

West Midlands Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Holding the Mayor and the Combined Authority to Account

- The West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee [the Committee] holds the Mayor and the Combined Authority to account by publicly examining policies and programmes through committee meetings, plenary sessions, site visits and investigations.
- The Committee may require that an officer or member of the Combined Authority attend meetings to answer questions, including the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.
- The Combined Authority and the Mayor should formally respond to the Committees motions and formal recommendations within two months.
- The Committee will hold formal public question sessions with the Mayor a minimum of two times a year at Mayor's Question Time, one session of which will focus on the Mayor's budget and will be scheduled at an appropriate time to allow the Committee to suggest budget amendments, should it consider this necessary.
- As well as examining the Mayor's actions and decisions, the Committee act as champions for residents of the West Midlands by investigating issues that are important to the area - from improving the economy to how to tackle mental health in the region.

Call-in

The Committee has the power of call-in to call in decisions of the Mayor and Combined Authority which have been made but not implemented. This applies to all decisions, not just "key decisions". (Section 1(2)(a), Schedule 5A, Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, as inserted by the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016).

A stop can be placed on the implementation of the decision once it is under scrutiny.

Section 4(1), Schedule 5A, Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, as inserted by the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016.

Key decisions must be publicised. This includes publicity 28 days prior to when they are expected to be made, although urgency provisions do exist which allow the timescale to be shortened –with the agreement of the chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

This will help the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to understand when particularly important decisions may be coming to be made, and to plan to influence them beforehand.