



West Midlands Combined Authority

WMCA Board

Friday 8 February 2019 at 11.00 am

Minutes

Constituent Members

Andy Street (Chair)

Councillor Bob Sleight (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Mike Bird

Councillor Ian Courts

Councillor George Duggins

Councillor Brigid Jones

Councillor Syeda Khatun

Councillor Roger Lawrence

Councillor Qadar Zada

Mayor of the West Midlands Combined
Authority

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Coventry City Council

Birmingham City Council

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

City of Wolverhampton Council

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Non-Constituent Members

Councillor George Adamson

Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor Tony Jefferson

Ninder Johal

Tim Pile

Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Cannock Chase District Council

Redditch Borough Council

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Black Country Local Enterprise
Partnership

Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local
Enterprise Partnership

Warwickshire County Council

Observer Members

Councillor John Edwards

David Jamieson

West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority

West Midlands Police & Crime
Commissioner

In Attendance

Councillor Kath Hartley

Councillor Peter Hughes

David Lane

Councillor Ian Shires

Transport Delivery Committee

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Item Title

No.

98. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Browning (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP), Councillor Steve Eling (Sandwell), Councillor David Humphreys (North Warwickshire), Councillor Julie Jackson (Nuneaton & Bedworth), Councillor Peter Nutting (Shropshire), Councillor Michael Stokes (Rugby), Stewart Towe (Black Country LEP) and Councillor Ian Ward (Birmingham).

99. Chair's Remarks

(a) Councillor Steven Claymore (Tamworth)

Members observed a minute's silence following the recent death of WMCA Board and Housing & Land Delivery Board member Councillor Steven Claymore.

(b) Mayoral Statement

The Mayor made a personal statement regarding social media comments published in his name during the previous day.

(c) Future Governance of the West Midlands Fire Service

The Mayor referred members to a briefing note circulated earlier in the week setting out the latest position regarding the proposed governance changes for the West Midlands Fire Service. A full report would be submitted to the next meeting of the WMCA Board on 22 March.

100. Minutes - 11 January 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

101. Forward Plan

A forward plan of items of business to be reported to future meetings was noted.

102. WMCA Budget 2019/20

The board considered a report from Linda Horne, Interim Director of Finance, presenting the final WMCA budget for 2019/20 for approval. This was the final stage of the budget setting process, incorporating the final revenue and capital budget, together with an indicative Medium Term Financial Plan and associated policies required by statute. There were no changes made to the financial plans considered within the draft budget by the WMCA Board at its meeting on 11 January.

The report reflected comments received following formal consultation from constituent authorities, Overview & Scrutiny Committee and other key stakeholders.

Councillor Peter Hughes reported that members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had considered the draft budget proposals and had made a number of observations. In particular, confirmation was sought that the proposed review of Ring & Ride services within the region was planned to be undertaken so as to assess the impact of wider cross-sector issues, and whether the decision not to set a Mayoral precept for 2019/20 would have funding implications. Councillor Roger Lawrence, Portfolio Lead for Transport, confirmed that the outcomes of a review of the Ring & Ride service would be considered by the WMCA Board during 2019/20. The Mayor confirmed that his decision not to set a Mayoral precept would result in less funding being available, but he judged the impact of this over the next 12 months to be small.

Councillor Brigid Jones welcomed an announcement that Transport for West Midlands was being asked to draw up proposals that could result in women adversely affected by changes in pension regulations being eligible for concessionary travel passes. She looked forward to a report on this matter being submitted to a future meeting of the WMCA Board.

Resolved:

- (1) The consolidated revenue budget monitoring position as at 31 December 2018 be noted;
- (2) The West Midlands Combined Authority consolidated revenue budget be approved, including:
 - (a) the budget requirement for transport delivery 2019/20 comprising two elements:
 - (i) £114.7m a year to be funded from the existing transport levy mechanism; and
 - (ii) a transfer from earmarked reserves of £1.0m.
 - (b) the West Midlands Combined Authority operational budget requirement for 2019/20 of £103.1m comprising of six elements:
 - (i) £84.2m Adult Education spending to be funded for the first time from Adult Education Budget funding devolved by the Department for Education;
 - (ii) £10.6m to be funded from other devolution deal grants;
 - (iii) £4.6m to be funded from Constituent Authority fees (fees to remain at the same level as 2018/19);
 - (iv) £0.4m to be funded from Non-Constituent Authority and Observer fees (fees to remain at the same level as 2018/19);

- (v) £2.2m to be funded from other income; and
 - (vi) a transfer from reserves of £1.1m.
- (3) The Mayoral Office budget for 2019/20 of £0.8m, to be funded from existing Mayoral capacity funding of £0.8m, be approved.
 - (4) It be noted that the Mayor had indicated that there would be no Mayoral precept during the remainder of his current term of office.
 - (5) The Summary Capital Programme be approved.
 - (6) The planned spend on the Investment Programme over the 5 year period be noted.
 - (7) The West Midlands Combined Authority indicative 5 year Medium Term Financial Plan be noted.
 - (8) Surplus cash balances generated from the Collective Investment Fund be approved to be used to support the West Midlands Combined Authority operational budget, thus minimising Constituent and Non-Constituent Authority contributions.
 - (9) Authority be delegated to the Interim Director of Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Finance & Investments to make any final changes that may result from the final Local Government Finance Settlement;
 - (10) The following policies and strategies be approved, as required by statute:
 - (a) the West Midlands Combined Authority Pay Policy Statement;
 - (b) the West Midlands Combined Authority Treasury Management Strategy; and
 - (c) the West Midlands Combined Authority Prudential Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy and Capital Strategy.

[NB. These resolutions were agreed unanimously by all members in attendance and eligible to vote.]

103. Leadership Commission: Developing and Delivering a Youth Combined Authority

The board considered a report from Henry Kippin, Director of Public Service Reform, setting out proposals to establish a Youth Combined Authority to fulfil the aspirations set out in the findings of the WMCA Leadership Commission in 2018.

Following the publication of the 'Leaders Like You' report, significant work had been undertaken to establish the potential relationship between the WMCA and a Youth Combined Authority. It was proposed that an independent youth organisation would be procured to lead the marketing and application process for the Youth Combined Authority to help ensure impartiality. The organisation would recruit a membership of 20-30 people between the ages 16-25 that reflected a balance of gender, ethnicity, geography and other criteria, including representation from Children in Care Councils and the Care Leavers Forum, those living with chronic conditions and disability, young parents and those who were LGBT+.

Councillor Brigid Jones welcomed the proposals contained within the report, but stressed that the Youth Combined Authority should not be considered a replacement for existing democratic structures, which still needed to be more accessible to younger age demographics so that there was a greater representations of all age groups amongst elected councillors. Councillor Peter Hughes indicated that Overview & Scrutiny Committee supported these proposals and looked forward to exploring the role the Youth Combined Authority might play in scrutinising the wider work of the WMCA.

Resolved:

- (1) The establishment of a Youth Combined Authority, as recommended by the WMCA Leadership Commission, be approved.
- (2) Investment of £50,000 to support the establishment of a Youth Combined Authority be approved.
- (3) It be agreed that the Youth Combined Authority would have Observer status on WMCA Board.
- (4) It be noted that this investment contributed to meeting recommendation 5a of the WMCA's Leadership Commission report.

104. A Common Approach to Cycling and Walking in the West Midlands

The board considered a report from Laura Shoaf, Managing Director of Transport for West Midlands, setting out how investment into cycling and walking would be directed, ensuring that future schemes and programmes were delivered using a joined up approach.

The West Midlands Cycling Charter set out the key principles that all partners had adopted to deliver the required step change in cycling across the West Midlands metropolitan area. It represented a shared vision and approach to increase cycling levels across the West Midlands. Since the launch of the charter, the WMCA and local authorities had been working to deliver improvements to cycling and walking using a joined up approach wherever possible. With 57% of journeys crossing an administrative boundary, it was vital that there was a consistent delivery across the region of high quality provision based on best practice design.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe indicated that Warwickshire County Council would be keen to engage in this work and had included within its 2019/20 budget funding for further developing walking and cycling within the county. Councillor Alex Phillips noted the importance of making train travel more welcoming for cyclists, as many people wished to access more rural parts of the region by train in order to undertake cycling for leisure. Councillor Brigid Jones recognised the import role that recent events such as the Velo Birmingham & Midlands and the Women's Tour of Britain had on encouraging cycling and increasing wider public participation rates.

Resolved:

- (1) The approach to investing in cycling and walking in the West Midlands and for raising the profile of cycling and walking through effective leadership be endorsed.
- (2) Capital investment be focused on the corridors and zones identified by local authorities, as set out in the West Midlands Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- (3) The transition to a West Midlands cycle brand for future cycling initiatives in the West Midlands be endorsed.

105. Housing & Land Delivery Board - 20 December 2018

The board received the minutes of the Housing & Land Delivery Board held on 20 December 2018.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2018 be noted.

106. Transport Delivery Committee - 7 January 2019

The board received the minutes of the Transport Delivery Committee held on 7 January 2019.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2019 be noted.

107. Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - 14 January 2019

The board received the minutes of the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee held on 14 January 2019.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2019 be noted.

108. Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 16 January 2019

The board received the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 16 January 2019. Councillor Peter Hughes stressed the importance of the WMCA demonstrating more effectively to the public and other stakeholders the added value it was providing.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2019 be approved.

109. Wellbeing Board - 18 January 2019

The board received the minutes of the Wellbeing Board held on 18 January 2019. In respect of minute no. 23(ii) ('Thrive Mental Health Awards'), Councillor Izzi Seccombe expressed her thanks to everyone who had been involved in organising the awards ceremony on 31 January, which had been a huge success. She also noted that the Thrive at Work scheme had recently received favourable media coverage in an article in the Financial Times.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2019 be noted.

110. Investment Board - 21 January 2019

The board received the minutes of the Investment Board held on 21 January 2019. Councillor Mike Bird stressed the importance of the board seeking to re-prioritise Investment Programme funding previously allocated to schemes that would not now proceed. Councillor Bob Sleigh confirmed that where this situation arose, the board would seek to re-deploy funding to where it would be most effective.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2019 be noted.

111. Friday 22 March 2019 at 11.00am

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting ended at 11.45 am.