

A meeting of the

West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee

will be held on

Date: Monday, 13 December 2021

Time: 10.30 am

Place: Council Chamber, Bath Guildhall

Notice of this meeting is given to members of the West of England Combined Authority 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 Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council

Cllr Brenda Massey, 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

Enquiries to:

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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.
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The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 mean that any member of the public or press attending this meeting may take photographs, film or audio record proceedings and may report on the meeting including by use of social media (oral commentary is not permitted during the meeting as it would be disruptive). This will apply to the whole of the meeting except where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press or public. If you intend to film or audio record this meeting please contact the Democratic Services Officer named on the front of the agenda papers beforehand, so that all necessary arrangements can be made. Some of our meetings are webcast. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating areas you are consenting to being filmed, photographed or recorded. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please advise an officer. An archived recording of the proceedings will also be available for viewing after the meeting. The Combined Authority may also use the images/sound recordings on its social media site or share with other organisations, such as broadcasters. To comply with the Data Protection Act 2018, we require the consent of parents or quardians before filming children or young people

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. 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.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5 - 12

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 October 2021 as a correct record.

4. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS; STATEMENTS)

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 Tuesday 7 December.
- 3. Questions should be addressed to the Chair of the meeting and e-mailed to 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 Friday 10 December. 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.

5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / BUSINESS

6. UPDATE ON AND REVIEW OF 17 DECEMBER WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS

West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 11 October 2021, 1.00 pm Council Chamber, Bath Guildhall

Present:

Cllr Winston Duguid, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Chair 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 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 Cllr Tony Dyer, Bristol City Council (as substitute

Also in attendance:

Cllr Huw James. North Somerset Council Metro Mayor Dan Norris, West of England Combined Authority

Officers in attendance:

Patricia Greer, Chief Executive, WECA Stephen Bashford, Director of Business and Kathrvn Vowles. Interim Director of Infrastructure Malcolm Coe, Director of Investment and **Corporate Services** Ian Hird, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager

Pete Davis, Head of Grant Management & Assurance Peter Mann, Head of Strategic Transport Integration Tim Milgate, Democratic Services Officer

for Cllr Ed Plowden)

Apologies:

Cllr Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council (Cllr Tony Dyer attended as substitute)

MINUTES

The Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager opened the meeting and presided over the proceedings up until a Chair was elected under item 2.

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS
	Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Ed Plowden. Cllr Tony Dyer attended as substitute.
	Cllrs Peter Crew and Mike Bird from North Somerset Council had also sent apologies.
2	ELECTION OF CHAIR
	It was proposed by Cllr MacFie and seconded by Cllr Gollop and unanimously:
	Agreed : That Cllr Winston Duguid be elected Chair of the WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee for municipal year 2021/22.
3	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR
	It was agreed that, rather than formally elect a Vice-Chair for Municipal Year 2021/22, on any

	occasion when the Chair was absent, a Vice-Chair be chosen for that meeting only from amongst the Board nominees.
4	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
	There were no declarations of interest.
5	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
	The Minutes of the meetings held on 23 June 2021 and 20 September 2021 were agreed as correct records subject to recording Cllr Gary Hopkins' apologies for the meeting held on 20 September 2021.
	Further to the meeting held on 23 June 2021, Cllr Huw James asked whether there was any further progress on reinstating the Regional Transport Forum. Peter Mann, Head of Strategic Transport Integration, stated that there would be a requirement for consultation meetings through the enhanced partnership arrangements.
6	ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS; STATEMENTS)
	Members of the public had submitted one question and four statements to the meeting. The response to the question had been circulated prior to the meeting. Two members of the public (Mr Dave Redgewell and Mr Graham Ellis) attended the meeting and addressed the Committee for up to three minutes each on the topic of their statements.
7	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / BUSINESS
	The Chair announced that Members of WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee would have "observer" status on the Authority's Boards, some of which held joint meetings. The next meeting would be a meeting of the Planning & Housing Board on 22 October 2021 which Cllip James Arrowsmith indicated he could attend.
	The Metro Mayor Dan Norris attended the meeting. The following points were raised:
	 Mayor Norris stated that his primary objective as Mayor was to secure a larger budger from the Government for the region as part of the "levelling up agenda" so that the whole region could benefit from extra investment but that this would require the UA regions to work collaboratively;
	 Although the region was relatively prosperous, there were pockets of deprivation which would particularly benefit from investment and joined-up thinking in areas such as public transport;
	 The area was already ahead of other areas of the country in things such as green jobs and green awareness and had an opportunity to lead nationally and globally in these
	 areas; The pandemic had led to innovations such as increased home working which could help with the green agenda by cutting down on unnecessary journeys so long as everybody could connect;
	The Members of the Committee were able to ask questions of the Mayor and the following points were raised:
	 It may be difficult to secure more funds from government in some areas and therefore efficient usage of existing monies was paramount; Investment in transport needed to include integration, such as transport links to new train stations that had opened or were planned for the future; Members were keen to stress the importance of retrofitting existing housing stock to make them more environmentally friendly:

make them more environmentally friendly;

 The cost of making Bristol "net zero" was estimated to be around £9bn so additional monies would be needed from government. The Mayor reiterated that his aim was that all areas of the region would get more for everybody's benefit.

Agreed:

The Mayor was thanked for his attendance at WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

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

The Committee reviewed the reports to be considered at the Joint Meeting of the West of England Combined Authority and West of England Combined Authority at its meeting on 15 October 2021. The following comments were raised on the following items:

Supporting the decarbonisation of aviation (item 9)

Stephen Bashford, Director of Business and Skills, gave a summary of the report which described the current shape and scale of the aerospace sector in the region and set out what national and regional initiatives were in place (or were emerging) to support the industry on the journey to decarbonising aviation. The report also identified a number of opportunities to be developed potentially into a joint plan with industry, to ensure the aerospace sector in the West of England could effectively restructure and could continue to be a major source of sustainable and well-paid jobs for residents.

The following points were raised:

- Many thousands of jobs in the region were dependent on the aviation industry, with the jobs often being high skilled and high valued. Those skills could help other industries seeking carbon neutrality;
- It was asked whether further monies could be used to invest in green investment rather than ad hoc decision-making. In response, it was noted that there was an opportunity to leverage investment from government;
- A local company had apparently secured pre-orders for over 1000 aircraft which
 presented a local opportunity. It was noted however that many of these would be
 replacing older, more polluting stock. However, the investment in hydrogen fuel was
 falling behind. There was also a potential danger with tower cranes and light
 aircraft/drone use locally;
- Other high carbon industries were also important in the region such as shipping and construction with potential impacts on jobs within those industries. It was noted that the local employment plan would align allowing individuals to remain in those sectors;
- It was asked that the report be scrutinised at regular intervals through KPIs. It was also asked whether the list of the most important aerospace industries could be circulated;
- Rather than looking at decarbonisation of fuel, the best value for money for the region
 was the most important element such as development of electric planes and a menu
 from which to choose options. This initial menu would be prioritised in the next phase
 of the plan;
- It was also noted that the West of England was working with other authorities and the wider area on these issues.

Investment Fund (item 10)

Malcolm Coe, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, summarised this report which sought approval for feasibility, development and delivery funding, and for change requests for schemes within the current approved programme.

The following points were raised:

- The investment fund had freed up some "headroom" for reinvestment which had been due to timetabling of other projects;
- The cost of building materials was being monitored and discussions with DfT and other government departments were taking place. A fuller picture would emerge in the next quarter;
- All the schemes had submitted outline or full business cases which had been submitted to the Committee.
- Pete Davis would confirm the status of the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone and Infrastructure project.

City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (item 11)

This report would update the committee on the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), the next steps, and to confirm the key principles behind the Local Contribution. The following points were raised:

- The A38 appeared to not be listed as a city corridor, and this would be investigated;
- This was not just about improving bus services for all but stopping individuals taking their cars into the congested urban areas, although there were challenges around flood zones etc:
- It was important to recognise the role that WECA could play in this as the strategic overview:
- There were inequalities along some of the travel corridors such as the M32 which suffered from poor air quality and lack of public transport;
- The minimum frequency of proposed routes was welcomed and would be monitored.
 The Mayor would be held directly to account by the government via a website tracking the progression of the targets;
- There were acknowledged challenges around key routes as to how to incorporate bus priority lanes etc;
- Further work was being carried out for the Brislington Railway line and nothing was currently being ruled out.

Bus Service Improvement Plan (item 12)

The Committee was to be updated on the development of a Bus Service Improvement Plan as required by the National Bus Strategy and to seek delegated authority to approve the final document. The following points were raised:

- There was not always a clear line of responsibility on management of bus stops, such
 as updated timetabling and litter bin access. There was a plea that any programme of
 updates to these bus stop environs start with the areas worst affected;
- It was stated that a "tap on tap off" service could be launched soon and that would give more detail on usage figures also;
- It was requested that further work be carried out to find where people travelled to work as there may be a demand that was unknown;
- It was also requested whether USB charging could be introduced so e-tickets could be accessed:
- There were criticisms over the chopping and changing of the services during covid. It was noted that the transport operators were acting under emergency legislation but the situation was becoming more stable with a gradual return to normality.

Supported bus services procurement (item 13)

This report was seeking approval from the Committee to carry out the procurement of supported bus services across the region and delegated authority to award contracts. This

report was required as the value of the contracts to be awarded will exceed the threshold of the current delegated decisions. The following points were raised:

 A query was raised about the Cribbs-Patchway Metrobus link and whether this could run or link to South Bristol. In response it was noted that there was an acknowledged gap and the Authority would need to think about where this service began and ended its routes;

Proposed future leadership structure (item 18)

The Committee noted the proposed changes in WECA's management structure. The following points were raised:

- The Authority were urged to get moving on its climate change commitments and to appoint someone short term to the proposed environment director role if necessary;
- There was some concern over the longer-term use of interim appointments rather than permanent recruitment.

The Committee also wished to place on record its concern regarding late amendments made to reports at the Joint Committee/WECA Committee meeting as no proper scrutiny could be carried out.

Agreed: That the comments made, as summarised in Appendix 1 below, be submitted to the meeting of the WECA Committee/Joint Committee to take into account as part of its decision-making process.

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 24 January 2022, 1.00 pm

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 – 15 OCTOBER 2021

Following our meeting held on 11 October, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee wishes to present the following comments:

a. Metro Mayor's attendance at Scrutiny

We were pleased to again welcome Metro Mayor Dan Norris to our meeting and had a useful discussion around his key priorities. We look forward to continuing this constructive engagement.

We fully support the Mayor's stated ambition to attract significantly more government resources to our region, especially in relation to transport and delivering net zero by our ambitious 2030 target; we also need to ensure we are using current resources as effectively as possible, for example in tackling the significant pockets of deprivation across the geography of the Combined Authority area.

In terms of climate action, we stressed there must be a strong and sustained focus on retrofitting the region's properties.

b. General comment - amendments to reports at committee meetings

We appreciate that sometimes it may be necessary for amendments to committee report recommendations to be moved and discussed at Combined Authority and Joint Committee meetings. We feel strongly, however, that the starting point should be that this is kept to a minimum; in particular, amendments that are submitted at or only just before meetings pose potential difficulties as scrutiny members will not have received any opportunity to scrutinise or even see such amendments in advance.

c. Supporting the decarbonisation of aviation (item 9)

We noted this report and look forward to the more detailed report that will come back in January on developing a joint plan with industry.

We felt that the following factors should be taken into account in developing this work:

- * Some of the many thousands of jobs currently employed across the aerospace sector may need to adjust / transition into supporting and driving wider carbon reduction initiatives.
- * Identifying new funding opportunities should be a key part of developing the joint plan with industry, including any match funding opportunities.
- * The planning / regulatory implications for authorities of new aviation innovations must be considered carefully, for example in relation to electric 'air taxis' or drones that may carry small numbers of passengers operating at relatively low heights.
- * Given the time it is likely to take realistically to decarbonise aviation, there is perhaps a case for lobbying the government to take incentivisation action through aviation fuel tax measures.
- * A stronger vision is needed for developing and then delivering hydrogen-based opportunities and solutions.
- * It will be imperative for the plan with industry to be backed up with key performance indictors so that progress can be tracked effectively.

d. Investment Fund (item 10)

- * We generally support the proposed update of the Local Growth Assurance Framework, noting that this takes account of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement.
- * We note that it is now proposed to set up a Green Recovery Fund that will leverage £50m on priority projects to tackle the climate emergency. It will be important to robustly track and challenge delivery on this.
- * We noted that action is being taken to carefully assess the implications for investing in infrastructure linked to the current national issues around the economic supply chain and rising construction / materials / labour costs.
- * We feel there is merit in Scrutiny and Audit committee members jointly reviewing the outcomes from the recent Gateway Review of the Investment Fund.

e. City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (item 11)

We generally welcomed this report and look forward to the allocation to be confirmed through the government's spending review.

We flagged the following particular issues:

- * The ongoing importance of securing a north Bristol Park and Ride, noting the need to take every step we can to increase public transport use given the continued traffic problems in this part of Bristol, not helped by the 'ripple effect' of commuters parking in residential streets since the introduction of residents parking zones in the more inner city areas of Bristol.
- * Securing a solution to the Brislington A4 transport corridor that does not involve building a new road on the Brislington railway path.
- * Recognising the A38 as a key transport corridor within Bristol.
- * Securing a more sustainable transport solution for the M32 and adjacent communities.

f. Bus Service Improvement Plan (item 12)

We welcomed the latest working draft of the plan.

We raised a number of issues, noting that they will be addressed through the plan and the enhanced partnership. These include:

- * The need to enhance and upgrade significantly the specific infrastructure around bus stops, including the quality of passenger shelters, waste bins, and real time information for passengers; and mobile phone charging points. There is a case for implementing this on a 'tackling the worst first' basis.
- * Routing of services we should look to introduce orbital routes into the network of routes that connect communities to city centres; and also factor in the need to better connect important work locations to bus services, for example Avonmouth.
- * Delivering an enhanced bus passenger experience through cashless payments and through ticketing.

g. Supported bus services procurement (item 13)

We welcomed this report. Noting that the issue of procuring a Cribbs Patchway Metrobus Extension will be taken forward, it was suggested that the option of a Metrobus route serving the South Bristol Link should also be considered again.

h. Proposed future leadership structure (item 18)

We noted the Chief Executive's proposed leadership structure for the Combined Authority.

We note that inevitably it will take time to recruit the right people to take up the permanent senior leadership roles. Given this, we recognise some interim arrangements may be necessary, especially for the Environment Director role given we are in a climate emergency.

Councillor Winston Duquid

Chair

West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee.





WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY AGENDA ITEM 6

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 13 DECEMBER 2021

OVERVIEW REPORT - 17 DECEMBER 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 17 December meeting of the West of England Joint Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the committee identify any comments they wish to submit to the Joint Committee on 17 December 2021.

17 December reports – overview

2. Reports on the following matters are due to be considered at the 17 December meeting of the Joint Committee:

a. West of England Joint Committee governance and voting arrangements

Purpose of item:

To note the member voting arrangements that apply in relation to the Joint Committee.

b. Governance review

Purpose of item:

To collectively consider the issues that should be considered, and the next steps for taking forward a governance review to determine the future operation of the Joint Committee.

c. Local Enterprise Partnership & Invest Bristol And Bath revenue budget outturn and general update report

Purpose of item:

To present the latest forecasted revenue outturn for the West of England Joint Committee for the financial year 2021/22. The report will cover the Local Enterprise Partnership and Invest in Bristol and Bath revenue budgets and will include a specific progress update on Invest Bristol and Bath activity and related outcomes.

d. Change Requests recommended for approval to Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Fund, Economic Development Fund and Revolving Infrastructure Fund

Purpose of item:

To approve the latest scheme change requests in relation to the above funds. The report will also seek approval of an updated Local Growth Assurance Framework (updated to reflect recent guidance) and Revolving Infrastructure Fund principles.

e. MetroWest

Purpose of item:

To consider an update on MetroWest phase 1b - Portishead New Passenger Line & Enhancement

f. West of England investment priorities

Purpose of item:

To consider the investment priorities for the West of England.

g. Western Gateway update

Purpose of item:

To consider a progress update on the Western Gateway.

- 3. The above reports are due to be published on 9 December; as soon as they are published, copies will be sent to the Overview and Scrutiny committee members.
- 4. At their 13 December meeting, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and formulate any specific comments to submit to the 17 December 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

