



**WMCA Board**

**Friday 12 February 2021 at 11.00 am**

**Minutes**

**Constituent Members**

Andy Street (Chair)

Councillor Bob Sleight (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Wasim Ali

Councillor Mike Bird

Councillor Ian Brookfield

Councillor Ian Courts

Councillor George Duggins

Councillor Patrick Harley

Councillor Brigid Jones

Councillor Abdul Khan

Councillor Ian Ward

Mayor of the West Midlands Combined  
Authority

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell 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

Coventry City Council

Birmingham City Council

**Non-Constituent Members**

Councillor George Adamson

Councillor Matthew Dormer

Councillor Julie Jackson

Councillor Tony Jefferson

Councillor Peter Nutting

Councillor Jeremy Oates

Tim Pile

Councillor Heather Timms

Tom Westley

Cannock Chase District Council

Redditch Borough Council

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Shropshire Council

Tamworth Borough Council

Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local

Enterprise Partnership

Warwickshire County Council

Black Country Local Enterprise

Partnership

**Co-Opted Member**

Lee Barron

Midlands Trades Union Congress

**Observer Members**

Councillor Greg Brackenridge

Waheed Saleem

West Midlands Fire Authority

West Midlands Deputy Police & Crime

Commissioner

**In Attendance**

Councillor Cathy Bayton

Councillor Kath Hartley

Councillor Lisa Trickett

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Transport Delivery Committee

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**124. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Nick Abell (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP), Councillor Maria Crompton (Sandwell), Councillor Shaun Davies (Telford & Wrekin), David Jamieson (West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner) and Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Warwickshire).

**125. Minutes - 15 January 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

**126. Forward Plan**

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

**127. WMCA Budget 2021/22**

The board considered a report from the Director of Finance on the WMCA's final budget for 2021/22 for approval.

This report represented the final stage of the budget setting process for the WMCA and incorporated the final revenue and capital budget for 2021/22 as well as the associated policies as required by statute. There were no changes from the financial plans included within the draft budget report considered by the WMCA Board on 15 January 2021. The Mayor and the WMCA had considered feedback on the draft budget report since January board meeting from both constituent members of the WMCA and other key stakeholders.

Councillor Bob Sleight thanked all Portfolio Leads for the work they had undertaken to prepare their budgets for the forthcoming year.

Resolved:

- (1) The West Midlands Combined Authority consolidated revenue budget be approved. This included:
  - (a) the budget requirement for transport delivery 2021/22 comprising three elements:
    - (i) £114.7m a year to be funded from the existing transport levy mechanism;
    - (ii) £3.9m to be funded from grant awarded by the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee; and
    - (iii) a transfer from earmarked reserves of £3.9m.
  - (b) the West Midlands Combined Authority delivery budget requirement for 2021/22 of £141.9m comprising of five elements:
    - (i) £129.7m Adult Education spending to be funded from Adult Education Budget funding devolved by the Department for Education;

- (ii) £5.1m 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 2020/21);
  - (iv) £0.4m to be funded from Non-Constituent Authority and observer fees (fees to remain at the same level as 2020/21); and
  - (v) £2.1m to be funded from other income, including a £1.2m use of reserves created from WMCA's share of 2020/21 Business Rates.
- (2) The inherent risks included within 2021/22 budget assumptions be noted.
  - (3) The Mayoral Office budget for 2021/22 of £0.8m to be funded from additional Mayoral Capacity Funding of £0.8m be approved.
  - (4) It be noted that there would be no Mayoral Precept during 2021/22.
  - (5) The West Midlands Combined Authority's indicative 5 year Medium Term Financial Plan be noted.
  - (6) It be noted that a full Strategic Plan would be completed following the 2021 Mayoral election, to inform the annual Medium Term Financial Planning exercise to be completed in 2021/22.
  - (7) The Capital Programme be approved.
  - (8) Authority be delegated to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Finance to make any final changes that might result from the final Local Government Finance Settlement.
  - (9) 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 Statement; 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 (11): Andy Street, Councillor Bob Sleight, Councillor Wasim Ali, Councillor Mike Bird, Councillor Ian Brookfield, Councillor Ian Courts, Councillor George Duggins, Councillor Patrick Harley, Councillor Brigid Jones, Councillor Abdul Khan and Councillor Ian Ward.

AGAINST (0): none

ABSTAIN (0): none]

**128. Regional Approach to Culture - Update**

The board considered a report from the Director of Strategy providing an update on the opportunities and challenges in the region relating to culture, and to secure agreement of the strategic priorities for culture which had been co-developed with the regional Cultural Officers Group and the Cultural Leadership Board.

The culture portfolio used the Department of Culture, Media & Sport's definition of the cultural sector, which included arts, film, TV and music, radio, photography, crafts, museums and galleries, libraries and archives, cultural education and heritage. Whilst the region had a rich intangible and tangible cultural heritage, further work was still needed to ensure that the region could fully maximise on its cultural assets to promote and brand the region nationally and internationally. This included maximising the opportunity of Coventry City of Culture 2021, British Art Show No9, Black Country UNESCO Geopark and Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games in reanimating its high streets, creating new jobs and supporting small businesses, and maximising opportunity for hyper-diverse communities.

Councillor Ian Courts welcomed the report and stressed the value that culture brought to communities, particularly given the challenging times over the last year. Councillor Ian Ward noted the key role that constituent authorities had in supporting their local cultural sector, which often resulted in additional Arts Council funding being secured.

Resolved:

- (1) The update on culture, following the 11 January 2019 report to this board on this topic, be noted.
- (2) The proposed regional strategic priorities for culture be agreed.
- (3) It be agreed that the Cultural Leadership Board and Culture Officers Group would be responsible for co-ordinating regional activity to make progress on these strategic priorities.

**129. Dudley Interchange - Full Business Case Submission**

The board considered a report from the Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands, seeking approval of the full business case for the Dudley Interchange project.

The Dudley Interchange proposed to deliver a world class multi-modal interchange for Dudley, part of a fully integrated transport system that would act as a catalyst to the redevelopment of the town centre and support inclusive and sustained growth. The Interchange would link seamlessly to the new metro extension, providing a key link between the existing town centre and the new developments

Councillor Patrick Harley welcomed the report and the role the Dudley Interchange project had in unlocking further development in the town centre, including helping to enable the proposed Portersfield development.

Resolved:

- (1) The full business case for Dudley Interchange be approved.
- (2) The budget and funding for delivery of £24.1m to include the bus and metro interchange, utility diversions and highway works be approved.
- (3) The revisions to the allocations of Transforming Cities Funding as agreed by the Strategic Transport Officers Group be endorsed.
- (4) The capital and land contributions valued at £3.5m from Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council towards the delivery of the scheme be noted.
- (5) It be noted that as the construction and utility scope for the scheme was not yet finalised, the project team would need to flexibly manage 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.
- (6) The delegation of authority to officers as set out within the report be approved.
- (7) It be noted that Dudley Interchange had a Benefit to Cost Ratio classification of 'medium' and that the overall level of economic benefit was £33m.
- (8) The interface with the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension construction programme be noted.
- (9) It be noted that no contracts would be let until all funding was secured, signed and sealed and the confidence in being able to accommodate any future revenue costs falling to the WMCA was to the satisfaction of the Director of Finance and the Monitoring Officer.

### **130. Regional Road Safety Progress**

The board considered a report from the Managing Director, Transport for West Midlands, on the progress being made in relation to the region's target to reduce killed and seriously injured by 40% by 2028, and to provide an update on the establishment of the Regional Road Safety Strategic Partnership and the development of the regional Road Safety Action Plan and priorities established.

At the WMCA Board on 11 January 2019, the Regional Road Safety Strategy was approved. This recognised a multi-disciplinary approach amongst regional partners to sustain reduced road traffic collisions to meet the killed and seriously injured targets for the region. The strategy included the establishment of a new Regional Road Safety Strategic Partnership and the development of an action plan which addressed challenges, as well as ensuring an outcome-based approach supported by monitoring and evaluation.

Waheed Saleem welcomed the report and indicated that the Police & Crime Commissioner was looking forward to working with the WMCA on this issue. Councillor George Duggins thanked West Midlands Police for the work it had undertaken in Coventry supporting the introduction of two 'average speed' cameras in the city. Councillor Ian Ward noted that the speed of cars had appeared to have increased in recent months, perhaps due to roads being less congested. He also indicated that the forthcoming Local Transport Plan would seek to expand the availability of more sustainable forms of transport, which he hoped would contribute to a reduction in road traffic accidents.

Resolved:

- (1) The progress made on managing road safety across the region, and the priorities agreed through the Regional Road Safety Strategic Partnership, be noted.
- (2) The range of activities delivered by partners across the West Midlands throughout 2019/20 to date totalling approximately £6m be noted.
- (3) It be noted that the reduction of Killed and Seriously Injured had reduced by 6% since the target was set and that, in absolute terms and taking population growth into account, this equated to a reduction of 8% overall.
- (4) The development of the Regional Road Safety Action Plan and the commitments by regional partners to deliver the measures during the period 2021- 2024 be noted.
- (5) It be noted that the Regional Strategic Road Safety Partnership would finalise the action plan for publication.

**131. Strategic Economic Development Board - 17 December 2020**

The board received the minutes of the Strategic Economic Development Board meeting held on 17 December.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2020.

**132. Investment Board - 11 January 2021**

The board received the minutes of the Investment Board meeting held on 11 January.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2021 be noted.

**133. Transport Delivery Committee - 11 January 2021**

The board received the minutes of the Transport Delivery Committee meeting held on 11 January.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2021 be noted.

**134. Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 11 January 2021**

The board received the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11 January.

Resolved:

The minutes of the inquorate meeting held on 11 January 2021 be approved.

**135. Wellbeing Board - 22 January 2021**

The board received the minutes of the Wellbeing Board meeting held on 22 January.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2021 be noted.

**136. Environment & Energy Board - 1 February 2021**

The board received the minutes of the Environment & Energy Board meeting held on 1 February.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2021 be noted.

**137. Young Combined Authority - February Update**

The board considered a report of the activities of the Young Combined Authority undertaken during February.

Resolved:

The report be noted.

**138. Date of Next Meeting**

Friday 12 February 2021 at 11.00am

The meeting ended at 12.00pm.