

West Midlands Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee 7th March 2022

This meeting had a 138-page agenda.

The first was a report from the portfolio holder for Housing. With additions from officers, he explained that the WMCA does not build houses only makes it possible for housing associations and others to do so. Also, they have no direct impact on how many social houses are built. It is expected that a minimum of 20/25% of the houses built with the help of the WMCA will be social housing.

There were comments on the report from several members most of whom welcomed the work done.

The Members remuneration panel is to report to the board in June. At present only the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have an allowance but consideration was being given to others with responsibilities. There is an anomaly that members of the Transport Delivery Committee also get a left-over allowance, as it was formed before the combined authority.

WMCA has been offered “Trailblazing Devolution Deal” to run by the side of the ‘Levelling up white paper’. This will enable the CA to promote different models for the next devolution deal. The officers explained their vision and showed their 12-point mission. This can be made available if required. A major point is the open conversations with HMG.

On the ‘Plan for Growth’ various aspects were discussed as was the allocation of grants where money was coming in and going out to a range of activities. There are 12 major areas and 16 smaller areas that are being considered.

The Annual business Plan is designed to work alongside the aims and objectives of the authority and ensure they work.

Finally the forward plan was accepted without debate.