



WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

Board Meeting

Friday 21 April 2017 at 11.00am

Minutes

Constituent Members

Birmingham City Council	Councillor Peter Griffiths
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
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Steve Trow
Solihull Metropolitan Bough Council	Councillor Ian Courts
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Bob Sleigh (Chair)
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	Councillor Sean Coughlan

Non-Constituent Members

Black Country LEP	Ninder Johal
Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP	Steve Hollis
Redditch Borough Council	Councillor Bill Hartnett

Observer Members Awaiting Membership

North Warwickshire Borough Council	Councillor David Humphreys
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	Councillor Chris Saint
Warwickshire County Council	Councillor Izzi Seccombe

Co-Opted Member

Midlands Trades Union Congress	Lee Barron
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Observer Members

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

In Attendance

Matt Bowers	Tamworth Borough Council
David Cockroft	Coventry City Council
Paula Deas	Coventry & Warwickshire LEP
Kevin Dicks	Redditch Borough Council
Monica Fogarty	Warwickshire County Council
Alan Franks	Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
Keith Ireland	City of Wolverhampton Council
Jonathan Jardine	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Jan Jennings	West Midlands Combined Authority
Stella Manzie	Birmingham City Council
Steve Maxey	North Warwickshire Borough Council

Sarah Middleton
Adam Norburn
Sarah Norman
Nick Page
Paul Sheehan
Mark Taylor
Katie Trout
Dave Webb
Councillor Richard Worrall

Black Country Consortium
Rugby Borough Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
West Midlands Combined Authority
Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
WMCA Transport Delivery Committee

Item Title
No.

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor George Adamson, Jonathan Browning, Councillor John Clancy (substituted by Councillor Peter Griffiths), Councillor Steve Eling, Councillor Dennis Harvey, Councillor Lee Jeavons, Councillor Malcolm Pate and Councillor Michael Stokes.

1.3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 April were agreed as a correct record, subject to an amendment to minute no. 3.2 ('UK Central Urban Growth Company Hub Growth & Infrastructure Delivery Plan') to provide clarity regarding funding sources for the plan.

1.4 Forward Plan

The plan of items to be reported to future meetings of the WMCA Board was noted.

1.5 Chair's Remarks

(a) AGM - 9 June 2017

Councillor Bob Sleigh reported that because a General Election had been called for 8 June and it was possible that a number of the counts would be taking place on the following day, the WMCA's AGM scheduled for 9 June would now be re-arranged to an alternative date.

2.1 Mayoral Election Update

Councillor Bob Sleigh indicated that this was the last meeting of the WMCA before the mayoral election was held on 4 May.

On behalf of all the member authorities, Councillor Sean Coughlan expressed his thanks and appreciation to Councillor Bob Sleigh for chairing the WMCA during the last year, and his tireless work in contributing to its success. Councillor Bob Sleigh thanked him for these comments, and expressed his own thanks for the role that all members and officers involved in the WMCA had played in establishing the organisation and ensuring that its first year had been the success it was widely considered to be.

2.2 Embedding the Universities: Higher Education Representation

Councillor Bob Sleight presented a report that set out the important role that universities within the region played in supporting the delivery of the WMCA's aspirations, and made a number of proposals to strengthen this relationship to maximise the impact and return from the universities for the WMC and the region.

Universities had initially agreed to invest in the West Midlands Growth Company and to help fund a Director post to support the WMCA. In order to build on establishing a strong relationship, the universities were prepared to offer advisers to sit on specific boards and working groups through the appointment of a nomination and substitute for each meeting.

Councillor George Duggins noted that Further Education colleges were already engaged in the Productivity & Skills Commission, Councillor Izzi Seccombe welcomed this positive approach from the universities and Councillor Ian Courts noted that the willingness of the region's universities to becoming embedded within the work of the WMCA would make a significant contribution to its ability to deliver on its ambitions.

Resolved:

The universities 'offer' to contribute to WMCA business through the current WMCA governance structure, as detailed within the report, be approved.

3.1 2017/18 Combined Authority Review and Annual Plan

Councillor Bob Sleight presented a report on the draft 2017/18 WMCA Annual Plan.

The Annual Plan outlined the importance of the day-to-day delivery of the strategic objectives of the WMCA and set out the objectives that would develop and grow its agenda during 2017/18. The more detailed Transport Plan for the forthcoming year, setting out objectives that would enable people to meet their daily employment, leisure, education and shopping needs, had been approved by the Board at its meeting on 17 March

Councillor Roger Lawrence welcomed the Annual Plan, which he considered to give a good representation of the work to date of the WMCA and its priorities for the forthcoming year. Councillor Ian Courts stressed the importance of the environmental and 'quality of life' issues that ran through the WMCA's workstreams. Councillor Bob Sleight confirmed that meetings had been held with the Environment Agency, who were keen to work further with the WMCA.

Although this was intended to be the final version of the plan, Keith Ireland explained that if authorities wished to suggest any further amendments, they should do so before 26 April. If any further comments were received, they would be circulated to all members of the Board for information.

Resolved:

(1) The draft 2017/18 Combined Authority Review and Annual Plan be approved.

(2) The Chair, in consultation with the Chief Executive, be given delegated authority to sign-off any further changes made to the plan necessary to be made prior to it being published on 30 April.

4.1 Midland Metro Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report that provided an update on the on-going Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Midland Metro extension development work, and seeking approval to submit an Initial Outline Business Case to Government.

The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill metro extension comprised 10.7km of new twin track, 17 metro stops, 11 road traffic junctions crossed at-grade, 23 existing structures to be refurbished or rebuilt, 4 new structures to be built, and connections with Metro Line 1, Dudley Port railway station, Dudley bus station and the Waterfront and Merry Hill shopping centre.

Councillor Lowe welcomed the proposals contained within the report and considered that the proposed extension would have a significant benefit to the region in improved passenger inter-connectivity.

Resolved:

(1) The progress being made on delivering the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill extension be noted in respect of:

(a) the period up to 31 March 2017.

(b) the delivery of an Outline Business case submission to the WMCA Assurance process.

(c) the period up to March 2018.

(2) The increase in estimated outturn cost for the project of £343.6m and the principle of WMCA providing financial cover for the local element of this cost to enable the submission of a business case to Government be noted.

(3) It be noted that the approval of funding of up to £4m for the 2017/18 financial year was to be sought from the Investment Board, in accordance with the scheme of delegation, in order to progress the scheme.

(4) Subject to the outcome of the WMCA governance processes, the submission of the Outline Business Case to Government for the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill extension be approved, and confirmation of project funding be sought in the 2017 Autumn Statement.

4.2 Contactless Ticketing and Fare Capping

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report on the key findings and recommendations from the work undertaken by PA Consulting to develop a roadmap to deliver contactless payment and best value capping.

Councillor Izzi Seccombe welcomed the report and considered contactless ticketing to be one of the most tangible benefits that could be delivered to bus passengers. She requested that consideration be given as to the practicalities of delivering contactless ticketing within Warwickshire. Councillor Roger Lawrence welcomed these comments and suggested she meet with Matt Lewis, Head of Swift at Transport for West Midlands, to discuss these matters further.

Resolved:

It was approved, in principle and subject to future business cases, that the following projects be progressed by Transport for West Midlands:

- (a) The enhancement of the Swift platform to include Swift Pay-As-You-Go capping and Swift on Mobile.
- (b) Work with National Express and INIT to deliver an interim contactless payment with capping solution for bus and tram.
- (c) Work with Transport for the North to help shape a national back-office solution for contactless payment that would ultimately be deployed across all public transport modes in the West Midlands and more widely.

4.3 Swift Journeys - New Record

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report highlighting the increasing popularity of the Swift smartcard.

Swift was the largest and most comprehensive smartcard scheme in the UK outside of London, both in terms of the range of tickets and functions offered and customer usage. In the past 15 months, the number of smart journeys had increased from 675,000 to 3.27m, along with continued ticket and function enhancements. A number of new tickets and functions were due to be delivered on to the Swift platform throughout 2017/18, including a range of child tickets and further rollout across the rail network.

Councillor Roger Lawrence reported that the Swift card had been relaunched in recent months, and this had helped to further raise public awareness.

Resolved:

The continued delivery of the Swift programme, recognising Swift's increasing popularity as monthly Swift card journeys exceeded 3.25m for the first time in March 2017, be agreed.

6.1 Date of Next Meeting

Friday 12 May 2017 at 11.00am

7. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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 item of business as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to an 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).

7.1 West Midlands Growth Company

The Board considered a report providing an update on the West Midlands Growth Company draft business plan and Board of Directors nominations process.

The draft business plan was currently being prepared and would be submitted to a future meeting of the WMCA Board. Nominations had also been received for Directors of the Growth Company, and these would be considered at a separate meeting of 'A' Members.

Keith Ireland indicated that the on 26 April, Marketing Birmingham would hold an Extraordinary General Meeting at which they would be dissolved into the West Midlands Growth Company, which would become effective from 1 May.

Resolved:

(1) It be noted that the West Midlands Growth Company first draft business case was being prepared for consultation and would be presented to a later meeting of the Board.

(2) It be noted that the 'A' Members of the West Midlands Growth Company would (at a separate meeting) consider and confirm the nominations to the Board of Directors.

The meeting ended at 11.40am.