

Lead Members & Rapporteurs

Background

Under the current governance arrangements, decision making is distributed between the Combined Authority Board and the Executive Committees.

There are three Executive Committees, Skills, Housing & Communities and Transport & Infrastructure. The single Forward Plan sets out both key and non key decisions and allocates the decision making between the Combined Authority Board and the Executive Committees. With significant decisions being taken by the Executive Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (O&S) has a role in scrutinising the work of those Committees. In order to do so, appointed members of O&S will lead in respect of the work of each Executive Committee. These members will occupy the position of Lead Members.

The Committee have also appointed a Lead Member to reflect the new Mayor's priority relating to Climate Change. As there is not a committee which specifically covers this area – this member will be responsible for providing a roving brief on the issues allocated and how decisions taken by the Combined Authority and the Executive Committees are take account of Climate Change.

The Committee has also appointed on an interim basis two members to cover the CAM and the Bus Review as important issues that need to be monitored by the Committee.

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny review has suggested in addition to the Lead Members that the Committee consider the introduction of a rapporteur role.

The role descriptions for Lead Members for the Executive Committee, Business Board, other Lead Member Roles and the new Rapporteur role are detailed below:

Lead Members – Executive Committees – Role Description

To scrutinise decisions

- Reviewing the Forward Plan, agendas and reports of the Executive Committee, identifying issues which require further scrutiny
- Formulating draft wording for questions to the relevant Executive Committee, seeking the agreement of the Chair of O&S, where possible
- Questioning the relevant Executive Committee on behalf of O&S, allowing questions to be submitted in writing and for written responses
- In consultation with the Chair of O&S, consideration of recommendations required in relation to decisions of the relevant Executive Committee
- Making reports or recommendations to O&S regarding decisions made by the relevant Executive Committee
- Identifying decisions which require the exercise of 'call-in' powers via reconsideration
- Liaising with officers of the Combined Authority, in order to obtain specific advice on projects considered by the relevant Executive Committee

The current Lead Members for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Housing: Cllr Aidan Van de Weyer

Transport: Cllr Baigent

Skills: Cllr Coles and Cllr Miscandlon

Business Board: Cllr Doug Dew

Climate Change: Cllr Michael Atkins

Interim Lead Members:
CAM: Cllr Mike Davey
Bus Review: Cllr Anne Hay

Lead Member Climate Change, Bus Review and CAM – Role Description

The current Lead Member for Climate Change: Cllr Michael Atkins

To scrutinise decisions

- Reviewing the Forward Plan, agendas and reports of the Executive Committee and the CA Board identifying issues which require further scrutiny in regard to Climate Change.
- Formulating draft wording for questions to the CA Board or Executive Committee, seeking the agreement of the Chair of O&S, where possible.
- In consultation with the Chair of O&S, consideration of recommendations required in relation to decisions of the CA Board or Executive Committee
- Making reports or recommendations to O&S regarding decisions made by the CA Board and Executive Committees.
- Identifying decisions which require the exercise of 'call-in' powers via reconsideration
- Liaising with officers of the Combined Authority, in order to obtain specific advice on projects.

Business Board Lead Member Role Description

- Reviewing the Forward Plan, agendas, minutes and reports of the Business Board
- Attending meetings of the Business Board as an observer
- Attending interview panels for Senior Business Board appointments, including Private Sectors Members and Senior Officers
- Attending the Dragons Den (EAP) sessions as an observer
- Reviewing and scrutinising decisions recommended by the Business Board, to the Combined Authority Board
- Liaising with the Chair of the Business Board and officers, to obtain a better understanding of projects
- Reporting findings back to the O&S Committee and Business Board.

Rapporteur Role Description

Rapporteurs provide an opportunity for O&S members to gain information in an informal capacity, ensuring they are equipped with all necessary information to allow them to undertake scrutiny work in a timely way.

One or two members will investigate a particular issue on behalf of the wider Committee and report back their findings.

- Be tasked to carry out specific work, meeting by meeting, by the committee – so rather than having a general roving brief like the lead members a rapporteur will work to answer a specific research question, challenge or issue, meeting by meeting, and then report back formally;

- rapporteur will make links with specific and relevant CA Board members and CA Officers to gain information on an informal basis that will contribute to wider O&S Committee discussions.
- Lead discussion / questioning on the matter for which they hold responsibility in committee meetings (with the consent of the Chair);
- Be generally self-servicing (i.e. not requiring additional officer support to carry out their role);
- Identifying decisions which require the exercise of 'call-in' powers via reconsideration
- Be accountable to the Chair in respect of all of the above.