

A meeting of the

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

will be held on

**Date: Monday, 12 December 2022**

**Time: 1.00 pm, or on the rising of the Audit Committee**

**Place: Oak Hall, Bradley Stoke Town Council, The Jubilee Centre,  
Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, South Gloucestershire,  
BS32 8HL**

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  
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 Tristan Clark, South Gloucestershire Council  
Cllr Alex Hartley, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Steve Smith, Bristol City Council  
Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council  
Cllr John Ashe, South Gloucestershire Council

**Enquiries to:**

West of England Combined Authority Office  
Rivergate 3  
Temple Way  
Bristol, BS1 6ER  
Email: [democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)  
Tel: 0117 332 1486

# West of England Combined Authority Committee Agenda

## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:-

- Attend all West of England Combined Authority, 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.
- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access. There is a charge of 15p for each side of A4, subject to a minimum charge of £4.
- For further information about this agenda or how the Council works please contact Democratic Services, telephone 0117 42 86210 or e-mail: [democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

## 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. EVACUATION PROCEDURE

*In the event of a fire, please await direction from the venue staff who will help assist with the evacuation. Please do not return to the building until instructed to do so by the fire warden(s).*

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*To receive apologies for absence from Members.*

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

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

## 4. MINUTES

5 - 10

*To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022.*

## 5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

*To receive any announcements from the Chair.*

## 6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS, STATEMENT AND 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 6 December 2022.***

*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 Friday 9 December 2022.** 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.*

**7. REVIEW OF ITEMS FOR 16 DECEMBER 2022 WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE** 11 - 12

*To update the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the reports due to be considered at the 16 December 2022 meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee.*

**Next meeting: Monday, 23 January 2023**

# Agenda Item 4

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

Thursday, 22 September 2022, 10:30am

Oak Hall, Bradley Stoke Town Council, The Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, South Gloucestershire, BS32 8HL

### Present:

Cllr Winston Duguid, Bath and North East Somerset

Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset Council

Cllr Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council

Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council

Cllr Steve Smith, Bristol City Council

Cllr John Ashe, South Gloucestershire Council

Cllr Mark Weston, Bristol City Council (as substitute for Cllr Geoff Gollop)

### Officers In Attendance:

Richard Ennis, Interim Director of Investment and Corporate Services

Stephen Gerrard, Interim Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Alistair Kirk, Interim Director of Infrastructure

Roger Hoare, Head of Environment

Selonge Russell, Head of Finance and Procurement

Pete Davis, Head of Grant Management and Assurance

### Apologies:

Cllr Geoff Gollop, Bristol City Council

Cllr Brian Allinson, South Gloucestershire Council

Cllr Tristan Clark, Bristol City Council

Cllr Steve Pearce, Bristol City Council

Cllr Huw James, North Somerset Council

## Minutes

It was noted that the meeting was short of the eight members required to be present to be quorate.

The Interim Director of Legal and Democratic Services advised the Committee that the meeting could continue as no formal decisions were being made.

The meeting had been moved from its original meeting date of Monday 19 September 2022 - the day of the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

1	<b>WELCOME AND EVACUATION PROCEDURE</b>  The Evacuation Procedure was noted.
2	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Brian Allinson (South Gloucestershire Council), Cllr Tristan Clark (Bristol City Council), Cllr Geoff Gollop (Bristol City Council) and Cllr Steve Pearce (Bristol City Council). Cllr Huw James (North Somerset Council) had also indicated that he was unable to attend.  Cllr Mark Weston (Bristol City Council) attended the meeting as substitute for Cllr Geoff Gollop).
3	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT</b>  There were no declarations of interest declared.
4	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2022</b>  The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5	<p><b>ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS; STATEMENTS; PETITIONS)</b></p> <p>Two questions had been received from one member of the public in advance of the meeting. These questions and replies have been published on the Authority’s website and had been circulated.</p> <p>In addition three statements had been received from members of the public in advance of the meeting. No members of the public attended the meeting to submit their statements in person. The statements had been published on the Authority’s website and had been circulated.</p> <p>The Metro Mayor Dan Norris attended the meeting and a summary of the discussion was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee had expressed their concern over the level of service on local buses. Metro Mayor Dan Norris stated that there are a number of factors, including commercial companies making decisions that could not be influenced. He warned that it may be a tough winter and spring before things settled down, and additional monies would come through in April 2023. There was also a shortage of drivers and high levels of inflation within the industry. However, a fares package had been launched which he hoped would encourage more people to use the bus services;</li> <li>• The Committee asked why there had been no discussion about bus services at the recent Transport Board and cited this as an example where they did not think things had been working properly as this Board’s remit was too wide. The Metro Mayor stated that he hoped that politicians would lead the agenda rather than officers and to interpret officers’ advice as necessary. The Metro Mayor was urged to ‘over manage’ this particular issue;</li> <li>• The Committee welcomed that a new provider may have been found for supported bus services. The Metro Mayor urged caution and stated that he would look at all possible options available including those at other Combined Authorities. He acknowledged that First Bus were working hard and putting in considerable effort to recruit additional drivers but he urged that women, students and other communities could be targeted more in the recruitment drive. Councillors were keen to distribute these recruitment leaflets at surgeries;</li> <li>• The Committee asked whether drivers’ wages had been benchmarked against other areas and cities. The Metro Mayor stated that he felt that the West of England had a lower per capita spend than some other areas such as Greater Manchester or Merseyside. Some other areas had precepts which raised additional funds;</li> <li>• The Metro Mayor was awaiting further details on anticipated government announcements on creation of additional Enterprise Zones and Freeports;</li> </ul> <p>The Committee thanked the Metro Mayor for his attendance at the meeting.</p>
6	<p><b>REVIEW OF ITEMS FOR 23 SEPTEMBER 2022 WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>The Committee discussed the reports due to be considered by the West of England Combined Authority Committee at its meeting on 23 September 2022. These comments were collated and circulated to the Committee in advance of its meeting on 23 September 2022. The comments are attached.</p>
	<p>Monday, 23 January 2023, 10.00 am, TBC</p>

# Overview & Scrutiny Committee 22 September 2022 – comments submitted to West of England Combined Authority Committee on 23 September 2022

Cllr Duguid, Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will attend the meeting to report the O&S Committee's comments.

## **Introduction:**

The meeting started with a 45 minute Q&A session with the Metro Mayor. Most of our discussion, prompted by the written statements of David Redgewell and others, was about the bus emergency.

The committee felt that a cliff edge on the buses had been waiting to happen since last Christmas and yet it was only in the last 10 days or so that the unitary authorities, the Combined Authority and the bus companies had reacted to the real threat of losing some routes and looking at creative ways of keeping them or redesignation of routes. The Metro Mayor went through the difficult issues including inappropriate funding levels and the shortage of bus drivers. He believed that we would be in a much better place come next April when BSIP kicks in, but recognised that the current cuts were causing real distress to some households.

The other issue discussed was the Transport Board. The observation by committee members was that the Business & Skills Board, as well as the LEP Board, seemed to be clear in purpose and functioning well, the Transport Board was not. The Metro Mayor was requested to look at the Board's core purpose and how he could get more meaningful discussion and early engagement from specifically the unitary authority cabinet members for transport.

It was felt that a lot of the friction in the relationship at senior level between the Combined Authority and Unitary Authorities was about the big issue of Transport. This is the same in other combined authorities and is not surprising. By deliberately over-managing the Board issue in the very short term, it could bring big gains in the overall relationship and better outcomes for transport. It was recognised that the statutory responsibility of the WECA Transport Board was different from that of other combined authorities.

## **The following comments were made on the items to be considered by the Committee:**

### **Item 10 - Investment Fund Programme**

Cllr Weston asked about the infrastructure and why there is no recommendation around the arena infrastructure package, although it was noted that the authority was awaiting the full business case and was expecting this to come forward for the January 2023 committee.

Cllr Plowden raised concern about the underspend on the Transforming Cities Fund as this was time limited to March 2023. Currently it looks as if we are going to have to hand back £25m underspend. The Director of Investment outlined that work was being undertaken to try and make sure that some of this sum would be rolled into other programmes.

Cllr Plowden requested that lessons be learned for some of the larger schemes coming forward (eg CRSTS) so that we do not end up having to give money back on those schemes.

Cllr Smith was concerned that a high proportion of the fund programme was going to consultants. The Director of Investment noted that concern and it was acknowledged that we were at a stage of the programme where consultancy work was important at the inception.

#### **Item 12 - Infrastructure Directorate Transport Update**

The officer reminded us of the three goals of Simplification, Collaboration and Acceleration and that the biggest challenge right now was setting up the capacity to deliver. There are enormous amounts of money at stake and collaboration with the UAs appears to be good and constructive. Sensible discussions have taken place about resource allocation with UAs recognising in some instances that the Combined Authority is better placed to deliver on human resource. It was pleasing to hear that 6 months has been taken off the original project time-line by the success of collaborative working which has enabled the Combined Authority to go to full business case.

Cllr Plowden was concerned about so much being required to be delivered in next 2-4 years and collectively did we have the resource to do this?

Cllr Weston was surprised that in MetroWest Phase 2 there was not more prominence given to Rail as it appeared very bus orientated.

#### **Items 13 & 14 - Green Recovery Fund Update & Update on Progress Towards Climate Ecological Strategy**

The Committee took the Green Recovery Fund update together with an update on Climate & Ecological Strategy and Action Plan Update.

The committee were pleased to see an outline of what had been agreed and the action to-date. However it did raise several questions such as how likely are we as a region to reach net zero by 2030? It was suggested that we need more emphasis on time lines between now and 2030 – so where are we going to be in 2025 and 2028 on progress for 2030 net zero? The need for government to set up and support increased retro fitting and ease planning rules for energy generation was discussed. Some areas where we are clearly ‘red’ rather than ‘amber’ or ‘green’ for instance the question of the Bristol E-bikes. Councillor Plowden urged that a lot of the emphasis seemed to be on economic development rather than a triple bottom line approach that includes social and environmental matters. And he urged that the Green Book be used more as a basis for making the strategic case.

Specifically on the Green Recovery Fund, the Committee questioned whether the current divide for the Built environment, the green environment, low carbon transport and renewable energy and capacity was better than going for a ‘big bang approach’ on one project with greater and quicker return? The officer explained that the strategy was to try and cover different segments and that this scale was probably more attainable rather than a big bang approach on one much larger project.

CESAP – the collective view of the committee was that this was a good reference point to where we are now but a greater sense of urgency needs to be included to realise what the shortfall is to getting to Net Zero by 2030. There is a need to embed sustainable development in the culture of both the Combined Authority and the Unitary Authorities – which will not be easy.

#### **Item 15 – West of England Combined Authority & Mayoral Forecast 2022/23**

The Mayoral Forecast Outturn paper was noted and some discussion took place about the level of reserves.



**Item 16 – Headline Assessment on Inflationary Pressures & Mitigations**

The paper was noted and it is important that this is regularly updated as we are in such a fluid situation. The committee realised that several big issues still need to be decided upon such as the level of pay in the public sector.

**Item 17 - Combined Authority Internal Approvals**

There was discussion about final sign-off at the highest authority levels and it was requested that the Interim Director of Legal & Democratic Services would do some benchmarking with some other combined authorities and would clarify what is in place now and whether he is content in the light of this information on what is proposed.

This page is intentionally left blank



## **WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY**

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 12 DECEMBER 2022**

#### **OVERVIEW REPORT – 16 DECEMBER 2022 WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE**

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

**AUTHOR: TIM MILGATE, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER**

#### **Purpose**

To update the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the reports due to be considered at the 16 December 2022 meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee identify any comments they wish to submit to the West of England Combined Authority Committee being held on 16 December 2022.**

#### **16 December 2022 reports – overview:**

##### **West of England Combined Authority Committee:**

Reports on the following matters are due to be considered at the 16 December 2022 meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee:

##### **1. Supported Bus Services**

**Purpose of item:** To approve the award of the supported bus services to start in April 2023.

##### **2. Transforming Cities Fund**

**Purpose of item:** Approvals to delegate authority to the Chief Executives in consultation with the Programme Review Board to utilise remaining TCF underspend.

**Appendices:** None.

**West of England Combined Authority Contact:**

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