

West Midland Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny

29th January 2024

<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=138&MIId=870>

Comments on the minutes

Mayor Andy Street is considering taking on the role of PCC after a change in legislation. The current PCC had written to the committee asking for a hearing. The Chair and officers discussed this and found that there is no role for this committee to look at the proposal for the mayor to take over PCC as this decision now comes under the Mayoral responsibilities and not the board. This has been played out on social media by the incumbent PCC.

Homes for the future

WMCA want to encourage greener homes without being prescriptive or impeding innovation. The Authority is using a passive design route matching the Governments proposals. The Government standards also include non-residential dwellings which WMCA's does not. It was suggested that this is a gap which needs to be considered. WMCA is leading the way nationally on standards. The new standards would mean the average house would only cost around £1.50 a day to run.

Redditch can benefit from the increase in skills training opportunities for training within zero waste construction. Unfortunately, there are still national limitations for local authorities who want to go further faster. These standards would be enforced where developers are looking to obtain funding from the authority. The Authority will work with SME developers so as not to alienate them from opportunities.

State of the Region report

The WMCA is on track to reach net zero by 2041.

Questions were raised on increase in home schooling and the fact there is zero funding to support those educated from home. This is a national issue but something Redditch needs to be aware of.

There is a reduction in people taking up apprenticeships. Young people across the entire West Midlands area are not achieving as high levels of educational attainment as other areas.

Attendance at school is low which is reflected nationally. 6.6% of sessions missed on average throughout the region.

People in the West Midlands have lower life expectancy by 1.2 years for women and 1.8 years for men.

Employment and skills strategy for deeper devolution

Aims are to:

- Build strong and inclusive communities.
- Provide good education up to level 2 for all residents even those who have left school.
- Supporting residents into employment and supporting career progression.
- Meeting future skills needs through upskilling and reskilling.

Councillor Emma Marshall

Redditch Borough Council Representative on the West Midlands Combined Authority
Overview and Scrutiny Committee