



WMCA Board

Friday 14 February 2020 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 George Duggins

Councillor Patrick Harley

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

Coventry City Council

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Birmingham City Council

Birmingham City Council

Non-Constituent Members

Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor David Humphreys

Councillor Julie Jackson

Councillor Tony Jefferson

Ninder Johal

Councillor Alexander Phillips

Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Redditch Borough Council

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Black Country Local Enterprise

Partnership

Shropshire Council

Warwickshire County Council

Observer Members

Councillor Greg Brackenridge

David Jamieson

Rob Johnston

West Midlands Fire Authority

West Midlands Police & Crime

Commissioner

Midlands Trades Union Congress

In Attendance

Councillor Cathy Bayton

Councillor Peter Fowler

Councillor Kath Hartley

Kashmir Hawker

Aisha Masood

Councillor Richard Worrall

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Transport Delivery Committee

Young Combined Authority

Young Combined Authority

Transport Delivery Committee

Item No. **Title**

90. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor George Adamson (Cannock Chase), Lee Barron (TUC Midlands), Jonathan Browning (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP), Councillor Yvonne Davies (Sandwell), Councillor David Hitchiner (Herefordshire), Councillor Abdul Khan (Coventry), Councillor Syeda Khatun (Sandwell), David Lane (Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee), Councillor Sebastian Lowe (Rugby), Councillor Peter Nutting (Shropshire), Councillor Jeremy Oates (Tamworth), Tim Pile (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP), Stewart Towe (Black Country LEP) and Councillor Lisa Trickett (Overview & Scrutiny Committee).

91. Minutes - 17 January 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record, subject to an amendment to minute no. 79 ('West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit') to include the following:

"The Police & Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, as the Portfolio Lead and accountable body, presented the report on the Violence Reduction Unit. The purpose of the report was to note the establishment of the Violence Reduction Unit and for the WMCA to commit to supporting its preventative agenda."

92. Forward Plan

A forward plan of items to be considered at future meetings of the board was noted.

93. Appointment of Strategic Economic Development Board Chair

The Chair reported that Jonathan Browning was to step down as a member of the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership and would therefore no longer be able to chair meetings of the WMCA's Strategic Economic Development Board. He thanked Jonathan Browning for the contribution he had made to the WMCA since its establishment in 2016 and for all that he had done to help drive economic development across the West Midlands. Councillor Ian Brookfield and Councillor Izzi Seccombe endorsed these comments and wished him well for the future.

Resolved:

- (1) Tim Pile be appointed chair of the Strategic Economic Development Board for the remainder of 2019/20.
- (2) Jonathan Browning be thanked for chairing the board since its inception and for his work in supporting the objectives of the WMCA.

94. WMCA Budget 2020/21

The board considered a report from the Director of Finance presenting the final WMCA budget for 2020/21 for approval.

The report represented the final stage of the budget setting process, incorporating the final revenue and capital budgets for 2020/21, together with an indicative Medium Term Financial Plan and associated policies. It also set out the consultation and engagement that had taken place since the last meeting on the draft 2020/21 budget, along with the changes that had subsequently been made to it.

Councillor Ian Brookfield noted that the mayoral election scheduled for 7 May 2020 currently remained unfunded. The Chief Executive indicated that all nine mayoral combined authorities were currently in discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government regarding funding arrangements for the elections. If agreement was not reached with the Government, a report would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 20 March indicated how the WMCA was going to fund the costs of the election itself. Councillor Ian Brookfield also noted that the Consolidated Medium Term Financial Plan included a provision for a mayoral precept from 2021/22 - 2024/25 when no such precept had yet been agreed. The Chair confirmed that no decision had been made to set a mayoral precept during these years, but the Medium Term Financial Plan has always made provision for the potential for such a precept to help to give a clearer picture of the funding options available to the WMCA in the medium term.

Resolved:

- (1) The consolidated revenue budget monitoring position as at 31 December 2019 be noted.
- (2) The West Midlands Combined Authority consolidated revenue budget be approved, including:
 - (a) the budget requirement for transport delivery 2020/21 comprising three elements:
 - (i) £114.7m to be funded from the existing transport levy mechanism;
 - (ii) £1.4m to be funded from grant awarded by the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee; and
 - (iii) a transfer from earmarked reserves of £3.65m;
 - (b) the West Midlands Combined Authority delivery budget requirement for 2020/21 of £142.6m comprising of six elements:
 - (i) £125.6m Adult Education spending to be funded from Adult Education Budget funding devolved by the Department for Education;
 - (ii) £9.0m to be funded from other devolution deal grants;

- (iii) £4.6m to be funded from Constituent Authority fees (fees to remain at the same level as 2019/20);
 - (iv) £0.4m to be funded from Non-Constituent Authority and Observer fees (fees to remain at the same level as 2019/20);
 - (v) £2.2m to be funded from other income; and
 - (vi) a transfer from reserves of £0.7m.
- (3) The Mayoral Office budget for 2020/21 of £0.8m, to be funded from additional confirmed Mayoral capacity funding of £0.8m, be approved.
- (4) It be noted that the Mayor had indicated that there would be no mayoral precept during the remainder of his current term of office.
- (5) It be noted that funding had not yet been secured in respect of the mayoral election taking place in May 2020.
- (6) The prepayment of employers' pension contributions to West Midlands Pension Fund be approved.
- (7) The proposal in respect of the Ring & Ride service be endorsed.
- (8) The Capital Programme be approved.
- (9) The West Midlands Combined Authority indicative five-year Medium Term Financial Plan be noted.
- (10) It be approved that surplus cash balances generated from the Collective Investment Fund and Residential Investment Fund were to be used to support the West Midlands Combined Authority's delivery budget, thus minimising Constituent and Non-Constituent authority contributions.
- (11) The Director of Finance be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Finance, to make any final changes that may result from the Final Local Government Finance Settlement.
- (12) An amendment to the terms of reference of the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee, to include responsibility for review, commentary and consideration of the WMCA's annual Treasury Management Strategy and the annual mid-year review of treasury management activity be approved.
- (13) The following policies and strategies be approved, as required by statute:
 - (a) The West Midlands Combined Authority Treasury Management Strategy;

- (b) The West Midlands Combined Authority Capital Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy; and
- (c) The West Midlands Combined Authority Pay Policy Statement.

[In accordance with the requirements of the Combined Authorities (Finance) Order 2017, the Mayor and Constituent Authority members voted on these resolutions as follows:

FOR (9): Andy Street, Councillor Mike Bird, Councillor Ian Brookfield, Councillor Ian Courts, Councillor George Duggins, Councillor Patrick Harley, Councillor Brigid Jones, Councillor Bob Sleigh and Councillor Ian Ward.

AGAINST (0): none

ABSTAIN (0): none]

95. Electric Vehicle Charging and Enabling Energy Infrastructure: A West Midlands Approach

The board considered a report from the Director of Investment & Commercial Activities seeking endorsement for a collaborative approach to expand electric vehicle charging across the West Midlands.

Creating the conditions for growth in electric vehicle manufacturing and take-up was fundamental to the region's Local Industrial Strategy and Strategic Economic Plan. The West Midlands was innovating in electric, hydrogen and autonomous vehicles, reflecting the key role these technologies played as part of a wider modal shift towards cleaner travel and the increased use of public transport. However, there was evidence that a lack of visible infrastructure was impeding confidence and providing a barrier to uptake in the electric vehicle market.

Councillor Ian Ward stressed the importance of ensuring the strategy did align with the WMCA's wider plans of achieving modal shift on to public transport and reducing dependency on cars. He also requested that further specific detail was provided in respect of target delivery dates and the financial implications for the proposals. The Director of Investments & Commercial Activities undertook to provide this information to members.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe welcomed the proposals contained within the report and stressed the value of local authorities working collaboratively to maximise the delivery of vehicle charging infrastructure.

Resolved:

- (1) The case made for the acceleration of electric charging and enabling energy infrastructure in the West Midlands be supported, noting the strategic importance of this issue to the WMCA's Industrial Strategy, Strategic Economic Plan and Climate Change Strategy #WM2041.

- (2) The proposals presented be supported to move forward with a collaborative strategy to expand Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure across the West Midlands.
- (3) It be noted that an Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle evidence base had been developed to inform this proposal by Energy Capital, Transport for West Midlands and Cenex, and a West Midlands Electric Vehicle Working Group had been convened and had met twice to further inform and shape the WMCA approach as expediently as possible.
- (4) It be noted that next step one could be progressed with existing resources, additional revenue funding for step two would be sought and step three would require further public investment once a clear investment case had been developed.
- (5) It be noted that the Director of Investment & Commercial Activities would provide further detail, clarity and breakdown to the WMCA Board on the financial implications and timescales underpinning the report.

96. Intelligent Transport Systems World Congress 2024 Bid

The board considered a report from the Director of Policy, Strategy & Innovation, Transport for West Midlands, outlining the background and rationale for a bid to host the Intelligent Transport Systems World Congress in 2024.

The congress was a large-scale, trade and academic conference event in the field of transport technology/intelligent mobility. In 2019, the event in Singapore attracted 14,500 delegates and 800 speakers from over 150 countries. The event also featured a programme of outreach events, such as a public day to promote intelligent mobility to a wider audience, including initiatives targeted at younger people such as educational outreach and graduate challenges. Holding the event would be prestigious for the West Midlands, aligning to a number of the WMCA's strategies, as well as offering significant opportunities to ensure a legacy impact. The UK last held the World Congress in London in 2006.

Councillor Ian Ward confirmed that, should the bid be successful, particular focus would be given to ensure the region collectively benefited from the event and was able to maximise the opportunities presented by it.

Resolved:

- (1) The submission of a UK bid in partnership with the Department for Transport to host the Intelligent Transport Systems World Congress in 2024, hosted with the European Road Transport Telematics Implementation Co-ordination Organisation (the wider European professional body for Intelligent Transport Systems), be approved.
- (2) Authority be delegated to officers as set out in the report.

- (3) The strategic alignment of the event as a major world trade show with the WMCA's strategic agenda to de-carbonise the transport system and accelerate its response to the Local Industrial Strategy automotive and clean future mobility challenges be noted.
- (4) The timescales and funding mechanism, and that the proposal was a self-funding initiative which could be managed within existing budgets and which also had in-principle industry support and significant financial support from the Department for Transport, be noted.

97. Sprint A34 Walsall - Birmingham and Sprint A45 Birmingham - Airport & Solihull

The board considered a report from the Director of Development & Delivery, Transport for West Midlands, seeking approval of the business cases for the two Sprint schemes that would operate as a cross city route, with direct services between Birmingham Airport - Walsall and Solihull - Walsall.

The Sprint services ran on existing roads, enhanced by a range of measures to ensure journey time reliability and an enhanced customer experience, including new Sprint bus lanes, signal priority at traffic lights and new improved shelters. In order to reduce delivery risks, it was intended that the routes would be completed over two phases: prior to, and after, the XXII Commonwealth Games in 2022. The full scheme would be delivered by 2024. The report provided further details on the vehicles and delivery agreements reached, along with the scheme's benefits in providing for predictable journey times, high frequency and dependable timetables, which should further encourage the use of sustainable public transport.

Councillor Ian Ward noted the receipt of additional information from the A34 Safety Action Group and thanked them for the submission and the helpful suggestions contained within it. He understood that Transport for West Midlands was meeting with representatives from the A34 Safety Action Group later in the day to discuss its concerns, and he undertook to write to the group to formally answer the questions that it had put to him.

Councillor Ian Courts welcomed the proposals contained within the report, noting that the Sprint schemes would contribute towards delivering the WMCA's net zero carbon targets through the introduction of zero carbon buses for use along the routes. Councillor Bob Sleight confirmed that the report addressed the issues raised by the Investment Board at its meeting on 20 January 2020.

Resolved:

- (1) The full business cases for the Sprint A34 Walsall - Birmingham and Sprint A45 Birmingham - Airport & Solihull, which covered phase one and phase two of delivery, be approved.
- (2) The budget for the phase one delivery of £87.8m, to include bus priority interventions, signal upgrades, shelter enhancements, ticket machines, utility diversions and resurfacing, be approved.

- (3) The £26m funding allocation within the WMCA Investment Programme, which WMCA Board earmarked in November 2019 to fund phase one for Sprint A34 Walsall - Birmingham and Sprint A45 Birmingham - Airport & Solihull be approved.
- (4) It be noted that the approval of the £87.8m budget would be subject to all necessary funding agreements being signed and sealed, in particular the Department for Transport funding referred to within the report.
- (5) It be agreed that, subject to £50.3m funding for phase two being identified and allocated:
 - (a) the delivery of phase two, as contained within the final business cases, be approved in principle;
 - (b) WMCA Board would receive a further report seeking approval to the budget documenting the costs, scope, benefits and confirmed delivery profile for the schemes; and
 - (c) A full business case to cover solely the phase two delivery aspects would not be required, subject to the total phase one and two cost, scope and benefits falling within the parameters of the final business cases which were the subject of the report;
- (6) The submission of the A45 Birmingham - Airport & Solihull Sprint full business case to the Department for Transport be endorsed, and an expedited approval be sought in order to support delivery for 2022.
- (7) It be noted that as construction and utility costs for the scheme were not yet finalised, the project team would need to flexibly manage the scope of the scheme in order to maintain the overall budget, and that this would need to be managed in a way that ensured the benefits were not materially affected and appropriate change control processes implemented to manage any changes.
- (8) Authority be delegated to officers as set out with the report.
- (9) Further development and enabling work with local authority partners, to deliver a Park & Ride site near to M6 Junction 7 on the A34 route in advance of the Commonwealth Games alongside phase one be approved.
- (10) It be noted that the A34 full scheme delivered a 'benefit:cost ratio' of 3.23:1, the A45 full scheme delivered a 'benefit:cost ratio' of 2.42:1 and that the overall level of economic benefit of phase one was £201.3m.
- (11) It be noted that the Sprint service would be operated by zero emission vehicles and the operator(s) would purchase the vehicles.

98. Transport Delivery Committee - 6 January 2020

The board received the minutes of the Transport Delivery Committee held on 6 January 2020.

In respect of minute no. 60 ('Ring & Ride'), Councillor Kath Hartley reported that the committee would be monitoring the performance of National Express Accessible Transport in the delivery of the Ring & Ride Service. In respect of minute no. 73 ('Snow Hill Third Access'), Councillor Ian Ward indicated that he was to meet with the Managing Director of Transport for West Midlands to better understand the justification for pausing the delivery of the Snow Hill Third Access project as he remained committed to its eventual delivery.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2020 be noted.

99. Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - 13 January 2020

The board considered the minutes of the inquorate meeting of the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee held on 13 January.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2020 be approved.

100. Housing & Land Delivery Board - 15 January 2020

The board received the minutes of the Housing & Land Delivery Board held on 15 January.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2020 were noted.

101. Young Combined Authority - 15 January 2020

The board received a report of the Young Combined Authority meeting held on 15 January.

Aisha Masood reported on recent YCA activity, including the five key themes it had identified to take forward and develop further:

- Environment
- Inclusive Communities
- Skills
- Wellbeing
- Youth Justice

She added that the Young Combined Authority was also drawing up a 'manifesto' to share with mayoral candidates, and would provide an update on this at the next meeting of this board on 20 March. Councillor Ian Courts welcomed the work that the Young Combined Authority was doing on environmental issues and indicated his willingness to attend future meetings of the YCA to support this work.

The report was noted.

102. Investment Board - 20 January 2020

The board considered the minutes of the Investment Board held on 20 January.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2020 be noted.

103. Wellbeing Board - 24 January 2020

The board received the minutes of the Wellbeing Board held on 24 January.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2020 be noted.

104. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved:

In accordance with s100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of the Act.

105. Midland Metro Birmingham Eastside Extension

The board considered a report from the Metro Finance & Commercial Director on the delivery of the Birmingham Eastside extension to the Midland Metro, subsequent to the approval of the outline business case at the meeting of the Investment Board on 30 October 2017.

The Birmingham Eastside extension comprised 1.7km of new track, four new stops and connections with Metro Line 1, HS2 Curzon Street station, Digbeth coach station, Typhoo Wharf development, Connaught Square development and the Custard Factory. The scheme would be delivered in five sections between 2022 - 25 and would link Birmingham city centre core with the wider region, stimulating economic growth, enabling businesses to access important national and international market and supporting growth within the City Centre Enterprise Zone.

Councillor Ian Courts welcomed the proposals contained within the report, noting its importance in contributing to the WMCA's inclusive growth objectives along the line of the route.

Resolved:

- (1) The progress being made on delivering the Birmingham Eastside extension be noted.
- (2) The increase in the estimated outturn cost for the project, as set out in the report, which delivered a 'benefit:cost ratio' of 3:1 calculated in accordance with WebTAG be noted.

- (3) The final business case for the Birmingham Eastside extension scheme be approved.
- (4) The commitment of funding, as set out in the report, be approved, in particular:
 - (i) the commitment from the WMCA Investment Programme (HS2 Connectivity) for HS2 utility diversions (previously approved in October 2017) be confirmed;
 - (ii) approval for Prudential Borrowing, to be financed from Metro revenues for the Birmingham Eastside extension be confirmed.
- (5) Authority be delegated to officers as set out in the report.

106. Date of Next Meeting
Friday 20 March 2020 at 11.00am

The meeting ended at 12.20 pm.