

**Meeting:** West Midlands Rail Executive Board of Directors

**Venue:** 16 Summer Lane, Birmingham / Microsoft Teams

**Subject:** Minutes

**Date:** Thursday 22 January 2026 at 2.30pm

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### **Present**

Richard Parker (Chair)	- Mayor of the West Midlands
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	- Coventry City Council
Councillor Adrian Andrew	- Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Qaiser Azeem	- City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Karen Grinsell	- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Majid Mahmood	- Birmingham City Council
Councillor Peter Mason	- Staffordshire County Council
Councillor Karl Perks	- Worcestershire County Council
Councillor Simon Phipps	- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Philip Price	- Herefordshire Council
Councillor Jennifer Warren	- Warwickshire County Council

### **In Attendance**

Councillor Sue Eacock	- Worcestershire County Council
Councillor Ken Hawkins	- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Russ Cunningham	- West Midlands Rail Executive
Mal Drury-Rose	- West Midlands Rail Executive
Councillor Timothy Huxtable	- Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Andrew Leo	- West Midlands Rail Executive
Tom Painter	- West Midlands Rail Executive
Roshida Sangha	- West Midlands Rail Executive

## **28. Special Resolution**

The board considered a report from Mal Drury-Rose, West Midlands Rail Executive's Executive Director on a Special Resolution that would permit West Midlands Rail Ltd (trading as West Midlands Rail Executive) to enter into a new Collaboration Agreement with the Department for Transport to replace the existing agreement that was due to expire on 31 January 2026.

At its meeting on 16 September 2025, the board agreed in principle to enter into a new Collaboration Agreement with the Department for Transport, as the existing agreement was due to expire alongside the West Midlands National Rail Contract in January 2026. The board noted that the agreement was essential for maintaining West Midlands Rail Executive's devolved powers, funding arrangements and formal client role, without which it would revert to a pre-2017 stakeholder position lacking meaningful influence. Given limited time and capacity for negotiation, the board also approved light-touch revisions that rolled over key provisions, including governance arrangements, shared management responsibilities and West Midlands Rail Executive's role in budget and service specification. The new agreement was expected to align with the forthcoming Services Agreement for the public sector

operator and remain in place until the establishment of Great British Railways, anticipated in early 2028.

Whilst supportive of signing the Special Resolution, board members noted the availability of reserves and the potential to invest in addressing depot and stabling capacity issues. It was agreed that a wider strategic discussion would be held at a future meeting, with proposals to be brought forward through the Annual Business Plan in March. Tom Painter requested that all authorities sign the Special resolution by 30 January.

Resolved:

- (1) The report be noted.
- (2) The Special Resolution, which in summary permitted for West Midlands Rail Ltd to enter into the new Collaboration Agreement with the Department for Transport, be approved unanimously.
- (3) Councillor Karl Perks be authorised to sign the Collaboration Agreement with the Department for Transport on behalf of West Midlands Rail Ltd following all authorities having signed the Special Resolution.

**29. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 26 March 2026 at 10.00am.

[The meeting ended at 2.45pm]