



# WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

## Board Meeting

Friday 20 January 2017

### Minutes

#### Members

Birmingham City Council	Councillor Ian Ward
City of Wolverhampton Council	Councillor Roger Lawrence
Coventry City Council	Councillor George Duggins
Coventry City Council	Councillor Abdul Khan
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Pete Lowe – Vice Chair
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Steve Trow
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
Nuneaton and Bedworth Council	Councillor Dennis Harvey
Redditch Borough Council	Councillor Bill Hartnett
North Warwickshire Borough Council	Councillor David Humphreys
Rugby Borough Council	Councillor Michael Stokes
Stratford –on- Avon District Council	Councillor Chris Saint
Warwickshire County Council	Councillor Izzi 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
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	Alan Franks
Redditch Bromsgrove Council	Kevin Dicks
North Warwickshire Borough Council	Steve Maxey
Rugby Borough Council	Adam Norburn
Stratford-on- Avon District Council	Dave Buckland

Warwickshire County Council  
The Marches LEP  
Police & Crime Commissioner Office  
West Midlands Fire Service  
Transport for West Midlands  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
Mental Health Commission  
Birmingham City Council  
Birmingham City Council  
Birmingham City Council  
Birmingham City Council  
City of Wolverhampton Council  
City of Wolverhampton Council  
City of Wolverhampton Council  
City of Wolverhampton Council  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Chair of Transport Delivery Committee

Monica Fogarty  
Gill Hammer  
Jonathan Jardine  
Phil Loach  
Laura Shoaf  
James Aspinall  
Jan Jennings  
Sean Russell  
Paul Dransfield  
Sean Russell  
Tony Smith  
Rob Connelley  
Rachel Ratcliffe  
Louise Sketchley  
Chris Tunstall  
Jaswinder Kaur  
Rachel Egan  
Andrew Kinsey  
Councillor Richard Worrall

Item Title  
No.

1. **Meeting Business Items**

1.1 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Clancy, (substituted by Councillor Ian Ward), Councillor Steve Eling (substituted by Councillor Steve Trow), Councillor Lee Jeavons, Stewart Towe, Steve Hollis, Jonathan Browning (substituted by Nick Abell), Councillor Shaun Davis, Councillor George Adamson, Councillor Steven Claymore, Councillor Malcolm Pate, Councillor Tony Johnson, Graham Wynn.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

1.3 **Minutes of the WMCA Meeting held 9 December 2016**

That the minutes of the 9 December 2016 Board meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

1.4 **Forward Plan**

Resolved:

- That the Forward Plan be amended to include 'Welcome of the Mayor'.
- That the Forward Plan be noted.

## 1.5 **Chairs Remarks**

Councillor Bob Sleight advised that he and other Members had met Lord Adonis at an Infrastructure Commission, which provided members with an opportunity to highlight key issues for the West Midlands. The contribution of Birmingham Airport to the entire UK was also presented.

Councillor Roger Lawrence added that it was emphasised that HS2 was not the only issue to be gained/resolved and the connectivity package for the whole of the region was crucial. Transport schemes needed to be packaged up more effectively. Case studies for the East and West Midlands were to be considered by Lord Adonis.

The Chair thanked the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner on the work on the M6 Commission. The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner thanked the Chair for his contribution at the meeting. The Commission looked into the congestion issues and network resilience, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed that he had addressed any policing issues immediately and issues with key partners. A final report would be circulated to the board. He further added following a separate meeting with Highways England a number of other issues were raised which required addressing. Going forward the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner would take forward the issues with the Mayor.

## 2. **Combined Authority Governance**

### 2.1 **Minutes of the Transport Delivery Committee held on 5 December 2016**

Resolved:

That the draft Minutes of the Transport Delivery Committee held on 5 December 2016 be noted.

### 2.2 **Report confirming Board decisions of 9 December 2016**

Keith Ireland presented a report to approve the recommendations presented to the Board at its meeting on 9 December 2016 relating to the Coventry City Centre South Development, and decision to opt-in to the national scheme for auditor appointments.

Resolved:

1. That the recommendations contained in the report at agenda item 10.1 (and corresponding private item no. 13.1) to the Board on 9 December 2016 relating to the Coventry City Centre South Development be approved.
2. That the recommendations contained in the report at Agenda item 10.5 to the Board on 9 December 2016 relating to the decision to opt-in to the national scheme for auditor appointments be approved.

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

#### **3.1 Mayoral Combined Authority 'Functions' Order Update**

Chris Tunstall provided an update on the Mayoral Combined Authority Functions Order. The lawyers were working through the latest version of the Order and the Finance Order and any comments would be reported to DCLG. It was expected that final checks would take place before the February parliamentary recess so that the Order can be laid at the new session of Parliament in March.

#### **3.2 Driving Policy Development for Devolution**

Mark Rogers presented a report on proposals on how to bring more focus to the policy development work of the Devolution Strategy Group. The WMCA required a long-term strategic approach to devolution. It was recommended that the Health Group be expanded to cover Health and Social Care and that a Fiscal Devolution Group be set up. He went on to clarify that the role of the DSG was to ensure that priorities from the commissions were packaged up correctly to develop medium/long-term strategy and then engage with government to present future devolution asks.

In response to a question by Councillor Pete Lowe on existing governance arrangements, Mark Rogers clarified that it was recognised that there were existing governance arrangements in place and these would be respected.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner highlighted that as part of housing and land the issue of gypsy and travellers also needed to be considered in terms of the financial and economic costs to the region. A more coherent approach was required in the region. It was noted the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner was currently undertaking a review. Councillor Izzi Seccombe added that the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner raised similar issues at a Summit and a joined-up approach would be welcomed.

Councillor Ian Courts added that devolution process required a geographical input and wider member input.

In response to Councillor Sean Coughlan's question on membership of the fiscal devolution group, Martin Reeves responded that membership would be wider than just finance directors.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe added that the report was helpful, however an understanding was required of where deeper or lighter involvement was required. Mark Rogers added that a devolution approach would only be pursued if it added value at a WMCA level and had wider impact. Sarah Norman added that as part of the devolution ask for Sustainable Transformational Plans (STPs); a strategy would be formulated to support

the one public estate for STPs infrastructure. Councillor Izzi Seccombe added it would be helpful to understand the emerging priorities for work streams. Sarah Norman responded that the Wellbeing Board would be meeting on the 24 February which would discuss the emerging thinking for devolution and then report back to this board.

Councillor Chris Saint sought clarification on what was implied by non-statutory approach on page 46 of the report, Mark Rogers responded that this was a political issue. At present the WMCA did not have a statutory plan for land and therefore clarification was required on what members were prepared to do by not having a statutory plan. In response to a question on whether the WMCA would have a statutory plan, Keith Ireland added that it was a decision for the WMCA to make.

Councillor Sean Coughlan added discussion was required on housing and land and whilst he understood the issue was a sensitive one it was one which required addressing for the betterment of the West Midlands.

Resolved:

1. That the creation of a new Fiscal Devolution Working Group and the remit of the Health sub group be extended be agreed.
2. Looking at how developing devolution policies in each area are fed back to lead officers and portfolio lead members, to ensure that members are up to speed with the direction of policy, opportunities being explored with government and lobbying issues.

### 3.3 **Appointment of Combined Authority Returning Officer**

Martin Reeves presented a report to enable the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to appoint a Combined Authority Returning Officer and agree a budget in respect of the Combined Authority mayoral election on 4 May 2017.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe added that discussion was required by Constituent Members on the Mayors budget before he or she was able to precept.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner raised concern over the tight budget to deliver the mayoral election. Martin Reeves responded mechanism would be put into place to ensure voter engagement was high and that voters understood the voting mechanisms. Robert Connolly added that the estimate was received from procurement and based on DCLG estimates.

Resolved:

1. Appoint the Returning Officer for Birmingham City Council as the West Midlands Combined Authority Returning Officer (designate).
2. Agree a budget allocation of £4m for the conduct of the election.
3. Agree that no staff employed by a Local Returning Officer shall be paid less than the voluntary living wage.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe left the meeting at 11:55.

#### **4. Transport**

##### **4.1 Contactless Ticketing and Fare Capping**

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report to outline the scope of works, including an estimated timeline, required to produce a detailed roadmap for the delivery of contactless payment and “best value” capping for the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

The report also sought to gain approval for the commissioning of this work through PA Consulting Services Limited who were experts within this field having supported the South East Flexible Ticketing (SEFT) initiative and Midlands Connect in its development of the Smart Connectivity work package.

Resolved:

1. That the requirements for the development of a roadmap to deliver contactless payment and “best value” capping across all modes be reviewed and agreed, initially in the West Midlands and including a feasibility review for wider rollout throughout the wider Combined Authority area.
2. That it be agreed to commission this work through PA Consulting Services Ltd as recommended by the Smart Programme Board and based on their track record as set out in paragraph 5.5 within the report.

##### **4.2 Swift Programme Update**

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report to sought approval for the next phases of the Swift programme and to provide an update on progress to date.

Resolved:

That the next phases of the Swift programme as defined in the report at section 6, and that the progress be noted as set out in section 5.

#### 4.3 **Strategic Cycle Network**

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report is to gain approval for the proposed Strategic Cycle Network, developed by national cycle planning experts Phil Jones Associates in conjunction with officers from TfWM and the local authorities of the West Midlands metropolitan area.

Resolved:

That the Strategic Cycle Network set out in the appendix of the report be approved, subject to any minor amendments being sent to TfWM by 27 January 2017.

#### 4.4 **West Midlands Rail Ltd – Revised Collaboration Agreement with Department for Transport**

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report to advise the WMCA of a change to the drafting of the Collaboration Agreement between West Midlands Rail Limited (WMR Ltd) and the Department for Transport (DfT) since being approved by the Authority on 19 August 2016. The change has come about because of a change of opinion by the new Secretary of State for Transport.

The Collaboration Agreement sets out the relationship between WMR Ltd and the Department for Transport (DfT) in relation to the management of the West Midlands passenger rail franchise. Authorisation is sought for WMCA to cast its votes in favour of the special resolution to that is necessary under Article 8.3 of WMR Ltd Articles of Association to authorise the signing of the Collaboration Agreement.

Resolved:

1. That the change of position to rail devolution being adopted towards rail devolution in the West Midlands by the new Secretary of State for Transport be noted; and
2. That votes cast in favour of the special resolution that is necessary under Article 8.3 of West Midlands Rail Limited (WMR Ltd) Articles of Association to authorise the signing of the revised Collaboration Agreement (appended to this report), whether that resolution is passed in writing or at a general meeting of the Company.

#### 4.5 **2017-2018 Transport Levy**

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report with an update on the Transport Levy to meet the requirements of TfWM for the 2017/18 financial year, and subsequent two years. The levy had been reduced this year due to the impact of historical pensions implications. Over the course of the next couple of months the levy would be reviewed to determine

whether any further cut can be made with minimal implications on policy, any changes to policy would be fully consulted upon.

Resolved:

1. That it be agreed in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended) and the Transport Levying Bodies regulations 1992, and subject to the recommendations below, to make a levy of £121,542m for the year 2017/18 without affecting any existing policies.
2. That the Treasurer be authorised to issue the levy for 2017/18 to the West Midlands Districts Councils on the basis of the apportionment set out in section 5 of the report.
3. That the amount of levy to be paid by the Authority by the Councils by ways of 12 equal instalments be agreed, each to be received on the last banking day of each calendar month during 2017/18.
4. That an Annual Net Expenditure Budget for 2017/18 as summarised in paragraph 3.2 of the report be approved.
5. That it be noted that the Authority and its delegated sub-committees, would receive regular monitoring reports throughout the year.

## **5. Economic Growth**

### **5.1 Economic Growth Portfolio Update**

Councillor Bob Sleigh advised that the update would be deferred to a future meeting.

### **5.2 WMCA Growth Company Update**

Councillor Bob Sleigh advised that the update would be deferred to a future meeting.

## **6. Health and Wellbeing**

### **6.1 Mental Health Commission Update**

Councillor Pete Lowe reported that Councillor Bob Sleigh had been awarded an OBE and thanked him for his contribution to the West Midlands. Board members expressed their congratulations.

Councillor Pete Lowe presented a report on the work of the West Midlands Mental Health Commission chaired by Rt. Hon. Norman Lamb MP. The

report provided an update on current position of the Commission work, outlined the proposed timetable for delivery from January 2017 and sought delegated approval of the actions proposed by the commission, subject to all members being briefed on the final draft report prior to its publication.

The report was to be published on the 31 January and an official launch would take place at Edgbaston Cricket Club. Members were requested to sign up to the Concordat to take forward the actions highlighted within the report. If further information was required members were requested to contact the Implementation Director Sean Russell.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner observed that his financial contribution was higher than he had accounted for, Sarah Norman clarified that the breakdown also covered the contribution for the Implementation Director post. He went on to add that the Mental Health Criminal Justice bullet point was not an action and proposed it be amended. Councillor Pete Lowe welcomed the comment and understood the significant impact the action would bring.

Resolved:

1. That the efforts to secure sign off by the Implementation Director for the Mental Health Commission report prior to the Launch on 31 January 2017 be supported.
2. That the proposed Mental Health budget for 2017/18 be supported.
3. That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Vice-Chair and Portfolio Lead for Health & Wellbeing and the Clerk to the Board, approval of the actions proposed by the Commission, subject to all members being briefed on the final draft Mental Health Commission report prior to its publication.

## **7. Productivity and Skills**

### **7.1 Productivity & Skills Portfolio Update**

Councillor George Duggins presented a report on the activity within the Productivity & Skills portfolio. An overview was provided on the aims of the Productivity & Skills Commission. Indications were that pilots can support both benefit claimants and non-benefit claimants and that it can be delivered in non-constituent areas. Councillor George Duggins was still of the view that block allocations would not be varied for 2017/18.

Resolved:

1. Note progress and future direction of travel for the portfolio.

**8. Public Service Reform**

**8.1 Public Service Reform Update**

In the absence of Councillor Steve Eling, Phil Loach provided an update on Public Service Reform. A further paper would be provided at the February Board meeting with further information of digital strategy and PSR and on the anticipated progress of Chief Executives releasing resources to achieve economies of scale.

**9. Any Other Business**

9.1 No other business was discussed.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

10.1 Friday 17 February 2017, 11:00 – 13:00

That the date and time of the next meeting be noted.