



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	16 July 2018
Report title	Task & Finish Groups - Governance Arrangements
Accountable Chief Executive	Deborah Cadman, West Midlands Combined Authority Email: deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk Tel: 0121 214 7200
Accountable Employee	Lyndsey Roberts Email: lyndsey.roberts@wmca.org.uk Tel: 0121 214 7501

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the continuation of five task & finish groups for 2018/19, namely;
 - Mental Health Commission
 - Inclusive Growth and Productivity & Skills Commission
 - Land Commission
 - Budget
 - Governance
2. Approve the terms of reference (including membership and lead members/chair's) of these task & finish groups, as detailed in appendices A and B.
3. Give delegated authority to the Head of Governance, in consultation with the Chair of the committee, to approve any changes or subsequent notifications in respect of the membership of the task & finish groups.
4. Give delegated authority to the Head of Governance, in consultation with the Chair of the committee, to appoint expert advisors (as considered necessary) to support the task & finish groups in their work.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To agree the governance arrangements for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's five task & finish groups for 2018/19.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 During the last municipal year the Overview & Scrutiny Committee established five task & finish groups with responsibility for undertaking detailed thematic scrutiny in areas that members had identified as particular areas of interest.
- 2.2 For the forthcoming year, it is proposed to continue the work of these five task & finish groups. Whilst each group will make appropriate arrangements to meet and consider appropriate matters, they do not have delegated decision making authority. For this reason each task & finish group will provide regular update reports together with recommendations to each meeting of this committee.
- 2.3 Appendix A provides further details of each of these task & finish groups, including their draft terms of reference.

3.0 Next steps

- 3.1 Following the appointments made at constituent and non-constituent authorities AGMs, (wherever possible) discussions have been held with the members appointed to this committee to determine their interest in sitting on one or more of the task & finish groups. The interests expressed at the time of publication are shown in Appendix B and will be further updated at the meeting.
- 3.2 Because the work of the task & finish groups may include consideration of matters of a technical or complex nature, it may be considered beneficial to invite an 'expert' in the subject matter to provide guidance at meetings during the year. Where this is the case, it will be approved by the Head of Governance, in consultation with the chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 The committee will also seek the advice and support from constituent and non-constituent members, and liaise with the West Midlands Scrutiny Network throughout the scrutiny process. In addition, the committee will continue to benchmark and network with Scrutiny Committees and Officers of other Combined Authorities, as well as other devolved Assemblies.

4.0 Wider WMCA Implications

- 4.1 An effective scrutiny function aids transparency in decision making and offers a vehicle for the Mayor and the WMCA Board to be held to account. Scrutiny also adds value to the combined authority in developing policy.
- 4.2 The success of Overview & Scrutiny Committee and its task & finish groups is reliant particularly on the attendance of members at meetings. The Combined Authorities Overview & Scrutiny Committees (Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017, Part 2,3 (3), requires that "At least two-thirds of the total number of members of the overview & scrutiny

committee must be present at a meeting of the overview and scrutiny committee before business may be transacted.”

5.0 Schedule of background papers

None.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Terms of Reference – Task & Finish Groups

Appendix B -Task & Finish Groups - Proposed Membership