



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	2 September 2019
Report title	Centre for Public Scrutiny Review - Action Plan
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Recommendation(s) for decision:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) The progress made to date in implementing the recommendations contained within the Centre for Public Scrutiny's review of the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted.
- (2) The work planned to be undertaken before the next meeting of the committee be noted.

Purpose

1. To consider a plan for implementing the recommended actions that arose out of the review of Overview & Scrutiny Committee conducted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny earlier in the year.

Background

2. At its meeting on 15 July, the committee received a presentation from Ian Parry, Development Manager at the Centre for Public Scrutiny, on the outcome of a review into the role of scrutiny within the West Midlands Combined Authority. The review recommended a number of proposed actions that were intended to further improve and develop scrutiny, with a focus of clarifying the role of the committee within the context of the WMCA and helping to better prioritise its work programme.
3. Members welcomed the review and its recommendations, and agreed that an action plan would be submitted to this meeting setting out the progress being made in implementing the recommendations, attached as appendix a. It is intended to submit this action plan to every subsequent meeting so that members can oversee the progress in implementing the 23 recommendations contained within the CfPS review.

Progress since the last meeting

4.
 - **Develop a new scrutiny protocol**
The CfPS review concluded that scrutiny would benefit from a collective understanding of its core role and purpose, which could be achieved through a protocol that set out the cultural aspects and ways of working of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Action: A new scrutiny protocol was approved by the Chief Executive's Senior Leadership Team on 3 July and by this committee on 15 July.

- **Promote the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
The CfPS review recommended that the vital work of scrutiny was explained and promoted to councillors across the region.

Action: Councillor Lynnette Kelly participated in the West Midlands Scrutiny Network meeting on 16 July.

- **Scrutiny work programme**
In order to help develop a more focussed work programme, members should be encouraged to identify areas of interest prior to the development of a programme.

Action: Members have been invited to identify up to three key areas they would wish to see the work programme focussed on.

The WMCA's Forward Plan should be published online to give clear visibility to upcoming decisions of the WMCA Board.

Action: The forward plan is published on the WMCA's website on the first day of each calendar month.

Forthcoming progress

5. A number of recommendations contained within the CfPS review are scheduled to be completed before the next meeting and the progress made on these will be reported on when the committee meets on 15 October. These actions relate to:
 - Developing a scrutiny communications strategy
 - Identifying members' training and development needs
 - Investigating the available formal member training
 - The Chair to discuss coaching and mentoring needs with the Chief Executive
 - Recruiting a further Scrutiny Officer

Financial Implications

6. There are no direct financial implications arising out of the recommendations contained within this report.

Legal Implications

7. There are no direct financial implications arising out of the recommendations contained within this report.

Equalities Implications

8. There are no direct equality implications arising out of the recommendations contained within this report.

Inclusive Growth Implications

9. There are no direct inclusive growth implications arising out of the recommendations contained within this report.

Geographical Area of Report's Implications

10. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee comprises 12 members appointed by constituent authorities and seven members appointed by non-constituent authorities.

Other Implications

11. There are no further specific implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.