



WMCA Board

Date	9 June 2023
Report title	Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Annual Report
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, West Midlands Combined Authority email: laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Helen Edwards, Director of Law & Governance email: helen.edwards@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	Executive Board - 3 May 2023

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The WMCA Board is recommended to:

- (1) Endorse the Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2022/23 annual report, attached as appendix A.
- (2) Support the proposed work plan of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for 2023/24, as detailed within paragraph 2.4 below.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this scrutiny annual report is to highlight the work programme and key achievements of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee during 2022/23.

2. Background

- 2.1 Overview & Scrutiny is a statutory requirement for the West Midlands Combined Authority to undertake. The committee has the responsibility to review the work of the Mayor and the WMCA, to make recommendations to the WMCA Board and its committees and call-in decisions that have already been made for further scrutiny.
- 2.2 The committee performs two functions: 'overview' and 'scrutiny'. 'Overview' focuses on the development of policy and 'scrutiny' looks at decisions that have been made or are about to be made.

- 2.3 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee has constitutional authority to require the Mayor, members and officers to attend its meetings to answer questions or provide further information on request. However, equally important is the need for the committee to build good working relationships and understanding with the members of the WMCA Board, Executive Board and Transport for West Midlands to work collaboratively and in partnership to achieve the objectives of the WMCA.
- 2.4 This annual report is intended to set out clearly and succinctly the work of the committee over the last 12 months. In addition, it also sets out the committee's focus for the year ahead, including the intention for earlier and regular engagement between the Executive Board and scrutiny, the development and implementation of the Government's new scrutiny protocol (which will be a key consideration in determining eligibility for future devolved single funding settlements), greater scrutiny of Portfolio Lead Members, public engagement in the scrutiny process and scrutiny of the WMCA's performance and outcomes reporting.
- 2.5 The annual report helps demonstrate the WMCA's commitment to critical self-assessment and transparency in its decision making.

3. Strategic Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The overview & scrutiny function supports all six of the WMCA's aims for the region by ensuring that decisions taken at boards/committees have considered all relevant matters and options. Scrutiny is also able to look at the effectiveness of past decisions in achieving their stated aims, with the intention of strengthening future decision making.
- 3.2 Specifically, a strong and effective overview & scrutiny function is a stated requirement of the Government in respect of the devolution of powers, and therefore scrutiny directly supports Aim 5 ('securing new powers and resources from central government').

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific inclusive growth implications arising from this report.

8. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

- 8.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee comprises 12 members appointed by constituent authorities, four members appointed by non-constituent authorities and a representative from the business sector.

9. Other Implications

9.1 None

10. Schedule of Background Papers

10.1 None