



# West Midlands Combined Authority

## WMCA Board

Friday 22 June 2018 at 11.00 am

### Minutes

#### Constituent Members

Andy Street (Chair)	Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority
Councillor Bob Sleigh (Vice-Chair)	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Adrian Andrew	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Ian Courts	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor George Duggins	Coventry City Council
Councillor Patrick Harley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Abdul Khan	Coventry City Council
Councillor Syeda Khatun	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Roger Lawrence	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Ian Ward	Birmingham City Council

#### Non-Constituent Members

Jonathan Browning	Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Matthew Dormer	Redditch Borough Council
Councillor David Humphreys	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Councillor Julie Jackson	Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
Councillor Tony Jefferson	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Ninder Johal	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Alex Phillips	Shropshire Council
Tim Pile	Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Councillor Michael Stokes	Rugby Borough Council

#### Co-Opted Member

Lee Barron	Midlands Trades Union Congress
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#### Observer Members

Councillor Zafar Iqbal	West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority
David Jamieson	West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner

#### In Attendance

Councillor Peter Hughes	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
David Lane	Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

**Item No.**

**211. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor George Adamson (Cannock Chase), Councillor Mike Bird (Walsall), Councillor Steven Claymore (Tamworth), Councillor John Edwards (West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority), Councillor Steve Eling (Sandwell), Councillor Brigid Jones (Birmingham), Councillor Peter Nutting (Shropshire) and Stewart Towe (Black Country LEP).

**212. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting that Keith Ireland would attend before he took up his new appointment of Chief Executive of Lincolnshire County Council. He thanked him for the support he had given to the WMCA and the considerable work he had put in to its formation.

**213. Minutes - 25 May 2018**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record.

**214. Forward Plan**

The forward plan of items to be considered at future meetings was noted.

**215. Appointment of WMCA Boards and Committees 2018/19**

The board considered a report from Tim Martin, Head of Governance, on the appointments made by constituent, non-constituent and observer member authorities to the WMCA Board and its committees/sub-boards for 2018/19 and on the timetable of WMCA meetings to be held during 2018/19.

In addition to the appointments already made to sit on the WMCA Board and its committees/sub-boards, a number of further appointments were reported by members.

Resolved:

- (1) The members nominated by constituent, non-constituent and observer member authorities to sit on the WMCA Board and its committees/sub-boards, as subsequently amended, be noted.
- (2) Councillor Peter Hughes be appointed chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Jonathan Browning be appointed chair of the Strategic Economic Plan Board.
- (3) The appointments made by the Mayor as Portfolio Leads were noted.
- (4) The timetable of meetings for 2018/19 be agreed.
- (5) Delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer to approve any subsequent minor changes or subsequent notifications in respect of the individual appointments made to boards/committees.

**216. WMCA Annual Plan 2018/19**

The board considered a report from Sean Pearce, Director of Finance, seeking approval of the WMCA's Annual Plan 2018/19.

The Annual Plan had been developed as part of the WMCA's annual business planning cycle and provided details of its key priorities for 2018/19 and beyond, along with the key achievements in 2017/18. The document also incorporated the Transport for West Midlands Annual Plan 2018/19.

Councillor Ian Ward welcomed the report, noting the key role Transport for West Midlands would play in delivering the transport improvements for the Commonwealth Games 2022. He also referred to the campaigning by 'Women Against State Pension Inequality' to highlight the way in which the state pension age for men and women had been equalised, and asked if consideration could be given to including 'WASPI women' and their carers (where appropriate) within the qualification for receiving the older person's concessionary bus pass. Councillor Roger Lawrence noted the request, stressing that any such widening of the qualification criteria would have a funding consequence and was therefore a matter for the constituent authorities to give consideration to.

David Jamieson noted that there had been an increase in reported offences across the public transport network, but that no region-wide injunctions had been issued to ban individuals from public transport use. The Mayor highlighted the general increase in public transport usage and commended the work of the Safer Travel Police Team in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour across the network. A number of crime prevention measures were available to officers, and he would be willing to consider region-wide injunctions whenever these were recommended to him as necessary by the Safer Travel Police Team.

Councillor Peter Hughes, Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, reported that the Annual Plan had been scrutinised by members of his committee, who had made a number of suggested amendments that had now been incorporated.

Resolved:

- (1) The West Midlands Combined Authority's Annual Plan 2018/19 be approved.
- (2) The Director of Finance, in consultation with the Mayor, be given delegated authority to finalise the Plan, making any final amendments to take into account the decisions taken in respect of the other reports on the agenda at the meeting.

**217. Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism**

The board considered a report from Dave Webb, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, on proposals to establish a Culture, Creative Industries & Tourism Advisory Group that covered the whole of the WMCA geography.

The current Culture, Creative Industries & Tourism Group was an officer group whose remit was the development of the cultural, creative industries and tourism sectors that were considered to comprise a major and rapidly developing area of the regional economy. It was considered that the establishment of a member-level Advisory Group would help co-ordinate and maximise the opportunities arising from the work of the existing officer group, including sharing best practice on effective policy and investment tools, identifying WMCA-wide opportunities, and delivering a targeted programme of interventions to strengthen the interconnectedness of the culture, creative industries and tourism sectors.

Councillor Michael Stokes noted the role that non-constituent authorities could play on this board and suggested that two representatives be appointed to sit as members of it. Jonathan Browning thought it useful if the Culture, Creative Industries & Tourism Board reported into the WMCA Board from through Strategic Economic Plan Board. The Mayor supported both of these suggestions.

Resolved:

A Culture, Creative Industries & Tourism Advisory Group be established.

**218. Productivity & Skills Commission and Regional Skills Plan**

The board considered a report from Julie Nugent, Director of Productivity & Skills, seeking approval of the Regional Skills Plan along with the final report and recommendations from the Productivity & Skills Commission.

Dr Andy Palmer, Chief Executive of Aston Martin and chair of the Productivity & Skills Commission, introduced the report to the board, highlighting how the West Midlands needed to address the productivity gap that currently existed.

The Productivity & Skills Commission was established to identify the skills and productivity challenges in the region, identify the causes of low productivity, and to make practical recommendations to address these. It brought together leading academics and business representatives to support and sense-check the analysis and to identify actions required to tackle the challenges identified.

Jonathan Browning welcomed the report, noting the importance of the Regional Skills Plan and highlighting the key roles that infrastructure and digital played in the skills agenda. Lee Barron also welcomed the report and stressed the importance of including a social aspect to the measurement of productivity.

The Regional Skills Plan built on the WMCA's Strategic Economic Plan and set out the priorities for the next three years to support to improve the regional skills base.

Councillor George Duggins expressed his thanks to the work Dr Andy Palmer and Jo Lopes had undertaken on the commission, and for the continued work of Rachel Egan, Julie Nugent and Nick Page.

Resolved:

- (1) The final report and recommendations from the Productivity & Skills Commission be noted.
- (2) The Regional Skills Plan be approved.
- (3) The new governance arrangements for overseeing delivery of the Regional Skills Plan be approved.

**219. Midland Metro Ltd Business Plan 2018/19**

The board considered a report from Phil Hewitt, Director of West Midlands Metro, on the annual business plan of Midland Metro Ltd, who had been awarded the contract to operate and maintain the Midland Metro network from 24 June.

The board of Midland Metro Ltd had reviewed and approved the proposed business plan for 2018/19 and recommended its approval to the WMCA Board in its capacity as shareholder.

Resolved:

The Midland Metro Ltd Business Plan 2018/19 was approved.

**220. Contactless Payment & Best Value Capping Update**

The board considered a report from Matt Lewis, Head of Swift, on an update on the work to deliver contactless Europay, Mastercard & Visa payment and best value capping and setting out an agreed approach to ensure interoperability between operators and modes.

A number of operators had successfully deployed contactless Europay, Mastercard & Visa payment solutions in the West Midlands, and the report provided further details of these in respect of Midland Metro, Diamond Bus and National Express.

Transport for West Midlands was focussed on work to ensure that operator systems could communicate between each other, which would enable customers to benefit from multi-operator and multimodal best value caps. Work was on-going with Nottingham City Council and Midland Connect to develop the functional and technical requirements that would support this. It was expected that this would be concluded next month, which would then allow for a joint funding bid to be made to the Department for Transport to enable the delivery of a Midlands-wide solution.

Resolved:

- (1) The progress on the delivery of contactless Europay, Mastercard & Visa payment in the West Midlands be welcomed.

- (2) It be agreed to continue the work to deliver a 'regional broker' to enable a secure link between individual operators systems, so that customers could benefit from multimodal and multi-operator 'best value capping'.

**221. Transport Delivery Committee - 14 May 2018**

The board received the minutes of the Transport Strategy Committee held on 14 May 2018.

Councillor Roger Lawrence noted that Councillor Richard Worrall was stepping down as chair of this committee at the end of the municipal year and he expressed his thanks for all of the work he had undertaken in this regard in support of public transport across the region.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2018 be noted.

**222. Friday 20 July 2018 at 11.00am**

The date of the next meeting was noted.

**223. Any Other Business**

**(a) Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs Council**

Jonathan Browning reported that the first meeting of the LEP Chairs Council had been held on 19 June and was attended by the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government. The chairs of the three regional LEPs briefed the meeting on the joint working that was being undertaken within the region on the Local Industrial Strategy, and the meeting also discussed issues relating to skills and the apprenticeship levy.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm.