

A meeting of the  
**WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

will be held on

**Date: Wednesday, 18 March 2020**

**Time: 10.30 am**

**Place: Council Chamber, Bristol City Hall, College Green, Bristol BS1  
5TR**

Notice of this meeting is given to members of the West of England Overview & Scrutiny Committee as follows:

Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council  
Cllr James Arrowsmith, South Gloucestershire Council  
Cllr John Ashe, South Gloucestershire Council  
Cllr Stephen Clarke, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Winston Duguid, Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Cllr Geoff Gollop, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Gary Hopkins, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Carole Johnson, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Cllr Mhairi Threlfall, Bristol City Council

Copies to North Somerset Council representatives: Cllr Mike Bird, Cllr Peter Crew, Cllr Huw James

**Enquiries to:**

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- Inspect agendas and public reports five clear working days before the date of the meeting
- Inspect agendas, reports and minutes of WECA committees and sub-committees for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used to prepare public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
- Have access to the public register of names, addresses and wards of all councillors sitting on WECA committees and sub-committees with details of the membership of all committees and sub-committees.
- Have a reasonable number of copies of agendas and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) made available to the public attending meetings of WECA committees and sub-committees
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# AGENDA

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

To note that Cllr Peter Crew has replaced Cllr Nigel Ashton as a North Somerset representative.

## 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members who consider that they have an interest to declare are asked to: a) State the item number in which they have an interest, b) The nature of the interest, c) Whether the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest, non-disclosable pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest. Any Member who is unsure about the above should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting in order to expedite matters at the meeting itself.

## 5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5 - 10

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee as a correct record.

## 6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS; PETITIONS; STATEMENTS)

### Questions:

Any member of the public can submit a maximum of 2 written questions. Questions should be addressed to the Chair of the committee and sent to [democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

For the 18 March meeting, questions must be submitted and received by the deadline of 5.00 pm on Thursday 12 March 2020 at latest. Under the direction of the Chair, wherever possible, written replies to questions will be sent to questioners by the end of the working day prior to the meeting.

### Petitions / statements:

Any member of the public may present a petition or make a statement at this meeting. Details of petitions / written statements should be sent to [democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

For the 18 March meeting, petition details / written statements must be submitted and received by the deadline of 12 noon on Tuesday 17 March 2020 at latest.

Please note that one statement per individual is permitted. Statements will be listed for the meeting in the order of receipt. In presenting a statement at the meeting, members of the public are generally permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each if they so wish. The total time available for the public session at this meeting is 30 minutes. Within the time available, every effort will be made to enable individuals to verbally present their statements; at the discretion of the Chair, speaking time may sometimes be reduced depending on how many public items are received.

Please note that all public items will be circulated in advance of the meeting to the committee members.

## 7. CHAIR'S BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 8. REVIEW OF 20 MARCH WECA COMMITTEE AND WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS

11 - 18

Report enclosed.



# Agenda Item 5

## West of England Combined Authority WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 29 January 2020, 10:30 am  
Council Chamber, Bath Guildhall

### Present:

Cllr Stephen Clarke, Bristol City Council (Chair)	Cllr Gary Hopkins, Bristol City Council
Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council	Cllr Carole Johnson, Bristol City Council
Cllr James Arrowsmith, South Gloucestershire Council	Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Winston Duguid, Bath and North East Somerset Council	Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council
Cllr Geoff Gollop, Bristol City Council	Cllr Mhairi Threlfall, Bristol City Council

### In Attendance from North Somerset Council

Cllr Mike Bird	Cllr Huw James
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### Officers in attendance:

Patricia Greer, Chief Executive	Malcolm Coe, Director of Investment and Corporate Services
Shahzia Daya, Director of Legal and Democratic Services	Stephen Bashford, Head of Business and Skills
Ian Hird, Scrutiny Manager	George Margesson, Principal Economist
Helen Edelstyn, Senior Policy Manager	

## Minutes

1	<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>  The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.
2	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  No apologies had been received from members of the Committee but Cllr Nigel Ashton, North Somerset Council, had sent apologies.
3	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT 2011</b>  There were no declarations of interest declared.
4	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
5	<b>ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS; PETITIONS; STATEMENTS)</b>  Three public statements had been received and these had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. Mr David Redgewell and Cllr Sarah Warren (Bath and North East Somerset Council) attended the meeting and addressed the Committee on the topic of their statements.

6	<p><b>CHAIR'S BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>The following items were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the public statements, the Chair explained that members had agreed to participate in a number of informal “sub-groups” formed from the existing members of the Committee on different topics of interest and mirroring the existing WECA Boards. An initial meeting to discuss transport issues had been arranged and would look in detail at the JLTP4.</li> <li>• The Committee also called for a Climate Emergency Board to be established so that Cabinet members with that portfolio could feed directly into WECA’s decision-making process. Patricia Greer in response stated that consideration had taken place about whether any additional governance process should be established and that it was important that the climate emergency was embedded in the culture and decision making of the organisation, including Scrutiny. A formal discussion of these issues would take place at the meeting of WECA Committee on 31 January 2020.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLANNING UPDATE</b></p> <p>Helen Edelstyn, Senior Policy Manager and George Margesson, Principal Economist, introduced a report together with an accompanying presentation on the climate emergency planning update.</p> <p>The report stated that in July 2019, the WECA Committee had declared a climate emergency, which committed the West of England to carbon neutrality by 2030. As part of the emergency declaration, a report back to Committee was required every six months on progress. The Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee was asked to note and comment on the update report on climate emergency planning in advance of the 31 January 2020 joint meeting of the WECA Committee and the West of England Joint Committee.</p> <p>The report included the following key information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the collaborative work that had taken place following the Combined Authority’s declaration of a climate emergency;</li> <li>• A high-level review of regional climate emergency evidence;</li> <li>• Details of action already taken to address the climate emergency;</li> <li>• Details of next steps, including the development, in liaison with West of England unitary authorities, of a Climate Emergency Action Plan;</li> <li>• Details of steps being taken to embed action on climate emergency.</li> </ul> <p>The Action Plan would be drawn up in collaboration with the West of England unitary authorities and be available in Spring 2020.</p> <p>The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diesel engine trains stop at Temple Meads and keep their engines running which is leading to further pollution. Responsibility for this lay with Network Rail and Rail operators, however, WECA was actively working with rail partners to support efforts to decarbonise.</li> <li>• It was difficult to find evidence to reflect the emergency prioritised in the budget as, for instance, £813k was being invested in a study for a new by-pass while £165k was identified for strategic Park and Rides. The various budgets needed to reflect the emergency situation. Immediate action was needed to ensure the climate emergency</li> </ul>

	<p>was appropriately reflected in budget profiles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were some frustrations over the pace of decision making when significant investment was needed. Some members felt that the action points set out were not immediate enough;</li> <li>• Hydrogen use was not mentioned in the report;</li> <li>• The Committee recommended that a Climate Board be established;</li> <li>• There was a request for the Mayor of the West of England to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to answer questions particularly on this issue. It was noted however, that this may mean all the members of the WECA should be invited;</li> <li>• It was pointed out that rail and flight emissions were counted nationally and internationally and therefore excluded from regional emissions data;</li> <li>• £250k had been allocated, for early business case development, whereas Bristol had allocated £3m as an emergency measure;</li> <li>• There was a request for use of the phrasing Scope 1, 2 and 3 in relation to emissions. In response, it was stated that the report had deliberately been written in 'plain English' to assist people who may not be familiar with the topic;</li> <li>• The activity of the organisation as a whole was reflected in the budget such as the money and capital being put into the walking and cycling strategy. The action plans in development would develop emergency actions further. Climate change actions were embedded in every report produced by the Authority. Regular meetings took place with the officers from the constituent authorities. However, different authorities were at different stages.</li> <li>• The governance arrangements had been considered by political leaders and changes to those arrangements were a matter for the political leaders to agree at their committee meeting on 31 January 2020.</li> <li>• There were plans for WECA to upgrade its website;</li> <li>• The Authority was also working with M4 corridor partners to develop a 'hydrogen corridor demonstrator' for freight and heavy goods;</li> <li>• All four of the Authority's Boards had been given chance to comment on the Climate Emergency report and those comments would be shared with WECA Committee as part of its decision-making process;</li> <li>• The Committee recommended that the pre-existing budget schemes be reviewed in context of the climate emergency;</li> <li>• The Committee also felt that delays in setting up some of the projects had led to some opportunities missed, with projects taking three years or more in the planning stage;</li> <li>• The Committee called upon WECA to become a designated low carbon champion organisation by embedding this within its culture.</li> </ul> <p><b>AGREED:</b> That the report be noted and the Committee place on record its comments to the WECA Committee together with its view that £250k of resource was inadequate to tackle this issue (see appendix 1).</p> <p>(Cllrs Mike Bird and Huw James left the meeting after this item).</p>
8	<p><b>REVIEW OF 31 JANUARY 2020 WECA COMMITTEE AND JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS, INCLUDING THE 2020/21 BUDGET REPORTS</b></p> <p>Malcolm Coe, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, introduced a report with an accompanying presentation that provided a summary of the various budget and finance reports that would be considered by WECA Committee at its meeting on 31 January 2020.</p> <p>The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WECA had been created for long-term investment in the region but had to demonstrate additionality;</li> </ul>

- WECA had limited scope to raise any funds itself. Often the funding pots available were short-term or time limited. For instance the business rates retention pilot would end in 2021 and it was unclear at this stage what fund would replace this;
- The IBB review had been carried out and funding had been secured for another five years;
- Each scheme funded by the Investment Fund was set out in the papers;
- The government did not provide all the necessary funds in one go but in chunks and each tranche of funding was subject to “gateway reviews”, taking place approximately every five years;
- In relation to the “One Front Door” funding report, concerns were raised from north Bristol scrutiny councillors that appropriate consultation had not taken place with local residents or councillors on the proposed segregated bi-directional cycle path from Crow Lane roundabout to the Charlton Road junction included as part of the A4018 corridor improvements and asked that appropriate consultations take place in future;
- The Authority was looking at regional infrastructure planning for the region while the JSP was on hold;
- The slides seemed to indicate the prioritisation of Yate Park and Ride over strategic sites and it was asked whether WECA could intervene by front-loading. It was noted that some schemes required additional funding, or were funded from different funding streams;
- Mass Transit was WECA commissioned and led, but different arrangements were in place for Metrobus;
- Mass Transit did however have different meanings to different groups in society. Future priorities were set out in JLTP4;
- Western Gateway was launched a couple of months ago and was being worked through. It would form part of the pan-regional working;
- Around £20m was left as contingency fund, together with an extra £30m for the Business and Skills element of the Local Industrial Strategy;

**Agreed:** That the finance update be noted and the Committee place on record its comments to the WECA Committee (see Appendix 1)

It was agreed that the Chair would present the Overview & Scrutiny Committee’s comments to the Joint meeting of the WECA Committee and Joint Committee at its meeting on 31 January 2020, and these comments are set out below (see Appendix 1)

The meeting closed at 12:39pm

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN CLARKE, CHAIR OF WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

#### **COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO: JOINT MEETING OF WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE AND WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE – 31 JANUARY 2020**

Arising from our meeting held on 29 January 2020, I wish to raise the following matters on behalf of the Combined Authority’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee:



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## 1. Climate emergency planning update (agenda item 15)

Overall, we are very disappointed with the report and have great difficulty in accepting the adequacy of the report as a progress update. Our concerns are summarised below.

### **Immediacy of action:**

The key point about the Climate Emergency is that it is an *emergency*; an emergency is defined as a serious/unexpected and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. In our view, the action taken to date, as set out in the report, does not indicate that the authority is taking forward action on the Climate Emergency with the required pace and urgency.

### **Climate Emergency action plan:**

We note from the report that the “next steps” include the development, in liaison with the West of England unitary authorities, of a Climate Emergency action plan. It was suggested at the meeting that this would be available in the Spring. We would like a clear date to be set by which the action plan will be available to scrutinise.

### **Governance:**

The report recommends that a requirement be added to the terms of reference of all the authority’s governance boards to consider the impact of all decisions and advice on the climate emergency. Whilst we understand that the rationale behind this proposal is to embed tackling the climate emergency into the authority’s governance, **we recommend in the strongest possible terms that a new Climate Emergency Board is established** to drive forward the regional response, and to ensure that effective actions / priorities are taken forward as quickly as possible. Our view is that the Cabinet lead portfolio member in each of the authorities should comprise this Board, and that the Board should also maintain strong links with the climate emergency action being taken in each authority. Scrutiny of course has an important role in monitoring progress and holding the authority to account but is not empowered to take the decisions required moving forwards to ensure that the essential urgent action is being maintained and that the appropriate level of resource is allocated.

**We additionally recommend that WECA should take on an additional employee to concentrate/ focus / champion / co-ordinate activity** as Bristol City Council have done.

### **Resource priorities:**

We believe that the £250k currently allocated to support regional climate emergency action is inadequate and should be increased. We are aware that the authority’s £350m investment programme was set before the authority declared a climate emergency in July 2019. Nevertheless, we feel it is essential to maintain an ongoing challenge to ensure that investment priorities are re-assessed in light of the Climate Emergency declaration. For example, investment in strategic park and ride sites should be brought forward at the earliest opportunity. We believe that WECA should revisit the prioritisation of the major schemes list that was decided before the declaration of the Climate Emergency and re-assess them in the light of the emergency.

We invite Mayor Tim Bowles to attend one of our meetings and discuss this issue as soon as possible.

## 2. Consultation with ward councillors and residents

In connection with the Joint Committee report on the LEP One Front Door funding programme, we noted strong concerns from north Bristol scrutiny councillors that appropriate consultation had not taken place with local residents or councillors on the proposed segregated bi-directional cycle path from Crow Lane roundabout to the Charlton Road junction included as part of the A4018 corridor improvements. Whilst we are aware this is a Bristol scheme, we nevertheless feel that the Combined Authority must build appropriate checks and balances into their processes to ensure that

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all proposals brought through for WECA funding have been the subject of all appropriate consultation.

### **3. Status of the Joint Spatial Plan**

We note that the Joint Spatial Plan is paused given that two authorities have withdrawn from the process. We request please that scrutiny is kept fully informed about the next steps for regional strategic planning.

### **4. Investment Fund gateway review**

We noted from the budget update that the first 5 year Investment Fund gateway review/evaluation is starting. We feel that in overall terms, the authority is strongly placed in terms of meeting the review's requirements.

Cllr. Stephen Clarke  
Chair, West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee



**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY**

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 18 MARCH 2020**

**REVIEW OF 20 MARCH WECA COMMITTEE AND WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**DIRECTOR: SHAHZIA DAYA, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES**

**AUTHOR: IAN HIRD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & SCRUTINY MANAGER**

## **Purpose**

1. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the reports due to be considered at the 20 March joint meeting of the WECA Committee and Joint Committee and formulate any comments they may wish to refer to the committees.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the committee identify any comments they wish to submit to the WECA Committee and Joint Committee on 20 March 2020.**

## **Summary**

2. During the previous and current municipal year, members have agreed that to assist their scrutiny role, meetings of the committee should generally be scheduled in advance of but close to the date of WECA and Joint Committee meetings, to enable Overview and Scrutiny members to review finalised reports before decisions are taken and to enable members to formulate any comments on the reports.

## **Follow-up from previous Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting – 31 January 2020 – comments on update report on climate emergency planning**

3. At the last meeting, members submitted a number of comments through a report of the Scrutiny Chair to the WECA Committee and Joint Committee on climate emergency planning, which included:

- a. emphasising the importance of identifying a clear date by which the regional climate emergency action plan would be available to scrutinise.
- b. a recommendation that the Combined Authority should establish a new Climate Emergency Board to drive forward the regional response to the climate emergency.

c. a recommendation that the Combined Authority should take on an additional employee to concentrate/focus/champion/co-ordinate activity on the regional climate emergency response.

d. in relation to the investment programme, a recommendation that the Combined Authority should revisit the prioritisation of the major schemes list that was decided before the declaration of the Climate Emergency and re-assess the list in the light of the emergency.

Since the 31 January joint meeting of the WECA Committee and Joint Committee, the Combined Authority's response to these matters has been as follows:

a. **Climate Emergency Action Plan:** WECA is leading collaborative work across the West of England authorities on the development of the action plan. The action plan will be submitted to the WECA Committee and Joint Committee for approval at their 19 June meetings; the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be given the opportunity to comment beforehand. Thereafter, 6 monthly progress reports will be submitted to the WECA Committee/Joint Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

b. **Climate Emergency Board proposal:** On 31 January, the WECA Committee agreed that a requirement be added to the terms of reference of all the authority's governance boards, including the Regional Capital Board, to consider the impact of all decisions and advice on the climate emergency. This decision is being implemented. The suggested establishment of a further, specific Board will be a matter for the Mayors and Leaders of the authorities to consider in reviewing/agreeing constitutional and governance arrangements at their 19 June (annual) meetings.

c. **Additional resource/employee to champion/lead the regional climate emergency response:** The Combined Authority is fully committed to leading this regional work – a proportion of the £250k currently allocated to support regional climate emergency action will be used to fund an officer resource to lead this work.

d. **Review of investment priorities:** A review of investment priorities has started – this is being taken forward initially on a collaborative basis by the Chief Executive of WECA and the Chief Executives of the West of England authorities.

## **20 March reports – summary**

4. The agenda and reports for the 20 March joint meeting of the WECA Committee and the West of England Joint Committee were published on 10 March (7 clear working days in advance of the joint meeting and 5 clear working days in advance of this Overview & Scrutiny meeting; at the time of publication of the agenda, the report on the Joint Local Transport Plan is not available as the document is in the process of being finalised. The document will be published and circulated as soon as it is available.

5. As per the meeting arrangements piloted on 31 January, a joint meeting of the WECA Committee and Joint Committee is being held on 20 March. This will enable meeting arrangements to be streamlined by holding one public forum slot (rather than two separate ones) without impacting on the overall time available for public forum business. The new arrangements also mean that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Chair can make comments to both committees at the same time, rather than addressing each committee at separate meetings.

6. The agenda for the 20 March meeting has been published and circulated. The agenda papers make clear which items are for decision by the respective committees, and can also be accessed from this web link:

**Web link to 20 March agenda papers – Joint meeting of the WECA Committee and the West of England Joint Committee:**

<https://westofengland-ca.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=192&MId=443>

7. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider any specific comments to submit to the 20 March meeting (a standard slot is included on the agenda to enable the Chair to present any comments on behalf of scrutiny members).

**SUMMARY OF THE 20 MARCH COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

(Note: officers will be available at the meeting to respond to any queries from members).

**JOINT COMMITTEE - AGENDA ITEM 11**

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) & INVEST BRISTOL AND BATH (IBB)  
BUDGET OUTTURN, APRIL 2019 - JANUARY 2020**

**Purpose of report:**

This report presents the forecast revenue outturn budget for the West of England Joint Committee for the financial year 2019/20 based on actual data for the period from April 2019 to January 2020. This report covers the LEP and IBB revenue budgets

**Summary of report:**

This report includes the following key information:

**LEP budget:**

\* The LEP budget (see Appendix 1 of the report) shows a current projection to spend £4.994m against an original budget of £4.690m. The difference of £304k is mainly due to the receipt and phasing of spend for government grants together with a small underspend on core staff and related overheads.

\* Several grants have been attained throughout the year which have been included in previous budget monitoring reports. There are no new grants to report on in this committee cycle. The current forecast of grant spend across financial years is set out in Figure 1 of the report.

\* The investment interest earned on LEP balances relates entirely to the cash holding of the Local Growth Fund. Spend has escalated against this fund as the government deadline of March 2021 approaches (which is when funding through the Local Growth Fund ends). At this stage, it is not forecast that there will be any material shortfall against the £400k income budget as set. The income target for 2020/21 has been adjusted down to £200k as cash balances continue to wind down. This figure will be reviewed regularly and updated in future budget monitoring reports.

**IBB budget:**

\* The IBB budget detail is set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

\* 2019/20 is the last year of five years where IBB has been funded through the Economic Development Fund. From 2020/21, IBB will be funded through the Revolving Infrastructure Fund as part of a new five year deal (to be reviewed after year 3).

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## **JOINT COMMITTEE - AGENDA ITEM 12**

### **LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) ONE FRONT DOOR FUNDING PROGRAMME**

#### **Purpose of report:**

To consider changes to schemes within the current funding programme including a new business case for the Watershed development phase 1.

#### **Summary of report:**

This report includes the following key information:

#### **Local Growth Fund (LGF):**

\* The total West of England Growth Deal capital funding allocation across rounds 1-3 is £202.1m; the current profile of Local Growth Fund (LGF) schemes within the programme is shown in Figure 1 of the report. There is an expectation that all LGF projects are substantially completed by 31 March 2021 (which is the end of the LGF funding period) and a requirement that all grant funds are spent by this date. Over-programming (currently standing at £12.1m) has been used to help manage this requirement.

\* Recommended changes to schemes included in the LGF programme are set out at Appendix 2 of the report.

#### **Revolving Infrastructure Fund (RIF):**

\* Watershed development phase 1: A Full Business Case has been submitted seeking the award of £500k from the RIF towards the £1.522m Watershed phase 1 development (see Appendix 1 of the report for the business case assessment summary). This will see the redevelopment of E Shed to create a new ground floor 36 seat capacity cinema and a new café with covered outdoor seating.

\* Recommended changes to schemes included with the RIF and the Economic Development Fund programmes are set out at Appendix 3 of the report;

#### **West of England Healthy Ageing Trailblazer - Forever Homes:**

WECA is leading a consortium of partners in an ambitious project to help older adults live in the place they choose to live. The vision is to create better homes for older adults through innovative user-centred designs, products, technology and care. An Expression of Interest has been submitted to Innovate UK which is progressing to 'interview' stage. Subject to a successful outcome, the report recommends the delegation of the use of funds received and the submission of the Stage 1 business case to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the West of England Chief Executives.

#### **Workforce for the Future:**

This is an £8m programme funded through the WECA Investment Fund and the European Social Fund. The programme opened on 10 February to receive bid submissions against the first call by 6 April, with a further 2 calls expected across the duration of the project. The

report recommends the delegation of grant giving for Workforce for the Future to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the West of England Chief Executives. This will be informed by detailed bid assessments undertaken by the Skills Advisory Panel in advance of any delegated decisions.

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## **JOINT COMMITTEE - AGENDA ITEM 13**

### **ADOPTION OF JOINT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (JLTP4)**

At the time of publication of the agenda, the report on the Joint Local Transport Plan is not available as the document is in the process of being finalised. The document will be published and circulated as soon as it is available.

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## **WECA COMMITTEE - AGENDA ITEM 14**

### **WECA & MAYORAL BUDGET OUTTURN – APRIL 2019 – JANUARY 2020**

#### **Purpose of report:**

To present the forecast revenue budget financial outturn information for WECA and the Mayoral budget for the financial year 2019/20 based on actual data for the period from April 2019 to January 2020.

#### **Summary of report:**

This report includes the following key information:

#### **Mayoral budget:**

\* The Mayoral Fund's forecast revenue outturn position for 2019/20 (see Appendix 1) is £549k higher than the original budget. This is due to slippage on previous year grant fund feasibility projects. As these projects are funded by grants which were carried forward, the net position remains balanced.

\* A contribution of £396k will be made to an earmarked reserve, in line with budget, to meet the estimated costs of the next Mayoral election in 2021.

#### **WECA revenue budget:**

\* WECA's estimated outturn revenue position for 2019/20 (see Appendix 2 of the report) is a net surplus of £305k, £280k of which is due to higher income received from cash balances. The budget includes a transfer to general reserves of £100k, as approved in the original budget, with an increase of £250k into a specific reserve to fund Programme Management Office staff, as approved in July 2019.

\* The forecast spend on Transport functions remains as originally budgeted. As part of the integration of transport functions from 1 April 2020, WECA will take over the direct delivery of grant funding for Community Transport. The appropriate budget is included as part of the transport levy from the constituent unitary authorities to honour the existing 2020/21 funding arrangements for Community Transport. The report recommends that the award of grants to Community Transport providers for 2020/21 is delegated to the WECA Director of Infrastructure.

\* Spend on specific projects (see figure 3 of the report) is forecast to be £10.05m lower than originally budgeted, which is due mainly to the timing and planned use of grant funding.

\* Bus services: the report seeks approval of a drawdown of £57k from the WECA General Reserve to cover the shortfall in costs for the No.17 Southmead Hospital to Keynsham bus route up to 28 February 2021.

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## **WECA COMMITTEE - AGENDA ITEM 15**

### **INVESTMENT FUND**

#### **Purpose of report:**

To seek approval for Investment Fund feasibility, development and delivery funding, and for change requests for schemes within the current approved programme.

#### **Summary of report:**

This report includes the following key information:

Recommendations (subject to conditions where appropriate) to approve:

- \* The Full Business Case for the A4174 Wraxall Road roundabout signal scheme
  - \* The following Feasibility and Development funding applications and awards totalling £2.5m (as set out in paragraph 5 and Appendix 2 of the report):
    - Bus strategy infrastructure programme (project management and delivery) - £1.5m
    - Metrobus consolidation package - £300k
    - Manvers Street regeneration, Bath - £250k
    - Strategic rail investment (project management; commissioning of Strategic Outline Business Case) - £250k
    - Improving access to Bath from the east - feasibility study - £200k
  - \* The allocation of £552k match funding for the West of England stations enhancement project.
  - \* The allocation of £585k of Love Our High Streets funding for the Keynsham Town Centre project.
  - \* The delegation of grant giving for Workforce for the Future to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the other West of England Chief Executives.
  - \* To approve a number of change requests for schemes as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
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## **WECA COMMITTEE - AGENDA ITEM 16**

### **ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET (AEB) – APPROACH AND DRAFT ALLOCATIONS FOR THE 2020/21 ACADEMIC YEAR**

#### **Purpose of report:**

To set out the proposed approach for the management and administration of the devolved AEB for the 2020/21 academic year; and to propose draft provider allocations for the 2020/21 academic year.

#### **Summary of report:**

This report includes the following key information:

- \* A summary of the AEB powers and related funding devolved to the Combined Authority. The Department for Education has confirmed that the authority's AEB budget for 2020/21 is £15.3m. This is an increase of £583,682 compared to the 2019/20 allocation.
  - \* The proposed approach for 2020/21 is to start to deliver changes to support the delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy and Employment and Skills Plan, whilst also continuing the focus on provider stability and working positively with the provider base.
  - \* The full detail of the proposed approach is set out at Appendix 1 of the report.
  - \* The proposed 2020/21 allocations are set out at Appendix 2 of the report.
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## **WECA COMMITTEE - AGENDA ITEM 17**

### **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF WECA AUDIT COMMITTEE**

#### **Purpose of report:**

To approve the appointment of the Independent Member of the Combined Authority's Audit Committee.

#### **Summary of report:**

This report includes the following key information:

- \* The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 requires the West of England Combined Authority to appoint to its Audit Committee at least one independent person.
- \* The authority advertised for a suitable independent member in February 2020, with a closing date for applications of 21 February 2020.
- \* Following an interview process, an offer was made to fill the vacancy to Mr Mark Hatcliffe. The Combined Authority Committee is requested to approve the appointment as required by the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017.

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West of England Combined Authority Contact:

Any person seeking background information relating to this item should seek the assistance of the contact officer for the meeting who is Ian Hird / Tim Milgate on 0117 332 1486; or by writing to West of England Combined Authority, 3 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EW; email: [democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)