



Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

Date	16 th March 2018
Report title	Governance Structures
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Report to be/has been considered by	Not Applicable

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the information regarding Governance Structures provided in this report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Governance Structures of the Combined Authority and the Boards, Bodies and Committees that are associated with it.
- 1.2 The Combined Authority is a complex organisation and furthermore it is still undergoing considerable change and development as it come to grips with its roles and responsibilities. The governance diagrams that are attached to this report show the current structures that are to be found in the Combined Authority however these are still changing as we move forward so this information is correct at the time of writing but is kept under review on an ongoing basis by the Monitoring Officer.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Combined Authority is a public body established under the powers in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (as amended). As such, although not a traditional local government entity it has a number of the characteristics of a Local Authority that will be familiar to those used to working with that tier of government. Originally the Authority was established as a Combined Authority without an elected Mayor and in 2017 it was created as a Mayoral Combined Authority with the election of the first Mayor, Andy Street.
- 2.2 The Authority has a clear constitution which sets out responsibility for decision-making and an appropriate scheme of delegation. As a rule of thumb all decisions of significance are taken by the Combined Authority Board and many of the other Boards and committees are effectively advisory only. Notable exceptions to this are the Investment Board which currently has delegated decision making powers up to £20m from funds in the Investment programme and ARAC which has a number of specific delegated powers relating to accounts and audit functions.
- 2.3 Initially, the Combined Authority pursued its policy objectives through a number of Commissions. As these Commissions have completed their work and made recommendations, many of these areas have been established as Boards comprising elected members from Constituent Authorities and other individuals who help to steer and “project manage” the work in these areas. These meetings are formally supported by Governance Services and their minutes are presented to the CA Board for information and approval.
- 2.4 In an attempt to capture the admittedly complex governance relationships in diagrammatic form two formats have been produced. The first one is perhaps the more traditional organisation chart which is shown in hierarchy form. This shows the reporting lines between different bodies in the current structure. This demonstrates the pre-eminent position of the CA Board and the way in which other bodies both report upwards and also have a number of sub-groups and working groups which report to them. The second format is something like the form of a Venn diagram which attempts to group the different forums by function as follows
 - Strategy
 - Governance and Oversight
 - Finance and Delivery

Bodies are either shown as firmly within those primary categories or where they discharge a number of roles, they are shown in the intersecting sections of the diagram. So, for example,

ARAC has both elements of Governance and Oversight and, Finance and Delivery within its remit.

3.0 Financial implications

3.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

4.0 Legal implications

4.1 These governance maps or diagrams are provided for assistance and illustration. They do not have any legal force as the decision-making powers and duties of the Combined Authority are derived from the Constitution, the Orders and ultimately from primary legislation. There has been a request from a number of sources including ARAC for further review work on Governance Structures and this is programmed for 2018/19.

5.0 Equalities implications

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

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 WMCA Meetings Hierarchy.

Appendix 2 WMCA Governance Relationships.