



**West Midlands**  
Combined Authority

**Overview & Scrutiny**  
**5th Annual Report 2022/23**



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# Foreword

The last 12 months have been the busiest year of scrutiny since I have been sitting on the committee from 2018!

We started the year with the news that, along with Greater Manchester Combined Authority, we had been selected as partners in the Government's Trailblazer Devolution Deal, with all 'asks' believed to be on the table. Scrutiny had a big role to play in shaping these asks and offering a sense-check on ambitions and the resources available to deliver them. We held five working groups over the summer months and looked at every aspect the WMCA was putting forward. This demonstrated the absolute value of pre-decision scrutiny, helped to shape the final proposals submitted to the Government and demonstrated the strength of good governance. The Deeper Devolution Deal, as it has finally been called, will also be the catalyst for Government seeking to increase and the strengthen the role of scrutiny across all combined authorities and local authorities to ensure robust oversight.

The year also saw two strands of the governance review progressed, with the transport governance recommendations hopefully being signed off at the WMCA's upcoming AGM.



**Chair – Councillor**  
Cathy Bayton

As Chair, along with the support of Lyndsey Roberts, we have convened two meetings of the chairs and vice-chairs of all combined authorities across England. This has helped share good practice and ideas for how we can all strengthen and improve our scrutiny functions. We have agreed it is a useful meeting and to convene three further meetings during the next year.

The members of both Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee have worked diligently, challenging and offering constructive observations to policy and delivery. I want to thank all of them as the demands on their time this year have been greater than ever and as their Chair, I have hugely valued their constructive support and contributions. I want to pay particular thanks to Councillor Naeem Akhtar from Coventry as Vice-Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Chaman Lal from Birmingham as Vice-Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee. I also wish Councillor Lal every success in his forthcoming role as Lord Mayor of Birmingham. We have struggled again with the quorum this year, and it is hoped that the proposals contained within the new Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill to give powers to remunerate statutory committees may well help this issue. But it is also really important when local authorities nominate members to sit on our committees, those individuals have the capacity to commit to the work programme ahead.

As always, the backbone of the scrutiny function at the WMCA is the support that we receive from officers Lyndsey Roberts, Dan Essex and more recently Julia Cleary. Without their continued hard work to ensure the meetings have all the information they require, and the support offered to me as chair, the scrutiny function would not be as effective.

## Introduction

We are pleased to present the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's fifth annual report which outlines its focus, key work activities and the outcomes achieved during the 2022/23 municipal year.

Overview and scrutiny are statutory functions of the WMCA. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee discharges these responsibilities through oversight of the work of the Mayor, portfolio lead members and the wider WMCA decision making process in order to hold decision makers to account and improve the quality of the decisions (whether planned, underway or implemented) that the WMCA takes.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee members may make recommendations to the WMCA Board and other committees, call-in decisions for further scrutiny and challenge those whether planned, underway or implemented. The committee acts as an advocate for residents of the West Midlands by investigating issues that are important to local people's lives and by looking further into matters brought to its attention by the public. From reviewing the asks of the 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal to understand the tangible benefits for residents of the West Midlands, value for money to scrutinising the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the WMCA on the delivery of local skills training, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, comprising the region's local councillors and business sector representatives is the body that is charged with providing this critical challenge.

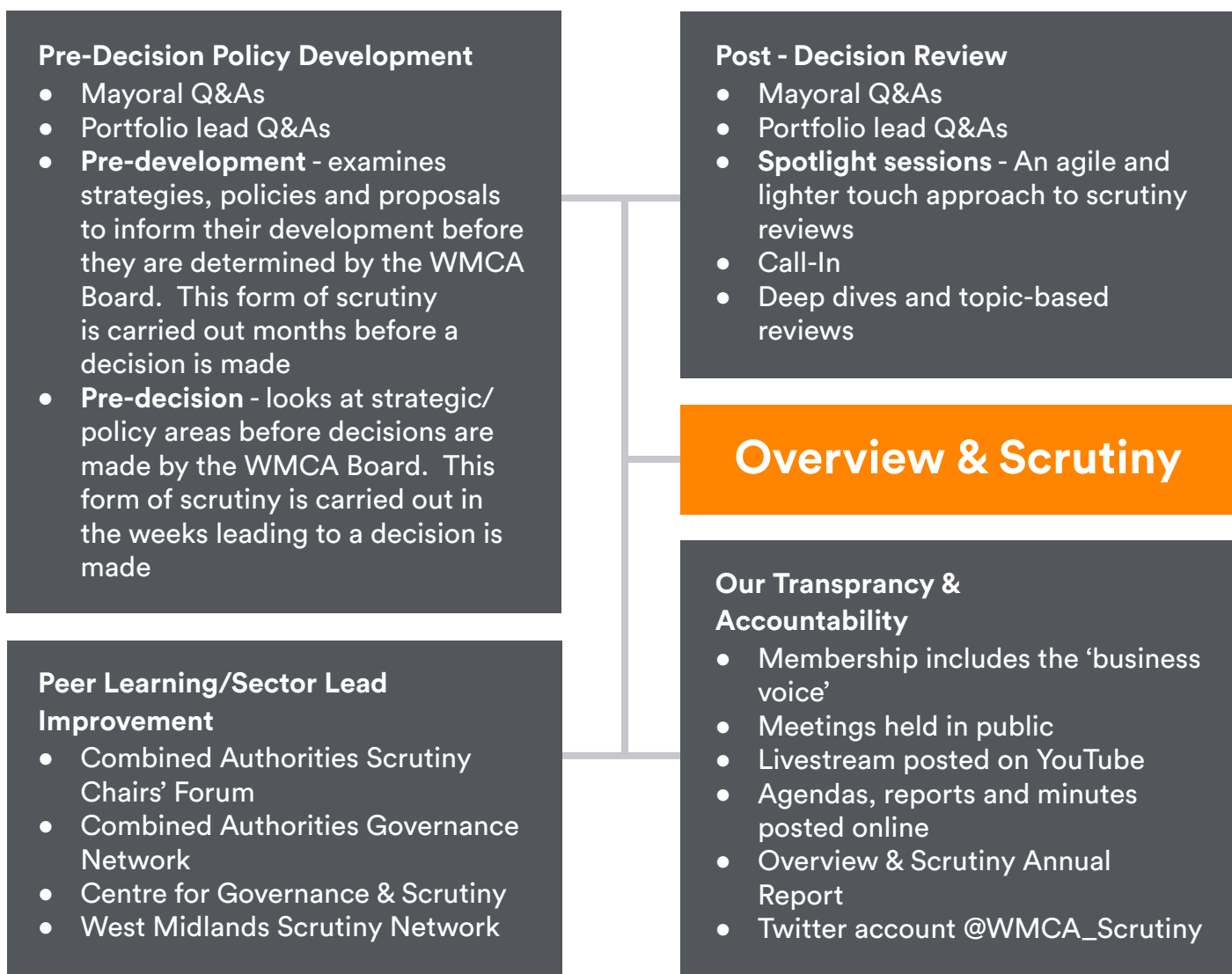
Scrutiny is a fundamental part of any efficient and equitable governance structure and decision-making process. Scrutiny is at the heart of good decision-making, which the WMCA has welcomed, encouraged and supported throughout the organisation.

While the committee's membership includes local councillors nominated by the WMCA's 18 member councils, it also has a representative from the business sector. This brings a business voice to discussions and ensures that the views of the region's commercial sector are heard at the highest levels of decision making.

The committee performs two functions 'overview' and 'scrutiny'. Overview focuses on the development of policy, and scrutiny that looks at decisions that have been made or are about to be made.



# What We Do and How We Do It



## Overview & Scrutiny's Focus for the Year

Due to the current economic situation in the region and the rise in the cost of living across the UK, it was important for Overview & Scrutiny Committee to ensure that the powers of the WMCA and its policies were delivering for the people of the West Midlands.

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 2022/23

This past year the committee focused on the 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal proposals, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, progress against the delivery of the 'Five Year Plan' to make the West Midlands net zero by 2041, the affordable housing supply strategy and delivery pilot, and the impact of the Adult Education Budget and how it was meeting the needs of the area, the employer and the disadvantaged. The committee has continued to have broad oversight of the policies of the WMCA and has reviewed the effectiveness of its key decisions. It has an important role in reviewing and scrutinising the Mayor, portfolio lead members, the WMCA and Transport for West Midlands in respect of plans, priorities, corporate governance arrangements and financial matters.



West  
Midlands  
Railway



# Holding The Mayor Of The West Midlands And The Portfolio Lead Members To Account

The committee has undertaken a number of public Mayoral Q&A sessions, structured around two core themes 'accountability and investment' with questions focusing on the key challenges, outcomes and benefits for the people of the West Midlands region.

In October, the committee questioned the Mayor on the delivery and impact of the WMCA's policies. Questions focussed on:

- Cost of living pressures
- The WMCA's ambition vs resource
- Investment Zones and potential unintended consequences for the wider economy
- WMCA's 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal
- The Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill
- Environment
- Skills
- Transport

In December, the committee held its second Q&A and questioned the Mayor and the Lead Member for Finance on financial matters relating to the developing budget for 2023/24, with a particular focus on:

- Financial challenges and sustainability of the budget
- Investment Programme
- WMCA's 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal (resource vs ambition)
- Investment Zones
- Transport (HS2 and approval of unfunded schemes)

“

*These public Q&A sessions were an important part of providing public accountability and transparency of decision-making for the WMCA's only directly elected politician*

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# Mayoral Q&A Sessions - Key Findings

## Delivery and Impact of the WMCA's Policies

The following matters were reported to the WMCA Board on 16 December 2022:

- **Adult Education Budget, Skills and Job Opportunities**

The overall impact of higher education spend and the likelihood that any sub-regional disparity in this would affect the future of the region as individuals would seek employment and training opportunities outside of their boroughs. Access to learning and employment and how to change the mindset of individuals to take up the opportunities that were on offer was vitally important.

- **Investment and pace of delivery**

Investment into the reliability and speed of investment to deliver the infrastructure and services needed to enable individuals to travel to work seamlessly and for businesses to operate effectively was important and remained a key challenge.

The 2041 net zero target was also reliant on improvements to the public transport offer.

- **Resource vs Ambition**

Overview & Scrutiny Committee recognised that resource vs ambition had become a common theme and would be keeping a close eye on this throughout the year. Risk of shared failure and the consequences of this was highlighted as an-ongoing concern for members.

Whilst the breadth and diversity of the WMCA's ambitions was welcomed, along with the recognition of the challenges within the region, it was thought that focusing on those areas (housing, skills, transport and climate change) which caused the greatest concern for residents should be the priority focus for the WMCA.

- **Levelling Up Zones**

Members were to be kept updated on the development of these Levelling Up Zones.

- **Communication**

The committee stressed the importance of a strong communications strategy to counteract negative stories.

## WMCA's Budget 2023/24

The following matters were reported to the WMCA Board on 13 January 2023, during consideration of the WMCA's 2023/24 budget:

- **Regional Role in Energy Efficiency**  
Members expressed their concerns on the cost of energy and the impact that this had on the economy. There was a need to seek the introduction of alternative solutions, for example energy turbines.
- **Investment Portfolio**  
The committee questioned whether the WMCA was generating economic growth in specific areas, especially given the disparity of investment.
- **Greater Scrutiny - Arms' Length Companies and the Delivery of Outputs**  
The committee considered that there needed to be a greater focus on the outputs generated through investments and a greater scrutiny focus on arms' length companies and the outputs delivered for the region.
- **Carbon Neutrality**  
The committee stressed the importance of the work being undertaken to achieve carbon neutrality on projects that the WMCA was supporting.



## Areas of Focus 2022/23

### West Midlands Combined Authority 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal

The Levelling Up White Paper was published in 2022 and defined levelling up as “increasing opportunity across the UK and reducing disparities between and within regions”. The White Paper discussed deepening devolution and offering a number of devolved powers to regions that want them. The WMCA had been invited to negotiate a 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal.

The committee had met with the Executive Director for Strategy, Integration & Net Zero to understand the emerging draft devolution proposals, the governance process and timescales for submission.

Key lines of enquiry focused on:

- The ask vs the ability and capability to deliver
- The development of a West Midlands outcome framework
- Drawing down powers and finance from Government
- Funding simplifications for transport, housing, skills and retrofit and increased public engagement
- The importance of the availability of up-to-date information

Questions also focused on the implications of the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill for the WMCA, which was announced in the Queen's speech of 10 May 2022.

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

Members considered a draft of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan prior to its submission to the WMCA Board. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was a central pillar of the Government's Levelling Up Agenda, providing funding for local areas to increase life chances across the UK and to build pride in place.

The committee met with the Executive Director for Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities to discuss:

- The allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to each local authority
- Its allocation for non-constituent authorities and the potential opportunities to work in collaboration
- The ability to spend year one funds by 31 March 2023
- The funding gap for 'people and skills' and challenges
- Risk assessments
- Outcomes

## WM2041 – Progress with ‘Five Year Plans’ to get to 2041

Members held a spotlight session with the Director of Energy Capital, Head of Environment and the Energy Infrastructure Lead to understand the progress against the delivery of the ‘Five Year Plan’ to make the West Midlands net zero by 2041.

Key lines of enquiry focused on:

- Resourcing
- The pace of delivery
- The ability of the supply chain to provide products and services that customers trusted
- A behaviour change programme, with a focus on affordability
- Carbon Zero Neighbourhoods
- Being aware of the obstacles that the business community faced
- The importance of the WMCA’s global ethical responsibilities

## Housing: Future Homes Strategy, Affordable Housing Supply Strategy, Affordable Housing Delivery Pilot

The committee met with the Lead Member for Housing & Land to discuss and answer questions on the development of a Future Homes Strategy, the Affordable Housing Supply Strategy and the Affordable Housing Delivery Pilot.

The following observations were considered by the WMCA Board:

### **Future Homes Strategy:**

As part of the development of the Future Homes Strategy, the proposal to hold a wider session with members and local authority officers to encourage the proactive utilisation of the opportunities available to deliver speedy, affordable and carbon neutral housing should be supported. The increase in the local supply chain and aim to drive the locally produced percentage of components was to be encouraged.

### **Affordable Housing Supply Strategy:**

There was an important need for genuine affordable housing, an improvement in the relationship between the WMCA, local authorities and developers to secure the delivery of a mix of tenure and the importance of local infrastructure to support the increase in car ownership.

### **Affordable Housing Delivery Pilot:**

The committee commended the pilot and the ambition to deliver 100% affordable homes.

“

*“Whilst it was **important** for homes to be **affordable to buy**, it was **equally important** for them to be **affordable in terms of location and running costs**”*

”

# Scrutiny Working Groups 2022/23

## WMCA ‘Trailblazer’ Deeper Devolution Deal

Following the committee’s meeting in July, members tested each of the ‘Trailblazer’ Deeper Devolution proposals to ensure that they had a clear focus on drawing down powers and funding from Government (including opportunities for ‘double devolution’ to the WMCA’s constituent member authorities where appropriate) and ensuring that the roles and responsibilities of those constituent authorities were not being devolved.

“

*The sessions have been extremely constructive and have helped to further illuminate how proposals may address some of the challenges faced by communities across the region*

”

A principle that the WMCA had adhered to throughout the development of the deeper devolution deal proposals was that **with more responsibility, there should be more accountability.**

Over the summer period (August 2022), a series of extensive working groups had been established to review each of the proposals in detail and to discuss the local benefits that would be delivered to each local authority and non-constituent authorities.

1

### Session One

- Transport
- Housing and Regeneration
- Smart City Region

2

### Session Two

- Industrial Decarbonisation
- Economy
- Skills
- Digital Inclusion
- Digital Infrastructure

3

### Session Three

- Social Economy
- Homelessness
- Prevention
- Funding Simplification & Fiscal Devolution
- Culture
- Health

4

### Session Four

- Data, Performance & Accountability
- Crime, Community, Safety and Resilience
- Net Zero
- Retrofit Commissioning Framework
- Local Area Energy Planning
- Climate Adaptation

5

### Session Five

Local benefits that could be delivered by the deeper devolution deal in each of the constituent and non-constituent authority areas.

“

*“Working Group members provided invaluable insight into some of the challenges that their communities faced. This ‘on-the-ground’ perspective was incredibly valuable for officers both in terms of greater understanding of the issues being faced by residents and businesses within the region, but also as evidence and case studies to bolster discussions with Government colleagues”*

”

# Effectiveness and Outcome

## Scrutiny of the 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal

After considering each of the 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution proposals and the local benefits, a number of key themes and considerations emerged.

- **Investment sought compared to the scale of the ambition**  
The committee welcomed the scale of ambition outlined in the devolution proposals, but in some instances queried whether the investment being sought was bold enough to ensure delivery.
- **Priorities**  
Whilst the breadth and diversity of proposals were welcomed, the committee did reinforce the importance of prioritising these proposals. Key focus areas were identified as housing, transport, skills and climate change. Although this was not to the exclusion of other proposals, these areas reflected the greatest concerns for residents and there was genuine concern that spreading the capacity too thinly, given the level of resource being sought, would undermine delivery in these areas.
- **Impacts from the proposals**  
Members' insights had reinforced the importance of representing people in the proposals rather than merely strategic measures and interventions.
- **Integration of strategic approaches**  
The interdependency between proposal areas became clear, for example the important relationships between skills and economic growth, or effective transport systems and easy access to employment opportunities. Members recognised that although many of these areas were already well-integrated and connected, the proposed devolution deal had highlighted even greater opportunities for the integration of approaches and measures.

“

*We are grateful to Cllr Bayton and her wider team for the time and commitment they have given to strengthening this work*

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### Outcome

The conclusions of the work of overview & scrutiny were supported by the WMCA that helped to shape the Deeper Devolution Deal submission to Government.





## Deep Dive Review:

“

***A review of the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the WMCA on the delivery of local skills training***

”

Following the findings of the 2020/21 review to ascertain whether the regional economic recovery proposals were meeting the needs that had been identified within the Black Country sub-region, members considered that it was now an appropriate time to undertake a further scrutiny review to assess the impact and outcomes that had been delivered through the Adult Education Budget since its devolution to the WMCA.

The review sought to understand the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget on the delivery of local skills training within the region, and to identify the challenges and ways in which the WMCA and its constituent authorities could most effectively use skills development to address short- and longer-term challenges in the region, particularly in relation to the big economic challenges. The findings would be used to help shape future skills funding.

The review panel examined how the Adult Education Budget was meeting the needs of the:

- Area
- Employer
- The disadvantaged

The panel sought written evidence and undertook face-to-face interviews with a range of key witnesses to help inform the review including representatives from:

- Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce
- Job Centre Plus
- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- City of Wolverhampton Council
- Small/medium-sized enterprises
- Regional Business Council
- A local training provider

The findings of the review will be considered by Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 2023/24, prior to its submission to the Skills Advisory Board.



## A Look Back: Scrutiny Reviews 2021/22 - Where Are We Now?

### Helping to Deliver Affordable and Social Housing Scrutiny Review

During 2020/21, members had identified the provision of affordable and social housing within the region as a key area of focus and agreed to undertake a review to examine the role and remit of the WMCA to deliver affordable and social housing within the West Midlands through the use of devolved housing and land funds.

The findings and recommendations of the review panel were considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and then subsequently reported to and supported by the WMCA Board on 18 March 2022.

During the course of this year, the committee requested a written update on the work of the WMCA and its partners in implementing and responding to the recommendations from the scrutiny committee.

On 5 September, members considered a report on the progress that had been made on the delivery of the eight recommendations that were supported by the WMCA Board. A copy of the report can be accessed here >> [Full Report](#)

Overview & Scrutiny Committee will continue to receive regular reports on progress with delivering affordable homes, providing members with the opportunity to inform and provide recommendations to guide the ongoing work in this area.



# Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

## Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee Focus for the Year

Overview & Scrutiny Committee appointed Councillor Cathy Bayton to chair the sub-committee for 2022/23. With the scale and scope of the transport-related projects currently being delivered, the sub-committee had ensured that those responsible for transport were held to account, demonstrated through regular Q&A sessions with the Portfolio Lead for Transport, the Chair of the Transport Delivery Committee, and the Executive Director for Transport for West Midlands.

“

*To ensure that Transport for West Midlands together with constituent authorities and stakeholders, were delivering the best public transport services that it could, in the public interest and ensuring that the users experience was paramount and at the forefront of Transport for West Midlands thinking, policies and initiatives*

”

## Holding Those Responsible For Transport To Account

### Councillor Ian Ward, Portfolio Lead for Transport

In October, a Q&A session was held with Councillor Ian Ward, Portfolio Lead for Transport, on transport policy related matters. Members questioned him on:

- Passenger value for money
- Financial challenges
- Impact on capital projects on funding pressures
- Concessions in helping in cost of living pressures
- Cross boundary travel for school aged children
- Effectiveness of processes for holding bus operators to account
- Impact of any scaling back of transport policies in meeting the WMCA's net zero carbon objectives
- WMCA's transport governance review

The sub-committee's observations and recommendations were endorsed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Portfolio Lead Member for Transport.

### Councillor Richard Worrall, Chair of Transport Delivery Committee

In February, Councillor Richard Worrall attended a Q&A session to answer questions on transport delivery matters across the region. Questions focussed on:

- WMCA's transport governance review
- Metro City Centre Extension, Wolverhampton financial breach
- Holding Transport for West Midlands and arms' length companies to account
- Bus Franchising
- Behaviour change
- Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022 - lessons learnt and legacy

The sub-committee's observations and recommendations were endorsed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Portfolio Lead for Transport.

“

*Transport services needed to be more predictable and dependable*

”

# Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

This year the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee has focussed on the following areas:

## Metro Affordability (Wednesbury - Brierley Hill)

The sub-committee invited the Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub to answer questions on the affordability issues related to the Wednesbury - Brierley Hill metro extension.

Members questioned and received feedback on the current challenges, potential mitigations to fund the scheme and future funding opportunities.

## Bus Network Review

Members examined the content of the bus network review that was supported by a suite of information, including an update on the delivery of the West Midlands Bus Service Improvement Plan in the context of wider challenges faced in the bus market and the latest performance of bus services in the West Midlands. This information was used to help inform the lines of enquiry.

## Bus Franchising

Members reviewed the measures Transport for West Midlands was undertaking to address ongoing challenges in delivering bus services that met the ambitions of the region's Vision for Bus, including the on-going Enhanced Partnership and a Full Franchising Assessment.

Whilst the potential challenges associated with the introduction of a Bus Franchising model across the region were recognised, in terms of delivery, quality and encouraging behaviour change, members challenged the current commercial model and questioned whether it delivered what was needed for the residents of the West Midlands.

## Transport Governance Review

Members continued to be engaged in the development of the transport governance review that would provide clarity on roles and responsibilities, consistency and alignment with other WMCA boards and committees, simplification, clear lines of accountability and transparency of the transport decision-making arrangements within the WMCA.

Throughout 2022/23, the committee has continued to meet with the Director of Law & Governance on the emerging governance structures.

## Commonwealth Games 2022 - Lessons Learned in Transport

Between 28 July and 8 August, Birmingham hosted the 22nd Commonwealth Games, the largest multi-sport event held in England for the last 10 years. The games brought over 1.5m spectators and visitors to the region and transport had to answer to a complex set of challenges, including a complex and congested transport network, a compressed timescale for planning, impacts of COVID-19 and navigating the realities of industrial action on the rail network.

“

***Transport for West Midlands be commended on the success of the Commonwealth Games in terms of transport***

”

## Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee Continued

### West Midlands Local Transport Plan 'Reimagining Transport in the West Midlands' - Final Core Strategy and draft Big Moves and draft Area Strategy Guidance'

Following the sub-committee's engagement on the Local Transport Plan Green Paper, it was then consulted on the final version of the West Midlands Local Transport Plan 'Reimagining Transport in the West Midlands' Core Strategy prior to its submission to the WMCA Board.

Key points raised by the sub-committee included:

- The need for a creative approach on the strategy to connect with younger members of the public and that were representative of the region.
- Creative solutions needed to be sought as to how retail outlets supported and encouraged its customers to use alternative modes of transport to access its facility.
- The importance of consumer affordability within the strategy.
- The provision of infrastructure to accommodate alternative modes of transport; and
- Benchmarking

“

*It was important for Transport for West Midlands to **develop a transport network** that would allow **passengers** to have the same **freedom to move around the region** as was currently enjoyed by car owners*

”



# Peer Learning and Sector Lead Improvement

## Centre for Public Scrutiny Training Events

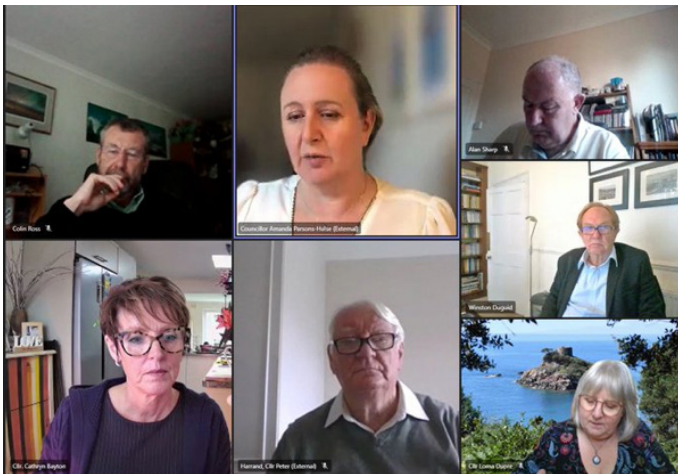
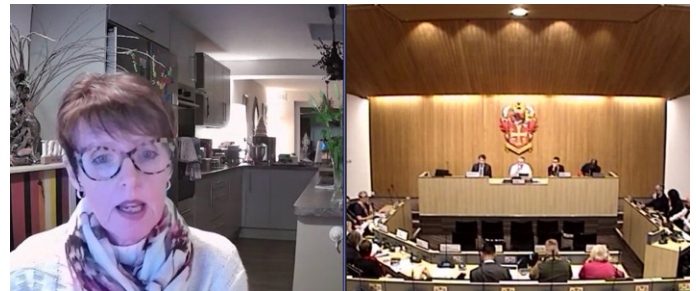
In addition to internal training, officers of the WMCA and members of the committee were informed of training and events that are led by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, as appropriate.

## Combined Authorities Scrutiny Chairs' Forum

The WMCA has been instrumental in setting up the new Combined Authorities Scrutiny Chairs' Forum, enabling the chairs from the country's ten combined authorities' scrutiny committees to meet to share best practice, discuss areas of common interest and to build relationships.

## Working with Local Authorities

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee attended meetings of local authority partners to discuss and answer questions on the work of the WMCA's Overview & Scrutiny Committee.



## Combined Authority Governance Network Group – ‘A Collective of the Combined Authorities’

The Combined Authority Governance Network Group is a group of officers from combined authorities across the country that meet on a regular basis and share best practice and learn from others on governance matters, including overview and scrutiny issues. The WMCA was a regular participant of the network group, which was facilitated by the Centre for Public Scrutiny on behalf of the Local Government Association.

# Looking Forward 2023/2024

Overview and scrutiny is a statutory function within the WMCA, undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that has responsibility to review the work of the Mayor and the WMCA and hold decision makers to account.

## Earlier and Regular Engagement between the Executive Board and Scrutiny

Whilst engagement with particular departments has improved during the course of the year, members would welcome a closer working relationship with Transport for West Midlands to enable them to understand the challenges, performance and outcomes of transport priorities and strategies.

## 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution - English Devolution Accountability Framework

The Government will, in the English Devolution Accountability Framework, develop a new scrutiny protocol. The WMCA will engage in the development of the protocol and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would seek to also be engaged in this process.

Successfully implementing the protocol will be a key factor when Government will be determining eligibility for single funding settlements and deeper devolution deals.

## Greater scrutiny of the WMCA's Portfolio Lead Members

This area of scrutiny has been identified as 'needs improving' and therefore members will strengthen this area of scrutiny during 2023/24 by inviting Portfolio Lead Members on a regular basis to Q&As and Spotlight sessions to discuss and answer questions within their portfolio area.

## Public engagement within the scrutiny process

Through the establishment of a written questions process and public involvement in 'deep dives'

## Scrutiny of the WMCA's performance and outcomes

This is another area that has been identified as 'needs improving' and members would welcome the engagement of the Executive Board on the availability of performance, outcome and metric information that could be examined by the committee.



## Committee Members 2022/23



**Councillor Cathy Bayton**  
Dudley  
Committee Chair



**Councillor Naeem Akhtar**  
Coventry  
Committee Vice-Chair



**Councillor Andrew Burrow**  
Solihull



**Councillor Mike Chalk**  
Redditch



**Councillor Ellen Fenton**  
Association of Black  
Country Authorities



**Councillor Martin McCarthy**  
Solihull



**Councillor Nigel Lumby**  
Shropshire



**Councillor Ian Kettle**  
Dudley



**Councillor Lauren Rainbow**  
Birmingham



**Councillor Karen Simms**  
Sandwell



**Councillor Mike Sutherland**  
Cannock Chase



**Councillor Paul Sweet**  
Wolverhampton



**Councillor Jamie Tennant**  
Birmingham



**Councillor Ken Wood**  
Birmingham



**Councillor Vera Waters**  
Walsall



**Amanda Tomlinson**  
Business Voice - Black  
Country Housing Group

## Sub-Committee Members 2022/23



**Councillor Cathy Bayton**  
**Dudley**  
Sub-Committee Chair



**Councillor Chaman Lal**  
**Birmingham**  
Sub-Committee Vice-Chair



**Councillor Martin McCarthy**  
**Solihull**



**Councillor Barbara McGarrity**  
**Wolverhampton**



**Councillor Karen Simms**  
**Sandwell**



**Councillor Rupinder Singh**  
**Coventry**



**Councillor Alan Taylor**  
**Dudley**



**Councillor Vera Waters**  
**Walsall**







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