



# WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

## Board Meeting

Friday 3 March 2017

### Minutes

#### Members

Birmingham City Council	Councillor John Clancy
City of Wolverhampton Council	Councillor Andrew Johnson
Coventry City Council	Councillor George Duggins
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor David Sparks
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Preet Kaur Gill
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Bob Sleigh – Chair
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Ian Courts
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Sean Coughlan
Black Country Consortium	Tom Westley
Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP	Steve Hollis
Cannock Chase District Council	Councillor George Adamson
Nuneaton and Bedworth Council	Councillor Julie Jackson
Redditch Borough Council	Councillor Bill Hartnett
North Warwickshire Borough Council	Councillor David Humphreys
Stratford –on- Avon District Council	Councillor Chris Saint
Shropshire Council	Councillor Malcolm Pate
Warwickshire County Council	Councillor Izzi Seccombe

#### Observers

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

#### Co-Optees

Trade Union Congress	Robert Johnston
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#### Officers In Attendance

Birmingham City Council	Angela Probert
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	Simon Neilson
Black Country Consortium	Sarah Middleton
Coventry and Warwickshire LEP	Paula Deas

Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP	Katie Trout
Nuneaton and Bedworth Council	Brett Davies
North Warwickshire Borough Council	Jerry Hutchinson
Rugby Borough Council	Adam Norburn
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	Dave Webb
Warwickshire County Council	Monica Fogarty
Shropshire Council	Clive Davies
Police & Crime Commissioner Office	Mark Kenyon
West Midlands Fire Service	Phil Loach
West Midlands Combined Authority	James Aspinall
West Midlands Combined Authority	Jan Jennings
Birmingham City Council	Paul Dransfield
Birmingham City Council	Tony Smith
West Midlands Combined Authority	Richard Kenny
City of Wolverhampton Council	Rachel Ratcliffe
City of Wolverhampton Council	Chris Tunstall
City of Wolverhampton Council	Jaswinder Kaur
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Andrew Kinsey
Chair of Transport Delivery Committee	Councillor Richard Worrall
Professor Steven Leach	Chair Independent Remuneration Panel

Item Title  
No.

1. **Meeting Business Items**

1.1 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roger Lawrence (substituted by Councillor Andrew Johnson), Councillor Abdul Khan, Councillor Pete Lowe (substituted by Councillor David Sparks), Councillor Steve Eling (substituted by Councillor Preet Kaur Gill), Councillor Lee Jeavons, Stewart Towe (substituted by Tom Westley), Jonathan Browning, Councillor Shaun Davies, Councillor Dennis Harvey (substituted by Councillor Julie Jackson), Councillor Steven Claymore, Councillor Michael Stokes, Councillor Tony Johnson Graham Wynn and Lee Barron (substituted by Robert Johnston).

Councillor Bob Sleigh welcomed Robert Johnston from the Trade Union Congress.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

1.3 **Minutes of the WMCA Meeting held 17 February 2017**

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner requested the date at page 9 in relation to the unauthorised traveller summit be amended to the 10 February 2017 he went to advise that the report on unauthorised

encampments summit had been circulated to members.

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 17 February 2017 be approved as an accurate record subject to the above amendment.

#### 1.4 **Forward Plan**

Keith Ireland clarified that the WMCA was in the process of updating the Forward Plan effectively and that it would be a legal requirement for the WMCA to have a Forward Plan in place once the Mayor was in place.

Resolved:

1. That the forward plan be agreed.

#### 1.5 **Chairs Remarks**

There were no remarks from the Chair.

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

#### 2.1 **Independent Review Panel – Mayoral Remuneration**

Professor Steven Leech presented a report regarding the recommended level of remuneration and associated allowances for the Mayor/ Deputy Mayor. The principles on which the remuneration panel based its analysis and its recommendations were outlined to the board. He went on to outline the challenges the remuneration panel faced and the various salaries considered when determining the appropriate allowance for the Mayor.

**Professor Steve Leech presented the following summary recommendations:**

- The panel's best estimate of an appropriate allowance for the WMCA elected Mayor is £79,000.
- The allowance should not be above £81,000 or below £77,000.
- There should at present be no allowance paid to the deputy Mayor. This allowance should be assessed in 2/3 years' time when the responsibilities of the role have become clearer.
- The index which should be used to review the Mayor's allowance on an annual basis should, for the time being, be the annual permitted increase in officers' salaries. If the government ceases to impose a cap of this nature, the index should be re-assessed.
- The travel and subsistence allowances paid to the Mayor should be the same as those which apply to officers of the Combined Authority.

- The carer's allowance to be paid to the Mayor (if appropriate) should be equal to the rate paid to home care assistants (currently £8.73 per hour).
- The panel should be reconvened in late-2019/early 2020, to assess whether the Mayoral allowance needs to be adjusted in the light of any new responsibilities that have accrued.
- The case for introducing some form of assessment of the Mayor's performance should be examined at the panel's meeting in 2019/2020.

Councillor Bob Sleight's sought clarification on the process for reconvening an independent remuneration panel. Chris Tunstall clarified it would require the approval of the board and the Mayor for an independent remuneration panel to be reconvened.

Councillor Bob Sleight thanked Professor Steve Leach and the panel members Mike Ager (Wolverhampton), Fred Bell (Dudley), David Grainger (Birmingham), David Lane (West Midlands Combined Authority), Sylvia Parkin (Sandwell), Arko Sen (Walsall), Nerys Williams (Solihull) and Peter Wiseman (Birmingham) for the work undertaken on the independent remuneration panel.

Councillor Bob Sleight proposed the recommendation and Councillor Sean Coughlan seconded.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Report of the Independent Review Panel on Mayoral Remuneration be noted.
2. That the appropriate level of remuneration and associated allowances for the Mayor/ Deputy Mayor as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report be determined.
3. That it be agreed if substantial changes occur to the Mayors role/ responsibilities the Independent Remuneration Panel would be reconvened.

## 2.2 **Protocol for communications with the candidates for Mayor of the West Midlands**

Councillor Bob Sleight presented the protocol for communications with the candidates for Mayor of the West Midlands for noting.

Martin Reeves advised the lead officer for Public Sector Reform was Phil Loach and not Paul Sheehan as stated within the report.

In response to Councillor John Clancy's question on the purdah period it was clarified it commenced on the 23 March 2017 due to arrangement put

into place for the postal vote.

Resolved:

That the protocol for communications with the candidates for Mayor of the West Midlands be noted.

### **3. Health and Wellbeing**

#### **3.1 West Midlands on the Move 2017-30 – Physical Activity Strategy**

The item on West Midlands on the Move 2017-30 – Physical Activity Strategy to be deferred to a future board meeting.

### **4. Public Service Reform**

#### **4.1 Public Service Reform Update**

The item on Public Service Reform to be deferred to a future board meeting.

### **5. West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority**

#### **5.1 Route Map to Mayoral WMCA Governance**

Councillor John Edwards presented a report on the route and approach required for the Mayoral WMCA to assume governance of the West Midlands Fire Service.

The approach would accord with Home Office expectations regarding accountability and improved scrutiny in governance arrangements, as well as measuring the outcome of current and future service delivery to the communities of the West Midlands and beyond.

Consultation with the WMCA and the elected Mayor would be commenced to reform the West Midlands Fire Service, to provide a more streamlined and flexible arrangement as an interim measure, until such date as is reasonably practicable for the functions exercisable by the West Midlands Fire Service to become functions of the Mayoral WMCA.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner was concerned by the report put forward by the West Midlands Fire Service. He sought clarification on why the report had been brought forward. He advised that the law now permitted him to put in a counter bid however requested that consideration of the report be deferred until the Mayor was in place so that a calm, considered assessment could be made of the best governance model for the Fire Service. He went on to add there was no mention of the change in governance arrangements within the consultation conducted by the West Midlands Fire Service or in the plan of the West Midlands Fire Service. He went on to query whether Non-Constituent members had been consulted on proposals for services to be provided wider than the

West Midlands footprint involving a combination of Fire Services. Other governance options had not been fully scoped.

Keith Ireland clarified that the WMCA had a great deal of business to get through over the next couple of months and the board would be meeting more frequently. Due to the report being finalised it was scheduled into this meeting.

Councillor Malcolm Pate requested that Hereford and Shropshire be consulted on proposals which would impact their region.

Councillor John Edwards clarified there was no takeover proposal, wider regional changes would require consultation with all concerned, a will from partners to work together and approval from government. He advised that regional Fire Officers met regularly and collaboration options had been discussed. It was an option which could be explored in the future if there was intent from the other regions. The Home Office had indicated they would be interested to view a regional proposal. He emphasised at this stage the report was requesting for support of the WMCA and going forward extensive discussions would take place with the WMCA and the Mayor. Governance was a key part of the consultation undertaken and when asked which model of governance would the public prefer for the Fire Service, a WMCA Mayoral option was one of the most preferable with the PCC being the least. The West Midlands Fire Service took a unanimous decision to come under the WMCA.

Resolved:

1. That the strategy proposed in the report be supported concerning the reform of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority), namely the route required for the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to assume governance of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service (the Service) from the Authority.
2. That the outcomes, purpose, approach and timeline as set out in the report be supported.

## **6. Any Other Business**

6.1 None Notified

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

7.1 **Friday 17 March 2017, 11:00 – 13:00**

Resolved:

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

**8. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

[To pass the following resolution:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to any individual, information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and/or information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)]

**Part 2 – Matters Not Open to the Public and Press**

**8.1 Creating a West Midlands Growth Company**

That the recommendations be agreed as detailed in the exempt minutes.

**8.2 Appointment of Chief Executive for the WMCA**

That the recommendations be agreed as detailed in the exempt minutes.

**8.3 Appointment of two Director Posts for the WMCA**

That the recommendations be agreed as detailed in the exempt minutes.