

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 2 DECEMBER 2020

OVERVIEW REPORT - REVIEW OF 4 DECEMBER WECA COMMITTEE AND WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Purpose

1. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the reports due to be considered at the 4 December 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 4 December 2020.

4 December reports – overview

2. The agenda for the 4 December 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 4 December agenda papers – Joint meeting of the WECA Committee and the West of England Joint Committee:

<https://westofengland-ca.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=448&x=1>

3. The Combined Authority has actively continued to review its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on proposals are addressed in the 4 December committee reports.

4. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider/formulate any specific comments to submit to the 4 December meeting (a standard slot is included on the agenda to enable the Chair to present any comments on behalf of scrutiny members).

5. For ease of reference, **Appendix 1** sets out short summaries of all the 4 December reports. Officers will be in attendance at the meeting to highlight key aspects of the reports. It is suggested that the following 'overviews' be given by officers, with an opportunity for members to ask questions/comment:

a. Agenda item 11: Strategic Rail Investment

(suggested time allocation: 20 mins)

Lead officers:

David Carter – Director of Infrastructure

Kathryn Vowles – Head of Capital Delivery

This report sets out the 10 year Rail Delivery Plan and requests specific delegated authority to assist the continued delivery of the West of England rail programme.

b. Agenda items 12 - 15: Financial reports

(suggested time allocation: 40 mins):

Lead officers:

Malcolm Coe, Director of Investment and Corporate Services

plus David Carter, Director of Infrastructure & Stephen Bashford, Director of Business and Skills re: relevant aspects of the Investment Fund report.

*** Agenda item 12 – Local Enterprise Partnership & Invest Bristol and Bath budget outturn, April - September 2020**

This report presents the forecast revenue outturn for the West of England Joint Committee for the financial year 2020/21 based on data for the period April 2020 to September 2020. The report covers the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Invest in Bristol and Bath (IBB) revenue budgets.

*** Agenda item 13 – Local Enterprise Partnership one front door funding programme**

This report sets out requested scheme changes in respect of the Local Growth Fund (LGF), the Economic Development Fund and the Revolving Infrastructure Fund (RIF).

*** Agenda item 14 – WECA & Mayoral budget outturn, April – September 2020**

This report presents the revenue budget financial outturn information for WECA and the Mayoral budget for the financial year 2020/21 based on data for the period April 2020 to September 2020.

* Agenda item 15 – Investment Fund

This report seeks approval for feasibility, development and delivery funding, and for change requests for schemes within the current approved programme.

The specific proposals being brought forward / recommended for approval by the WECA Committee in this report include:

1. Approval for the use of the identified Investment Fund headroom. As reported in October, it is proposed that £21m of this funding is used to create a Development Infrastructure Fund (DIF). This would build upon the model for the Land Acquisition Fund and could support both housing and economic development infrastructure with the aim that funds are repaid in whole or part depending upon the specifics of the application. The proposed criteria for the DIF are set out in Appendix 2 of the committee report. It is also planned to increase the allocation for the Land Acquisition Fund by £8m given this is a valuable funding model. It is further proposed that £3m of funding is earmarked to support Green Infrastructure proposals.
2. Approval to allocate £2m to the Housing and Regeneration Enabling Fund and to delegate the approval of the criteria and Feasibility and Development Funding Applications for specific proposals to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent councils.
3. Approval to allocate a further £2m to strategic masterplanning and to delegate the approval of Feasibility and Development Funding Applications for specific proposals to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent councils.
4. Approval of the Outline Business Case for Hengrove Park enabling works and to allocate funding of £12m in the current programme and earmark a further £7.8m post 2022/23 to be confirmed at Full Business Case.
5. Approval of the Strategic Outline Business Case for Charfield Station and to delegate the approval of the Outline Business Case to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent councils subject to this remaining within the agreed budget.
6. Approval of a revision to the Local Growth Assurance Framework (set out in paragraph 15 of the committee report) and the approval of the £3.655m Future Transport Zones match funding.
7. Approval to allocate £500k to match fund the Housing Enabling Fund bid through One Public Estate 8 and, should the bid be successful, to delegate the approval of the Feasibility and Development Funding application to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent councils.
8. Approval to award an additional £2.5m for the development of the Spatial Development Strategy/Local Transport Plan Evidence Base.
9. To approve the Full Business Case for the Chew Valley Lake Recreational Trail subject to resolution of land issues and planning conditions, the supply of a detailed programme and the confirmation of the final costs.
10. To approve the award of £179k to the 5G Logistics project subject to securing DCMS funding.
11. To delegate the detailed use of the Adult Education Budget Covid-19 Skills Recovery Package to the WECA Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent councils.

c. Agenda item 16 – Adult Education Budget (AEB) – approach for the 2021/22 academic year

(suggested time allocation: 15 mins):

Lead officers:

Stephen Bashford, Director of Business and Skills

Naomi Logan, Head of Service – People and Skills

Henry Lawes, Programme Manager, Adult Education

This report seeks approval of the proposed approach for the management and administration of the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the 2021/22 academic year.

The overall aim taken forward through this report is to orientate the local Adult Education system so that it is focused on and responsive to the specific need of the region's residents, communities, employers and the local economy as a whole. The proposal is to use the 2021/22 academic year to complete the move away from the transitional approach started in the 2019/20 academic year. This will see increased changes which will support delivery of the West of England Local Industrial Strategy and associated Employment & Skills Plan.

For 2021/22, WECA will use a commissioning approach to devolved Adult Education. This will include the use of a Commissioning Strategy and underlying commissioning evidence base. The approach will support providers in focusing on priority sub-regional groups of residents/communities, employers/sectors and geographies within the WECA area.

d. Agenda item 17 – Appointment of Returning Officer for the 2021 Combined Authority Mayoral election

(suggested time allocation: 5 mins):

Lead officer:

Shahzia Daya Director of Legal Services

This report recommends that the WECA Committee appoint Shahzia Daya, WECA Director of Legal Services as Returning Officer for the 2021 Combined Authority Mayoral election.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – short summaries of the reports submitted to the 4 December joint meeting of the WECA Committee & West of England Joint Committee.

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:

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