

Jobs, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board

16 June, 2015

Summary of Matters Considered at the Board

Report of the Chair, Councillor S Jones

The Scrutiny Board met on 16 June, 2015 and the following items were considered. I have selected the main points of the discussion which I feel members of the Council will be particularly interested to know more about. For more detail, a copy of the minutes is available on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) via the Council's website at <http://cmis.sandwell.gov.uk/cm5/>

1.1 Overview of the Combined Authority

The Board received a presentation that provided an overview of the role of a proposed Combined Authority for the West Midlands area.

It was emphasised that the Combined Authority will receive more funding to support economic development and regeneration than its constituent councils would individually. The Board was assured that geographically Sandwell is well placed, at the centre of the West Midlands conurbation, to gain significantly from a Combined Authority, and its position in terms of its high value manufacturing industry is likely to be of significant benefit.

Reference was made to recent discussions around the possibility of having an Elected Mayor to run the Combined Authority and the Board noted that a decision on this will be based upon the offer presented by Central Government.

The Board looks forward to receiving further updates on the development of the Combined Authority at appropriate times.

1.2 Work Programme

The Board discussed its work programme for 2015/16 and agreed a number of topics for scrutiny including the Council's use of land and property to support economic growth and the impact of local economic regeneration activities on worklessness numbers.

The Board has also asked for updates on the success of Black Country Talent Match, the Sandwell Guarantee and the Sandwell Enterprise Hubs.

Councillor S Jones
Chair of the Jobs, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board