

# Additional papers 1



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 18 Mar  
2021  
6.30 pm

Microsoft Teams



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# Overview and Scrutiny

Thursday, 18th March, 2021

6.30 pm

Virtual Meeting - Teams

## Agenda

### Membership:

Cllrs:

Joe Baker (Chair)  
Jennifer Wheeler  
(Vice-Chair)  
Salman Akbar  
Michael Chalk  
Peter Fleming

Andrew Fry  
Ann Isherwood  
Mark Shurmer  
Yvonne Smith

## 10. External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports (Pages 1 - 4)

- a) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Council representative, Councillor Chalk; and
- b) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council representative, Councillor Chalk.
- c) Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) – Council representative, Councillor Chalk

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**West Midland Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Meeting  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

This meeting was not quorate.

Members had received a large agenda for this meeting. There was some concern in respect of the accuracy of the minutes however, these were accepted. During discussion of the Economic Funding Tracker the Chair raised that this was not an open and transparent process. However, other Members of the Committee did not agree with this.

There was disagreement during a debate in respect of questions related to the Budget. The Chair, in particular felt that there had been a lack of progress, currently and historically, in this area. Officers advised the Committee of additional information in this area and answered many of the concerns raised.

The Future Plan was discussed with a focus on public sector and WMCA funding for green issues. It was explained that the implementation costs of the plan were extremely high, and that there would be an opportunity to assess the implementation at various points in the process. It was confirmed that this document would be presented to the board meeting on the March 19<sup>th</sup> 2021.

The Black Country Strategy item was considered by the Committee. Members were not all in agreement that the WMCA strategy reflected the needs of the area. However, the strategy was accepted by the Committee.

Concerns were raised regarding transport arrangements for the region and that they were not clear.

This was the last meeting of this administration some Members expressed their concern regarding the quality and depth of scrutiny that was being undertaken by the Committee. It was hoped that this would improve in the future.

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This was a virtual meeting held by Zoom from County hall.

Unfortunately due to technical issues, I was unable to join the meeting at the start however, managed to access the meeting 45 minutes later.

Members were informed that - as of 10/03/2021 - 14 patients were in Intensive care - 8 of which were Covid related.

The long term plan was next on the agenda and when questioned, the officer was able to tell us that elective surgery was to be returned and developed at the Alexander Hospital and that a new CT scanner has been installed. I queried whether there were any plans for the maternity ward and cancer garden to be returned to the Alexander Hospital.

The Care Quality Commission had visited and undertaken an unannounced inspection of the Maternity unit at The Worcester Royal Hospital, following a whistle blower report. It was reported that there were staff shortages and support plus assurance for the mothers and families were the major findings. The positives were - an excellent multi-professional team, a highly motivated staff with no safety concerns. A senior officer explained to the committee what measures had already been carried out and any outstanding issues that were still to be resolved.

The new Integrated Care System was next on the agenda. It was confirmed that the CCG will be replaced by a more representative Core Board helped by a Health and Care partnership. The local authorities will be a partner in this new approach of a joined up system. There will be a new process for procurement going forward which was hoped would make it easier. It is anticipated that this new arrangement will be in place by April 2022.

As this is the last meeting of this administration the Chair thanked a few members for their input as they were not standing at the elections and wished every one well.

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