



# AGENDA

No.	Item	Presenting	Pages
<b>Items of Public Business</b>			
1.	Appointment of Chair To note the appointment by the WMCA Board at its meeting on 25 June 2021 of Councillor Cathy Bayton as the Chair of this committee for 2021/22.	Chair	None
2.	Apologies for Absence	Chair	None
3.	Declarations of Interests Members are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they have in any 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
4.	Appointment of Vice-Chair To appoint a Vice-Chair of the committee for 2021/22.	Chair	Verbal Report
5.	Appointment of Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee To appoint a Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee for 2021/22.	Chair	Verbal Report
6.	Chair's Remarks	Chair	Verbal Report
7.	Minutes - 8 March 2021	Chair	1 - 8
8.	Schedule of Meetings 2021/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 September 2021</li> <li>• 14 October 2021 (Mayoral Q&amp;A - Policy)</li> <li>• 8 November 2021</li> <li>• 15 December 2021 (Mayoral Q&amp;A - Draft WMCA Budget 2022/23)</li> <li>• 10 January 2022</li> <li>• 7 March 2022</li> </ul>	Chair	Verbal Report
9.	Arrangements for Future Meetings	Chair	Verbal Report

10.	Potential Committee Work Plan and Scrutiny Review Topics (a) Draft committee forward plan (b) WMCA Board forward plan (c) Proposed scrutiny review - Brownfield Land Remediation Fund scoping document	Chair	9 - 24
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>			
11.	Monday 6 September 2021 at 10.00am	Chair	None

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## West Midlands Combined Authority

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 8 March 2021 at 10.00 am

#### Minutes

##### Present

Councillor Lisa Trickett (Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Cathy Bayton (Vice-Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Naeem Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Ahmad Bostan	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Paul Brown	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Mike Chalk	Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Peter Fowler	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Robert Grinsell	Joint Coventry/Solihull Representative
Councillor Angus Lees	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Suky Samra	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Stephen Simkins	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Diane Todd	Staffordshire Non-Constituent Authorities

##### In Attendance

Michael-Akolade Ayodeji	Young Combined Authority
Deborah Cadman	West Midlands Combined Authority
Ed Cox	West Midlands Combined Authority
Louise Cowen	West Midlands Combined Authority
Dan Essex	West Midlands Combined Authority
Barry Evans	WSP
Julia Goldsworthy	West Midlands Combined Authority
Jacqueline Homan	West Midlands Combined Authority
Linda Horne	West Midlands Combined Authority
Tim Martin	West Midlands Combined Authority
Aisha Masood	Young Combined Authority
Lyndsey Roberts	West Midlands Combined Authority
Jonathan Skinner	West Midlands Combined Authority

##### Item Title No.

##### 104. Inquorate Meeting

The meeting was inquorate and therefore decisions taken at the meeting would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 19 March 2021 for formal approval.

**105. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Cade (Warwickshire Non-Constituent local authorities), Councillor Dean Carroll (Shropshire Non-Constituent local authorities), Mike Lyons (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP), Councillor Kate Wild (Solihull) and Sarah Windrum (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP).

**106. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting of the municipal year and thanked members and officers for their attendance and commitment to the scrutiny process during the last year.

**107. Minutes - 11 January 2021**

The minutes held on the 11 January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

**108. Matters Arising**

In respect of minute no. 97 ('Matters Arising'), the committee noted a tracker which outlined member attendance at committee meetings during the current municipal year.

In respect of minute no. 98 ('Mayoral Question Time: Policy - Response from the Mayor to Recommendations presented to the WMCA Board on 13 November 2020') Councillor Peter Fowler noted the discussions regarding the high level of non-school ready children within the region and suggested that this may be a subject for a future scrutiny review. Councillor Angus Lees indicated that this issue had been raised in the Black Country scrutiny review, which included a recommendation in this regard.

**109. Economic Funding Tracker**

The committee considered an updated copy of the economic funding tracker from the Director of Strategy. The tracker outlined specific projects and priorities in the 'Recharge the West Midlands' proposition to Government, along with other funding that provided emergency economic support. It was noted that of the 31 'asks' in the 'Recharge the West Midlands', 24 had either been allocated funding or were within policy areas where Government had allocated money through November's spending review and the winter economic plan. The Chair noted that the tracker included funding allocations that were not within the spending influence of the WMCA and so did not give an accurate indication of the funding secured for WMCA use.

The Chair expressed concern over the content of the tracker, which she wished to show the actual money received to date against the asks and their delivery, which she felt this would provide greater transparency, accountability and confidence in the process. The committee requested that further updates should provide this information clearly, and that the information should be broken down into portfolio and local authority areas if possible.

The Director of Strategy highlighted that the recharge asks from Government were made on behalf of the region, rather than specifically the WMCA. She undertook to work further with the Director of Finance to ensure the committee was provided with clarity on the funding elements of these asks.

Recommended:

That the contents of the economic funding tracker be noted.

**110. Mayoral Question Time: Budget - Response from the Mayor to recommendations presented to the WMCA Board on 13 November 2020**

The committee considered the Mayor's response to the recommendations arising from the Question Time on the WMCA draft 2021/22 budget, which were presented to the WMCA Board on 13 November 2020.

The Chair considered that the Mayor's response did not adequately reflect the extent of the needs of the region as evidenced to the committee during the course of the year. Members of the committee also considered that the Mayor had not owned the challenge of inequality that existed, and that the current funding regimes for education and skills pathways worked against addressing the need for reform in these areas.

Councillor Ahmad Bostan expressed his disappointment that investment projects did not appear to him to sufficiently target deprived areas, although Councillor Mike Chalk indicated that schemes being put forward in Redditch were targeted at generating employment and improving residents' lives. He did however suggest that more funds should be put towards addressing the skills shortage.

Many members voiced their concern over the bidding process for funds and believed this was a flawed process. The Chief Executive reported that following the recent budget announcements from Government, a proposal was being taken forward to other Chief Executives across the region to look at opportunities to work strategically together to improve access to funding sources.

Although the committee noted the Mayor response, there remained concern that it did not adequately address the level of inequalities and deprivation with the region.

Recommended:

That the response from the Mayor be noted.

**111. WM2041 Five Year Plan: 2021 - 2026**

The committee received a presentation from the Director of Public Service Reform & Inclusive Growth and Head of Environment on the development of a five year plan to help meet the WM2041 net zero carbon ambitions. The committee received this item as an item of pre-decision scrutiny prior to the report being considered by the WMCA Board on 19 March 2021.

The Chair considered that the proposals did not provide a clear understanding of the requirements, nor provided an adequately clear direction or clarity on some transport elements. The Director of Public Service Reform & Inclusive Growth recognised that the Local Transport Plan would play a critical part in addressing regional air quality issues. The committee was concerned that the plan was not ambitious enough and lacked direction in terms of clear and coherent interventions that would lead the region in a net zero carbon environment. It also highlighted that whilst the work on a technical baseline was welcomed, there remained an absence of climate clarity.

Aisha Masood stressed the importance of ensuring systematic inequalities that further disadvantaged certain sections of the population needed to be adequately addressed, and stressed the importance of work on behaviour change. The Director of Public Service Reform & Inclusive Growth reported that work was being undertaken with the behavioural insights team to address issue and he would be happy to share the outcome of that work at a future meeting.

Recommended:

- (1) The presentation be noted.
- (2) The comments made by the committee help inform the preparation of the report prior to its submission to the WMCA Board on 19 March 2021.

**112. 'Economic Needs of the Black Country' Scrutiny Review - Summary of Findings**

The committee considered a draft report from Councillor Ahmad Bostan outlining the findings of the scrutiny review undertaken to understand whether the region's economic recovery proposals, which the WMCA were supporting and enabling, were meeting the needs that had been identified within the Black Country sub-region. The review also considered whether the specific sub-regional needs were being adequately considered during the development of wider regional policies.

The review considered a number of themes relating to funding, resources, learning, skills, governance, responsibility, structures, and interdependencies. The group proposed four recommendations falling under a number of key areas of activity: coherence of the funding landscape, scaling-up immediate support for businesses and people whose jobs were at risk, working towards a long-term whole-life approach, and co-ordination, governance and accountability across the Black Country.

It was recognised that the report had been amended and re-circulated to correct a number of drafting inaccuracies which had not been brought to the review group's attention as it was gathering evidence. The Chair commented that they had been contacted by the Black Country LEP to address some factual elements that were not reflected within the report and required amendments. Councillor Angus Lees indicated that he did not support these changes, which he felt had watered down the clear views of the review panel, and could therefore not support the recommendations. The Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer apologised for the lateness of the changes required but stressed the importance of the report being factually correct.

Councillor Stephen Simkins noted that the review had highlighted that the level of deprivation within the Black Country and the need for the WMCA to address issues such as health, education, quality of life and upskilling in a coherent way. Councillor Cathy Bayton also highlighted that the review identified the role of the Association of Black Country Authorities as being unclear, and she supported an overarching strategy to closely align the work of the Black Country authorities, whilst still allowing for local solutions to local problems.

Recommended:

(1) The observations and conclusions of the scrutiny review group be endorsed for further consideration by the WMCA, Black Country local authorities and the Black Country LEP, specifically:

(a) Coherence of the Funding Landscape

Complex funding streams and processes can hinder delivery of impactful projects. Future devolution agreements need to simplify funding to the region and ensure funding is available where it is needed. The importance of the speed and urgency in rectifying this could not be overstated by the review panel.

(b) Scaling-up immediate support for businesses and people whose jobs were at risk

- The need to urgently review regional skills plan that provided a clear strategy for career pathways.
- The WMCA needed to review and understand the updated publication from the New Policy Institute that identified key information regarding the state of 'economic justice' in Birmingham and the Black Country local authority areas and assess whether its policies addressed the challenges identified in the report. This updated version of the report was published on 1st February 2021 and an Executive Summary is attached as an appendix. The full report is available from the Barrow Cadbury Trust website.

- The need for an employment taskforce to address the economic needs of the Black Country.
- The WMCA should consider brokering a region-wide common understanding and vision for the skills, training and employment needs of the Black Country.

(c) Working towards a long-term, whole-life approach

Recognising that many residents in the Black Country were born, work and then retire in the Black Country, a more joined-up whole-life approach to targeted support needs to be implemented throughout public authorities and other stakeholders in recognition of the inter-dependency between education, skills, employment and health.

(d) Co-ordination, governance and accountability across the Black Country

- The Black Country's economic, social and wellbeing outcomes were interlinked and co-dependent. It was therefore vital that decisions made by the region's public bodies were joined up, and best practice shared widely.
- Local authorities were most likely best placed to understand the needs of localities. It was important therefore that the structural architecture existed that enabled this knowledge of place to shape wider regional economic strategy. The review group were unpersuaded that this architecture currently existed in a robust enough state, and this might therefore be something that required a more in-depth scrutiny review to be undertaken during the coming year.

(2) It be noted that the conclusions of the scrutiny review would be reported to the WMCA Board on 19 March 2021.

**113. Effectiveness of Transport Delivery Committee in Overseeing the Delivery of WMCA Transport Policies - Update on Recommendations**

The committee considered a report of the head of Governance on the progress made with the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Transport Governance scrutiny review undertaken last year. The recommendation relating to strengthening Transport Delivery Committee had been acknowledge as not as progressing at the pace initially anticipated. The establishment of both the Strategic Transport Board and Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee had been successfully implemented.

It was noted that a review of Mayoral and members' allowances was still outstanding, and Councillor Cathy Bayton stressed the importance of progressing this as a matter of priority.

Recommended:

The progress on implementations of the recommendations agreed by the WMCA Board on 17 January 2020 be noted.

**114. WMCA Scrutiny Review on the Effectiveness of the WMCA's Governance Structures in Delivering the Policy Objectives of the WMCA - Update on Recommendations**

The committee considered a report from the Head of Governance on the progress made with the observations and conclusions arising from the Governance scrutiny review undertaken last year. It was acknowledged that many of the observations identified were matters that required consideration and reflection at a political, rather than an operational, level. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was acknowledged that the capacity of the Mayor and Constituent authority Leaders to reflect on these matters had been limited. The Head of Governance concluded that it would be timely to re-start those consideration immediately after the Local and Mayoral election in May 2021.

Councillor Ahmad Bostan indicated that his concerns were very much related to the political aspects of the review's findings, and wished to thank the Chief Executive and her leadership team in an organisation he considered to be well run. He did however stress the need for a review of members allowances to progress at pace.

Recommended:

- (1) The current position and progress made on the observations and conclusions arising from the Governance scrutiny review presented to the Strategic Leadership Team in October 2020 be noted.
- (2) The comments made by the committee be noted.

**115. Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee Minutes**

The committee considered the minutes of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on the 22 February 2021. It was noted as both Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Committee were inquorate, approval for recommendations outlined within the minutes would be sought at WMCA Board on the 19 March 2021.

Recommended:

- (1) The minutes be approved.
- (2) The terms of reference of the Transport Delivery Committee be reviewed and updated to reflect the changed role of the committee since the establishment of the WMCA and clearly setting out the specific role and responsibilities the WMCA Board wished the committee to undertake, to include a responsibility for a performance monitoring role of Transport for West Midlands.

- (3) Transport Delivery Committee member role profiles be developed as a priority to give clarity as to what was expected of those councillors appointed to the committee.
- (4) Transport Delivery Committee's annual work planning process be reviewed to more closely align the responsibilities of the committee with the transport-related deliverables contained with the WMCA's Annual Plan and other strategic policies.
- (5) The role and purpose of Transport Delivery Committee's Lead Member Reference Groups be reviewed to improve their accountability and transparency, including to ensure that all members of the committee were fully involved in formal decision making and the discussions and decisions made at these meetings being reported publicly to the Transport Delivery Committee.
- (6) The relationship between the Chair of Transport Delivery Committee, the Mayor and the Portfolio Lead for Transport be strengthened and formalised so as to ensure proper engagement and collaboration between transport policy and delivery.

**116. Forward Plan**

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

The meeting ended at 12.45 pm.



**WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Forward Plan**

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Description of Purpose</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Lead Officer/Member</b>
Economic Funding Tracker	To receive the economic funding tracker	6 September 2021	Julia Goldsworthy
Corporate Strategy 2021/22 - 23/24	To receive the WMCA's Corporate Strategy for 2021/22 - 23/24 prior to approval at the WMCA Board on 17 September.	6 September 2021	Julia Goldsworthy
WMCA Governance Review - Update	To receive an update on the WMCA's Governance Review	6 September 2021	Satish Mistry
<b>Mayor's Question Time: Event 1: Policy 14 October 2021</b>			
Economic Funding Tracker	To receive the economic funding tracker	8 November 2021	Julia Goldsworthy
Air Quality: Role of the WMCA - Options Paper	To receive a report on air quality and the role of the WMCA prior to its submission to the WMCA Board 19 November.	8 November 2021	Ed Cox

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Lead Officer/Member
<b>Mayor's Question Time: Event 2: Proposed Budget 2022/23 - 15 December 2021</b>			
Mayoral Q&A (Policy): Mayor's response to the recommendations presented to the WMCA Board	To receive a formal response to the recommendations and/or considerations presented to the WMCA Board on 19 November	15 December 2021	Lyndsey Roberts
Economic Funding Tracker	To receive the economic funding tracker	10 January 2022	Julia Goldsworthy
Draft Annual Business Plan 2022/23	To consider a draft Annual Business Plan for 2022/23 prior to approval at the WMCA Board on 11 February	10 January 2022	Julia Goldsworthy
Economic Funding Tracker	To receive the economic funding tracker	7 March 2022	Julia Goldsworthy
Mayoral Q&A (Budget): Mayor's response to the recommendations presented to the WMCA Board	To receive a formal response to the recommendations and/or considerations presented to the WMCA Board on 14 January 2022	7 March 2022	Lyndsey Roberts
<b>Future Meetings</b>			
The Levelling Up White Paper	To receive an update on the content on the levelling up white paper and challenges		Julia Goldsworthy

## WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN: JULY 2021 - MARCH 2022

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>Appointment of Audit, Risk &amp; Assurance Committee Independent Member</b>	To appoint a new independent member to chair ARAC.	23 July 2021	Yes	n/a	Satish Mistry	No	Governance
<b>Financial Monitoring 2021/22</b>	To consider the WMCA's latest financial position.	23 July 2021	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>City of Wolverhampton Technical College Full Business Case</b>	To approve the full business case for this project.	23 July 2021	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>West Midlands Co-Invest</b>	To consider proposals for a bid.	23 July 2021	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>Business Support Review</b>	To consider proposals for business support measures.	23 July 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Brookfield	Julia Goldsworthy	No	Economy & Innovation

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>Race Equality Taskforce</b>	To agree arrangements for the establishment of a Race Equality Taskforce.	23 July 2021	Yes	Cllr Brigid Jones	Ed Cox	No	Inclusive Communities
<b>HS2 Board</b>	To consider proposals for an HS2 Board.	23 July 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Courts	Laura Shoaf	No	Governance
<b>Final Corporate Strategy 2021/22 - 23/24</b>	To agree the WMCA's Corporate Strategy for 2021/22 - 23/24.	17 September 2021	Yes	n/a	Julia Goldsworthy	No	Policy
<b>Equalities Scheme</b>	To approve the draft Equalities Scheme for consultation.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Brigid Jones	Paul Clarke	No	Inclusive Communities
<b>Mental Health Commission</b>	To provide an update on the work of the Mental Health Commission.	17 September 2021	Yes	n/a	Ed Cox	No	n/a

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>Social Enterprise Growth Strategy</b>	To provide an update on the Social Enterprise Growth Strategy.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Rajbir Singh	Ed Cox	No	Public Service Reform & Social Economy
<b>Financial Monitoring 2021/22</b>	To consider the WMCA's latest financial position.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>Local Transport Plan Consultation Approval</b>	To approve the draft local transport plan proposals for consultation.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
<b>Bus Service Improvement Plan</b>	To consider the latest position relating to the bus service improvement plan.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Pete Bond	No	Transport
<b>Intra-City Transport Fund</b>	To consider the latest position relating to the fund.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Pete Bond	No	Transport

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>Cycle Design Report</b>	To consider the latest position relation to cycle design policy.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Pete Bond	No	Transport
<b>West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme</b>	To consider the latest position regarding the West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Pete Bond	No	Transport
<b>Bus Delivery Options</b>	To consider the outline business case consultation feedback.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Pete Bond	No	Transport
<b>Department for Transport Zero Emissions Bus Fund</b>	To approve the full business case for the WMCA's bid for funding.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
<b>West Midlands Rail/Department for Transport Collaboration Agreement</b>	To seek approval to enter into a new collaboration agreement.	17 September 2021	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>2021/22 High Level Deliverables</b>	To consider the refreshed WMCA High Level Deliverables for 2021/22.	19 November 2021	Yes	n/a	Julia Goldsworthy	No	Policy
<b>Circular Economy Roadmap</b>	To consider proposals to develop a circular economy roadmap.	19 November 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Courts	Ed Cox	No	Environment & Energy
<b>Financial Monitoring 2021/22</b>	To consider the WMCA's latest financial position.	19 November 2021	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>Local Transport Plan Consultation Approval</b>	To consider the response received from the Local Transport Plan consultation.	19 November 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Pete Bond	No	Transport
<b>Contactless Fare Payments Broker System Full Business Case</b>	To approve the full business case.	19 November 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Pete Bond	No	Transport

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>Draft Annual Business Plan 2022/23</b>	To consider a draft Annual Business Plan for 2022/23	14 January 2022	Yes	n/a	Julia Goldsworthy	No	Policy
<b>Net Zero Neighbourhood</b>	To consider proposals for a Net Zero Neighbourhood.	14 January 2022	Yes	Cllr Ian Courts	Ed Cox	No	Environment & Energy
<b>Draft WMCA Budget 2022/23</b>	To consider the draft WMCA budget for 2022/23.	14 January 2022	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>Financial Monitoring 2021/22</b>	To consider the WMCA's latest financial position.	14 January 2022	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>Annual Business Plan 2022/23</b>	To approve the WMCA's Annual Business Plan for 2022/23.	11 February 2022	Yes	n/a	Julia Goldsworthy	No	Policy
<b>Final WMCA Budget 2022/23</b>	To agree the WMCA's budget for 2022/23.	11 February 2022	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance



Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>Financial Monitoring 2021/22</b>	To consider the WMCA's latest financial position.	18 March 2022	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance

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**West Midlands  
Combined Authority**

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date</b>	21 July 2021
<b>Report title</b>	Proposed Scrutiny Review 2021/22
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Laura Shoaf, West Midlands Combined Authority email: <a href="mailto:laura.shoaf@tfwm.org.uk">laura.shoaf@tfwm.org.uk</a> tel: (0121) 214 7444
<b>Accountable Employee</b>	Satish Mistry, Interim Head of Governance, Clerk and Monitoring Officer email: <a href="mailto:satish.mistry@wmca.org.uk">satish.mistry@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: 07854 691711

**Recommendation(s) for decision:**

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended to:**

- (1) Review and agree the draft scoping document for the first proposed scrutiny review for 2021/22.
- (2) To determine the membership and timescales for the review.

## **Purpose**

1. To review the draft scoping document for a scrutiny review of the remit and use of housing and land powers available to the West Midlands Combined Authority.

## **Background**

2. At its meeting on 25 June, the WMCA Board appointed Councillor Cathy Bayton as Chair of this committee. The Chair subsequently met with the Governance Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer to discuss the WMCA's key strategic priorities and potential areas where scrutiny could add value this year with its work programme.

## **A Review of the WMCA's Housing & Land Policy & Powers**

3. It was suggested that a review be undertaken to examine the role and remit of the WMCA to deliver affordable housing within the West Midlands through the use of the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund, and to consider how this supported and added value to the responsibilities of the constituent authorities in respect of affordable housing provision. A draft scoping document (attached as Appendix A) has been developed which has identified the objectives of the review as:
  - How is the region's affordable housing needs determined and what account is taken for sub-regional socio-economic differences in the calculation of regional need?
  - What is the role of the WMCA in the supply of affordable housing in the West Midlands? How does the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund help support this role, and how clearly is this role understood across the region and amongst partners?
  - How does this role support and contribute to the constituent authority's responsibility for the delivery of affordable housing within their district?
  - To understand the number of sites funded through the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund to date, the number of housing units delivered on these sites, and the percentage of these units that have been designated as affordable.
  - Does the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund adequately use its commissioning and contracting influence to maximise the delivery of affordable housing units within the individual schemes it funds?
  - What are the impacts and implications on the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund of the differential cost of Land Remediation across the region?

## **Arrangements for the Review**

4. Typically, scrutiny reviews involve a small group of Overview & Scrutiny Committee members who will look at a subject in depth and submit a report to committee proposing a number of recommendations arising out of that review. The committee would then consider whether to adopt these recommendations for submission onto the WMCA Board. Members will need to decide whether it wishes to undertake this proposed review in the same manner.

### **Financial Implications**

5. There are no direct financial implications immediately arising out of the recommendations contained within this report.

### **Legal Implications**

6. There are no direct legal implications immediately arising out of the recommendations contained within this report.

### **Equalities Implications**

7. There are no direct equality implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

### **Inclusive Growth Implications**

8. There are no direct inclusive growth implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

### **Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

9. The WMCA exercises housing and land powers overwhelmingly in respect of the area covered by its constituent authority members.

### **Other Implications**

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

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## Scrutiny Review - Scoping Document

<b>A Review of West Midlands Combined Authority's Housing &amp; Land Policy</b>	
<b>Work to be carried out by:</b>	<i>[To be determined by Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee]</i>
<b>Officer Support:</b>	Officer from the Housing & Land Regeneration Team Lyndsey Roberts, Scrutiny Officer
<b>Date of Review:</b>	<i>[To be determined by the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee]</i>
<b>Purpose of the Review:</b>	
To examine the role and remit of the WMCA to deliver affordable housing within the West Midlands through the use of the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund, and to consider how this supported and added value to the responsibilities of the constituent authorities in respect of affordable housing provision.	
<b>Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is the region's affordable housing needs determined and what account is taken for sub-regional socio-economic differences in the calculation of regional need?</li> <li>• What is the role of the WMCA in the supply of affordable housing in the West Midlands? How does the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund help support this role, and how clearly is this role understood across the region and amongst partners?</li> <li>• How does this role support and contribute to the constituent authorities responsibility for the delivery of affordable housing within their district?</li> <li>• To understand the number of sites funded through the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund to date, the number of housing units delivered on these sites, and the percentage of these units that have been designated as affordable.</li> <li>• Does the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund adequately use its commissioning and contracting influence to maximise the delivery of affordable housing units within the individual schemes it funds?</li> <li>• What are the impacts and implications on the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund of the differential cost of Land Remediation across the region?</li> </ul>	
<b>Scope</b>	
As part of the evidence gathering to achieve the objectives, the review group will invite the following individuals to share their views and suggestions:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gareth Bradford, Director of Housing &amp; Regeneration</li> <li>• Councillor Mike Bird, WMCA Portfolio Lead for Housing &amp; Land</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet member(s) responsible for housing/regeneration within the district authorities</li> <li>• A representative from a comparable Combined Authority</li> </ul>	
<b>Intended Outcome:</b>	
The Chair of the review will submit a report, with recommendations as appropriate, to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration.	
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee's Objective for 2021/22:</b>	
To establish whether the West Midlands Combined Authority's policies are helping those that are most in need - to ensure that the hardest to reach communities feel the benefit of the WMCA's work.	
<b>WMCA Officer Responsible:</b>	Satish Mistry, Interim Director Law and Governance

Review Timetable	Lead person(s)	Completion by
Meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to discuss the purpose/objectives of the review.	Lyndsey Roberts	7 July
Submit draft scope to Dan Essex, Governance Services Manager for review.	Lyndsey Roberts	9 July
Submit draft scope to Gareth Bradford for early review.	Lyndsey Roberts	9 July
Draft scoping document to be submitted to Overview & Scrutiny Committee for review/comments/changes.	Lyndsey Roberts	13 July
Draft scoping document to be circulated to key individuals for information/review	Lyndsey Roberts	
Agenda & Information Pack to be circulated to the review group	Lyndsey Roberts	
Meeting of the Review Group to agree lines of enquiry	Lyndsey Roberts	
Scrutiny Review Group/key individuals	Lyndsey Roberts	
Draft report prepared	Lyndsey Roberts	
Draft report to be shared with key individuals engaged in the review	Lyndsey Roberts	
OSC report to be submitted to Senior Leadership Team	Satish Mistry	
OSC report to be submitted to WMCA Programme Board (if required)	Satish Mistry	
OSC report to be submitted to Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Lyndsey Roberts	
OSC report to be submitted to WMCA Board for consideration (if required)	Satish Mistry	