



WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

WMCA Board

Friday 10 November 2017 at 11.00 am

Minutes

Constituent Members

Andy Street (Chair)	Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority
Councillor Bob Sleigh (Vice-Chair)	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Peter Bilson	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Sean Coughlan	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor George Duggins	Coventry City Council
Councillor Patrick Harley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Robert Hulland	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Syeda Khatun	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Ian Ward	Birmingham City Council

Non-Constituent Members

Councillor George Adamson	Cannock Chase District Council
Councillor Bill Hartnett	Redditch Borough Council
Councillor David Humphreys	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Councillor Julie Jackson	Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
Ninder Johal	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Alex Phillips	Shropshire Council
Tim Pile	Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Chris Saint	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Councillor Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council

Co-Opted Member

Lee Barron	Midlands Trades Union Congress
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Observer Members

Councillor John Edwards	West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority
David Jamieson	West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner

In Attendance

David Lane	Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee
Councillor Peter Hughes	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Richard Worrall	Transport Delivery Committee

Item No.

Title

95. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Browning, Councillor Ian Courts, Councillor Shaun Davies, Councillor Steve Eling, Councillor Dennis Harvey, Councillor Lee Jeavons, Councillor Roger Lawrence, Councillor Abdul Khan, Councillor Peter Nutting and Stewart Towe.

96. Chair's Remarks (if any)

(1) The Mayor welcomed Tim Pile, the new Chair of Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, to his first meeting, replacing Steve Hollis.

(2) The Mayor reported that, at its meeting on 7 November, Birmingham City Council had appointed Councillor Brigid Jones as its representative on the WMCA Board to replace Councillor John Clancy.

(3) The Mayor noted that this was the last meeting that Paul Sheehan, Chief Executive of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, would be attending before he retired. He thanked him for all that he had done to help establish the WMCA and supporting its work programme during the last 18 months.

(4) The Mayor reported that the 'Social Value in Procurement' policy had been further improved and strengthened following the WMCA Board's consideration of it at its meeting on 8 September. The policy would be launched at the National Social Value in Procurement conference being held in Birmingham on 14 November.

97. Minutes - 13 October 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2017 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the addition of Councillor Peter Hughes and Councillor Sayed Khatun in the list of attendees.

98. The Mayor and WMCA Structures

The Mayor reported that, following a change in the members appointed to the WMCA Board by Birmingham City Council, he wished to amend the Lead Portfolio responsibilities. Councillor Ian Ward had taken over as Leader of Birmingham City Council, and he therefore proposed that he should take over lead responsibility for economic growth from Councillor John Clancy, who was now no longer a member of the WMCA Board.

Resolved:

The appointment of Councillor Ian Ward as the WMCA's Portfolio Lead for Economic Growth, replacing Councillor John Clancy, be agreed.

99. Devolution Deal Update

The board received an update from Julia Goldsworthy, WMCA Director of Strategy, on the discussions being held with the Government regarding a future devolution agreement for the West Midlands.

Discussions were on-going and making good progress, although it was likely that final agreement would not be reached until right before the expected announcement on 22 November. Although the negotiations were fast moving, regular briefing sessions were continuing to be held with members and officers from Constituent and Non-Constituent authorities to ensure everyone was aware of the latest developments.

Resolved:

The update on the latest developments regarding a future devolution agreement with the Government be noted.

100. Forward Plan

The plan of items to be reported to future meetings of the WMCA Board was noted.

101. Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Report 2017/18

Councillor Izzi Seccombe presented a report that provided a mid-year update on the WMCA's Treasury Management Strategy and was being considered as a requirement under the CIPFA Treasury Management Code.

The report provided information on treasury management activity in 2017/18, including the national economic backdrop, financial market activity, regulatory update, borrowing activity, investment activity and performance measurement. In addition, the report proposed an adjustment in the Minimum Revenue Position of the WMCA, recognising that an over-prudent sum had been provided for in previous years, and that this should now be adjusted to recognise that the benefits of assets generally increased in later years.

Resolved:

- (1) The adjustment to the Minimum Revenue Provision policy as detailed in Section 11 of the report be approved.
- (2) The results of the Treasury Management Strategy as at 30 September 2017 be noted.
- (3) It be noted that the Authority's borrowing was within the prudential indicators established at the beginning of the year, as outlined in appendix 1.
- (4) It be noted that the West Midlands Combined Authority was currently in dialogue with HM Treasury and the Department for Communities & Local Government regarding an amendment to WMCA's borrowing powers, and that further details would be shared with the WMCA Board at a later date.

102. Devolution of Adult Education Budget

Councillor George Duggins presented a report that set out the available options for the management of the Adult Education Budget during the academic year 2018/19.

The Department for Education had written to the WMCA in August confirming that delivering full devolution of the Adult Education Budget as originally intended could not take place due to time lost during the General Election period. It proposed two options instead: transition option and delegation option. The transition option would give the WMCA a real say in what Adult Education Budget provision would be available for residents in 2018/19, as well as acting as a stepping stone to successfully delivering full devolution in 2019/20.

Councillor Sean Coughlan stressed the importance of the region achieving full devolution of the Adult Education Budget in order to be able to address the skills gap that currently existed and to deliver the policy objectives of the WMCA. He had raised his concerns in this regard at a recent meeting with treasury officials. Lee Barron offered the Trades Union Council's support to achieving full devolution of the Adult Education Budget.

The Mayor indicated that he had met with the Secretary of State for Education during the previous week and he sensed her enthusiasm for devolving the Adult Education Budget, although he suspected that it would be a staged process and it was therefore important that engagement and lobbying from all stakeholders in the region continued.

Resolved:

- (1) It was agreed to proceed with the transition option during the transitional year 2018/19 prior to full devolution of the Adult Education Budget in 2019/20.

103. Global Thrive Network (I-Circle Event)

Councillor Bob Sleight presented a report on the key learning points from the International City & Urban Regional Collaborative, Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing to Enable Citizens to Thrive conference, attended by Sarah Norman, Chief Executive of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council.

The report presented the key learning implications from the conference in respect of employee wellbeing, criminal justice, public health, community awareness, equalities, children and approaches to transformation. All of the cities that had attended the conference had agreed to establish a framework for future collaboration, based on a set of principles and involving virtual ways of sharing evidence.

David Jamieson indicated he was hosting a summit on 15 December aimed at reaching practical and lasting solutions that reduced the harm of drugs in the West Midlands. It was estimated that the cost of substance misuse in the West Midlands was £1.4bn a year, and half of all burglary, theft, shoplifting and robbery was committed by people suffering from serious addiction to drugs including heroin and crack cocaine. It was hoped that the summit would provide an opportunity to discuss practical solutions to addressing these problems.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe welcomed the report, and recognised how difficult the issues were to resolve.

Resolved:

- (1) The West Midlands Combined Authority would continue international collaboration with other City Regions that were engaged in whole system transformation to improve the mental health and wellbeing of their citizens, and would support efforts to establish a thriving virtual network to share evidence, learning and ideas.
- (2) The West Midlands Combined Authority would send representation to the event in Stockholm in 2018.
- (3) The West Midlands Combined Authority would seek to host a joint event with London in 2018 or 2019.

104. The Midland Metro - Edgbaston Extension

The board considered a report seeking confirmation of the resolution of the WMCA Board on 17 March 2017 to promote a Transport & Works Act Order for the Midland Metro (Birmingham City Centre Extension etc) (Edgbaston Extension Land Acquisition) Order under the Transport & Works Act 1992.

Resolved:

The resolution passed on 17 March 2017 to authorise the West Midlands Combined Authority to submit an application for the Midland Metro (Birmingham City Centre Extension, etc.) (Edgbaston Extension Land Acquisition) Order to the Secretary of State for Transport be confirmed.

105. Minutes of the Investment Board - 6 October 2017

The board received the minutes of the Investment Board held on 6 October 2017.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2017 were noted.

106. Minutes of Wellbeing Board - 6 October 2017

The board received the minutes of the Wellbeing Board held on 6 October 2017.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2017 be noted.

107. Minutes of the Transport Delivery Committee - 9 October 2017

The board received the minutes of the Transport Delivery Committee held on 9 October 2017.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2017 be noted.

108. Minutes of the Strategic Economic Plan Board - 12 October 2017

The board received the minutes of the Strategic Economic Plan Board held on 12 October 2017.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2017 be noted.

109. Friday 8 December 2017 at 11.00am

The date of the next meeting was noted.

110. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved:

That, in accordance with s100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information specified in paragraph 3 of the Act.

111. Coventry - UK City of Culture Update

The mayor presented a report on the potential future financial support for the Coventry bid to be UK City of Culture 2021.

The UK City of Culture title was awarded every four years to a city that could demonstrate a strong vision for social and economic step change through culture. Coventry had been working for three years on a bid, and as part of its final presentation to the awarding panel on 6 December would wish to demonstrate as much certainty as possible on sources of local and regional funding. Winning the bid was expected to deliver an estimated direct economic impact of £349m to Coventry and the West Midlands in increased tourism, capital investment and creative industries. In addition, it would add significant momentum to other commercial development projects, including those supported by the WMCA.

Councillor Ian Ward considered that a successful bid would be beneficial for the whole region, and particularly the cultural offer that would be provided alongside the Commonwealth Games 2022, should Birmingham be selected to host the games. Councillor George Duggins reported that the final decision was expected to be announced live on BBC One's 'The One Show' in early December. He thanked everyone who had supported Coventry's bid.

Resolved:

- (1) The West Midlands Combined Authority pledge its support to work with the Coventry City of Culture Trust and other partners to maximise the benefit of a winning bid to the promotion of the West Midlands.
- (2) The West Midlands Combined Authority work with Coventry 2021 to build on the momentum of the bid and its work in repositioning culture in Coventry and across the region.
- (3) Consideration of a potential allocation of £4m over four years to support a total of £37.9m investment if Coventry was successful in being named UK City of Culture 2021, to be done alongside all the other requests for capital and revenue investment into the WMCA and in line with the current and future analysis of aggregate funding availability, would be included in the WMCA's medium-term budgeting process.
- (4) Consideration of a potential allocation of £1m over four years to support the programme if the Bid was unsuccessful would be included in the WMCA's medium-term budgeting process, in order to help deliver the alternative legacy cultural programme.

The meeting ended at 11.55 am.