

A meeting of the
WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

will be held on

Date: Monday, 27 June 2022

Time: 10.30 am

Place: Brunswick Room, Guildhall, High Street, Bath BA1 5AW

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

Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr John Ashe, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Tristan Clark, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Winston Duguid, Bath and North East Somerset
Cllr Geoff Gollop, Bristol City Council
Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council
Cllr Steve Pearce, Bristol City Council
Cllr Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council
Cllr Steve Smith, Bristol City Council
Cllr Andrew Varney, Bristol City Council

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West of England Combined Authority Committee Agenda

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:-

- Attend all WECA, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings unless the business to be dealt with would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agendas and public reports five days before the date of the meeting
- Inspect agendas, reports and minutes of the WECA and all WECA Committees and Sub-Committees for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used to prepare public reports for a period public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of background papers to a report is given at the end of each report.) A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report.
- Have access to the public register of names, addresses and wards of all Councillors sitting on WECA, Committees and Sub-Committees with details of the membership of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have a reasonable number of copies of agendas and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) made available to the public attending meetings of WECA, Committees and Sub-Committees
- Have access to a list setting out the decisions making powers the WECA has delegated to their officers and the title of those officers.
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OTHER LANGUAGES AND FORMATS

**This information can be made available in other languages, in large print, braille or on audio tape.
Please phone 0117 42 86210**

Guidance for press and public attending this meeting

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 make yourself known to the camera operators.

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 guardians before filming children or young people. For more information, please speak to the camera operator.

1. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2022-23

The Committee is invited to elect a Chair for Municipal Year 2022/23

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2022-23

Having chosen a Chair, the Committee is invited to elect a Vice-Chair for Municipal Year 2022/23

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT

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

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 April 2022 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 Tuesday 21 June 2022**.
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 24 June 2022**. 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.

9. REVIEW OF ITEMS FOR 1 JULY 2022 WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE & WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE

11 - 14

To review the reports / decisions due to be considered at the 1 July 2022 meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee and West of England Joint Committee and formulate any comments to refer to the committees.

Next meeting: Monday, 19 September 2022

West of England Combined Authority WECA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 4 April 2022,
Bristol City Hall Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr Winston Duguid, Bath and North East Somerset
Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cllr Geoff Gollop, 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 Tristan Clark, South Gloucestershire Council

Officers In Attendance:

Patricia Greer, Chief Executive
Stephen Gerrard, Interim Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Richard Ennis, Interim Director of

Katherine Vowles, Interim Director of Infrastructure

Also In Attendance

Metro Mayor Dan Norris
Cllr Huw James, North Somerset Council
Cllr Mike Bird, North Somerset Council

Apologies:

Cllr James Arrowsmith, South Gloucestershire Council (Cllr Tristan Clark attended as substitute)

Cllr John Ashe, South Gloucestershire Council
Cllr Peter Crew, North Somerset Council

Minutes

1	Evacuation Procedure The evacuation procedure was noted.
2	Apologies for absence Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr John Ashe and Cllr James Arrowsmith. Cllr Tristan Clark attended as substitute member on behalf of Cllr Arrowsmith. Cllr Peter Crew, North Somerset Council, also sent his apologies.
3	Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011 There were no declarations of interest declared in relation to the Localism Act 2011.
4	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the correction to note that Cllr Tony Dyer attended the meeting as substitute for Cllr Ed Plowden who had given his apologies.
5	Items from the Public (questions and statements) Two questions had been received from Members of the Public in relation to this meeting. The questions and responses had been circulated to both the questioners and the Committee prior to the meeting and published on the Authority's website.

Additionally two statements had been received from members of the public as follows.

1. David Redgewell – Transport Issues
2. Maddy Longhurst – WECA's support for the Community Led Housing Sector in the West of England.

Each speaker was invited to speak on the subject of their statement for a maximum time of three minutes each. Both the speakers listed addressed the Committee in this way.

6

Chair's business / announcements

The Mayor of the West of England Combined Authority, Metro Mayor Dan Norris, attended the first part of the meeting. A summary of the discussion is set out below:

- In respect of the points made during the public speaking item, the Metro Mayor stated the importance of supported bus services and was looking into ways to provide more resources in this area;
- The SDS was proceeding but it was a legal process that had to be negotiated in the correct way in order that the prescribed rules were not broken. There were certain ways of utilising green belt land that could be explored. At the moment the process was dealing with strategic level issues with granular details to follow. It was important to learn the lessons of the last SDS process;
- The Metro Mayor stated that he welcomed further opportunities to be held to account provided that it fell within his sphere of responsibility. This included more detailed forward plans to be published in the future for instance;
- The Metro Mayor was keen to explore all opportunities for investment and growth in the area including through maritime activities, transport usage, and thinking about solutions in new and innovative ways, etc;
- He acknowledged that there had been issues with some projects caused by a combination of Brexit, inflation and covid but hoped that everything could now be back. The Mayor was urged to raise the profile of the Portishead line pending the funding decision;
- It was noted that the Metro Mayor's position on the expansion of Bristol Airport remained the same. He reiterated that he felt more job opportunities locally could be gained through green endeavours;
- Providing training for offenders was paramount and could be linked into skills spending and initiatives including sharing of best practice;
- The Chair of the Committee welcomed the collaborative working in the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The Metro Mayor also welcomed this and stated that collaborative working regionally was improving all the time although a few disagreements between local leaders was inevitable from time to time;
- The Delivery Assurance Report being considered by the Authority's Committee meeting at its meeting on 8 April 2022 was establishing a 'use it or lose it' principle to with respect to regional funding allocations.

(The Metro Mayor left the meeting at 13:53)

The Chair announced that it had been useful to attend as an observer the recent Local Enterprise Partnership Board meeting where the benefit of collaborative working was evident. He reiterated that input from Scrutiny members on the Authority's Committees and Board meetings was welcomed in order to be mindful of the formulation of policy, especially in relation to the ecological emergency.

It was also noted that a vacancy existed on the Committee which would be filled by Cllr Steve Smith (Bristol City Council) from May 2022.

7	Review of 8th April 2022 West of England Combined Authority Committee and West of England Joint Committee reports The Committee considered the reports that were due to be determined by the meetings of the West of England Committee and the Joint Committee on 8 April 2022. The Committee made comments on the reports and these were summarised and circulated to the Committees for their consideration. These comments are attached at Appendix A.
	Monday, 27 June 2022, 10.00 am, TBC

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**WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY – OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – COMMENTS
MADE IN RELATION TO REPORTS FOR WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE
MEETING ON 8 APRIL 2022.**

**THE COMMITTEE ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE THESE COMMENTS INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN
DETERMINING THESE ITEMS**

**THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, CLLR WINSTON DUGUID TO ATTEND THE
MEETING TO PRESENT THE COMMITTEE'S VIEWS**

Part 1 - West of England Combined Authority

Item 9 Mayoral Budget outturn

The committee noted this report and understood the comment about reserves.

Items 10 & 11 – Investment Fund Report (Item 10) & Investment Fund Report – Change Requests
(Item 11)

The Committee noted these reports.

Items 13 & 14 - Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan (Item 13) & Green
Recovery Fund (Item 14)

The Committee were pleased to see this report and have been frustrated that what was originally planned to go through in October had been delayed. The report identifies the questions to be asked of government and the actions between now and 2030 to meet the net zero objective in specific areas of transport, the built environment, business, and energy policy. The plan breaks actions down to three timelines of immediate, medium term (2024-2028) and long-term vision (2028-30). There was also a need to address the Nature Recovery and specifically to reduce chemical use to avoid the harm to pollinating insects. It was also welcomed that the CA recognises it needs to work in collaboration with regional partners, residents, businesses and with Government. UAs could only achieve whatever was in their powers including review of their own estates but had roles in bringing the right people together. The CA was urged to help lobby government to increase local powers in this field.

The Committee also stated that more ambition was needed when designing transport upgrades such as park and rides which could be used for instance as transport hubs and/or bus depots. All aspects of infrastructure needed to be looked at together as a whole (housing, parking, roads, schooling, park & rides, rail etc). Several instances across the region were given where the cart appears to be before the horse-e. g building housing before the infrastructure was in place to get persons to work in a sustainable transport mode. Parking revenue could be used to subsidise public transport provision for instance.

The committee look forward to regular updates and intends to ask the UK climate change committee to benchmark us against other combined authorities later this year.

Item 15 - Regional Recovery & Adaptation Fund

The Committee welcomed the report with support for groups that faced barriers to access. The Committee requested as much support for start-up companies as possible to enable them to grow.

Item 16 - Business Case - "The Courts"

The Committee welcomed the support for the creative sector. The committee asked that given one objective was to breathe new life into an old Victorian building whether other industries could be approached in delivering skills in this task, such as building/renovation skills.

Item 17 - Business Case - "West of England Careers Hub"

The Committee was aware of a booklet that contained details of local businesses and asked that schools and careers hubs in the area had access to such information.

Item 18 - Bus services - Transport Levy

The Committee stated that any policy would have to recognise additional pressures such as fuel price increases and inflation and further recognise that 'hedging' against these pressures would be an additional financial pressure.

Part 2 - West of England Joint Committee

Scrutiny reiterated the importance of collaborative working amongst the Authorities, and other bodies such as the Western Gateway (on matters such as the Maritime Strategy). They requested an update at a future meeting regarding any plans for North Somerset to join the Combined Authority, **including a clear timeline/roadmap if possible**, and any affect this would have on the LEP activities as outlined in the recent White Paper.

Cllr Duguid to add any further comments on the Joint Committee items



WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 27 JUNE 2022

**OVERVIEW REPORT - 1 JULY WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY
COMMITTEE AND WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**DIRECTOR: STEPHEN GERRARD, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES
& MONITORING OFFICER**

AUTHOR: TIM MILGATE, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

Purpose

a. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the reports due to be considered at the 1 July 2022 meetings of the WECA Committee and the West of England Joint Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the committee identify any comments they wish to submit to the WECA Committee and to the West of England Joint Committee on 1 July 2022.

1 July 2022 reports – overview:

WECA Committee:

b. Reports on the following matters are due to be considered at the 1 July 2022 meeting of the WECA Committee:

1. Investment Fund Report

Purpose: To update on the overall programme and headroom.

2. Investment Fund report - change requests

Purpose: To seek approval for change requests for schemes within the current Investment Fund programme.

3. City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement - Delivery Model

Purpose: A number of approvals are needed across the CRSTS programme.

4. Delivery of the Bus Services Improvement Plan

Purpose: To provide an update for the Committee on the opportunities to deliver a transformation in bus services in the West of England.

5. Rail Delivery Report

Purpose: Decisions relating to projects within the Combined Authority's Rail programme.

6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund & UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Purpose: To seek approval to spend the West of England's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocation

7. 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 2021/22 based on data for the period April to March 2022.

8. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2021-22

Purpose: This report provides a review of performance to 31st March 2022.

West of England Joint Committee

c. The following reports are due to be considered at the 1 July 2022 meeting of the Joint Committee:

1. LEP Revenue Budget Outturn Report

Purpose: To outline the revenue outturn for the West of England Joint Committee for the financial year 2021/22 based on data for the period April 2021 to March 2022.

2. Joint Committee Governance Review update

Purpose: To provide an update on the Governance review.

d. The above reports are due to be published as soon as possible in the week starting 20 July 2022; as soon as they are published, copies will be sent to the Overview and Scrutiny committee members.

e. At their meeting, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and formulate any specific comments to submit to the 1 July 2022 meetings (a standard slot is included on each committee agenda to enable the Chair to present any comments on behalf of scrutiny members).

Appendices: None.

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

Via email: democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

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