

West Midlands Combined Authority – Decisions taken by the WMCA Board on Friday 13 October 2023

Agenda Item No	Item	Decision
1.	Apologies for Absence	Lee Barron (Midlands Trades Union Congress), Councillor Mike Bird (Walsall), Councillor Ian Davison (Warwick), Councillor Susan Juned (Stratford-on-Avon), Councillor Bob Sleigh (Solihull), Mark Smith (Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee) and Councillor Sharon Thompson (Birmingham).
2.	Chair's Remarks	The Chair asked the board to observe a minute's personal reflection for all those impacted by the conflict in Israel and Gaza. He also congratulated Transport for West Midlands and Midland Metro Ltd for their successes at the recent National Transport Awards, and welcomed Emma Bennett to her first meeting of the board following her appointment as Chief Executive of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council.
3.	Minutes - 15 September 2023	Agreed as a correct record.
4.	Forward Plan	Items of business to be reported to future board meetings were noted.
5.	Regional Activity & Delivery Update	The presentation on regional economic trends and recent WMCA activity was noted.
6.	Deeper Devolution Deal Ratification	(1) The 'trailblazer' deeper devolution deal between the WMCA and HM Government was formally ratified; and

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		<p>(2) The Governance Review and Scheme for devolution to the WMCA of the administration of Bus Service Operators Grant under section 154(1), (3) and (4) of the Transport Act 2000 was approved for submission to the Secretary of State for Transport.</p>
7.	New Stations Package 1: Project Update	<p>(1) The insolvency and administration proceedings of the principal contractor for the New Stations Package 1 project, Buckingham Group Contracting Ltd, was noted.</p> <p>(2) The decision made at West Midlands Rail Partnership Board on 28 September 2023 to novate the Package 1 main works contract to Kier Integrated Services Ltd was noted.</p> <p>(3) The work underway to re-assess affordability and funding was noted, and the options be bought back for consideration to a future meeting of the board.</p> <p>(4) It was noted that in the interim period, only work associated with scheme costs that would remain in scope and within the existing budget would continue to be incurred until a resolution to the overall scheme affordability had been reported to, and agreed by, this board.</p> <p>(5) The board's continued commitment to complete Package 1 in full and as a single, fully funded programme of work, was noted.</p>

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8.	Environment & Energy Board - 12 July 2023	The minutes were noted.
9.	Economic Growth Board - 12 July 2023	The minutes were noted.
10.	Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - 19 July 2023	The minutes were noted.
11.	Young Combined Authority - October 2023 Update	The report was noted.
12.	Date of Next Meeting	Friday 17 November 2023 at 11.00am.