

Cabinet – 11 December 2013

West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority – new governance arrangements

Portfolio: Councillor Bird, Leader of the Council

Related portfolios: None

Service: Chief Executive

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: No

1. Summary

This report informs Cabinet of the new governance arrangements that need to be put in place in relation to the establishment of the Integrated Transport Authority and to recommend these to Council for approval

2. Recommendations

2.1 To recommend to Council:

That the amended terms of reference for the West Midlands Joint Committee as set out in the appendix to this report be agreed.

2.2 That the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive, be authorised to write to the Secretary of State for Transport supporting the proposed structural changes to the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.

3. Report detail

3.1 The government has highlighted the importance of effective governance arrangements as one of the key requirements that must be met in devolving powers and funding to sub-regions. It is recognised that strong themed transport governance is a prerequisite to furthering significant devolved funding to the West Midlands, including growth and City Deals which must contain proposals for stronger governance across their economic area so that decisions necessary for the growth of the area as a whole can be taken quickly and effectively.

- 3.2 The West Midlands Metropolitan Leaders Group at their meeting held on 23 January 2013 agreed a set of principles for transport governance, recommended them to the West Midlands Joint Committee and tasked officers with exploring how transport governance relating to the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) could be taken forward.
- 3.3. At the meeting of the Leaders in March 2013 a preferred route to implement the changes was agreed, this being to put in place a Shadow Board through the existing Joint Committee structure, whilst progressing the required review to be considered by the Secretary of State. On 2 April 2013 the West Midlands Joint Committee agreed to undertake a governance review of the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.
- 3.4 Following on from this the West Midlands Joint Committee at its meeting on 12 June 2013 agreed to establish a Shadow ITA pending formal approval by the Secretary of State. In order to progress this matter, the seven West Midlands authorities (Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Wolverhampton and Walsall) are being recommended to endorse the revised terms of reference of the West Midlands Joint Committee as set out in the **Appendix** to this report. In short these terms of reference seek to:
- Update the provisions relating to Birmingham Airport (these provisions have previously been agreed by the West Midlands Districts in 2009).
 - Provide for effective decision making between meetings.
 - Provide for the new duty to co-operate.
 - Accommodate the disbanding of the West Midlands Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.
 - Create the Shadow Integrated Transport Authority.

4. Council priorities

The priorities of the Council around transport and regeneration will be further strengthened by complying with the wishes of the government around effective governance arrangements.

5. Risk management

The West Midlands Joint Committee governance structure includes the necessary advice and guidance to support decision making via a secretariat support provided by Birmingham City Council.

6. Financial implications

None arising from this report.

7. Legal implications

Decision making with regard to Birmingham Airport and transportation is delegated via the West Midlands Joint Committee.

8. Property implications

None arising from this report.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

Health and wellbeing across the West Midlands is supported by improved transport infrastructure.

10. Staffing implications

None arising from this report.

11. Equality implications

None arising directly from this report.

12. Consultation

West Midlands Joint Committee
West Midlands Councils
West Midlands Leaders

Background papers

Authors

John Garner
Head of Democratic Services

☎ 654366

✉ garnerj@walsall.gov.uk

Stuart Portman

Head of Law

☎ 654821

✉ portmanstuart@walsall.gov.uk



Paul Sheehan
Chief Executive
3 December 2013



Councillor M.A. Bird
Leader of the Council
3 December 2013