



# WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

## Board Meeting

Friday 28 October 2016

### Minutes

#### Members

Birmingham City Council	Councillor John Clancy
City of Wolverhampton Council	Councillor Peter Bilson
Coventry City Council	Councillor George Duggins
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Pete Lowe
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Preet Kaur Gill
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Paul Moore
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Bob Sleigh – Chair
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Ian Courts
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Sean Coughlan
Coventry and Warwickshire LEP	Nick Abell
Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP	Steve Hollis
Cannock Chase District Council	Councillor George Adamson
Nuneaton and Bedworth Council	Councillor Bill Hancox
Redditch Borough Council	Councillor Pat Witherspoon
Tamworth Borough Council	Councillor Steven Claymore
North Warwickshire Borough Council	Councillor David Humphreys
Rugby Borough Council	Councillor Michael Stokes
Shropshire Council	Councillor Malcolm Pate
Stratford-on-Avon-District Council	Councillor Chris Saint
Warwickshire County Council	Councillor Izzie Seccombe

#### Observers

Police & Crime Commissioner	David Jamieson
West Midlands Fire & Rescue Service	Councillor John Edwards

#### Officers In Attendance

Birmingham City Council	Mark Rogers
City of Wolverhampton Council	Keith Ireland
Coventry City Council	Martin Reeves
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	Sarah Norman
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	Jan Britton
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Nick Page
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	Paul Sheehan
Black Country Consortium	Sarah Middleton
Coventry and Warwickshire LEP	Paula Deas
Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP	Katie Trout
Cannock Chase District Council	Tony McGovern
Nuneaton and Bedworth Council	Simone Hines

Redditch Bromsgrove Council	Kevin Dicks
Rugby Borough Council	Adam Norburn
Stratford-on-Avon-District Council	Dave Webb
Warwickshire County Council	Mark Ryder
Police & Crime Commissioner Office	Jonathan Jardine
Chief Constable West Midlands Police	Dave Thompson
West Midlands Fire Service	Simon Shilton
West Midlands Combined Authority	James Aspinall
Birmingham City Council	Tony Smith
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Andrew Kinsey
City of Wolverhampton Council	Rachel Ratcliffe
City of Wolverhampton Council	Jaswinder Kaur

Item Title  
No.

**1. Meeting Business Items**

**1.1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roger Lawrence (substituted by Councillor Peter Bilson), Councillor Abdul Khan, Councillor Steve Eling (Substituted by Councillor Preet Kaur Gill), Councillor Lee Jeavons, Jonathan Browning (substituted by Nick Abell), Stewart Towe, Councillor Shaun Davies, Councillor Dennis Harvey (Substituted by Councillor Bill Hancox) and Councillor Bill Hartnett (substituted by Pat Witherspoon),

**1.2 Declarations of Interest (if any)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**1.3 Minutes of the WMCA Meeting held on 30 September 2016**

The minutes of the 30 September 2016 were agreed as an accurate record.

**1.4 Chairs Remarks**

Councillor Bob Sleigh apologised for the late starting of the Board meeting, this was due to a meeting with the Secretary of State (SoS) Savid Javid. The Board was informed the Secretary of State was impressed by the progress made by the West Midlands Combined Authority by Constituent and Non-Constituent members and that the meeting provided an opportunity to raise key issues which the SoS would consider.

**West Midlands Universities**

Councillor Bob Sleigh informed the Board that a constructive meeting had taken place with universities from across the West Midlands and that the universities view the Combined Authority as a key partner to progress their

work. Martin Reeves added that Richard Kenny would be working alongside the universities and that a detailed update would be provided at a future meeting.

## 1.5 **Forward Plan**

Resolved:

1. That the forward plan be approved.
2. That the WMCA Mayoral Order be considered at the 9 December 2016 Board meeting.

## 2. **Combined Authority Governance**

### 2.1a **WMCA Governance Structure**

Councillor Sleight presented the report to provide an update of proposed revisions to the Councillor & LEP Boards governance structure as detailed in appendix A of the report and the Officer Groups governance structure as detailed in appendix B of the report. It was noted:

- The majority of groups would be retained.
- The PSR groups were being reviewed and advice would be provided on groups required once the review concluded.
- A separate Skills and Employability group was proposed.
- 'PSR Health and Wellbeing & MH Working Group' to be removed.
- CIF Working Group to be fused with Investment Advisory Committee (to create 'Investment Advisory Panel').
- There have been some subtle names changes to some groups e.g. Wellbeing Board).

Resolved:

1. That the revisions to the Councillor & LEP Boards governance structure (appendix A within the report) and the Officer Groups governance structure (appendix B within the report) be approved and noted.
2. That the Constitution be amended to reflect the revisions agreed to the governance structure.

### 2.1b **Investment Board**

Keith Ireland presented a report to seek approval to amend the Investment Board's Terms of Reference, in respect of the Investment Board membership. To ensure that the Combined Authority's governance structure was efficient and effective, a review was carried out of the Boards and working groups of the Combined Authority. Arising from these considerations was the suggestion that the membership of the Investment Board is amended. The suggested amendment was that there is representation from each Metropolitan Authority, as opposed to three Councillors in total. For the Black Country however this representation

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would be held by one of the Black Country Authority Leaders, representing all of the Black Country Councils and decisions weighted accordingly, i.e. 4 votes if voting required.

Nick Abell raised a concern over the balance of power of the private sector, Councillor Izzie Seccombe proposed and it was agreed that any outstanding issues on the balance of private sector involvement be resolved outside the Board.

Resolved:

1. That the amendment to the Investment Board's Terms of Reference in respect of membership of the Board be approved, as follows:

#### Members

- Independent Chair of the Investment Board (1 vote)
- 5 Councillors
  - 1 WMCA Finance and Investment portfolio lead (1 vote),
  - 1 Councillor from the Black Country Councils (4 votes),
  - 1 Councillor from Birmingham City Council (1 vote)
  - 1 Councillor from Solihull Council (1 vote)
  - 1 Councillor from Coventry City Council (1 vote)
- 3 Local Enterprise Partnership representatives (1 vote each)
- 1 Finance Birmingham representative (non-voting)

#### Advisers

- Finance Birmingham
- Officers of the Combined Authority
- Constituent Councils and Non-Constituent Councils.

## 2.2 **Appointment of Independent Audit and Standards Committee Chair**

Keith Ireland presented the report to seek agreement to appoint an independent Chair for the Audit and Standards Committee. The first meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee was held on 8 July, and members agreed a recruitment process for the appointment of a chair. Three applications were received for the position, and an interview panel was convened on 11 October 2016. All three candidates gave a strong account of themselves, but the panel's unanimous decision was that David Lane should be appointed. David Lane's recent roles were outlined.

Resolved:

That the appointment of David Lane as Chair of the Combined Authority's Audit and Standards Committee for a four year period be approved.

### 2.3 **Revised Schedule of Meetings**

Keith Ireland presented the revised schedule of Leader and LEP Chair meetings. The Board meetings were scheduled to take place monthly and provisional dates were scheduled. However, they would only go ahead if required to discuss urgent business. Political group meetings had been scheduled to take place prior to the Board meeting and Non-Constituent Leaders were also invited to attend future political group meetings.

Keith Ireland advised a scrutiny workshop was scheduled to take place on Friday 25 November at Birmingham University and members were requested to attend.

Resolved:

That the revised schedule of meetings be approved.

## 3. **Chair of West Midlands Combined Authority**

### 3.1 **WMCA Mayoral Scheme Update**

Councillor Bob Sleigh presented a report to confirm the proposals to date in respect of the Draft (functions and amendment) Order for the Mayoral WMCA Scheme, for the Board to provide any necessary direction on the outstanding issues in Section 3 and note the timetable for Council consents prior to the Order being laid in Parliament.

Andrew Kinsey added Appendix 1 of the report summarised the powers proposed for conferral on the Mayoral WMCA. The information was based on discussions with DCLG, which were still on-going, and included key points from the Scheme regarding the Mayor and Cabinet, voting and the exercise of powers.

It was noted that not all aspects of the West Midlands devolution agreement required legislative change to implement. The functions outlined were those that require legislative or regulatory change before they can be exercised by the WMCA or Mayor.

The first iterative draft of the Draft Order ('The West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2016') had been received and was being subject to a comprehensive review process by legal advisors. Further iterations were anticipated before the Draft Order for 'consent' was received.

Whilst there were some slight variations being proposed by DCLG in respect of the Draft Order, highlighted in Appendix 1 of the report, full details of the issues for consideration and noting were provided at **3.0** within the report. The key outstanding issues remaining were the question of the Mayor's vote in respect of the unanimous items, and non-transport

borrowing. Discussions were on-going with DCLG to resolve these issues.

DCLG had also confirmed that a generic Financial Regulations Order would be laid in Parliament to cover financial aspect for all CAs.

In response to the Police and Crime Commissioners question on additional Powers for Safer Travel Police on bus assets/ network, it was clarified the powers to be conferred would be at a strategic level to cover all the constituent areas for smoking and anti-social behaviour.

Resolved:

1. That the current progress and proposals outlined in Appendix 1 within the report, in respect of the draft Order for the WMCA Mayoral Scheme be noted;
2. That the timetable for consents detailed in Appendix 2 within the report be noted.

### **3.2 Devolution**

Katie Trout provided an update on devolution, discussions were on going with treasury and policy areas were to be framed around the Strategic Economic Plan. Agreement would be sought from the Board once proposals had been developed. It was noted that government were undertaking a wider stocktake of devolution.

## **4. Health and Wellbeing**

### **4.1 Mental Health Commission Update**

Councillor Pete Lowe provided an update on the work of the Mental Health Commission. The work was progressing well and a written report with detailed recommendations would be provided at the December meeting. Norman Lamb MP was proposing to publish a concordat to implement the recommendations. It was clarified at present the Mental Health Commission was targeting people of working age however, there may be scope in the future to focus on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. It was noted Sean Russell had been appointed to the post of Implementation Director.

### **4.2 Wellbeing Board Update**

Councillor Pete Lowe provided an update on the work of the Wellbeing Board. The first meeting of the Wellbeing Board had taken place and it was extremely successful. There was broad support for the concept of the Wellbeing Board.

## **5. Public Service Reform**

### **5.1 Public Service Reform Update**

Keith Ireland advised the Board Phil Loach was unable to attend this meeting and that a detailed update would be provided at a future meeting. The review on public service reform was still on-going and that the Cabinet Member had asked for work to undertaken in regards to in work poverty.

**6. Skills and Productivity**

**6.1 Productivity and Skills Commission Update**

Councillor George Duggins presented the report for the Board to consider the business plan for the initial activity of the Commission and to discuss the approach to setting up the governance structures. A detailed work plan outlining the specific actions and associated timescales to deliver on the approach had been developed. The work plan outlines four key areas of activity:

- (a) Full analysis of the productivity challenge for each of the priority and enabling sectors identified within the SEP across the 5 drivers of productivity – skills, enterprise, competitiveness, competition and innovation.
- (b) Testing and Development of products and tools to drive productivity at the firm level.
- (c) Research, policy analysis and policy development leading to recommendations on how WMCA can drive productivity through each of its strategic priorities, ensure that the local labour market is shaped to match our vision of a more productive region and to be clear on how these recommendations may affect social mobility.
- (d) Governance

Resolved:

That the update paper on Productivity and Skills be noted.

**7.0 Any Other Business**

**7.1 Membership of Herefordshire Council**

Resolved:

That Councillor Tony Johnson be appointed as the Member and Councillor Patricia Morgan to be appointed as the substitute to the West Midlands Combined Authority Board for Herefordshire Council for 2016/17.

**8.0 Date of Next Meeting**

Friday 18 November 2016, 11:00 – 13:00