

A meeting of the

West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee

will be held on

Date: Monday, 2 October 2023

Time: 10.30 am

Place: 70 Redcliff Street

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

Cllr Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council

Cllr Alison Streatfeild-James, Bath and North East Somerset Council

Cllr David Addison, South Gloucestershire Council

Cllr Mark Bradshaw, Bristol City Council

Cllr Katy Grant. Bristol City Council

Cllr Jonathan Hucker, Bristol City Council

Cllr Tim Kent, Bristol City Council

Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset Council

Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council

Cllr Ayrden Pocock, South Gloucestershire Council

Cllr Ben Randles, South Gloucestershire Council

Observers:

Cllr Mike Bird, North Somerset Council Cllr Ciaran Cronnelly, North Somerset Council Cllr Nigel Ashton, North Somerset Council

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West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny 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 Authority and all Authority 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.
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1. EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire, please await direction from the Council 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 consider and approve the minutes from 8 September 2023 of the West of England Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any Chair's announcements.

6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC (QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS 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 26^{th} September 2023.
- 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 29th September 2023. 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.

7. REVIEW OF ITEMS FOR 6 OCTOBER 2023 WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY & WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE

11 - 14

To review the reports / decisions due to be considered at the 6 October 2023 meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee and West of England Joint Committee and formulate any comments to refer to the committees.

8. VERBAL UPDATE ON THE BSIP TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Members to receive an update on the progress of the BSIP Task and Finish Group.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - WORK PROGRAMME

15 - 20

The Committee are asked to consider the Work Programme

10. FEEDBACK SECTION

Members invited to give feedback on the meeting

Next meeting: Friday, 8 December 2023

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

Friday, 8 September 2023, 12noon – 2pm 70 Redcliff Street, Bristol BS1 6AL

Present:

Cllr David Addison, South Gloucestershire Council Cllr Mark Bradshaw, Bristol City Council Cllr Katy Grant, Bristol City Council Cllr Jonathan Hucker, Bristol City Council Cllr Tim Kent, Bristol City Council Cllr Hal MacFie, Bath and North East Somerset Council Cllr Brenda Massey, Bristol City Council Cllr Ed Plowden, Bristol City Council Cllr Ben Randles, South Gloucestershire Council Cllr Alison Streatfeild-James, Bath and North East Somerset Council

Officers In Attendance:

Daniel Dickinson, Interim Monitoring Officer Jill Bennett, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager Jess Lee, Head of Policy and Strategy Mark Wakefield, Head of Democratic Services Emma Powley, Democratic Services (Virtual)

Apologies:

None

Minutes

As this was the first meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Municipal Year 2023/24 the clerk opened the meeting and presided over agenda items 1-3

1	Election of Chair for Municipal Year 2023/24 It was proposed by Councillor Bradshaw and seconded by Councillor Streatfeild- James and		
	Agreed:		
	That Councillor Plowden be elected as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal 2023/24.		
	Councillor Plowden was in the Chair for all subsequent items.		
2	Election of Vice-Chair for Municipal Year 2023/24 Councillor MacFie proposed and Councillor Addison seconded and it was		
	Agreed		
	that Councillor Streatfeild-James be appointed Vice- Chair.		
3	Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011 There were none.		
4	Terms of Reference The Committee noted its Terms of Reference.		

5 **Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on the 13 March 2023 were agreed. 6 **Chair's Announcements** The Chair informed the Committee that a request to call in the decision to close railway ticket offices including Bath had been received. As this is not a decision made by the Combined Authority Committee, scrutiny has no remit to call it in. The Chair commented that he would ask the Mayor of the West of England Combined Authority to express their concern about the closures The Chair thanked officers for their attendance and the overall organisation who had committed to looking at the provision of extra capacity to assist the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with additional deep dives. 7 Items from the Public (Questions, Statements and Petitions) The Chair noted that six questions had been submitted by members of the public. Written responses had been provided and are available on the website. Mr David Redgewell submitted a statement but was unable to attend. Robbie Bentley instead made the address on Mr Redgewell's behalf. Sheila Roberts submitted a statement on behalf of the Bristol Disability Equities Forum and read this out at the meeting. The Chair thanked those in attendance for their questions and statements and commented that whilst Overview and Scrutiny did not have any power or remit with regards to the topics discussed, they may wish to submit their comments and questions to the Combined Authority Committee who were the decision-making body. 8 **Regional Strategy Refresh** The Chair introduced the Head of Policy and Strategy (Jess Lee) to the meeting who gave the Committee an update on the process underway to refresh the regional strategy. It was explained that the Combined Authority last produced a regional strategy in 2019 with the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) being co-produced between the region and government. Since publication, there had been significant regional and national change and it was agreed following a meeting with the Leaders of the Unitary Authorities and the Mayor that a regional refresh was necessary in order to deliver the refreshed strategy. Numerous workstreams were currently proceeding. It was noted that there had been a number of deep dives carried out and a Peer Review had been requested alongside engagement with the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) Boards, Business Leaders and Young People. In response to question asked by the Committee, the Head of Policy and Strategy clarified: 1. The Regional Strategy Refresh was not a planning document but would provide the context for what is being done across the region and would help to implement strategy. 2. The Combined Authority were not alone is re-visiting the regional strategy; other Authorities were seeking to refresh theirs. Work was also being commissioned with other Combined Authorities to explore ways to lever in more money and maximize the impact of the capital received.

3. Once the engagement plan was in place, there would be further consultation with

Councillors, and officers, from all the Unitary Authorities,

4. It was recognised that whilst the area had high skills base, the overall net migration out of the area meant that there were some skill shortages. Work would be undertaken to try and retain some of the skilled worked by engaging with the regional Universities and Colleges ensuring that opportunities are made visible.

The Chair thanked the officer for her report and commented that he was pleased with the vision and framework for the delivery of the Regional Strategy Refresh. He noted he welcomed the peer review and asked for further engagement and consultation with Councillors prior to it being approved.

Resolved:

That the Scrutiny Committee noted and commented on the approach being taken to the development of a refreshed regional strategy

9 Transformation Programme Governance Workstream Update

Daniel Dickinson, Interim Monitoring Officer, introduced his report which provided the Committee with n update on progress with the actions in the governance work stream of the Transformation Programme following the agreement at the informal meeting of Scrutiny on the 7 July 2023 that three additional meetings would take place, providing an opportunity for deep dives on some key themes.

It was explained that the report provided an overview of actions in the governance and structures workstream, a number of the actions that fit within this workstream were completed before the transformation programme was established.

The Monitoring Officer gave an update in relation to Figure 1 - Governance and Structures Workstream and noted the following:

- GS1 Revisions to the Schemes of Delegations would be proposed at the Combined Authority Committee in October 2023 before a more substantive overhaul would be carried out.
- GS2 All Committee's would have clear Terms of Reference and a training programme offered.
- GS3 Through discussions on role and purpose of the West of England Combined Authority, the question of Leader portfolios can be considered as and when appropriate.
- GS4 this had been implemented very quickly with a much more free flow of information to ensure that Cabinet Members from UAs can request briefings from senior CA officers as required.
- GS5 The Regional Monitoring Officers had continued to meet regularly, with networks having been built with other Combined Authorities Monitoring Officers.
- GS6 Material would be provided to new members as part of their induction process and all members will be offered the opportunity to meet with CA officers to discuss the role of Audit and Scrutiny Committees.

In response to questions asked by the Committee, the following was noted:

In relation to GS3, the structure of the Combined Authority differed from Unitary Authorities.

Portfolio Holders could attend meetings of the Combined Authority but only as observers and would therefore have no voting powers.

In relation to GS2, questions had previously been raised about making the Terms of Reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee more defined so as to avoid any overlap and duplication.

In relation to GS4, there is a weekly meeting of the CEO's of the Unitary and Combined Authorities. Any briefing requests made by the respective Authorities Portfolios would be discussed and considered at the meeting.

A future peer review would be undertaken to assess what progress had been made and what improvements can be continued.

The Chair commented that he considered there to be some operational and constitutional weakness and asked for more clarity of the approval routes to ensure that everyone was clear on the tolerances

The monitoring Officer explained that the general principles around decision making needed to be flexible enough to allow the Combined Authority to deliver its commitments whilst also having a robust process in place to ensure that decision making was open and transparent. It was noted that some of the financial authorisation limits had changed due to the Internal Governance Process.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 Operation of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Head of Democratic Services (Mark Wakefield) elaborated on this report that sought Committee Members views for proposals to be brought forward to ensure the Committee is operating an effective scrutiny function on behalf of the Combined Authority. It was explained that at the 7 July 2023 meeting there was a clear request for papers for the regular O&S meetings to be circulated much earlier. It was also noted that there had been investment in the Team with the appointment of the Democratic and Scrutiny Manager to help facilitate additional workload of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee discussed the report.

The Monitoring Officer reminded the Committee that that each Task and Finish Group would need to nominate a Chair that a remit and the scope of each group would need to be reported back to the next informal scrutiny meetings.

The Committee agreed to the following Task and Finish Groups and membership.

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)

Scope to include: Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) roll out

BSIP- questions about the monitoring of delivery of BSIP

Figures needed on passenger numbers

Councillors Addison, Randles, Bradshaw, Streatfeild-James, Kent and Plowden.

Audit & Governance Task and Finish Group;

Councillors Streatfeild-James, Gollop and Randles.

Transport;

Councillors Bradshaw, Kent, Addison and Randles

Skills and Business;

Councillor Hucker, MacFie, Bradshaw and Massey

Climate change and Environment

Councillors Randles, Grant, Bradshaw, MacFie and Streatfeild-James.

The representative from Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) gave a presentation to the Committee.

Monday, 2 October 2023, 10.30 am, 70 Redcliff Street





REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 2nd October 2023

REPORT TITLE: REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY WEST

OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

DIRECTOR: DANIEL DICKINSON, INTERIM MONITORING

OFFICER

AUTHOR: JILL BENNETT (DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &

SCRUTINY MANAGER)

Purpose

1. To update the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the reports due to be considered at the 6 October 2023 meetings of the West of England Combined Authority Committee and the West of England Joint Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the committee identify any comments they wish to submit to the West of England Combined Authority Committee and to the West of England Joint Committee on 6 October 2023.

6 October 2023 reports - overview:

West of England Combined Authority Committee:

Reports on the following matters are due to be considered at the 6 October 2023 meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee:

1. Investment Fund Programme

Purpose: To report on the overall programme and headroom including the extension of the current Investment Fund period to 27/28 and to consider Business Cases and funding applications (where not contained in specific papers)

2. Delivery Assurance

Purpose: To consider recommendations from the Programme Review Board regarding project delivery including changes to schemes within the investment programme against the agreed delivery assurance principles

3. Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan Update

Purpose: To provide a 6-monthly progress update on actions for this year contained within the Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan (CESAP)

4. Adult Education and Skills

Purpose: To request delegation of decision-making powers for the Adult Education Budget (AEB) /Adult Skills Fund (ASF), Multiply programme and Skills Bootcamps programmes for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025

5. Transport Infrastructure Projects

Purpose: To provide an update to West of England Combined Authority Committee on key transport schemes and to secure approval from Committee on key decisions and associated funding (where applicable) related to projects within the West of England Combined Authority's Transport Infrastructure programme

6. BSIP Prioritising

Purpose: KPMG Prioritisation framework to assess BSIP initiatives including a quantitative assessment based on DfT value for money methodology, and a supporting qualitative assessment to provide a recommended prioritisation of initiatives when redistributing any funding identified

7. Transformation Programme update

Purpose: As resolved at June Committee, consider and comment on progress of transformation programme workstreams responding to GT and SOLACE reviews, including progress towards a refreshed regional strategy

8. Senior/Statutory Appointments

Purpose: To formally ratify the Combined Authority's Interim Statutory Section 73 Officer

9. West of England Combined Authority and Mayoral Budget Forecast 2023/24 Report

Purpose: This report presents the revenue and capital budget financial forecast information for the West of England Combined Authority and the Mayoral budget for the financial year 2023/24 based on data from the period April to July

10. West of England Combined Authority Audit Committee Annual Report

Purpose: Annual Report 2022/23 brings together in one document a summary of the work undertaken by the Audit Committee. The production of the report complies with current best practice for audit committee

West of England Joint Committee

Reports on the following matters are due to be considered at the 6 October 2023 meeting of the Joint West of England Combined Authority Committee:

1. Invest Bristol & Bath Review

Purpose: To present the outcome of the mid-term review of the West of England Inward Investment Service 'Invest Bristol and Bath', setting out the findings and the consultants recommendations and the planned next steps

2. LEP and IBB Forecast and Change Requests (JC)

Purpose: This report represents the forecasted revenue and capital to the West of England Joint Committee for the financial year 2023/24 based on data from the period April to July 2023. The report covers the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Invest Bristol and Bath (IBB) revenue budgets. Change request approvals are also included as part of this reporting process.

Appendices: None.

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

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





REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 2nd October 2023

REPORT TITLE: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - WORK PROGRAMME

DIRECTOR: DANIEL DICKINSON, INTERIM MONITORING

OFFICER

AUTHOR: JILL BENNETT (DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &

SCRUTINY MANAGER)

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an opportunity to review its work programme

Recommendation

- 2. It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
 - i) consider the work programme attached at Appendix One;
 - ii) authorise the Scrutiny Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to make amendments to the work programme.

Reasons for recommendation

3. To ensure the work programme is adaptable and reflects current activity, the Committee will have an opportunity to review it at each of its meetings.

Background / Issues for Consideration

- 4. At an informal meeting of Overview and Scrutiny held on the 7 July 2023, it was agreed that a number of Deep Dives be carried out to ensure that the Scrutiny Committee were adding value to the democratic process and have meaningful engagement with the Combined Authority Committee.
- 5. It was decided that an additional three extra formal meeting could be used as an opportunity for a deep dive into a specific themed topic; one of these topics

was discussed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 8th September 2023 and Members received a paper on the governance workstream of the transformation programme.

- 6. In addition to the meeting on the 8th September 2023, a further two Deep Dive meetings have been scheduled for 8th December 2023 and 9th February 2024.
- 7. At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 8th September 2023, Members agreed to a number of Task and Finish Groups. These included:
 - ➤ Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)
 - Audit & Governance
 - > Transport;
 - Skills and Business:
 - Climate change and Environment
- 8. Progress reports of the work undertaken by each Task and Finish Group will be reported to the Deep Dive meetings.
- 9. As there is an increase in the number of Deep Dives and Task and Finish Groups, it is considered good practice to ensure that Committee Members are aware of what progress is being made by the Committee and the Task and Finish Groups.
- 10. Members are being asked to consider the proposed Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme for the forthcoming months and identify any potential areas for further scrutiny.

Risk Management/Assessment

11. No specific risks identified.

Public Sector Equality Duties

12. No specific PSED duties are engaged.

Climate Change Implications

13. Not directly relevant.

Finance Implications, including economic impact assessment where appropriate:

14. Not directly relevant.

Legal Implications:

15. None arising.

Human Resources Implications:

16. None arising.

Land/property Implications

17. None arising.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Work Programme

Background papers:

None associated with the report.

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

Report Author	Contact Details	
Jill Bennett	Jill. bennett@westofengland-ca.gov.uk	



Overview and Scrutiny – Work Programme 2023-24

Title of Report	Overview of Decision	Report of (officer)	Notes
Consideration of the Combined Authority Forward Plan	To consider the Combined Authority Forward Plan		
O & S Work Programme	An opportunity for the Committee to review its work programme.		
Verbal update on the BSIP Task and Finish Group	Verbal update to be given on the progress to date of the BSIP Task and Finish Group		
Deep Dive Overview and Scrutiny Committee –	8 December 2023		
Update on BSIP T & F Group	To consider the report and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.		
Update on Climate & Environment T & F Group	To consider the report and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 January	•		1
Title of Report	Overview of Decision	Report of (officer)	Notes
Consideration of the Combined Authority	To consider the Combined Authority Committee		
Forward Plan	report on budget setting		
O & S Work Programme	An opportunity for the Committee to review its work		
	programme.		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 22 January	2024		
Title of Report	Overview of Decision	Report of (officer)	Notes

Consideration of the Combined Authority Forward Plan	To consider the Combined Authority Forward Plan		
O & S Work Programme	An opportunity for the Committee to review its work programme.		
Deep Dive Overview and Scrutiny Committee –	9 February 2024		
Update on the T & F Group – Audit & Governance	To consider the report and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.		
Update on the T & F Group – Skills & Business	To consider the report and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.		
Terms of Reference	To receive an update on the revisions made to the O & S Terms of Reference		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 11 March	2024		·
Title of Report	Overview of Decision	Report of (officer)	Notes
Consideration of the Combined Authority Forward Plan	To consider the Combined Authority Forward Plan		
O & S Work Programme	An opportunity for the Committee to review its work programme.		