

A meeting of the

**West of England Combined Authority  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

will be held on

**Date: Wednesday, 23 June 2021**

**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 Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee as follows:

Cllr Winston Duguid, Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Cllr Donald Alexander, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Geoff Gollop, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Gary Hopkins, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Andrew Varney, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council  
Cllr James Arrowsmith, South Gloucestershire Council  
Cllr John Ashe, South Gloucestershire Council

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

Enquiries to:  
Ian Hird, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager  
Email: [democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)  
Tel: 07436 600313

Members of the public may:

- Observe all Combined Authority Committee meetings unless the business to be dealt with would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agendas and public reports five clear working days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect agendas, reports and minutes of Combined Authority 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 a list setting out the decision-making powers the Combined Authority has delegated to their officers and the title of those officers.
- For further information about this agenda or how the authority works, please contact Democratic Services, telephone 07436 600313 or e-mail: [democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

# AGENDA

## 1. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

To note the committee's membership as set out on the agenda.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

## 3. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2021-22

## 4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2021-22

## 5. 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 nonpecuniary 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.

## 6. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

To note the committee's terms of reference which are as follows:

The functions of the Overview and Scrutiny committee primarily relate to scrutinising the work of the West of England Combined Authority and the West of England Joint Committee ("Joint Committee") and making appropriate recommendations as to the discharge of its function.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall have the power to:

1. Review or scrutinise decisions made, or other actions taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Combined Authority or the Joint Committee;
2. Provide advice and challenge on policy and programme delivery to help ensure the region meets its climate commitments, including monitoring the delivery of the authority's Climate Emergency Action Plan.
3. Make reports or recommendations to the Combined Authority or the Joint Committee (as appropriate) on matters that affect the Combined Authority area or the inhabitants of the area;
4. Make reports or recommendations to the Combined Authority or the Joint Committee (as appropriate) with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Combined Authority or the Joint Committee;
5. In so far as the business of the Local Enterprise Partnership Business Board (LEP) relates to the discharge of functions of the Combined Authority or the Joint Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall have the power to scrutinise the LEP as set out in 1. – 3. above.

## 7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5 - 12

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

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

### WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (written procedure)

1. Any member of the public can submit a maximum of two written questions in advance of this meeting.

2. The deadline for the submission of questions is 5.00 pm, at least 3 clear working days ahead of a meeting. For this meeting, the deadline for questions is 5.00 pm on Thursday 17 June.

3. Questions should be addressed to the Chair of the meeting and e-mailed to [democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

4. 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.

5. Please note - under the Combined Authority's committee procedures, there is no opportunity for oral supplementary questions to be asked at committee meetings.

6. The written questions and replies will be circulated to committee members in advance of the meeting and published on the Combined Authority website.

### **PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

1. Any member of the public may submit a written statement (or petition) to this meeting.

2. Please note that one statement per individual is permitted.

3. Statements must be submitted in writing and received by the deadline of 12 noon on the working day before the meeting. For this meeting, the deadline for statements is 12 noon on Tuesday 22 June. Statements should be emailed to [democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

4. Statements will be listed for the meeting in the order of receipt. All statements will be sent to committee members in advance of the meeting and published on the Combined Authority website.

#### **5. Please note:**

If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting to orally present their statement, they are asked please to notify the Combined Authority's Democratic Services team of this at the point when their statement is submitted and by 12 noon on the working day before the meeting at the very latest.

For those presenting their statements at the meeting, up to 3 minutes 'speaking time' is permitted for each statement. The total time available for the public session at this meeting is 30 minutes.

All members of the public attending to present statements are requested please to take a Covid-19 lateral flow test 24 hours before the day of the meeting.

## **9. REVIEW OF 25 JUNE WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE & WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

13 - 36

To review the reports / decisions due to be considered at the 25 June joint meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee and West of England Joint Committee and formulate any comments to refer to the committees.

# Agenda Item 7

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

**Wednesday, 27 January 2021, 10:30am**

Meeting held virtually, via Zoom and broadcast on the Authority's Youtube channel

### Present:

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

### Officers In Attendance:

Shahzia Daya, Director of Legal and Democratic Services	Malcolm Coe, Director of Investment and Corporate Services
Ian Hird, Scrutiny Manager	Karen Ross, Housing and Planning Team Manager
David Carter, Director of Infrastructure	Lynda Bird, Head of Performance, Planning & Projects
Stephen Bashford, Director of Business & Skills	

### Apologies:

None

## Minutes

1	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>  The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting which was being held via Zoom and broadcast on the Authority's YouTube channel.
2	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  No apologies for absence were received.
3	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>  Cllr Huw James, North Somerset Council, declared an interest as a member of a Housing Trust.  There were no further declarations of interest received.
4	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2020 were agreed as a correct record.
5	<b>ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS; STATEMENTS; PETITIONS)</b>  Four questions were received from members of the public and these questions and replies had been circulated prior to the meeting and published on the Authority's website.  Four statements had been received and the following members of the public attended the

	<p>meeting and addressed the Committee on the topics of their statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. David Redgewell – Transport and regional issues;</li> <li>2. Dick Daniel – Integrated Transport authority role;</li> <li>3. Tony Lloyd – North Fringe Public Infrastructure Package.</li> </ol>
6	<p><b>CHAIR'S BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>The Chair stated that the Committee would hold an additional meeting as soon as possible to discuss the implications of the possibility of North Somerset Council becoming a constituent member of the West of England Combined Authority. It was noted that a sub-group of members would meet first to discuss how best to take the meeting forward.</p> <p>The Chair also paid tribute to the front line workers who continued to keep the country going during the Covid crisis and commiserated with those who had lost loved ones.</p>
7	<p><b>REVIEW OF 29 JANUARY WECA COMMITTEE AND JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <p>The Committee discussed the reports that would be brought to the WECA Committee and Joint Committee at its meeting on 29 January 2021.</p> <p>Karen Ross, Housing and Planning Team Manager, gave an overview of the West of England Housing Delivery Strategy report. The following comments were made in regards to that report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Planning Policy definition had been used for affordable homes but it was noted that the Government had changed the definition within the last year to include aspirational home ownership. A projected need for each category would be defined by the Local Housing Needs Assessment;</li> <li>• A question was raised regarding the needs of individual local authorities and the strategic plan. It was noted that there had been collaboration across the authorities but it was not meant to replicate their work;</li> <li>• A question was raised about the definition of Market Failure – this was defined that the needs would not be met without public sector intervention;</li> <li>• Development Infrastructure Fund (DIF) – did this cover commercial activities? It was confirmed that it would cover facilitating realising the outcomes of the Enterprise Zones. There was also the opportunity to look at employment sites under the Housing and Regeneration fund;</li> <li>• It was important to include participation with residents who had local knowledge;</li> <li>• Did it include helping retrofit homes?</li> <li>• West of England Housing Delivery Strategy – the comments from Planning and Housing Board did not include a mention of affordable housing. It was noted that this was likely to be a drafting error as the strategy was aiming to deliver affordable housing;</li> <li>• In terms of infrastructure funding, the challenge was that infrastructure was needed to deliver additional housing. There was nothing preventing the Authority to top up the DIF fund to support infrastructure. The document was coming now due to the funding packaging becoming available and to be clear to the Government that this was a policy priority of the Authority;</li> </ul> <p>The Committee discussed the reports on the Bus Network Recovery and Transport Decarbonisation study. It was noted that the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee Transport Sub-Group had looked at these issues and Cllr Huw James reported back on those discussions. The full minutes of the discussions would be circulated but are summarised as follows:</p>

- They had discussed the problems of not exploring franchising, although welcomed partnership working during the current crisis. They called on public authorities to support bus patronage to make the network ready post-pandemic;
- A concern was that without active involvement, the wider network would be lost as the operators would fund just some profitable routes;
- There was an opportunity to shape the networks going forward but were concerned over the local contract negotiations;
- David Carter stated that the report was providing a position awaiting any Government legislation. There would be likely to be an interim period following the pandemic for around 18 months. The status quo would be unsustainable over the long term. A return to the pre-pandemic service levels would be dependent on patronage and funding;
- How did the framework tool work – was it an algorithm or other methodology on connectivity when smart ticketing was introduced. With the need to take quick decisions, how would the public be involved. In response it was noted that the Transport Board would look at the issue in greater detail. There was no problem in circulating the workings for the framework tool for further scrutiny;
- JLTP4 would be discussed at the next Transport Board meeting but no formal proposals on the next iteration of the local transport plan would be available until the next Committee cycle at the earliest, although an early draft was requested at an informal Scrutiny meeting;
- The O&S Transport Sub-Group asked that electric vehicles be amended to read “zero admission vehicles” in the decarbonisation report. They welcomed the inclusion of low income families into the plan;
- The bullet pointed list of other similar initiatives around the country was welcomed and it was asked if this could be carried into all similar decarbonisation reports;
- It was asked whether there was a solution to charging points in terraced streets. It was stated that a blue print be drawn up irrespective of income and including terrace streets. It was however unclear who would own and maintain charging points. A regulatory system would need to be in place;
- There was concern that without investment into infrastructure there would be no progress. Authorities may be asked to intervene where it could not be delivered commercially;
- Was it possible that the amount of required power could be generated? A three-phase distribution to each house may be needed. Some detail was covered in ‘The Sixth Carbon Budget’ report (the UK’s path to net zero) published in December by the Climate Change Committee which plots a course of what needed to be done and by when to achieve net zero.

In response to a further question it was noted that there was not a single lead on Climate Change but was the responsibility of the Authority’s Senior Management Team (SMT) as a whole. It was suggested that the “Sixth Carbon Budget” report be discussed further at a future informal Scrutiny meeting.

Lynda Bird, Head of Performance, Planning & Projects gave an introduction to the WECA Annual Business Plan. The following comments were raised:

- It was asked whether skills should sit alongside education and whether all stakeholders were therefore included. It was confirmed that education sat within People and Skills and the Employment and Skills Plan and Skills Advisory Panel brought together businesses and education to join up across the region;
- Business Growth – 4 objectives – were there enough opportunities around growth to be mentioned as specific areas? These should be highlighted. The Business plan sat

alongside the climate emergency action plan and the objectives were threaded throughout but would be looked at further;

- It was asked whether the delay of the election and severe weather events should be mentioned. The delivery of the election would be done at local level and regular meetings were happening. The current Mayor would stay on until a new Mayor was elected;
- The use of low carbon technology to aid recovery was noted;
- The Authority had worked on bringing businesses to the region with inward investment a part of this strategy. International gateways were also a part of this work. It was asked that the improving international connections point was clarified.

Malcolm Coe, Director of Investment and Corporate Services briefly introduced the following reports which were going to be considered by the meeting of the WECA Committee and Joint Committee at its meeting on 29 January 2021 as follows:

- Local Enterprise Partnership revenue budget setting report 2021-22;
- Local Enterprise Partnership One Front Door funding programme;
- Mayoral Budget Setting Report 2021-22;
- Combined Authority Budget 2021-22 and medium term financial forecast;
- Capital Strategy including Treasury Management and Investment Strategies;
- Investment Fund.

The following comments were raised on these items:

- It was asked how the UAs engage with WECA's bids for funding and whether the UAs put in rival bids to government. It was noted that there were agreements with relevant senior officers and depending on how the grants were accessed (some had to be accessed through the UAs for instance);
- The reserve for LEP is around £600k but this would be clarified. Any 2020/21 underspend, currently forecast as £104k, will be carried-forward and added to the reserve;
- Reallocation of LGF money from the A4018 to the Bristol Beacon was queried. A change request had been received by BCC;
- It was asked whether the spend on agency staff/consultants could be clarified;
- A query was raised on the process of communicating delegated powers to members of the public. It was noted that delegated decisions were published via Mod.Gov.
- Treasury Management Strategy – cash balances held have been up to £250m, some of this is invested in equities. It was asked whether there was an ethical funds policy. In response, Malcolm Coe reported that Treasury management advisors were used who constantly challenge investment options. It was noted that most of the Authority's investments were with other local authorities who mainly used the funds to cover cash flow and arranged through brokers;
- The interest rates were constantly monitored but remain at an historic low;
- Investment Fund Report - Love our High Streets investments were used in Kingswood High Streets regeneration but an additional £5m from the 'Opportunities and Challenges' allocation has also been used to lever in £12.5m of government match funding;

**Resolved:** That the Committee's formal comments together with appendices be circulated to WECA Committee to be considered as part of the formal decision-making process (see Appendix 1).



8	<p><b>CITY DEAL BUSINESS RATES POOLING UPDATE</b></p> <p>Malcolm Coe, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, introduced a report providing a summary of the West of England's Business Rates Pool estimated balances and transactions for 2020-21, in accordance with the monitoring requirements of the Business Rates Pooling Principles Agreement. The report also summarised the 2020-21 estimated growth performance.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> That the Committee note the update and current performance of the West of England Business Rate Pooling arrangements.</p>

The meeting closed at 12:45pm.

## APPENDIX 1

### COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN CLARKE, CHAIR OF WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO: JOINT MEETING OF WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE AND WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE – 29 JANUARY 2021

Following our meeting on 27 January, I wish to raise the following matters on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. North Somerset Council joining WECA Mayors and Leaders will be aware of our concern that it was not possible to take forward the proposition of North Somerset joining WECA in advance of the next WECA Mayoral election scheduled for May. We have agreed that we will hold an additional meeting(s) specifically to discuss how North Somerset Council joining WECA could potentially be taken forward as soon as practically possible after the Mayoral election. We note that all authorities concerned would need to agree to take this forward. The specific questions and issues we wish to understand and explore, which we will hope will assist this process, are likely to include: - how we can seek clarification from / lobby the government about the extent of additional resources and devolved powers that could be secured for the region through North Somerset joining WECA; and compare this with what each authority is seeking through further devolution. - how to take forward discussions with government about this happening outside of the WECA Mayoral electoral cycle. - in the meantime, how can we ensure the maximum degree of involvement of North Somerset in WECA arrangements.

#### 2. West of England Housing Delivery Strategy (agenda item 12)

We recognised that the housing delivery strategy is essentially about how to accelerate the delivery of housing utilising the available tools, mechanisms and funding available to WECA and delivery partners. We would like to emphasise though the critical importance of accelerating affordable housing across the region. This needs to be seen in the context that individual unitary authorities have more 'ambitious' affordable housing definitions than that defined through national planning policy. The local authorities need an agreed definition of affordable housing and this should be included as a definition in the housing delivery strategy to make it clear what is meant by these words. Implementing the strategy must help deliver these local ambitions by accelerating delivery and maximising new affordable housing.

We also noted that the strategy does not have formal, fixed targets but has been constructed to support existing Local Plans and the draft Spatial Development Strategy and updated/new Local Plans as they are developed.

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3. Bus network recovery (agenda item 19) and Transport Decarbonisation study (agenda item 20) Our Transport sub-group fed back comments following a detailed briefing given to them by officers on 21 January. See appendix 1 for a detailed summary of points discussed at that meeting. At our meeting we also highlighted the following points:

\* We would like to be kept informed of the position once a clearer view emerges from government about the National Bus Recovery Strategy and any proposed transitional arrangement e.g. a Bus Recovery Partnership with the Combined Authority.

\* We note that as part of the previous Bus Strategy work, officers developed a framework to evaluate the relative costs and societal benefits of bus services and that an evidence-based tool has accordingly been developed that will help evaluate future tenders for bus services based on key principles included in the Bus Strategy. We note that the views of the Transport Board on this framework will be sought at their February meeting and welcome the offer that was made at our meeting to share this framework tool with us.

\* In terms of the potential options that may be highlighted through the Transport decarbonisation study, and whilst recognising the significant scale of this challenge, we are particularly keen that as much as possible is done to help prepare for and enable zero-emission vehicle use into the future.

4. WECA annual business plan 2021-22 We generally welcomed the plan and the clarity of the information set out. In terms of the four Business Growth objectives set out on page 12, whilst appreciating there is a lot of activity behind these objectives, we felt it would have been helpful to include specific objectives in terms of clean business growth. In terms of the Corporate Risk Register at Appendix 2, we suggest that an additional risk should be added around the risk of extreme weather. We also felt that it will be important to consider, in the context of WECA's business plan moving forwards (and the Climate Emergency Action Plan), the implications of 'The Sixth Carbon Budget' report (the UK's path to net zero) published in December by the Climate Change Committee.

5. Finance reports We received a full briefing on the six finance reports and generally welcomed the proposals in the Investment Fund report. We noted that (as we approach the Mayoral election and with a longer break than usual between committee meetings) the finance reports seek approval of a number of delegations to officers to help ensure in particular that progress can continue to be made on projects included within the approved £350m investment programme – whilst we understand the need for this, we asked that we are kept informed about delegated decisions as they are taken. In relation to Treasury Management, we would like to be involved in discussions around developing an ethical investment programme. Cllr. Stephen Clarke Chair, West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## **Appendix 1 WECA Scrutiny - Transport sub-group Summary points from meeting held on 21 January 2021**

Members present: Cllr Gary Hopkins, Cllr Hal MacFie, Cllr Mike Bird, Cllr Huw James Apologies: Cllr Mhairi Threlfall, Cllr Carole Johnson, Cllr Brian Allinson

The sub-group was briefed on the following reports included on the 29 January WECA / Joint Committee agenda:

### **Item 19 – Bus network recovery**

Peter Mann provided a briefing on this report and responded to members' questions.

There was general support from members for the report recommendations.

Main points noted/raised in discussion:

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- \* Bus patronage/demand is not expected to return to 100% of pre-Covid levels in the short to medium-term owing to the likely permanent changes in people's working behaviours and lifestyles.
  - \* It is difficult at this point to accurately assess how quickly bus patronage will increase as the Covid situation eases - the most optimistic view is that in 18 months - 2 years' time, there could be a return to 75-80% of pre-Covid levels.
  - \* The current bus strategy is due to be reviewed in any event by the end of 2021. This will present an opportunity to take stock of the impact of lifestyle changes since March 2020.
  - \* All authorities will need to take a full and very pro-active role in encouraging bus use as the pandemic eases and discouraging private car use, particularly in terms of the work commute. Potential congestion / pollution from increased levels of private car use is a serious concern.
  - \* The Government has committed to publishing a National Bus Recovery Strategy in the first quarter of 2021. The current understanding is that the government will propose a transitional arrangement (a Bus Recovery Partnership) as a bridge from the current emergency support to a longer-term delivery model for bus services such as an Page 5 Enhanced Partnership. This may involve an offer to devolve Government funding to mayoral combined authorities in the short to medium term. Details from the government are awaited – it is noted that the committee report proposes delegations to enable agreement to take place on devolved emergency funding to support local bus services and associated powers should a suitable offer be made by Government.
  - \* Under any such government proposals, there will not in practical terms be an opportunity for public consultation to be undertaken given the timescale for taking action; although carried out pre-Covid, the consultation previously held on the bus strategy is still relatively recent and is a useful reference point. At this point, there is no certainty about the overall timeframe that the government may propose for any bus recovery partnerships.
  - \* The issue of franchising was discussed - it was noted that taking up franchising carries significant risks to transport authorities in terms of 'certainty' about passenger numbers and revenue, particularly at this time. Some form of partnership arrangement is a more likely route and this seems to be the model most likely to be encouraged by the government.
  - \* Given reduced patronage, it is inevitably the case that the pre-Covid bus network will not be sustainable and very careful consideration will need to be given to service changes. Close liaison is taking place with First group as the main operator to understand those services that are least likely to be sustainable.
  - \* Moving forwards, it will be important for authorities to take the opportunity to consider and re-think how bus and rail services will co-relate in a post-pandemic world, taking account of changing behaviours – an integrated public transport offer must be encouraged.

## **Item 20 – Transport decarbonisation study**

David Carter provided a briefing on this report and responded to members' questions.

There was general support from members for the report recommendations.

Main points noted/raised in discussion:

- \* It was noted that the study will generate a set of options, each with a proportionate contribution towards the overall 2030 net zero carbon commitment, so that packages of options and their combined impacts can be considered. This will provide the evidence base for decision making on which strategic interventions to progress and take forward to design, consultation and delivery.
- \* The list of potential future strategic interventions for the study at appendix 1 was noted and generally welcomed. In terms of the reference in the first listed intervention to electric vehicles, it was suggested that it would be better to use the term "zero emissions" rather than "electric" as this, for example, will keep open the option of hydrogen solutions.
- \* In terms of emissions, the study/report will provide factual evidence and data about emission sources. There will then be choices to be made about options to reduce emissions. This will also help provide clarity about the actions that the Combined Authority can achieve but also about those actions where other organisations will need to take a key role.

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\* It was noted that the study will include the opportunities for delivering sooner on proposals for a West of England area electric vehicle charging network. It is anticipated that while the private market will meet part of the infrastructure requirements, there is likely to be a significant role for public bodies in ensuring a sufficient network coverage Page 6 to create confidence, ensure viability, and increase EV uptake. This will include investing in those sites that might not be the most financially attractive at the moment (potentially with funding support) but that will play an important role in the network and have the potential to provide better financial returns in the future. In relation to this, there may be an opportunity for the unitary authorities to consider anticipating future developments by installing EV points for private car charging on a commercial basis in car park sites that they own.



**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY**

**AGENDA ITEM 9**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 23 JUNE 2021**

**OVERVIEW REPORT - REVIEW OF 25 JUNE WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY 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 25 June joint meeting of the Combined Authority 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 Combined Authority Committee and Joint Committee on 25 June 2021.**

## **25 June reports – overview**

2. The agenda for the 25 June 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 25 June agenda papers – Joint meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee and the West of England Joint Committee:**

<https://westofengland-ca.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=192&Mid=475>

3. The Combined Authority has continued to review its key activities to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the ongoing Covid-19 situation that impact on proposals are addressed in the 25 June committee reports.

4. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider/formulate any specific comments to submit to the 25 June meeting (a standard slot is included on the agenda to enable the Chair to present any comments on behalf of scrutiny members).

5. For ease of reference, **Appendix 1** sets out short summaries of all the 25 June reports.
6. Officer attendance at the 23 June meeting will be limited to an extent due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.
  
7. Arrangements have been made for the following 'overviews' to be given by officers, with an opportunity for members to ask questions/comment:

a. **CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN UPDATE** (agenda item 11)

(suggested time allocation: 30 mins):

*Lead officers:*

*Jess Lee, Head of Strategy & Policy*

*Helen Iles, Senior Policy Officer*

This report includes the following key information:

- An update on progress towards the ambitions contained within the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- Details of the proposed regional activity in the lead up to COP 26.

On 25 June, the Combined Authority Committee will be asked to approve the following recommendations:

1. Note the commitment to establishing a green recovery fund that will tackle the climate emergency, protect biodiversity, and promote recovery.
2. Support and engage with plans for activity to stimulate a green recovery and in the lead up to COP26.
3. Support the participation of Solar Together
4. Note the wide-ranging action that is being taken to tackle the climate emergency since its adoption in October 2020, including the range of service specific actions undertaken or currently being delivered as outlined in appendix 1.
5. Note the development of key regional data benchmarks to help monitor impact going forward.

b. **INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS**

(suggested time allocation: 40 mins):

*Lead / presenting officers:*

*David Carter, Director of Infrastructure*

*Andy Strong, Bus Improvement Manager*

**\* BUS NETWORK RECOVERY & BUS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME** (agenda item 12)

This report:

- updates on the National Bus Strategy (NBS).
- seeks Combined Authority Committee approval for the work programme arising from the NBS and the associated budget.
- updates on the Bus Infrastructure Programme and Metrobus Consolidation Package and seeks approval for amendments.
- seeks approval for additional funding for the Bus Infrastructure Programme to accelerate delivery.

On 25 June, the Combined Authority Committee and Joint Committee will be asked to approve the following recommendations:

1. That the Combined Authority Committee and the Joint Committee note the contents of the National Bus Strategy and the work programme arising from it.
2. That the Combined Authority Committee and the Joint Committee agree to publish a Notice of Intent to proceed with the development of a joint Enhanced Partnership between WECA and North Somerset Council (as local transport authorities), Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council (as highway authorities) and bus operators.
3. That the Combined Authority Committee allocate £900k from the Investment Fund tail for the bus programme for development of a joint Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership and that approval of the relevant Feasibility & Development Funding Application be delegated to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent councils.
4. That the Combined Authority Committee approve the change request for the Bus Infrastructure Programme and Metrobus Consolidation Package and the award of an additional £600k from the Investment Fund tail for the bus programme as proposed in this Report and detailed in Appendix 5.

**\* STRATEGIC RAIL INVESTMENT** (agenda item 15)

This report seeks approval of proposals to continue to support the development and delivery of the rail programme.

On 25 June, the Combined Authority Committee will be asked to approve the following recommendations:

1. To increase the scope of the MetroWest 2 project to include a footbridge link to the A4018 (Henbury Station). It is recommended that an additional £140k for the MetroWest Phase 2 project be allocated to progress the A4108 footbridge to outline design by December 2021.
2. To allocate £150k of Investment Fund funding to develop the step free station proposals for five stations to GRIP 3 option selection.
3. To continue to cash flow the delivery of the Bristol Temple Meads Eastern Entrance in advance of central government funding decisions.

### **c. INVESTMENT FUND REPORT (agenda item 18)**

(suggested time allocation: 20 mins)

*Lead / presenting officer:*

*Pete Davis – Head of Grant Management & Assurance*

This report seeks approval for feasibility, development and delivery funding, and for change requests for schemes within the current approved programme.

This report includes the following proposals:

- A further £1m allocation for walking and cycling infrastructure.
- A further £234k of masterplanning funding for the (Bristol) City Centre Development and Delivery Plan.
- The Full Business Case for Hawkfield Business Park - The Bottle Yard Studios and an award of £11.82m
- The Full Business Case for the Bath City Centre High Streets Renewal Project and the award of £1.235m
- The Full Business Case for the Bristol City Centre and High Streets Recovery and Renewal Programme and award of £2.725m
- The Outline Business Case for the Common Connections project (developing green infrastructure on the South Gloucestershire and Bristol border).
- The Feasibility and Development Funding Application for the SEND Careers Information and Guidance Collaboration Pilot and an award of £20k
- The Outline Business Case for ISTART (integrated skills development, business incubation and research & innovation offer).
- The Full Business Case for the Careers Hub and award of £180k
- To use £1m of headroom to increase recovery funding and to develop and implement further measures to support economic recovery in line with the Metro Mayor's manifesto commitments. These could include a campaign to support regional re-opening, additional support for high streets, a jobs and skills summit and green skills focused activity in the run up to the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). In order to maintain momentum and ensure that the urgent action needed to support recovery is timely, it is proposed that the approval of development funding applications and business cases for these projects are delegated to the Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent councils.

### **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2020/21**

It is proposed that an informal meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be held in July to discuss the detail of a work programme / arrangements for the year ahead. As part of that discussion, members may wish to consider whether they wish to continue the previous practice of:

\* holding informal meetings of the committee at the approximate mid-point between the public meetings of the committee, to enable specific updates/briefings to be received, and agenda planning to take place.

\* Using sub-groups to enable more in-depth work and briefings on specific issues.



**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – short summaries of the reports submitted to the 25 June joint meeting of the WECA Committee & West of England Joint Committee.

**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 on 07436 600313; or by email:

[democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

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**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 9**

**25 June 2021**

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

**ANNUAL BUSINESS REPORT**

**Purpose**

To consider the annual business report.

**Summary**

This report includes the following key information:

- Details of committee memberships and terms of reference.
- The Combined Authority's Pay Policy statement.

**Recommendations**

Members of the Combined Authority Committee are asked to:

**The committee is asked to:**

1. Note the committee's membership.
2. Note the committee's terms of reference as set out in Appendix 1.
3. Approve the amendment to the constitution (deletion of Virtual Meeting procedure rules).
4. Confirm the arrangements as per paragraph 5 for
  - a. the West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
  - b. the West of England Combined Authority Audit Committee.
5. Approve the Pay Policy Statement as set out in Appendix 2.

**Contact officer:** Shahzia Daya

**Position:** Director of Legal

**Email:** [Shahzia.Daya@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Shahzia.Daya@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

**ANNUAL BUSINESS REPORT**

**Purpose**

To consider the annual business report.

**Summary**

This report includes the following key information:

- Details of the Joint Committee's membership and terms of reference

**Recommendations**

Members of the Joint Committee are asked to:

1. Confirm / elect the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021/22.
2. Note the Joint Committee's membership as at paragraph 2.
3. Note the Joint Committee's terms of reference as set out in Appendix 1.

**Contact officer:** Shahzia Daya

**Position:** Director of Legal

**Email:** [Shahzia.Daya@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Shahzia.Daya@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE AND  
WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 11**

**25 June 2021**

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

**CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

**Purpose**

To set out the next phase of activity for tackling the climate emergency and protecting nature, including proposed activity in the lead up to COP26; and to provide an update on progress towards ambitions contained within the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

**Summary**

This report includes the following key information:

- An update on progress towards ambitions contained within the Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Details of the proposed regional activity in the lead up to COP 26. This reflects the Metro Mayor's priority on taking urgent action to address climate change and protect the natural environment and biodiversity within the region.

**Impact of Covid-19 pandemic**

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows:

- Ensuring that revised plans and new programmes geared towards supporting recovery also reflect our climate ambitions e.g. recovery funding to extend the Low Carbon Challenge Fund.
- Supporting positive behaviour change such as increased levels of cycling and walking that were induced by the pandemic but contribute towards overall emissions reduction to remain as the region re-opens and recovers.

**Recommendations**

Members of the Combined Authority Committee are asked to:

The Combined Authority Committee are asked to:

- Note the commitment to establishing a green recovery fund that will tackle the climate emergency, protect biodiversity, and promote recovery

- Support and engage with plans for activity to stimulate a green recovery and in the lead up to COP26
- Support the participation of Solar Together
- Note the wide-ranging action that is being taken to tackle the climate emergency since its adoption in October 2020, including the range of service specific actions undertaken or currently being delivered as outlined in appendix 1.
- Note the development of key regional data benchmarks to help monitor impact going forward.

Members of the Joint Committee are asked to note the report.

**Contact officer:** Jessica Lee

**Position:** Head of Strategy & Policy

**Email:** [Jessica.Lee@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.Lee@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE AND  
WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 12**

**25 June 2021**

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

**BUS NETWORK RECOVERY AND BUS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME**

**Purpose**

- \* To update on the National Bus Strategy (NBS).
- \* To seek approval for the work programme arising from the NBS and the associated budget.
- \* To update on the Bus Infrastructure Programme and metrobus Consolidation Package and seek approval for amendments
- \* To seek approval for additional funding for the Bus Infrastructure Programme to accelerate delivery.

**Summary**

This report includes the following key information:

- An assessment of and proposed next steps in responding to the National Bus Strategy.
- Proposals for taking forward the Bus Service Improvement Plan, Bus Infrastructure Programme and metrobus Consolidation Package.

**Impact of Covid-19 pandemic**

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows:

- Development of a Bus Service Improvement Plan as a bid for funding to improve the local bus network will contribute positively to clean and inclusive growth, assist businesses and residents seeking employment.
- The Bus Infrastructure Programme supports the principles of clean and inclusive growth.

**Recommendations**

1. That the Combined Authority Committee and the Joint Committee note the contents

of the National Bus Strategy and the work programme arising from it;

2. That the Combined Authority Committee and the Joint Committee agree to publish a Notice of Intent to proceed with the development of a joint Enhanced Partnership between WECA and North Somerset Council (as local transport authorities), Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council (as highway authorities) and bus operators;
3. That the Combined Authority Committee allocate £900k from the Investment Fund tail for the bus programme for development of a joint Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership and that approval of the relevant Feasibility & Development Funding Application be delegated to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent councils;
4. That the Combined Authority Committee approve the change request for the Bus Infrastructure Programme and Metrobus Consolidation Package and the award of an additional £600k from the Investment Fund tail for the bus programme as proposed in this Report and detailed in Appendix 5.

**Contact officer:** David Carter

**Position:** Director of Infrastructure

**Email:** [David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)



25 June 2021

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET****LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) & INVEST BRISTOL AND BATH BUDGET OUTTURN, APRIL 2020 - MARCH 2021****Purpose**

To present the revenue outturn for the West of England Joint Committee for the financial year 2020/21 based on data for the period April 2020 to March 2021. The report covers the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Invest in Bristol and Bath (IBB) revenue budgets.

**Summary**

This report includes the following key information:

- Appendix 1 sets out the LEP revenue out-turn for the 2020/21 financial year based on actual information to the end of March 2021 which shows spend of £5.75m against an original budget of £6.6m. The difference of £841k is mainly due to the receipt and phasing of spend for government grants. Overall, there is a forecast net underspend of £152k which is due to a surplus in treasury management along with an underspend on Economic Development Fund business case grant.
- Total grants attained across the three-year period from 2020/21 – 2022/2023 is approximately £20m. The authority has recently reviewed and updated the anticipated timing of spend against these grants and re-profiled the income accordingly as set out in Figure 1.
- The original 2020/21 budget for external grants was £5.45m. For the Growth Hub, Energy and Careers Hub, the authority has been successful, during the year, in increasing the overall funding available which has been profiled, based on estimated timing of spend, up to March 2023. Actual out-turn compared with the original budget for the 2020/21 financial year is set out in Figure 2.
- A recommendation that £100K is allocated from the LEP reserve to focus on digital connectivity. This allocation is requested to progress specialist work to develop an evidence based picture of current digital connectivity across the West of England region (including North Somerset), and to set out some options and actions for improving this position. This will draw together existing evidence from across each of the constituent unitary authorities, complement the work we are doing to set up a Smart Alliance and develop a regional digital transformation strategy/roadmap, as set out in our LIS and Regional Recovery Plan, as well as responding to one of the Metro Mayors key priorities..

**Impact of Covid-19 pandemic**

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows: There is a potential impact on future year revenue budgets as activity is re-prioritised and focused on supporting economic recovery. Activity, and corresponding budgets, will be kept under regular review over the coming months.

## Recommendations

Members of the Joint Committee are asked to:

- a) Note the LEP revenue outturn as set out in Appendix 1;
- b) Approve the net underspend on core LEP activities of £152k to be transferred to the LEP General Reserve.
- c) Approve £100K from the LEP reserve to focus on digital connectivity with financial sign off for each phase of works delegated to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives from the constituent authorities

**Contact officer:** Malcolm Coe

**Position:** Director of Investment & Corporate Services

**Email:** [Malcolm.Coe@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Malcolm.Coe@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

25 June 2021

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET****LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) ONE FRONT DOOR FUNDING PROGRAMME****Purpose**

To update on the delivery of the Local Growth and Getting Building Funds and consider a business case submission for the Revolving Infrastructure Fund

**Summary**

This report includes the following key information:

- The latest position on the delivery of the Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Fund.
- An Outline Business Case submission by North Somerset Council for the Weston Business Quarter seeking funding through the RIF. This would deliver the infrastructure and utilities required to service the remaining 30 acres of land which is yet to be developed and in the ownership of North Somerset Council in the Weston Business Quarter, which is part of the J21 Enterprise Area.

**Impact of Covid-19 pandemic**

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows: The Local Growth, Getting Building, Economic Development and Revolving Infrastructure Funds are focused on supporting economic growth and the delivery of the schemes within these programmes will positively contribute to the economic recovery.

**Recommendations**

Members of the Joint Committee are asked to:

1. Note the full spend of the Local Growth Fund and the Getting Building Fund in-year award for 2020/21 by the required deadline.
2. Note the submission of the Outline Business Case for the Weston Business Quarter project, and delegate approval and the award of £674k to progress the Full Business Case to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Council Chief Executives, subject to headroom in the RIF being available and there being no other immediate calls on these funds.

**Contact officer:** Malcolm Coe

**Position:** Director of Investment & Corporate Services

**Email:** [Malcolm.Coe@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Malcolm.Coe@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE  
& WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 15**

**25 June 2021**

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

**STRATEGIC RAIL INVESTMENT**

**Purpose**

\* To seek endorsement of recommendations to continue the development and delivery of the rail programme.

**Summary**

This report includes the following key information:

- A proposal to allocate Investment Fund funding to the MetroWest Phase 2 project to deliver the A4018 footbridge.
- A proposal to allocate £150k of Investment Fund funding to develop the step free station proposals for five stations to GRIP 3 option selection.

**Impact of Covid-19 pandemic**

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows:

\* Transport infrastructure plays a key role in regenerating economies through job creation during construction and permanently, post scheme opening. Better transport connectivity connects communities with educational and employment opportunities. The infrastructure works referenced within this report will contribute positively to the post Covid-19 economic recovery.

\* Investments in railway could significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions from transport, and its contribution to air pollution, while providing access to efficient and sustainable transport for all. Expanding rail transport in growing urban centres will also increase reliability, reduce congestion and noise pollution, and improve local air quality. This is important for the long-term health and resilience of the region.

**Recommendations**

- **Recommendation 1:** It is recommended that WECA Committee increases the scope of the MetroWest 2 project to include a footbridge link to the A4018. It is

recommended that an additional £140k be allocated for the MetroWest Phase 2 project to progress the A4108 footbridge to outline design by December 2021.

- **Recommendation 2:** It is recommended that WECA Committee allocates £150k of Investment Fund funding to develop the step free station proposals for five stations to GRIP 3 option selection.
- **Recommendation 3:** It is recommended that WECA Committee continue to cash flow the delivery of the Bristol Temple Meads Eastern Entrance in advance of central government funding decisions.

**Contact officer:** David Carter

**Position:** Director of Infrastructure

**Email:** [David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:David.Carter@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE    ITEM 16**

**25 June 2021**

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY AND MAYORAL BUDGET OUTTURN  
REPORT**

**Purpose**

To present the revenue budget financial outturn information for the West of England Combined Authority and the Mayoral budget for the financial year 2020/21 based on data for the period April 2020 to March 2021.

**Summary**

This report includes the following key information:

- Appendix 1 sets out the Mayoral Fund's forecast outturn revenue position for the 2020/21 financial year based on actual information to the end of March 2021, which, overall, is £41k lower than the original budget due to reduced staff and travel costs.
- Appendix 2 sets out the Combined Authority's estimated outturn revenue position for the 2020/21 financial year based on actual information to the end of March 2021, which, overall, is projecting an end of year surplus of £1.127m.
- Appendix 3 sets out the revised 3-year forecasted revenue spend on Investment Fund projects.

**Impact of Covid-19 pandemic**

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows:

- The achievability of business rates growth targets will be kept under regular review as we move out of the pandemic. This has a direct impact on a proportion of WECA's core operating revenue budget.
- Concessionary fare payments to bus operators have been made in line with budgeted profile to maintain continuity of service, along with contract payments for supported bus services and payments to community transport providers.
- Payments to Adult Education providers have also been made in line with budgeted profile to maintain stability of the provider base.
- Activity, and corresponding budgets, will be kept under regular review over the coming months with government advice and guidance taken into consideration.

**Recommendations**

Members of the Combined Authority Committee are asked to:

- (a) Note the Mayoral Fund revenue outturn as detailed in Appendix 1.
- (b) Note the WECA revenue outturn as detailed in Appendix 2.
- (c) Amend the 2021/22 Mayoral budget to reflect the Department for Transport announcement, (in March 2021), reducing the Highways Capital Maintenance Grants from £17.5m to £14.06m.
- (d) Note the allocation of £400k from the 2020/21 Treasury Management surplus to a specific Treasury earmarked reserve (as agreed at the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Committee).
- (e) Approve the reimbursement of £227k to BANES in relation to the surplus that they delivered against the 2019/20 transport levy.
- (f) Approve the transfer of £492k, being the net end of year surplus in Integrated Transport activities, to the Transport Smoothing Reserve.
- (g) Approve the transfer of £500k from the 2020/21 revenue surplus to the earmarked Business Rates Retention reserve to address the estimated shortfall in 2021/22.
- (h) Approve the transfer of £627k from the 2020/21 net revenue surplus into the West of England Combined Authority General Reserve.

**Contact officer:** Malcolm Coe

**Position:** Director of Investment & Corporate Services

**Email:** [Malcolm.Coe@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Malcolm.Coe@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

## **WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE ITEM 17**

**25 June 2021**

### **REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

### **TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2020-21**

#### **Purpose**

To present the Treasury Management outturn report 2020-21.

#### **Summary**

This report includes the following key information:

- The CIPFA Code of Practice requires that the Combined Authority Committee considers the treasury management outturn report after the end of each financial year.
- Performance against the authority's key prudential indicators is shown in Appendix 1. All indicators are within target levels.
- The Authority's investment position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 is detailed in Appendix 2. This shows a change in Investment Balances to £279.4m at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 from £257.3m at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, which reflects a net increase.
- Appendix 3 details the investment performance, showing the average rate of interest earned over this period being 1.08%, which was 0.98% above the benchmark rate of average 7 day LIBID +0.05% (0.1%).
- As part of its approach to liquidity management, the Authority may borrow short term loans to cover any unplanned cash flow shortages as they arrive. At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 the Authority held £20m of short-term loans, an increase of £5m from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Outstanding loans on 31<sup>st</sup> March are summarised in Appendix 4.
- The Authority's treasury management advisors have provided an economic and market review for 2020/21 – attached at Appendix 5.

#### **Impact of Covid-19 pandemic**

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows:

- Paragraphs 2.10 and 2.11 of the report setting out the impact on pooled funds.
- Economic and Market Review in Appendix 5.

#### **Recommendations**

Members of the Combined Authority Committee are asked to:



- a. Note the Treasury Management Outturn Report to 31st March 2021, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice.
- b. Note the Treasury Management Indicators to 31st March 2021.

**Contact officer:** Malcolm Coe

**Position:** Director of Investment & Corporate Services

**Email:** [Malcolm.Coe@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Malcolm.Coe@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE    ITEM 18**

**25 June 2021**

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

**INVESTMENT FUND**

**Purpose**

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

**Summary**

This report includes the following proposals:

- A further £1m allocation for walking and cycling infrastructure.
- A further £234k of masterplanning funding for the (Bristol) City Centre Development and Delivery Plan.
- The Full Business Case for Hawkfield Business Park - The Bottle Yard Studios and an award of £11.82m
- The Full Business Case for the Bath City Centre High Streets Renewal Project and the award of £1.235m
- The Full Business Case for the Bristol City Centre and High Streets Recovery and Renewal Programme and award of £2.725m
- The Outline Business Case for the Common Connections project.
- The Feasibility and Development Funding Application for the SEND Careers Information and Guidance Collaboration Pilot and an award of £20k
- The Outline Business Case for ISTART
- The Full Business Case for the Careers Hub and award of £180k
- To use £1m of the headroom identified in paragraph 3 to increase recovery funding and to develop and implement further measures to support economic recovery in line with the Metro Mayor's manifesto commitments. These could include a campaign to support regional re-opening, additional support for high streets, a jobs and skills summit and green skills focused activity in the run up to the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). In order to maintain momentum and ensure that the urgent action needed to support recovery is timely, it is proposed that the approval of development funding applications and business cases for these projects are delegated to the Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent councils.

**Impact of Covid-19 pandemic**

The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows:

- Paragraph 24-29 of the report sets out the proposed use of the £9.395m funding allocated to drive Covid-19 economic recovery and paragraph 30 proposes the allocation of an additional £1m.
- More generally supporting clean and inclusive economic growth is a key driver for the Investment Fund and all the projects within the programme will make a positive contribution to assisting the economic recovery.
- The Combined Authority will continue to review the deliverability, and priority, of its investment programme in response to Covid-19. Further updates will be provided through each committee cycle.

## **Recommendations**

Members of the Combined Authority Committee are asked:

1. That a further £1m of the £9m allocation for walking and cycling infrastructure delivery is brought forward to support scheme development, with the approval of specific Feasibility and Development Funding Applications delegated to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent Councils.
2. To approve a further £234k of masterplanning funding for the (Bristol) City Centre Development and Delivery Plan so that this is fully funded.
3. To approve the Full Business Case for Hawkfield Business Park – The Bottle Yard Studios and award of £11.82m
4. To approve the Full Business Case for the Bath City Centre High Streets Renewal Project and the award of £1.235m subject to confirmation of the High Streets Catalyst Fund match funding.
5. To approve the Full Business Case for the Bristol City Centre and High Streets Recovery and Renewal Programme and award of £2.725m
6. To approve the Outline Business Case for the Common Connections project.
7. To approve the Feasibility and Development Funding Application for the SEND Careers Information and Guidance Collaboration Pilot and the award of £20k
8. To approve further development funding of £500k for ISTART, and to delegate approval of the OBC and award of funding of up to £1.94m to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent Councils, with a phased funding approach and/or the opportunity for other match funding to be considered as part of progressing to Full Business Case.
9. To approve the Full Business Case for the Careers Hub and award of £180k
10. To delegate the approval of development funding applications and business cases for further recovery funding of up to £1m to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent Councils.

11. To award a further £1m to the Small Business Resilience Grant Programme and the Culture and Creative Economy Recovery Fund and to delegate the split of the funding between these programmes to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent Councils.
12. Approve the change requests for schemes within the current programme as set out in Appendix 2.
13. To amend the approved capital programme for individual project approvals agreed at the January Committee and within this report.

**Contact officer:** Malcolm Coe

**Position:** Director of Investment & Corporate Services

**Email:** [Malcolm.Coe@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Malcolm.Coe@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)