



**Name of meeting:** Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Meeting date:** 8 July 2024

**Report title:** Appointment of Scrutiny Champions and Member Engagement Groups

**Responsible Director:** Helen Edwards, Director of Law & Governance  
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**Report author:** Dan Essex, Governance & Scrutiny Manager

**Key Decision?** No

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Is the ability for the Combined Authority to make a decision internally reliant on Constituent or Non-Constituent Councils making a formal decision first?

Yes       No

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**Public/private report:** Public

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- 1. Decision/s Recommended**
    - 1.1 Approve the appointment of six Scrutiny Champions for 2024/25.
    - 1.2 Approve the appointment of committee members to sit on the six Member Engagement Groups for 2024/25.
  - 2. Voting Requirements**
    - 2.1 A majority of voting members, in attendance in the meeting room and indicating their preference, are required to vote in favour of any recommendation/proposition for it to become a decision of the Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
  - 3. Executive Summary**
    - 3.1 To make appointments to the six Scrutiny Champion positions and to agree the membership of the six Member Engagement Groups for 2024/25.
  - 4. Matters for Consideration**
    - (A) Member Engagement Groups**
      - 4.1 There are six Member Engagement Groups:

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

4.2 As previous agreed, 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. Whilst the formal membership of each MEG should be five members, it is recognised that all members of the committee have an open invitation to attend any MEG in an observer capacity if there are items that are of particular interest to the member.

4.3 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	September
September / October	November
November / December	January
January / February	March
March / April	May

**(B) Scrutiny Champions**

4.4 Each Scrutiny Champion will chair their corresponding MEG. In order to broaden member responsibilities across the committee, the WMCA Board has previously agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair of this committee could not also be a Scrutiny Champion.

**5. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?**

5.1 Feedback throughout the year has suggested that the Member Engagement Groups add value to the work of the Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**6. Reasons for recommending preferred option**

6.1 With the continuation of Scrutiny Champions and Member Engagement Groups this will provide an opportunity to utilise technical expertise to enhance scrutiny of decisions that are to be made by the Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**7. Implications and Considerations**

Priority:	Contribution:
Delivery of Strategic Transport Plan	The delivery and impact of the Strategic Transport Plan will be a focus of the

Priority:	Contribution:
	Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee during 2024/25.
Promote inclusive economic growth in every corner of the region	n/a
Ensure everyone has the opportunity to benefit	n/a
Connect our communities by delivering transport and unlocking housing and regeneration schemes	Members of the Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee are an advocate for the residents of the West Midlands and through their lines of enquiry will focus on three key themes - governance, connectivity and investments
Reduce carbon emissions to net zero and enhance the environment	n/a
Secure new powers and resources from central government	n/a
Develop our organisation and our role as a good regional partner	Through sharing the activities of the Member Engagement Groups and Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee, this will help strengthen relationships with our constituent and non-constituent local authorities.

## 8. Internal Consultation and Scrutiny:

- 8.1 The Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee will approve the appointment of six Scrutiny Champions and its members to sit on the six Member Engagement Groups for 2024/25, at its meeting on 8 July 2024.

## 9. External Consultation and Scrutiny:

- 9.1 n/a

## 10. Financial implications:

- 10.1 The role of Scrutiny Champion receives a special responsibility allowance of £5,001 in recognition of the additional time requirements the position will require of members. Budgetary provision has been made for this responsibility allowance.

## 11. Legal implications:

- 11.1 Overview and scrutiny committees were introduced in 2000 as part of new executive governance arrangements to ensure that members of a local authority who were not part of the executive could hold the executive to account for the decisions and actions that affect their communities.

Requirements for combined authorities are set out in [Schedule 5A to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009](#) and those for combined county authorities are set out in Schedule 1 to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. Further provision for combined authority and combined county authority scrutiny is set out in The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny

Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) (S.I. 2017/ 68). Note this SI has been amended by S.I.2024/430.

Combined authority and combined county authority overview and scrutiny committees also have powers to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the mayor of any general (i.e. non-PCC) functions.

Effective overview and scrutiny should:

- provide constructive ‘critical friend’ challenge
- amplify the voices and concerns of the public
- be led by people who take responsibility for their role
- drive improvement in public services and strategic decision-making

Current overview and scrutiny legislation recognises that authorities are locally accountable. Authorities themselves are best placed to determine which overview and scrutiny arrangements best suit their own individual needs, and so gives them a great degree of flexibility to decide which arrangements to adopt.

**12. Single Assurance Framework implications:**

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

**13. Risk implications, including Risk Appetite:**

13.1 There are no risk implications arising out of this report.

**14. Procurement Implications:**

14.1 There are no procurement implications arising out of this report.

**15. Equality implications:**

15.1 Every effort will be made to ensure that MEG membership is diverse in at least the protected characteristics of race/ethnicity, sex/gender and disability.

**16. Inclusive Growth Implications:**

16.1 The six scrutiny champions in the six Member Engagement Groups will play an important role in understanding the interconnections between the various six groups as part of effective operation of their scrutiny function. This is best done through a robust understanding of the Inclusive Growth fundamentals, and so the team will work closely with the Inclusive Growth team to ensure that members are well prepared for their role.

**17. Local Authority Impact:**

17.1 The constituent and non-constituent local authorities are represented on the WMCA’s Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**18. List of appendices referred to:**

18.1 None

**19. Background papers used to compile this report:**

19.1 None

**20. List of Other Relevant Documents**

20.1 None