



To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 7th September 2016

Subject: West Midlands Combined Authority

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To provide information on the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) scrutiny function and strategic economic plan (SEP)

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:
- 1) Consider the governance structure of the West Midlands Combined Authority including the scrutiny function
 - 2) Receive regular updates from the Council's representatives on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - 3) Receive progress reports on the WMCA Strategic Economic Plan

3 Overview and Scrutiny

- 3.1 The WMCA is establishing a scrutiny function alongside an Audit Committee with representation on both from member councils.
- 3.2 Attached:
- Appendix A Governance structure for WMCA showing links to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Audit Committee
 - Appendix B TOR for Scrutiny function
 - Appendix C TOR for Audit Committee
 - Appendix D Minutes of first meeting of WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 3.3 The WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee met for the first time on 15 July. Cllr Sucha Bains attended that meeting. Cllr John Mutton is the Council's nominated representative with Cllr Rupinder Singh the nominated substitute. The committee includes representation from member councils across the WMCA.
- 3.4 The committee is now looking at a number of issues, including:
- Models of scrutiny arrangements used in other local authorities, other Combined Authorities and other organisations;
 - The Forward Plan and its use as a tool for scrutiny;
 - Arrangements for scrutiny of the Elected Mayor;
 - The Public Accounts Committee Report on Cities and Growth with particular reference to the comments on scrutiny;
(<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmpubacc/296/29608.htm#idTextAnchor020>)
- 3.5 Alongside the regular reports provided to all Members at Full Council meetings by the Leader, it is expected that Coventry Members of the Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committee will report back to relevant Scrutiny Boards in Coventry to ensure co-ordinated

work and a full overview of WMCA activities. All elected Members are able to attend these meetings and stay for private or restricted items not open to the public.

- 3.6 All meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are public (as are meetings of the Combined Authority board and various governance boards) with plans to livestream meetings in the future. Meetings will be held around the WMCA area.

4 Strategic Economic Plan

- 4.1 The Leader of the Council holds the key portfolio of productivity and skills and will provide regular feedback to Members on progress on this priority action in the Strategic Economic Plan.
- 4.2 See governance structure – progress against SEP priority actions is overseen by the SEP Board (which includes Leader of Coventry City Council, CEX of Coventry City Council and a representative from Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership).
- 4.3 Link to SEP Plan <https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/about/strategic-economic-plan/>
- 4.4 An executive summary of the plan can be found at Appendix E

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