
Council

16 January, 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership – Councillor G Duggins

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Chief Legal Officer

Ward(s) affected:

Not Applicable

Title:

Appointment to the West Midlands Investment Zone Joint Committee

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The Chancellor announced the establishment of a West Midlands Investment Zone (WMIZ) in the recent Autumn Statement. The West Midlands Combined Authority is required by the Government to act as the accountable body for the successful and compliant implementation of the WMIZ. The WMCA has initially established a Joint Committee as the governance body, which will be chaired by the Mayor of the West Midlands.

This report seeks to appoint a Coventry City Council voting representative to the West Midlands Investment Zone Joint Committee.

Recommendation:

That Council approves the appointment of Councillor J O'Boyle as the City Council's voting representative to the West Midlands Investment Zone Joint Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

List of Appendices included:

None

Useful background papers:

None

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it, or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 16 January, 2024

Report title: Appointment to the West Midlands Investment Zone Joint Committee

Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Chancellor announced the establishment of a West Midlands Investment Zone (WMIZ) in the recent Autumn Statement. The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is required by the Government to act as the accountable body for the successful and compliant implementation of the WMIZ. This includes the allocation of the initial WMIZ programme support funding (£80m) and future business rate surplus remitted as a result of the WMIZ development.
- 1.2 The development of WMIZ governance must meet a number of timed gateways if Orders for relevant fiscal measures are to be laid before Parliament in time for a final announcement of the WMIZ at the Spring Statement and launch of the scheme in April 2024. The Government needs sufficient confidence that the appropriate governance arrangements and agreements are in place for the fiscal measures to be developed.
- 1.3 The WMCA has initially established a WMIZ Joint Committee between WMCA and Warwick District Council, which will be chaired by the Mayor of the West Midlands, and includes, as voting members, all 7 Constituent Authorities of the WMCA, Warwick District Council as the business rate billing authority for sites within the WMIZ and Warwickshire County Council, who are closely affected by business rates arrangements for those sites. Additional non voting members of the Joint Committee will include Universities that have signed up to the IZ. Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees of the WMCA will attend as observers.
- 1.4 The WMIZ Joint Committee has delegated authority from the WMCA Board and from Warwick District Council to make all decisions in relation to the IZ up to a financial threshold to be set by the WMCA Board as the IZ's accountable body.
- 1.5 Should Warwick District Council become a non-Constituent Authority of the WMCA, at that point the Joint Committee would become a WMIZ Board of the WMCA.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

Following consultation with the Leader, Councillor G Duggins, it is recommended that Councillor J O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, be appointed as the City Council's voting representative to the WMIZ Joint Committee.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

The Leader, Councillor G Duggins, has been consulted.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 If approved, the appointment will take effect from the date of the Council Meeting on 16 January, 2024.

All City Council appointments to outside bodies are reviewed annually at the Annual Meeting.

5. Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and the Chief Legal Officer

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. Other implications

Not applicable

Name and job title:

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Service:

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Julie Newman	Chief Legal Officer	Law and Governance	20/12/23	20/12/23
Barry Hastie	Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer)	Finance	20/12/23	20/12/23
Councillor G Duggins	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership	-	21/12/23	21/12/23

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