

WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 29 JANUARY 2020

REVIEW OF 31 JANUARY WECA COMMITTEE AND JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIRECTOR: SHAHZIA DAYA, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: IAN HIRD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & SCRUTINY MANAGER

Purpose

1. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the reports due to be considered at the 31 January joint meeting of the WECA Committee and Joint Committee and formulate any comments they may wish to refer to the committees.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the committee identify any comments they wish to submit to the WECA Committee and Joint Committee on 31 January 2020.

Summary

2. During the previous and current municipal year, members have agreed that to assist their scrutiny role, meetings of the committee should generally be scheduled in advance of but close to the date of WECA and Joint Committee meetings, to enable Overview and Scrutiny members to review finalised reports before decisions are taken and to enable members to formulate any comments on the reports.

3. The agenda and reports for the 31 January WECA Committee and Joint Committee were published on 21 January (7 clear working days in advance of the WECA and Joint Committee meetings and 5 clear working days in advance of this Overview & Scrutiny meeting).

4. A slightly revised organisational approach is being taken on 31 January. The approach to date has seen the WECA Committee meeting taking place and then followed by a meeting of the Joint Committee. On 31 January, rather than run "consecutive" meetings, a joint meeting of the WECA Committee and Joint Committee is being held. This will enable meeting arrangements to be streamlined by holding one public forum slot (rather than two separate ones) without impacting on the overall time available for public forum business. It is hoped that these streamlined arrangements will assist members of the public in accessing and participating in the public forum. The new arrangements also mean that the Overview &

Scrutiny Committee Chair can make comments to both committees at the same time, rather than addressing each committee at separate meetings. The committees will also be able to give consideration at the same time to some matters that would otherwise have been considered by both committees at separate meetings.

5. The agenda for the 31 January meeting has been published and circulated. The agenda papers make clear which items are for decision by the respective committees, and can also be accessed from this web link:

Web link to 31 January agenda papers – Joint meeting of the WECA Committee and the West of England Joint Committee:

<https://westofengland-ca.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=192&MId=438>

6. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to submit any specific comments to the 31 January meeting (a standard slot is included on the agenda to enable the Chair to present any comments on behalf of scrutiny members).

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN 31 JANUARY COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Update on climate emergency planning

7. At agenda item 7, members at today's (29 January) meeting, members will already have reviewed in detail the update report on climate emergency planning which is being considered by the WECA Committee and the Joint Committee on 31 January.

2020/21 budget

8. A significant number of the reports to be considered at the 31 January meeting concern the 2020/21 budget. Scrutiny members received an overview presentation providing background information and context to the development of the budget proposals at their informal meeting on 8 January. At this 29 January meeting, Malcolm Coe, Director of Investment and Corporate Services, will present the detail / key aspects of the finalised budget proposals.

WECA Committee - Investment Fund report

9. Malcolm Coe will present the latest Investment Fund report.

The report includes the following key information:

- The [West of England Local Growth Assurance Framework](#) has been updated to reflect changes to the Constitution agreed at the Committee meeting in July and also to seek to streamline the business case development and approval process.

- Feasibility and Development Funding Applications have been submitted for Regional Operations Capability – Phase 1 (£75,000), West of England Strategic Planning Shared Evidence Base (£250,000), Strategic Masterplanning for the North Fringe of Bristol (£500,000) and South West Bristol (£500,000), Building Employment and Enterprise Skills (£20,000), Local Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Action Research Activities (£20,000) and Apprenticeship Levy Maximisation (£100,000) which are detailed in Appendix 2.
- Proposed Love Our High Streets assessment criteria are shown in Appendix 4.
- The Whitfield Tabernacle Stabilisation Works project has been conditionally approved through granted delegation.
- A Full Business Case for Lockleaze Sustainable Transport Improvements has been submitted seeking funding of £3.346m for the implementation of the scheme.
- It is proposed to allocate £200,000 to underwrite the re-establishment of the 2019-20 Adult Education Budget growth and exceptions budget.
- Full Business Cases have been submitted for South Bristol Enterprise Support, Centre for Digital Engineering Technology & Innovation and the Local Industrial Strategy Productivity Challenge Delivery Programme.
- In line with current processes for managing reported scheme changes, those seeking approval are set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
- Appendix 10 outlines the capital budget forecast for the 2019/20 and 2020/21

Joint Committee – LEP One Front Door Funding programme

10. Malcolm Coe will present the latest One Front Door Funding Programme report. The key approvals sought through this report are:

a. Approval of the Full Business Case for the A4018 corridor improvements and the award of £3.449m subject to the updating of the economic case and the scheme continuing to present a Benefit Cost Ratio greater than 2, and confirmation of proposals for safe crossing facilities on Knole Lane or Crow Lane.

b. The Joint Committee is also asked to approve the revised Local Growth Assurance Framework.

WECA Business Plan

11. The quarter 3 progress report on the 2019/20 Business Plan, and the 2020/21 Business Plan are being submitted to the WECA Committee and Joint Committee on 31 January. At this 29 January meeting, Lynda Bird, Head of Performance, Policy & Projects will present these items.

Further report of the Independent Remuneration Panel:

12. The Panel met on 7 January and has made the following additional recommendations to the WECA Committee:

- The Chair of the WECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive an annual allowance set at 5% of the mayoral allowance (£3,100).

- No allowance to be paid to the Chair of the WECA Audit Committee.

- The independent member of the Audit Committee to receive an annual allowance set at 1% of the mayoral allowance (£650).
- The independent Chair of the Hearings Sub Committee to receive an allowance of £256 per day when participating in a hearing.

Full list of items being considered at the 31 January meeting

13. The full list of items being considered at the 31 January joint meetings is as follows:

Items to be considered by the Joint Committee:

- Local Enterprise Partnership and Invest Bristol and Bath revenue budget outturn report, April – December 2019
- Revenue budget setting report 2020/21
- Local Enterprise Partnership One Front Door funding programme
- Commissioning of a Mass Transit strategic outline business case

Items to be considered by the WECA Committee and the Joint Committee:

- Update on climate emergency planning
- 2019/20 Business Plan – quarter 3 progress report
- 2020/21 Business Plan

Items to be considered by the WECA Committee:

- Combined Authority & Mayoral budget outturn report, April - December 2019
- Mayoral budget setting report 2020/21
- Combined Authority budget 2020/21 and Medium Term Financial Forecast
- Capital Strategy including Treasury Management and Investment Strategies
- Investment Fund
- Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Forward Plan

14. For information, the most recent update of the WECA Committee and Joint Committee Forward Plan is enclosed. Work will start shortly on the detailed Forward Plan for the 2020/21 municipal year. This will be shared with scrutiny members as soon as available.

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 / Tim Milgate on 0117 332 1486; or by writing to West of England Combined Authority, 3 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EW; email: democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk