



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date 15 July 2016

Minutes

Members	
Councillor Tersaim Singh	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Sucha Bains	Coventry City Council
Councillor Stuart Davis	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Nathan England	Telford and Wrekin Council
Councillor John Glass	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Councillor Peter Hughes	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor David Sparks	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Jenny Wheeler	Redditch Borough Council
Paul Brown	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
In Attendance	
Emma Williamson	Birmingham City Council
André Bromfield	West Midlands Combined Authority
Jan Britton	West Midlands Combined Authority
Carl Craney	West Midlands Combined Authority
Dan Essex	West Midlands Combined Authority

01/16 Appointment of Chair

Jan Britton introduced himself and advised that he was the Chief Executive of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council but was attending this meeting in his capacity as Chief Operating Officer of the West Midlands Combined Authority. He invited the committee to make nominations for the post of Chair of the committee and advised that this appointment and that of the Vice Chair would be subject to confirmation by the West Midlands Combined Authority Board.

It was proposed by Cllr Stuart Davis, seconded by Cllr Sucha Bains and

Resolved:

That Cllr Peter Hughes be appointed Chair of the committee for this meeting and that the West Midlands Combined Authority Board be requested to confirm the appointment for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Cllr Hughes – In the Chair

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The Chair, Cllr Hughes thanked the committee for appointing him as Chair. He reported that he was not new to the work of scrutiny and was currently the Chair of the West Midlands Scrutiny Network. He advised that there was a lot of work involved in scrutiny if it was to be undertaken fully and that the West Midlands Scrutiny Network had spent considerable time in looking into the role of scrutiny of the Combined Authority. He suggested that there was an opportunity for this committee to lead the way and become the exemplar of how scrutiny of Combined Authorities should be undertaken. He requested that members embrace the opportunity to be involved in the scrutiny of the Combined Authority, that preparatory work was essential and all contributions would be welcomed.

02/16 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Claire Spencer.

03/16 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made in relation to matters under consideration at the meeting.

04/16 Appointment of Vice Chair

It was proposed by the Chair, Cllr Peter Hughes and seconded by Paul Brown that Cllr Stuart Davis be appointed Vice Chair of the committee for this meeting and that the West Midlands Combined Authority Board be requested to confirm the appointment for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

By way of an amendment, it was proposed by Cllr Sucha Bains and seconded by Cllr Jenny Wheeler On being put to the vote it was

Resolved:

That Cllr David Sparks appointed Vice Chair of the committee for this meeting and that the West Midlands Combined Authority Board be requested to confirm the appointment for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

05/16 Background and Experience of Members of the Committee

At the invitation of the Chair those present gave brief details of their respective backgrounds and experience of the scrutiny process.

06/16 Terms of Reference

The committee considered the report of the Clerk to the Combined Authority which detailed the its Terms of Reference.

Resolved:

(1) That the Terms of Reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2016/17 as detailed in the report be received and noted and that further consideration of this

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matter be undertaken at a Workshop Session to be held on 23 September 2016 in lieu of the meeting scheduled for that date;

- (2) That John Cade, INLOGOV be invited to serve as an advisor to the committee and undertake a review of the various models of scrutiny used by local authorities, Combined Authorities and other bodies and present these to the Workshop Session referred to in (1) above.

07/16 Calendar of Meetings

Resolved:

- (1) That the scheduled meetings of the committee as detailed below be noted:
 - 23 September 2016 (Workshop Session – See Minute No. 06/16 above);
 - 9 December 2016;
 - 10 March 2017 and
 - 16 June 2017;
- (2) That other meetings of the committee be held as necessary.

08/16 Call- In Procedure

The committee considered the report of the Clerk to the Combined Authority which detailed the process that the Combined Authority Board had agreed on 29 June 2016 as to how the committee would operate and manage the 'calling-in' of decisions of the Combined Authority and its committees.

Resolved:

That the Call- In procedure as detailed in the report be received and noted and that further consideration of this matter be undertaken at a Workshop Session to be held on 23 September 2016 in lieu of the meeting scheduled for that date.

09/16 Forward Plan

The committee received the report of the Clerk to the Combined Authority which detailed the Forward Plan and afforded the committee with an opportunity to identify possible items for consideration at future meetings.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be received and noted and that further consideration of this matter be undertaken at a Workshop Session to be held on 23 September 2016 in lieu of the meeting scheduled for that date;
- (2) That the following matters be considered also at the Workshop Session:

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- 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;
 - The Call-in procedure;
- (3) That those members of the committee who were not in attendance at this meeting and who had not submitted apologies for absence be reminded of the facility to nominate their deputy to attend the meeting in their stead.

10/16 Any Other Business

(a) Summary of Decisions from the Audit and Standards Committee

The Chair drew the attention of the committee that a summary of decisions from the Audit and Standards Committee held on 8 July 2016 had been circulated to all members. Dan Essex, Governance Service Manager advised the committee that this was in accordance with the Call-In procedures agreed previously.

Resolved:

That the summary of decisions from the Audit and Standards Committee held on 8 July 2016 be received and noted.