary of Statement for Transport had written to transport authorities indicating that the second tranche funding would be prioritised towards those active travel scheme that were able to demonstrate significant community support.

Members in attendance, along with Kashmire Hawker from the Young Combined Authority, then questioned the Portfolio Lead for Transport on a range of transport-related topics. Councillor Jackie Taylor enquired as to Councillor Ian Ward's top three immediate priorities. He informed the sub-committee that bus service recovery and transition through the pandemic was key to help ensure that public transport continued to be a key way of moving residents around the region and continued to be offered as another mode of transport for those who do not have access to a car. He also stressed the importance of continuing to have a strong bus network and the need to encourage residents in the region to walk or cycle over short journeys to promote a clearer, fairer, greener region. Councillor Ian Ward acknowledged the importance of equality impact assessments being undertaken for staff working on the transport network, noting the many safety measures put into place by Transport for West Midlands across the network to ensure the safety of staff. The Chair expressed her concern that some operators appeared not to be providing adequate personal protective equipment to their staff during the pandemic.

Councillor Ian Ward shared his view on the bus franchising model potentially being used in the future and that good practice and learning from other countries was required for this to be better understood, whilst acknowledging that this model of operation did have other drawbacks. He continued to believe that buses would remain the main mode of non-car transport for residents across the region.

Regarding Councillor Liz Clements question on the cycle hire scheme, Councillor Ian Ward informed the committee that it was hoped that the scheme would be in full operation across the seven constituent authority areas by March 2021. In respect of the eScooters pilot, the Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands, undertook to report back on how many accidents involving their use had been reported.

Councillor Ian Ward was questioned on the concessionary fares scheme whether further support could be provided to students (including mature students). He indicated that he was happy to meet with the Young Combined Authority to discuss this matter further, but the financial pressures currently being experienced by the WMCA needed to be recognised. He suggested that this might be an issue the sub-committee could explore further when it undertook pre-decision scrutiny on the WMCA's 2021/22 budget.

The Chair thanked Councillor Ian Ward for his participation in the work of the sub-committee and his oversight of the transport portfolio, along with officers in Transport for West Midlands for their hard work and dedication in supporting the transport network during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also congratulated Anne Shaw, Director of Network Resilience for her recent award of the Leader trophy in the customer/passenger category of the Transport & Logistics Awards 2020.

Recommended to Overview & Scrutiny Committee that:

- (1) The key priorities identified by the Portfolio Lead for Transport be endorsed, namely:
  - To ensure the bus network recovered to service and patronage levels across the region that existed pre-COVID-19.
  - To complete all current Metro capital schemes.
  - To pursue further walking and cycling initiatives to help support and encourage the modal shift seen across the region this year.
- (2) Given the current economic situation and the WMCA's financial challenges, existing concessionary travel policies should be maintained in recognition of the wider societal benefits they underpinned.
- (3) The Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee should undertake a scrutiny review of alternative ticketing policies (including their funding arrangements) in use in comparable cities/regions around the world with a view to making appropriate recommendations for the Portfolio Lead for Transport's consideration.
- (4) The WMCA and Transport for West Midlands should consider undertaking a programme of appropriate lobbying in support of the 'levelling up' of funding for public transport services and infrastructure across the UK, to better enable residents to have the ability and capability to play their part in the region's economic recovery.
- (5) Transport for West Midlands should liaise with public transport operators/providers to ensure that all workers on the public transport network were provided with appropriate personal protective equipment.

#### **10. Supported Travel Policies Review Update**

The sub-committee considered a report from the Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands, on the supported travel policies operated by Transport for West Midlands, the key findings of an equality impact assessment which was undertaken to assess the impacts of COVID-19 across the region's communities, the current budget position for supported travel policies and efficient ways of delivering schemes going forward whilst considering financial pressures.

All bus passengers aged over 66 or those citizens with a disability were entitled to travel free of charge on any off-peak local bus service in England. This scheme was called the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme and was set in national legislation. It was funded through Transport for West Midlands' transport levy at a cost of around £50m per year. In addition, five discretionary supported travel policies were funded by Transport for West Midlands at a cost of around £30m per year from the transport levy. When combined, these five policies assisted over 300,000 people in the region

every year and provided up to 43m journeys, equating to around 14% of all public transport trips.

Given the current environment and ongoing financial strains, it was unlikely any new funding would become available to support new supported travel policies. Only if additional funding sources were found, sufficient savings were made or existing supported travel policy schemes were reduced in scale or removed, creating a budgetary surplus, could new initiatives be developed to support new groups.

Recommended to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that:

- (1) Transport for West Midlands' current supported travel policies and its role in developing and delivering such discretionary travel policies be noted.
- (2) Transport for West Midlands' equalities impact assessment, undertaken to assess the impacts of COVID-19 across the region's communities be noted.
- (3) Transport for West Midlands' current challenging budget position and the impact the pandemic had had on the supported travel policies be noted.
- (4) It be noted that Strategic Transport Board members had asked for options to be developed for its meeting on 6 November 2020, with consideration being paid to this sub-committee's views on any possible changes to the supported travel policies, in response to current budget pressures and equality issues now being faced.

#### **11. WMCA HS2 Growth Strategy Refresh**

The sub-committee considered a report from the Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands, on the publication of the WMCA's HS2 Growth Strategy refresh - 'The Defining Decade' and advised of the communication and engagement activities that would be taking place to promote the launch of the strategy with key local and national stakeholders.

The 'Midlands HS2 Growth Strategy' was first published in April 2015 and was the first such strategy delivered to Government that evidenced the direct benefits that would be realised within the West Midlands with the arrival of HS2. Following the outcome of the Oakervee Review in to HS2, it was agreed that the time was right to refresh the strategy, to look at the progress made to date and to review whether the priorities as set out in the original strategy were still as important today as they were in 2015.

The sub-committee was keen to understand whether HS2 was still the best use of public money during the financial pressures which had been magnified through COVID-19 pandemic, along with the benefits HS2 brought to the residents of the region and those in deprived and harder to reach communities. The Head of Transport Implementation responded that a key consideration in any assessment of public value needed to include those benefits it brought to the wider region, rather than simply viewing it as an

additional railway track. He indicated that HS2 looked to create regeneration opportunities and growth for businesses in the region, along with up to 175,000 jobs. He also informed the sub-committee on the joint work being undertaken with HS2 Ltd to develop upskilling the region and the links between housing developments and the opportunities posed to future generations of the region.

In respect of the training and employment opportunities provided by the construction of HS2, Councillor Liz Clements sought further information as to how these broke down in respect of gender, ethnicity and socio-economic background. She also sought further information on the key environmental projects that formed part of the route's construction. The Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands, undertook to find this information out from HS2 Ltd.

The Vice-Chair considered that public support for HS2 could be enhanced if HS2 Ltd demonstrated great evidence of the benefits of the projects to communities living north of Birmingham, particularly around the benefits of opportunities during the construction phase.

Recommended to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that:

- (1) The publication of the WMCA HS2 Growth Strategy refresh - 'The Defining Decade' be noted.
- (2) A further update on HS2 be provided to the sub-committee in due course.

**12. Bus Byelaws**

The Chair indicated that item was to be deferred until the next meeting of the sub-committee on 16 November 2020 as a report on the item had not been circulated to members ahead of the meeting.

**13. Forward Plan**

The sub-committee noted its workplan of business for consideration at future meetings. In addition, it was agreed that the Bus Byelaws report, and a report on the Emergency Active Travel Fund (including information on tranche 1 and tranche 2 allocations and statistical data on the schemes implemented) be considered at its meeting on 16 November 2020. The sub-committee also requested a further update on HS2 to be considered at a future to be determined.

Recommended to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that:

- (1) The sub-committee work programme, as amended, be noted.
- (2) The sub-committee receive transport-related extracts from the WMCA Board's forward plan at its future meetings.

**14. Date of the Next meeting**

Monday 30 November 2020 at 10.30am.

The meeting ended at 12.15 pm.

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN 2020/21

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Lead Officer	Portfolio Area
Devolution White Paper	To receive an update on this issue.	Extraordinary Meeting – November 2020 (date tbc)	Julia Goldsworthy	Economy & Innovation
2021/22 Budget Workshop	To receive a briefing on the development of the WMCA's 2021/22 budget.	December 2020 (date tbc)	Linda Horne	Finance
Mayoral Q&A - 2021/22 Budget	To question the Mayor on matters relating to the WMCA's 2021/22 budget.	11 December 2020	Linda Horne	Finance
Comprehensive Spending Review	To receive an update on this issue.	January 2021 (date tbc)	Julia Goldsworthy	Economy & Innovation

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Lead Officer	Portfolio Area
Transport Governance - 12 Month Review	To receive an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising out of this scrutiny review.	8 March 2021	Tim Martin	Transport
WMCA Governance - 12 Month Review	To receive an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising out of this scrutiny review.	8 March 2021	Tim Martin	Governance
Black Country Scrutiny Review	To undertake a review in relation to the Black Country area.	Future Meeting	Tim Martin	

## WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN: NOVEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2021

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>Half-Year Review of Delivery</b>	To consider a six-monthly review.	13 November 2020	Yes	n/a	Julia Goldsworthy	No	Policy
<b>HS2 Growth Strategy Refresh</b>	To consider a review and updating of the HS2 Growth Strategy.	13 November 2020	Yes	Cllr Ian Courts	Laura Shoaf	No	Environment, Energy & HS2
<b>Financial Monitoring Report 2020/21</b>	To consider the latest financial position.	13 November 2020	No	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>Regional Health Impacts of COVID-19</b>	To provide further information on this issue.	13 November 2020	No	Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Ed Cox	No	Wellbeing
<b>West Midlands Rail Governance</b>	To approve a change the Articles of Association of WMR Ltd.	13 November 2020	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>West Midlands Growth Company</b>	To consider a funding request for inward investment and tourism activity.	13 November 2020	Yes	Cllr Ian Brookfield	Ian Martin	No	Economy & Regeneration
<b>Bus Byelaws</b>	To consider an update on this issue.	13 November 2020	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
<b>Metro - Off-Tram Ticketing</b>	To consider proposals for off-tram ticketing.	13 November 2020	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
<b>WMCA Draft Budget 2021/22</b>	To approve in draft the WMCA budget for 2021/22.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>Financial Monitoring Report 2020/21</b>	To consider the latest financial position.	15 January 2021	No	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>Rail - Package 1 Full Business Case</b>	To consider an update on this issue.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	In part	Transport



Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>Rail - Package 2 Full Business Case</b>	To consider an update on this issue.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	In part	Transport
<b>Metro - Buy Before You Board Penalty Fares Byelaws</b>	To consider proposals on this issue.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
<b>Road Safety</b>	To consider an update on this issue.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
<b>Reviewing the West Midlands Local Transport Plan</b>	To consider the latest developments with reviewing the Local Transport Plan.	15 January 2021	No	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
<b>Perry Barr Station Full Business Case</b>	To approve the full business case for this project.	15 January 2020	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	In part	Transport



Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>WMCA Final Budget 2021/22</b>	To approve the final WMCA budget for 2021/22.	12 February 2021	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>Financial Monitoring Report 2020/21</b>	To consider the latest financial position.	19 March 2021	No	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>Adult Education Budget</b>	To provide an update on the allocation process and outcomes of the AEB.	19 March 2021	Yes	Cllr George Duggins	Julie Nugent	No	Productivity & Skills

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