



Public Service Reform Board

Thursday 30 September 2021 at 2.00 pm

Minutes

Participating in the meeting via Teams

Councillor Rajbir Singh (Chair)	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Brigid Jones (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Simon Phipps	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Laura Caulfield	Higher Education
Sarah Middleton	CEO Black Country Consortium
Gary Taylor	West Midlands Fire Service
Georgie Hancock	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

In Attendance

Ed Cox	West Midlands Combined Authority
Claire Dhami	West Midlands Combined Authority
Claire Spencer	West Midlands Combined Authority
Neelam Sunder	West Midlands Combined Authority
Jean Templeton	Homelessness Taskforce

Item Title
No.

31. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Duggins, Councillor Sleigh, Henrietta Brearley, Sue Ibbotson, Jatinder Sharma, Alison Tonge, Gary Taylor and David Melbourne.

32. Nominations of Substitutes

Georgie Hancock (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) attended the meeting on behalf of Tom McNeil.

33. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made relative to the items under consideration at the meeting.

34. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that he would like to encourage councillors who do not hold a cabinet position to attend these meetings for their self-development. He added that he also would like members to invite their colleagues to the meeting to contribute to the discussion.

The Chair also reported that he was disappointed with the poor attendance at today's meeting and would welcome ideas on how it could be improved.

35. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April and the minutes of the informal meeting held on 6 July were agreed.

36. PSR Comms- Fairer, Greener, Healthier Publication

The Director of Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform, Ed Cox outlined the PSR Comms document- 'Working Together to Create a Fairer, Greener Healthier West Midlands' that had been commissioned by the Chair. The document, still in draft form, set out the cumulative impact of the work being undertaken by this board and the work of the directorate covering the areas of public service reform, inclusive growth, inclusive communities, energy and environment and health and wellbeing. It outlined how Public Service Reform was evolving to Social Innovation, the Social Innovation Offer and included funding successes and policy impacts and the work being undertaken with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, local authorities, LEPs and the third sector.

The Chair considered it was important that the board changed perceptions on how people see its interventions and how the approach has changed since the pandemic with a multi-agency approach being adopted.

Councillor Seccombe endorsed the paper and the cross-cutting approach that is being adopted to improve life opportunities and to tackle the inequalities that have been exacerbated by Covid.

In relation to concerns expressed by Georgie Hancock as to whether activities related to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) have been formally signed-off by the OPCC, it was agreed the matter be discussed by the WMCA and OPCC outside of the meeting.

Gary Taylor (West Midlands Fire Service) complimented the team on an excellent report and referred to partnership working that has provided learning from Covid, in particular the work of the Local Resilience Forum and reported of the need to maintain relationships.

The Director of Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform concurred with Gary Taylor and reported that the board would look at the learning that is coming out of the Local Resilience Forum at its next meeting.

Gary Taylor reported that he would ask Wayne Brown to attend the next meeting to present the work of the Local Resilience Forum and he would also invite his colleague Neil Griffiths to report on sustainability and innovation.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

37. Presentation: From Public Service Reform to Social Innovation

The committee received a presentation from the Director of Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform, Ed Cox, entitled 'From Public Service Reform to Social Innovation' that had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. The presentation outlined how work is being undertaken to build on success, reform public service reform and the new approach that has come to the fore during the pandemic, 'social innovation'.

Ed Cox explained the definition of social innovation, its principles, social innovation tools, social innovation partners, opportunities for collaboration, the social innovation 'offer to partners' and the current and future business model.

Gary Taylor (West Midlands Fire Service) reported that he was fully supportive of the approach that was outlined and the need to engage with communities more.

Laura Caulfield (Higher Education) also indicated that she was supportive of the approach and with regards to collaboration, work was being undertaken by an evaluation group comprised of West Midlands universities and other academic bodies to look at how to draw in other funding.

Ed Cox reported that he would be interested to explore further the learning from the evaluation group.

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Jones, reported that she would be happy to share details of Birmingham's reform programme.

The Chair reported that he would like to see a clear roadmap on engagement with stakeholders on social innovation and for the social innovation approach to be co-designed and co-produced. He also asked that the WMCA reach out beyond this board to a wider audience.

The Director of Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform, Ed Cox reported that the presentation was designed to encourage discussion and as a conversation starter for taking this work forward. He reported that further ideas would be welcome, and he would report back to the board in due course.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

38. Mayoral, Police and Crime Commissioner and WMCA Collaboration

Claire Dhami presented a report that outlined the key priorities in the Mayoral and Police Crime Commissioner manifestos and the ongoing joint work and priorities between the WMCA and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

The report set out areas for joint collaboration between the WMCA and the OPCC, summarised progress to date against the high deliverables for 2021/22 and confirmed the end year position for the deliverables for 2020/21.

The Chair asked that Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to attend a future board meeting to present details of the joint work they are undertaking with the WMCA.

Resolved:

1. That the joint areas of collaboration between the offices of the Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner be noted and endorsed and
2. That the board members inform the Head of Public Service Reform of any work areas they would like to explore further for joint working between the WMCA and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner be noted.

39. PSR Annual Performance and Forward Planning

Claire Dhami shared the report on the portfolio's deliverables and progress, noting activity in each section and 2 areas where progress has been delayed due to resourcing issues. The Chair asked that board members let him know of any work areas they would like to focus on at future meetings.

40. Homelessness Taskforce Update

The Senior Programme Manager Homelessness, Neelam Sunder provided an update on the Homelessness Taskforce.

The presentation summarised the Homelessness Taskforce's work in designing out homelessness to date, the impact of its programmes including the WMCA Rough Sleeping Initiative and the Housing First Pilot, funding allocations and policy changes.

Neelam Sunder also outlined the activities that would be undertaken as part of the workplan for 2021/22 which included seeking long-term funding for the regional Housing First pilot and a focus on the prevention of homelessness.

The Chair acknowledged the fantastic work being undertaken by the Homelessness Taskforce that is making a difference to people's lives.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

41. Inclusive Growth Update

The Senior Policy Adviser- Public Services and Inclusive Growth, Claire Spencer provided an update on activities being undertaken with regards to Inclusive Growth. This included developing the framework for Inclusive Growth that identifies what good looks like and plans for the framework to be utilised in evaluation and monitoring. Work was also being undertaken with ICT to develop an Inclusive Growth portal.

Claire also outlined the work that is being undertaken with Inclusive Growth Business Partners and with local authorities and invited colleagues to contact her if they wanted to be involved in the Social Economy Growth programme.

The Chair reported of the need for many as organisations as possible to participate in the programme to enable them to obtain the benefits from it.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

The meeting ended at 3.45 pm.