



West Midlands Combined Authority

WMCA Board

Friday 24 May 2019 at 11.00 am

Minutes

Constituent Members

Andy Street (Chair)

Councillor Bob Sleigh (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Mike Bird

Councillor Ian Brookfield

Councillor Ian Courts

Councillor Yvonne Davies

Councillor George Duggins

Councillor Brigid Jones

Councillor Abdul Khan

Councillor David Vickers

Councillor Ian Ward

Mayor of the West Midlands Combined
Authority

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

City of Wolverhampton Council

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Coventry City Council

Birmingham City Council

Coventry City Council

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Birmingham City Council

Non-Constituent Members

Councillor George Adamson

Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor David Humphreys

Councillor Julie Jackson

Councillor Tony Jefferson

Ninder Johal

Councillor Peter Nutting

Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Cannock Chase District Council

Redditch Borough Council

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Black Country Local Enterprise

Partnership

Shropshire Council

Warwickshire County Council

Co-Opted Member

Lee Barron

Midlands Trades Union Congress

Observer Members

Councillor John Edwards

David Jamieson

West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority

West Midlands Police & Crime

Commissioner

In Attendance

Councillor Peter Hughes

Councillor Alexander Phillips

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Shropshire Council

- | Item No. | Title |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 137. | Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Browning (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP), Councillor Shaun Davies (Telford & Wrekin), Councillor Patrick Harley (Dudley), Councillor Sebastian Lowe (Rugby), Tim Pile (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP) and Councillor Qadar Zada (Dudley). |
| 138. | Chair's Remarks (if any) <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Membership of WMCA Board
The Mayor welcomed Councillor Ian Brookfield, Councillor Yvonne Davies, Councillor Syeda Khatun, Councillor Sebastian Lowe and Councillor Jeremy Oates who had all been recently appointed by their local authority to sit on the WMCA Board.

He thanked Councillor Roger Lawrence, Councillor Paul Moore, Councillor Michael Stokes and Councillor Steve Trow, were no longer members of the WMCA Board, for their past service.(b) Ian Martin, Director of Investments & Commercial Activity
The Mayor introduced Ian Martin, the WMCA's recently appointed Director of Investments & Commercial Activity.(c) West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy Launch
The Mayor thanked all those who were involved in the previous week's successful launch of the Local Industrial Strategy.(d) 2019/20 Portfolio Lead Responsibilities
The Mayor indicated that the 2019/20 Portfolio Lead responsibilities would be announced in the forthcoming week.(e) Sarah Norman, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
The Chair noted that this was the last meeting that Sarah Norman would attend before she took up a new post of Chief Executive of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. He thanked her for all the work she had done to help set up the WMCA in 2016 and her work leading the mental health workstream. All members of the WMCA Board offered their best wishes to her for the future. |
| 139. | Minutes - 22 March 2019
The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2019 were agreed as a correct record. |
| 140. | Forward Plan
The forward plan of items to be reported to future meetings was noted, subject to the addition of a report on the Social Economy Task Force being considered at a future meeting. |

141. Appointment of Combined Authority Returning Officer

The board considered a report from Tim Martin, Head of Governance, Clerk and Monitoring Officer, on the appointment of a Combined Authority Returning Officer for the Combined Authority Mayoral election on 7 May 2020.

The Combined Authority Returning Officer would have overall responsibility for the election of the Mayor and may, for example, give to a Returning Officer of a constituent member authority directions relating to the conduct of the election. In addition, they would be responsible for accepting nominations and co-ordinating the regional result.

Resolved:

- (1) Martin Reeves, Chief Executive of Coventry City Council, be appointed as the West Midlands Combined Authority Returning Officer.

142. Financial Monitoring Report 2018/19

The board considered a report Linda Horne, Acting Director of Finance, on an update on WMCA finances as at the end of March 2019, subject to final audit.

The overall consolidated revenue position of the WMCA at full year showed a £11,000 adverse variance from budget. The deficit for the year would be met from the existing general fund budget. The final outturn position on the Transport budget showed an adverse variance of £57,000 and the WMCA Operational budget showed a favourable outturn variance of £47,000. These final outturn positions were subject to external audit, which would be reported to the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee on 21 June.

Resolved:

- (1) The financial outturn position as at the end of March 2019 be noted.

143. National Centre for Construction and Development Excellence

The board considered a report from Roger Mendonca, Chief Operating Officer of the West Midlands Growth Company, setting out the on-going work of the City of Wolverhampton Council and the University of Wolverhampton to establish an internationally significant, cross-sector National Centre for Construction and Development Excellence. The report set out the scoping study being undertaken to identify the additional activity required to turn the proposed location into a National Centre for Excellence, along with the development of a detailed bid for funding to deliver this activity.

Councillor Ian Brookfield welcomed these proposals, which he said played a key role in the further development of Wolverhampton. Councillor Ian Ward undertook to discuss further with him the final naming and branding that would be used by the centre.

Resolved:

- (1) The report and the intention to establish an internationally significant National Centre for Construction and Development Excellence in Wolverhampton be endorsed.

144. Inclusive Growth: Update and Next Steps

The board considered a report from Henry Kippin, Director of Public Service Reform, providing an update on the region's inclusive growth work, including the processes and research that would guide policy, strategy and investment practice.

Inclusive growth sought to use the power of good public services and investments to support people and places to meet their needs and achieve their aspirations. Three key products had been developed to support and enable workstreams to deliver inclusive growth: the Inclusive Growth Framework defined the social, democratic and environmental outcomes of economic activity so that the region prioritised thriving citizens; the Inclusive Growth Decision Making Toolkit sought to help decision makers understand what inclusive growth meant in practice and how best to deliver it; the Inclusive Growth Tests enabled WMCA officers to better consider inclusive growth implications within committee reports.

Lee Barron welcomed the report and the work undertaken to date to promote inclusive growth. However, he noted that the WMCA was not an accredited Living Wage employer and urged the adoption of this standard so that it could speak with more authority to stakeholders on the importance of inclusive growth policies. This would align with the TUC's ambition to make the West Midlands a Living Wage region. Deborah Cadman, Chief Executive, indicated that whilst the WMCA was not accredited with the Living Wage Foundation, it did not pay any of its staff less than the National Living Wage. The Chair noted this, but requested that the Chief Executive look again at the merits of becoming accredited by the Living Wage Foundation.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe welcomed the report and considered that non-constituent authorities would want to become more involved in promoting inclusive growth policies, for example in helping adults with special educational needs and disabilities access mainstream employment opportunities.

Resolved:

- (1) The progress that had been made in developing a regional approach to supporting inclusive growth be noted.
- (2) The Inclusive Growth Framework, Decision-Making Toolkit and policy tests be noted, and their application within local and regional initiatives be encouraged.
- (3) The WMCA and its Inclusive Growth Unit support the WMCA Board and partners to promote and embed inclusive growth over the next 12 months.

145. Devolution of the Adult Education Budget 2019/20

The board considered a report from Julie Nugent, Director of Productivity & Skills, setting out the progress made and proposed next steps in terms of allocating Adult Education Budget funds through grants to colleges and local authorities.

The WMCA's devolved share of the national Adult Education Budget for 2019/20 was £125.6m. This money would be allocated through a plan-led approach for WMCA area-based further education colleges, local authorities and colleges with substantial niche provision delivered directly to residents, and via procurement through competition for all other services. To date, £25.5m of the £28m available through the procurement process had been allocated.

Lee Barron noted that provision previously existed within the Adult Education Budget for trade union training and sought assurances that this funding could be ring-fenced within the devolved settlement. Councillor George Duggins, Portfolio Lead for Productivity & Skills, confirmed that this would be the case. Lee Barron noted the recently announced closure of Stourbridge College, expressing concern at the apparent lack of public consultation prior to the decision being taken. Julie Nugent explained that the decision to close the college was taken as part of a process overseen by the Further Education Commissioner, and the WMCA was seeking assurances regarding adult education within Stourbridge in future years. The Chair requested that the board be kept informed of discussions held with Birmingham Metropolitan College regarding its Stourbridge site.

Resolved:

- (1) Progress in relation to awarding Adult Education Budget funding through grant making and procurement processes be noted.
- (2) Authority to carry out further procurement activity in-year be delegated to the Director of Productivity & Skills, in consultation with the Section 151 and Monitoring officers and the Portfolio Lead.
- (3) The proposed changes to national funding policy be agreed.

146. Regional Transport Coordination Centre – Full Business Case Approval

The board considered a report from Laura Shoaf, Managing Director of Transport for West Midlands, seeking approval of the full business case for the delivery of the Regional Transport Co-ordination Centre.

The Regional Transport Co-ordination Centre was intended to assist with the co-ordination of the transport network during the delivery of the transport investment programme and other major events within the region, as well as giving the ability to communicate disruptions to residents, business and visitors ahead of and during works.

David Jamieson welcomed the report and stressed the importance of ensuring that the region's traffic was able to flow throughout the Key Route Network. However, he stressed the importance of close co-ordination between the region and its individual districts to ensure information was properly shared and mitigation measures were complementary. Councillor Ian Courts and Councillor Izzi Seccombe both stressed the impact HS2 construction would have on traffic flows, and Laura Shoaf confirmed this was a key consideration in developing these proposals.

Resolved:

- (1) The full business case for the delivery of the Regional Transport Co-ordination Centre be approved.
- (2) The allocation of up to £19.5m from the Transforming Cities Fund, comprised of £1.5m agreed at the WMCA Board meeting in November 2018 and an indicative £18.0m allocated in March 2019, to enable delivery be confirmed.
- (3) The intention for the revenue costs for the core team and operation of the Regional Transport Co-ordination Centre to be absorbed within existing WMCA resource levels be noted.
- (4) It be agreed that the delivery of highways investments for each local authority would be subject to grants being provided from the Transforming Cities Fund, which would be determined and governed by the WMCA/Transport for West Midlands and approved by each local authority's formal approval processes. This would seek to present opportunities for revenue savings to be examined with each local authority to ensure that they were manageable within local authority budgets.

147. West Midlands Bus Byelaws Update

The board considered a report from Laura Shoaf, Managing Director of Transport for West Midlands, on the results of a consultation exercise on proposals to introduce bus byelaws across the region.

Byelaws existed for travel on the rail and tram networks, but there were no such equivalent powers applicable to buses. A public consultation on such byelaws was undertaken between February - March and a total of 478 responses were received. All of the proposed byelaws received a high level of support, with only 12% of respondents thinking that they would not help address anti-social behaviour on the bus network.

Councillor Ian Ward welcomed the proposals, but stressed the importance of ensuring that West Midlands Police had the resources to be able to enforce the byelaws. David Jamieson also supported the introduction of the byelaws, and noted that discussions were being held with the Chief Constable to give enforcement powers to staff from Transport for West Midlands.

Resolved:

- (1) The results of the bus byelaws consultation exercise be noted.
- (2) The next stages of work in completing a 'Regulatory Assessment' of proportionality and impact of the byelaws, taking account of stakeholder feedback and input from legal services, be supported.
- (3) The preparation and submission of the formal application to the relevant government department seeking approval for the byelaws to be made be approved.

148. Strategic Economic Delivery Board - 6 March 2019

The board received the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Economic Delivery Board held on 6 March 2019.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2019 be noted.

149. Investment Board - 18 March 2019

The board received the minutes of the Investment Board held on 18 March 2019.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2019 be noted.

150. Transport Delivery Committee - 18 March 2019

The board received the minutes of the Transport Delivery Committee held on 18 March 2019.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2019 be noted.

151. Wellbeing Board - 5 April 2019

The board received the minutes of the Wellbeing Board held on 5 April 2019.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2019 be noted.

152. Housing & Land Delivery Board - 10 April 2019

The board received the minutes of the Housing & Land Delivery Board held on 10 April 2019.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2019 be noted.

153. Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 12 April 2019

The board received the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 12 April 2019.

Councillor Peter Hughes reported that he was unlikely to be Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 2019/20 and took the opportunity to thank members of the committee and officers for the support they had given to him whilst he had been Chair. He stressed the continued importance for the WMCA to support a robust and independent scrutiny function, which would give greater public confidence in the decisions it made. The Chair thanked Councillor Peter Hughes for his dedicated public service and his strong and persuasive advocacy of the role of effective scrutiny within the WMCA.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2019 be approved.

154. Investment Board - 15 April 2019

The board received the minutes of the Investment Board held on 15 April 2019.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2019 be noted.

155. Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - 15 April 2019

The board received the minutes of the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee held on 15 April 2019.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2019 be noted.

156. Friday 28 June 2019 at 11.00am

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting ended at 12.10 pm.