

West Midland Combined Authority – Update from Councillor Michael Chalk

7th September 2020

This meeting was held on Microsoft Teams, however, was inquorate therefore decisions taken at the meeting would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 18 September 2020 for formal approval.

The first item was the Battery Gigafactory that is expected to act as a focal point for the development of electric vehicles in the West Midlands and to generate thousands of jobs and save many more. The questions, where and when were asked but with no answers.

Although health is not a direct responsibility of the WMCA, as part of developing the work force and general wellbeing of the population a new approach is envisaged where 'Central Diagnostic Hubs' are prepared. The first may well be in Grand Central (New Street Station) the idea is that the foot fall in this area would allow more people to access the hub and have early diagnosis of problems.

Members received a presentation of the Economic recovery of the region that showed 4 areas:

1. an overview that was split into 10 sections
2. Intelligence and diagnostic
3. Short term case leading to a Government submission
4. Long term based on the next devolution deal

There was some concern by members that we were not sure what the information was telling us.

The following presentation was on The Comprehensive Spending Review that was going, possibly with modification and additions, to the board on the 18th September. Three sections were explained:

- 1 sustainable funding for local government
- 2 a levelling up
- 3 a green recovery

The major concern of the committee was that review did not address the problems of the general population.

The final item a Task & Finish was arranged consider investments within the Black Country.

The agenda can be made available for those who require more detail.