



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	4 September 2018
Report title	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Working Groups - Progress Update
Accountable Lead(s)	Budget - Councillor Peter Hughes Governance - Councillor John Cotton Health & Wellbeing - Councillor Cathy Bayton Housing & Land - Councillor Ian Shires Inclusive Growth and Productivity & Skills - Councillor Lisa Trickett
Accountable Employee	Lyndsey Roberts, Scrutiny Officer email: lyndsey.roberts@wmca.org.uk tel: (0121) 214 7501

Recommendation(s) for decision:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note the progress in developing the workstreams for the working groups.
- (2) Endorse the appointment of the three Scrutiny Champions to have responsibility for the oversight of three specific areas namely: Leaders Like You, Transport and Air Quality.

Purpose

1. To appraise Overview & Scrutiny Committee of the developments and progress in relation to the work of the five working groups (formerly referred to as 'Task & Finish Groups'). The report also seeks the endorsement of the committee to the appointment of three Scrutiny Champions to have responsibility for the oversight of three thematic areas relating to transport, air quality and the implementation of the recommendations of the 'Leaders Like You' report, which is a report published by the West Midlands Combined Authority's Leadership Commission.

Background

2. At its meeting held on 16 July, Overview & Scrutiny Committee approved the continuation of five working groups for 2018/19, the terms of reference and membership for each of the groups were also agreed at this meeting. Whilst each group will make arrangements to meet and consider appropriate matters, they do not have delegated decision making authority and therefore each working group will provide regular update reports together with recommendations to meetings of Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Five lead members were also appointed to lead each of the working groups for 2018/19.
3. On 13 August, a meeting of the five Lead Members was held to discuss progress to date in respect of their respective working groups and proposed areas of focus. It was also agreed that the terminology of Task & Finish Groups would be replaced with 'Working Groups', and (where appropriate) the title and terms of reference for certain working groups would be changed in order to more accurately reflect their remit. Due to the intense work programme of the committee, it was also proposed that three scrutiny champions be appointed that would have responsibility for the oversight of three areas of business relating to 'Leaders Like You', transport and air quality.
4. The scrutiny champions would have responsibility for:
 - overseeing the work being undertaken in these thematic areas
 - keeping abreast of other Committee and Board reports in these thematic areas
 - keeping abreast of external developments in these thematic areas
 - bringing matters to the attention of the Chair and/or Overview & Scrutiny Committee which they feel may benefit from further consideration or scrutiny

Budget Working Group

5. Councillor Peter Hughes met with Sean Pearce, Director of Finance on 21 August and the first meeting of the Budget Working Group will be held in September. Councillor Peter Hughes will provide a verbal update at the meeting (as appropriate) on any more recent developments.

Governance Working Group

6. On 7 August, Councillor John Cotton held a meeting with Tim Martin, Head of Governance, and Dan Essex, Governance Services Manager. Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services at Birmingham City Council was also in attendance. A discussion was held on areas that could be reviewed during this coming year. The first meeting of the Governance Working Group will be held on 12 September for the purpose of identifying specific work areas that it

would like to focus on this year. Councillor John Cotton will provide a verbal update at the meeting (as appropriate) on any more recent developments.

Health & Wellbeing Working Group

7. Councillor Cathy Bayton met with Sean Russell, Director of Implementation, on 14 August to discuss the Wellbeing agenda and areas of focus. A conference call was also held with Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Portfolio Lead for Wellbeing. The first meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Working Group will be held on 10 September. Councillor Cathy Bayton will provide a verbal update at the meeting (as appropriate) on any more recent developments.

Housing & Land Working Group

8. Councillor Ian Shires met with Gareth Bradford Director of Housing & Regeneration on 9 August to discuss the Housing and Land workstream. The first meeting of the Housing & Land Working Group will be held during September to discuss and agree its work programme for the forthcoming year. Councillor Ian Shires will provide a verbal update at the meeting (as appropriate) on any more recent developments.

Inclusive Growth and Productivity & Skills Working Group

9. On 30 August, Councillor Lisa Trickett met with Claire Spencer, Senior Policy Advisor - Public Services & Inclusive Growth, and Julie Nugent, Director of Productivity & Skills, to discuss the two workstreams and possible areas of focus for the forthcoming year. Councillor Lisa Trickett will meet with Henry Kippin on 13 September. The first meeting of the working group will be held during September. Councillor Lisa Trickett will provide a verbal update at the meeting (as appropriate) on any more recent developments.