



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Wednesday 28 July 2021

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Liz Clements (Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ken Hawkins	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Adam Hicken	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Thabiso Mabena	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Barbara McGarrity	City of Wolverhampton Council

In Attendance:

Dan Essex	Governance Services Manager
Alex Greatholder	Principal Strategy & Policy Officer
David Harris	Transport Strategy & Place Manager
Lyndsey Roberts	Scrutiny Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gurdev Hayre (Coventry) and Kashmire Hawker (Young Combined Authority)

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

It was agreed that the appointment of a Vice-Chair for the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee 2021/22 be deferred to the next meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the year and invited everyone to introduce themselves and explain how they saw the role of the sub-committee for the forthcoming year.

4. Minutes - 22 February 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising

(a) Review of Transport Governance

The Governance Services Manager provided an update on the activities undertaken as part of the review of transport governance that had been undertaken and he confirmed that the review had now been completed and the majority of recommendations adopted and implemented.

(b) **Financial Monitoring Report**

Whilst recognising that the Transport Delivery Committee currently had oversight of the transport budget, the Chair considered that the financial position on the transport budget should also be considered by the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee to enable deeper scrutiny on any discrepancies within the budget. The Governance Services Manager undertook to look into the potential to schedule this at future meetings.

6. Schedule of Future Meetings

The schedule of meetings was agreed as follows:

- 13 September 2021
- 22 October 2021 (Transport Policy Q&A)
- 24 November 2021
- 17 January 2022
- 23 February 2022 (Transport Delivery Q&A)
- 23 March 2022

7. West Midlands Local Transport Plan: Green Paper Engagement

The committee received a presentation from the Transport Strategy & Place Manager and the Principal Strategy & Policy Officer on the new Local Transport Plan for the region.

Transport for West Midlands was currently developing a new Local Transport Plan for the region. To support and inform the development of the plan, Transport for West Midlands had published a Green Paper to help build awareness of the role of transport in helping to create a more prosperous and better connected West Midlands which was fairer, greener and healthier. Within the Green Paper there were ideas to explore with local authorities, the public, regional businesses and other key stakeholders on what the future could look like and how and why it might plan and manage the transport system differently.

The Transport Strategy & Place Manager sought the views of the committee on the Green Paper that would be fed back to inform a session with the leaders of the West Midlands on the future transport strategy.

Members discussed and shared comments on the complexity and scale of the challenge, the use of e-scooters as an alternative mode of transport, the need for a sufficient bus and train network to meet consumer demand and expectations, the importance of engagement with members of the public to ensure behavioural change, and concerns regarding the implications of the Commonwealth Games on the current transport network system. Members also highlighted the importance of the need for Transport for West Midlands to develop a transport network that would allow passengers to have the same freedom to move around the region as was currently enjoyed by car owners.

With regard to '20 minute neighbourhoods', the Transport Strategy & Place Manager explained that there was a plan to commission work to understand what accessibility looked like across the West Midlands and how land use and mobility had changed consumer demand.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted and comments on the Green Paper be fed back to inform a session with the leaders of the West Midlands on the future transport strategy.

8. Potential Sub-Committee Work Programme

The sub-committee discussed its draft work programme on business for consideration at future meetings and at the WMCA Board.

It was reported that there was an opportunity for some members of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee to work alongside a small group of colleagues on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Head of Environment on the role of the WMCA in air quality related issues and how this aligned with the work of local authorities. It was noted that there would be additional requirements as a result of the outcome of the Environment Bill that was expected in the autumn.

Resolved:

The sub-committee work programme be noted.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee would be held on Monday 13 September 2021 at 10.00am.