

WMCA O&S 9th October
Questions for the Mayor

This a difficult report to write as it is based on a number of questions that required complex answers.

The Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) region was invited to introduce the session. He explained that we were in important times and even though there were difficulties with HS2 and decisions needed at the end of the month the WMCA was optimistic; in 2018/19 the economic progress in the West Midlands was twice that of the nation.

Several questions were asked about social issues that he and the WMCA had no responsibility for such as early years and secondary school activities. On the question of homelessness he said that the supply of flats into the 'Housing First' scheme had reduced the number of rough sleepers in the region.

The WMCA require 20% of houses, built with an input from the CA, to be social housing.

There is £40M available from levee transfer for apprenticeships from large firms to be used by small/medium employers.

When asked about up skilling the existing work force he explained that the Adult Education Budget was available for this purpose.

Councillor Michael Chalk (11.10.19)