

Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	Monday 3 July 2023
Report title	Appointment of Scrutiny Champions and Member Engagement Groups
Accountable Chief Executive	Helen Edwards, Director of Law & Governance email: helen.edwards@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Dan Essex, Governance Services Manager email: dan.essex@wmca.org.uk

Recommendations for decision:

The Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the appointment of six Scrutiny Champions for 2023/24.
- (2) Approve the appointment of committee members to sit on the six Member Engagement Groups for 2023/24.
- (3) Note the arrangements for Member Engagement Groups for 2023/24 arising out of the recommendations agreed by the WMCA Board on 9 June in respect of the recent transport governance review.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To make appointments to the six Scrutiny Champion positions and to agree the membership of the six Member Engagement Groups for 2023/24.

2. Background

(A) Member Engagement Groups

2.1 At its meeting on 9 June, the WMCA Board agreed revised transport governance arrangements for the forthcoming year. These new arrangements included the amalgamation of the former Transport Delivery Committee and Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee into this new committee. Also approved was the continuation of six Member Engagement Groups, which have existed since 2017 and provide members with an opportunity to meet and discuss in more detail transport-related issues that are grouped around broad thematic areas. These MEGs are supported by officers from Transport for West Midlands and, whilst not decision making, provide a forum for members to develop a deeper understanding of those matters that would not otherwise be able to be discussed in such detail at committee meetings. During the transport governance review, there was a clear indication from members that MEGs were well regarded and should continue to exist in support of the better consideration of items at committee meetings.

2.2 There are six Member Engagement Groups:

- Rail, Metro, Sprint & Active Travel
- Sustainability
- Passenger First
- Finance & Performance
- Passenger Safety
- Air Quality, Congestion & Environmental Impact

2.3 Although the MEGs themselves have existed for a number of years, it is considered opportune, given the wider transport governance changes, to review the terms of reference for each of these at their next meeting. This will give all members appointed to each MEG, whether new or returning, an opportunity to help shape the work that their MEG will undertake during the next 12 months. These revised terms of reference will then be submitted to the next meeting of this committee for endorsement.

2.4 It is proposed that each MEG should contain five members in order to give them a manageable number to undertake the detailed consideration of topics, whilst also allowing these meetings to be organised in an agile and less formal way than regular committee meetings. It is expected that each member will sit on at least one MEG in addition to their membership of this committee.

2.5 It is proposed that five meetings of each MEG are held during the year, with a report on each meeting coming to the next scheduled committee:

<u>MEG</u>	<u>Committee</u>
July/ August	4 September
September / October	30 October
November / December	22 January
January / February	26 February
March / April	1 July

(B) Scrutiny Champions

- 2.6 In previous years, MEGs have been chaired by councillors appointed to the positions of 'Lead Member'. Each MEG had a corresponding Lead Member. There has been some wider confusion over the responsibilities of these roles in respect of the similarly named Portfolio Lead Member, and in recognition of the now clear scrutiny role of the lead member position, the transport governance review has renamed them Scrutiny Champions.
- 2.7 Each Scrutiny Champion will chair their corresponding MEG. In order to broaden member responsibilities across the committee, the WMCA Board agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair of this committee could not also be a Scrutiny Champion.

3. Strategic Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The role Member Engagement Groups and Scrutiny Champions contributes towards the WMCA meeting two of its strategic aims:

Aim 3: Connecting our communities by delivering transport and unlocking housing and regeneration schemes.

Aim 6: Developing our organisation and being a good regional partner.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Subject to powers in the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill that are expected to be enacted next month, the role of Scrutiny Champion will receive a special responsibility allowance of £4,750 in recognition of the additional time requirements the position will require of members.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising out of the recommendations within this report, although in approving the recommendations, the committee will be implementing the recommendations of the transport governance review agreed by the WMCA Board on 9 June.

6. Single Assurance Framework Implications

- 6.1 There are no implications on the Single Assurance Framework arising out of this report.

7. Equalities Implications

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications arising out of this report.

8. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 8.1 There are no inclusive growth implications arising out of this report.

9. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

- 9.1 The Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee contains members from all constituent authorities and representatives from the non-constituent authorities. Transport for West Midlands principally delivers services within constituent authority areas, although some services are also delivered, where separately agreed, in non-constituent areas.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1 There are no other implications arising out of this report.

11. Schedule of Background Papers

Transport Governance Review report - WMCA Board, 9 June 2023