

## **West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

Due to IT issues, which were corrected by the IT Helpdesk, I unfortunately joined the meeting 40 minutes later than anticipated. Upon arrival, the West Midlands Combined Authority Portfolio Holder was answering questions on amounts of social housing and the West Midlands Combined Authority's responsibility in respect of that housing. It was reported that the West Midlands Combined Authority were only permitted to spend money for the purpose for which it had been allocated.

The next item was the consideration of the possibility of a Gigafactory for the production of automotive batteries. This item was led by the Chief Executive of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Mr. Martin Yardley. He reported that the number of jobs at stake was enormous and would have an effect in Redditch and North Worcestershire. Some Members questioned the effect as it was in the Coventry area, but it was explained that all 3 Local Enterprise Partnerships and the West Midlands Combined Authority were involved and that the benefit would be for all. It was further noted that there was a need to start to develop the necessary skills and learning to ensure that the jobs were filled by the local people. I queried, how Members could help in this matter and it was suggested that Members take a coordinated approach to any communications once the process was underway.

The meeting was running over for time so the item on transport was brief, however the Chair of the Sub-Committee suggested that they were looking at alternative ticketing methods and a way to help young people with their transport costs. There were also comments that some members of the public were ignoring the need for PPE on the buses.

This is a brief overview due to missing some of the items due to IT issues.