



# West Midlands Combined Authority

## WMCA Board

Friday 8 November 2019 at 11.00 am

### Minutes

#### Constituent Members

Andy Street (Chair)

Councillor Bob Sleight (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Mike Bird

Councillor Ian Brookfield

Councillor Ian Courts

Councillor Yvonne Davies

Councillor George Duggins

Councillor Patrick Harley

Councillor Bridgid 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

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Birmingham City Council

Birmingham City Council

#### Non-Constituent Members

Councillor George Adamson

Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor David Humphreys

Councillor Julie Jackson

Councillor Matt Jennings

Ninder Johal

Councillor Peter Nutting

Councillor Alex Phillips

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

Shropshire Council

Warwickshire County Council

#### Co-Opted Member

Lee Barron

Midlands Trades Union Congress

#### Observer Members

Councillor Greg Brackenridge

David Jamieson

West Midlands Fire Authority

West Midlands Police & Crime

Commissioner

#### In Attendance

Councillor Cathy Bayton

Councillor Peter Fowler

Councillor Kath Hartley

David Lane

Councillor Lisa Trickett

Councillor Richard Worrall

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Transport Delivery Committee

Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Transport Delivery Committee

- | <b>Item No.</b> | <b>Title</b>  |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>51.</b>      | <b>Apologies for Absence</b><br>Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Browning (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP), Councillor Tony Jefferson (Stratford-on-Avon), Councillor Abdul Khan (Coventry) Councillor Sebastian Lowe (Rugby), Tim Pile (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP) and Stewart Towe (Black Country LEP).   |
| <b>52.</b>      | <b>Minutes - 13 September 2019</b><br>The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2019 were agreed as a correct record.   |
| <b>53.</b>      | <b>Forward Plan</b><br>A forward plan of items to be considered at future meetings of the board was noted.  |
| <b>54.</b>      | <b>Chair's Remarks</b><br>(a) <b>Transport for West Midlands</b><br>The Chair reported that Transport for West Midlands had recently been awarded City Region Transport Authority of the Year and he congratulated all the staff working for TfWM on this achievement.<br><br>(b) <b>Henry Kippin, Director of Public Service Reform</b><br>The Chair reported that this was the last meeting before Henry Kippin took up a new appointment with the North of Tyne Combined Authority. He thanked him for all his work for the WMCA and wished him well. Councillor Yvonne Davies and Councillor Izzi Seccombe expressed their thanks for the support and advice Henry Kippin had given to them in respect of the work of the Public Service Reform Board and Wellbeing Board respectively.   |
| <b>55.</b>      | <b>WMCA Annual Plan 2019/20: Progress Update Summary/Half-Year Review</b><br>The board considered a report from Julia Goldsworthy, Director of Strategy on a summary of progress against the actions and activity set out in the WMCA's Annual Plan 2019/20.<br><br>The Annual Plan was approved by the WMCA Board on 28 June 2019 and articulated a range of activities that reflected the various WMCA roles and responsibilities. The plan included delivery milestones and indicators relating to WMCA activity, and this report provided a summary of overall progress against each milestone. Overall, there had been good progress made in the first six months of the year, and slippage where it had occurred was not considered to have major impact or consequence in terms of overall delivery.<br><br>Resolved:<br><br>The summary of progress in terms of delivery against the WMCA Annual Plan 2019/20 be noted. |

**56. Feedback from Overview & Scrutiny Committee Mayor's Question Time: Policy**

The board considered a report on the feedback from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the Mayoral Q&A event held on 9 October 2019.

Councillor Lisa Trickett thanked the Mayor for his attendance at the Q&A session, which covered issues related to WMCA governance, economic development, skills, housing and 5G. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee had particularly focussed on the need for the WMCA to properly understand the extent of system change that was required to deliver inclusive growth, and whether its governance structures had the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances and events in the coming years.

Resolved:

- (1) The Mayoral Q&A event held with members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, joined by members of the Young Combined Authority, on 9 October be noted.
- (2) The conclusions arising out of the event, as set out within the report, be noted.
- (3) It be noted that a further Mayoral Q&A event would be held in February 2020, with a specific focus on connectivity.

**57. Financial Monitoring 2019/20**

The board considered a report from Linda Horne, Director of Finance, on the WMCA's finances as at the end of September 2019.

The report summarised the revenue and capital spend against the approved budget, and the year to date position showed a £250,000 adverse variance from budget. There had been no change in the full year forecast position. The report also provided a detailed summary of the financial position in respect of the transport, operational, Mayoral office and capital programme budgets.

Councillor Ian Brookfield noted the increase in the Public Works Loan Board interest rate and enquired as to the impact that this would have on WMCA borrowing. Linda Horne reported that a financial advisor was currently looking at whether greater efficiencies could be achieved in the WMCA's borrowing arrangements, and further details on this would be included in a report to the board's next meeting.

Resolved:

- (1) The financial position as at the end of September 2019 be noted.
- (2) The position considered and proposed by the WMCA Mayor and Metropolitan Leaders to hold Investment Programme funding approvals within the current affordable limit, as detailed within the report, be endorsed.

- (3) The Treasury Management Strategy mid-year update, as detailed within the report, be noted.

#### **58. NEC Longabout**

The board considered a report seeking approval of the full business case establishing the requirement for additional works at the NEC Longabout.

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council had reviewed this particular junction and, with the support of detailed transport modelling, considered that it was desirable to separate out traffic heading north on the A452 from traffic emerging from Northway onto the NEC Longabout. These works would fully mitigate the problems encountered by HS2 traffic once the Longabout became operational, provide the resilience the NEC currently had on the network for event days, and provide the capacity required to enable UK Central-related development.

Resolved:

- (1) It be noted that this report was being submitted to WMCA Board as a requirement of the WMCA Assurance Framework which stated Final Business Cases must be approved by WMCA Board.
- (2) The funding request of £2.15m for design and construction for enhanced works to the proposed NEC Longabout scheme, which had passed through the Assurance Process and was recommended by Investment Board, be approved.

#### **59. Alexander Stadium Full Business Case**

The board considered a report setting out the full business case for works required to facilitate track and field events and ceremonies for the Commonwealth Games 2022 that provided the catalyst for broader investment into the stadium site and the wider West Midlands.

A key component of Birmingham's successful bid for the Commonwealth Games was the development of Alexander Stadium. The full business case was requesting £25m to support phase 1 of this redevelopment, which would increase the capacity of the stadium to 40,000 during the Games and then 17,000 permanently afterwards, and would help deliver a 400m six-lane outdoor practice running track at the rear of the proposed High Performance Centre.

Resolved:

The funding request of £25m for the redevelopment of Alexander Stadium to deliver the requirements set out in the Host City Contract in preparation for the Commonwealth Games 2022 be approved.

#### **60. Transport Delivery Committee - 9 September 2019**

The board received the minutes of the Transport Delivery Committee held on 9 September.

Councillor Kath Hartley reported that more than 1,800 women impacted by the acceleration of the state pension age by the Pension Act 2011 had applied for the local concessionary travel enhancement. This represented around 20% of eligible women, which was a higher take-up than in other regions. She remained disappointed though that Diamond Bus had still chosen not to participate in the scheme.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2019 be noted.

**61. Audit, Risks & Assurance Committee - 24 September 2019**

The board received the minutes of the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee held on 24 September.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2019 be noted.

**62. Public Service Reform Board - 26 September 2019**

The board received the minutes of the Public Service Reform Board held on 26 September.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019 be noted.

**63. Housing & Land Delivery Board - 30 September 2019**

The board received the minutes of the Housing & Land Delivery Board held on 30 September.

In respect of minute no. 13 ('Single Commissioning Framework'), Councillor Mike Bird indicated that the board was looking at what constituted 'affordable housing' across the region and the need to ensure housing units were now being delivered.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2019 be noted.

**64. Young Combined Authority - 16 October 2019**

The board received a report of the Young Combined Authority held on 16 October.

The Chair thanked the members of the Young Combined Authority for the commitment they had shown during the year to their participation in the work of the YCA.

Resolved:

The report on the meeting held on 16 October 2019 be noted.

**65. Investment Board - 21 October 2019**

The board received the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October.

In respect of minute no. 48 ('Commonwealth Games 2022 - Full Business Case'), Councillor Ian Ward undertook to provide a briefing to Councillor Mike Bird on the regional legacy effect expected from the Commonwealth Games event.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2019 be noted.

[NB. Councillor Julie Jackson declared an interest in respect of minute no. 46 ('Nuneaton Town Centre - Brownfield Land & Property Development Fund Grant').]

**66. Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 22 October 2019**

The board considered the minutes of the inquorate meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 22 October.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2019 be approved.

**67. Environment Board - 24 October 2019**

The board received the minutes of the Environment Board held on 24 October.

Councillor Ian Courts indicated that, given the regional importance of the discussions being held at the Environment Board, he was looking into inviting non-constituent authority representatives to become members of the board so as to broaden the local authority engagement.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2019 be noted.

**68. Wellbeing Board - 24 October 2019**

The board considered the minutes of the Wellbeing Board held on 24 October.

In respect of minute no. 17(ii) ('Offer for Veterans'), Councillor Izzi Seccombe reported that the board would be considering a report in early 2020 looking at how the health sector in the region supported the needs of ex-service personnel.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2019 be noted.

- 69. Date of Next Meeting**  
Friday 17 January 2020 at 11.00am.

The meeting ended at 11.45 am.