



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday 8 November 2021

Time: 2.00 pm **Public meeting** Yes

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

Membership

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Lisa Trickett (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Naeem Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Maya Ali	Coventry City Council
Paul Brown	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Mike Chalk	Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Liz Clements	Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Councillor Tony Dicicco	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Peter Fowler	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Shabrana Hussain	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Nigel Lumby	Shropshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Charn Padda	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Simon People	Staffordshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Paul Sweet	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Vera Waters	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

Quorum for this meeting shall be 10 members

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

Contact Lyndsey Roberts, Scrutiny Officer
Telephone 07917 473824
Email lyndsey.roberts@wmca.org.uk

AGENDA

No.	Item	Presenting	Pages
Items of Public Business			
1.	Apologies for Absence	Chair	None
2.	Declarations of Interests Members are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable prejudicial 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
3.	Chair's Remarks	Chair	None
4.	Minutes - 6 September and 14 October 2021	Chair	1 - 10
5.	Matters Arising	Chair	None
6.	Response from Interim Chief Executive to the Recommendations Arising from the 'Economic Needs of the Black Country' Scrutiny Review	Chair	11 - 14
7.	Governance Review - Progress Update	Councillor Bob Sleigh / Satish Mistry	Verbal Report
8.	Simplifying Economic Governance and Establishing the West Midlands Economic Growth Board	Julie Nugent	To Follow
9.	WMCA Aims & Objectives	Adam Hawksbee	15 - 38
10.	Air Quality Options Paper	Jackie Homan	To Follow
11.	Grant Register	Kate Taylor	39 - 46
12.	Scrutiny Champions - Progress Update (a) Housing & Land - Councillor Simon Peuple (b) Environment & Energy - Councillor Peter Fowler	Chair	Verbal Report
13.	Minutes: Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee - 13 September and 22 October 2021	Councillor Liz Clements	47 - 56
14.	Work Programme (a) Overview & Scrutiny Committee (b) WMCA Board Forward Plan	Chair	57 - 68

Date of Next Meeting			
15.	Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 10.00am (Mayoral Q&A - 2022/23 Draft Budget)	Chair	None

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Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 6 September 2021 at 10.00am

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Lisa Trickett (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Naeem Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Maya Ali	Joint Coventry/Solihull Representative
Councillor Mike Chalk	Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Liz Clements	Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee (co-optee)
Councillor Tony Diccio	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Peter Fowler	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Nigel Lumby	Shropshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Charn Padda	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Simon Peaple	Staffordshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Vera Waters	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance:

Fiona Bebbington	Head of Business Planning & Performance Reporting
Dan Essex	Governance Services Manager
Adam Hawksbee	Head of Policy & Programme Development
Jackie Homan	Head of Environment
Linda Horne	Director of Finance
Satish Mistry	Interim Director of Law & Governance
Sara Rasul	Corporate Strategy Lead
Lyndsey Roberts	Scrutiny Officer
Kate Taylor	Head of Finance Business Partnering

11. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Shabrana Hussain (Birmingham City Council).

12. Chair's Remarks

(a) Scrutiny Champions

The Chair reported that following the last meeting some members had expressed an interest in becoming a scrutiny champion for Housing & Land and Environment, Energy & HS2 for 2021/22. A scrutiny champion would be expected to keep abreast of policy developments, review the minutes of the relevant boards and committees, and bring any matters to the attention of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that they felt may benefit from further consideration or scrutiny.

The Chair considered that the Finance portfolio would benefit from having a scrutiny champion and members were to inform the Scrutiny Officer if they were interested in becoming the champion for this portfolio area.

Resolved:

- (1) Councillor Simon Peuple be appointed as the Scrutiny Champion for Housing & Land.
- (2) Councillor Peter Fowler be appointed as Scrutiny Champion for Environment, Energy & HS2.

(b) Senior Officer Changes

The committee considered a briefing note from the Interim Head of HR that provided a summary of the changes at senior officer level at the WMCA and the timescales for recruitment to vacant roles.

The Chair noted the interim arrangements within the WMCA and the financial cost of the interim appointments and consultants employed by the WMCA. It was agreed that the committee would pursue these lines of enquiry during the Mayoral Q&A on the proposed budget 2022/23.

Resolved:

The report be noted.

(c) Aisha Masood, Young Combined Authority

The Chair reported that this was the last meeting that Aisha Masood would be attending as her term on the Young Combined Authority Board would be coming to an end at the end of the month. She thanked her for her significant involvement and contributions to meetings of the committee and looked forward to meeting her replacement.

Aisha Masood thanked the committee for allowing members of the Young Combined Authority to participate within its meetings and scrutiny reviews, which had created relationships with similar groups across other combined authorities.

13. Minutes - 21 July 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

14. Matters Arising

(a) Economic Needs of the Black Country Scrutiny Review - Summary of Findings (minute no. 6b)

The Chair reported that she had received a response from the Interim Chief Executive to the recommendations arising from the Black Country Scrutiny Review.

The WMCA agreed with the recommendations, particularly those relating to the coherence of funding and the co-ordination of delivery across the West Midlands. The WMCA echoed the aspiration that any further devolution must be simplified and enable the region to respond to current and emerging challenges.

It also recognised the need to support businesses and residents, and to understand the particular needs and inter-related dependencies in relation to education, skills, employment, transport and health. The WMCA was currently reviewing its governance arrangements and, in particular, was seeking to strengthen its focus on delivering inclusive economic growth and linking residents to jobs and opportunities.

Whilst the committee welcomed the response and the acceptance of the recommendations by the WMCA, members considered that it lacked the specific detail as to how each of the recommendations would be progressed. In terms of the next steps, the Chair and Vice-Chair agreed to have an initial meeting with the Head of Policy & Programme Management to discuss the individual recommendations and better understand how they may be progressed. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

Resolved:

The 'Economic Needs of the Black Country Scrutiny Review - Summary of Findings' report to be circulated to members of the committee for information.

15. Corporate Strategy

The committee received a presentation from the Head of Policy & Programme Development that provided an update on the development of the Corporate Strategy.

The corporate strategy would be the single umbrella strategy that set out the objectives of the WMCA for the next three years. It would translate the WMCA's vision, regional and local authority priorities and the Mayoral Manifesto into a work programme. The Head of Policy & Programme Development sought the views of the committee on these proposals, in particular, on the content and framing and language prior to its submission to the WMCA Board on 19 November 2021 for approval.

Members discussed and shared comments on the extent in which the six draft aims applied to the non-constituent authorities, the need for a distinction between the responsibilities of the WMCA and local authorities, the importance of inclusive economic growth which needed to be reflected within the document together with how an equitable approach would be achieved. In terms of transport, it was considered that the vision within the document was not ambitious enough and it should have a focus on the development of an integrated public transport system that would allow passengers to have the same freedom to move around the region as was currently enjoyed by car owners.

In response to a question raised by the Chair, the Head of Policy & Programme Development explained that any activity undertaken outside of the agreed corporate strategy would not be funded.

Resolved:

- (1) The presentation on the emerging draft corporate strategy be welcomed.
- (2) Comments and observations received from members of the committee to be considered by the WMCA.

16. Grant Register, Business Planning and Performance Reporting

The committee considered a report from the Director of Finance that provided an overview of the current business planning, performance reporting and risk foundation and what the WMCA was working towards to provide exemplar reporting that enabled evidence-based decisions to be made.

In addition, members also received the current grant register that contained 'live' grants where the WMCA was the accountable body and captured a comprehensive total of grants, awarding body, time period for delivery and a description of that the grant delivered.

The committee thanked the Director of Finance for the comprehensive grant register which provided the information that it had previously sought. It provided greater transparency, accountability and confidence. The Chair added that it would be useful if the register included a column that identified the local authority in which funding had been allocated.

Resolved:

- (1) The current changes and progress with regards to business planning and performance reporting be noted
- (2) The grant register be noted.

17. Pre-Development Scrutiny: Air Quality and the Role of the WMCA

The committee considered a report from the Head of Environment that provided an opportunity for a small group of members to work with the Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform directorate to review and understand the additional requirements arising from the outcome of the Environment Bill as it progressed through Parliament.

At its meeting on 25 June, the WMCA Board discussed the activity in respect of air quality and concern was expressed relating to the powers of the WMCA and how it complimented and contributed to the work being undertaken by constituent authorities. Additional requirements on local authorities would be announced in the autumn with regard to air quality in the form of the Environment Bill and a report would be presented to the WMCA Board on 19 November that would set out the options on the role of the WMCA and how this was balanced with the work of the constituent authorities.

The Head of Environment indicated that it would be helpful for Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be involved in the development of this WMCA Board report.

Resolved:

- (1) The proposed course of action with regards to scrutiny's engagement in air quality matters be endorsed
- (2) Councillor Liz Clements, Councillor Peter Fowler and Councillor Vera Waters meet with the Head of Environment in September and October, ahead of the 'Air Quality: Options on the Role of the WMCA' report being presented to the WMCA Board on 19 November for consideration.
- (3) The 'Air Quality: Options on the Role of the WMCA' report to be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8 November be noted

18. WMCA Governance Review Progress Update

The committee received a presentation from the Interim Director of Law & Governance that provided a progress update on the WMCA governance review.

The committee received an overview of the review group's terms of reference, the key themes that had been identified to date which would be explored further, details of the governance mapping exercise, comparative data, the consideration of the governance review report from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the emerging key themes that had been debated.

Members welcomed the comparative work undertaken with other combined authorities and questioned whether the Portfolio Lead had to be a Leader of a constituent authority or could these functions be delegated to other members, drawn from each authority, to be key policy leads at a WMCA level. The work pressures of a Leader of a constituent authority was acknowledged together with the importance of a common purpose within the region.

With regards to scrutiny, the review group recognised that scrutiny was an essential part of the West Midlands Combined Authority. The Chair shared an email received from Councillor Bob Sleight regarding the WMCA's allowances scheme. It was noted that the issue would be referred to the Mayor and local authority leaders for their consideration as to an appropriate course of action to take with regard to any necessary review.

The Interim Director of Law & Governance reported that a final report on the findings of the Governance Review would be presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8 November, and he noted that Councillor Bob Sleight would also be in attendance.

Resolved:

The presentation be noted.

19. Minutes: Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee - 28 July 2021

The committee received the minutes of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 28 July 2021.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2021 be noted.

20. Work Programme

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

It was agreed that a workshop would be held on Friday 1 October at 10.00am in preparation for the forthcoming Mayoral Q&A session on 14 October on policy matters.

21. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee would be held on Thursday 14 October at 9.30am.



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 14 October 2021 at 9.30am

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Lisa Trickett (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Naeem Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Mike Chalk	Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Tony Diccico	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Peter Fowler	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Nigel Lumby	Shropshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Charn Padda	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Vera Waters	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance:

Dan Essex	Governance Services Manager
Linda Horne	Finance Director
Lyndsey Roberts	Scrutiny Officer
Laura Shoaf	Interim Chief Executive
Andy Street	Mayor of the West Midlands
Kate Taylor	Head of Finance Business Partnering

1. Welcome & Introductions

The Chair welcomed the Mayor and members of the committee to the first mayoral question time of 2021/22 that would be focussing on WMCA policy-related matters.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Maya Ali (Coventry), Councillor Liz Clements (Birmingham), Councillor Shabrana Hussain (Birmingham) and Councillor Paul Sweet (Wolverhampton)

3. The Mayor's Opening Statement

The Mayor provided an opening statement that focussed on the main areas of recent activity for the WMCA, including the submission to Government of a City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement bid totalling £1.7bn to support capital transport investment within the region, an ask as part of the Corporate Spending Review for a further Brownfield Land & Property Investment funding, a submission into the forthcoming Levelling-Up White Paper for a further devolution deal for the West Midlands, the WMCA's approach to economic recovery and activity related to the forthcoming Plan for Growth, and the development of the Corporate Strategy that set

out the aims and objectives of the WMCA for the next three years and that would inform its Medium Term Financial Plan as well as annual budgets and deliverables.

4. Questions to the Mayor

The committee pursued a number of general lines of enquiry with the Mayor, including mayoral powers and devolution, economic development and regeneration, transport, housing and land and the environment.

In terms of devolution, the Mayor and members of the committee agreed that devolution was key to 'levelling up' the economy, and although the WMCA had gained significant devolved powers for some areas to date, it was seeking additional new powers through the Levelling Up White Paper specifically for three critical areas including the post-16 skills sector, net zero, and economic development tools. The Mayor recognised the wider importance of the need for a shared regional view and considered that the WMCA was well-placed to provide that collaborative and shared understanding for the region.

With regard to the West Midlands economy, it was noted that pre-pandemic the region had the best growth of any region outside of London, however this growth had been affected by the pandemic and the current trajectory was that the region would have a lower growth than other regions. The West Midlands 'Plan for Growth' had yet to be published, however it would identify the measures required to grow the regional economy. It was clear that all areas needed to incorporate growth with delivering net zero and delivering the right outcomes for those people most disadvantaged in communities.

The committee questioned the Mayor on manufacturing and how the challenges within this sector could be addressed. The Mayor summarised the activities and support being provided within a number of areas, including medical device manufacturing, the electric vehicle sector, energy efficiency and skills development programmes. In addition, members explored other potential opportunities for future manufacturing and growth industry sectors within the region.

During the question and answer session on skills shortages and training, it was reported that within the WMCA area there was currently 170,000 vacancies (40% up pre-pandemic). The Mayor provided an overview of the reasons for this, including the change in attitudes towards work and how the Department for Work & Pensions could further improve its offer. The committee received a breakdown of the Kickstart programme and shared concerns about the Department for Work & Pensions not effectively engaging with young people.

It was recognised that the battery gigafactory that was to be built at Coventry was a significant potential investment opportunity. The Mayor provided an update on his discussions with Government, other recent developments and what the WMCA had done to support the acceleration of the gigafactory project. In addition, the Mayor clarified his role in relation to energy and explained the thinking behind the energy innovation zones.

As part of its lines of enquiry, the committee questioned the Mayor on transport related policy matters, including the effects and economic cost of congestion, the need to align infrastructure and the public transport network with new developments, the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement fund and bus franchising proposals.

In terms of bus franchising, the WMCA Board had asked Transport for West Midlands to assess future delivery options for bus services in the West Midlands in order to best achieve the objectives of its Vision for Bus strategy. In order to access funding through the Bus Services Improvement Plan, the WMCA Board had to agree whether to pursue franchising or enhanced partnerships. A report would be considered by the WMCA Board in January 2022.

The committee sought the Mayor's view as to whether bus franchising should be introduced within the region. The Mayor emphasised that he would await the conclusions of Transport for West Midlands' report on this matter, although he would need to be persuaded that bus franchising provided the best model for the operation of bus services within the region. He also considered that the region already received many of the benefits of bus franchising through the existing partnership work with National Express West Midlands. The committee shared their views and comments on bus franchising and the need to hold operators to account to ensure that they offered an efficient service at the right cost and within the right locations.

With regards to rail, the WMCA was working with Midlands Connect to lobby the Government ahead of an announcement on the forthcoming Integrated Rail Plan, which was expected shortly. The Mayor hoped that this announcement would include a commitment to the Midlands Rail Hub project, which included re-establishing the link between Coventry and Leicester.

The Mayor addressed questions in relation to the housing need within the West Midlands with a focus on registered providers, total housing funds, affordable housing, the use of brownfield land, local authority plans, city centre living, creative developments and the regeneration of high streets. The committee brought the Mayor's attention to the proposals for an Affordable Housing Delivery Vehicle that had been called-in by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The committee had yet to receive the Full Business Case for this proposition and the Mayor agreed to provide a written update as to the current status of these proposals.

Questions were raised in relation to housing associations and holding them to account for the delivery of affordable and social housing. Members questioned whether the funding allocated to housing associations came with separate requirements to deliver both affordable *and* social housing, or whether the regional threshold criteria could be met by delivering only affordable housing and there was no requirement for housing associations to deliver social housing. The Mayor agreed to clarify this point.

The committee sought the Mayor's view as to whether he would exercise his powers in relation to air quality to address the pollution caused by HGV traffic and polluting vehicles travelling through Birmingham to connect to the wider motorway network. The Mayor explained that he had limited concurrent powers with the local authorities and air quality issues had been addressed by local authorities not the WMCA. The WMCA had undertaken work on public transport and the decarbonisation of home and industry.

In addition, the Mayor referred to the Environment Bill, expected to be published shortly, that could ask combined authorities to play a fuller role in improving air quality. If this was the case, a report would be submitted to the WMCA Board setting out the options in detail.

Resolved:

The following observations be shared with the Mayor for considerations and response:

- (1) The committee recognised the existence of collaborative powers being exercised jointly by the Mayor/WMCA and constituent authorities. There was the impression that these powers were not currently being fully utilised. The committee stressed the importance of the Mayor working collaboratively with Leaders to ensure the development of a shared ambition and vision for the region was then translated into the transformative change that was needed.
- (2) The committee welcomed evidence of the Mayor working with other mayors across the country through the 'M10' group to pursue a shared agenda. It was hoped that this would develop further over time where regional leaders were able to collectively demonstrate the changes they required from Government to enable them to deliver local solutions most beneficial to their own regions.
- (3) The committee welcomed the submission of a bid for funding from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, particularly as this would devolve responsibility for prioritising schemes to the West Midlands. However, it was recognised that this prioritisation process needed to be transparent, clearly understood by all stakeholders and undertaken in a timely manner to ensure the effective delivery of these vital infrastructure projects.
- (4) The committee noted that the Kickstart programme was due to end in March 2022. Given the noted concerns regarding the effectiveness of the Department for Work & Pensions' active engagement with young people wishing to access this scheme, could the Mayor consider whether there was any potential for the WMCA to take on additional regional responsibility for programme delivery?

Dear Cllr Bayton

I am writing further to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report of 8th March summarising the findings of the 'Economic Needs of the Black Country' Scrutiny Review. I understand that the committee seeks further detail on the action we are taking in response to your findings, and I am more than happy to provide that to support your ongoing work.

The key issues raised in the report are at the core of our agenda as a Combined Authority, and are reflected in the Corporate Strategy which I know the Committee have been involved in shaping. Truly inclusive economic growth means that communities in every corner of our region benefit from investments in infrastructure, skills and employment programmes, and interventions to support business and enterprise. As we work to tackle the climate crisis as part of our WM2041 strategy, it is even more important that those communities who have the highest level of social and economic need are the key beneficiaries of the transition to a green economy.

I want to set out the action we are taking in relation to each of your findings, which I have summarised below for reference:

1. *'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.'*

I am proud of the significant new funding that the WMCA have attracted from Government to date, particularly to support new transport and housing programmes in the Black Country. However, I agree that in its current form, ringfenced and short-term Government funding pots do not always provide the flexibility for our region to invest in the way that we need to. In our submissions to Government around Budgets and Spending Reviews we have made this point clear, and continue to do so through our proposals for a further West Midlands Devolution Deal.

The WMCA Single Assurance Framework ensures consistent and fair consideration for allocation of all WMCA funding and appraises impacts and benefits for the region. The Governance process ensures approvals to investment of devolved funding are considered by representatives from across the region, including constituent and non - constituent Authorities and LEPs. Ultimately, it is a board decision where the funds are invested to the greatest regional benefit.

2. *'Scaling-up immediate support for businesses and people whose jobs were at risk... urgently review regional skills plan... need for an employment taskforce to address the economic needs of the Black Country'*

West Midlands Combined Authority, 16 Summer Lane, Birmingham, B19 3SD
Tel: 0345 303 6760 | wmca.org.uk



Leaders
in Diversity
Award

Achieved.
Valid Until
June 2022



Country... brokering a region-wide common understanding and vision for the skills, training and employment needs of the Black Country.'

I recognise that this recommendation was crafted when lockdown measures were still in place and the economy was in hibernation, but it is still clear that the economic impact of Covid will be profound in our region. The NPI report on 'The State of Economic Justice in Birmingham and the Black Country' brings together the data and evidence to make this point clearly, so thank you for highlighting it as part of your recommendations.

The CA have recently established an Economic Growth Board, chaired by Cllr Ian Brookfield as the Economy Portfolio holder and empowered to drive delivery across the region in pursuit of inclusive economic growth. I see the work you have outlined as a critical part of the activities of the Board.

Action 1: Chair and Members of Economic Growth Board to consider as part of their developing work programme the requirements and differences of sub-regions, including the Black Country.

Action 2: Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider if it would be helpful to repeat the deep dive into local skills delivery, with lead local members.

3. *'Working towards a long-term, whole-life approach - ... in recognition of the inter-dependency between education, skills, employment and health.'*

I agree with the Committee that we cannot see economic development in isolation. Our Corporate Strategy gives us the ability to take a more holistic approach as an organisation, and hopefully helps the Committee see how our work on inclusive economic growth (Aim 1) relates to access to opportunity, connecting our communities, reaching net zero, and securing further devolution (Aims 1-5).

I am also conscious that education and health are areas where Local Authorities and partner agencies take the lead. I would therefore propose that we take a collaborative approach to the activity of the Economic Growth Board working closely with partners from other agencies where economic growth relates to education or health. This would ensure that we adopt a whole-life perspective to our work, leveraging the convening role that the CA can play.

Action 3: Chair and Members of Economic Growth Board to consider how to bring perspectives on education, health, and other areas to contribute to agenda items where they particularly impact on inclusive economic growth.

4. *'Co-ordination, governance and accountability across the Black Country... vital that decisions made by the region's public bodies were joined up, and best practice shared widely... important that the structural architecture existed that enabled this knowledge of place to shape wider regional economic strategy.'*

I agree that the region's economic architecture may not be right to face the new challenges presented by Covid, and our more longstanding issues around economic productivity and

unemployment. In the past six months, the Strategic Economic Development Board considered a report on the future of business support, which suggested new ways that institutions could work together to promote growth and create jobs. Whilst taking forward the recommendations of this report, we are also awaiting the outcome of the LEP Review and a Levelling Up White Paper which may set a new direction for local growth funding. Once we have these announcements from Government, the Economic Growth Board will lead work to determine the new regional economic architecture. I can commit to that work coming for pre-decision scrutiny before it is agreed by the Economic Growth Board and the WMCA Board, to ensure your Committee can shape it.

Action 4: Paper on the future of regional economic development architecture to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny as a piece of pre-decision scrutiny, with a particular focus on how it will serve the Black Country.

I would like to thank you and the Committee for undertaking this Scrutiny Review and highlighting the challenges faced by the Black Country. I hope the actions above, and the broader work of the CA, give you confidence that we share your ambition for the potential of this area. I am happy to answer any further questions on this issue at the upcoming Mayoral Policy Q&A session with the committee.

Yours sincerely



Laura Shoaf
Interim Chief Executive for West Midland Combined Authority

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Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	8 November 2021
Report title	WMCA Aims and Objectives
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, West Midlands Combined Authority email: laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk tel: (0121 214 7444)
Accountable Employee	Adam Hawksbee, Head of Policy & Programme Development email: adam.hawksbee@wmca.org.uk tel: 07584 009123
Report has been considered by	Strategic Leadership Team

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Comment on the draft WMCA Aims and Objectives prior to its consideration at the WMCA Board on 19 November 2021.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To inform Overview & Scrutiny Committee of the latest draft of the WMCA Aims and Objectives which will go to November Board for agreement, pending any further refinement required.
- 1.2. To present a further opportunity for Overview & Scrutiny Committee to provide pre-decision scrutiny.

2. Background

- 1.1. The purpose of the WMCA Aims and Objectives document is to:
 - Set out how we will deliver on the region's priorities
 - Guide our use of powers and money secured from central government
 - Enable the WMCA to measure our progress against our priorities
- 1.2. The Aims and Objectives will be regularly reviewed, including a formal review every six months to monitor progress. The WMCA, as a relatively young organisation, has not developed strategic aims and objectives before but strategic planning is important for our organisation to mature. The aims and objectives sit one level up from the existing annual business planning process and will ensure that as an organisation, we are delivering on the region's priorities. It is important that they are agreed in order to align the budget for 2022/2023 to our workplan. This will allow the Board to monitor progress and delivery of the WMCA.
- 1.3. We have developed the WMCA Aims and Objectives, through bilateral and multilateral engagement with the Mayor and leaders of constituent authorities, with other key stakeholders such as the Young Combined Authority, and with colleagues from across the WMCA.
- 1.4. The process to date has been;
 - 11/06 – Aims and Objectives process introduced at Mayor & Met Leaders
 - 25/06 – Aims and Objectives headlines shared at WMCA Board
 - 19/07 – Preliminary draft of Aims and Objectives shared with leaders and CXs to support bilateral discussions during the period 19/07-02/08
 - 01/10 – Aims and Objectives v1 shared to set strategic context for Mayor and Leaders Roundtable
 - 18/10 – Aims and Objectives v1.6 shared with leaders who wanted to hold a second bilateral discussion during the period 29/10-04/11
 - 29/10 - Aims and Objectives v2 shared ahead of this meeting
- 1.5. Please find the latest draft of the Aims and Objectives attached. It contains the following sections:
 - Introduction and frontmatter, which briefly articulate our story, explain our role in the region, and set out what the purpose of the document is.
 - The Aims and Objectives content itself, of which aims 1-5 have been shared previously. The sixth aim addresses how we will develop our organisation internally, in order that we are best enabled to achieve aims 1-5.

2.6 Next steps:

- Pending any further refinement needed, the Aims and Objectives will be submitted to November Board for approval.
- Once agreed by Board, we will communicate the Aims and Objectives to our partners in the region and to our staff across a number of platforms in late November.
- We will begin a programme of work to embed the Aims and Objectives with our annual and financial planning processes, our governance, and our activity, including through alignment of the individual performance objectives of our staff with the Aims and Objectives.
- The Aims and Objectives will be formally reviewed every six months, including monitoring of outcome measures associated with each objective.
- Once we have agreed our Aims and Objectives, we will work with partners across the region to develop a strategic regional approach to ensure that the WMCA are focussing our resources and activities in the right way. This approach has been discussed and agreed with the Metropolitan Chief Executives and will offer an opportunity to further scope collaborative working, recognising the changing landscape especially around economic strategy and business support.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising out of Overview & Scrutiny Committee's consideration of this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising out of Overview & Scrutiny Committee's consideration of this report.

5. Equalities Implications

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications arising out of Overview & Scrutiny Committee's consideration of this report.

6. Appendix

- 6.1 WMCA Aims and Objectives document attached.

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West Midlands
Combined Authority

WMCA Aims & Objectives

Unlocking the potential of the West Midlands



Introduction to the WMCA

Who we are

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is a partnership between 18 local authorities and other bodies including Local Enterprise Partnerships, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority. We have seven constituent local authority members who make up the WMCA Board.

The WMCA was created through a devolution deal in 2016, where central government in Westminster gave us powers and money to improve the lives of people in the West Midlands.

In 2017 Andy Street was elected as the first Mayor of the West Midlands; he was re-elected in May 2021.



Not to scale



This document

This document helps us to:

- Set out how we will deliver on the region’s priorities
- Guide our use of powers and money secured from central government
- Measure our progress against our priorities

Our aims and objectives will be regularly reviewed, including a formal review every six months, to monitor progress. They are agreed and owned by the WMCA Board, chaired by the Mayor.

	Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP	Black Country LEP	Coventry and Warwickshire LEP	Marches LEP
Constituent authority				
Non-constituent authority				
LEP member only				

Our role

The West Midlands Combined Authority takes on a range of different roles to deliver on our shared regional ambitions. We always ensure that our activity builds on work at a local level, led by local authorities and other partners.



Deliver

In some areas we are responsible for delivering and commissioning services, such as the regional public transport system and the provision of adult skills



Enable

In other areas we convene and guide the work of partners, including developing economic strategy to support regional businesses and unlocking sites for housing and regeneration schemes



Influence

We also play an advocacy role, amplifying the voice of partners in the region to solve shared challenges and secure new resources or powers



Our constituent authority Leaders

The WMCA is led by the directly elected Mayor of the West Midlands and the leaders of our seven constituent local authorities:



Mayor of the West Midlands
Andy Street



Sandwell
Cllr Rajbir Singh



Birmingham
Cllr Ian Ward



Solihull
Cllr Ian Courts



Coventry
Cllr George Duggins



Walsall
Cllr Mike Bird



Dudley
Cllr Patrick Harley



Wolverhampton
Cllr Ian Brookfield



Our vision

A more prosperous and better connected West Midlands which is fairer, greener and healthier



West Midlands
Combined Authority





Our six aims

We developed these six aims following the Mayoral election in 2021. The WMCA also engaged extensively with our local authority partners, the Young Combined Authority, and other partners to understand our shared areas of focus. These six aims are based on evidence and data about the key challenges in the region, taken from reports such as the State of the Region. Overall, these six aims set out how the WMCA can help realise our vision.

- 

1 Promote inclusive economic growth in every corner of the region
- 

2 Ensure everyone has the opportunity to benefit
- 

3 Connect our communities by delivering transport and unlocking housing and regeneration schemes
- 

4 Reduce carbon emissions to net zero and enhance the environment
- 

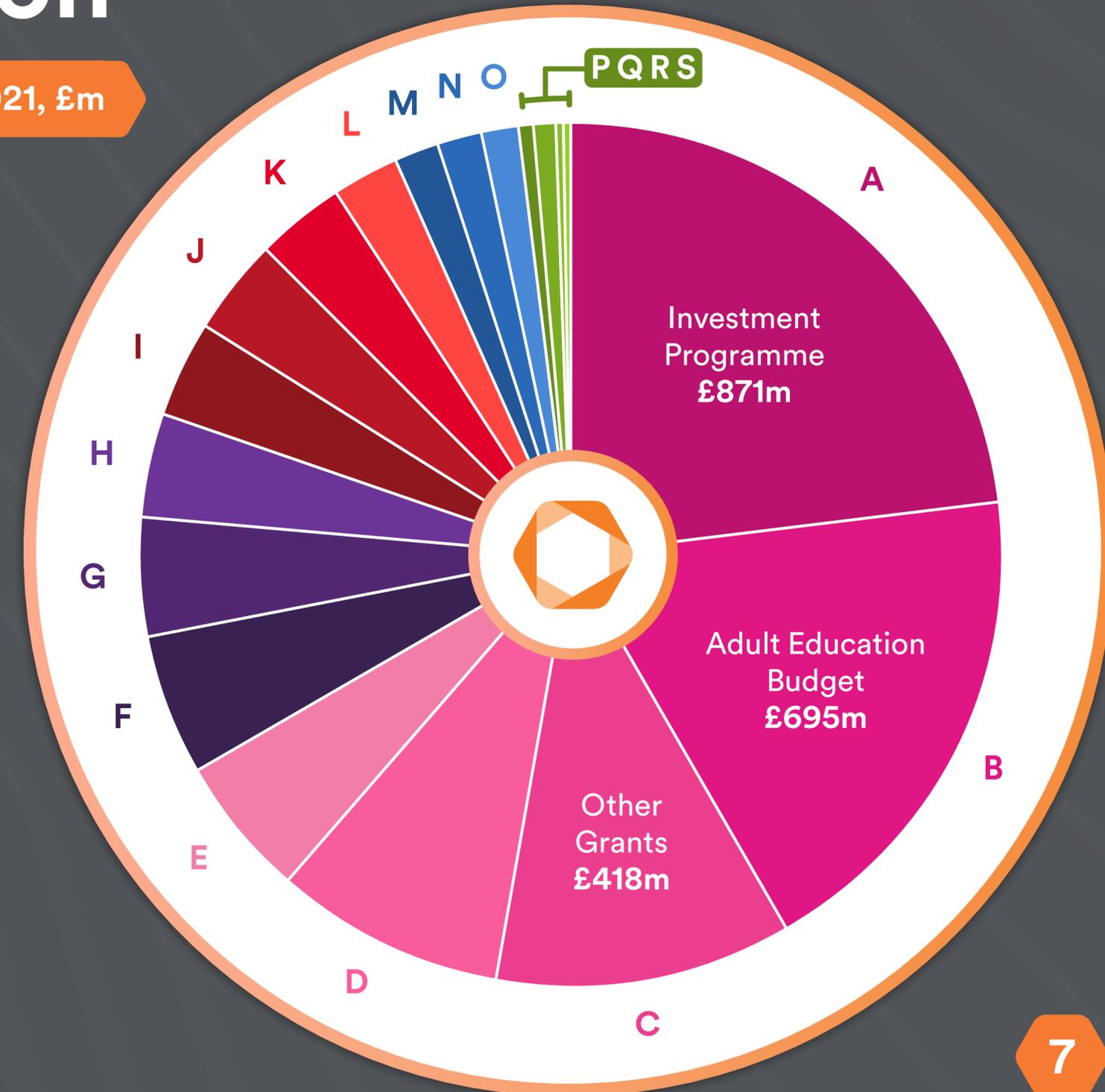
5 Secure new powers and resources from central government
- 

6 Develop our organisation and our role as a good regional partner

The WMCA has secured £3.8 billion of investment for the region*

Funding successfully leveraged by the WMCA for the West Midlands 2017-2021, £m

A	Investment Programme	871
B	Adult Education Budget (c.£139m p.a.)	695
C	Other Grants (Below £49m)	418
D	Transforming Cities Fund	321
E	Housing and Brownfield Funds	208
F	Farebox Revenues	195
G	Perry Barr Housing Regeneration Scheme	165
H	Commercial / Residential Investment Fund Loans	143
I	Town Centre Fund	139
J	Eastside Metro Grant (DfT)	132
K	Electric Bus Town (DfT £50m plus £87.5m Private Sector)	128
L	UK Central (£50m Supplemented by £45m WMCA loan)	95
M	Get Building Fund	66
N	RNEP (Funding for 5 new stations)	59
O	Skills Deal	49
P	5G (Excluding c.£20m Contributions in Kind)	26
Q	Tourism, Trade and Investment Programme	24
R	Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Test Bed inc TB2	12
S	Digital Skills	8



*correct pre-Budget announcement made on 27th Oct

WMCA Aims & Objectives



West Midlands
Combined Authority



AIM 1 To promote inclusive economic growth in every corner of the region and stimulate the creation of good jobs



Objective

Key activity

We will drive growth by developing regional strategies and plans focussed on priority clusters, boosting innovation, and securing investment

- Provide support to the new Economic Growth Board, assisting in the development and implementation of regional plans and interventions to accelerate local inclusive economic growth
- Develop West Midlands “Plan for Growth”, to identify the region’s key competitive clusters and the interventions that will best enable accelerated economic growth
- Work with partners to support and champion major economic projects to secure investment, e.g., HS2, UK Central, Gigafactory
- Support economic resilience by monitoring and reacting to economic conditions
- Deliver West Midlands Innovation Programme to increase demand-led innovation in the economy and support regional sector-specific interventions such as Made Smarter
- Work with West Midlands 5G to accelerate the rollout of high-speed connectivity in the region
- Develop standards, tools and practices for embedding and delivering inclusive growth

We will work with partners to create the optimum conditions for businesses to grow, by ensuring they have the support needed to start up, scale up and succeed

- Support the Economic Growth Board to deliver a new approach to regional business support activities, ensuring a coherent and effective offer for local small and medium enterprises
- Support the Business Taxation Commission to ensure fair taxes for businesses and the high street
- Work with West Midlands Growth Company to align economic strategy and investment promotion activity and develop key products such as the West Midlands Investment Prospectus
- Increase investment available for businesses by championing the region’s offer for investors, and introducing a Co-Invest Fund
- Convene partners to design interventions to increase productivity in the foundational economy
- Convene partners to support the growth of the Social Economy

1.1

Page 27

1.2



AIM 1 To promote inclusive economic growth in every corner of the region and stimulate the creation of good jobs



Objective

Key activity

1.3

We will invest in training and skills programmes that help businesses grow and our citizens secure good jobs

- Ensure that the Adult Education Budget is used for skills training in areas of local skills and labour shortages, including in digital, construction, health, manufacturing, creative and green industries, and to support major projects such as HS2
- Deliver an increased range of higher level skills training to support productivity and earnings growth
- Develop additional, sector-specific training and recruitment programmes to help unemployed people access good local jobs
- Work with partners to maximise the number of apprenticeship opportunities for young people and adults
- Develop additional support to businesses for workforce recruitment and development

Page 28

1.4

We will work with local authorities to support the role of culture and sport in making the region a good place to live, work, visit and invest

- Work with partners to realise the benefits of key events such as Coventry City of Culture, 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham (including the Commonwealth Games legacy programme) and the British Art Show in Wolverhampton
- Align cultural activity across the region to maximise returns on investment and ensure benefits reach all communities
- Provide cultural sector input to WMCA activities through an advisory Cultural Leadership Board
- Increase investment in cultural infrastructure and programmes, including the development of a Black Country Cultural Investment Proposal

1.5

We will ensure public and private investment opportunities such as HS2 and the Commonwealth Games, create good work opportunities for local people and more contracts for local businesses

- Establish further co-ordinated activity between WMCA, Department for Work and Pensions, and local authorities to ensure local people are able to benefit from access to local jobs created through regional investment such as HS2
- Deliver Commonwealth Games Jobs and Skills Academy to support local people in gaining jobs, training and volunteering opportunities





AIM 2 To ensure everyone has the opportunity to benefit as the region recovers from COVID-19, improves resilience and tackles long-standing challenges



Page 29

Objective	Key activity
<p>2.1</p> <p>We will work with partners to give our communities access to training and employment support to secure and succeed in new opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop proposals for further investment in employment and skills in the region over the next 3-5 years, working through the Skills Advisory Board and other partners • Work with colleges, job centres, training providers, trade unions and partners to establish and deliver more flexible provision for those in-work looking to retrain • Establish clear career entry routes and pathways for unemployed adults and those looking to reskill, particularly women and under-represented groups, targeting sectors with growth and / or skills shortages • Ensure there is an active network of locally-led Youth Hubs, delivering co-located employment and skills support for young people, particularly those from disadvantaged groups • Work with local authorities to deliver a strong adult and community learning offer that enables all residents to develop digital and other basic skills • Provide transport support through Workwise to those taking up new employment or apprenticeships to ensure opportunities are accessible • Convene partners through a West Midlands Employment Support Framework to align partner activity and ensure new programmes, such as Restart, complement existing work at a local level
<p>2.2</p> <p>We will work with partners to identify and address the different barriers faced by our diverse communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene partners to take action to address inequalities, including through a Race Equalities Taskforce and Leadership Commission • Convene partners to share best practice and coordinate activities to address social challenges, including through a Coalition for Digital Inclusion • Convene partners to understand the barriers faced by communities, including through a Life Chances Commission and Mental Health Commission



AIM 2 To ensure everyone has the opportunity to benefit as the region recovers from COVID-19, improves resilience and tackles long-standing challenges



Page 30

	Objective	Key activity
2.3	We will support social innovation to tackle complex and longstanding challenges facing our communities, where mutually agreed with partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with local authorities and other partners to support and promote social innovation activity through a toolkit and flexible team• Convene local authorities and other partners to address health inequalities by tackling some of the wider determinants of poor health in the region• Convene partners to design out homelessness, through the Homelessness Taskforce• Deliver Thrive Into Work and Thrive At Work mental health programmes to support our working population through their employers• Develop collaborative projects with the Police and Crime Commissioner to help reduce crime and improve the criminal justice system

AIM 3 To connect our communities by delivering transport, and unlocking housing and regeneration



Objective

Key activity

We will deliver and operate a safe, accessible, affordable, reliable and sustainable transport system together with our partners

- Own and maintain Metro Line One and operate West Midlands Metro services, through Midlands Metro Limited
- Co-manage the West Midlands rail franchise, through West Midlands Rail Executive
- Assess and plan for the region's future transport needs through the Statutory Local Transport Plan, 2022 Commonwealth Games Transport Plan and travel demand management
- Provide subsidy to a number of services that provide a social benefit including concessions, ring and ride, and tendered bus services
- Manage the Regional Transport Coordination Centre to keep the region moving during major construction programmes including HS2 and other major events and incidents
- Work collaboratively with local authorities to manage, operate and develop the Key Route Network to manage congestion and improve road safety

We will build and develop transport infrastructure that is sustainable, active, low-congestion and integrated with key projects like HS2

- Deliver infrastructure programmes through sources of funding such as the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and Bus Service Improvement Plan
- Invest in Sprint rapid transit buses, new and refurbished metro, rail and bus stations, line maintenance, travel demand management programmes and highways investments
- Support sustainable travel through developing the active travel network of cycle lanes and walking routes with partners and rollout of West Midlands Cycle Hire scheme



3.1

Page 31

3.2

AIM 3 To connect our communities by delivering transport, and unlocking housing and regeneration



Objective

Key activity

3.3

Page 32

We will invest in and support housing and regeneration schemes, working closely with the private sector and local authorities to unlock and accelerate sustainable delivery

- Deliver and manage a comprehensive range of land and housing programmes in support of brownfield regeneration and housing delivery across the region through the Single Commissioning Framework (SCF) and 2018 Housing Deal
- Leverage SCF Housing and Land Funds to facilitate delivery of affordable housing against our agreed regional definition, implementation of Help to Own and the establishment of an Affordable Housing Delivery Vehicle
- Work closely with local authorities, industry, Whitehall and investors on priority projects and sites to bring them forward for investment, development and disposal, and ensure their sustainability
- Deliver the WMCA site acquisition and disposals programme
- Work with local authorities to progress commercial land projects, e.g., through agreement of Commercial Land delivery strategy and engagement with Government on a new Commercial Land Fund

3.4

We will support and deliver co-ordinated investment packages with our partners across key corridors and local, town, and city centres

- Deploy, unlock and deliver Housing and Land Funds to development projects along key investment corridors to secure the workspaces, homes and facilities our communities need
- Develop and implement a West Midlands Town Centre Regeneration Delivery Strategy through our industry-led Town Centre Taskforce
- Deliver the regional One Public Estate Programme (OPE) including the bids for OPE 9 and working with our Public Land Taskforce to facilitate and support partners with efficient development and disposal of public land and buildings
- Establish Net Zero Infrastructure Delivery Panel to ensure local area energy planning is undertaken in relation to key corridor investments





AIM 4 To reduce carbon emissions to net zero, enhance the environment and boost climate resilience

Objective

Key activity

4.1

We will work with partners to attract investment in and deliver programmes to support net zero development and infrastructure

- Support local authorities to retrofit homes to reduce carbon emissions and costs associated with heating across the region
- Deliver an integrated Net Zero Neighbourhood Demonstrator programme to identify effective place-based approaches to decarbonisation
- Deliver Smart Local Energy System projects through the Energy Capital partnership to accelerate sustainable development and coordinate progress to net zero targets

4.2

We will be national pioneers in advanced methods of construction, zero carbon housing and brownfield regeneration and delivery, informed by research at the National Brownfield Institute

- Establish and run an industry-led Zero Carbon Taskforce to help deliver the Zero Carbon Homes Charter and Routemap, identify priority initiatives and explore how the region can be a pioneer in zero carbon homes
- Develop a routemap to formal adoption of Future Homes Standard in the region
- Develop and agree an Advanced Methods of Construction (AMC) and Future Homes Standard Investment Case to Government to help the region become a pioneer in modular zero carbon homes
- Implement the AMC Routemap to promote the use of AMC across the region so that future construction uses the very latest advanced manufacturing techniques, ensuring it is efficient and sustainable

4.3

We will convene partners to drive industrial decarbonisation and grow the low carbon and circular economy

- Lead a Circular Economy Taskforce and publish a Circular Economy Routemap to focus and coordinate regional efforts on improving material flows, primarily in construction, manufacturing and food
- Promote green investment in the region through the Regional Investment Prospectus, a dedicated Home of the Green Industrial Revolution prospectus, and programmes to leverage commercial finance and co-investment
- Establish Commercial Green Energy Taskforce and programme
- Deliver Commonwealth Games Sustainability legacy and COP 26 engagement
- Work with university partners on R&D opportunities such as the National Centre for the Decarbonisation of Heat
- Lead Net Zero Business Pledge programme and business support and engagement
- Develop industrial symbiosis solutions for key infrastructure by partnering with industry to unlock new green opportunities for citizens



AIM 4 To reduce carbon emissions to net zero, enhance the environment and boost climate resilience

	Objective	Key activity
4.4	We will pioneer and embed transport innovations and drive behaviour change to reduce emissions, improve air quality, and enable the creation of green jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver wide-ranging Net Zero Behaviour Change programme to citizens across the region, including lifestyle, consumer habits and transport initiatives across a number of platforms, including social media• Develop Infrastructure for Zero Emissions Vehicles strategy, business case, and project delivery, including electric vehicle transit stations• Assess and plan for Future Transport Zone to provide programme delivery and innovation support within Transport for West Midlands and directly to local authority partners, including the embedding of innovation into business-as-usual activity and collaborating with industry partners on the Midlands Future Mobility autonomous vehicles test bed• Lead the largest transport innovation programme nationally to reduce carbon emissions associated with transport provision in the region and improve our service offering for citizens
4.5	We will work with partners to increase investment in nature and our surroundings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support communities and local partners to enhance the natural environment in their areas, e.g., through Community Green Grants and a regional natural environment plan• Develop regional air quality options appraisal to understand potential initiatives to improve air quality and reduce associated health and environmental risks• Support tree-planting initiatives through schemes such as West Midlands Virtual Forest• Support local authority partners and coordinate regional strategy on the development of the West Midlands National Park concept and new green and blue infrastructure projects

AIM 5 To secure new powers and resources from central government, and demonstrate the strength of our regional partnership



Objective

Key activity

We will work with partners to understand their priorities, convene around shared opportunities, and deliver together

- Develop and maintain a deep understanding of the priorities and challenges of our local authority members, through sustained engagement at multiple levels of both organisations
- Contribute to pan-regional partnerships, such as the Midlands Engine, where there are opportunities for shared advocacy
- Collaborate with West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service and other public services where there are opportunities to deliver shared value in line with our strategy
- Work with the private sector to understand their perspectives and build shared projects and investment propositions, both directly and through representative groups such as Chambers of Commerce
- Convene community groups and the third sector to understand their experiences, amplify their voices, and support shared progress on regional challenges

We will work with central government to gain new powers and resources for the region, including double devolution

- Negotiate the further devolution of powers and flexibilities from central government
- Secure the resources needed for sustainable local and regional institutions through government Budgets
- Secure investment for local and regional priority projects from government departments
- Work with partners to support and deliver new government funding streams, e.g., UK Shared Prosperity Fund



5.1

Page 35

5.2



AIM 6 To develop our organisation and our role as a good regional partner

Objective Key activity

6.1

We will deliver as one organisation with a collaborative and inclusive culture, underpinned by best in class enabling services

- Deliver change management through the Business Transformation programme to ensure a fit for purpose organisational structure which is developed and owned by all of our staff
- Define and deliver our enabling services to ensure they add value to the whole organisation and support our strategic outcomes
- Establish and embed a communities of practice approach to connect and empower colleagues and increase capability in areas such as HR, Finance, Communications, Procurement, Legal and Citizen Engagement
- Align individual performance management objectives with our strategy to ensure all activity contributes towards achieving our Aims and staff recognise which part of our strategy they are helping to deliver

6.2

We will drive cultural change to embed new hybrid and agile ways of working

- Effect cultural change, improve resilience and empower staff to innovate by moving towards outcome-based ways of working to improve our value proposition to staff and become an employer of choice
- Support the transition to, and evolution of, hybrid working and agile practices to increase organisational and employee flexibility
- Develop and launch new Facilities Management, Business Support and Organisational Development core offers to enable new hybrid working model

6.3

We will ensure our workforce have the skills and competencies to deliver our strategy

- Develop clear and inclusive strategy for improving organisational competencies to address skills gaps between workforce profile and strategic objectives through coaching, mentoring, recruitment, training and leadership development in order to deliver our strategy
- Ensure performance management insights are embedded within workforce planning activity to enable evidence-based decisions and increased productivity

6.4

We will empower our organisation through digital-first and data enabled ways of working across all our activity

- Establish digital-by-design and digital first culture which is led by senior officers to embed the most efficient and appropriate digital solutions into everything we do
- Develop modern digital architecture, leveraging evolving and next generation technologies alongside appropriate information security management systems, a modern data platform, and business intelligence to digitally enable our work and workforce across the organisation
- Deliver Integrated Back Office project to provide centralised workforce data and enhanced analytics capability alongside staff self-service functionality



AIM 6 To develop our organisation and our role as a good regional partner

Objective

Key activity

6.5

We will provide leading support for a diverse workforce and demonstrate excellent equality and diversity practice

- Deliver programmes to ensure we attract a wider pool of candidates reflecting regional diversity, e.g. positive action initiatives and structured work experience placements
- Offer development opportunities to employees from protected characteristic groups currently under-represented in the workforce to facilitate equality of outcomes, e.g. leadership apprenticeships
- Build staff equality competencies to ensure they are confident to actively engage in the equality and inclusion agenda, including inclusive leadership initiatives
- Support positive physical and mental health and wellbeing and ensure wellbeing is championed across the organisation
- Improve workforce data, including transparency, to help us make informed decisions on future initiatives and more consistently monitor and evaluate the impact of these initiatives

6.6

We will involve citizens with our work to put their views at the heart of our planning, decision-making and delivery

- Deliver a varied portfolio of citizen engagement activity, such as the Young Combined Authority and Skills Street Team, to inform citizens and future planning, to ensure all our decisions are shaped by citizens, that our policy is fit for purpose, and to explore co-production approaches
- Ensure that, wherever we directly provide services, we meet our customers' needs and use their feedback to improve what we do
- Deliver consistent communications strategy to communicate initiatives to members of the public to improve understanding of our role

6.7

We will deliver through clear and effective governance and performance management that supports good, timely, and transparent decision-making and the best use of public funds

- Apply governance framework to ensure the WMCA is at all times compliant with legislation relating to the governance of combined authorities and use performance data to support a proactive approach to reviewing governance and improving delivery of our activities
- Develop a consistent, fit-for-purpose internal corporate governance framework to allow us to operate efficiently, streamline our processes, improve transparency of decision-making, and manage change effectively
- Establish and embed a data-enabled performance management culture through a new Business Planning Performance Reporting System, Performance Management Framework and training to provide structure and ensure colleagues throughout the organisation have clarity on their role in performance management
- Monitor and report on performance regularly to leadership, leveraging dashboards and data insights to measure the impact of WMCA investment, allow for data-driven decisions to focus our activity and resources, and provide transparency across the organisation and to our partners



West Midlands Combined Authority



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	8 November 2021
Report title	Grant Register
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, West Midlands Combined Authority email: laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk tel: (0121) 214 7444
Accountable Employee	Linda Horne, Director of Finance email: linda.horne@wmca.org.uk tel: (0121) 214 7508

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note and comment on the grant register.

1. Purpose

This paper provides an update on the grant register. This contains all current 'live' grants where the WMCA is the accountable body and captures a comprehensive total of grants, awarding body, time period for delivery and a description of what the grant delivers.

2. Grant Register Update

2.1 The grant register is attached as an appendix to this report.

2.2 There have been 2 new grants added to the register since the last update to the Committee:

- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) - £1.05bn.
- European Social Fund Find Your Future - £2.6m

3. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications as a direct consequence of this report.

4. Impact on Delivery of Strategic Transport Plan

None

5. Equalities Implications

None

6. Inclusive Growth Implications

None

7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

None

8. Other Implications

None

9. Schedule of Background Papers

Appendix – grant register

CAPITAL GRANT REGISTER

Grant Name	Awarding Body	Date Grant Awarded	Total Grant Award £	Notes
DfT - Highways Maint	DfT	Apr-21	11,304,000	Rolling annual settlement (due to finish March 2022), formula applied to distribute in full to LAs based on DfT direction. The value for 21/22 only is shown here and is inclusive of the DfT Highways Supplement (c.£2m). Grant distributed to all 7 LAs except Birmingham who have a PFI arrangement for Highways.
DfT - ITB WMCA	DfT	Apr-21	17,755,000	Annual rolling settlement from DfT (due to finish March 2022). Funding is distributed to WMCA and all 8 LAs on a formula basis which is agreed locally. The 21/22 annual value only is shown here.
DfT - Pot Hole Fund	DfT	Apr-21	9,043,000	Rolling annual settlement (due to finish March 2022), formula applied to distribute in full to LAs based on DfT direction. The value for 21/22 only is shown here. Grant distributed to all 7 LAs except Birmingham who have a PFI arrangement for Highways.
DfT - NPIFF	DfT	Sep-17	17,055,000	National Productivity Investment Fund including projects in Birmingham (Growth Point Public Transport Package), Walsall (Economic Growth and Infrastructure Project) and Solihull (Strategic Cycle Network)
DfT - Clean Bus Technology	DfT	Feb-18	5,987,750	Projects that work with bus operators or technology providers to retrofit buses to reduce emissions
DfT - Transforming Cities Fund	DfT	Apr-18	321,500,000	The purpose of the Transforming Cities Fund is to boost productivity, transform intra-city connectivity and reduce congestion through investment in public and sustainable transport in the West Midlands. No detailed constraints as to what it can be spent on, but the WMCA should have regard to the national objectives of the Fund. Programme agreed Nov 2018.
DfT - ECAMS	DfT	n/a	92,800	Enhanced Continuous Asset Monitoring Solution (ECAMS)
DfT - Joint Air Quality	DfT	Jan-19	3,456,520	Fund retrofit buses with kits that tackle exhaust emission in Birmingham
DfT West Midlands Trains	DfT		4,430,058	Car park and station works for Wolverhampton Interchange
DfT - A45 Sprint	DfT	Jul-20	35,000,000	Delivering SPRINT A45 scheme for Commonwealth Games in Summer 2022.
DfT - ADEPT Live Labs	DfT	Jul-19	2,650,000	Network Resilience Live Lab funding covering the transport network to build up a detailed picture of traffic and transport movements around the region through collection of data
DfT - Future Mobility Zones	DfT	Jun-19	20,000,000	The purpose of the Future Mobility Zones is to: trial new transport services modes and models, creating a functioning marketplace for mobility that combines new and traditional modes of transport; improve integration of services; increase the availability of real-time data; and provide access to digital planning and payment options. The fund also aims to explore options for: providing mobility credits, or other low-cost options, for lower income households; and delivering efficiencies through shared (dynamic) demand responsive transport.
DfT - TiWM Bus Priority	DfT	Jul-20	24,225,000	Funding bus priority measures in Birmingham City Centre and between Dudley and Druids Heath.
DfT-Emergency Active Travel Fund	DfT	Nov-20	13,182,667	Phase 2 of Active Travel Fund to support longer term walking and cycling schemes (Phase 1 classed as revenue grant)
DfT - AEBT	DfT	Mar-21	50,000,000	Coventry All Electric Bus City project to be delivered by Winter 2025.
MHCLG - CG Athlete's Village	MHCLG	Mar-21	17,300,000	Delivery of Transport for Commonwealth Games 2022.
MHCLG - West Midlands Land Fund	MHCLG	Mar-18	100,000,000	Quarterly reporting to MHCLG as part of the grant. This is against the outputs specific to Housing of 8,000 homes and the wider West Midlands target of 215,000 homes by 2031, which includes outputs from the Local Authorities
MHCLG - Getting Building Fund	MHCLG	Sep-20	66,000,000	Quarterly reporting to MHCLG as part of the grant (expended by 31 March 2022). This is against the outputs specific to the Local Industrial Strategy which is part of the economic recovery plan. There are a range of Projects, and a suite of outputs from Jobs created 1,440 to houses unlocked 17,210.
MHCLG - Brownfield Housing Fund	MHCLG	Jul-21	108,031,802	Quarterly reporting to MHCLG on the outputs of this grant. Deliver between 7,714 and 9,773 homes
DfT - CAV TB2	DfT	18/19	6,555,451	£3,563,732 - Meridian 3 (404922) £151,209 - Autoplex (404927) £2,840,510 - Convex (405035)
3rd Party - WMT	3rd Party	Mar-21	1,000,000	Delivery of University Station build.
3rd Party - UHB	3rd Party	Aug-20	5,000,000	Delivery of University Station build.
LA - Birmingham	LA	n/a	78,295	Relates to Perry Barr Mitigation Package
PB - Highways England	Highways England	n/a	86,400	Relates to HS2 Modelling Framework
PB - Network Rail	Network Rail	Mar-21	12,000,000	Delivery of University Station build
DEFRA - Air Quality	DEFRA	Mar-20	340,000	Retrofit of at least 20 buses to Euro VI. Working in partnership with Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Cannock Chase, North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Redditch, Rugby, Shropshire, Stratford on Avon, Tamworth, Telford and Wrekin, Warwickshire Councils
LA - Birmingham	LA	n/a	9,061,629	Rail funding = £8.983m BCC funding for Perry Barr = £5.083m BCC funding for University = £3.9m
DfT - Challenge Fund	DfT	2015 Onwards	56,419,000	Mostly competitive fund. WMCA bid in to DfT on behalf of Local Authorities. Grant then distributed based on successful bid. The value shown here is the cumulative value since c.2015 and the projects subject to the grant are largely concluded.

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REVENUE GRANT REGISTER

Grant Name	Awarding Body	Date Grant Awarded	End Date	Total Grant Awarded (£)	Notes
Revenue Grant - over £100k					
Active Travel Fund	DfT	May-20	Mar-22	3,765,980	Phase 1 of Active Travel Fund to support temporary walking and cycling schemes in response to Covid 19 pandemic
Sales, Fees & Charges	MHCLG	Apr-20	Mar-21	1,186,388	The sales, fees and charges scheme compensates local authorities for irrecoverable income losses due to COVID-19. The sales, fees and charges scheme compensates local authorities for irrecoverable income losses due to COVID-19. Expanded to June 2021.
Dedicated Home 2 School/College	DfE	Sep-20	Jul-21	9,127,490	Funds to support alternative transport measures to public transport to get children to school/college during Covid 19.
Employment Support Pilot	DWP	Jun-18	Dec-21	4,700,000	The Employment Support Pilot is a 3-year programme started in June 2018, aimed at tackling unemployment and low pay within 9 communities across the WMCA region.
20/21 Adult Education Budget (Devolution)	DfE	Annual	Jul-21	130,614,575	Devolved budget from DfE for delivery of adult education (19+) in West Midlands region
21/22 Adult Education Budget (Devolution)	DfE	Annual	Jul-22	131,678,142	Devolved budget from DfE for delivery of adult education (19+) in West Midlands region
Adult Education Budget (Covid-19)	DfE	Aug-20	Jul-21	5,306,839	Devolved budget to support Covid 19 response for delivery of adult education
Adult Education Budget (Level 3)	DfE	Apr-21	Jul-22	11,446,329	Devolved budget from DfE for delivery of level 3 education offer open to adults without an existing L3 qualification in West Midlands
Adult Education Tech Grant	DfE	Apr-20	Jul-21	1,000,000	To deliver 4 digital skills projects. 1) Online learning platform with embedded artificial intelligence 2) Three demonstrator sites that will embed EdTech including AI, VR and big data across the curriculum delivery and business operation of the pilot sites 3) Cybersecurity and Hacking Lab 4) An open fund for innovation and creativity
Careers & Enterprise Company	Careers & Enterprise Company	Sep-19	Aug-21	120,000	This grant is to support the delivery of a NEET prevention project. The purpose of the project is to better understand the role that the Careers Strategy and the Gatsby Benchmarks can play in directing high quality work to prevent young people becoming NEET by the age of 19.
Digital Skills	DCMS	Sep-19	Feb-22	187,500	Funding to support entitlement to digital skills training across the region.
Digital Skills Pilot	DfE	Jun-19	Mar-23	5,000,000	Funding to support entitlement to digital skills training across the region.
Digital Bootcamp	DfE	Aug-20	Mar-22	1,726,699	Funding to hold more digital bootcamps focussing on building digital skills required by local employers with guaranteed interview opportunity.
FE Skills & Productivity	Gatsby Charitable Foundation	Jul-18	Dec-21	200,000	This grant is to support the preparation for and implementation of T Levels in the region.
Creative Scale Up	DDCMS	Apr-18	Mar-22	1,300,000	Support to Creative Businesses in the West Midlands with targeted support including Access to Finance, Marketing and Branding, Value and Pricing, Intellectual Property and Contract Law and Sales, Pitching and Presenting support. This will be delivered through a series of workshops, seminars and peer to peer mentoring sessions.
BFI National Cluster Growth Fund	BFI	Apr-20	Mar-22	1,000,000	Activity delivered by Create Central. Delivery a programme of activities to support the continued growth of the region's screen sector heavily focused on the 'future of media', with innovation, digital infrastructure, immersive storytelling and digital employability programmes taking place amongst more traditional elements such as attracting film and TV production to the region and promoting the West Midlands screen sector on a global stage.
Tourism, Trade & Investment	DCMS			13,200,000	An integrated programme of tourism, trade and investment jointly developed and to be jointly delivered by the West Midlands Growth Company, DCMS, DIT and Visit Britain. It will leverage the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham to deliver a legacy of economic benefits across the region.
West Midlands Regional Energy Systems Operator	Innovate UK	Jan-20	Dec-21	263,405	RESO project is a £2.62 million 2-year evidence based design project which started in January 2020 and will develop a detailed design for a new local energy system for the city of Coventry and beyond. WMCA are one of the partners in this project run by Coventry City Council.
Bus Services Operating Grant	DfT	Annual		1,792,259	A discretionary grant paid to operators of eligible local bus services to help them recover some of their fuel costs.
Covid Bus Services Support Grant	DfT	Mar-20	Aug-21	3,503,802	The COVID-19 bus service support grant has been set up to support commercial bus operators in England in recognition of the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) on their revenue due to reduced patronage.
Intracity Prep Fund	DfT		Mar-22	8,900,000	Preparation fund to support development of capital projects in ICTS (now CRSTS) bid.
Commonwealth Games	DCMS	Apr-18	Aug-22	28,305,213	This grant is for the Transport Budget of the overall Games Delivery Budget which was allocated to the Organising Committee for the delivery of the CWG. The transport Budget has delegated to TFWM. Grant is paid based on expenditure incurred.
Travel Demand Management Grant	DfT	Aug-20	Oct-21	225,000	Grant awarded for the Impact on the local transport network on the full re-opening of schools and colleges in September; and on the level of travel demand management (TDM) support required with managing any impact. Specifically the travel demand management grant is for revenue TDM activities

REVENUE GRANT REGISTER

Grant Name	Awarding Body	Date Grant Awarded	End Date	Total Grant Awarded (£)	Notes
Revenue Grant - over £100k					
Made Smarter	BEIS	Apr-21	Mar-22	1,900,000	Made Smarter Adoption support for businesses in West Midlands in 2020/21 in line with delivery plan agreed with BEIS.
Rough Sleeping Initiative	MHCLG	Apr-20	Mar-22	1,162,800	Providing local support to people living on streets including mobilisation of accommodation.
Sport England	Sport England	Mar-19	Mar-22	479,000	This consist of two workstreams: 1. Active Communities - this is for evidence led place based work such as Public Space and Black Country Moving 2. Resilient Communities - focuses on for example getting more disabled citizens active including staffing, the WM physical activity joint leadership and the digital training for sports clubs emergency response to lockdown
Midland Engine	Coventry University	Jun-19	Jun-22	963,998	Thrive At Work is one of the 4 pilots funded by MHPP through Coventry University. It is a workplace wellbeing programme, aiming to improve the health, wellbeing and resilience of employees by getting organisations to sign up to and advance in an accreditation programme on wellbeing. Thrive Into Work is a collaboration with WHU and local healthcare partners on specialised support (IPS) into sustained employment for people with long term health conditions.
Supported Bus Services	DfT	Apr-20	Mar-22	879,000	Provided to as revenue support to help provide more bus services in areas by improving current services, restoring lost services or supporting new services
Mobility Credits	DfT	Feb-21	Mar-23	922,500	Mobility credits scheme for eligible residents to scrap vehicles in return for mobility credits. Pilot launched in Coventry in March 2021.
Transforming Cities Fund (FMZ)	DfT	Jun-19	Mar-23	2,000,000	The purpose of the Future Mobility Zones is to: trial new transport services modes and models, creating a functioning marketplace for mobility that combines new and traditional modes of transport; improve integration of services; increase the availability of real-time data; and provide access to digital planning and payment options. The fund also aims to explore options for: providing mobility credits, or other low-cost options, for lower income households; and delivering efficiencies through shared (dynamic) demand responsive transport.
National Lottery	National Lottery	May-21	Dec-22	834,669	The project is to support disadvantaged young people to access the Commonwealth Games Volunteering Programme delivered through the Jobs and Skills Academy. To use the Commonwealth Games brand and leverage to create more employment, training, and volunteering opportunities to support young people who have been hardest hit as a result of COVID-19. To engage with a minimum of 800 young people on JSA To support a minimum of 280 young people into jobs To support a minimum of 320 individuals to volunteer To support a minimum of 64 individuals into specialist support Other positive outcomes for the young people will include accessing further training; access to Kickstart and Apprenticeships; personal development, the development and monitoring of soft skills. The outcome for each young person will be dependent on their bespoke plan.
Bus Capacity Grant	DfT	Apr-20		100,000	Funding to support LTAs in developing local bus proposals as outlined in the National Bus Strategy (NBS), in particular, it is being offered to help LTAs towards the development of their Enhanced Partnership Schemes(EPS) or franchising scheme, and Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP) work, and to meet the timescales that go alongside that work.

Revenue Grant (less than £100k)

Commonwealth Sports Foundation	Commonwealth Sports Foundation	Jan-21	Jul-22	120,000	To support the delivery of the Birmingham 2022 Jobs and Skills Academy, Funding to support a post focused on the delivery of this programme.
Rugeley Feed Project	Innovate UK	Jan-20	Dec-21	34,039	One of 11 main partners. WMCA (Energy Capital) activities: - Lead the investment and finance work - Creation of investor panel to input into design process - Translation of Energy Innovation Zone program into the energy system design
TinnGo (Euros)	European H2020	Jan-19	Nov-21	41,054	One of 20 partners in this 3 year project aiming to create a framework and mechanisms for a sustainable game change in European transport through a transformative strategy of gender and diversity sensitive smart mobility.
SPROUT (Euros)	European H2020	Sep-19	Aug-21	53,916	SPROUT (Sustainable Policy RespOnse to Urban Mobility Transition) is a network of over 20 European cities and regions. The main objective of the project is to put cities at the heart of the urban mobility transition. By building on the solutions to urban mobility challenges - related to both passenger transport and urban freight logistics - the work of SPROUT will be focused on producing new and practice-based knowledge and tools.

REVENUE GRANT REGISTER

Grant Name	Awarding Body	Date Grant Awarded	End Date	Total Grant Awarded (£)	Notes
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Revenue Grant - over £100k

SUITS (Euros)	European H2020	Jun-18	Feb-22	75,346	The project aims to help cities cut congestion and pollution while improving their growth capacity and quality of life for urban dwellers and commuters. Coventry University is the co-ordinator of 4m Euro total project.
Virgin Park and Charge Phase 2	Innovate UK	Oct-19	Dec-21	420,133	
European Social Fund Find Your Futures	DWP	Oct-21	Nov-23	2,620,730	

Specific Revenue/Devo Grants

Devo Deal Grant	MHCLG	Annual		36,500,000	Devolution Grant Deal (Investment Programme)
Mayoral Capacity Fund	MHCLG	Apr-18	Mar-22	4,000,000	Funding provided by central government to support funding of Mayoral Office
Devo Office of Data Analytics	MHCLG	Apr-18	No end date	800,000	Devolution funding to support operational activities of ODA
Devo Housing Package	MHCLG	Apr-17		6,000,000	Revenue grants to support capital housing grant activity delivery
Brownfield Housing Fund	MHCLG	Apr-20		2,826,498	Revenue grants to support capital housing grant activity delivery
One Public Estate	Local Government Association		Apr-22	1,246,141	Support OPE activity - drawn down by partners delivering OPE activity as required.

Other Revenue Contributions

IPS Programme	DWP	Mar-17	Jun-22	2,059,911
Brexit Support	MHCLG	Apr-18	No end date	1,375,059

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Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Monday 13 September 2021

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Liz Clements (Chair)
Councillor Thabiso Mabena
Councillor Barbara McGarrity

Birmingham City Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
City of Wolverhampton Council

In Attendance:

Emma Beswick
Pete Bond
Mark Collins
Dan Essex
Steve Hayes
Councillor Gurdev Hayre (joined by Teams)
Lyndsey Roberts
Kate Taylor
Mike Waters

West Midlands Cycle Hire (Project Manager)
Director of Integrated Transport Services
Innovation Integration Lead
Governance Services Manager
Head of Network Transformation
Coventry City Council
Scrutiny Officer
Head of Finance Business Partnering
Director of Policy, Strategy & Innovation

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ken Hawkins (Solihull) and Councillor Adam Hicken (Walsall)

2. Inquorate Meeting

The sub-committee was inquorate and therefore the decisions taken would be submitted to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8 November 2021 for formal approval.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chair

The appointment of the Vice-Chair was the responsibility of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee and had to be a member from a different political group to the Mayor. The Chair proposed that Councillor Barbara McGarrity be appointed as Vice-Chair of this committee.

Recommended:

Councillor Barbara McGarrity be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee for 2021/22.

4. Chair's Remarks

(a) Pre-Development Scrutiny: Air Quality and the Role of the WMCA

At its meeting on 6 September 2021, Overview & Scrutiny Committee were informed of an opportunity for a small group of members to work with the Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform directorate to review and understand the additional requirements arising from the outcome of the Environment Bill as it progresses through Parliament.

The Chair advised that she would be joining this small group of members and would report back on progress.

5. Minutes - 28 July 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

6. Future Bus Delivery Options

The sub-committee received a presentation from the Head of Network Transformation on the Future Bus Delivery Options for the region.

In 2019, the WMCA Board approved the region's Vision for Bus strategy that set out the objectives to define the role of the bus in meeting some of the challenges as a region, and also requested an Outline Business Case for future bus delivery options. The National Bus Strategy was subsequently launched requiring all Local Transport Authorities to utilise either an enhanced partnership or bus franchising model.

Whilst it was recognised that work was yet to be completed, there were clear themes emerging from this work, including whether franchising provided the best opportunity to deliver the 'Vision for Bus' strategy most effectively. Whilst it might provide positive value for money over the longer term, franchising was not without its risks that would need to be mitigated against. Enhanced partnerships had delivered significant benefits within the region and it was important to maintain and further develop relationships.

Members discussed and shared comments on the benefits, challenges and risks associated with bus franchising, market monopoly, accountability and relationships, the impact of COVID-19 on patronage and service operation, the importance of the passenger experience and the need for an integrated public transport system including taxis.

In terms of next steps, Transport for West Midlands would confirm the financial cost of moving to a full franchising assessment, and the outcome would be presented to the WMCA Board in January 2022 with a recommendation whether or not to proceed with the full franchising assessment. Transport for West Midlands would continue to develop Enhanced Partnerships as an initial mechanism to deliver the Bus Service Improvement Plan.

Recommended:

- (1) The comments and questions raised in relation to bus franchising and the emerging findings be noted.

- (2) Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee be kept abreast of the developments with regards to future bus delivery options.

7. Progress Report on West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme

The sub-committee considered a report from the Director of Development & Delivery on the progress being made with the West Midlands cycle hire scheme and future developments.

Transport for West Midlands terminated the contract with nextbike UK on 25 July 2019 and provided a public notice of this termination on the Transport for West Midlands and Network West Midlands websites. Transport for West Midlands recommenced the procurement process and subsequently appointed Serco as the successful supplier to deliver and manage the West Midlands cycle hire scheme contract for five years with an option to extend for a further three years.

The sub-committee noted the work undertaken to integrate the cycle hire scheme with other transport modes.

Recommended:

That the update be noted.

8. Progress Report on West Midlands eScooter Trial

The sub-committee considered a report from the Innovation Integration Lead on the West Midlands eScooter trial and future developments.

The West Midlands eScooter trial commenced in September 2020 in Birmingham and Coventry. An additional trial area covering West Bromwich town centre became operational in December 2020. Around 600,000 individual rides had been undertaken and over 1.6m kilometres ridden to date. Surveys indicated that around 30% of eScooter journeys replaced a car journey, equating to removal of approximately 180,000 car trips during the operation of the scheme to date. Fourteen incidents involving eScooters had resulted in serious injury (classified as injury requiring some professional medical attention). There had been no known emergency admissions to hospital as a result of incidents involving eScooters within the West Midlands region.

Emerging evidence suggested that the West Midlands eScooter trial fleet were operating at least as safely as comparable modes such as cycling. There had been an excellent uptake of Voi4Heroes initiative to assist key workers travelling during pandemic lockdown with 70,000 rides taken under the scheme free of charge. eScooters were popular for leisure travel, however surveys indicated around a quarter of journeys were undertaken for day-to-day travel to work purposes. Travel surveys so far indicated that eScooters were complementing the operation of public transport services, with around two fifths of journeys connecting to/from public transport routes as a multi-modal form of travel. This was particularly evident for trips undertaken for the purpose of accessing work and education.

Members discussed and shared their concerns on the safety of eScooters, the location of docking stations and the need to prioritise pedestrians. The Director of Policy, Strategy & Innovation assured the sub-committee that work was being undertaken to review how eScooters were left once they had been finished being used, particularly where pavements were busy and competition for space.

Recommended:

That the progress to date of the West Midlands eScooter trial be noted.

9. Department for Transport Key Route Network Consultation: 'Powers and Responsibilities for Locally Important Roads'

The committee received a presentation from the Principal Policy & Strategy Officer on the Department for Transport's wish to devolve further powers and responsibilities for Key Route Networks.

The Department for Transport would like Mayors to be able to deliver the Gear Change cycling and walking plan, the National Bus Strategy and Transport Decarbonisation Plan. The consultation sought formal views on giving mayors more decision-making powers and accountability over the management of Key Route Network's.

Recommended:

That the update be noted.

10. City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Bid

On 20 July 2021, the WMCA and other Mayoral Combined Authorities received guidance from the Department for Transport pertaining to the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. Previously called the Intracity Transport Settlement, the fund was a five-year capital settlement to enable the region to achieve its ambitions in terms of transport investment, carbon reduction, economic growth and levelling up. The guidance requested that the WMCA submit a bid on behalf of the region as soon as possible after the end of August.

Recommended:

- (1) It be noted that the WMCA had been invited to submit a City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement bid into Government to support capital transport investment within the region (April 2022 to March 2027), with both Highway Maintenance and Integrated Transport Block being subsumed within this new fund.
- (2) It be noted that the actual final allocation would be between a range of £0.780bn and £1.280bn for the five years, with the final allocation being dependant on the quality of the region's bid relative to the other seven city regions.
- (3) It be noted that, dependent upon the final agreed financial allocation, the WMCA would be required to locally agree a programme which fitted the funding envelope approved by the Government.

(4) The requirements placed on WMCA as the accountable body and the management / monitoring arrangements which accompany this fund be noted.

11. Work Programme

The sub-committee discussed its work programme on business for consideration at future meetings and at the WMCA Board.

Recommended:

That the work programme be noted.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the sub-committee would be held on Friday 22 October 2021 at 10.00am.

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Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Friday 22 October 2021 at 10.00am

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Liz Clements (Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Barbara McGarrity (Vice-Chair)	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Thabiso Mabena	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Martin McCarthy	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance:

Dan Essex	Governance Services Manager
Adam Harrison	Principal Policy and Strategy Officer
David Harris	Transport Strategy and Place Manager
Councillor Gurdev Hayre	Coventry City Council (joined by MS Teams)
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (joined by MS Teams)
Lyndsey Roberts	Scrutiny Officer
Anne Shaw	Interim Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands
Kate Taylor	Head of Finance Business Partnering
Councillor Ian Ward	WMCA Portfolio Lead for Transport

1. Welcome & Introductions

The Chair welcomed the Portfolio Lead for Transport and members of the sub-committee to the meeting that would focus on transport policy-related matters.

2. Inquire Meeting

The sub-committee was inquorate and therefore the decisions taken would be submitted to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8 November 2021 for approval.

3. Portfolio Lead for Transport's Opening Statement

The Portfolio Lead for Transport provided an opening statement that focussed on the recent transport-related activities within the WMCA, including the Bus Service Improvement Plan, the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement bid, decarbonisation, transport and inclusive growth, the Local Transport Plan and preparation for the Commonwealth Games.

4. Questions to the Portfolio Lead for Transport

The sub-committee pursued a number of general lines of enquiry with the Portfolio Lead for Transport, including the Commonwealth Games transport needs, bus franchising, congestion and public transport funding.

In relation to the Commonwealth Games, the Portfolio Lead for Transport explained that the Commonwealth Games Transport Plan had been subject to a period of public consultation with stakeholders and would be submitted to WMCA Board in January 2022 for adoption. Transport for West Midlands, alongside transport colleagues from the local authorities hosting Games events, were currently undertaking work to understand capacity requirements, the number of spectators and visitors for each of the venues and traffic flows. The specification on how the demand would be addressed would be published later this year.

In terms of connectivity, Transport for West Midlands was examining a series of transport solutions to connect the key transport hubs to all venues, which also included the identification of key routes to transport athletes, officials and spectators to the sporting venues. In addition, Transport for West Midlands had undertaken initial design work on additional traffic management measures. Consideration would also be given to the 'business as usual' activity in addition to the expected extra demand for the Commonwealth Games.

In response to a question raised, the Portfolio Lead for Transport noted that the main mode of connectivity between Birmingham and Coventry was rail, and that shuttle buses would be used for people wanting to access Coventry Stadium for the events it was hosting.

The Portfolio Lead for Transport recognised that there would be some disruption on the transport network across Birmingham and the wider region, but emphasised the work of Transport for West Midlands to ensure that there was a smooth flow of traffic during this important event. He added that the venues for the Commonwealth Games were located across the region and therefore further information would be provided to spectators on the best sustainable transport options available between arriving at the various gateways into the city and venues for the different sporting events. He noted that everyone who had purchased a ticket for an event would also receive a free local transport ticket to get to and from the venue.

With regards to the passenger experience, the Portfolio Lead for Transport explained that the Commonwealth Games provided an opportunity to encourage people to use more sustainable modes of transport. The sub-committee also noted the work being undertaken to enhance the customer experience, including providing a good level of customer service training for bus and taxi drivers.

The two biggest risks for the Commonwealth Games were passenger security and transport. West Midlands Police were leading on security measures and in terms of transport, the sub-committee were advised of the measures that would be undertaken to address vehicle reliability during the Games.

In relation to traffic management around residential areas during the games, the Interim Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands brought the sub-committee's attention to the local area traffic management plans to address the indiscriminate parking.

The sub-committee sought the views of the Portfolio Lead on the comparable merits of bus franchising and enhanced partnerships. He explained that Transport for West Midlands was currently assessing future delivery options for bus services in the West Midlands in order to best achieve the objectives of its Vision for Bus strategy. In order to access funding through the Bus Service Improvement Plan, a decision had to be made as to whether it pursued franchising or enhanced partnerships.

In terms of the roll-out of zero emission vehicles, the WMCA Board endorsed the submission of a full business case to the Department for Transport for grant funding under the Government's Phase 2 of the Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas 2021-2022 competition. A decision as to whether the WMCA had been successful was expected to form part of the Spending Review announcement later in the month.

In response to a question raised on the funding allocated to eliminate congestion, it was noted that if the WMCA Board was successful in the City Region Sustainable Transport Bid, local authorities would be able to deploy funding to address congestion issues. However, it was recognised that there also needed to be a behavioural change to the way in which people chose to travel.

The sub-committee enquired about the progress on the development of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill metro extension and asked whether funding had now been secured. The Portfolio Lead for Transport provided an update on the development of the project and added that funding for the scheme was predicated on the fare box and, as with other capital projects, there would be review points during the development of the scheme to review funding streams.

During discussions on the transport levy and the future of the non-statutory concessionary fare schemes, it was noted that as a result of the transport levy being reduced over many years, efficiencies within the WMCA and Transport for West Midlands had to be sought and within that included a review of the discretionary concessions. Members recognised the financial pressures on local authorities.

The Young Combined Authority welcomed the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement bid and the opportunities and benefits that it would bring. The sub-committee discussed the implications if the WMCA's bid was not fully funded.

[NB. Kashmire Hawker declared a non-prejudicial interest in this item as he was an administrator for the Ceremonies, Culture and Queen's Baton Relay at the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee.]

Recommended:

The following observations be shared with the Portfolio Lead for Transport for consideration and response:

(1) Commonwealth Games

Members were reassured at the transport planning activity carried out to date for the Commonwealth Games, but recognised that significant work would follow on from the approval of the Games Transport Plan. They would wish the sub-committee to be sighted on the implementation stages, and to receive regular updates from Transport for West Midlands in the lead up to the Games starting in July 2022.

(2) Hydrogen Buses

Members welcomed the potential rollout of hydrogen powered buses across the region, and stressed the value of learning from other local authority areas as to the challenges and mitigations that particularly related to these types of vehicles.

(3) Bus Franchising

Members looked forward to seeing the report that was evaluating the merits of operating a bus franchise model within the West Midlands, and urged the Mayor and all members of the WMCA Board to consider the matter with an open mind and ensuring that the services provided to passengers were the overriding consideration.

(4) Autonomous Vehicles

The sub-committee would welcome an update at a future meeting on the work being undertaken regarding the use of autonomous vehicles on the region's road network.

(5) Metro

Members welcomed the progress being made on the Wednesbury - Brierley Hill Metro extension, but shared their concern at the potential impact of shortages in materials that may delay construction over the next 12 months.

(6) Transport Levy

There was strong concern that current and future reductions in the transport levy would impact on a number of the discretionary concessionary fares currently provided by Transport for West Midlands. These concerns were to be explored further by members at the Mayoral budget Q&A in December.

The sub-committee also wished to see the current usage data for the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme within the region.

(7) City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Bid

Members awaited the outcome of the funding bid that had been submitted to Government, and indicated that, should the bid be not fully funded, they would wish to then understand the process by which schemes would be prioritised.



WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Lead Officer/Member
Budget Workshop Session: Thursday 2 December 2021			
Mayor's Question Time: Event 2: Proposed Budget 2022/23 - 15 December 2021			
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
Grant Register			
Grant Register	To receive the Grant Register	10 January 2022	Kate Taylor
WMCA Governance Review	To receive an update on the final report.	10 January 2022	Satish Mistry
Housing Scrutiny Review	To consider the observations and recommendations arising from the Housing Scrutiny Review	10 January 2022	Lyndsey Roberts
Grant Register			
Grant Register	To receive the Grant Register	7 March 2022	Kate Taylor

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Lead Officer/Member
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

EST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN: NOVEMBER 2021 - MARCH 2022

Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Meeting 19 November 2021					
Corporate Strategy	<p>Purpose: To approve the WMCA's Corporate Strategy for 2021/22 - 23/24.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): To agree the Corporate Strategy.</p> <p>Rationale/Background: Following the Mayoral election, the WMCA has worked with the Mayor and Leaders to agree a set of Aims and Objectives to guide the activity of the organisation. These aims and objectives will inform our Medium Term Financial Plan, as well as our annual budgets and deliverables.</p>	n/a	Laura Shoaf	No	Policy
Financial Monitoring 21/22	<p>Purpose: To outline the financial position of WMCA and provide an update on any current financial matters affecting WMCA.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): To note the financial position.</p> <p>Rationale/Background: This is the regular Financial Report to WMCA Board which covers the current position against the year to date budget.</p>	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance



Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<p>Rail Package 1 - Compulsory Purchase Order</p>	<p>Purpose: To consider the proposal for the Combined Authority to make a Compulsory Purchase Order to enable the acquisition of land required for the delivery of Rail Package 1.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): That a Compulsory Purchase Order be made to acquire land required for Rail Package 1.</p> <p>Rationale/Background: WMCA Board previously approved the delivery of Rail Package 1 based on the significant benefits that would be delivered to the areas served by the new Stations at Willenhall and Darlaston. Following negotiation, we have been unable to reach agreement with one landowner and are therefore seeking to proceed with CPO to enable the project to proceed.</p>	<p>Cllr Ian Ward</p>	<p>Anne Shaw / Malcolm Holmes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Transport</p>
<p>Appointment of WMCA Chief Executive</p>	<p>Purpose: To appoint a permanent Chief Executive to the WMCA.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): To appoint a named applicant.</p> <p>Rationale/Background: Following the resignation of the former Chief Executive, the position has been covered on an interim basis. This report will recommend the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive to the WMCA.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Linda Horne</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Governance</p>
<p>Establishing and Economic Growth Board</p>	<p>Purpose: To consider proposals for establishing an Economic Growth Board to lead on the WMCA's economic portfolio activity.</p>	<p>Cllr Ian Brookfield</p>	<p>Julie Nugent / Satish Mistry</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Economy & Innovation</p>



Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
	<p>Recommendation(s): To establish an Economic Growth Board and abolish the Strategic Economic Development Board.</p> <p>Rationale/Background: Mayor and Constituent Leaders previously agreed, in-principle, to a new Economic Growth Board with decision-making powers, led by the Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation, which will put regional economic development at the heart of WMCA decision making.</p>				
Regional Air Quality Framework	<p>Purpose:</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p> <p>Rationale/Background: This report aims to give an overview of the sources, levels and impacts of air pollution across the West Midlands. It briefly reviews existing work that is taking place to address poor air quality, and provides an indicative summary of additional interventions that might be adopted.</p>	Cllr Ian Courts	Ed Cox	No	Environment & Energy
Meeting 14 January 2022					
Draft Annual Business Plan 2022/23	<p>Purpose:</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p> <p>Rationale/Background:</p>	n/a	Laura Shoaf	No	Policy



Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Local Transport Plan Consultation Approval	<p>Purpose: The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26) will take place in Glasgow in November 2021. Following the Summit with Leaders on the future of West Midlands transport strategy in September, a short LTP ‘prospectus’ will be published to tie in with the UK hosting COP26. The prospectus is proposed to be a short high-level document which will affirm the West Midland’s commitments to working towards achieving a net zero transport system in the shortest possible time. The document will provide high level messages around the emerging ambition for the new Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That CA Board approves the high level principles which will be used to frame a new West Midlands LTP• That CA Board approves the publications of the LTP COP Prospectus• That CA Board notes the programme for taking the LTP to consultation and through to formal adoption <p>Rationale/Background: WMCA has a statutory duty to develop and implement a Local Transport Plan. Rapid decarbonisation of the transport system is a priority for a new WM LTP reflecting the ambition of the WM2041 strategy and the requirements of the UKs legal requirement to decarbonise by 2050.</p>	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport



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	The West Midlands aims to be a leader within the green industrial revolution and the LTP provides an opportunity for the region to show Leadership in this space.				
Bus Delivery Options	<p>Purpose: To update CA Board on work undertaken over the last 18 months to assess delivery mechanisms for bus services in the West Midlands Region.</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To approve the development of a Full Business Case assessment for Bus Franchising in the West Midlands, (funded through the Intracity Transport Fund?)2. To continue to explore alternative mechanisms to deliver the region's Vision for Bus whilst achieving long-term best value for public funding <p>Rationale/Background: In 2019, CA Board asked TfWM to assess future delivery options for Bus Services in the West Midlands in order to best achieve the objectives of the CA's adopted Vision for Bus. This work has reviewed options available to TfWM under the Bus Services Act 2017, including Franchising, and concludes there would be a positive case for undertaking a Full Business Case assessment.</p>	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport

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	This report will seek approval to progress the Full Business Case and consider how TfWM will, at the same time, continue to develop alternative mechanisms to try and address the identified challenges within the current market through the ongoing development of partnership approaches.				
Net Zero Neighbourhood	Purpose: Recommendation(s): Rationale/Background:	Cllr Ian Courts	Ed Cox	No	Environment & Energy
Draft WMCA Budget 2022/23	Purpose: Recommendation(s): Rationale/Background:	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Financial Monitoring 2021/22	Purpose: To outline the financial position of WMCA as at 30 November 2021 and provide an update on any current financial matters affecting WMCA. Recommendation(s): Rationale/Background:	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance

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Appointment of WMCA Director of Law & Governance	<p>Purpose: To appoint a permanent Director of Law & Governance to the WMCA.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): To appoint a named applicant.</p> <p>Rationale/Background: Following the resignation of the former director, the position has been covered on an interim basis. This report will recommend the appointment of a permanent Director of Law & Governance to the WMCA.</p>	n/a	Linda Horne	No	Governance
City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Programme	<p>Purpose: To approve the final programme and programme level business case for the CRSTS programme.</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p> <p>Rationale/Background: Following a decision of the WMCA Board in September 2021 to make a submission for funding to Government, this report will approve the final programme and business case for that submission.</p>	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport
Commonwealth Games Transport Plan	<p>Purpose: A draft transport plan was consulted upon with statutory stakeholders and underwent an engagement exercise with the public in June 2021- September 2021. The transport plan is being updated to reflect changes as a result of the consultation and engagement exercise and will be based on the latest information available at the time of writing.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): To approve the final version of the transport plan for the Commonwealth Games.</p>	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport



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	Rationale/Background: In 2019, WMCA Board agreed the guiding principles for a transport plan, following an engagement exercise to gather feedback from residents, business and wider Games partners. This Games Transport Plan provides a more detailed framework about the guidance and information on the transport arrangements during the Games.				
Meeting 11 February 2022					
Annual Business Plan 2022/23	Purpose: Recommendation(s): Rationale/Background:	n/a	Laura Shoaf	No	Policy
Final WMCA Budget 2022/23	Purpose: Recommendation(s): Rationale/Background:	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Meeting 18 March 2022					
Financial Monitoring 2021/22	Purpose: To outline the financial position of WMCA as at 31 January 2022 and provide an update on any current financial matters affecting WMCA. Recommendation(s): Rationale/Background:	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance



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cEMV (Contactless Ticketing) Broker	Purpose: Recommendation(s): Rationale/Background:	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport
Ultra-Rapid Charging Spine	Purpose: Recommendation(s): Rationale/Background:	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport
Mobility Hubs	Purpose: Recommendation(s): Rationale/Background:	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport
Enhanced Bus Service Corridor	Purpose: Recommendation(s): Rationale/Background:	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport

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