

West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 28 October 2022

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Lee Barron (Midlands TUC), Anita Bhalla (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP), Councillor Greg Brackenridge (West Midlands Fire Authority), Councillor Ian Brookfield (Wolverhampton), Councillor Shaun Davies (Telford & Wrekin), Councillor Patrick Harley (Dudley), Councillor Seb Lowe (Rugby), Councillor Bob Piper (Sandwell), Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Warwickshire), Councillor Kristofer Wilson (Nuneaton & Bedworth) and Sarah Windrum (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP).
2.	Minutes - 15 July 2022	Agreed as a correct record, subject to an amendment to minute no. 35 ('Metro Affordability') to reflect that funding had been allocated to the Arden Cross multi-storey car park project and this would be unaffected by funding issues related to the Wednesbury - Brierley Hill metro extension.
3.	Forward Plan	The plan was noted.
4.	Regional Activity & Delivery Update	The update was noted.
5.	Trailblazer Devolution Deal	The proposed timetable and approach to further developing and negotiating the Trailblazer Devolution Deal was endorsed, subject to confirmation from the Government.

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6.	UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan	<p>(1) The submission of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to secure the West Midlands' £88m allocation for the Shared Prosperity Fund for the next three years was approved, noting that the Investment Plan should be submitted as soon as possible, given that all other authorities had already submitted their plans and that year one funds were to be spent by 31 March 2023.</p> <p>(2) Authority to accept any funding awarded as a result of the submission was delegated to the Executive Director of Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation and the Section 151 Officer.</p> <p>(3) Authority to carry out commissioning of UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding, including any procurement activity as required, was delegated to the Executive Director of Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation, the Section 151 Officer, Directors of Economic Development and Finance Directors.</p> <p>(4) The final arrangements for the 4% administration allocation was delegated to the Executive Director of Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation, the Section 151 Officer, Directors of Economic Development and Finance Directors, and that these arrangements be reported back to the Economic Growth Board for information.</p> <p>(5) The next steps to implement the Investment Plan were approved.</p>
7.	Financial Monitoring 2022/23	<p>(1) The financial position as at 31 August 2022 was noted.</p>

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		<p>(2) The latest forecast for 2022/23, including the change to the Value for Money criteria for Bus Access Standards to £4.10, was noted.</p> <p>(3) The update on Medium Term Financial Plan was noted.</p> <p>(4) The Levelling Up Fund bid submitted by the WMCA under delegations previously approved by the board was noted.</p> <p>(5) The grant award of £1.5m over three years from Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities for rough sleeping was noted.</p> <p>(6) The award of £6.9m Made Smarter Phase 2 grant for 2023/24 to 2025/26 from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy was noted.</p> <p>(7) The approval of the Multiply Investment Plan for £16.7m allocation and the award of £5.1m for 2022/23 activity was noted.</p> <p>(8) The recharge of 2022/23 Business Rates Growth monies was approved.</p> <p>(9) The West Midlands Co-Invest project update was noted and the setup of a new-wholly owned company for the fund, rather than using the existing West Midlands Development Capital structure, was approved.</p> <p>(10) The package of ‘good will measures’ offered by the contractor in relation to metro track replacement works on Corporation Street, Birmingham was noted.</p> <p>(11) The potential for the WMCA to bid for the hosting the Intelligent Transport Systems World Congress in Birmingham in 2027, with the bid due to be</p>

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		submitted in early November, was noted.
8.	Confirmation of Director of Law & Governance Appointment	<p>(1) The appointment of Helen Edwards as Director of Law & Governance and statutory Monitoring Officer for the West Midland Combined Authority was endorsed.</p> <p>(2) It was noted that the appointment would take effect upon her taking up duties in early January 2023.</p>
9.	The Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel	<p>(1) The Independent Remuneration Panel’s recommendation to increase the Mayoral allowance from £79,000 to £95,000 was approved.</p> <p>(2) The Mayoral allowance not be backdated to May 2021, as had been recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel.</p> <p>(3) An interim Deputy Mayoral allowance of £10,000 was agreed, and that the recommended allowance of £31,675 (less any basic and special responsibility allowances received) be referred back to the Independent Remuneration Panel for further explanation and clarification as to how the benchmarking of the role had been undertaken, particularly in respect of comparisons against the responsibilities of a Leader of a metropolitan local authority.</p> <p>(4) The Deputy Mayor’s interim allowance be backdated to May 2021.</p> <p>(5) The Independent Remuneration Panel’s suggestion to recommend to</p>

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		<p>constituent authorities that they set an additional responsibility allowance for Portfolio Leads in the sum of £9,500 be not pursued.</p> <p>(6) It was agreed that the Monitoring Officer should write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to request that the West Midlands Combined Authority Order 2016 be further amended to allow the payment of allowances to all members and co-opted members of the WMCA.</p> <p>(7) It was agreed, pending the outcome of the transport governance review, to retain the allowances paid to the Chair and members of the Transport Delivery Committee.</p> <p>(8) It was agreed that the Chair of the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee should receive a Chair’s allowance of £9,500.</p> <p>(9) It was agreed that the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee should receive a Chair’s allowance of £6,650 and that it be backdated to May 2021.</p> <p>(10) It was agreed all allowances should be index linked and increased annually as proposed.</p> <p>(11) It was agreed that the current scheme of travel and subsistence allowances should continue to apply to all members of the WMCA.</p>
10.	Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - 7 July 2022	The minutes were approved.

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11.	Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 11 July 2022	The minutes were noted.
12.	Transport Delivery Committee - 11 July 2022	The minutes were noted.
13.	Wellbeing Board - 13 July 2022	The minutes were noted.
14.	Investment Board - 18 July 2022	The minutes were noted.
15.	Housing & Land Delivery Board - 20 July 2022	The minutes were noted.
16.	Investment Board - 15 August 2022	The minutes were noted.
17.	Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 5 September 2022	The minutes were noted.
18.	Wellbeing Board - 6 September 2022	The minutes were noted.

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19.	Economic Growth Board - 23 September 2022	The minutes were noted.
20.	Environment & Energy Board - 28 September 2022	The minutes were noted.
21.	Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - 4 October 2022	The minutes were approved.
22.	Housing & Land Delivery Board - 5 October 2022	The minutes were approved.
23.	Transport Delivery Committee - 10 October 2022	The minutes were noted.
24.	Investment Board - 17 October 2022	The minutes were noted.
25.	Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 17 October 2022	The minutes were approved.
26.	Young Combined Authority Update: Summer - October 2022	The update was noted.

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27.	Date of Next Meeting	Friday 18 November 2022 at 11.00am.