



Young Combined Authority

Minutes from YCA Meeting, October 2019

The Young Combined Authority (YCA) held its second meeting on Wednesday 16 October, featuring a discussion with Councillor Ian Courts about the WMCA's developing environment policies and a conversation about their key priorities for the year.

Recap of September 2019

Following a successful recruitment campaign, led by our delivery partner Young Giant, the YCA launched in September 2019 with a diverse board of 33 members.

The induction included a 'bootcamp' induction to the WMCA with Deborah Cadman and a political skills training session with Councillor Brigid Jones.

Click the link to hear what they learned at the YCA's first official meeting:

<https://twitter.com/wmyoungboard/status/1174760370667479041>

Here is a link to members views on their October meeting and what they took away:

<https://twitter.com/wmyoungboard/status/1185527921232039936>



Item #1: The Environment with Councillor Ian Courts

The session kicked off with a discussion with Councillor Ian Courts about his role and ambitions as WMCA Portfolio Lead Member for Environment, Energy & HS2 – focusing on the WMCA's developing agenda addressing the climate crisis.

This included a presentation from Claire Spencer about the draft plans on the region's aims for reaching its target of net-zero emissions no later than 2041.

YCA members were able to question Councillor Ian Courts and gather his views on the policy and challenges, and asked what they could do to help lead a just transition for the environment.



Item #2: YCA Priority Areas

Another area of discussion undertaken at the meeting focused on identifying the YCA's priority areas for the year. This built on previous conversations about the WMCA's portfolios and activity, and member surveys to suggest future work streams.

The priorities identified were: Wellbeing, Skills, Inclusive Communities, Environment and, following the session, Youth Justice.

The YCA members also expressed enthusiasm about engaging with other key areas of work with the work being undertaken by WMCA, where they can provide a strategic steer or have more immediate impact.

Item #3: Feedback from the Overview & Scrutiny Mayoral QA session

This month, Aisha, Emmerson and Mohammed attended Overview & Scrutiny's Mayoral Q&A session, where they had the opportunity to question the Mayor about the delivery and impact of WMCA policies.



Aisha led the feedback to the rest of the YCA at the meeting and discussed the various lines of enquiry which were raised in the session, including: governance structure economic development, skills, housing, WMG5 and Brexit.

The YCA members have been invited to attend future Q&A sessions held by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Next Steps

- Forming working groups around the priorities identified in this meeting
- Developing a forward plan
- Speaking at WMCA Board: Friday 8 November 2019
- Preparing for the next monthly meeting: Wednesday 13 November 2019

Find out more!

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Follow the link below to read the report approved by WMCA Board of February 2019 on the decision to establish the YCA: <https://governance.wmca.org.uk/documents/s2581/Report.pdf>

