

## WMCA FAQs

### What is a Combined Authority?

It is a group of councils which work together on major region-wide issues

### When did the WMCA start?

The authority formally came into being on 17 June 2016.

### What makes up the WMCA?

There are 7 constituent authorities: Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, and Walsall.

Also there are non-constituent authorities: Cannock Chase, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Redditch, Tamworth, Telford and Wrekin, Shropshire and Stratford-on-Avon.

Three local enterprise partnerships: Black Country, Coventry and Warwickshire, and Greater Birmingham are also involved.

### Who's on the WMCA?

The leaders of the seven constituent councils have full voting rights on the board. The Metro Mayor we elect will become the Chair.

### What is the WMCA for?

It has responsibility for: jobs, skills, economic growth, transport, homes  
There is also some responsibility for mental health services and the youth justice system.

### Who pays for the WMCA?

The WMCA will receive £36 million a year from the government for 30 years.

### What does the Mayor do?

The Mayor will chair the WMCA and have control over a transport budget for the region.

In addition the Mayor has control over planning rules and approving the building of new homes; responsibility for local bus franchises, maintaining major roads and managing a key route network for the area.

### When will we elect the Mayor?

4th May 2017. The first Mayor will serve until 2020 and after that the term will be 4 years.

*Dear Residents,  
We've been told by government that the first Mayor must make £4 billion of cuts, because that's the size of the funding shortfall which the Tories want to impose upon us.*

*It's absurd, illogical and unfair, and I will refuse to accept that decision. We all need to change how government looks at this region.*

*However, we can not keep voting in the same way and expect change. We have a Tory candidate in denial about his party's austerity policies and Labour is in such turmoil that its leader has failed to act as a credible opposition.*

*We have to ignore the politics of hate and look to the future, and particularly to our children's future. We can't afford, for their sake, to hurtle head-on into an era where everything which Europe has given us for the last 30 years is simply dismantled and thrown away.*

*Beverley Nielsen*



Beverley Nielsen is the Lib Dem's candidate to be West Midlands' first Metro Mayor. She has a wide range of experience that makes her the ideal person for the job.

She recognises talent, promotes ambition, nurtures originality and knows the West Midlands is a winning team that needs much greater recognition for the contribution it's already making.

Beverley said "we must do more to help our small and medium sized enterprises survive the current economic and political uncertainty and

focus on creating an environment which allows them to prosper in the future."



**Elect Beverley Nielsen  
as Metro Mayor on 4<sup>th</sup> May**

# FOCUS

Spring 2017

## On Oxley

## Local man Local matters

*"Hello neighbours,  
I am still working hard to make sure the Council fulfils its duty for Oxley. I will continue to work for the Ward and fight for the best Oxley there can be"*  
-Robert

Robert Quarmby, Oxley campaigner, is continually working hard all year around for the neighbourhood. Here is a list of what Robert has done in 2017 so far:

### Robert has:

- ❖ Worked with Oxley police team to fight crime in the area;
- ❖ Had roads in Oxley resurfaced;
- ❖ Had roads cleared of flytipping;
- ❖ Had dangerous fallen trees removed;
- ❖ Started to create the 'Living well in Oxley' support team.

### Robert will:

- ❖ Tackle the continued problem of litter and fly-tipping in the area;
- ❖ Continue working on the 'Living well in Oxley' neighbourhood team for local support, to ensure that everyone has connections to a structured support network;
- ❖ Continue work with the Oxley Police Team.



Robert Quarmby (left) met Party leader Tim Farron MP to discuss plans for Wolverhampton

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## Wolverhampton Transport

### Did you know?

Every year around 20,000 people die prematurely from air pollution across the UK, and road traffic is by far the biggest cause of it.

In cities like Wolverhampton the problem is particularly acute.



### We need an effective policy on transport including:

- ★ Encouraging more people to use buses, including lower fares, more evening services and better security.
- ★ Reopen the Wolverhampton-Walsall railway line to passengers, with new stations at Willenhall and Darlaston;
- ★ A park-and-ride station at Moseley, near the M54, to relieve congestion on Stafford Road;
- ★ Safer cycling initiatives, with more cycle lanes and cycle storage;
- ★ Extend the Metro to New Cross and Wednesfield;
- ★ Effective measures to tackle speeding and reckless driving.

## Parliamentary Spokesperson Sarah Quarmby has urged NHS Trust bosses to rethink care strategies in a bid to stop failing targets in Wolverhampton.

New Cross Hospital has been under fire in recent years for a series of delays and missed targets, not only costing the trust money, but endangering the lives of patients. The latest CQC Inspections, which last took place in 2015, came back with their findings, and said that there were areas which required serious improvement, even including the intensive / critical care units, quoting "There were significant risks posed by the infrastructure and environment of the integrated critical care unit". The inspection resulted in an overall 'requires improvement' rating.

Wolverhampton Liberal Democrats want the NHS Trust to review the care strategies currently in place, to ensure that no patients placed in their care are at risk of negligence. The local party hopes the Trust's board will adopt new approaches that are working successfully within other NHS trusts.



Sarah Quarmby said: "I have experienced firsthand negligence as a result of inadequate care when I gave birth to my son at New Cross where there was a catalogue of errors. If the hospital performs like that on a regular basis, then I can assure you, drastic improvement is required. It's not only New Cross hospital that needs to

review its management and strategies. Residents have told me that they usually end up going to walk in centres or A&E as they cannot get a doctor's appointment within a reasonable time.

It is also vital that we understand that the stress of poor physical health can make a huge impact on people and can increase the risk of causing ill mental health, where already the waiting times to speak to a professional regarding ones mental health is up to 2 months. Sometimes that is only over the phone, which in my mind means we are not treating people with ill mental health with respect and fails to get those in need the adequate care before a further decline in their health.

## Climate change is happening

Britain needs to step up its efforts to reduce carbon emissions and ensure the global deal set in the Paris Agreement becomes a reality.



Wolverhampton's West Park

We need real investment in renewables that will make us a world leader in green energy and create

jobs and growth and an end to the Conservatives' cuts to solar and wind power. We must act now to guarantee our children and future generations a better, greener, more sustainable and positive way of life.

That is why the Liberal Democrats are pushing for an ambitious new target for reducing our carbon emissions to zero by 2050 and have a plan of how to do it.

As well as greener energy, we want to improve our countryside and green spaces so we pass them on to the next generation in a better condition than when we were children.

Poor air quality is a significant health problem. After smoking, estimates suggest it is Britain's second biggest public health challenge, and responsible for around 40,000 deaths every year. We will invest in green transport such as electric vehicles and phase out diesel.

## Hospital Parking Charges



Using Freedom of Information laws local Liberal Democrats discovered that in the 2015/2016 financial year income from parking at New Cross Hospital was £1,295,638.

Oxley campaigner Robert Quarmby said "Extra cash for New Cross is great but I wonder if there is any connection between this £million windfall and deteriorating bus services to the hospital, especially in the evenings."

## EU Citizens

EU citizens working in Wolverhampton and across the country have legitimate concerns about their long term status.

The Liberal Democrats will not stand idly by whilst our communities are divided by uncertainty. Regardless of the outcome of any negotiations with Europe, EU citizens who have made Wolverhampton their home must be allowed to stay.

Have something to say?  
Why not contact us on



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