



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	18 December 2019
Report title	WMCA Scrutiny Review on the Effectiveness of the WMCA's Governance Structures in delivering the policy objectives of the WMCA
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Recommendation(s) for decision:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Consider and approve the proposed scoping document for a scrutiny review into the effectiveness of the WMCA's governance structures in delivering the policy objectives of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Purpose

1. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the progress made with the development of the scoping document for a scrutiny review on the effectiveness of the WMCA's governance structures in delivering its policy objectives. Members are asked to approve the scoping document and to determine the membership for this review.

Background

2. Since the WMCA's AGM on 28 June, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has been considering those areas which it would like to scrutinise during the year. The committee had agreed that its work programme throughout the year should have a particular focus on three general key themes:
 - Accountability (led by Councillor Cathy Bayton)
 - Connectivity (led by Councillor Lynnette Kelly)
 - Investment (led by Councillor Lisa Trickett)
4. The 'accountability' theme recognises that high standards of governance should underpin how the WMCA makes its decisions, and that scrutiny work should therefore have a focus on ensuring that governance structures are fit for purpose, effective, deliver transparent decision making and encourage wider public engagement.
5. It is intended therefore that this particular review is conducted with an 'accountability' focus and will concentrate on the WMCA's governance structures and decision-making cultures and behaviours. The review will be led by Councillor Lisa Trickett.

Progress Update

6. The Head of Governance and the Statutory Scrutiny Officer had met with Councillor Lisa Trickett to discuss the purpose of the review and to develop a draft scoping document (attached as Appendix A).
7. It is proposed that the review should look at whether the governance structures of the West Midlands Combined Authority are appropriate to deliver its aims and policy objectives, given the growth of the WMCA's remit and influence. The specific objectives of the review are therefore:
 - To understand the current governance structure of the WMCA and how effective it is in determining and delivering its policy objectives.
 - To consider whether the current governance structure, along with its decision-making cultures and behaviours, are fit for purpose to enable and facilitate delivery of the overall aim of the policies of the WMCA.
 - To consider whether there is a common understanding of the role and purpose of the WMCA across the political representatives.
 - To assess the effectiveness of the WMCA's policies in delivering and embedding inclusive growth across the region.

- To determine whether the WMCA had the appropriate powers to enable it to address the needs of the region.
- To recommend any changes considered necessary to facilitate better policy decision making and delivery.

8. It is intended that a meeting will be held with key individuals, as detailed within the draft scoping document, in early February to understand the current governance structures, cultures and behaviours and potential improvements.

9. This review will be undertaken during December - March and a report on the conclusions of the review group will be presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 9 March, prior to its submission to the WMCA Board on 20 March 2020 for approval.

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

11. There are no direct legal implications arising out of the recommendations contained within this report. However any changes to the governance of the WMCA will require amendments to the constitution and formal WMCA Board approval.

Equalities Implications

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

Inclusive Growth Implications

13. There are no direct inclusive growth implications arising out of the recommendations contained within this report. However, effective delivery of the WMCA's policies and investments will contribute towards improving inclusive growth across the region. Furthermore, ensuring that governance and decision-making arrangements are subject to reflection and review, in a way that involves external stakeholders, is consistent with the 'Sharing Power' inclusive growth test.

Geographical Area of Report's Implications

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

Other Implications

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