



WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

WMCA Board

Friday 23 June 2017 at 11.00 am

Minutes

Constituent Members

Andy Street (Chair)

Councillor Bob Sleigh (Vice-Chair)

Councillor John Clancy

Councillor Sean Coughlan

Councillor George Duggins

Councillor Patrick Harley

Councillor Robert Hulland

Councillor Abdul Khan

Councillor Roger Lawrence

Councillor Paul Moore

Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Birmingham City Council

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

Coventry City Council

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Coventry City Council

City of Wolverhampton Council

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Non-Constituent Members

Nick Abell

Councillor George Adamson

Councillor Steven Claymore

Councillor Shaun Davies

Councillor Bill Hartnett

Councillor Dennis Harvey

Councillor David Humphreys

Ninder Johal

Councillor Chris Saint

Councillor Michael Stokes

Coventry & Warwickshire LEP

Cannock Chase District Council

Tamworth Borough Council

Telford & Wrekin Council

Redditch Borough Council

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Black Country LEP

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Rugby Borough Council

Co-Opted Member

Lee Barron

Midlands Trades Union Congress

Observer Members

Councillor John Edwards

David Jamieson

West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority

West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner

In Attendance

Jan Britton

Paula Deas

Paul Dransfield

Monica Fogarty

Alan Franks

Sue Hanley

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Coventry & Warwickshire LEP

Birmingham City Council

Warwickshire County Council

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

Redditch Borough Council

Councillor Peter Hughes
Jerry Hutchinson
Keith Ireland
Jonathan Jardine
Nick Johnson
Stella Manzie
Tony McGovern
Sarah Middleton
Adam Norburn
Sarah Norman
Richard Partington
Martin Reeves
Paul Sheehan
Laura Shoaf
Tony Smith
Mark Taylor
Katie Trout
Councillor Richard Worrall
Clive Wright

Overview & Scrutiny Committee
North Warwickshire Borough Council
WMCA / City of Wolverhampton Council
Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Cannock Chase District Council
Black Country Consortium
Rugby Borough Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Telford & Wrekin Council
WMCA / Coventry City Council
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Transport for West Midlands
Birmingham City Council
West Midlands Combined Authority
Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP
Transport Delivery Committee
Shropshire Council

Item Title
No.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Browning, Councillor Ian Courts, Councillor Steve Eling, Steve Hollis, Councillor Peter Nutting, Councillor Izzi Seccombe and Graham Wynn.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2017 were agreed, and signed by the Chair, as a correct record.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair congratulated Councillor Patrick Harley on his recent election as Leader of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, and looked forward to welcoming Councillor Peter Nutting to the next meeting of the board as the new representative from Shropshire Council.

4. Delivering Our Priorities: The Mayor and WMCA Structures

The Chair presented a report on his proposed approach to the WMCA structures in order to deliver the priorities of the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority.

Following the election of the Mayor on 4 May, work has been undertaken to ensure that the WMCA's policy priorities and the Mayor's policy priorities were aligned so as to ensure the effective delivery of these shared objectives. As part of this work, the Mayor had made some minor changes to the policy portfolios, and he would now meet with the Portfolio Leads to agree their detailed roles, responsibilities and operational model.

The Mayor also proposed to establish a Business Advisory Group, chaired by an independent business leader appointed by the Mayor, to advise him on the concerns of business, to identify the ways that the business sector could support the WMCA, and to draw in the resources and expertise of business representative organisations.

Following the successful recruitment of a permanent Chief Executive and five director-level posts, a new Executive Board, chaired by the Mayor, would be established to drive the delivery of the WMCA's priority policy areas.

The Chair confirmed that Jean Templeton from St Basil's had been appointed to lead the homelessness task force that was being established.

Resolved:

The proposed development of West Midlands Combined Authority structures to deliver the priorities of the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority be endorsed.

5. Performance Reporting

The Chair presented a report on the approach being developed for performance reporting and management for the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The Mayor's Renewal Plan for the West Midlands committed to publish a report card on how the West Midlands was doing every three months, with the latest information on the economy, jobs, skills, unemployment, transport and housing. A performance management framework had been developed by the Black Country Consortium's Economic Intelligence Unit, which comprised a suite of strategic indicators that would be used to measure the headline impact of WMCA programmes and investment, and would develop an appropriate target for each indicator to be monitored against a 2013 baseline.

The Chair indicated that the development of the performance monitoring framework was still being refined and would be subject to further reports to this board. He would welcome any suggestions as to how the dashboard reporting process could be further improved.

Resolved:

The proposed approach to performance reporting for the West Midlands Combined Authority be noted.

6. Appointment of WMCA Boards and Committees etc 2017 - 2018

The Chair presented a report on the appointments made by Constituent, Non-Constituent and observer member authorities to the WMCA Board and its committees/sub-boards for 2017/18.

In addition to the WMCA Board meeting itself, there were a number of other committees and boards that met throughout the year to discharge the authority that had been delegated to them by the West Midlands Combined Authority. Each Constituent, Non-Constituent and observer member authority had made appointments for its representatives to sit on these meetings. The WMCA Board would appoint the chairs of these meetings itself. The WMCA Board was also required to approve its representation on outside bodies and the timetable for its meetings for the forthcoming year.

The Clerk confirmed that in addition to the specific appointments made by the Constituent and Non-Constituent authorities, the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority continued to be observer members, and the West Midlands Trades Union Congress remained a co-opted member, of this board.

Councillor Bill Harnett noted that the Non-Constituent member authorities had not been involved in the selection of the portfolio lead chosen from amongst their membership, which he understood had been the intention. The Chair indicated that he had sought to give continuity to the position of portfolio leads, and hoped that the Non-Constituent members would be supportive of this intention as the governance of the combined authority evolved.

Councillor Chris Saint noted that a representative from Stratford-on-Avon District Council had been omitted from the membership of the Investment Board, and the Clerk undertook to correct this oversight.

Resolved:

- (1) The members nominated by Constituent, Non-constituent and observer member authorities to sit on the WMCA Board and its committees/sub-boards be noted, subject to the addition of Councillor Peter Richards (Stratford-on-Avon District Council) as a non-voting member of the Investment Board.
- (2) The appointment of the chairs of the West Midlands Combined Authorities committees and boards be as follows:
 - Audit, Risk & Governance Committee - David Lane
 - Investment Board - Councillor Izzi Seccombe
 - Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Councillor Peter Hughes
 - Transport Delivery Committee - Councillor Richard Worrall
 - Wellbeing Board - Councillor Bob Sleight
- (3) Councillor Roger Lawrence be appointed to represent the West Midlands Combined Authority on the West Coast 250 campaign group.
- (4) The timetable of meetings for 2017 - 2018 be agreed.

- (5) The Clerk be given delegated authority to approve any subsequent changes to the membership of any committee/board notified to him by a Constituent or Non-Constituent member authority.

7. Appointment of WMCA Officers

The Chair presented a report on the appointment of staff to a number of key statutory and other posts within the WMCA.

At the WMCA Board AGM on 29 June 2016, the appointment of a number of key statutory and officer posts within the WMCA were made, subject to these being reviewed after a year. In addition, following the appointment of Tim Martin as WMCA Head of Governance, it was proposed that he take over responsibility for providing legal advice to meetings of the WMCA Board.

Resolved:

- (1) The appointment of the statutory and other officer posts set out below be approved:
- Head of Paid Service - Martin Reeves
 - s.151 Officer - Mark Taylor
 - Monitoring Officer - Keith Ireland
 - Clerk to the Combined Authority - Keith Ireland
 - Legal Advisor - Tim Martin
- (2) Further reports on changes to these appointments be submitted to future meetings of the WMCA Board as the permanent leadership team joined the West Midlands Combined Authority later this year.

8. Devolution Update

The Chief Executive provided an update to the board on recent devolution-related developments. Following the General Election on 8 June, meetings were being held with officials, although the impact the results of the election would have on the devolution agenda was still too early to tell and officers from the combined authority were seeking to be in a position to maximise the outcome of any changes in policy that emerged.

Resolved:

The update on the latest position regarding devolution discussions with the Government be noted.

9. Policy Research Plan 2017

The Chair presented a report seeking the approval of the WMCA Policy Research Plan.

The development of the WMCA provided an opportunity to increase the impact of research and intelligence in providing outcomes for residents in the region. The report identified the priorities for research and intelligence for the WMCA over the next three years, and the proposed Policy Research Plan set out how these priorities would be delivered, including agreeing and initiating a series of 'quick win' pilots to test the value of improved information sharing. It was intended that these quick wins would be focussed on air quality, housing/homelessness and procurement.

The Police & Crime Commissioner noted that a number of public bodies were undertaking work related to criminal pathways, and it was important that this work was complementary and sought to avoid possible duplication. The Chair supportive this view. He also indicated that he wished to see the researched produced to be made available as widely as possible.

Resolved:

The Policy Research Plan be endorsed.

10. Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 21 March 2017

The board received the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 21 March 2017.

Councillor Peter Hughes drew the board's attention the importance of properly resourcing the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee so that it could contribute to the governance of the WMCA. He also noted that the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership had not yet made an appointment to the committee. Katie Trout indicated that the LEP Board would consider making its appointment when it next met.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2017 be noted.

11. Minutes of the Investment Board - 24 April 2017

The Board received the minutes of the Investment Board held on 24 April 2017.

Councillor Robert Hulland welcomed the recent revision of the Investment Board's terms of reference, which he considered had strengthened the role of the board.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2017 be noted.

12. Minutes of the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - 28 April 2017

The Board received the minutes of the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee held on 28 April 2017.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2017 be noted.

13. Minutes of the Transport Delivery Committee - 8 May and 12 June 2017

The Board received the minutes of the Transport Delivery Committee held on 8 May and 12 June 2017.

Councillor Richard Worrall drew the board's attention to the poor interchange between rail and metro services at Birmingham Snow Hill station and he called on the rail industry to be more responsive to the frustrations this was causing passengers. He also reported that the proposal put forward by the committee to amend its special responsibility allowances would help ensure a more inclusive approach to undertaking its business.

Resolved:

(1) The minutes of the meetings held on 8 May and 12 June 2017 be noted.

(2) In respect of minute no. 129/16 ('Motion - Special Responsibility Allowances'):

(a) The proposed proportional model of working be approved.

(b) The mechanism whereby the additional Special Responsibility Allowances for the second Vice-Chair would be funded from within the existing Transport Delivery Committee budget for special responsibility allowances be approved.

(c) Appointments be made as follows:

- Chair - Councillor Richard Worrall
- Vice-Chairs - Councillors Philip Davis and Timothy Huxtable

14. Minutes of the Wellbeing Board - 19 May 2017

The Board received the minutes of the Wellbeing Board held on 19 May 2017.

Sarah Norman indicated that the board was taking a particular interest in matters relating to air quality across the region, and this would form a key part of its work programme for the forthcoming year.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2017 be noted.

15. Forward Plan

The plan of items to be reported to future meetings of the WMCA Board was noted.

16. Responding to the Government's Consultation on Increasing the Regional Impact of Channel 4 Corporation

Councillor John Clancy presented a report on the progress in developing a West Midlands response to the consultation document that the Government had launched on the future of Channel 4.

The Government was seeking responses to a series of questions set out in its consultation document by 5 July. The WMCA had agreed to submit a regional response on behalf of the West Midlands and to commission the West Midlands Growth Company to lead on the preparation of the response. A working group, chaired by the Chief Executive of the Growth Company and including representatives from across the three LEP geography, had been convened to lead on the development of the submission.

Work was on-going to complete the evidence base required to underpin the consultation submission and to draft the response itself. To support this development, a detailed engagement plan was being delivered, including key influencers across Government, local MPs, the creative, cultural and media sectors, universities, colleges and Channel 4 itself.

Councillor John Clancy confirmed that delegated authority was being sought in respect of the submission of the consultation response, and that subsequent reports on this matter would come before future meetings of the WMCA Board.

Resolved:

- (1) The update on developing a West Midlands response to the Government's consultation on 'Increasing the Regional Impact of Channel 4 Corporation' be noted.
- (2) Authority be delegated to the Mayor, the Leaders of Birmingham City Council, Coventry City Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and the three Local Enterprise Partnership chairs to agree the final response to the consultation, to be submitted to Government by 5 July 2017.

17. West Midlands HS2 Growth Board Future Governance and Programme Support

Councillor John Clancy presented a report on changes to the management of the HS2 Growth Delivery Board.

Birmingham City Council was in the process of finalising its future operating model and in doing so was significantly reducing its management structure. In order to make sure the HS2 Growth Implementation Plan continued to be given a high priority, it was proposed to place the leadership of the programme with the WMCA itself and that the Director of Finance would take the lead as Programme Director for HS2 Growth. In addition, it was intended to second the existing programme manager and members of the co-ordination team to the WMCA for an initial period of two years.

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting that Paul Dransfield would be attending before he left Birmingham City Council. He expressed his thanks to the work he had done to support the WMCA through his oversight of the HS2 Growth Delivery Board, and wish him the very best for the future.

Resolved:

- (1) It be agreed that the Director of Finance would act as Programme Director for HS2 Growth.
- (2) The existing HS2 Growth Co-ordination Team be seconded to the West Midlands Combined Authority for an initial period of two years from 1 August 2017.
- (3) The Monitoring Officer of the West Midlands Combined Authority be authorised to make all necessary arrangements to enact the resolutions set out above.

18. Land Commission Update - Progress Report

Councillor Sean Coughlan presented a report that set out the next steps to be taken to bring forward the programme of work required to respond to the Land Commission.

The commission was established to identify the means by which the stock of developable land could be increased so that the level of housing completions and stock of developable employment sites could be raised to accommodate the levels of growth outlined in the Strategic Economic Plan. It was intended that PwC would support the Portfolio Lead for Housing & Land to work with the constituent and non-constituent members of the WMCA to develop a collective response to the Land Commission's report and to build consensus on the areas within the report which could be implemented at pace and in the medium term, as well as identifying areas where more work would be required to define the activity required.

It was intended to provide a further update to the WMCA Board meeting on 8 September.

The Police & Crime Commissioner noted that the issue of unauthorised encampments remained of significant concern across the region and hoped that there would be a co-ordinated response amongst authorities. Councillor Chris Saint reported that Warwickshire's local planning authorities were undertaking a joint review of Green Belt land, and he stressed the importance of ensuring that conclusions of this, and other, reviews were respected. Councillor Sean Coughlan assured the board that this would be the case and that the WMCA was not seeking to take over planning powers exercised by local planning authorities.

Resolved:

The West Midlands Combined Authority Land Commission update report be noted.

19. Canal & River Trust - Agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding

Councillor Roger Lawrence submitted a report on the need to develop a collaborative way of working between the WMCA, Constituent and Non-constituent member authorities and the Canal & River Trust due to increased levels of funding now available to deliver transport improvements over the next 10 years.

Over the last four years, Birmingham City Council and the Black Country LEP had invested heavily to upgrade the canal tow paths to increase the level of cycling and walking across the metropolitan area. These projects had helped to enhance the assets of the Canal & River Trust, and it was considered beneficial to streamline the process to enable future schemes to be delivered without incurring unnecessary delays. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding would seek to prevent the Canal & River Trust from submitting objections to planning applications or Compulsory Purchase Orders where they stood to benefit from the improvements proposed, either through an enhancement in the value of their assets or an increase in use on the network.

The Memorandum of Understanding would also allow schemes contained within the HS2 Connectivity package and the West Midlands 2026 Delivery Plan for Transport to be developed and delivered more efficiently.

Resolved:

The contents of the Memorandum of Understanding between the West Midlands Combined Authority's Constituent and Non-Constituent member authorities and the Canal & River Trust be approved.

20. Swift Vending Machines Wider Roll Out

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report highlighting the success to date of the Swift vending machine pilot at Wolverhampton bus station and on the potential to roll out vending machines at other key locations.

In order to deliver greater access to the Swift card, Transport for West Midlands had piloted a Swift vending machine at Wolverhampton bus station that enabled customers to purchase Swift cards or to buy any ticket within the Swift range. Within the first six weeks of operating, ticket purchases had grown to almost 100 per week. Usage had been highest outside of the opening times of the Wolverhampton Travel Information Centre.

Transport for West Midlands had now identified 12 future key bus stations and interchanges that would benefit from the introduction of a Swift vending machine.

Resolved:

The wider rollout of Swift vending machines across all Transport for West Midlands' bus stations and a key interchanges be approved, subject to a satisfactory business case.

21. Swift on Rail at Non-Constituent Member Stations

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report seeking approval to migrate the nNetwork and nTrain 'add-on' tickets on to the Swift platform and on an update on the progress towards delivering the Swift pilot in Redditch.

The Swift team had successfully tested the 'add on' ticket that provided access to the West Midlands rail network to those living in the wider journey to work area on the Swift platform, including at smart-enabled rail gates. Agreement had also been gained from Train Operating Companies that operated in the wider area. It was therefore expected that the roll out to customers could begin in July.

Transport for West Midlands was keen to roll out the benefits of Swift into the wider Non-Constituent areas and provide access to Swift to direct debit customers at 37 rail stations across the Non-Constituent area. In addition, the location for three Swift collectors within the Redditch area had been agreed, and these would allow customers to download tickets or pay-as-you-go credit on to their Swift card. It was expected that the ticket collectors would be available for use from September.

Councillor Bill Hartnett welcomed the additional customer benefits that would be provided by the installation of Swift collectors in Redditch.

Resolved:

- (1) The migration of the nNetwork and nTrain 'add-on' tickets on to the Swift platform to bring the Swift card experience to Non-Constituent member authorities' residents travelling on the rail network into the West Midlands from July 2017 be approved.
- (2) The progress made on the delivery of the pilot project to install three Swift collectors within the Redditch area be noted.

22. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 21 July 2017 at 11.00am

23. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved:

That, in accordance with s100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information specified in paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Act.

24. Commonwealth Games 2022 Bid

The Chair presented a report on the latest developments regarding the proposal for Birmingham to bid to become host city for the Commonwealth Games 2022. The report provided further details on the key issues that were currently being considered as part of the submission of a bid to host the Games, including the financial implication of any bid and the compelling case that would form the basis of Birmingham's bid submission.

Councillor John Clancy stressed the benefit of the region working collaboratively to support this bid, recognising the wider economic benefits that could be achieved if the bid were to be successful. The Police & Crime Commissioner indicated his support for the bid, stressing the need to reflect the importance of providing assurance as to the security of the athletes and spectators participating in the games.

Resolved:

- (1) The developments in relation to the proposed bid for the Commonwealth Games, including the outcome of the feasibility study, be noted.
- (2) A contribution of £250,000 from West Midlands Combined Authority funds towards a regional consortium of funding in order to prepare a bid for the 2022 Commonwealth Games be approved.
- (3) It be noted that a substantial part of the local funding required to deliver the Commonwealth Games was to be raised by Birmingham City Council in collaboration with its partners.
- (4) Any capital resources provided by the West Midlands Combined Authority to support the delivery of the Commonwealth Games would be limited to those already included within the Investment Programme where the delivery needed to be accelerated.
- (5) It be noted that the West Midlands Combined Authority had no revenue resources available to contribute towards the delivery of the Commonwealth Games.

25. Staffing Matters

The Chair presented a report seeking approval for the reimbursement to Coventry City Council for 50% of the Interim Chief Executive's costs between 5 May - 30 September 2017. This would ensure the smooth and effective handover to the permanent Chief Executive when they were expected to take up the post during September.

Resolved:

The reimbursement to Coventry City Council between 5 May and 30 September 2017 for 50% of the interim Chief Executive costs be approved.