



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	6 September 2021
Report title	Pre-Development Scrutiny: Air Quality and the Role of the WMCA
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, West Midlands Combined Authority email: laura.shoaf@tfwm.org.uk tel: (0121) 214 7444
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Recommendation(s) for decision:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended to:

- (1) Endorse this course of action with regards to scrutiny's engagement in air quality matters.
- (2) Agree which members will meet with the Head of Environment in September and October, ahead of the 'Air Quality: Options on the role of the WMCA' report being presented to the WMCA Board on 19 November for consideration.
- (3) Note that the 'Air Quality: Options on the role of the WMCA' report will be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8 November.

Purpose

1. To inform the committee of an opportunity for a small group of members to work with the Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform directorate to review and understand the additional requirements arising from the outcome of the Environment Bill as it progresses through Parliament.

Background

2. At its meeting on 25 June, the WMCA Board discussed the activity in respect of air quality and concern was expressed relating to the powers of the WMCA and how it complimented and contributed to the work being undertaken by constituent authorities. The Portfolio Lead for Environment, Energy & HS2 agreed to report back to a future meeting of the board that provided this clarification.
3. Additional requirements will be announced in the autumn with regard to air quality in the form of the Environment Bill and a report will be presented to the WMCA Board on 19 November that will set out the options on the role of the WMCA and how this is balanced with the work of the constituent authorities in addressing air quality.
4. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee will review this report prior to its submission to the WMCA Board. However, in the meantime there is an opportunity for a small group of members of this committee to work alongside the Head of Environment to review and understand the detail of the Environment Bill that is due to be published in the autumn and on the options with regard to the role of the WMCA.

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

6. There are no direct legal implications immediately arising out of the recommendations contained within this report.

Equalities Implications

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

Inclusive Growth Implications

8. There are no direct inclusive growth implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

Geographical Area of Report's Implications

9. Any powers exercisable by the WMCA in respect of air quality matters will be applicable within the geographical area represented by the seven constituent authorities.

Other Implications

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