



Public Service Reform Board

Date: Tuesday 1 March 2022

Time: 2.00 pm **Public meeting** Yes

Venue: This meeting is being entirely held by video conferencing facilities

Membership

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael (Chair)	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Brigid Jones (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ian Brookfield	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor George Duggins	Coventry City Council
Councillor Simon Phipps	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Bob Sleigh OBE	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Stephen Craddock	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Henrietta Brealey	Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
Laura Caulfield	Higher Education
Sue Ibbotson	Health Protection Agency
Vanessa Jardine	West Midlands Police
Tom McNeil	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Catherine Mangan	Higher Education
Sarah Middleton	CEO Black Country Consortium
Jatinder Sharma	Further Education
Gary Taylor	West Midlands Fire Service
David Melbourne	NHS

Quorum for this meeting shall be one third of its members

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact:

Contact Craig Evans, Governance Services Officer
Telephone 07584 009024
Email craig.evans@wmca.org.uk

AGENDA

No.	Item	Presenting	Pages
1.	Apologies for absence	Chair	None
2.	Declarations of Interest Members are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they have in an item being discussed during the course of the meeting. In addition, the receipt of any gift or hospitality should be declared where the value is thought to have exceeded £25 (gifts) or £40 (hospitality).	Chair	None
3.	Chair's Remarks (if any)	Chair	None
4.	Minutes of the last meeting	Chair	1 - 6
5.	Matters Arising	Chair	None
6.	Levelling Up White Paper and Trailblazer Devolution Deal	Ed Cox	7 - 50
7.	Inclusive Growth Framework	Claire Spencer	51 - 58
8.	Annual Performance Planning and Update	Claire Dhami	59 - 68
9.	Homelessness Taskforce Update	Neelam Sunder	Verbal Report
10.	Date of Next Meeting - to be advised		None



Public Service Reform Board

Thursday 30 September 2021 at 2.00 pm

Minutes

Participating in the meeting Via Teams

Councillor Rajbir Singh (Chair)	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Brigid Jones (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Simon Phipps	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Laura Caulfield	Higher Education
Sarah Middleton	CEO Black Country Consortium
Gary Taylor	West Midlands Fire Service
Georgie Hancock	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

In Attendance

Ed Cox	West Midlands Combined Authority
Claire Dhami	West Midlands Combined Authority
Claire Spencer	West Midlands Combined Authority
Neelam Sunder	West Midlands Combined Authority
Jean Templeton	Homelessness Taskforce

Item No. Title

31. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Duggins, Councillor Sleigh, Henrietta Brearley, Sue Ibbotson, Jatinder Sharma, Alison Tonge, Gary Taylor and David Melbourne.

32. Nominations of Substitutes

Georgie Hancock (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) attended the meeting on behalf of Tom McNeil.

33. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made relative to the items under consideration at the meeting.

34. Chair's Remarks (if any)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that he would like to encourage councillors who do not hold a cabinet position to attend these meetings for their self-development. He added that he also would like members to invite their colleagues to the meeting to contribute to the discussion.

The Chair also reported that was disappointed with the poor attendance at today's meeting and would welcome ideas on how it could be improved.

35. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April and the minutes of the informal meeting held on 6 July were agreed.

36. PSR Comms- Fairer, Greener, Healthier Publication

The Director of Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform, Ed Cox outlined the PSR Comms document- 'Working Together to Create a Fairer, Greener Healthier West Midlands' that had been commissioned by the Chair. The document, still in draft form, set out the cumulative impact of the work being undertaken by this board and the work of the directorate covering the areas of public service reform, inclusive growth, energy and environment and health and wellbeing. It outlined how Public Service Reform was evolving to Social Innovation, the Social Innovation Offer and included funding successes and policy impacts and the work being undertaken with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, local authorities, LEPs and the third sector.

The Chair considered it was important that the board changed perceptions on how people see our interventions and how the approach has changed since the pandemic with a multi-agency approach being adopted.

Councillor Seccombe endorsed the paper and the cross-cutting approach that is being adopted to improve people's life opportunities and to tackle to the inequalities that have been exacerbated by Covid.

In relation to concerns expressed by Georgie Hancock as to whether funding for activities related to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) have been formally signed-off by the OPCC, it was agreed the matter be discussed by the WMCA and OPCC outside of the meeting.

Gary Taylor (West Midlands Fire Service) complimented the team on an excellent report and referred to partnership working that has provided learning from Covid, in particular the work of the Local Resilience Forum and the considered the need to maintain relationships.

The Director of Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform concurred with Gary Taylor and reported that the board would look at the learning that is coming out of the Local Resilience Forum at its next meeting.

Gary Taylor reported that he would ask Wayne Brown to attend the next meeting to present the work of the Local Resilience Forum and he would also invite his colleague Neil Griffiths to report on sustainability and innovation.

Resolved : That the report be noted.

37. Presentation: From Public Service Reform to Social Innovation

The committee received a presentation from the Director of Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform, Ed Cox, entitled ' From Public Service Reform to

Social Innovation' that had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. The presentation outlined how work is being undertaken to build on success, reform public service reform and the new approach that has come to the fore during the pandemic, social innovation.

Ed Cox explained the definition of social innovation, its principles, social innovation tools, social innovation partners, opportunities for collaboration, the social innovation 'offer to partners' and the current and future business model.

Gary Taylor (West Midlands Fire Service) reported that he was fully supportive of the approach that was outlined and need to engage with communities more.

Laura Caulfield (Higher Education) also indicated that she was supportive of the approach and with regards to collaboration, work was being undertaken by an evaluation group comprised of West Midlands universities and other academic bodies to look at how to draw in other funding.

Ed Cox reported that he would be interested to explore further the learning from the evaluation group.

The Vice- Chair, Councillor Jones, reported that she would be happy to share details of Birmingham's reform programme.

The Chair reported that he would like to see a clear roadmap on engagement with stakeholders on social innovation and for the social innovation approach to be co-designed and co-produced. He also asked that the WMCA reach out beyond this board to a wider audience.

The Director of Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform, Ed Cox reported that the presentation was designed to encourage discussion and as a conversation starter for taking this work forward. He reported that further ideas would be welcome and he would report back to the board in due course.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

38. Mayoral, Police and Crime Commissioner and WMCA Collaboration

Claire Dhami presented a report that outlined the key priorities in the Mayoral and Police Crime Commissioner manifestos and the ongoing joint work and priorities between the WMCA and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

The report set out areas for joint collaboration between the WMCA and the OPCC summarised progress to date against the high deliverables for 2021/22 and confirmed the end year position for the deliverables for 2020/21.

The Chair asked that Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to attend a future board meeting to present details of the joint work they are undertaking

with the WMCA.

Resolved :

1. That the joint areas of collaboration between the offices of the Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner be noted and endorsed and
2. That the board members inform the Head of Public Service Reform of any work areas they would like to explore further for joint working between the WMCA and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner be noted.

39. PSR Annual Performance and Forward Planning

The Chair asked that board members let him know of any work areas they would like to focus on at future meetings.

40. Homelessness Taskforce Update

The Senior Programme Manager Homelessness, Neelam Sunder provided an update on the Homelessness Taskforce.

The presentation summarised the Homeless Taskforce's work in designing out homelessness to date, the impact of its programmes including the WMCA Rough Sleeping Initiative and the Housing First Pilot, funding allocations and policy changes.

Neelam Sunder also outlined the activities that would be undertaken as part of the workplan for 2021/22 which included seeking long-term funding for the regional Housing First pilot and a focus on the prevention of homelessness.

The Chair acknowledged the fantastic work being undertaken by the Homelessness Taskforce that is making a difference to people's lives.

Resolved : That the update be noted.

41. Inclusive Growth Update

The Senior Policy Adviser- Public Services and Inclusive Growth, Claire Spencer provided an update on activities being undertaken with regards to Inclusive Growth. This included developing the framework for Inclusive Growth that identifies what good looks like and plan for the framework to be utilised in evaluation and monitoring. Work was also being undertaken with ICT to develop an Inclusive Growth portal.

Claire also outlined the work that is being undertaken with Inclusive Growth Business Partners and with local authorities and invited colleagues to contact her if they wanted to be involved in the Social Economy Growth programme.

The Chair reported of the need for many organisations as possible to be included for them to obtain the benefits from the programme.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

42. Date of next meeting - 7 December 2021

The meeting ended at 3.45 pm.

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Public Service Reform Board

Date	1 st March 2022
Report title	Levelling Up White Paper and Trailblazer Devolution Deal
Portfolio Lead	Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, Portfolio Holder for Public Service Reform & Social Economy
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive, West Midlands Combined Authority Laura.Shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Ed Cox, Director of Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform Ed.Cox@wmca.org.uk Claire Dhami, Head of Public Service Reform and Prevention Claire.Dhami@wmca.org.uk Claire Spencer, Senior Programme Manager, Inclusive Growth Claire.Spencer@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	Public Service Reform Board

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Public Service Reform Board is recommended to:

- (1) Note the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper and reflect on its implications for the WMCA area.
- (2) Consider and provide feedback on the collaborative governance for developing the Trailblazer Devolution Deal.
- (3) Consider how to maximise the opportunities for public service reform and inclusive growth within the Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Public Service Reform Board of the elements of the Levelling Up White Paper (LUWP) which impact on its priorities.
- 1.2 To propose plans for coordinating the WMCA response to the invitation to negotiate a Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD).
- 1.3 To invite feedback and reflections on the implications, challenges and opportunities inherent in the above.
- 1.4 To consider whether it might want to schedule any extra informal meetings before June in order to discuss further developments relating to the TDD.

2. Context

- 2.1 The Levelling Up White Paper (LUWP) was published on 2nd February 2022. Within the paper, it defines 'levelling up' as:
 - Increasing opportunity across the UK, and
 - Reducing disparities between and within regions.

Importantly, it challenges some of the existing orthodoxy on regional growth and development, which could have positive implications for local ambitions for inclusive growth, devolution and the role of public services and social innovation in the WMCA area. However, at this stage there is relatively little new investment to realise these ambitions.

- 2.2 The LUWP sets out 12 levelling up 'missions' for 2030 to unlock enduring systems change, driven by spatial policy considerations and devolution to regions, localities and communities. These missions – established by Government – are as follows:
 1. By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
 2. By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
 3. By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.

4. By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
5. By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
6. By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
7. By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
8. By 2030, wellbeing will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
9. By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
10. By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
11. By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
12. By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

- 2.3 Framed by these missions and alongside the new analysis, the LUWP announced several policy initiatives for the WMCA area, including an Innovation Accelerator, an additional £28m from the Brownfield Housing Fund and further funding for Digital Bootcamps in the region. The full briefing note produced by WMCA (Appendix 1) covers the analysis and policy topics discussed in the paper in more detail.
- 2.4 A key enabler of the above is devolution. The WMCA and Greater Manchester Combined Authority have been invited to negotiate 'trailblazer devolution deals' (TDDs) with Government which go further than those they will consider for other areas. Crucially, the TDD will be the means through which the region draws down the powers and resources it needs to level up. The WMCA and its partners are committed to an

ambitious set of devolution asks, spanning all identified policy areas, that meet this moment.

3. Principles, opportunities and workstreams

3.1 There have been a number of informal meetings of the mayor, local authority leaders and other regional stakeholders, as well as initial meetings with government officials and ministerial aides. Based on these, a number of principles have been articulated to help guide the TDD process. These can be framed as follows:

- It is essential that we are very clear about our priorities and focus our efforts on those matters that align with local and regional plans which align with the levelling up missions.
- There needs to be extensive involvement of local authorities and wider stakeholders, including the private and voluntary sectors, throughout the policy development and negotiation process.
- It will be essential to secure private sector support for many of our devolution propositions and, where relevant, demonstrate their co-investment in key priorities.
- In order to address intra-regional inequalities and local pockets of deprivation, it is important that the devolution process makes provision for the ‘double-devolution’ of certain powers and resources.
- The opportunity provided by the TDD should be focused on drawing powers down from government and not ‘sucking powers up’ from local authorities.
- There will be a strong emphasis on data and accountability and the ability to demonstrate progress on achieving the levelling up missions for any devolution proposition.

3.2 The LUWP is extensive and mentions in excess of 100 different policy topics on which we could take a stance or seek deeper devolution., WMCA has identified 20 workstreams that will comprise the region’s TDD asks:

Inclusive economic growth	Innovation
	WM Smart City Region
	LEP Integration
	Trade and Investment
	Business Support System
Building human capital	Skills
	Education
	UKSPF (Multiply)
Connecting communities	Housing, regen and planning
	Transport
	Net Zero (BEIS)

	Digital
Building social capital	Homelessness prevention
	Health
	Crime, community safety and resilience
	Social capital and social economy
	Culture
Cross-cutting	Funding
	Non-cons and geography expansion
	Data and transparency

Each workstream will be expected to deliver four products to inform the TDD negotiations:

- A stakeholder engagement plan;
- An engagement log;
- A bilateral plan with relevant Government departments; and
- A timetable that sets out key milestones.

3.3 Public Service Reform Board will play a key role in discussing and shaping the direction of the TDD in the following key areas:

- Homelessness prevention,
- Crime, community safety and resilience; and
- Social capital and social economy

The board should not feel constrained by these topics in its discussions on the substance of the TDD. It may need to hold one or more additional meetings in the coming months in order to support this work.

3.4 The LUWP also references revisiting the governance of Policing and Fire:

“The UK Government will look to have all Combined Authority Mayors lead on public safety, taking on the PCC role, where boundaries align [...] Where there are existing or planned Mayoral Combined Authorities with coterminous boundaries to PCCs and Fire and Rescue Authorities the UK Government will look to transfer these functions to the Mayor.”

In March 2019, WMCA Board took the decision not to progress with the proposed amalgamation of governance functions into the WMCA. The conclusion of the Police and Crime Commissioner Review and the Fire Reform White Paper may detail further proposals to merge the roles. Nonetheless, this will not be progressed unless the WMCA Board revisits its decision, or if the change is mandated by Government in new legislation.

4. Proposed governance of the TDD

4.1 A proposed governance framework for the TDD will be considered by the Mayor and Portfolio Leads Group as part of its meeting on 25th February 2022. This will be presented to the PSR Board at its meeting if agreed.

4.2 The full extent of the timetable for TDD negotiations is not known at this stage, but WMCA plans to have a draft proposal by June 2022. However, as referenced in section three, there are several white papers and other pertinent documents that may have an impact on this.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The process outlined above is intended to elucidate the resources required to level up the WMCA area. This will ensure that the WMCA and its partners do not face the risk of taking on new powers or responsibilities without the necessary resources.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The process outlined above is intended to elucidate the legal implications of the TDD, but this paper does not create any new implications.

7. Equalities Implications

7.1 The spirit of the LUWP is one of inclusion and closing the gap, but the WMCA TDD proposal will have to be specific on how the benefits of new powers and investments will accrue to people with protected characteristics. Furthermore, this will need to be reflected in how the current 'state of play' for levelling up is baselined, monitored and evaluated.

8. Inclusive Growth Implications

8.1 The Inclusive Growth Framework – containing the eight fundamentals of inclusive growth - articulates the region's vision for what good looks like for levelling up. As such, this will have to be used to frame the baseline, monitoring and evaluation of any new activity, in a way which ensures local and regional leadership is recognised alongside national leadership.

9. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

9.1 The LUWP and TDD have the potential to accrue benefits to places across the WMCA area, and the governance outlined above is intended to shape the region's asks to this effect.

10. Other Implications

10.1 None.

12. Schedule of Background Papers

12.1 None.

13. Appendices

13.1 WMCA LUWP briefing note.

13.2 Levelling Up White Paper:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1052706/Levelling_Up_WP_HRES.pdf

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Levelling Up White Paper: Full Briefing Note

8 February 2022



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Introduction

This briefing note has been developed by the WMCA's Policy Working Group to analyse the key announcements from the Levelling Up White Paper, published Wednesday 2 February. This note serves to breakdown the main elements of the White Paper announcements, extrapolating many of the implications for the West Midlands, with additional context and comment where appropriate. It does not attempt to be completely comprehensive.

1 System Change: A New Policy Regime for Levelling Up

The Levelling Up White Paper runs to 332 pages and is intended to tackle the stark geographical inequality in the UK. It is founded on the principle that to achieve this the programme will need to be “broad, deep and long-term”. It provides significant critique of the failures of past policies, summarising these failures as a lack of:

- longevity and policy sufficiency
- policy and delivery coordination
- local empowerment
- evidence, monitoring and evaluation.
- transparency and accountability

The White Paper attributes the lack of longevity and policy sufficiency to a failure to “provide the stability and predictability necessary to nurture long-term investment by the private sector and civil society”. This uncertainty also creates difficulties for programming by public sector bodies, who could not plan or budget for the long term. The White Paper recognises that the centralised nature of decision-making has hampered past efforts to level up, and says the Government “under-utilises local knowledge, fails to cultivate local leadership and has often meant anchor institutions in local government have lacked powers, capacity and capability.” It also provides significant critique of ‘standard economic theory’.

To address these issues, the White Paper sets out five mutually reinforcing pillars that provide the framework for future success.

- Firstly, the Government will set **medium term ambitious missions** to provide consistency and clarity over the levelling-up policy aims. (See below).
- Secondly, the decision-making in central government will be reoriented to align policies with the levelling up agenda and **hardwire spatial considerations across Whitehall**.
- Third, the UK Government will **empower decision-makers in local areas** by giving leaders and businesses the resources that they need.
- Fourthly, the UK Government will change its approach to **data and evaluation** to make local decision-making better. The Office for National Statistics’ Subnational Data Strategy aims to improve the UK’s subnational data, mapping local economic geographies and helping improve transparency to the public.
- Fifthly, the UK Government will create a **new regime to oversee its levelling missions** creating a duty to publish an annual report which will analyse progress, as well as a new Levelling Up Advisory Council.

The White Paper also highlights six ‘capitals’ that contribute to driving levelling up:

- physical capital
- human capital
- intangible capital
- financial capital
- social capital
- institutional capital

When these six factors come together places benefit from having highly skilled people, outstanding schools, good roads and public transport systems, and fast internet. In places whereby these factors don’t, the pride in local communities declines as well as the overall quality of life and living experience.

There is extensive analysis of these factors in the White Paper. At a very general level, the West Midlands could be identified as an ‘average’ performer in relation to other regions. However, the region has some notable weaknesses including:

- In terms of human capital: it has three LAs meeting three of the following criteria - the bottom quartile for level 3+ equivalent skills in the adult population, Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked, Median Gross Weekly Pay and healthy life expectancy.
- In terms of social capital: all 7 WM LAs, life satisfaction is in the bottom three quintiles, community need is in the highest two quintiles, and people’s satisfaction with their local area is the lowest of all regions at 74%.

The 12 Missions to Level Up the UK

The vision for Levelling Up is incorporated into 12 ‘Missions’, as below. These have been aligned with WMCA Aims and Objectives in Annex 3.

1. By 2030, **pay, employment and productivity** will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
2. By 2030, **domestic public investment in Research & Development** outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.

3. By 2030, **local public transport connectivity** across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
4. By 2030, the UK will have **nationwide gigabit-capable broadband** and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
5. By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in **reading, writing and maths** will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
6. By 2030, the number of people successfully completing **high-quality skills training** will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
7. By 2030, the gap in **Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE)** between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
8. By 2030, **well-being** will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
9. By 2030, pride in place, such as people's **satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community**, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
10. By 2030, renters will have a **secure path to ownership** with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
11. By 2030, **homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood** crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
12. By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a **devolution deal** with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

2 Trailblazing Devolution Deal

The White Paper makes provision for a new framework to extend, deepen and simplify local devolution in England with opportunities for every part of England to have some form of Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) if it wants one.

The West Midlands has been identified as an area that will be at the forefront of devolution and serve as a model for other MCAs, in line for a ‘trailblazer’ deepening devolution deal: “We will open negotiations on trailblazer deeper devolution deals with the West Midlands and Greater Manchester combined authorities. These deals will act as the blueprint for other mayoral combined authorities (MCAs) to follow, with bids for more powers welcome.”

Annex 1 provides an indication of the types of powers and functions that will be considered for each devolution level. These are not minimum offers. Some powers may only be available to certain authorities or geographies. There will also be scope to negotiate further powers, on a case-by-case basis, and an opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to address specific challenges and opportunities – for example, the improvement of health and social care outcomes.

In addition to the core elements in the table, there may be scope to consider public sector boundaries on a case-by-case basis, when requested, to support devolution. Proposals to pool local authority functions, where it can improve services and increase efficiency, will also be supported.

The devolution framework therefore acts as a starting point, and details that advanced areas can explore ‘off-menu’ items. This is particularly important as it will allow us to continue to push our existing asks around additional skills powers like on careers and powers of trade and investment that are not listed in the framework. This framework is designed to be dynamic so that it can evolve and be informed by devolution deal discussions over the coming years. Many of the functions listed in the framework will allow local leaders to help shape partnerships with key public sector bodies including Great British Railways, Homes England and/or the Department for Work and Pensions.

Only a small number of WMCA’s ‘devolution asks’ (see Annex 2) have been addressed directly in the White Paper but the commitment above makes it clear that we can now enter into a process of negotiation on some of our key asks. The WMCA will identify a process by which regional stakeholders will be able to have a meaningful contribution to this process and it will maintain consistent communication with partners as this process develops.

3 Policy commitments and spending allocations

The White Paper sets out many policy commitments and spending allocations. Much of the spending was already announced as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2021 but the White Paper provides a little more detail to these. Similarly, there are many policy commitments which will require further details from relevant Government departments.

Some of the most relevant headline commitments are set out below:

UK Shared Prosperity Fund ['SPF']

- The White Paper commits to giving mayoral combined authorities control of SPF: “Institutions with already existing strong and accountable governance should be given full responsibility to plan and manage investment of the fund from the outset.” ‘Pre-launch guidance’ was published alongside the White Paper providing further details.
- Places will be allocated (and not compete for) an SPF envelope based on a formula taking account of need. Places will be asked in the spring to develop a local ‘Investment Plan’ to be submitted in the summer for Government sign-off.
- The purpose of the SPF is to deliver, by March 2025, visible, tangible improvements to the places where people work and live, giving communities up and down the UK more reasons to be proud of their area. The Investment Plans will cover the three elements of the SPF:
 1. Communities and place: including strengthening social fabric, green spaces and crime prevention.
 2. Local business: including support for new jobs, start-ups, retail/leisure/hospitality sectors and business collaboration and innovation.
 3. People and skills (local activity in 2024/5 only): including boosting core skills, helping adults progress in work, tackling economic inactivity and helping disadvantaged people in a way that complements mainstream support.

- SPF funding confirmed as:

FY	Total	Notes about coverage
2022/3	£0.4bn	No locally initiated activity on People and skills. National Multiply programme plus HMG will maintain flexibility to fund voluntary sector organisations delivering local people and skills provision, where this is at risk due to the tail off of EU funds
2023/4	£0.7bn	
2024/5	£1.4bn	
3yr period	£2.6bn (incl. £0.3 cap)	

- Delivery is expected to encompass procured activities, local competition and in-house delivery. Strategic lead authorities like MCAs will be able to top-slice for administration, assessment, monitoring and evaluation costs; and there could be further support to bolster the capability of institutions.
- Use of the SPF should seek to complement other funding programmes, such as larger-scale capital funds like the Levelling-Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund.

The suggested next steps are for lead authorities to start early conversations, especially with constituent authorities and other local partners, to ensure that the needs of places within the strategic geography can be effectively addressed. These conversations should take account of the Fund’s objectives and investment priorities, based on insight from local partners and stakeholders about needs and visible outcomes. Lead authorities are also able to collaborate with neighbouring areas if interventions – particularly on employment and skills – make it sensible to do so.

Innovation/Research and Development

- **SR21 committed to spending £20bn on public R&D support by 2024-25 as a step towards the economy-wide target to invest 2.4% of GDP in R&D by 2027.** This represents an increase of £5bn, with Government committed to increasing the share invested outside the Greater Southeast to at least 55% by 2024/25.
- **The Government will target £100m of investment in three new Innovation Accelerators.** Private-public-academic partnerships which will aim to replicate the Stanford-Silicon Valley and MIT-Greater Boston models. These will be piloted in Greater Manchester, the **West Midlands** and Glasgow City-Region.

The £100m is BEIS R&D capital money that will be administered by UKRI, who will have a decision-making role. The majority of funding will be spent in 2023/4 and 24/5.

Along with the potential funding, the intensive BEIS-led Accelerator development process offers a valuable opportunity to build relationships across Government to strengthen the West Midlands' broader innovation ecosystem, including potentially:

- Helping universities forge stronger links with UKRI and research councils, particularly where the region currently does less well.
- Supporting new and existing translational innovation facilities like the MTC, WMG, Tyseley Energy Park and National Brownfield Institute, Wolverhampton.
- Providing public support for stimulating demand-led business innovation and connecting innovation opportunities across sectors.
- Linking innovation strengths and needs to stronger internationalisation activity.
- Helping target business support to innovative firms or potential innovators by using HMRC data about R&D tax credits and Super deduction.

The White Paper says Accelerators will build on the R&D strengths of each area – it mentions the future of mobility and data-driven population health in the West Midlands. While it's useful to build on strengths, one of the reasons why the West Midlands was identified is because of our imbalance between private and public R&D spend (with much of the former focused on future of mobility). Therefore, there is an opportunity to diversify the region's publicly funded R&D base to crowd-in new private investment.

The private sector-led West Midlands Innovation Board will lead this process, advising, and accountable to, the Economic Growth Board. Its membership will be refined to cover specific private sector perspectives and reflect the region's diversity.

- **Smart City Region proposal included with commitment from Govt to necessary financial pump-priming:** “The programme will be managed through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) that will bring together the public sector, a range of private sector players – from start-ups to leading institutional investors – and the region’s leading research institutions, all under the leadership of the region’s metro mayor. The UK Government welcomes the innovative, partnership approach being taken by the West Midlands and will provide the necessary financial pump-priming support for the proposal as part of the deeper devolution deal process”.

This programme will be developed by partners across the region for discussion through the Deepening Devolution Process to draw together digital opportunities across:

- Scaling-up health tech, future mobility and smart energy programmes.
- Practical business support for digital start-ups (drawing on learning from 5PRING) and a supply of patient venture capital to attract global innovators.

Housing and Regeneration

- **Wolverhampton is named as one of the two first (of 20) transformational regeneration places in England** (the other being Sheffield). This will move forward ambitious plans developed by the council to reinvigorate the city centre, creating a more diverse housing offer and mix of land uses, and giving the city a new economic purpose by attracting new residents and businesses and builds on the £20m Levelling Up Fund investment in the City Learning Quarter.

The document notes that Homes England will be asked to work with the Council and West Midlands Combined Authority to promote transformational regeneration opportunities that not only benefit the City itself but also maximise benefits to the wider area including across the Wolverhampton to Walsall Corridor.

- **West Midlands to get new brownfield funding** (NB these figures don’t include the departmental underspend also expected). £28 million for WMCA from the £120m total for MCAs. In total £1.8bn Brownfield & Infrastructure Funding will be allocated “to regenerate underused land and deliver transport links and community facilities”.
- HMG Regeneration policy programme to focus on:
 - a) transformational projects;
 - b) high street rejuvenation; and
 - c) green spaces

WMCA Housing & Regeneration team are in ongoing discussions with senior officials at DLUHC to secure further funding from the £1.8bn fund – arising from the Commercial Land proposal in the Spending Review representation and targeting a broader impact on unlocking commercial, residential and mixed-use schemes and enabling infrastructure.

- The ‘80/20 rule’, which resulted in HMG housing funding being targeted towards London and the South East, will be scrapped, with much of the £1.8 billion brownfield funding instead being diverted to transforming brownfield sites in the North and Midlands.
- The government has also launched a £1.5 billion Levelling Up Home Building Fund providing loans to small and medium sized builders and developers to deliver 42,000 homes with the vast majority going outside London and the South East – helping to rebalance the economy and spread prosperity and opportunity more equally.
- Homes England is to play a wider role in regeneration by “supporting mayors and local authorities” to realise their ambitions for new affordable housing and regeneration in their areas.

“In England, the UK Government will refocus Homes England so that it uses its extensive statutory powers to partner with local leaders to unlock barriers and drive forward regeneration. Homes England will deliver a practical regeneration offer to places by:

- a) forming partnerships with local leaders and wider government to support places’ levelling up and regeneration ambitions;
- b) using its statutory powers, funding and expertise to support delivery of regeneration schemes, with a focus on unlocking barriers that are preventing the private sector from investing;
- c) working with relevant partners to enable the pooling of funding, including from local sources and from across government, to maximise the impact of specific schemes;
- d) tailoring opportunities to be attractive to institutional investors to crowd-in private sector investment to deliver on long-term change; and
- e) establishing the right delivery vehicle that will give both local leaders and their communities a voice, but also deliver surety of decision making for the long-term, to establish credibility and confidence in plans.”

The WMCA Housing & Regeneration team is working closely with regional Homes England colleagues and the national leadership team to develop stronger partnership working – collaborating to maximise investment in the region.

Skills, Education and Employment

- **55 Education Investment Areas**, where school outcomes are weakest, have been identified for investment, support and action over the next decade. In the West Midlands, this includes **Dudley (8th), Walsall (16th), Sandwell (18th) and Coventry (29th)**. Selection criteria for areas is based on sustained low attainment at key stage 2 and key stage 4 – See annex for further detail. Birmingham is ranked 54th but not included as an EI area.

While the WMCA welcomes the focus on underperforming areas, it is not yet clear what interventions and investment will be made in these areas – and the extent to which this will be imposed nationally. WMCA does not currently have a role on schools and does not anticipate doing so.

- **A national mission to ensure 90 per cent of children leaving primary school in England are reaching the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths by 2030**. In 2019, just 65 per cent of pupils met all three standards, with the proportion substantially varying across the country.

The focus on raising literacy and numeracy levels within the school system is welcome. However, concerns have been expressed across the sectors about whether the target will distort and narrow the curriculum. Mindful that inequalities are often baked-in before children reach primary school, a focus on early years support would be beneficial. Although the WMCA does not currently have, nor does it anticipate having, a role on schools, through adult skills funding it delivers English and maths training to adults who left their formal education with poor skills in these areas.

- **A new skills mission to support 200,000 more people to train each year by 2030**, including 80,000 more completing courses with the lowest skills levels. The target will be measured against pre-Covid (2018/19) 19+ further education and skills training achievement.

The WMCA welcomes a focus on increasing participation and achievement in adult skills. Achieving this target, however, would merely be a return to 2016 levels, reversing only a quarter of the fall since 2010. There is no new investment associated with this target, though engagement with DfE on further devolution of existing skills funding is ongoing.

- A new **Future Skills** Unit to look at the data and evidence of where skills gaps exist and in what industries.

The WMCA welcomes the creation of a Future Skills Unit to support a better understanding of skills needs. There is appetite to develop a strong relationship with the Unit, so that it supports better regional intelligence to underpin devolved policy and programmes.

- A **£560m National Youth Guarantee** providing access to regular clubs and activities, adventures away from home and volunteering opportunities by 2025.

The WMCA welcomes additional investment in activities for young people, and would want to ensure that this is connected into the WM network of Youth Hubs. The WMCA would also welcome further discussions about how a ‘youth guarantee’ could be extended to include access to skills and employment opportunities.

- **Walsall to get a Pathfinder:** “These will bring together local delivery partners from DWP and DfE, including Jobcentre Plus, careers services, local employers, education and training providers, and local government to respond to intelligence about local employers’ skills needs, supporting people into work and identifying progression opportunities for people in part-time work. These employment and skills Pathfinders will help individuals and employers take advantage of the extensive range of skills provision on offer”

The WMCA is excited about this opportunity to build on our already strong relationships with DWP to develop a coherent high quality employment offer, that can then be replicated across the region. In particular, we are keen to use this opportunity to co-develop/co-commission locally tailored provision that will support residents into work and support in-work progression.

Transport

- **New powers on the Key Route Network and taxis:** “The UK Government will also explore devolving more transport powers and responsibilities in England. In MCA areas, the UK Government will provide new powers of direction to increase mayors’ control over Key Route Networks. The UK Government will also explore transferring control of taxi and private hire vehicle licensing to both combined authorities and upper-tier authorities.”

The WMCA area responded to a technical DfT consultation on fully devolved road powers for Mayor’s in Summer 2021. The West Midlands response did not support this approach.

That consultation identified the possible advantages of the Mayor having full access to London style highway duties for the KRN. It was felt that those arrangements would undermine the progress made on collaborative delivery and management of the network over the last 5 years (RTCC etc) and the principles of the original Devolution Deal.

However, the constituent authorities and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) did reach a regional consensus on exploring how a ‘power(s) of direction for the Mayor over the KRN’ could potentially help regional collaboration and improve cross boundary delivery of critical infrastructure projects (i.e. Sprint – BRT and Cross City Bus projects). This could also be aligned to an emerging WM LTP.

The WMCA currently has no role in taxi and private hire vehicle licensing and is not a licensing authority. This solely sits with the constituent authorities and whilst the issue has been raised in the past, to date there has been no desire to coordinate this at a WMCA geography.

Subject to the ambitions of our LAs, collaboration on taxis and PHVs could be explored on the standardisation of licencing conditions (i.e. vehicle ages, vehicle emission standards, shift zero emission vehicles, enhanced DBS checks) across the WMCA area. This consistency could be achieved without changes in powers.

- **Bus Service Operators Grant commitment:** “As set out in the National Bus Strategy, in line with previous devolution of bus funding to Transport for London and Transport for Greater Manchester, the UK Government will work to devolve the Bus Service Operators Grant, including once it has been reformed, to MCAs and other LTAs that request it. Devolving this funding further empowers LTAs to drive improvements in local bus services.”

The WMCA welcome this commitment. TfWM have already published an ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and regional Enhanced Partnership Plan, which these reforms would support. Reforming BSOG is essential in achieving our aims of a zero emission WM bus fleet by 2030 and wider #WM2041 targets.

- **Further support for Local Transport Plans:** “The UK Government will support all LTAs by publishing new guidance on Local Transport Plans, so that all LTAs can deliver updated plans by the end of this Parliament, with clear project pipelines and comprehensive strategies to improve local transport for people and reduce carbon emissions.”

The WMCA welcomes this updated guidance to LTPs; this helps to support the emerging West Midlands LTP and draft CRSTS programme. Setting defined carbon targets aligns to the ambitions of a draft new LTP Core Strategy. TfWM are beginning public engagement on the Core Strategy from the 7th February 2022.

- **Confirmed role for local leaders in GBR via partnership agreements:** “As set out in the Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail published last year, the UK Government will also use the newly created Great British Railways (GBR) to give local leaders greater say over how their local railways are run through new partnership agreements.”

WMCA fully supports this. TfWM, working through West Midlands Rail Executive, have already begun close engagement with GBR on how local leaders can specify and influence a future West Midlands Rail Franchise.

Health and Communities

- **Potential for more health duties for mayoral combined authorities:** “Opportunities will be explored for MCAs to take on a duty to improve the health of their residents, concurrent with the existing duty of their constituent upper-tier councils.”

The WMCA currently has no devolved statutory role in health and care. This solely sits with the constituent authorities and whilst the issue has been raised in the past, there is no indication from the system that a move towards any statutory responsibilities would be welcomed.

The WMCA did however publish the Health of the Region report in late 2020 to shift focus as a system towards addressing health inequalities. We have worked with the local health and care system to carve out a role in addressing health inequalities using the devolved powers of the WMCA which correlate with the wider determinants of health that drive inequalities.

There was broad regional consensus on this approach as well as sign off from the WMCA Wellbeing Board. There is willingness from the newly formed ICS’s to consider a convening role around health inequalities.

It should be noted that the White Paper has left a lot of details on addressing inequalities to be answered through the forthcoming white paper on Health Disparities expected later this year. Any decisions we do take in regard to additional responsibilities in this space may well be impacted by this paper.

- The Government will consider a Community Wealth Fund, financial inclusion and other social investment as part of its consultation on £880m in Dormant Assets funding, and focus lottery cash to reach into the most deprived small areas of the country.

The WMCA identified the importance of a flourishing community and voluntary sector during the pandemic and its Community Recovery work recommended both a Radical Health Prevention Fund and a VCSF Resilience Fund. A Community Wealth Fund could also be targeted to support the region's Social Economy Growth Strategy.

Culture and Creative

- **The Government will launch an expansion of the Creative Scale Up Programme with more than £18m of new funding** to support high-growth businesses in regions outside London. More than £8m of funding will help support start-up businesses and young entrepreneurial talent in the video games sector through the Dundee-based UK Games Fund.
- The Government intends to publish a Creative Industries Sector Vision in 2022, and will collaborate with the devolved administrations to make this a UK-wide strategy to support the creative industries.
- **The White Paper commits to distribute 100% of the additional funding for Council England (ACE) agreed at SR21** to support culture and creativity outside London.
- **London-based organisations will be encouraged to establish a presence outside London.** ACE will identify a number of nationally significant as well as smaller NPOs that wish to establish a presence outside London and provide them with support to succeed. This will mean encouraging London-based organisations to establish new long-term offices, venues or partnerships outside London, and giving them practical and financial support to do so.

- **DCMS to identify over 100 levelling up priority places outside of London** that will be the focus for additional ACE engagement and investment. This will mean that places like Stoke-on Trent, Barnsley, Rochdale and Wigan are given the support they need to build on their rich cultural heritage – from the world-renowned ceramics of Stoke to Kirklees’ plan for a vibrant cultural centre in Huddersfield.

The WMCA welcomes the decision to distribute 100% of Arts Council Funding outside of London and indeed the identification of 100 levelling up priority places outside of London for additional investment. To be truly proportionate of population, a large number of other places in the West Midlands will need to be identified as part of the Priority Places List.

The West Midlands has a number of assets in the culture sector, including the world-renowned RSC. The commitment to increase the impact of London-based organisations is a worthwhile pursuit but may be to the detriment of our own regional assets.

Other funding mechanisms

As well as these specific policy and funding commitments, the White Paper also addresses some possibilities for wider reform of sub-national funding including:

- **New funding sources for Combined Authorities:** “Alongside the upcoming revaluation in April 2023, Government will explore with the Combined Authorities further flexibilities to enable them to raise their own funding through the business rates system to fund local priorities.”

It is worth noting that this refers only to the business rates supplement. WMCA previously perused this funding as a pillar of the Investment Programme but the Mayor and Leaders opted not to proceed to a ballot of effected businesses. The text in the White Paper suggests “MCAs will need to consider the impact on business” which implies the requirement for a ballot could be dropped from the existing legislation.

- **Streamlining funding.** “The Government will set out a plan for streamlining the funding landscape this year which will include a commitment to help local stakeholders navigate funding opportunities.”

The WMCA strongly welcomes this reform, in line with previous representations made to HM Treasury around fiscal devolution. This, alongside the devolved approach to UKSPF distribution, is certainly a step in the right direction.

- **Local Government Pension Scheme to increase local investment.** Infrastructure investment by the LGPS has grown from under £1bn in 2016 to £21bn in 2021. To build on this established capacity and expertise, and ensure that all LGPS funds play their full part, the Government is asking LGPS funds, working with the LGPS asset pools, to publish plans for increasing local investment, including setting an ambition of up to 5% of assets invested in projects which support local areas. The new UK Infrastructure Bank, will explore opportunities alongside LGPS.
- **Financial Resilience of Local Authority Partners:** The paper references a commitment to ensuring that funding allocations for councils are based on an up-to-date assessment of their needs and resources. Over the coming months, the UK Government will work closely with the sector and other stakeholders to update the needs assessments and look at the challenges and opportunities facing the local government sector before consulting on any potential changes. As part of this, the UK Government will look at options to support local authorities through transitional protection.

This is welcomed by WMCA who have consistently lobbied Government in various CSR submissions to address this matter.

- **Levelling Up Fund:** The Levelling Up White Paper includes no further, specific details on the LUF other than to reference it as a £4.8bn national fund which stretches beyond 2024/25 and that, as a cross-departmental fund, it is illustrative in demonstrating how the complexity of the funding landscape can be addressed.

WMCA submitted a bid for £50m during LUF phase one which was not successful, and it is understood WMCA can continue to re-apply for up to £50m (for Transport only) until it is successful in obtaining LUF funding.

4 Changes to Institutions and Systems

The White Paper identifies a number of opportunities for changes in regional institutions and systems to drive effective delivery of the Levelling Up agenda. These include:

- **The Government is encouraging the integration of LEPs with MCAs:** “Government is encouraging the integration of LEPs and their business boards into MCAs, the GLA and County Deals, where these exist. Where a devolution deal does not yet exist, LEPs will continue to play their vital role in supporting local businesses and the local economy. Where devolution deals cover part of a LEP, this will be looked at on a case by case basis. Further detail on this transition will be provided in writing to LEPs as soon as possible.”
- **PCC functions and Fire Governance to be “folded in under MCA where geography permits”:** “The UK Government will look to have all Combined Authority Mayors lead on public safety, taking on the PCC role, where boundaries align.... Where there are existing or planned Mayoral Combined Authorities with coterminous boundaries to PCC’s and Fire and Rescue Authorities the UK Government will look to transfer these functions to the Mayor.”

The White Paper suggests this will strengthen the Mayor’s role on public safety, public health and resilience. The White Paper suggests the possibility of a consultation process and removing local barriers to enabling the transfer of powers.

The three main implications (beyond the transfer or establishment of office structures) will be:

- the need for the Mayor to have a Police and Crime plan clarifying if this is a Mayoral document or a WMCA approved plan;
- the determination of where corporation sole lies following the transfer (i.e., with the Mayor, the head of paid service, or the WMCA Chief Executive);
- and establishing the level of innovation this model can bring to governance and accountability.

- **Changes to MCA geography possible:** “We will likewise recast the geography of MCAs, where necessary, to ensure there is greater economic coherence.”
- **Levelling Up Directors to be appointed:** “The UK Government is pursuing a new approach to places through Levelling Up Directors, forming a key bridge between local actors and central government; and act as champions for their places.”
- **Levelling Up Advisory Council to advise Government.** The Council will be charged with providing independent expert advice on matters relating to the design and delivery of levelling up. Its analysis will be commissioned and published, at the discretion of the Levelling Up Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, working with other ministers.

The WMCA is looking forward to further details of these proposed changes.

5 Data and Transparency

The White Paper also places significant emphasis on the importance of data in order to enhance public accountability for those with responsibility for delivering the Levelling Up agenda.

- **Government Statistical Service’s Subnational Data Strategy:** This strategy was published in December 2021 and provides a framework for producing and disseminating more timely, granular and harmonised subnational statistics. To reach this objective, it has four aims:
 1. Produce more timely, granular and harmonised subnational statistics, particularly for small area geographies. This will provide users with the flexibility they need to select geographical options according to their needs, including user-defined areas.
 2. Build capability and capacity by improving the way data, methods and expertise is shared across government, devolved administrations and private sector organisations.
 3. Improve the dissemination of subnational statistics so that local decision makers and residents can access data-led evidence.
 4. Creation of the **Explore Subnational Statistics** service on the Office for National Statistics, which is a tool for local users and decision makers to extract insight from a wide range of local authority level data on economic and social outcomes. This should in turn create more transparency and accountability.
- **Spatial Data Unit:** To complement the Government Statistical Service’s Subnational Data Strategy, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Community will establish a new Spatial Data Unit to drive forward the data transformation required in central government. It will also support the delivery of levelling up by transforming the way the UK Government gathers, stores and manipulates subnational data so that it underpins transparent and open policy making, and delivery decisions.

“The UK Government intends to base the headquarters of the new body outside of London, and will co-design this proposal with local government to ensure that it reflects and supports local ambitions.”
- **Investment in Spatial Modelling Techniques:** The Government recognises that most local government functions do not have in-house spatial modelling capability. The Government is therefore investing in spatial modelling techniques to help local government in their planning. This will be supported by a small team of modellers and hopes to avoid replication of modelling effort and expense in multiple local jurisdictions.

- **Transparency:** Well defined policy goals and mechanisms for evaluations are essential for credible policy regimes. Therefore, the Government will introduce a statutory obligation to report annually on progress to meeting the Levelling Up Missions. This will draw on the metrics set out in the Whitepaper to monitor progress against reducing regional disparities. This report will be published annually and subject to external and parliamentary scrutiny. As referenced above, a Levelling Up Advisory Council will be established to bring a diverse, independent and expert group of voices into the policy making process.

The WMCA welcomes the renewed emphasis on data and transparency and looks forward to working with government to co-design the various arrangements and services to ensure they complement existing strengths and local approaches.

6 Notable mentions

The West Midlands appears several times throughout the White Paper, which highlights a number of success stories from the region – some of which are listed here:

- **Devolution - Adult Education Budget:** The WMCA was mentioned in relation to benefits of devolution which is complemented by strong leadership and accountability. The White Paper also references the WMCA's devolved responsibility in managing the Adult Education Budget, which allows it to “invest in the skills provision that reflect local needs”. Some of the examples include the skills needed to retrofit buildings, undertake electric vehicle maintenance and one of the areas to pilot new digital bootcamps.
- **Devolution - Energy Capital:** The Energy Capital project, created and led by the WMCA was highlighted in relation to the benefits of devolution as it brought together businesses, utilities and academics to provide low cost, clean and efficient power.
- **Coventry High Street Heritage Action Zone:** The Coventry High Street Heritage Action Zone was referenced as a demonstrator project for the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) Scheme. The project received over £2m in funding, enabling the transformation of The Burges and Hales Street area of the city centre. This was an excellent example of cross-organisation partnership as it was led on the ground by Historic Coventry Trust, with support from the Coventry Business Improvement District and Coventry City Council. The project attracted new businesses to the area, including Draper's Hall, which was previously abandoned, and now reborn as a concert and events venue.
- **Sprint:** The West Midlands was mentioned regarding transport connectivity boosting productivity through bringing people and businesses closer together. Here, the “Sprint” project, a new bus rapid transit system which is a cross between a bus and a tram, was referenced as it aims to connect Birmingham Airport with Solihull and Walsall with Birmingham City Centre. This is being led by Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands.
- **Coventry Very Light Rail System:** Coventry was noted for developing a brand-new railway system (Very Light Rail System) for Coventry City, starting with a demonstrator route between Coventry Rail Station to Pool Meadow Bus Station.
- **Coventry City – all electric bus city:** Coventry City was awarded £50m to become the first all-electric bus city, with almost 300 new zero emission buses to be delivered over the coming years.

- **Transport-led regeneration:** In relation to transport-led regeneration, the Curzon Street Station project in Birmingham City Centre which will eventually house HS2 project was used as an example of unlocking land around public transport sites. The HS2 Growth Strategy anticipates 43,600 gross, and 19,600 net, additional jobs, along with 2,200 new homes and £1.6bn per annum in net additional GVA around the Curzon Street area.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** The WMCA was referenced as an example of public sector-led partnerships with the private sector to realise the ambition of the West Midlands to become a “Smart City”. The West Midlands Smart City Region Programme will Scale-Up Digital opportunities across the region using a special purpose vehicle (SPV) that brings together the public sector, the private sector (including start-ups and leading institutional investors) as well as the region’s pioneering research institutions, under the leadership of the WMCA Mayor, Andy Street.
- **West Midlands 5G:** The West Midlands 5G programme was highlighted as success story as one of the 5G Testbed and Trail areas, in relation to digital connectivity. The Government provided £21m over three years, alongside support from local government and private sector organisations, such as Mobile Network Operators, to create the West Midlands 5G programme. This resulted in the roll out of 5G in the West Midlands being accelerated by over 6 months, meaning that the West Midlands is among the best-connected places for 5G in the UK. Alongside this, WM5G has delivered several firsts, including a 5G road sensor network, 5G connected ambulances and capsule endoscopy trials.
- **Institute of Technology:** The Black Country and Marches Institute of Technology in Dudley was used as a case study in reference to the policy of strengthening institutions. It outlined how the Black Country and Marches Institute of Technology delivered high level technical training in areas such as manufacturing, construction and medical engineering in order to meet the needs of the local employers and learners. The Department for Education will be investing £17m in new facilities and equipment for this institute of technology. The courses were co-designed with local such as Avensys, Fulcro Engineering, Thomas Dudley Ltd and the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.
- **Commonwealth Games:** The Commonwealth Games was highlighted as a case study of good practice in public sector procurement. It has embedded social value in its business and supply chain to measure the difference the Games can make to Birmingham, the West Midlands and its people. This includes the benefits and changes for local people around jobs, sustainability, health and well-being, inclusivity and human rights.

Annexes

Annex 1

Devolution Framework

Level 3 – A single institution or County Council with a directly elected mayor (DEM), across a FEA or whole county area

Level 2 – A single institution or County Council without a DEM, across a FEA or whole county area

Level 1 – Local authorities working together across a FEA or whole county area e.g. through a joint committee

Function	Detail	L1	L2	L3
Strategic role in delivering services	Host for Government functions best delivered at a strategic level involving more than one local authority e.g. Local Nature Recovery Strategies	✓	✓	✓
	Opportunity to pool services at a strategic level	✓	✓	✓
	Opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to deliver action on climate change and the UK's Net Zero targets	✓	✓	✓
Supporting local businesses	LEP functions including hosting strategic business voice		✓	✓
Local control of sustainable transport	Control of appropriate local transport functions e.g. local transport plans*		✓	✓
	Defined key route network*			✓
	Priority for new rail partnerships with Great British Railways – influencing local rail offer, e.g. services and stations			✓
	Ability to introduce bus franchising		✓	✓
	Consolidation of existing core local transport funding for local road maintenance and smaller upgrades into a multi-year integrated settlement			✓
Investment spending	UKSPF planning and delivery at a strategic level		✓	✓
	Long-term investment fund, with an agreed annual allocation			✓
Giving adults the skills for the labour market	Devolution of Adult Education functions and the core Adult Education Budget		✓	✓
	Providing input into Local Skills Improvement Plans		✓	✓
	Role in designing and delivering future contracted employment programmes			✓
Local control of infrastructure decisions	Ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations (with consent of host local planning authority)			✓
	Devolution of locally-led brownfield funding			✓
	Strategic partnerships with Homes England across the Affordable Housing Programme and brownfield funding			✓
	Homes England compulsory purchase powers (held concurrently)		✓	✓
Keeping the public safe and healthy	Mayoral control of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions where boundaries align^			✓
	Clear defined role in local resilience*		✓	✓
	Where desired offer MCAs a duty for improving the public's health (concurrently with local authorities)			✓
Financing local initiatives for residents and business	Ability to introduce mayoral precepting on council tax*			✓
	Ability to introduce supplement on business rates (increases subject to ballot)			✓

Annex 2

Summary of our regional asks (based on September 2021 paper agreed by Mayor & Leaders)

Category	Ask	Situation following LUWP
Building Human Capital	Endow MCAs with single devolved funding pot aligning the Adult Education Budget with the National Skills Fund and the 'people' element of UKSPF	UKSPF secured for MCAs. No explicit devo commitment on NSF – will have to be part of negotiations
	Devolve services provided by the Careers and Enterprise Company and National Careers Service to MCAs	No explicit commitment here - will have to be part of negotiations
	Give MCAs co-commissioning responsibilities for technical and vocational training for 16-18 year olds, including T Levels	No explicit devo commitment here - will have to be part of negotiations
	Give MCAs co-commissioning responsibilities for employment support programmes such as Restart	MCAs to be able to get “role in designing and delivering future contracted employment programmes” – exact scope TBD in negotiations. Walsall to get employment and skills pathfinder
Supporting Growth and Enterprise	Ensure that the multi-billion increase in R&D spending guaranteed at the last Budget is targeted outside the golden-triangle, including by directly devolving appropriate R&D budgets to MCAs (such as UKRI's Strength in Places fund)	R&D mission commits to substantial rebalancing by 2030 of where R&D budget goes
	Invest in strategic assets that enable translational innovation linked to regional cluster growth opportunities	WM to be one of three innovation accelerators. To also get support for Smart City Region proposal
	Close the gap between the South East and the West Midlands in SME investment by providing funding to support a WM SME Investment Fund	No explicit devo commitment here (CSR commitments around more money for BBB etc rehearsed) – will have to be part of negotiation
	Devolve DCMS funding relating to urban connectivity and trials and testbeds to MCAs	Smart City Region Proposal may cover this (not clear which funds it will draw from)
	Ensure a strong role for MCAs in the specification, selection, and management of rail contracts as Great British Railways is rolled out	Secured
	Ensure that MCAs have maximum freedom of manoeuvre to manage contracts with bus operators (within the context of agreed enhanced partnership of franchising models), in particular by giving MCAs any further Covid recovery bus funding and the ability to agree how this should be disbursed with operators	Commitment to BSOG devolution noted but Recovery Funding not mentioned explicitly

Category	Ask	Situation following LUWP
Supporting Growth and Enterprise (Cont...)	Devolve further investment promotion powers to the region	No explicit devo commitment here - will have to be part of negotiations (NB OfI establishing regional presence and other activities driven from centre will not substitute for devo here)
	Resource regions to enhance their ability to handle all relevant trade investment and promotion responsibilities, and so that they can create strategic subsidy and incentive funds to compete for high value investment	No explicit devo commitment here - will have to be part of negotiations (NB OfI establishing regional presence and other activities driven from centre will not substitute for devo here)
Net Zero	Provide MCAs with a clear role in delivering regional energy infrastructure investment alongside the Future Systems Operator	No explicit devo commitment here - will have to be part of negotiations
	Give MCAs responsibility and resourcing for Local Area Energy Planning through a Net Zero Infrastructure Delivery Board	No explicit devo commitment here - will have to be part of negotiations
	Expand the powers and scope of regional Energy Innovation Zones	No explicit devo commitment here - will have to be part of negotiations
	Devolve further portions of existing retrofit funds in BEIS through a regional Retrofit Commissioning Framework	No explicit devo commitment here - will have to be part of negotiations
	Devolve portions of existing EV infrastructure funds to MCAs (such as OZEV's LEVI and Project Rapid funds) to deploy critical infrastructure such as rapid-charging spines	No explicit devo commitment here - will have to be part of negotiations

NB. These proposals were submitted for a proposed devolution deal. Whilst some will have been directly address by the White Paper, the majority will form part of the Deepening Devolution Deal negotiations.

Annex 3

Leveling Up White Paper 12 missions – and alignment with WMCA Aims & Objectives

12 Levelling Up Missions		WMCA Aims & Objectives
Focus Area	Mission	Aligned Objectives
Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging		
Living Standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each region containing a globally competitive city, and the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.	<p>Create optimum conditions for businesses to grow, by ensuring they have the support needed to start up, scale up and succeed. [1.2]</p> <p>Ensure public and private investment opportunities create good work opportunities for local people and more contracts for local businesses. [1.5]</p>
Research & Development (R&D)	By 2030, domestic public investment in R&D outside the Greater South East will increase by at least one third over the Spending Review period and at least 40 percent by 2030, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.	<p>Drive growth by developing regional strategies and plans focussed on priority clusters, boosting innovation, and securing investment. [1.1]</p> <p>Support social innovation to tackle complex and longstanding challenges facing our communities, where mutually agreed with partners. [2.3]</p> <p>Be national pioneers in advanced methods of construction, zero carbon housing... [4.2]</p> <p>Convene partners to drive industrial decarbonisation and grow the low carbon and circular economy. [4.3]</p> <p>Pioneer and embed transport innovations and behaviour change to reduce emissions, improve air quality and create green jobs. [4.4]</p>

12 Levelling Up Missions		WMCA Aims & Objectives
Focus Area	Mission	Aligned Objectives
Transport Infrastructure	By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing	<p>Deliver and operate a safe, accessible, affordable, reliable and sustainable transport system together with our partners. [3.1]</p> <p>Build and develop transport infrastructure that is sustainable, active, low congestion and integrated with key projects like HS2. [3.2]</p> <p>Work with partners to attract investment in and deliver programmes to support net zero development and infrastructure. [4.1]</p> <p>Pioneer and embed transport innovations and behaviour change to reduce emissions, improve air quality and create green jobs. [4.4]</p>
Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.	<p>Create optimum conditions for businesses to grow, by ensuring they have the support needed to start up, scale up and succeed. [1.2]</p> <p>Work with partners to identify and address the different barriers faced by our diverse communities [2.2]</p> <p>Work with partners to attract investment in and deliver programmes to support net zero development and infrastructure. [4.1]</p>

12 Levelling Up Missions		WMCA Aims & Objectives
Focus Area	Mission	Aligned Objectives
Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest		
Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.	<p>Work with partners to identify and address the different barriers faced by our diverse communities [2.2]</p> <p>Work with partners to understand their priorities, convene around shared opportunities, and deliver together. [5.1]</p>
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.	<p>Create optimum conditions for businesses to grow, by ensuring they have the support needed to start up, scale up and succeed. [1.2]</p> <p>Invest in training and skills programmes that help businesses grow and our citizens secure good jobs. [1.3]</p> <p>Work with partners to give our communities access to training and employment support to secure and succeed in new opportunities. [2.1]</p>

12 Levelling Up Missions		WMCA Aims & Objectives
Focus Area	Mission	Aligned Objectives
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.	<p>Work with partners to identify and address the different barriers faced by our diverse communities. [2.2]</p> <p>Support social innovation to tackle complex and longstanding challenges facing our communities, where mutually agreed with partners. [2.3]</p> <p>Work with partners to understand their priorities, convene around shared opportunities, and deliver together. [5.1]</p>
Wellbeing	By 2030, measures of wellbeing will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.	<p>Work with partners to identify and address the different barriers faced by our diverse communities. [2.2]</p> <p>Support social innovation to tackle complex and longstanding challenges facing our communities, where mutually agreed with partners. [2.3]</p> <p>Work with partners to understand their priorities, convene around shared opportunities, and deliver together. [5.1]</p>

12 Levelling Up Missions		WMCA Aims & Objectives
Focus Area	Mission	Aligned Objectives
Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost		
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.	<p>Work with local authorities to support the role of culture and sport in making the region a good place to live, work, visit and invest. [1.4]</p> <p>Work with partners to identify and address the different barriers faced by our diverse communities. [2.2]</p> <p>Deliver and operate a safe, accessible, affordable, reliable and sustainable transport system together with our partners. [3.1]</p> <p>Build and develop transport infrastructure that is sustainable, active, low congestion and integrated with key projects like HS2. [3.2]</p> <p>Invest in and support housing and regeneration schemes, working closely with private sector and local authorities to unlock to unlock and accelerate sustainable delivery. [3.3]</p> <p>Support and deliver co-ordinated investment packages with our partners across key corridors and local, town, and city centres. [3.4]</p> <p>Pioneer and embed transport innovations and behaviour change to reduce emissions, improve air quality and create green jobs. [4.4]</p> <p>Work with partners to increase investment in nature and our surroundings. [4.5]</p>

12 Levelling Up Missions		WMCA Aims & Objectives
Focus Area	Mission	Aligned Objectives
Housing	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas	Invest in and support housing and regeneration schemes, working closely with private sector and local authorities to unlock to unlock and accelerate sustainable delivery. [3.3]
Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst affected areas.	<p>Work with partners to identify and address the different barriers faced by our diverse communities. [2.2]</p> <p>Support social innovation to tackle complex and longstanding challenges facing our communities, where mutually agreed with partners. [2.3]</p> <p>Deliver and operate a safe, accessible, affordable, reliable and sustainable transport system together with our partners. [3.1]</p> <p>Work with partners to understand their priorities, convene around shared opportunities, and deliver together. [5.1]</p>

12 Levelling Up Missions		WMCA Aims & Objectives
Focus Area	Mission	Aligned Objectives
	Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency	
Local leadership	By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution with a simplified, long-term funding settlement	<p>Work with partners to understand their priorities, convene around shared opportunities, and deliver together. [5.1]</p> <p>We will work with central government to gain new powers and resources for the region, including double devolution. [5.2]</p>

- Effectively WMCA Objective 5.2 – We will work with central government to gain new powers and resources for the region, including double devolution – aligns with all 12 Missions and underpins the Levelling Up White Paper’s identified ‘deeper devolution deal’ opportunity.



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Page 50

Public Service Reform Board

Date	1 st March 2022
Report title	Inclusive Growth Framework update
Portfolio Lead	Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, Portfolio Holder for Public Service Reform & Social Economy
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive, West Midlands Combined Authority Laura.Shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Claire Spencer, Senior Programme Manager, Inclusive Growth Claire.Spencer@wmca.org.uk Anna Humphreys, Policy and Delivery Officer, Inclusive Growth Anna.Humphreys@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	Public Service Reform Board

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

- (1) To consider and pressure test the draft updated version of the Inclusive Growth Framework.
- (2) To discuss ways in which the draft updated version of Inclusive Growth Framework could be used and applied.
- (3) To consider whether the board would like to receive annual reporting on the framework.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the amendments made to the Inclusive Growth Framework, which captures ‘*what good looks like*’ for inclusive growth in the WMCA area, as well as how each of the eight ‘fundamentals’ of inclusive growth relate to one another. The framework has been amended with specific considerations in mind, and the Public Service Reform Board is well positioned to consider whether these considerations have been addressed ahead of the framework being finalised.
- 1.2 To ensure that the updated framework is a useful tool to unlock inclusive growth in practice – in effect, this can happen every time there is a transfer of resources, or an intention expressed to do so. The Applied Inclusive Growth team has worked methodically to create opportunities and ‘hooks’ for this to happen, and would welcome further steer on how to take this further.

2. Background

2.1 Inclusive growth is defined by the WMCA as:

A more deliberate and socially purposeful model of growth, measured not only by how fast or aggressive it is; but also, by how well it is created and shared across the whole population and place, and by the social and environmental outcomes it realises for our people.

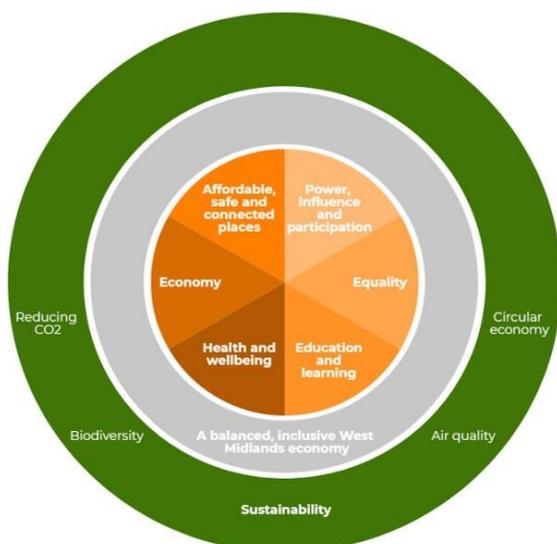


Figure 1 The original visualisation of the Inclusive Growth Framework

This definition was built in collaboration with civil society in the WMCA area, notably with key groups who focus on economic justice and alleviation of poverty. This was important, as it had to mean something to those intermediaries, all of which understand, instinctively, that both public services **and** economic activity are supposed to work towards the same social and environmental outcomes.

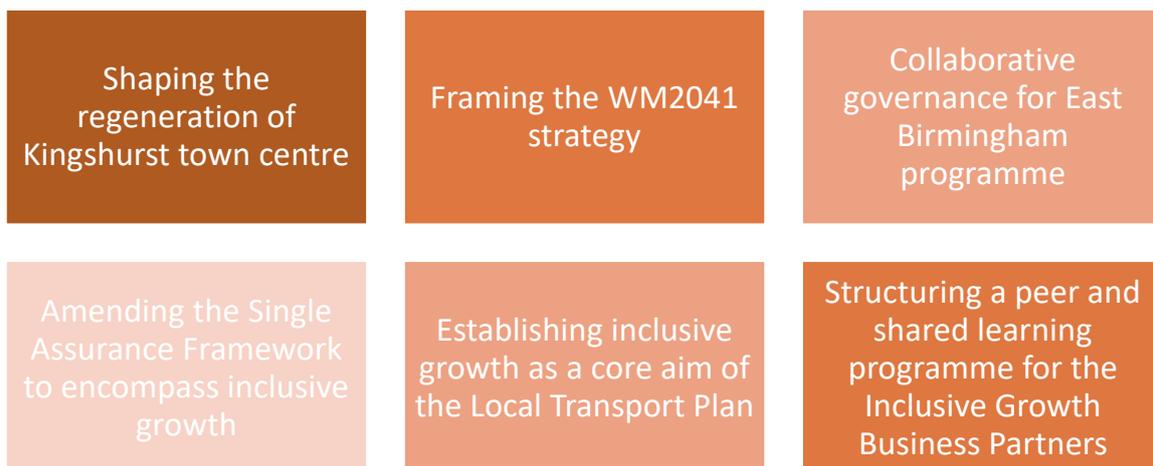
2.2 The Inclusive Growth Framework (‘*what good looks like*’) was created concurrently, capturing key elements of discussions and reflections from those stakeholders, and from the wider partnership that comprises the WMCA. It blends political and strategic intent (as expressed by local and regional political leadership, representing the citizens of the WMCA

area) with quantitative and qualitative insight to show areas of need, opportunity and tension across eight themes (*'fundamentals'*) of inclusive growth. The WMCA Board first approved the Inclusive Growth Framework in September 2018, and developed it further in May 2019.

2.3 The structure of the framework is based on the model in Kate Raworth's *'Doughnut Economics'*, which recognises that planetary boundaries are the limit on meeting human needs and aspirations. This made it a good fit for WMCA, which had expressed the intention to bring both social and environmental considerations into an economic frame as it developed as an institution.

2.4 Whilst having the definition, framework and a set of enabling tools is important, how these are used by the WMCA and its partners to create change is where the Applied Inclusive Growth team has focused its capacity. This is particularly true when it comes to how the framework is used to drive collaboration between departments and institutions. Inherent to the design of the Inclusive Growth Framework is the interconnectedness of different outcomes (e.g., the fact that the region's poorest people are also those who use the least carbon). As such, it is impossible to do inclusive growth in practice without bringing together those partners with the capacity, capability and responsibility to unlock different outcomes.

2.5 Public Service Reform Board is aware of the ways that the Inclusive Growth Framework has been applied to date through the updates on the inclusive growth programme, but a snapshot to show some of the variety is as follows:



2.6 As the framework has been applied to these and other shared challengers, the Applied Inclusive Growth team has identified areas which need to be revisited and updated, and the remainder of the paper captures the substance of how this has occurred.

3. Adapting the Inclusive Growth Framework

3.1 The key driver for the changes arose out of a question: if this is what good looks like, then how are we doing? The Inclusive Growth Framework has been used to shape vision, strategy (including through providing data baselines), policy and investment – but it has not been used to shape how the WMCA should hold itself accountable as part of a wider region, or to reflect on the region’s trajectory on those key outcomes.

3.2 This is not entirely straightforward: the outcomes in the framework are substantial and complex, and WMCA is one of many institutions and shapers of place and economy that brings influence to bear on their trajectory. Nonetheless, there is value in keeping those outcomes in sight, as it can inform how WMCA and other partners prioritise how resources are used, or in which resources they seek to attract.

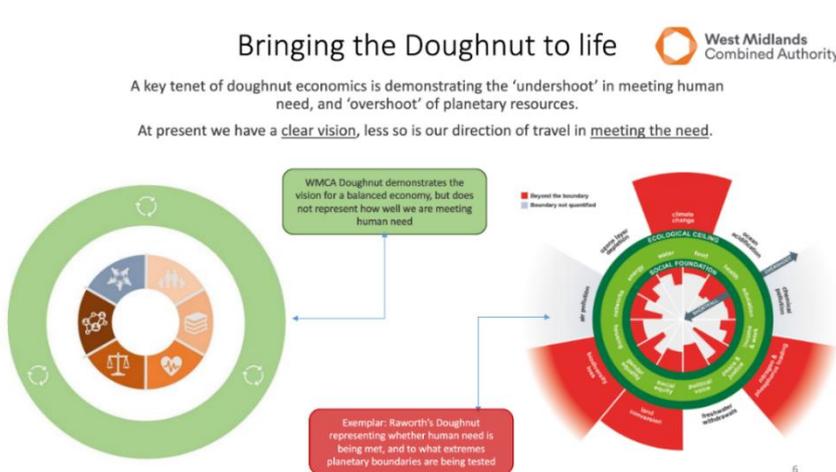


Figure 2: Comparison of the WMCA ‘doughnut’ and the original from Raworth’s Doughnut Economics.

3.3 In order to make this change in collaboration with a wider cohort of partners, the Applied Inclusive Growth team embarked a ‘*design sprint*’¹. Participants consisted of officials from WMCA, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and the Black County Consortium, covering policy, data and insight. The project group set the following aims for the exercise:

1. **Reduce the number of indicators:** The Inclusive Growth Framework is not a performance dashboard. It is supposed to use ‘*bellwether*’ indicators to show trajectory, opportunities and tension, but contained too many data points to do that effectively. This needed to be addressed in a way which struck the right balance.
2. **To build a supply of metrics that work at different spatial levels:** The Applied Inclusive Growth team had worked effectively with Solihull MBC to create a version of the

¹ A design sprint is a method to solve big challenges within a defined time scale, and is effective for challenges like this, which have clear objectives and boundaries.

framework for the Kingshurst development, and this is likely to be something that other local partners might want to explore.

3. To create a version of the framework that can show direction and impact: In Doughnut Economics, demonstrating the ‘undershoot’ in meeting human need and ‘overshoot’ of planetary resources is fundamental to the model (see Figure 2).

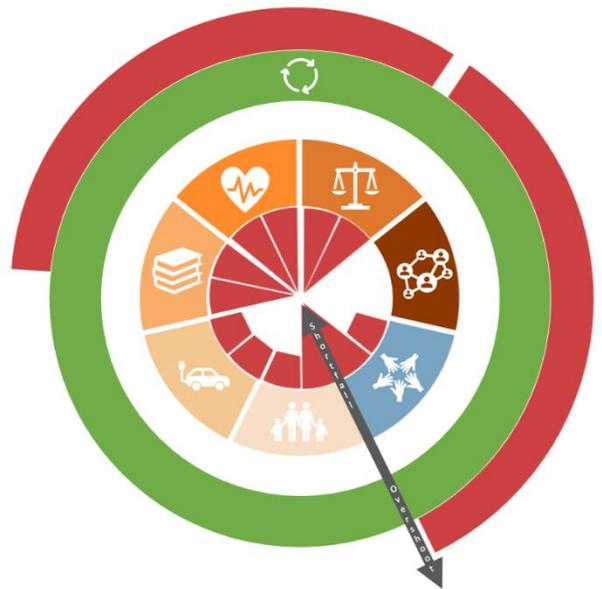


Figure 3 An example of how the WMCA Inclusive Growth Framework could be visualised.

3.4 As a result of the work undertaken in the sprint, several amendments have been made to the framework. The infographic below (Figure 4) shows each fundamental of inclusive growth that comprises it, for ease of reference:

 CLIMATE RESILIENCE	 AFFORDABLE AND SAFE PLACES	 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES	 EDUCATION AND LEARNING	 HEALTH AND WELLBEING	 EQUALITY	 INCLUSIVE ECONOMY	 POWER, INFLUENCE AND PARTICIPATION
Reducing CO ₂	Designing out homelessness	Accessibility of resources and opportunities	Increased skills levels	Reduced health inequalities	Reduced employment inequalities	Increased household income	Citizen perception of their influence and agency

Figure 4: The Inclusive Growth Framework demonstrated here as the ‘Fundamentals’ and their desired outcomes.

The amendments to the Inclusive Growth Framework are as follows:

Creating an eighth fundamental

The Affordable, Safe and Connected Places fundamental has been separated into two:

- *Affordable and Safe Places*
- *Connected Communities*

This was a way to ensure that one of the bellwether outcomes could relate to mobility without displacing ‘designing out homelessness’, the aim which sits at the heart of the work of the Homelessness Taskforce.

<p>Refining the indicators</p>	<p>The indicators which measure the progress of each fundamental have been reorganised into the following categories, with strict limits on each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x <i>Headline Outcome</i> • 1x <i>Headline Indicator</i> • 4x <i>Backing Indicators</i> • <i>Qualitative Indicators (from a combination of surveys and community research)</i> <p>In order to show direction of travel, data from the three years preceding the current year is used. This ensures that both progression and regression can be seen.</p> <p>Figure 5 shows a worked example.</p>
<p>Community research</p>	<p>This work will be undertaken at three-year intervals by community researchers and will be paired with the quantitative data to provide a check and balance, and to amplify the voices of people who most need to benefit from inclusive growth. This has been scoped, but not yet commissioned.</p>
<p>Updated infographics to show direction and impact</p>	<p>The new infographics for the framework will be able to show ‘undershoot’ and ‘overshoot’, as in the original Raworth model.</p>

3.5 An example of how this looks for the ‘Climate Resilience’ fundamental is as follows – note that there is a clear rationale for the headline outcome, and by extension, the headline indicator:

Fundamental X	Example: Climate Resilience
<p>Headline outcome: the ‘bellwether’, an outcome that is politically and socially salient, and tells us more about the fundamental than a single issue alone.</p>	<p><i>Reducing CO2</i>: this is a bellwether outcome because being able to meet our carbon budget tells us that our society and economy has adapted to the climate change challenge.</p>
<p>Headline indicator: this is a metric connected to the headline outcome. The framework captures both the metric as it is, how it has been in the last three recordings, and as the region would like it to be.</p>	<p><i>Headline indicator</i>: Alignment to the WMCA carbon budget, MtCO2 per annum (target / reality): 6.8 / 11.1</p>
<p>Backing indicators: three to four further metrics that tell us other important things about the fundamental.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gap between best and worst green space per person and between population indices (target / reality): 8.289 / 12 2. Household recycling rate, % (target / reality): 45 / 32

	3. Contribution of recycled materials to raw materials demand: <i>metric associated with Circular Economy Routemap, yet to be collected</i>
	4. Fuel Poverty, % (target / reality): 0 / 19.8
Qualitative indicators: community research in key neighbourhoods / with excluded groups, to sense check the quantitative data.	Example question: “How do you use your local green spaces?”

Figure 5: Worked example of the structure of the Fundamentals

3.6 The discussion accompanying this paper will be focused on the following questions for the Public Service Reform Board:

- How would the board like the framework data and insight to be reported to them?
- Does the framework need to be reflected in other mechanisms of accountability – e.g. as part of an internal audit of the Single Assurance Framework.
- How would you use the framework in your locality, or area of public service?
- To what extent does the framework capture what good looks like for inclusive growth / levelling up?

3.7 The Inclusive Growth Framework is also being used as part of the basis – alongside the annual ‘State of the Region’ report – to develop a levelling up self assessment, which will support WMCA and its partners in making the case for further powers and resources as part of the Trailblazing Devolution Deal.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no new financial implications arising from this work as it draws on staff time and the core budget of the Public Service Reform directorate.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 None.

6. Equalities Implications

6.1 Equality is one of the eight fundamentals of inclusive growth. As such, this work is actively seeking to improve how it is embedded and addressed through the work of the WMCA.

7. Inclusive Growth Implications

7.1 The Inclusive Growth Framework update was undertaken to refine and improve the application of inclusive growth principles across the organisation and the wider region. Initial feedback from the Inclusive Growth Business Partners network and other colleagues suggests that these changes were needed and welcome.

8. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

8.1 The framework data covers the seven metropolitan authorities, but the Applied Inclusive Growth team is open to working with non-constituent authorities on adapting it for their areas, on request.

9. Other Implications

9.1 None.

10. Schedule of Background Papers

10.1 Inclusive Growth Framework (WMCA Board, September 2018):
<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/documents/s2060/Report.pdf>

10.2 Inclusive Growth: Update and Next Steps (WMCA Board, May 2019):
<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/documents/s2910/Report.pdf>

Public Service Reform Board

Date	1 st March 2022
Report title	PSR Annual Performance and Forward Planning
Portfolio Lead	Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, Portfolio Holder for Public Service Reform & Social Economy
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive, West Midlands Combined Authority Laura.Shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Ed Cox, Director of Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform Ed.Cox@wmca.org.uk Claire Dhami, Head of Public Service Reform and Prevention Claire.Dhami@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	Public Service Reform Board

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Public Service Reform Board is recommended to:

- (1) Note the progress against the 2021/22 High Level Deliverables to date.
- (2) Agree the High Level Deliverables for 2022/23.
- (3) Identify any areas which the Board wishes to receive a more detailed report on progress, activity or future direction.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper reports against progress to date against the 2021/22 deliverables and identifies High level deliverables for 2022/23

2. High Level Deliverables for 2021/22

PSR01
<p>Aim: Facilitation of the Homelessness Taskforce to develop, co-ordinate and embed a regional approach to designing out homelessness</p>
<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Homelessness Taskforce steering group and its task groups have continued to meet and to make progress on shared objectives. The two newest Task groups (Domestic Abuse and No Recourse to Public Funds) are examining the evidence base for these significant drivers of homelessness, and are codesigning future activity. ▪ The Homelessness Taskforce has worked to coordinate several collaborative responses to the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee Inquiry into Exempt Accommodation, setting out key concerns and recommendations for improvement. Submissions to the call for evidence were made by the Mayor, Homelessness Taskforce Members Advisory Group and West Midlands Housing Association Partnership (WMHAP). These emphasised the need for regulatory reform; including powers and resources for local authorities to manage the growth of the sector based on local need and to be able to take action on unscrupulous landlords. ▪ The Homelessness Taskforce is scoping a research project on destitution with Loughborough University, which will inform its future work, but may also have learning for other areas of the WMCA's work, such as on fuel poverty. ▪ At its last meeting, the Homelessness Taskforce started to consider the implications and potential opportunities of the Levelling Up White Paper and mooted Trailblazer Devolution Deal. There is an opportunity to ensure that all asks contribute to designing out homelessness.

PSR02
<p>Aim: Commission and provide oversight for grant-funded homelessness programmes</p>
<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As of 1st November 2021, the regional Housing First programme had housed 501 clients, with a further 60 accepted onto the programme and being supported into Housing First accommodation. ▪ The bid to extend the Housing First pilot to March 2024 has now been submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). If successful, this will provide the resources needed to continue supporting those citizens who are currently on the programme. ▪ The Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI)-funded work with faith and community groups continues, notably focused on safe street support, with further training courses being delivered this spring. ▪ As of the end of 21st January 2022, the WMCA Rough Sleeping Initiative 2021/22 had supported 1,499 unique individuals, 430 of whom were rough sleeping at the point of engagement.

- The 2022-25 RSI bid is in development following extensive engagement with DLUHC and local authority partners, with a first draft shared with the funder. This is a longer delivery period than previous tranches of RSI, and is an opportunity to add value to the work that local authority partners commission through their own RSI allocations.

PSR03

Aim:

Community Recovery programme: coordinate delivery of community recovery priorities and cross cutting themes

Progress:

- Much of the work identified through community recovery has now been adopted as business as usual.
- Successful winners and runners up have been engaged. There have been some drop outs from among the runners up, and these unclaimed grants may be used to deliver workshops for runners up.
- The 'Covid keeps' report is due to be published in March 2022, on the second anniversary of the first lockdown.
- There has been no progress on the VCFSE resilience fund due to capacity.

PSR04

Aim:

Criminal Justice and Fire Collaboration

Progress:

- The WMCA and OPCC continue to support their 13 point collaboration plan, with highlights including the significant support from the OPCC on the development of the Race Equalities Taskforce and of new transport initiatives.
- West Midlands Fire Service have identified health inequalities as one of five key strategic aims, and joint work progresses on trauma informed approaches, early intervention and prevention and rough sleepers as well as new work with the WMCA health inequalities team (managed through the Wellbeing Board).
- The 'Safe Centre' Partnership Board has been reestablished with a commitment from the Department for Education to support the ongoing development of the centre and confirmation of available capital for the project.
- Ongoing strategic input to cross cutting boards and forum continues.

PSR05

Aim:

Early Intervention and prevention programme

Progress:

- The Trauma Informed Coalition has now established a number of task groups.
- Following a competitive process, a tender has been awarded to undertake a social cost benefit analysis of trauma informed approaches and early intervention and prevention.

- An option to develop a governance review of early help provision is currently on hold until at least the publication of the national review of Early help, due in May 2022.

PSR06

Aim:

JOINT WITH STRATEGY & CULTURE

Systems leadership: develop a regional programme of learning and development in systems leadership

Progress:

- The CIVIC pilot has been developed and WMCA has offered match funding for sectors where take up of the pilot programme has been low.

PSR07

Aim:

JOINT WITH CULTURE & DIGITAL

Improve digital inclusion in the region through partnerships with Local Authorities and Civil society organisations

Progress:

- The Coalition for Digital Inclusion meetings continue, membership has been reviewed and updated and further invites to the voluntary sector have been made.
- The digital inclusion peer research has commenced and is progressing well. It is expected to be completed by April 2022.

IG01

Aim:

Embedding inclusive growth within the WMCA and its partners

Progress:

- The Inclusive Growth Framework has been reworked to show a more nuanced picture of how the region is performing. The team has worked with WMCA's design team to update related infographics, which have now been completed. The relevant item at the March PSR Board will enable the team to take on any feedback and finalise the product thereafter.
- Following its nine month review by WMCA's Corporate Management Team, the Inclusive Growth Business Partners (IGBP) network is embarking on its next phase. The IGBPs have established three collaborative projects which will develop their skills in applied inclusive growth. These include testing the inclusive growth potential of the new acquisitions and disposal framework on a pending disposal of WMCA land in the Grove Lane Masterplan area (Smethwick), and to create the landing page for the 'inclusive growth microsite'.
- The microsite to support IGBPs and other practitioners in embedding inclusive growth into how they work is being created with WMCA's web development team and is expected to be delivered in 2022/23.

IG02

<p>Aim: Inclusive growth impact, monitoring and accountability</p>
<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A proposal for an Inclusive Growth Summit to be held in Spring / Summer 2022 are being drawn into a wider programme of activity with The Kings Fund and WMCA's Wellbeing team. This will help to increase profile and increase participation from health partners. ▪ The Applied Inclusive Growth team has run a session for the West Midlands Rail Executive (WMRE) Leadership team on how to use the inclusive growth levers associated with their work – specifically relating to their approach to community rail. WMRE is considering how to take this forward, and has been provided with a briefing note on how to apply the principles in general. ▪ The inclusive growth function has provided evidence as part of the internal audit programme – key learning points from this audit will be shared in the next HLD report. An opportunity has been identified to enhance internal audit when it comes to the application of inclusive growth tools and principles, and this will be explored when the Single Assurance Framework is audited in the next municipal year.

<p>IG03</p>
<p>Aim: Support at least three local authorities and their partners with 'Inclusive-Growth-In-Action' initiatives</p>
<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Applied Inclusive Growth team has joined the steering group for the Sandwell Anchor Network to support local partners in designing and delivering its work programme. ▪ The process of transferring the USE-IT! learning from West Birmingham to East Birmingham is in progress, and is being used as a means to shape the future priorities of the cross-organisational 'Rapid Policy Unit' that supports that work programme. ▪ The team supported the Birmingham Living Wage City steering group by creating a proposal to organise its 'Action Plan' delivery to enable collaborative, cross-sector delivery. The group is considering the proposal. ▪ The Ward End & Cole Valley Health & Skills group met, with actions focusing on connecting nascent opportunities associated with community diagnostics and social prescribing to the East Birmingham programme.

<p>IG04</p>
<p>Aim: Publish, unlock investment for and co-ordinate delivery of the Social Economy Business Plan</p>
<p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The report 'Growing the social economy in the West Midlands Area' was launched to the regional social economy sector on 24th November - fulfilling one of the recommendations of the Social Economy Taskforce, which concluded its work in January 2020. Organisations in attendance had

indicated their willingness to be part of resourcing (in kind or otherwise) and delivering the four projects within the document, plus associated monitoring and evaluation.

- These attendees have now become a virtual team, which has started to initiate delivery of the programme – notably by bringing in secondments from Power to Change, and drawing on expertise from social investors to shape the commissioning of the social economy development fund options appraisal.
- The document has been used as a basis for conversations with supportive funders, who have indicated that they will resource elements of the plan that also achieve their objectives.

IG05

Aim:

Develop and support Inclusive Growth Corridors Board

Progress:

- This aim has been superseded by nascent plans to develop a Capital Integration Board.

3. Proposed High Level Deliverables for 2022/23 to achieve a ‘Fairer’ West Midlands

Teams across WMCA are currently developing their High Level Deliverables and milestones for 2022/23, ensuring alignment to corporate aims and objectives. For the Fairer team in the PSR directorate, these are proposed as follows:

Fairer 1

Aim:

Develop the standards, tools and practices for embedding and delivering inclusive growth, including an online inclusive growth portal and the Inclusive Growth Business Partners Network.

Corporate Strategy link

1.1 We will drive growth to boost innovation, secure investment and support industrial clusters by working with partners to develop economic strategies and plans

Fairer 2

Aim:

Deliver, monitor and evaluate the impact of the four strands of the social economy growth strategy, with a view to doubling the size of the social economy by 2030.

Corporate Strategy link

1.2 We will work with partners to create the optimum conditions for businesses to grow, by ensuring they have the support needed to start up, scale up and succeed

Fairer 3

Aim:

Convene partners to take action to address race inequalities through the Race Equalities Taskforce

Corporate Strategy link

2.2 We will work with partners to identify and address the different barriers faced by our diverse communities

Fairer 4 Inclusive Communities Portfolio (reported here for info only)

Aim:

Support and develop the Young Combined Authority to develop a programme of activity that puts young people's concerns at the heart of regional policy making

Corporate Strategy link

2.2 We will work with partners to identify and address the different barriers faced by our diverse communities

Fairer 5 Inclusive Communities Portfolio (reported here for info only)

Aim:

Support and develop the Leadership Commission through a clear work programme which interfaces with other taskforces and commissions.

Corporate Strategy link

2.2 We will work with partners to identify and address the different barriers faced by our diverse communities

Fairer 6

Aim:

Develop new approaches to social innovation in the region including exemplar initiatives, training opportunities and a cross agency virtual team.

Corporate Strategy link

2.3 We will support social innovation to tackle complex and longstanding challenges facing our communities, where mutually agreed with partners

Fairer 7

Aim:

Ongoing facilitation of the Homelessness Taskforce, Members Advisory Group and associated task groups, including by delivery of pilot activity, including looking at alternative funding models for preventative activity.

Corporate Strategy link

2.3 We will support social innovation to tackle complex and longstanding challenges facing our communities, where mutually agreed with partners

Fairer 8

Aim:

Ongoing oversight of Housing First pilot, Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme and Rough Sleeping Initiative, along with any other externally funded activity

Corporate Strategy link

2.3 We will support social innovation to tackle complex and longstanding challenges facing our communities, where mutually agreed with partners

Fairer 9
Aim: Deliver a coalition on trauma informed approaches including implementing a regional vision, training framework and commissioning processes.
Corporate Strategy link 2.3 We will support social innovation to tackle complex and longstanding challenges facing our communities, where mutually agreed with partners
Fairer 10
Aim: Support a pilot programme of public sector leadership development with CIVIC and explore opportunities for wider roll out.
Corporate Strategy link 2.3
Fairer 11
Aim: Develop collaborative projects with the Police and Crime Commissioner to help reduce crime and improve the criminal justice system
Corporate Strategy link 2.3 We will support social innovation to tackle complex and longstanding challenges facing our communities, where mutually agreed with partners
Fairer 12
Aim: Support up to three local authority partners with 'Inclusive Growth in Action' schemes.
Corporate Strategy link 4.1 We will work with partners to attract investment in and deliver programmes to support net zero development and infrastructure
Fairer 13 Inclusive Communities Portfolio (reported here for info only)
Aim: Develop and support a varied portfolio of citizen engagement activity across the WMCA to ensure decisions are shaped by citizens that our policies, practices and investments deliver real value for everyone living and working in the region.
Corporate Strategy link 6.6 We will involve citizens with our work to put their views at the heart of our planning, decision making and delivery

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The WMCA budget agreed in February has been built around these High Level Deliverables. There are no other direct spend or budgetary implications as a result of the recommendations within this report. There is underspend in the budget due to being unable to fill vacancies.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 It is a statutory requirement that the Combined Authority has an assurance framework in place. The assurance framework approved by the WMCA Board on 24 July 2020 stipulates the requirement of the Public Service Reform Board to approve and monitor the deliverables of the portfolio.

6. Equalities Implications to update

- 6.1 The composition of the Thematic Boards and other governance structures of the WMCA normally reflect the composition of the political leadership in constituent local authorities. To this extent, at the current time, they do not reflect the full diversity of the West Midlands region and decision-making might be skewed by unconscious bias. Where there is scope for local authorities to consider diversifying who might represent them on such Boards this could be considered and where there is scope for the Thematic Board to consider co-opting non-voting members on the grounds of their gender or protected characteristics then this too could be considered.

7. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 7.1 This paper sets out plans to lead the WMCA's approach to Inclusive Growth in 2022/23 and the good progress that has been made in the current financial year.

8. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

- 8.1 The work of the Public Service Reform Board applies to relevant activity across both Constituent and Non-Constituent areas.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1 None.

10. Schedule of Background Papers

- 10.1 None.

11. Appendices

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