



West Midlands Combined Authority

WMCA Board

Friday 28 June 2019 at 11.45 am

Minutes

Constituent Members

Andy Street (Chair)

Councillor Bob Sleight (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Adrian Andrew

Councillor Ian Brookfield

Councillor Ian Courts

Councillor Yvonne Davies

Councillor George Duggins

Councillor Brigid Jones

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

Birmingham City Council

Non-Constituent Members

Councillor Matthew Dormer

Sean Farnell

Councillor Julie Jackson

Councillor Tony Jefferson

Councillor Jeremy Oates

Councillor Alex Phillips

Tim Pile

Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince

Redditch Borough Council

Coventry & Warwickshire Local
Enterprise Partnership

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Tamworth Borough Council

Shropshire Council

Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local
Enterprise Partnership

Rugby Borough Council

Co-Opted Member

Rob Johnston

Midlands Trades Union Congress

Observer Members

West Midlands Fire Authority

In Attendance

Councillor Peter Fowler

Councillor Kath Hartley

Councillor Peter Hughes

Councillor David Thain

Councillor Richard Worrall

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Transport Delivery Committee

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Redditch Borough Council

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

Item No. **Title**

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Lee Barron (Midlands TUC), Councillor Mike Bird (Walsall), Jonathan Browning (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP), Councillor Patrick Harley (Dudley), Councillor David Humphreys (North Warwickshire), David Jamieson (Police & Crime Commissioner), Councillor Sebastian Lowe (Rugby), Councillor Peter Nutting (Shropshire), Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Warwickshire) and Stewart Towe (Black Country LEP).

2. Chair's Remarks

(a) Kevin O'Keefe, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

The Chair welcomed Kevin O'Keefe, recently appointed Chief Executive of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, to his first meeting.

(b) West Midlands Fire & Rescue Service

The Chair congratulated West Midlands Fire & Rescue Service on its recent 'good' assessment by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.

3. Minutes - 24 May 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Forward Plan

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

5. Appointment of WMCA Boards and Committees etc 2019/20

The board considered a report from Tim Martin, Head of Governance, Clerk and Monitoring Officer, setting out the appointments made by constituent, non-constituent and observer member authorities to the WMCA Board and its committees/sub-boards for 2019/20. The report also set out the timetable of meetings for the forthcoming year and the appointments made by the Mayor for the positions of Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Leads.

Resolved:

(1) The members nominated by constituent, non-constituent and observer member authorities, as updated at the meeting, to sit on the WMCA Board and its committees/sub-boards be noted.

(2) Jonathan Browning be appointed Chair of the Strategic Economic Development Board, Councillor Kath Hartley be appointed Chair of the Transport Delivery Committee and a decision on the appointment of the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee be deferred until the next meeting on 26 July 2019.

(3) The appointments made by the Mayor to the positions of Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Leads be noted.

(4) The timetable of meetings for 2019/20 be agreed.

- (5) Authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to approve any subsequent minor changes to the individual appointments made to boards/committees.

6. Annual Planning and Performance: WMCA Annual Plan 2019/20 and State of the Region Analysis 2019

The board considered a report from Julia Goldsworthy, Director of Strategy, setting out a suite of three documents focussed on the priorities and performance of the WMCA and the wider West Midlands region:

- Review of Annual Plan 2018/19 - summarising the delivery and progress made against the actions, activity and outcomes in the past 12 months.
- State of the Region 2019 - summarising the region's performance against a range of economic health and growth indicators.
- Annual Plan 2019/20 - summarising the focus and activity for the current year against each of the priority portfolios.

Councillor Ian Courts welcomed the report, noting that the data contained within it showed that the region was making significant progress in many areas when compared to other UK regions outside of London.

Resolved:

- (1) The review of the West Midlands Combined Authority Annual Plan 2018/19 be noted.
- (2) The key findings from the 'West Midlands State of the Region Report 2019' be noted.
- (3) The WMCA Annual Plan 2019/20 be approved and endorsed, and authority was delegated to the Director of Strategy in consultation with the Mayor, to make any final amendments that took into account the decisions taken in respect of the other reports on the agenda for the WMCA Board on 28 June.

7. Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Annual Report

The board considered a report from Tim Martin, Head of Governance, Clerk and Monitoring Officer, setting out the annual report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that highlighted the key achievements of the committee during 2018/19.

Councillor Peter Hughes, chair of the committee during 2018/19, expressed his thanks for all the support members and officers had given to the scrutiny process during the last 12 months and noted a number of key scrutiny reviews that had been undertaken that he considered to have improved the policy outcomes of the WMCA and therefore benefitted the residents of the region. The Chair noted that Councillor Peter Hughes was not a member of the committee for the upcoming year and expressed his personal thanks for the public service he had given to the WMCA, noting particularly that he had left scrutiny within the WMCA in a significantly more robust and established position that it was when he became chair of the committee in 2016.

Resolved:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2018/19 annual report be noted.

8. Governance of West Midlands Fire & Rescue Service - Update

The board considered a report from Henry Kippin, Director of Public Service Reform, Tim Martin, Head of Governance, Clerk and Monitoring Officer, and Karen Gowreesunker, Clerk to the West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority, providing an update on the position of the proposed transfer of governance of the West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority to the Mayoral WMCA.

In order for the transfer of the governance of the West Midlands Fire & Rescue Service to the WMCA to go ahead, it required a unanimous agreement amongst the constituent councils and the WMCA itself to be given to the Home Office. However, a number of constituent councils had indicated that they would not provide consent because certain constitutional safeguards were not intended to be included within the proposed Statutory Order.

Members of the board thanked officers from the West Midlands Fire & Rescue Service and the WMCA for the significant work they had put into this workstream.

Resolved:

- (1) It be noted that there was not agreement amongst constituent councils to provide consent to the Statutory Order; and
- (2) It be noted that as a result, the Draft Statutory Order would not be laid before Parliament.

9. West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy – Implementation

The board considered a report from Julia Goldsworthy, Director of Strategy, summarising the proposed approach to the implementation of the West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy.

The Local Industrial Strategy identified four major new economic strands where the region had existing business and research strengths that would provide significant future opportunities. It also identified the actions that would be needed to help businesses deliver the opportunities that had been

identified and the barriers that were required to be overcome.

Tim Pile welcomed the report, noting that over 1,000 businesses had been consulted during its preparation. He indicated that the region's Local Enterprise Partnerships were ready to help deliver the strategy

Resolved:

- (1) The proposed approach to implementation of the West Midlands Industrial Strategy be endorsed, and authority be delegated for the WMCA and the three LEPs to secure resource and progress delivery according to the approach set out in the report.
- (2) A further report be received in the autumn once the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review was clear.

10. Environment Portfolio – Re-refresh and Forward Plan

The board considered a report from Henry Kippin, Director of Public Service Reform, and Simon Slater, Head of Environment, setting out the escalating scale of the issue posed by climate change and the economic, social and public service implications for the region.

The report set out a proposed work programme that built on the foundations of the work undertaken by the WMCA to date to focus on four interrelated areas: clean growth, clean air, nature gain and leading by local example, setting out where investment may be leveraged in via the Local Industrial Strategy and within the Comprehensive Spending Review process.

The board also received a presentation from Georgie Nott, Katie Riley, Annika Scourse, Aaron Smith and Olivia Wainwright from Birmingham Youth Strike 4 Climate setting out the concerns of the group and stressing the importance of implementing realistic, effective and smart changes to tackle climate change. Councillor Ian Courts expressed his thanks for the presentation, noting the importance of the challenge facing the region. Councillor Ian Ward committed Birmingham City Council to work with the WMCA and other local authorities across the region to achieve the necessary changes that were required, whilst stressing the importance of ensuring that proposals did not unfairly disadvantage communities already faced with higher levels of deprivation.

Resolved:

- (1) The position statement, evidence base for change and proposed next steps outlined in the report be noted.
- (2) The evidence base provided to support the negotiation of a regional carbon reduction target be noted.
- (3) A 'climate emergency' requiring urgent action be declared, and it be agreed to receive a further report at the next meeting on 26 July 2019 with a proposed regional target for carbon reduction and a report to a meeting in the autumn setting out a practical action plan for delivery.

- (3) The proposed next step to begin a rapid programme of engagement to develop a collaborative action plan which brought the region together in both headline targets and practical actions on the ground be endorsed.
- (4) Member council officers be asked to support the development of this work as part of a collective re-refresh of the environmental portfolio and greater regional momentum on next steps.

11. Coventry City Centre First – City of Culture

The board considered a report from Jo Shore, Head of Public Realm at Coventry City Council, seeking £31.6m WMCA devolution deal funding to help deliver the infrastructure programme required to prepare Coventry for the UK City of Culture 2021 and subsequent legacy.

The Coventry City Centre First – City of Culture programme was a programme of works that had been developed to target five specific areas of Coventry's city centre in readiness for it hosting the City of Culture in 2021, as well as some Commonwealth Games events in 2022. It was intended to maximise the benefits of these two events to create lasting legacies for the city and wider region.

Councillor George Duggins welcomed the report, noting the particularly significant role it would have in helping Coventry deliver the City of Culture programme.

Resolved:

The award of £31.6m Devolution Deal funding to Coventry City Centre First - City of Culture programme be approved. This application included a change control of funds of £11.6m from previously approved schemes and an additional £20m which was proposed to be moved from the Walsgrave and Binley development schemes.

12. West Midlands Homelessness Taskforce - Update and Forward Plan

The board considered a report from Henry Kippin, Director of Public Service Reform, and Neelam Sunder, Project Manager Homelessness Taskforce, on the purpose, work programme and progress to date of the West Midlands Homelessness Taskforce, along with plans of the taskforce to strengthen the underlying partnership sitting behind it.

The West Midlands Homelessness Task Force comprised senior officers from the seven constituent councils along with other public and voluntary sector agencies, representatives of the business community, housing associations and others to build a collaborative programme and shared vision as to how best to tackle homelessness. It established a number of task groups to look at issues affecting rough sleepers, children and families, young people and older singles, identifying objectives that should be built into the mainstream strategies of public services. The board heard from Jean Templeton, Chair of the Homelessness Task Force, on the important work it was undertaking to embed systemic change to design out homelessness

from public services.

Councillor Ian Ward welcomed the work being undertaken, but stressed the magnitude of the homelessness problem across the region and the difficulty local authorities had in effectively addressing this within the budget constraints they were experiencing. He was particularly concerned that many of the most vulnerable residents were living in accommodation that was not regulated by local authorities and wished to see more focus being given to how this could be addressed.

Resolved:

- (1) The update on the work of the West Midlands Homelessness Taskforce and its basis in cross-regional collaboration to support the statutory role of local authorities be noted.
- (2) The Taskforce's proposed forward plan, including specific actions to add value around five key priority areas incorporating welfare reform, housing affordability, support for Housing First and public service collaboration, be endorsed.
- (3) The provision of oversight and accountability for the Taskforce within the mainstream portfolio arrangements of the WMCA, and via the scrutiny and support of the Members Advisory Group, be agreed.

13. Vision for Bus Next Steps

The board considered a report from Pete Bond, Director of Integrated Network Services at Transport for West Midlands, setting out the next stages of development following the approval of the Vision for Bus strategy in November 2018.

The Vision for Bus strategy set out a clear vision of what the West Midlands required from its bus network, setting out nine objectives it wished to see delivered to achieve this. The Vision also proposed further work to be undertaken to assess the powers available to Mayoral Combined Authorities through the Bus Services Act 2017 relating to advanced quality partnership schemes, enhanced partnerships and franchising.

The report set out the work that was proposed in respect of delivering an ultra-low emission bus fleet and the best mechanism to ensure the timely delivery of the first two Sprint schemes ahead of the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

Resolved:

- (1) The development of an Outline Business Case to assess powers within the Bus Services Act 2017 to help improve bus services in the West Midlands be approved.
- (2) A commitment for a minimum Euro VI bus fleet by April 2021 to improve air quality in the area of the West Midlands Combined Authority, subject to funding, be endorsed.

- (3) The level of investment secured for improving bus emissions standards and partnership working undertaken to date be noted.
- (4) The proposed benefits of using an Enhanced Partnership for the delivery of Sprint in readiness for the Commonwealth Games and why this was the most suitable option for delivery of Sprint be noted.
- (5) Approval be given for Transport for West Midlands to give notice of the intention to prepare an Enhanced Partnership Plan and accompanying Enhanced Partnership Schemes as set out in section 138F of the Bus Services Act 2017.
- (6) Authority be delegated to the Transport Delivery Committee to oversee the development and subsequent 'making' of the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Schemes.

14. Friday 26 July 2019 at 11.00am

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting ended at 1.25 pm.