

**To: Members of the Special Sub-Group**

**Councillors Farrell, Hayfield, Humphreys, Jenns, Singh and Sweet**

**For the information of the other Members of the Council**

## **SPECIAL SUB-GROUP**

**11 JULY 2017**

The Special Sub-Group will meet in the Committee Room, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone on Tuesday 11 July 2017 at 6.30pm.

### **AGENDA**

#### **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

- 1 Evacuation Procedure.**
- 2 Apologies for Absence / Members away on official Council business.**
- 3 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**
- 4 Public Participation**

Up to twenty minutes will be set aside for members of the public to ask questions or to put their views to elected Members. Participants are restricted to five minutes each. If you wish to speak at the meeting please contact David Harris on 01827 719222 or email [democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk).

5 **Devolution Update** – Report of the Chief Executive

**Summary**

This report gives the current position in relation to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and the Devolution Agenda.

The Contact Officer for this report is Jerry Hutchinson (719200).

6 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Recommendation:**

**That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.**

**EXEMPT INFORMATION  
(GOLD PAPERS)**

7 **Streetscape Staffing** – Report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape)

The Contact Officer for this report is Richard Dobbs (719440).

JERRY HUTCHINSON  
Chief Executive

**For general enquiries please contact David Harris, Democratic Services Manager, on 01827 719222 or via e-mail – [davidharris@northwarks.gov.uk](mailto:davidharris@northwarks.gov.uk).**

**For enquiries about specific reports please contact the officer named in the report.**

## **Agenda Item No 5**

### **Special Sub-Group**

**11 July 2017**

#### **Report of the Chief Executive**

#### **Devolution Update**

## **1 Summary**

- 1.1 This report gives the current position in relation to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and the Devolution Agenda.

### **Recommendation to the Sub-Group**

**That the report be noted.**

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Since I last reported to the Group in February, a number of things have happened and Members are now being kept up to date with WMCA's weekly bulletin, which is circulated to all Councillors.
- 2.2 In terms of structures and governance issues, the WMCA now has an Elected Mayor, Andy Street, who has appointed his Cabinet.
- 2.3 The Portfolios have gone to the Leaders of the seven metropolitan authorities that make up the Constituent Membership of the WMCA, together with the Leader of Warwickshire County Council which is a Non-Constituent member. The Portfolio Leads are:-
- Wellbeing Board & HS2 – Cllr Bob Sleigh (Solihull)
  - Transport – Cllr Roger Lawrence (Wolverhampton)
  - Skills & Productivity – Cllr George Duggins (Coventry)
  - Economic Growth – Cllr John Clancy (Birmingham)
  - Environment – Cllr Pat Harley (Dudley)
  - Cohesion & Integration and Public Service Reform – Cllr Steve Eling (Sandwell)
  - Housing & Land – Cllr Sean Coughlan (Walsall)
  - Finance & Investments – Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Warwickshire County Council)
- 2.4 The Chief Executive of the Combined Authority has also now been appointed. The successful candidate was Deborah Cadman, currently Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council.

- 2.5 A number of other Director-level appointments are in progress.
- 2.6 The Mayor has set a number of priorities and he has made it clear that, in carrying out his duties, he wants to work in an inclusive way across the footprint of the four Local Enterprise Partnerships, which includes a number of Non-Constituent Member and Observer Authorities, as well as some authorities which are not currently engaged in the WMCA.
- 2.7 Recent issues considered by the West Midlands Combined Authority include supporting Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games; working to seek the relocation of Channel 4 to the region and the setting up of the West Midlands Growth Company aimed at attracting investment into the region.
- 2.8 At last week's meeting, "Swift", a smartcard for use on bus and rail services, was rolled-out to Non-Constituent areas which means that they can be used in North Warwickshire railway stations at Atherstone, Coleshill Parkway and Water Orton.
- 2.9 In terms of progress in relation to engagement in HS2, the Assistant Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council has now got places on two key Boards, which are looking at ways of maximising the benefits from HS2, including one which will be focussing on North Warwickshire.
- 2.10 The WMCA Board has also engaged PriceWaterhouseCoopers to look at the Land Commission report, which was dealt with in my previous report, to see how recommendations within in can be addressed.
- 2.11 This is going to involve looking at issues such as whether there is a need for a non-statutory strategic plan across the region and, if so, how the region is defined and, linked to that, whether there is a way of taking forward matters such as transforming Brownfield Sites and carrying out a strategic review of the Green Belt, across the region and, if so, how these issues should be tackled.
- 2.12 As far as Devolution and related matters are concerned, progress has been slow, largely as a result of the recent series of Elections. It is still not clear what the national approach to Devolution is going to be going forward and, for example, whether there will be further Devolution Deals in the West Midlands and also what will happen about rolling-out Devolution to parts of the country not currently covered by Devolution Deals. Efforts are being made to prepare in the event that new opportunities for Deals arise.
- 2.13 Similarly, the position regarding the reform of Business Rates is still unclear.

### 3 Report Implications

3.1 None at this stage.

The Contact Officer for this report is Jerry Hutchinson (719200).

#### Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act,  
2000 Section 97

Background Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date

**Agenda Item No 6**

**Special Sub-Group**

**11 July 2017**

**Report of the  
Chief Executive**

**Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Recommendation to the Board**

**That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.**

**Agenda Item No 7**

**Streetscape Staffing** – Report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape)

Paragraph 1 - by reason of the report relating to staffing matters

The Contact Officer for this report is David Harris (719222).