



---

**To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee**  
**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Subject: West Midlands Combined Authority – Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

---

**1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To update Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee of the work of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee and sub-groups.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to note the content of the report.

**3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 The Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is appointed to the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Deputy Chair is his named substitute.
- 3.2 The Deputy Chair is a member of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group which has met twice.

**4 Call-in – Housing and Land Delivery Board – Town Centres Programme**

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee called in a decision of the Housing and Land Delivery Board on 25<sup>th</sup> October. The reason for the call in was stated as:

*There is a clear lack of transparency within the report, supplementary information document and minutes as to the process used leading up to the selection and naming of the sites chosen.*

- 4.2 Members of the Board were concerned that the process for identifying sites wasn't clear in the documentation and that there had been no communication with local councillors of the process or decisions made.
- 4.3 At a meeting to discuss the call-in and decision making process on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018, members of the Board questioned the Portfolio Lead Member, Cllr Mike Bird (Walsall) and the Accountable Employee, Gareth Bradford – Director of Housing and Regeneration.
- 4.4 The decision-making process for identifying the town centres was explained to the Board. The Board agreed with the decision to allocate funding to the town centres, however, they were unhappy with the levels of transparency in the process for decision making and agreed recommendations to provide scrutiny members with more information on the work programmes of all of the sub-groups of the WMCA, not just the Board.

#### 4.5 The Board made the following recommendations:

- Protocol for relationships between scrutiny and WMCA Leadership team / portfolio leads.
- To ensure that WMCA board and Committees all have a forward plan which is up to date and to be shared with Overview & Scrutiny members.
- Pre-decision scrutiny to be embedded within WMCA.
- Proposed that equality and diversity was a standing item for all Committees.
- Review of the Constitution in respect of the Call-In process.
- Review of governance to continue including quorum levels
- To enable effective scrutiny additional resources are required.
- Overview & Scrutiny to engage/participate in the next discussions regarding the next devolution deal.

4.6 As the meeting wasn't quorate, the recommendations will need to be ratified at the next quorate meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the decision of the Housing and Land Delivery Board can be implemented.

4.7 Further Overview and Scrutiny meetings and items can be found at the work programme attached at Appendix.

### **5 Health and Wellbeing Working Group**

5.1 There have been two meetings of the health and wellbeing working group which also has representation from Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall and CWLEP.

5.2 The first meeting was to agree the scope of the working group and it was agreed that the focus would be:

- a) Mental health
- b) Digital innovation
- c) The justice system

5.3 The working group have heard evidence from Sean Russell, Director of Implementation for the Mental Health Commission about the work of the Thrive Programme, and Cllr Izzy Seccombe, Chair of the Wellbeing Board of the WMCA, about her plans and focus for the work of the Board.

5.4 The working group will meet on a regular basis to consider the measures taken by the WMCA and its Wellbeing Board to implement the recommendations arising out of the Mental Health Commission's final report (launched in January 2017).

5.5 They will review and make recommendations, as appropriate, on proposals and further actions that could be taken to develop the WMCA's Health & Wellbeing workstreams.

Gennie Holmes  
Scrutiny Co-ordinator  
gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk