

A meeting of the

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

will be held on

Date: Monday, 11 October 2021

Time: 1.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Bath Guildhall

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 Geoff Gollop, Bristol City Council
Cllr Gary Hopkins, Bristol City Council
Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council
Cllr Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council
Cllr Steve Pearce, 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

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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

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AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members who consider that they have an interest to declare are asked to:

- State the item number in which they have an interest,
- The nature of the interest,
- 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.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5 - 16

To confirm the minutes of previous meetings as a correct record:

- 23 June 2021
- 20 September 2021

6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS; STATEMENTS)

WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (written procedure):

- Any member of the public can submit a maximum of two written questions in advance of this meeting.
- 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 Tuesday 5 October.
- Questions should be addressed to the Chair of the meeting and e-mailed to democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
- 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.
- Please note - under the Combined Authority's committee procedures, there is no opportunity for oral supplementary questions to be asked at committee meetings.
- 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:

- 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 Friday 8 October. Statements should be emailed to 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.

7. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / BUSINESS

8. UPDATE AND REVIEW OF 15 OCTOBER WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY AND WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS

17 - 20

Agenda Item 5

West of England Combined Authority WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 23 June 2021, 10:30am
Council Chamber, Bristol City Hall

Present:

Cllr Winston Duguid, Bath and North East Somerset Council - Chair for the meeting
Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Donald Alexander, Bristol City Council
Cllr Geoff Gollop, Bristol City Council
Cllr Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council

Cllr Gary Hopkins, Bristol City Council
Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council
Cllr Andrew Varney, Bristol City Council
Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr John Ashe, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Claire Young, South Gloucestershire Council
(as substitute for Cllr James Arrowsmith)

In attendance from North Somerset Council

Cllr Huw James

Officers In Attendance:

Shahzia Daya, Director of Legal & Democratic Services
Ian Hird, Scrutiny Manager
Tim Milgate, Democratic Services Officer
Andy Strong, Transport Operations Team Manager

David Carter, Director of Infrastructure
Pete Davis, Head of Grant Management & Assurance
Jess Lee, Head of Policy & Strategy
Helen Iles, Senior Policy Manager

Apologies:

Cllr James Arrowsmith, South Gloucestershire Council (Cllr Claire Young attended as substitute)

Cllr Peter Crew, North Somerset Council
Cllr Mike Bird, North Somerset Council

Minutes

1	COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE The membership of the Committee for Municipal Year 2021/22 was noted and new members were welcomed to the Committee.
2	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE An apology for absence was received from Cllr James Arrowsmith. Cllr Claire Young attended as substitute. Apologies were also received from Cllr Peter Crew.
3	ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2021-22 No agreement was reached on election of Chair, so this matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee. Councillor Winston Duguid was appointed as Chair for this meeting only. Agreed: (1) That the election of Chair for the West of England Combined Authority Overview &

	<p>Scrutiny Committee for Municipal Year 2021/22 be deferred to the next meeting; (2) That Cllr Winston Duguid be appointed as Chair for this meeting only.</p>
4	<p>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2021-22</p> <p>As no Chair had been elected for Municipal Year 2021/22, the election of Vice-Chair was deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p>Agreed: That the election of Vice-Chair for the West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Municipal Year 2021/22 be deferred to the next meeting.</p>
5	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest declared.</p>
6	<p>COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny committee had been set out in the agenda papers and were noted.</p>
7	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.</p>
8	<p>ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS; STATEMENTS; PETITIONS)</p> <p>Four questions had been received from members of the public for response as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dave Redgewell – Bus Back Better 2. Dave Redgewell – Bristol Ring Road 3. Ian Beckey - North Somerset joining West of England Combined Authority 4. Ian Beckey – Railways <p>The responses to the questions were circulated to the questioners and members of the Committee prior to the meeting.</p> <p>In addition, three statements had been received from members of the public as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David Redgewell - Transport and regional issues 2. Steven Hunt - Transport issues 3. Lucy Travis - Transport issues <p>Mr Redgewell attended the meeting and addressed the Committee on the subject of his statement. The statements were circulated to the Committee and published on the Authority's website prior to the meeting.</p>
9	<p>REVIEW OF 25 JUNE WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE & WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS</p> <p>The Committee were requested to consider the reports to be considered by the West of England Combined Authority Committee and Joint Committee at its meeting on 25 June 2021 and to consider what comments it wished to make to that meeting in relation to those reports.</p>

Item 11 – Climate Emergency Action Plan Update

Jess Lee, Head of Policy and Strategy and Helen Iles, Senior Policy Manager, gave a brief summary of this report and answered questions from the Committee thereon. The following points were raised:

- Promoting Green Skills – the Authority was at the early stage of working with providers on training on retrofits;
- At the moment the benchmarking data was nationally available data but work was ongoing on providing data at individual authority level;
- The initial trajectory figures were being finalised, although Covid had impacted on some of the data sets. An established baseline figure would be necessary;
- The next stage of the Local Transport Plan would look at alternative fuel for vehicles and was likely to be ready in autumn 2022. Figures per authority were available in the report. It was noted however that although car travel had reached pre-Covid levels, public transport usage was still much lower;
- It was noted that although costs to homeowners could be mitigated there were still huge barriers that prevented homeowners from implementing some of the necessary measures;
- The Committee requested a meeting with the new Metro Mayor Dan Norris, which could include discussion regarding the Authority's position on the expansion of Bristol Airport;
- In relation to the proposed meeting with the new Mayor, it was asked whether the Mayor could be asked to provide evidence of how the climate emergency measures were being successful;
- It was commented that the "re-start" of the economy after Covid restrictions was an excellent opportunity to find more efficient ways of reinvesting.

Item 12 - Bus Network Recovery and Bus Infrastructure Programme

Andy Strong, Transport Operations Team Manager, gave a brief summary of this report and answered questions from the Committee thereon. The following points were raised:

- A major challenge was around bus services in rural villages, and around Bristol Parkway station which had seen huge improvements in facilities and was in need of a major transport hub. Problems continued with the parkway bridge which caused traffic jams; David Carter answered that the Authority was aware of these issues, but a masterplan was needed to be drawn up. A ten-year rail plan was committed to looking at Parkway, especially in regard to services from Henbury;
- The current infrastructure programme does not reflect aspirations, and part of the challenge was to increase the numbers of buses throughout the region as well as a detailed analysis of the park and ride services (particular issues were raised regarding North Bristol, Filton and Yate). A funding bid was necessary for this. Appendix 4 to the report set out the current position;
- Bus franchising was a matter for the Metro Mayor who could use his powers in the future if needed. Targets were set every six months;
- At the current time, the government had not granted additional funding to support bus services but current services were being maintained as well as all current supported bus services. It was unknown what the next tranche of government funding would be.
- The Authority were aware of issues regarding the arena and the proposed relocation of Bristol Zoo. Planning applications would have to provide evidence of mitigation of car journeys;
- It was asked whether the Regional Transport Forum would be reinstated;
- The Authority were working with transport operators on finding a best fares solution with many commuters likely to change their travel arrangements post-pandemic;

- It was asked that the strategy be linked to other strategies and solutions such as precepting be explored;
- Public Transport provisions were considered as part of the overall transport modelling solutions.

Item 15 – Strategic Rail Investment

David Carter, Director of Infrastructure, gave a brief summary of this report and answered questions from the Committee thereon. The following points were raised:

- The Authority had looked at improvements for existing stations as well as new stations;
- A variety of sites had been considered at Fishbourne Hill – the timelines for the improvements there would be confirmed;
- Five stations had been earmarked initially to become step free.

Item 18 – Investment Fund Report

Pete Davis, Head of Grant Management & Assurance, gave a brief summary of this report and answered questions from the Committee thereon. The following points were raised:

- The report sought a number of approvals for spend, especially in the Housing, Business and Skills areas.

The above comments were collated into the comments the Committee wished to pass to the West of England Combined Authority Committee in consideration of those items. These comments are set out in Appendix 1.

In addition, the Committee asked whether it was a requirement that the Metro Mayor appointed a deputy. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that it was a requirement but no formal timetable was set out. The Committee also enquired whether a governance review of the Authority's functions should now be carried out. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that there was an annual review of the constitution which may be an appropriate time.

Agreed: That the comments from the West of England Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the West of England Combined Authority Committee reports, as set out in Appendix 1, be collated and circulated to the West of England Combined Authority Committee for its consideration during its decision-making process.

The meeting closed at 12:13pm.

APPENDIX 1

COMMENTS FROM 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 - 25 JUNE 2021

Following our meeting held on 23 June, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee wishes to present the following comments:

1. Climate Emergency action plan update (agenda item 11)

Whilst noting the update and the actions being taken forward, we are concerned that the overall trajectory of progress suggests that achieving the ambition of net zero carbon for the region by 2030 is extremely challenging - we recognise that this is an issue for the whole region, not just the Combined Authority. We are concerned that the data presented should also demonstrate a connection between the activities planned and the impact on the trajectory so we can assess the remaining gap that needs to be closed. We note that tackling the climate emergency is a key priority for the Metro Mayor and would welcome him engaging with us about the detail of his specific plans - we suggest a meeting about this in September would be useful, to allow time for this further detail to be developed. We are keen to engage constructively in ambitious plans that could deliver both climate change aspirations and clean economic recovery and growth.

2. Bus network recovery and Bus infrastructure programme (agenda item 12)

We note and support the proposal to publish a Notice of Intent to proceed with the development of a joint Enhanced Partnership between the Combined Authority and North Somerset Council, Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council and bus operators. Whilst there is clearly a need to work at pace to take forward the development of a Bus Service Improvement Plan and an Enhanced Partnership to meet the government's timescale, it is important to ensure this work joins up with other key strategies and plans, e.g. plans for re-allocating road space. The importance of rural bus services also needs to be fully factored into plans for bus network recovery. In terms of ticketing, we also suggest it would be useful to investigate (perhaps in liaison with credit unions) whether some form of staggered payment system could be introduced to assist commuters on low incomes in not being excluded from the savings offered through longer-term/season ticketing.

3. Strategic infrastructure interventions

At the strategic level, careful consideration needs to be given to the timing of transport infrastructure intervention - for example, a new Park and Ride(s) in north Bristol needs to be carefully planned and operational in advance of planned new housing development in Filton.

Liaison should be taking place now with Bristol Zoo about how they will actively seek to mitigate traffic impacts from the further development of the Wild Place Project in South Gloucestershire and address how running the visitor attraction can integrate to maximum effect with available public transport.

4. Public engagement on transport matters

As lockdown restrictions ease, and with the particular challenge ahead of restoring bus and rail patronage to pre-Covid levels, we encourage the Metro Mayor to reinstate the Regional Transport Forum or establish new ways to meaningfully engage the region's public on transport issues.

5. Governance / ways of working

Recognising that Mayoral Combined Authorities are relatively new and evolving, we will be holding an informal meeting in July to consider our scrutiny work programme and how we may need to adjust our arrangements to ensure that we add value to the Combined Authority.

In the spirit of 'continuous improvement', we suggest that it may be appropriate for a wider, internal governance review of the Combined Authority to also be considered. The position of Deputy Mayor of the Combined Authority was raised and that the constitution should be updated to reflect the position, once clarified.

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

Monday, 20 September 2021, 10.00 am
Council Chamber, Bath Guildhall

Present:

Cllr Winston Duguid, Bath and North East Somerset (Chair)
Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council
Cllr Steve Pearce, Bristol City Council

Cllr Andrew Varney, Bristol City Council
Cllr James Arrowsmith, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr John Ashe, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Paul Hughes, South Gloucestershire Council (as substitute for Cllr Brian Allinson)

From North Somerset Council:

Cllr Mike Bird
Cllr Huw James

Also in attendance:

Metro Mayor Dan Norris

Officers In Attendance:

Patricia Greer, Chief Executive
Ian Hird, Scrutiny Manager

Tim Milgate, Democratic Services Officer
Helen Iles, Senior Policy Manager

Apologies:

Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council (Cllr Paul Hughes attended as substitute)
Cllr Geoff Gollop, Bristol City Council
Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council
Cllr Peter Crew, North Somerset Council

Minutes

1	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everybody to this extraordinary meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The Metro Mayor Dan Norris was also in attendance.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were noted and substitute members were welcomed.</p>
2	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
3	<p>ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS; STATEMENTS; PETITIONS)</p> <p>One public statement had been received from Mr David Redgewell on the subject of climate emergency. The statement had been circulated in advance and was noted. The member of public was not present at the meeting.</p>

PRINCIPLES FOR A REFRESHED CLIMATE EMERGENCY AMBITION AND GREEN RECOVERY FUND PLANS

It was noted that an Extraordinary joint meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee and West of England Joint Committee would be held on 21 September 2021. The committees would be considering reports setting out principles for a refreshed climate emergency ambition and plans for a Green Recovery Fund. The agenda and reports for this meeting had been circulated to the WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee so that Members of that Committee could be briefed on, and invited to comment on these reports. These comments would then be considered by the West of England Combined Authority Committee and West of England Joint Committee as part of its decision-making process.

Metro Mayor Dan Norris addressed the meeting on the main points of the report and to receive questions. He stated that it was important that the Metro Mayor was held to account by the WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee. He felt that the public was ahead of the politicians in terms of facing the climate emergency and it was now time for action. Locally a target of net zero carbon had been set by 2030, which was ambitious as the national target was net zero by 2050. He was confident however that technology would be key to the way forward.

The following points were raised:

- It was noted that late amendments moved at the joint meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee and West of England Joint Committee did not give adequate chance for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise;
- The Metro Mayor was asked whether he would speak to the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove, as soon as practicable. The Metro Mayor confirmed he would and recognised the challenge set by house building targets;
- The Metro Mayor was challenged on rural bus services and whether funding could be redeployed for this area. Dan Norris stated that he recognised the funding crises in bus travel since the start of the pandemic with passenger numbers only 63% of pre-pandemic levels. The previous rules around operators giving notice of service changes etc had not been applied during the pandemic. Regular meetings were being held with service providers. The bus network was run on a commercial basis except where the authority could support services with the limited funding available to do so. The Metro Mayor stated he would consider all options on public transport in the region, including enhanced partnerships and bus franchising but that he needed to be sure resourcing was available; due to the resourcing position, an enhanced partnership was the realistic way forward at this point rather than franchising.
- The Mayor felt that the proposed appointment of a Director for the Environment would benefit the whole region;
- Retrofitting existing homes would be one solution to working towards net zero.

The Metro Mayor Dan Norris left the meeting at this point. The Committee continued to discuss the report on the Principles for a Refreshed Climate Emergency Ambition and Green Recovery Fund Plans. The following points were raised:

- It was felt that although the paper set out the longer term actions and developing action plan, the emergency required immediate action;
- It was asked whether there was any headroom available for increasing the green recovery fund's £20m. The Chief Executive confirmed that the £20m was being allocated from the Investment Fund. It was questioned whether any pension fund money could be invested into infrastructure improvements;
- The Climate Board would be responsible for setting actions and tracking the progress of the action plan and targets. It was asked whether it would be more appropriate for an independent body to monitor progress each year;
- The Chief Executive stated that the Government was looking at ways in which to invest in infrastructure in areas of the country with fewer people rather than as previously in cities and more heavily populated urban regions. The plan was for many different partners as possible (UAs, business, etc) to be around the table monitoring the strategy as possible which would be evidence/data driven;
- Patricia Greer confirmed that the Spatial Development Strategy was being worked upon and would take around 2 years to completion. This work could be used to inform other strategies such as the Joint Local Transport Plan;
- It was acknowledged that the region's businesses had a big role to play in reaching net zero carbon by 2030 through investing in high skilled employment;
- The Committee stated that they welcomed the setting up of the new Climate Board and a new senior member of staff to drive the work. Scrutiny members asked whether they could have observer status on the Authority's Board meetings. An update on this last point would be brought to a future meeting. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee would receive regular updates on progress;
- A question was raised as to whether local planning authorities could adopt higher standards on house building than was required;

Agreed: That the comments raised on the principles for a refreshed climate emergency ambition and plans for a Green Recovery Fund report be collated, summarised and submitted to the 21 September extraordinary meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee and West of England Joint Committee (see appendix 1).

Appendix 1

COMMENTS FROM WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO: EXTRAORDINARY JOINT MEETING OF WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE AND WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE – 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

Following our meeting held on 20 September, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee wishes to present the following comments:

a. Metro Mayor's attendance at Scrutiny

We welcomed Metro Mayor Dan Norris' attendance at our meeting and had a useful discussion. We look forward to future positive and ongoing engagement with the Metro Mayor.

b. Principles for a refreshed climate emergency ambition (item 8)

We thank Helen Iles, Senior Policy Manager for her presentation of this report.

We note and welcome the fact that tackling the climate emergency is a key priority for the Metro Mayor and we strongly support the revised principles as set out in the report. As discussed with the Metro Mayor, we also recognise the public appetite for fast, urgent action.

We support the proposal to create an interim Environment Director to drive forward the refreshed ambition with a view to recruiting to this post on a permanent basis in the medium term.

The report seeks to establish a Climate Board for the region - we welcome the broad representation proposed in terms of the membership of this Board and the collaborative partnership approach that will be taken. We also wish to strongly request please that a scrutiny member is given observer status on this Board, in line with the arrangements being made for scrutiny member observers to attend the other Combined Authority Boards.

We particularly welcome the clarity of the target that in order to meet our 2030 net zero carbon ambitions, we will need to cut 464kt of CO2 each year (10% of today's total) - this sets the huge scale of the challenge ahead and demonstrates the region's ambition. It will be essential to continue collaborative work with the unitary authorities to establish clear, measurable targets within the Climate and Biodiversity strategy/action plan, which are agreed by all authorities and with robust progress checks and reporting in place; there must be clear lines of accountability for the delivery of each action.

Noting that the new Climate and Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will be delivered in Spring 2022, we request please that a progress update is specifically brought to Scrutiny in January 2022 to allow us an opportunity to comment and input to this critically important plan. We are particularly keen to see momentum build through urgently identifying and delivering tangible 'quick wins' in parallel with the development of the new strategy and action plan.

c. Green Recovery Fund (item 9)

We broadly welcome and support this report and the recommendation to earmark (from the existing Combined Authority Investment Fund) headroom of £20m for a Green Recovery Fund. We see this amount as a start and any avenues of increasing the amount through match funding or otherwise should be explored. We would like to be kept fully informed as the detailed plans for the drawdown of this fund to support specific actions are developed. We are concerned that the appraisal methods used to guide investment decisions should be fit for purpose, and would welcome an independent expert viability assessment.

Councillor Winston Duguid

Chair-designate

On behalf of the West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

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WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY

AGENDA ITEM 8

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 11 OCTOBER 2021

OVERVIEW REPORT - 15 OCTOBER 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. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the reports due to be considered at the 15 October joint meeting of the Combined Authority Committee and Joint Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the committee identify any comments they wish to submit to the Combined Authority Committee and Joint Committee on 15 October 2021.

15 October reports – overview

2. Reports on the following matters are due to be considered at the 15 October meeting of the Combined Authority Committee and the Joint Committee:

Climate emergency and investing in our region:

a. Supporting the decarbonisation of aviation

At the 21 September West of England Joint Committee meeting, a motion was approved to oppose the latest plans to expand Bristol Airport. In approving the motion, the Joint Committee recognised *'the importance of the wider aerospace centre of excellence at Filton and its major contribution to our economy, skills base and industrial heritage'* and the *'ongoing efforts being pioneered locally by industry to decarbonise aviation, including through the Jet Zero initiative'*. The committee requested *'that West of England Chief Executives bring a report to the October 2021 meeting setting out a range of proposals to support the decarbonisation of aviation'*.

In response, this report will describe the current shape and scale of the aerospace sector in the region and set out what national and regional initiatives are in place (or emerging) to support the industry on the journey to decarbonising aviation.

The report will also highlight a number of possible opportunities to be developed potentially into a joint plan with industry, to ensure the aerospace sector in the West of England can effectively restructure and continue to be a major source of sustainable jobs.

b. Climate emergency - next steps

At their 21 September meeting, the West of England Joint Committee agreed to support the principles for a revised ambition to address the climate emergency.

This report will provide further detail on the next steps for implementing the revised climate emergency action plan, specifically the creation of an Environment Director post and the establishment of a climate panel.

c. Investment Fund report including Green Recovery Fund

This report will set out the latest Investment Fund position and proposals, including detail about the establishment of a Green Recovery Fund.

Improving transport for our residents:

d. City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement update

This report will provide an update on the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and next steps, and will seek confirmation for the key principles for managing the Local Contribution to support capital funding.

e. Bus Service Improvement Plan

This report will update on the development of a Bus Service Improvement Plan as required by the National Bus Strategy.

f. Supported bus services

This report will seek approval for the procurement process of supported bus services across the region, specifically the procurement of bus service contracts due to expire in August/September 2022; and for the Cribbs Patchway Metrobus Extension; and for new contracts that may emerge from the Bus Service Improvement Plan/Enhanced Partnership process.

Financial management and governance:

g. Local Enterprise Partnership & Invest Bristol and Bath revenue budget outturn report

This report will present the forecasted revenue outturn for the West of England Joint Committee for the financial year 2021/22 based on data for the period April 2021 to 31 July 2021. The report will cover the Local Enterprise Partnership and Invest in Bristol and Bath revenue budgets.

h. Combined Authority & Mayoral budget outturn report

This report will present the revenue budget forecasted outturn information for the West of England Combined Authority and the Mayoral budget for the financial year 2021/22 based on data for the period April 2021 to 31 July 2021.

i. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – role of Deputy Mayor

This report will set out the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to their recent review of the role of Deputy Mayor.

j. Overview & Scrutiny and Audit Committee arrangements

This report will confirm the 2021/22 arrangements for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Audit Committee.

3. The above reports are due to be published in the week starting 4 October ahead of the 15 October meeting; as soon as they are published, copies will be sent to the Overview and Scrutiny committee members. Officers will be attendance at the scrutiny committee meeting to brief members on these reports and respond to questions and points of detail.

4. At this meeting, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and formulate any specific comments to submit to the 15 October meeting (a standard slot is included on the agenda to enable the Chair to present any comments on behalf of scrutiny members).

Appendices: None.

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

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