

**MIDLAND METRO (WEDNESBURY TO BRIERLEY HILL
LAND ACQUISITION) ORDER (“the Order”)**

**Note to update the Inspector in relation to the outcome of the West Midlands
Combined Authority Board Meeting held on 22 March 2019**

As stated in Mr. Adams' Second Supplementary Proof [APP/P1.6], final approval for the funding package to support the revised estimated outturn cost of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension of £449.5 million was sought at the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board meeting on 22 March 2019. A copy of the report to the Board dated 22 March is appended to Mr. Adams' Second Supplementary Proof [APP/P1.7].

On 19 March 2019, the Inspector resolved to adjourn the public inquiry into the application for the Order Inquiry to allow WMCA to provide an update on the outcome of the WMCA Board meeting. The draft minutes of that meeting have now been issued, and are available to the public on the WMCA'S website [<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>]. A copy of the minutes is appended to this note [APP/INQ 12.2]. The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension is considered at paragraph 121 on pages 6 and 7 of these minutes.

The minutes confirm that the WMCA Board considered the aforementioned report. The Board resolved to note the revised estimated outturn cost of £449.5 million for the scheme and the revised benefit to cost ratio, and approved the funding package supporting the revised cost.

The Board also resolved to note the benefits that the scheme would deliver to the Black Country and surrounding areas and the minutes also record the support expressed for the scheme by the leaders of both Dudley and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Councils in relation to the economic opportunities that residents within Dudley would be able to take advantage of with the improvements in connectivity resulting from the tram extension, and the benefits it would bring to Sandwell.

The Minutes will be formally confirmed at next WMCA Board Meeting on 24 May 2019, in accordance with WMCA's internal governance requirements.

West Midlands Combined Authority

29 March 2019