



Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

Date	29 September 2021
Report title	Annual Accounts 2020/21 for West Midlands Combined Authority
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, Interim Chief Executive Email: Laura.Shoaf@wmca.org.uk Tel: (0121) 214 7200
Accountable Employee	Linda Horne, Finance Director Email: Linda.Horne@wmca.org.uk Tel: (0121) 214 7508
Report has been considered by	N/A

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the annual accounts.
- (2) Note the Audit Findings Report presented by Grant Thornton.
- (3) Note that Grant Thornton propose to issue an unqualified audit opinion for the accounts.
- (4) Approve the signing of the letter of representation by the Finance Director as set out in Appendix E of the Audit Findings Report.
- (5) Approve that the Chair of Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee be authorised to sign off any further changes required to the Statement or accounts for 2020/21 prior to publication.
- (6) Subject to no further issues being raised by Grant Thornton, approve that the Mayor and the Finance Director be authorised to sign the accounts on behalf of WMCA.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report has been prepared for the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee to approve the annual accounts of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) for the financial year ended 31 March 2021.
- 1.2 The audit has been completed without any significant issues.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The draft accounts for 2020/21 were shared with members of the committee when the audit process commenced on 7 June 2021. A further update report highlighting key areas for consideration in the 2020/21 accounts was considered by the Committee at their informal meeting in June 2021.
- 2.2 A detailed briefing and review of the annual accounts was undertaken with the Chair of Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee and WMCA Finance to provide assurance that the accounts presented reflected the activities for the 2020/21 financial year.
- 2.3 The audit process has now concluded and the following are attached for review and approval:
 - i) West Midlands Combined Authority financial report 2020/21
 - ii) Grant Thornton Audit Findings Report (including Letter of Representation - Appendix E)

3.0 Annual Accounts

- 3.1 The West Midlands Combined Authority Board has received regular financial monitoring updates throughout 2020/21. The final outturn position for 2020/21 was reported to West Midlands Combined Authority Board on 25 June 2021.
- 3.2 The audit process has now concluded, and Grant Thornton will present their findings to the committee with their proposal to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts. The Narrative Report, Annual Governance Statement and consideration of events after the Balance Sheet date will need to cover the period up to the date of publication and will therefore need to be kept under review until the accounts are formally published. Authority is therefore sought for approval of the final updated Narrative Report, Annual Governance Statement and any required amendments to the accounts for 2020/21 to be delegated to the Chair of Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The financial implications are covered within the body of this report and the attached annual accounts reflect the results for the year ended 31 March 2021.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Production of these accounts is a statutory requirement.

6.0 Equalities Implications

6.1 Alternative formats for these accounts are available upon request.

7.0 Inclusive Growth Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 Geographical Area of Report's Implications

8.1 Not applicable.

9.0 Other Implications

9.1 Not applicable.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 West Midlands Combined Authority financial report 2020/21

10.2 Grant Thornton Audit Findings Report