



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday 11 July 2022

Time: 10.00 am **Public meeting** Yes

Venue: Room 116, 16 Summer Lane, Birmingham, B19 3SD

Membership

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Naeem Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Andrew Burrow	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Mike Chalk	Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Ellen Fenton	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Nigel Lumby	Shropshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Martin McCarthy	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Lauren Rainbow	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Karen Simms	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Mike Sutherland	Staffordshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Paul Sweet	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Jamie Tennant	Birmingham City Council
Amanda Tomlinson	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Vera Waters	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Ken Wood	Birmingham City Council

Quorum for this meeting shall be 11 members

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

Contact Lyndsey Roberts, Scrutiny Officer
Telephone 07917 473824
Email lyndsey.roberts@wmca.org.uk

AGENDA

No.	Item	Presenting	Pages
Meeting Business Items			
1.	Appointment of Chair To note the appointment by the WMCA Board at its meeting on 10 June 2022 of Councillor Cathy Bayton as the Chair of this committee for 2022/23.	Chair	None
2.	Apologies for Absence	Chair	None
3.	Declarations of Interests 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 of it was thought to have exceeded £25 (gifts) or £40 (hospitality).	Chair	None
4.	Appointment of Vice-Chair To appoint a Vice-Chair of the committee for 2022/23.	Chair	None
5.	Appointment of Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee To appoint a Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee for 2022/23.	Chair	None
6.	Chair's Remarks	Chair	None
7.	Minutes - 7 March 2022	Chair	1 - 8
8.	Update on Trailblazer Devolution Deal	Ed Cox	9 - 14
9.	Implications of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill for the WMCA	Ed Cox	15 - 20
10.	Review of Governance - Update	Satish Mistry	Verbal Report
11.	Skills Provision Review Overview	Clare Hatton	21 - 68
12.	Grant Register	Kate Taylor	69 - 78
13.	Minutes: Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee - 23 March 2022	Chair	79 - 84
14.	Work Programme	Chair	85 - 90

	(a) Overview & Scrutiny Committee (b) WMCA Board Forward Plan		
Date of Next Meeting			
15.	Monday 5 September at 10.00am	Chair	None

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West Midlands Combined Authority

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 7 March 2022 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Lisa Trickett (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Naeem Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Maya Ali	Coventry City Council
Councillor Kate Booth	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Mike Chalk	Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Robert Grinsell (Substitute for Councillor Dicicco)	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Peter Fowler	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Nigel Lumby	Shropshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Charn Padda	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Vera Waters	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance

Councillor Mike Bird	Portfolio Lead for Housing & Land
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Item No. Title

51. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Liz Clements (Birmingham), Councillor Tony Dicicco (Solihull), Councillor Simon Peale (Staffordshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities) and Councillor Paul Sweet (City of Wolverhampton Council)

52. Chair's Remarks

(a) Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2021/22

The Chair reflected on the activities of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee during 2021/22 and thanked Councillor Lisa Trickett (Vice-Chair), members of the committee and WMCA officers for their support and cross-party contributions during the year.

(b) Scrutiny Review: Helping to Deliver Affordable and Social Housing

A review of the WMCA's Housing & Land Policy: Helping to Deliver Affordable and Social Housing had now concluded, and the findings of the scrutiny panel would be reported to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 7 March 2022.

(c) Scrutiny Review: Delivery of Local Skills Training

At the last meeting it was reported that a review would be undertaken to understand the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the WMCA on the delivery of local skills training within the region, and to identify the challenges and ways in which the West Midlands Combined Authority and Local Authorities could better target skills needs in the region particularly in relation to the big economic challenges.

The scrutiny panel had yet to receive its strategic report to help inform its key lines of enquiry and therefore, to ensure that the review was as effective as possible, it was agreed to defer the review until 2022/23.

53. Minutes - 10 January 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

54. Mayoral Question Time: Budget - Response from the Mayor to the recommendations presented to the WMCA Board on 14 January 2022

The committee noted the response received from the Mayor in respect of the observations it had identified following the Budget Q&A session on 15 December 2021.

Resolved:

(1) The report be noted.

55. Affordable Housing Delivery with Housing Associations: Progress update

The committee considered a report of the Director of Housing and Regeneration that provided an update on the direction of travel on the ongoing work of the WMCA and housing associations partners to establish a collective approach to the delivery of additional affordable housing across the region.

Councillor Mike Bird, Portfolio Lead for Housing & Land provided an overview of the affordable housing programme, joint working, the successful delivery of housing to date, challenges and priorities for the Housing & Land Delivery Board.

There had been significant progress made in the recent months regarding the joint pilot approach and its potential to deliver additional affordable homes. During the discussion, the Director of Housing & Regeneration explained the reasoning behind the introduction of the WMCA's affordable housing target and explored comments as to how the WMCA reviewed the different affordable housing levels within areas and across the region.

The committee welcomed the work undertaken and progress made to date regarding the proposed pilot package.

Resolved:

- (1) The positive progress with the work taking place under the Housing & Land Delivery Board to improve the collaboration and co-investment in the region between housing associations and WMCA to secure more social and affordable housing to meet local needs be welcomed.
- (2) That the collaboration that was part of broad package of affordable housing measures and initiatives being progressed under the Housing & Land portfolio be noted; and
- (3) The specific work taking place on a new innovative joint approach with a group of housing associations in the region to deliver additional affordable housing and wider socio-economic outcomes on WMCA land be welcomed and noted.

56. Progress Update: Scrutiny Review - Helping to Deliver Affordable and Social Housing

The committee considered a verbal report from Councillor Lisa Trickett on the findings of the recent scrutiny review undertaken to examine the role and remit of the WMCA to deliver affordable and social housing within the West Midlands through the use of the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund, and to consider how this supported and added value to the responsibilities of the constituent authorities in respect of affordable and social housing provision.

The review group conducted face-to-face interviews with a range of key witnesses to help inform its conclusions and recommendations. During the consideration of the written and oral evidence gathered during the review, a number of key challenges and issues were identified, including the long term financial plans of local authorities and the drive to receive a receipt on the sale of land which undermined the capability to develop and bring forward affordable and social housing within the region, the shortage of land, an increase in flip sales, issues with capacity, capability and the costs of land assembly and Compulsory Purchase Orders. It was recognised that there were opportunities to share expertise across the WMCA area to address this issue.

The WMCA was commended on its focus on affordable housing and its 20% target however, the review group noted the consequences that this had on the behaviours in the market. The review group were also advised that the Government set affordable housing areas and the impact that this had on the delivery of affordable and social housing across the region was acknowledged.

The committee discussed and shared comments on the importance of understanding the differential housing needs within the region. Concern was also expressed on the growth within the private sector and impact that temporary accommodation had on individuals and children.

It was considered that the Levelling up White Paper together with the affordable housing joint venture delivered an opportunity for a collective, collaborative approach to addressing the housing need of the region.

Resolved:

- (1) That the findings of the review be noted; and
- (2) A report on the findings and conclusions of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be submitted to the WMCA Board on 18 March 2022, with a request for a collective, collaborative leadership approach to address the housing need within the region.

57. Engagement of Independent Remuneration Panel

The committee received an update on the WMCA's governance review and the progress being made on the establishment of an Independent Remuneration Panel.

A report seeking the approval to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel would be presented to the WMCA Board on 18 March 2022. The Interim Director of Law & Governance provided an overview of the composition of the panel, its focus and timescales.

The panel would undertake a review of the allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and it was envisaged that it would also review the responsibilities of other committee members, including the allowances paid to members of the Transport Delivery Committee.

The committee emphasised the need for a review of the allowances associated with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and all other committees and boards, including the allowances paid to the Transport Delivery Committee, to be reviewed at the same time and a report to be considered by the WMCA Board at its meeting in June. Members expressed its concern at the length of time it had taken to review the allowances scheme and sought assurances that all areas would be reviewed by the Independent Remuneration Panel. This would ensure that the WMCA Board was able to consider and reach a view of the payment of allowances for members involved in WMCA activity in totality, rather than separate reports to separate meetings which could give rise to an inconsistent and contradictory scheme of allowances across the WMCA as currently existed.

Resolved:

- (1) Whilst acknowledging the need for a full in-depth review to be undertaken, it was the expectation of the committee that the Independent Remuneration Panel reviewed the allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Transport Delivery Committee and other committees and boards to enable the new arrangements to commence at the start of 2022/23.

[NB. Councillor Bob Grinsell declared an interest in this item as a member of the Transport Delivery Committee].

58. Trailblazer Devolution Deal

The committee considered a report of the Director of Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform that provided an update on the proposed plans for co-ordinating the WMCA's response to the Government's invitation to negotiate a Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

The Levelling Up White Paper was published on 2 February 2022, and had challenged some of the existing orthodoxy on theories of regional growth and development and announced a number of policy initiatives for the West Midlands, including an Innovation Accelerator, £28m from the Brownfield Housing Fund and funding for Digital Bootcamps in the region.

It was reported that the West Midlands and Greater Manchester combined authorities had been invited to negotiate a Trailblazer Devolution Deal with government, in which the WMCA had been developing its proposition to Government that would be presented to the WMCA Board in June for consideration.

The committee discussed and shared comments on the importance of community engagement and transparency, the six capitals, social capital, the importance of understanding the differential spatial content within the region, the importance of owning the challenges within the region, powers relating to public health, fire and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

The committee stressed the need for community engagement to ensure the voice of the citizen was heard and that the WMCA was involving the wider community in shaping its future role.

Resolved:

- (1) The report be noted; and
- (2) The Overview & Scrutiny Committee to have oversight on any potential additional powers to be devolved to the WMCA including those relating to the Police & Crime Commissioner and, to be kept abreast of the progress being made in terms of the active engagement with communities.

59. West Midlands Plan for Growth

The committee considered a report of the Chief Executive on the West Midlands Plan for Growth and the activities of the Economic Growth Board that had identified the need for interventions to be aligned and streamlined to catalyse additional growth in key clusters.

The committee noted the presentation that outlined the key findings and recommendations from the West Midlands Plan for Growth, which included a twin track approach capitalising on existing clusters of scale and strength and supporting nascent clusters and emerging technologies.

Whilst it was recognised that the Plan for Growth did not seek to be an economic wide strategy and that further work would be required to determine how the wider job sectors could be supported to create an inclusive economy, the committee expressed concern that these two areas of work were being undertaken separately and questioned how this work would be integrated to ensure that inclusive and social growth was being achieved.

Resolved:

- (1) The purpose and content of the West Midlands Plan for Growth be noted.
- (2) It be noted that the Economic Growth Board identified the need for interventions to be aligned and streamlined to catalyse additional growth in key clusters, and recognising a complex picture on economic functions, the Economic Growth Board agreed to establish a task and finish group, chaired by Councillor Ian Brookfield, to develop recommendations for aligning and streamlining economic development activity across organisations; and
- (3) The committee considered focussing predominately on this West Midlands Plan for Growth risks widening the inequality gap.

60. Annual Business Plan

The committee considered a report of the Director of Director that provided the background to the development of the Annual Business Plan and overview of content and how it would be used, monitored and measured that supported the move towards data driven, evidence-based decision-making.

The Annual Business Plan was a vital link in the 'golden thread' between the WMCA Aims and Objectives. The ambition was to produce a plan setting out all activity to be delivered in 2022/23. The plan would provide a single source of the truth that delivered data that would be triangulated with the Strategic Risk Register and finance cost codes. In terms of monitoring and reporting, the performance against the Annual Business Plan would be reported to the WMCA Board half-yearly.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be supported.

61. Grant Register

The committee considered a report of the Director of Finance that provided an update on the grant register which contained all current 'live' grants where the WMCA was the accountable body and captured a comprehensive total of grants, awarding body, time period for delivery and a description of what the grant delivered.

There had been two new grants added to the register since the last update to the committee, including the Brownfield Housing Fund, an additional £17.5m had been secured from the fund and Social Prescribing Cycling and Walking that had received £0.098m.

A further reward had been received of £7.5m for the Social Decarbonisation Fund - Wave 1 and the detail on this would be reported to the WMCA Board on 18 March through the Financial Monitoring Report.

The Director of Finance advised the committee that the government had confirmed that it would extend the Bus and Light Rail Recovery funding for a further six months.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.

62. Minutes: Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The committee received the minutes of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting on 17 January and 23 February 2022.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of 17 January and 23 February 2022 be agreed.

63. Work Programme

The committee noted a work programme of items that were to be reported to future meetings of the WMCA Board.

[The meeting ended at 12:15pm]

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Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	11 July 2022
Report title	Update on Trailblazer Devolution Deal
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive, West Midlands Combined Authority email: laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Ed Cox, Executive Director, Strategy, Integration and Net Zero ed.cox@wmca.org.uk

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note the progress being made in relation to the Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

1. Process update: engaging local leaders

- 1.1 The Trailblazer Devolution Deal process is continuing with devolution proposals being developed across a wide range of themes. Proposals are being developed in accordance with the principles and plans previously agreed by the WMCA Board. In particular, proposals have a clear focus on drawing down powers and finance from Government: the roles and responsibilities held by local authorities must not be drawn away from them through this process.
- 1.2 Following the Mayor and Portfolio Leaders' meeting in April, steps have been taken to ensure the more direct involvement of Leaders in this process. A first round of meetings has taken place between Leaders and the Chief Executive of the WMCA in order to discuss particular hopes and concerns. A second round of meetings will commence in July.
- 1.3 In the absence of a formal deadline or timetable with Government, we have been able to extend the process for the development of proposals and negotiations so that it runs to the autumn. This means that there is more opportunity for Leaders to discuss emerging proposals and for local areas to bring forward their own proposals.
- 1.4 The extended timetable ensures that all proposals can now follow a clear sequence of meetings. Devolution position papers are being discussed by relevant local authority officer groups, then by the Senior LA Officers Group and LA Finance Directors, then by the Devolution Strategy Group comprising LA Chief Executives, before finally coming to LA Leaders. Position papers are amended and adapted at each stage.
- 1.5 A meeting has been arranged for the Mayor and local Leaders to meet informally on 21 July to discuss the proposals. A further meeting of this kind can be organised later in the process if required before the proposals are considered formally by the Board.

2. Government engagement

- 2.1 Government engagement has picked up in recent weeks, with an initial series of formal negotiation meetings with officers scheduled for mid-July. Officers are working in liaison with officials at the Cities and Local Growth Unit at DLUHC as well as specific departmental leads across Whitehall. We are involving local authority colleagues in these meetings. Ministerial meetings remain informal at this stage. While the first tranche of meetings deals with topics in areas where we have seen devolution previously, we have been clear that we expect similar negotiation meetings in all of the policy areas in which we are developing proposals, in order to truly deliver levelling up in the West Midlands.
- 2.2 Government officials remain clear that we should be working alongside Greater Manchester in bringing forward ambitious proposals that might represent a blueprint for future devolution across England. Officers are working closely with colleagues in Greater Manchester to ensure some

alignment of ambition while recognising that there are important differences between the two city-regions.

- 2.3 There remains an important imperative that proposals must be evidence-based and that any further devolution must be accompanied by clear proposals for enhanced accountability and transparency. For this reason, a West Midlands Outcomes Framework is being developed to provide a levelling up evidence base with explicit outcome measures for monitoring and evaluating progress. This is being based on existing frameworks and processes for measuring and monitoring progress in the region.
- 2.4 Government officials are also placing significant emphasis on the opportunities for 'funding simplification' – streamlining the various funding streams currently received by the WMCA and their bidding processes and monitoring mechanisms. More detailed proposals of this nature will be shared in due course.
- 2.5 Government has stepped back from the intention to produce some form of joint statement or framework agreement between government and the two trailblazer devolution deal areas before the summer recess. This is helpful as it means efforts can be dedicated to developing the deal itself.
- 2.6 However, we understand there is potential for a letter to be sent from the Secretary of State (SoS) to the Trailblazer Mayors of the West Midlands and Greater Manchester ahead of summer recess which will outline the SoS' ambitions for the deals and help to secure commitment from other Govt departments. We await further details from DLUHC as to what such a letter could contain.

3. Draft devolution proposals

- 3.1 There are many ways in which we can group our devolution proposals, including by Levelling Up Missions. However, in terms of the negotiation process, it would seem the sequencing might have them fall into four broad areas:
 1. Standard aspects of current devolution arrangements where we think we could go further and faster:
 - Transport
 - Skills and employment support
 - Housing, planning and regeneration (including the notion of Levelling Up Zones)
 2. Giving the Combined Authority the financial sustainability in order to deliver Levelling Up:
 - Funding simplification – including the notion of a block grants, a single outcomes framework and data issues
 - Wider fiscal devolution – including issues such as long-term Business Rates Retention, Gainshare, a fair funding settlement for local government etc
 3. Critical issues for addressing the economic challenges facing WM:

- Trade and Investment
- Net Zero – including industrial decarbonisation, retrofit and local area energy planning
- Innovation and business support
- Digital infrastructure

4. Wider issues to address public services and pride in place:

- Health
- Culture and the social economy
- Digital inclusion
- Homelessness prevention
- Crime, community safety and resilience

3.2 The Mayor and Portfolio Leaders meeting on 20 May considered proposals concerning:

- Transport
- Skills
- Housing and Regeneration
- Local Area Energy Planning
- The West Midlands Smart City Region

There was general support for these proposals with some concerns raised about the precise nature of proposed 'Town Centre Investment Zones' and the implementation of proposed enforcement powers.

3.3 We will share the next batch of proposals is soon to go to Mayor and Portfolio Leaders for feedback offline:

- Economy – business support, trade and investment, innovation
- Industrial Decarbonisation
- Retrofit
- Health
- Homelessness Prevention

Prior to coming to Leaders, all proposals are considered by relevant local authority officer groups, the Senior LA Officers Group and LA Finance Directors, and the Devolution Strategy Group comprising LA Chief Executives. Many of the proposals are also considered by the relevant thematic boards ahead of coming to Mayor and Portfolio Leaders meetings.

Amendments are made to the original proposals based on the feedback received from these meetings.

3.4 Proposals are presented as summary documents using a defined template. **More detailed position papers are available upon request.** The summaries explicitly highlight where we would expect to see local benefits or double devolution in each case.

3.5 Further batches of proposals will be brought to these meetings during the summer according to the proposed timetable. The summary template can be amended for future batches subject to feedback.

- 3.6 As we start to clarify the details around our main proposals, it is becoming easier to consider pulling the different strands back into a single articulation of our overall proposition. During the summer we intend to pull all of our work together into what is being described as a 'West Midlands Levelling Up Prospectus'. We will also begin work, with government, on the text of what we hope will be a formal agreement.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 The varying devolution proposals have quite different financial implications. Each is being considered separately. The process is being guided by the principle that the WMCA should not take on any additional responsibilities that are not properly resourced.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 The varying devolution proposals have quite different legal implications including, in some cases, the potential need for primary or secondary legislation. Officers are working systematically with workstream leads to identify such implications and open discussions with relevant officials in DLUHC.

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1 The primary purpose of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal is to address the pressing need for levelling up both between English regions and also within the West Midlands. The government has identified 12 levelling up missions to give direction to this purpose. All devolution proposals are being assessed against their potential to deliver one or more of the levelling up missions. The West Midlands Outcomes Framework will become the means by which progress in addressing regional inequalities will be measured.
- 6.2 The Race Equalities Taskforce and the Young Combined Authority are each carrying out special activities in order to engage with and shape the emerging devolution proposals.

7. Inclusive Growth implications

- 7.1 See section on Equalities above.

8. Geographical area of report's implications

- 8.1 The Trailblazer Devolution Deal will be agreed with the 7 constituent authorities of the WMCA. Non-constituent authorities are involved in the development of devolution proposals with a view to identifying where there might be wider benefits for the wider West Midlands area. This includes involvement on the Devolution Strategy Group.

8.2 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill has provisions to make it easier for additional local authorities to become constituent members and for non-constituent and 'associate' members to join or leave.

9. Other implications

9.1 None.

10. Schedule of background papers

10.1 None.



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	11 July 2022
Report title	Implications of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill for the WMCA
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive, West Midlands Combined Authority email: laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Ed Cox, Executive Director, Strategy, Integration and Net Zero ed.cox@wmca.org.uk

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note the implications of the upcoming Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill for the WMCA.

1. Context

- 1.1 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) was announced in the Queen's speech of 10 May 2022.
- 1.2 This piece of legislation will have implications for the WMCA in a number of areas, including:
 - Planning and regeneration
 - Consents and WMCA geography
 - Accountability
 - Devolution and local governance

2. Provisions of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill

- 2.1 The Bill's provisions in summary:
 - Deal with some of the legislative changes mentioned in the Levelling Up White Paper.
 - Seek to simplify the consents procedures around new members joining MCA, as well as changes to police and fire governance.
 - Lay the foundations for greater English devolution by offering devolution deals to all areas that wish them by 2030.
 - Create a new model of combined authority: the 'County Deal' which will provide local leaders with powers to enhance local accountability, join up services and provide transparent decision-making to rejuvenate their communities, increase their ability to reflect local preferences in arrangements including directly elected leaders' titles.
 - Unlock new powers for local authorities to bring empty premises back into use and instigate rental auctions of vacant commercial properties in town centres and on high streets.
 - Give residents more of a say over changing street names.
 - Strengthen neighbourhood planning and digitalising the system to make local plans easier to find, understand and engage with; by making it easier for local authorities to get local plans in place, speculative development will be limited.
 - Create a duty on the Government to produce an annual report tracking progress of the levelling up missions as set out in the White Paper.
 - Improvements to the planning system, prioritising environmental assessments.
 - Legislate for a locally set non-negotiable infrastructure levy.
 - Instil simplification and standardisation of local plans process including digitalisation of the process.
- 2.2 Possible implications for the West Midlands around planning and regeneration:
 - Infrastructure Levy: The proposed Infrastructure Levy would switch the contribution from S106 to a flat rate, based on the gross development value of the finished development, and applied above

a minimum threshold. Levy rates and minimum thresholds will be set and collected locally, and local authorities will be able to set different rates within their area. The rates will be set as a percentage of gross development value rather than based on floorspace, as with the Community Infrastructure Levy at present.

- The infrastructure levy will simplify the process and hopefully guarantee more certainty of funding than the current system allows. However, this will have consequences for the investment plans of housing associations and other registered providers.
- National Demand Management Policies: The Bill introduces 'national development management policies' (NDMPs) – with the idea being that 'general' development control policies are taken out of Local Plans and are instead centrally-set. NDMPs are likely to include policies relevant to most local authorities, such as heritage protection and green belt policies. Local Plans will not be able to repeat these NDMPs.
- The removal of these types of common policy which are currently repeated across most Local Plans, often with slight variations in terms of form and wording, is intended to make Local Plans shorter, so that they can focus on locally-specific matters, and, in doing so, expedite their preparation. The Bill also alters the current test for the determination of planning applications to give more weight to development plans. While this will certainly speed things up, it limits the flexibility/freedom of local authorities to impose their own policies in the areas covered by these national ones.
- Compulsory Purchase Orders: The Bill introduces a few key reforms around CPOs, including removing the right of inquiry from objectors and leaving that to be determined by the Secretary of State, enabling the Secretary of State to approve a CPO subject to discharge of conditions by a certain date, extending the time limit for implementing a CPO by the purchasing authority, and requirement for the authority to publish online notices for CPOs.
- The CPO reforms will ultimately ease expedite the ability of planning authorities to acquire and implement the CPO, although will weaken the objector's ability to challenge.

2.3 Implications for the West Midlands around devolution and local governance:

- Principles of devolution: The Bill advances many of the proposals around devolution proposed in the Levelling Up White Paper, by offering devolution deals to all areas that wish them by 2030. The WMCA agrees local decision-making has tended to generate better local economic performance, as local policies are tailored to local needs. The WMCA is committed to powers and delivery being exercised at the most local level possible. Double-devolution is important, and it is vital we respect local authority roles.
- Accountability: The Bill places a duty on the Government to set Levelling Up 'missions' and produce an annual report updating the country on delivery of these missions, following on from the Levelling Up White Paper's plans for a Local Government

Accountability Framework to “ensure that there are clear roles and metrics for assessment and measures to support local areas, alongside strong local scrutiny mechanisms”. The WMCA seeks to deliver on this with a West Midlands Outcomes Framework, enhanced scrutiny panels (with a role for regional MPs), and greater public accountability through mechanisms such as Mayor’s Question time sessions.

- Remuneration of Overview & Scrutiny and Audit committees - this measure will ensure MCAs and CCAs are able to compensate constituent authority councillors for their roles on Overview & Scrutiny and Audit committees, ensuring that new and deeper devolution deals are properly held to account at the local level by councillors.
- Consents: Provisions in the Bill to simplify consents procedures will affect West Midlands more significantly than other MCAs, particularly with regard to the following:
 - Non constituent authorities: The WMCA has more non-constituent members than other CAs, and therefore the role that they might play in the future is subject to greater flux. The establishment of new Combined County Authorities is going to impact on our non-constituent members in the shires, as they may be required to consider their future role/participation. Furthermore, accession of new members will require agreement between the Mayor and the joining authority only. Authorities seeking to be new constituent members would not need to geographically adjoin an existing constituent authority. The eventual impact of this could mean that we have a prolonged period of uncertainty around membership, structure and role.
 - Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC): The Bill also makes provision for the apparent easing of governance changes involving the PCC, with powers can be transferred to the Mayor providing agreement between the Mayor and the Secretary of State. A Mayor could request these powers for the roles to be merged without consent of the Board (constituent local authorities) or consultation.
- The WMCA Board did not support the transfer of functions in March 2019 and has restated its position recently.
- In addition to the above, any potential expansion of the WMCA geography would make it impossible to merge the PCC function, because the police force areas need to be coterminous - as such it is a binary choice, but one that is made by the CA board and the other by the Mayor.
- The timing of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal (due to be announced in the Autumn 2022) and the expected date for Royal Assent of the LURB (May 2023) means that these different issues will likely be resolved separately as the prior concern is with the devolution deal.
- Nonetheless, the greater flexibility and scope for initiating reviews of local constitutions provided by the Bill should give us the opportunity to ensure that regional partners can be more agile and bespoke in how we operate.

3. Timeline

- 3.1 Consultation on the Bill is currently underway. Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive of the WMCA and Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, appeared at the public Bill Committee w/c 20/06.
- 3.2 The Bill is expected to receive Royal Assent in May 2023.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications – these will become clear as the legislation is developed over the coming year.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 The legal implications of the LURB for the WMCA are cited in the main body of the paper.

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1 The primary purpose of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is to address the pressing need for levelling up both between English regions and also within the West Midlands.

7. Inclusive Growth implications

- 7.1 See section on Equalities above.

8. Geographical area of report's implications

- 8.1 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is a piece of national legislation, and as such, will apply to both constituent and non-constituent authorities of the WMCA, including its' provisions to make it easier to for additional local authorities to become constituent members and for non-constituent and 'associate' members to join or leave.

9. Other implications

- 9.1 None.

10. Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 None.

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**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date	11 July 2022
Report title	Skills Provision Review Overview
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf - Chief Executive, WMCA email: Laura.Shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee(S)	Dr Julie Nugent, Executive Director of Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities email: Julie.Nugent@wmca.org.uk Clare Hatton, Director of Employment and Skills Delivery Email: Clare.Hatton@wmca.org.uk

Recommendation(s) for action or decision

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Review and agree the draft scoping document for the first proposed scrutiny review for 2022/23, attached as appendix 1.
- (2) To determine the membership and timescales for the review.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper sets out the proposed scope for the committee's review of skills provision across the region and provides a background scoping for the review in context of the economic and skills provision of each of the seven local authority areas, progress to date and the future challenges posed by economic recovery, the greening and automation of industry and the opportunities for continued joint working.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the West Midlands constituent member area was devolved to WMCA for delivery from 1st August 2019. The WMCA agreed an approach to commissioning adult education and training that aligned the mix of provision more closely to local and sectoral priorities, whilst avoiding the unnecessary destabilisation of locally based institutions (colleges and adult education providers). This included a much greater focus on using AEB to support more people move into employment, more people to gain higher-level technical skills, and more upskilling for low-skilled, low-paid people already in employment. The approach also built in more specific targeting of key client groups and geographies, in line with local authority priorities.
- 2.2 Additional skills funding was delegated from the Department of Education (DfE) to the WMCA commencing 2020/21. This funding is part of the National Skills Fund and comprises annual allocations of £10.9m 'Free Courses for Jobs' (FCfJ) focused on Level 3 technical qualifications and £11.2m 'Technical Bootcamp' funding for the forthcoming year.
- 2.3 We have also been allocated £16.7m over a 3-year period to deliver the Government's 'Multiply' programme, an adult numeracy focussed programme funded through a ring-fenced allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 2.4 Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 15th February 2019 commissioned a review of the opportunities provided through the devolution of the Adult Education Budget. The review took place during March and April 2019 and the findings were considered at the meeting on 12th April 2019.
- 2.5 The committee reviewed progress against recommendations from the review at its meeting on 9th March 2020.
- 2.6 Since then, the Black Country review has debated skills provision aligned to economic recovery of the region and the committee considered it was timely to look again at skills provision post pandemic and in the context of the economic and social challenges for the region.

3. Proposed scope of the review

- 3.1 The review will consider skills provision in the context of the relative economic indicators for the region and its constituent local authorities.
- 3.2 The accompanying slide deck sets out, for each area, the key indicators, an overview of impact and partnership work to date to shape the skills offer and the challenges for local people and economies that skills can help address.
- 3.3 It further sets out the key growth opportunities and the focus for joint working.

- 3.4 The additional skills funding combined with the £131m Adult Education Budget, increases our overall capacity to deliver skills and training that meet the needs of local residents and businesses. Critically, this includes our ability, working with Local Authority partners, to commission provision that meets local needs and reflects local priorities, helping more residents gain skills, move into employment, and pursue rewarding careers. Annex A outlines current levels of Adult Education Budget investment in each local area.
- 3.5 Annex B sets out some of the ways we have used devolved funds to better address local skills and employment priorities, supporting more people into jobs and to develop higher levels skills. We have done this by removing courses of low economic value, out of area providers and poor subcontracting. We have worked strategically to ensure that Local Authorities are central to commissioning decisions and also, where they are delivering through their adult education services, we have increased allocations by up to £500k per annum.
- 3.6 We are negotiating further skills devolution through the levelling up devolution deals offered to WMCA. The review provides an opportunity to inform future direction of travel.

4 Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 The inclusive growth implications of commissioning the skills delivery include:
- The headline outcome of the Education and Learning element of the Inclusive Growth Framework is 'Increased skills levels' among the WMCA population. The commissioning outcomes listed above are consistent with that outcome. As provision is delivered, it will be important to assess the profile of beneficiaries and the impact of their improved skills – including whether their income increases (the headline outcome of the Inclusive Economy fundamental).
 - It will be important for commissioned provision to boost economic missions held within the wider Inclusive Growth Framework – for example, by investing into skills that will enable people, institutions and businesses to decentralise and decarbonise the region's energy systems, and to boost climate resilience.
 - Finally, the focus on collaborative design and delivery of the provision is consistent with the Power, Influence and Participation fundamental – notably, there is a chance to work directly with grassroots providers to co-design provision, ensuring that people in excluded communities receive investment that works for them.

5 Geographical Area of Report's Implications

- 5.1 Devolution of the Adult Education Budget relates only to the constituent member areas. In non-constituent member areas AEB will continue to be deployed through the national funding system. The delegated Free Courses for Jobs and Multiply programmes relate only to the constituent member areas. In non-constituent member areas Free Courses for Jobs will continue to be deployed through the national funding system. Non-constituent areas will receive a separate Multiply allocation. The Technical Bootcamp programmes relate to the three LEP areas.

6 Other Implications

None

Annex A: Adult Education Budget Investment Local Authority Split

The table below shows the current Local Authority split of the Adult Education Budget, based on historical patterns of delivery. Provision is deliberately responsive however, and funding may shift in year to meet demand.

	Birmingham	Solihull	Coventry	Dudley	Sandwell	Wolves	Walsall
Grant AEB							
Total £101,434,994	£53,402,841	£3,344,010	£9,424,030	£6,384,020	£11,146,703	£9,525,364	£8,208,026
AEB Procured							
Total £31,599,996	£14,024,897	£1,589,495	£3,301,559	£3,012,179	£3,679,073	£2,896,141	£3,096,652
All AEB							
£133,034,990	£67,427,738	£4,933,505	£12,725,589	£9,396,199	£14,825,776	£12,421,505	£11,304,678
% Split	50.68%	3.71%	9.57%	7.06%	11.14%	9.34%	8.50%

Annex B: Addressing local skills and employment challenges through devolved skills funding

Since our first devolution deal, we have secured over £0.65bn for the region, including:

- £520m Adult Education Budget
- £19.5m of National Skills Funding for level 3 qualifications
- £27.2m for Skills bootcamps
- £8m for employment support programmes
- £2m for Community Renewal Fund projects
- £32m through our Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Scheme
- £45m as part of our Skills Deal

We have worked closely with our Local Authority Officers Group to ensure that this funding is used to shape employment and skills programmes that reflect local priorities and complement other local activities. As a result, skills training is now more strategically aligned to regional and local economic need – with a greater focus on getting more people into jobs, developing more higher-level skills, and being more responsive to employer needs. Local Authorities are also better placed to influence provision in their local areas. Since devolution, we have seen:

- 20% increase in provision supporting residents into jobs through training.
- Increased vocational ESOL provision
- Level 2 provision maintained, with greater sector mix and direct route into jobs.
- Seven-fold increase in Level 3 provision, while cash investment in level 3 provision has risen from £4.4m pre-devolution, to £13.9m in 20/21.
- 33% increase in provision aligned to regional priority sectors in construction, manufacturing, digital and business and professional services – including a 66% increase in new digital courses. £7.3m spent on construction training compared with £4.8m pre-devolution. 1,150 business and professional learners at level 3, compared with 150 pre-devolution.

Devolution has also enabled us to make significant additional investment in each Local Authority, including:

- New rail, construction and electric vehicle training at **Wolverhampton** College, supported by an additional £2m pa AEB.
- New dedicated construction plant training facility in **Solihull**, through a partnership between Solihull College and RMF supported by £2m pa AEB.
- In **Dudley**, new green technologies and retrofit training, alongside the launch of a new Institute of Technology delivering new higher-level skills training supported by AEB.
- Significant increases in higher level skills training delivered to adults by **Walsall** College tackling the lack of higher-level skills in the resident population. A new electric vehicle training centre and a youth hub co-located at the college site.
- New pre-employment training offering with a range of SWAPS delivered by **Sandwell** College through an additional £0.5m AEB alongside innovative returneeship programmes delivered by Release Potential and a focus on training local people to work on development of Aquatics Centre.
- Significant growth in digital skills training in **Birmingham**, both through £3m AEB delivery by specialist provider Netcom and through a range of new providers delivering skills bootcamps to residents, providing the skills for the growing tech jobs market
- Significant increases in sector work-based training in **Coventry** with new programmes delivered by the Local Authority and Pet XI in particular, plus £1m investment in training supporting residents to access opportunities linked to City of Culture.

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Scrutiny Review - Scoping Document

A Review of the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the WMCA on the Delivery of Local Skills Training	
Work to be carried out by:	To be confirmed
Specialist Officer(s):	Julie Nugent, Executive Director, Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities Clare Hatton, Director of Employment Skills & Delivery Fiona Aldridge, Head of Insight – Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities
Date of Review:	To be confirmed
Purpose of the Review:	
To understand the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the WMCA on the delivery of local skills training within the region, and to identify the challenges and ways in which the West Midlands Combined Authority and Local Authorities can better target skills needs in the region particularly in relation to the big economic challenges. The findings of the review will be used to help shape future skills funding including Shared Prosperity Fund.	
Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To understand the current delivery of the devolved Adult Education Budget within each constituent authority and the difference devolution has made to date.• To understand the key drivers in terms of current and future employment, including which job sectors and residents are most at risk and their locations within the region.• To ascertain views on how skills development can best contribute to levelling up, improving career pathways, and addressing the challenges for the region.	
Scope As part of the evidence gathering to achieve the objectives, the review group will invite the following individuals to share their views and suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be confirmed	
Intended Outcome:	
Links to the WMCA priorities:	
WMCA Officer Responsible:	Dan Essex, Governance Services Manager
Review Work Programme:	

Programme of Meetings	Lead person(s)	Completion by

DRAFT

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Skills Review

Prior to the pandemic we were making progress

Prior to the pandemic, the region's economy experienced unprecedented growth exceeding the rest of the UK, with **rising productivity, jobs and employment**.

- **Economic Growth:** fastest growing region outside of London, breaking through the £100bn economic output mark in 2019-20
- **Skills:** Qualification levels were improving (10% increase in NVQ4+ vs 7% for the UK)
- **Business base:** Our business base was growing faster than elsewhere in the UK (16% increase in the number of businesses 2018 to 2019, compared to 5% nationally).

Yet the region also faced some **long-standing labour market challenges:**

- **uneven development and attainment by young people** through early years, primary, secondary and tertiary education and training. Lower than average educational achievement at KS2 and KS4
- **low skill levels**, with fewer residents qualified to Level 4+ and more people with no qualifications, compared to other areas;
- **low employment rate and high levels of unemployment** particularly in some parts of the region, e.g. Birmingham.
- **growing in-work poverty**, driven by lower-than-average wage levels
- **lower GVA per head** compared to national figures (£25.5k in the region compared to £30k nationally).
- **persistent skills shortages**; around 1 in 4 vacancies in the region were classed as 'hard to fill', particularly in roles that require advanced and/or higher skills
- **A high number of residents in jobs/sectors at risk of automation** and/or from broader economic change

The pandemic hit the West Midlands region hard, with young people and those from BME communities hit hardest – particularly those who are less well qualified, and who live in areas with already high levels of unemployment and deprivation.



Employment
rate at a record
high



Unemployment
close to pre-
pandemic levels



Inactivity rates at
a record low



Qualification
levels rising

Impact of Covid in the West Midlands

The economy is now recovering well, although this is uneven with a real risk that some places and people will be left behind. In particular, it is important to consider:

- Variability of recovery across the region – across places, sectors and demographic characteristics
- Persistent long-term challenges in areas with high levels of deprivation – recovery is slower here.
- High level of unfilled vacancies reflects where many businesses are struggling to fill roles, impacting both them and the wider economy
- Pockets of high unemployment, particularly among young people in some areas (Walsall, Sandwell, Wolverhampton)
- Stubborn levels of long-term unemployment, with 84,272 residents across the WMCA area who are currently claiming Universal Credit and Seeking Work, but who have been unemployed for over 12 months.
- A growing number of older people and those with both short-term and long-term health conditions who are leaving the labour market to become economically inactive
- Growing in-work poverty as the cost of living continues to rise.
- This risk of recession as wider economic factors begin to bite.

Shared Challenges

Each area across the 7 MET has its unique challenges. Others are shared across many of our LAs, many of which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic:

Low skill levels in the population, lagging behind the rest of the UK.

A high number of residents in jobs/sectors susceptible to closure during pandemic and potential for future changes with new technologies.

Low educational attainment on leaving school/college

Deep rooted and long-standing issues with deprivation in certain areas e.g East Bham, Walsall West, North Dudley, Central/North Wolves

Overall and Youth Claimant numbers still above pre-pandemic figures and the rest of the UK.

Low productivity growth in many areas.

Challenges in reaching all communities with lower engagement as a result.

Lack of a detailed understanding on resident aspirations/ etc.

Training still not aligned fully to market demand.

A range of barriers to jobs and training, not just skills e.g health, transport.

Unemployment remains higher than nationally with particular concerns around young people

	Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Economic inactivity rate	Youth claimant rate
Birmingham	64.4%	9.7%	28.7%	7.7%
Coventry	71.2%	6%	24.2%	3.6%
Dudley	78.6%	4.4%	17.8%	7.2%
Sandwell	73.2%	5.2%	22.8%	9.3%
Solihull	77.4%	3.7%	19.6%	5.7%
Walsall	70.1%	7.3%	24.4%	8.4%
Wolverhampton	71.1%	6.5%	23.9%	9.7%
7 MET	69.8%	7.1%	24.9%	7.2%
UK	75.7%	3.7%	21.4%	4.6%

Only 2 LAs across the 7 MET have a higher employment rate and lower unemployment and inactivity rates than the rest of the UK.

Still big concerns for young people, with all but Coventry having a youth claimant rate higher than the UK average, and Wolverhampton and Sandwell double the national rate.

Red and green denotes where the position is currently below or above the rest of the UK.

Our people are still, on average, less qualified

KS4 achievement – below UK average

LA Area	% of pupils achieving grades 4 or above in Eng and Maths (Good Pass)
Birmingham	69.4
Coventry	68.2
Dudley	66.7
Sandwell	61.6
Solihull	74.4
Walsall	65
Wolverhampton	68.1
England	72.2

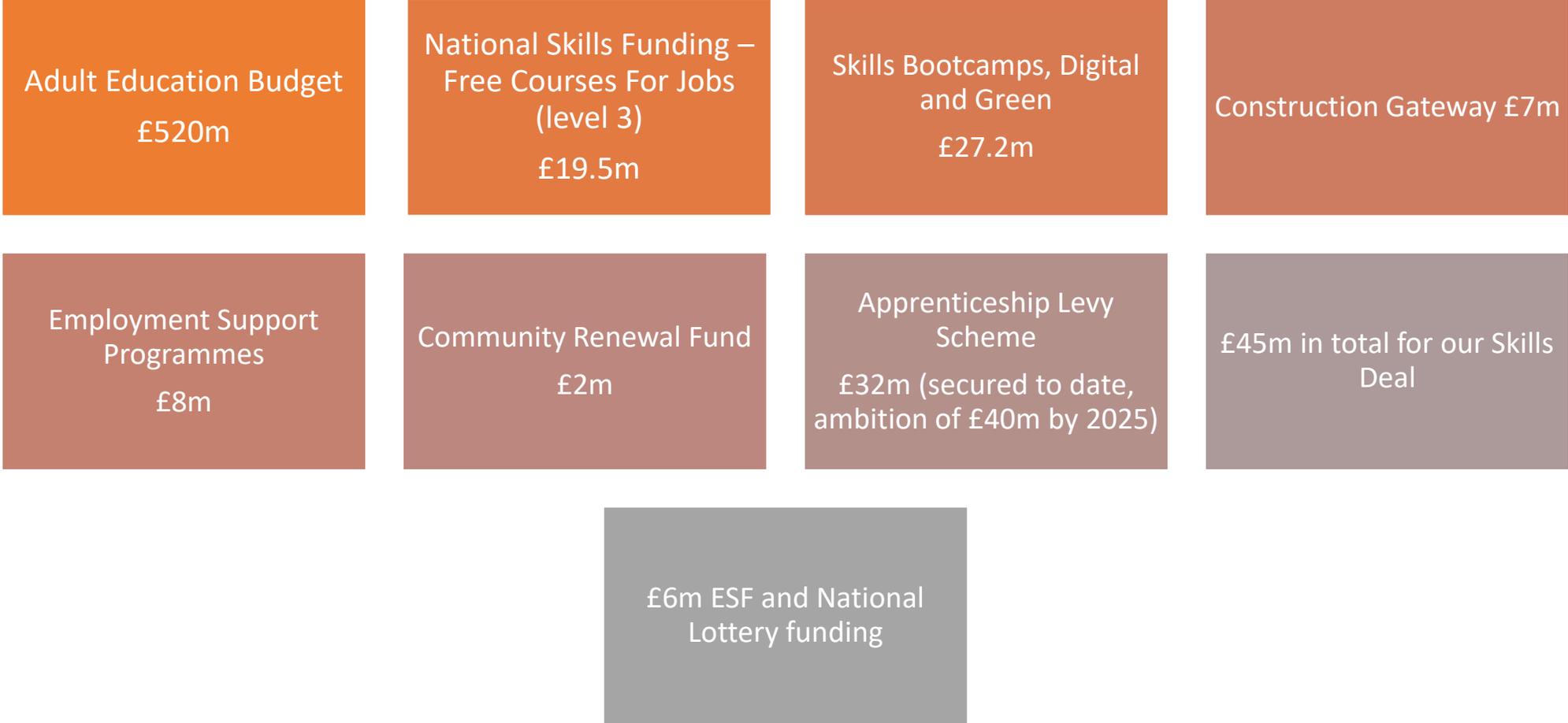
Resident qualifications profile – lower than UK average

LA Area	No Quals %	NVQ3+ %	NVQ4+ %
Birmingham	10.8	58.1	37.9
Coventry	7.6	58.9	38.1
Dudley	8.3	48.5	30.5
Sandwell	11.2	41.9	26.5
Solihull	4.7	61	42.2
Walsall	9.9	49.2	27.2
Wolverhampton	9.5	48	31.5
UK	6.7	61.2	43

Red and green denotes where the position is currently below or above the rest of the UK.

Working in partnership on jobs and skills across the 7 Met area

To date we have secured £0.65bn for jobs and skills



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We anticipate this will grow with Multiply, UKSPF and more DfE/DWP funding.

The impact of devolution in the West Midlands

Devolution has allowed us to:

- **Strengthen partnership** working across the region, particularly with Local Authorities, education providers and independent training providers to ensure provision is shaped and relevant for each local area.
- **Collectively** deliver initiatives ensuring maximum impact in each area, as well as shared governance e.g. Skills Advisory Board, AEB commissioning.
- **Implement new provision** linked to economic and business need, increasing sector-based work programmes, with over 50% moving into employment as well as engaging with under-represented groups in training through programmes such as digital bootcamps which have delivered 50% BME and 50% female participation through new providers.
- **Respond** to labour market need quickly and effectively e.g. HGV driver training piloted early in 2021 as response to emerging sector pressures; regional hospitality response; regional health and care training plan.
- **Commission** programmes with a focus on future provision such as Electric Vehicles, Retrofit and new digital bootcamps to support residents into new jobs, as well as supporting businesses in the region such as BT and Goldman Sachs.
- **Improve** routeways into work for local residents by ensuring that training is relevant to business demand.
- **Engage** in a much more co-ordinated way with employers to ensure there is bespoke training for companies in identified areas, allowing them to have direct access to a pool of people ready for work and where they can recruit directly from.
- **Promote** opportunities in a much more targeted way to local residents on an area-by-area basis working jointly with partners.
- **Ensure** input to governance across the region and new initiatives being considered nationally e.g. Trailblazer Devolution Deal proposals, UK Shared prosperity Fund, Skills Advisory Board action plan, AEB commissioning and 2022-2025 AEB Strategy

We have delivered impact for residents and businesses across the 7 MET are

Greater investment in jobs and skills

A clear sector-based approach with new taskforces and training plans linked to industry needs

More training linked directly to employer need, including those recruiting

Fully funded SWAP and Technical Training offer alongside Colleges West Midlands Group

Youth and Adult Employment Platforms, tailored for each LA

New DWP Youth Hubs in each LA area, with more satellite sites for each area

Improved qualification levels across all LA areas

Improved partnership working in each LA and best practice sharing.

Pooled resources and co-design/ implementation of programmes.

Birmingham

Employment rate: 64.4%

Unemployment rate: 9.7%

Inactivity rate: 28.7%

Claimant count: 65,185 (8.9% highest rate in the 7 MET)

Youth claimant count: 10,840 (7.7%)

Proportion of residents with no qualifications: 10.8%

Highest qualification levels: Level 1 (82.1%) Level 2 (72.8%) Level 3% (58.1%) Level 4 (37.9%)



Context, partnership work and impact

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Context

- Above average levels of unemployment and inactivity, particularly amongst BME communities.
- Lowest employment level in the 7 MET with Overall claimants still above pre-pandemic figures & highest rate of claimants as a % proportion of 16-64 year olds.
- High levels of deprivation across the city, with some areas being the worst in the country.
- Poor performance at KS4 and below average qualification levels.

Investment, collaborative work and impact to date

- South and City College and BMET are the largest providers in Birmingham. Provision is also delivered via 47 Independent Training Providers.
- Each year we invest £130m in training and skills in the West Midlands. In addition to AEB funding (£109m 2019-22), we have secured increased investment through NSF (£870k), digital bootcamps and investment in Construction Training Hubs (+£300k)
- £7.7m secured through our Apprenticeship Levy Scheme, supporting 789 new apprentices and 205 SMEs in Birmingham since April 2019.
- 153,829 enrolments (70,362 residents) in skills training, 6,769 residents enrolled on Level 3 courses and 10,300 unemployed residents progressing into work as a result of training since 2019.
- Partnership working with DWP to create a new Youth Hub at Central Library with satellite sites across the LA area identified.
- Increase in qualification levels, both decreasing those without any qualifications (12.9% 2019 down to 10.8% now) and an increase in those with higher level quals NVQ4 (33.1% in 2019 up to 40.4% now).

Concerns and areas for development

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- Birmingham still has too much provision focused on Entry Level training and lower level functional skills.
- More work needed to connect residents to good jobs (e.g. HS2, Tech Sector), building on the work already done through programmes such as SWAPs.
- Particularly important to further accelerate our work in key areas of need e.g. North and East Bham.
- Need a concerted focus to support young people (Breaking Barriers report highlighted criticality of this) – Places for People will support this.
- End of ESF funding presents real risks to delivery; funding for ‘people and skills’ does not begin until 2024/25

Coventry

Employment rate: 71.2%

Unemployment rate: 6%

Inactivity rate: 24.2%

Claimant count: 12,170 (4.8%)

Youth claimant count: 1,980 (3.6%)

Proportion of residents with no qualifications: 7.6%

Highest qualification levels: Level 1 (84.9%) Level 2 (76.5%) Level 3 (58.9%) Level 4 (38.1%)



Context, partnership work and impact

Context

- Above average levels of unemployment and inactivity and a lower employment rate than the rest of the 7 MET and wider UK.
- Poor performance at KS4 and below average qualification levels
- Higher rates of overall claimants as a % proportion than both the 7 MET overall and wider UK rate, but below the rest of the UK for Youth Claimants.

Investment, collaborative work and impact to date

- Coventry College the largest provider in the LA area. Provision also delivered by 34 Independent Training Providers.
- Each year we invest £130m in training and skills in the West Midlands. In addition to the AEB funding spent in Coventry (£19.5m 2019-22), we have secured increased investment as a result devolution through NSF (£331k) and through initiatives such as our Construction Training Hub (£300k).
- Secured £1m through our Apprenticeship Levy fund, supporting 128 new apprentices in 49 SMEs in Coventry since April 2019.
- 31,224 (16,109 individual residents) in skills training, 1,349 residents enrolled on Level 3 courses, and 2,231 unemployed residents progressing into work as a result of training since 2019.
- New DWP Youth Hub at Coventry Job Shop and further satellite sites being identified, as well as Youth and Adult Employment platforms specific to Coventry.
- Increasing qualification profile. A reduction in those without any qualifications (9.1% 2019 down to 7.9% now) alongside an increase in those with higher level quals NVQ4 (36.4% in 2019 up to 40.4% now).

Concerns and areas for development

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- Provision still focused too heavily on Entry Level/ESOL/lower-level functional skills.
- A lack of employer engagement to map skills demands & tailored training offer to plug vacancies.
- Low levels of SWAPs aligned to business recruiting – critical to increase this to provide routeways towards employers who are actively recruiting.
- Lack of job progressions; more progression from ITPs than FE Providers in 2020/21
- The training offer is still not sufficiently aligned to economic need.
- More joint work needed to identify key areas across the LA for further interventions, and to design programmes and implement solutions.
- End of ESF funding presents real risks to delivery; funding for ‘people and skills’ does not begin until 2024/25

Dudley

Employment rate: 78.6%

Unemployment rate: 4.4%

Inactivity rate: 17.8%

Claimant count: 10,045 (5.2%)

Youth claimant count: 1,715 (7.2%)

Proportion of residents with no qualifications: 8.3%

Highest qualification levels: Level 1 (82.1%) Level 2 (74.7%) Level 3 (48.5%) Level 4 (30.5%)



Context, partnership work and impact

Page 7

Context

- Above average levels for employment and below for unemployment and inactivity – one of only 2 LAs in the 7 MET.
- Higher rates of overall claimants as a % proportion than both the 7 MET area and wider UK.
- Poor performance at KS4 and below average qualification levels

Investment, collaborative work and impact to date

- Dudley College and Halesowen Colleges being the largest providers in the LA area. Provision also delivered by 26 Independent Training Providers.
- Each year we invest £130m in training and skills in the West Midlands. In addition to the AEB funding spent in Dudley (£13m 2019-22), we have secured increased investment as a result devolution through NSF (£200k).
- Secured £1.2m through our Apprenticeship Levy fund, supporting 169 new apprentices in 57 SMEs in Dudley since April 2019.
- 19,865 enrolments (11,714 individual residents), 1,497 residents enrolled on Level 3 courses both AEB and NSF funded and with 2,363 unemployed residents progressing into work since 2019.
- New DWP Youth Hub in Skills Shop at Merry Hill with further sites being identified across the LA area, as well as Youth and Adult Employment platforms specific to Dudley.
- Increasing qualification profile. A reduction in those without any qualifications (16.4% 2019 down to 7.6% now) alongside an increase in those with higher level quals NVQ4 (24.7% in 2019 up to 35% now).

Concerns and areas for development

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- Large volume of delivery of lower-level functional skills. Very small provision at level 3+
- Low levels of Independent Training Providers with delivery in the area compared with other areas across the 7 MET.
- Lack of alignment in offer from providers across the LA area.
- Low recording/capturing of destinations.
- Enrolments do not always progress learners to the next level.
- Lack of provision in Stourbridge, following the closure of the college – plan to address this working in partnership with providers.
- Halesowen College looking to further grow their provision, particularly higher-level skills at 4 and 5.
- End of ESF funding presents real risks to delivery; funding for ‘people and skills’ does not begin until 2024/25.

Sandwell

Employment rate: 73.2%

Unemployment rate: 5.2%

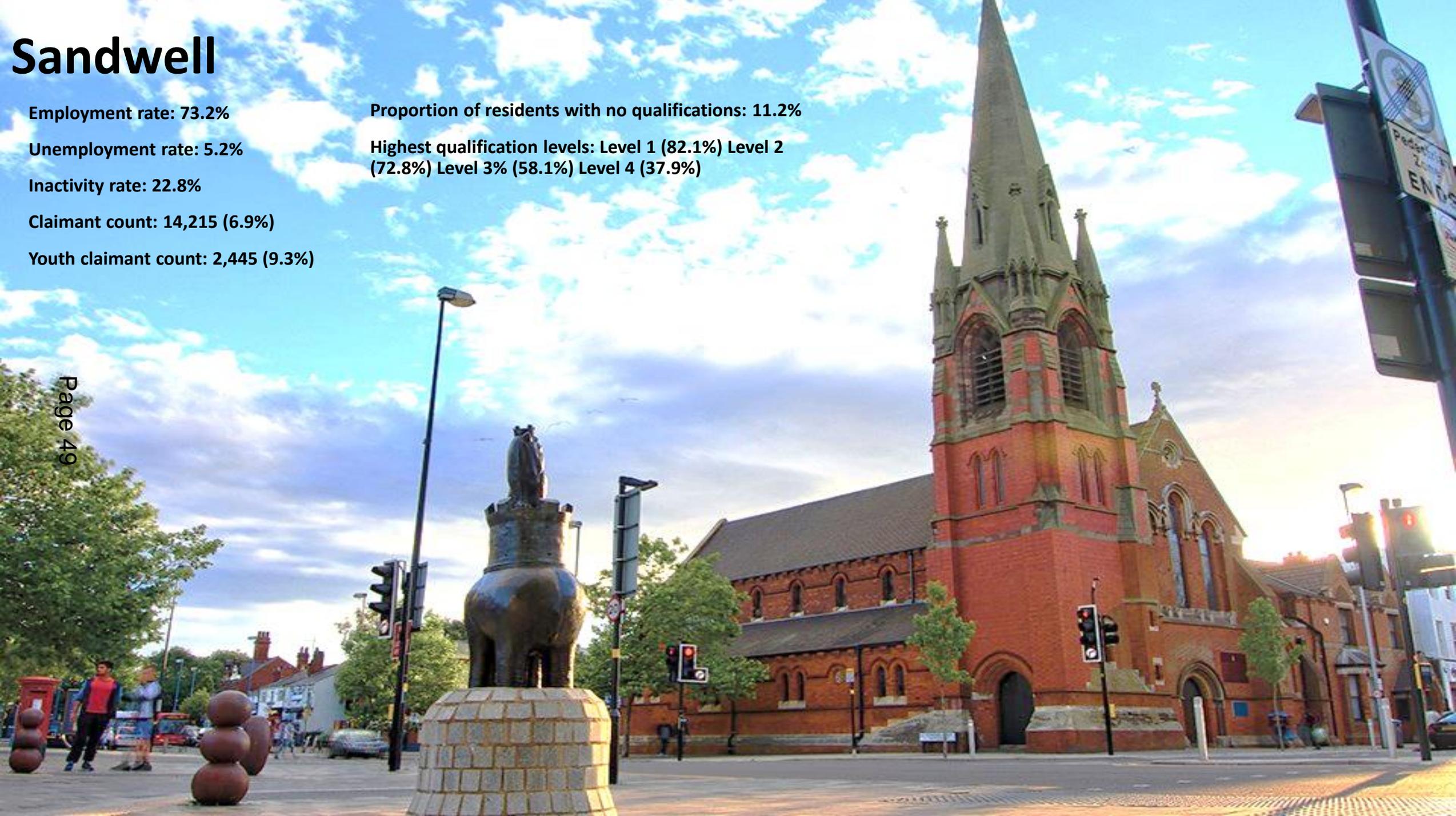
Inactivity rate: 22.8%

Claimant count: 14,215 (6.9%)

Youth claimant count: 2,445 (9.3%)

Proportion of residents with no qualifications: 11.2%

Highest qualification levels: Level 1 (82.1%) Level 2 (72.8%) Level 3 (58.1%) Level 4 (37.9%)



Context, partnership work and impact

Context

- Above average levels for employment and below for unemployment but a better inactivity rate than the rest of the UK.
- Poor performance at KS4. Qualification levels below UK average. Proportion of residents with no qualifications double the national rate (16.7% vs 6.6%). Lowest proportion of residents qualified to level 4+ in 7 Met area.

Investment, collaborative work and impact to date

- Exemplar deliverer in Sandwell College, looking to grow further. Provision also delivered by 39 Independent Training Providers.
- Each year we invest £130m in training and skills in the West Midlands. In addition to the AEB funding spent in Sandwell (£22.7m 2019-22), we have secured increased investment as a result devolution through NSF (£274k) and in the Fab Lab Demonstrator Site at Sandwell College (£100k). We have also supported the development of the Aquatics Centre and new hospital through our Construction Gateway programme.
- Secured £680k through our Apprenticeship Levy fund, supporting 102 new apprentices in 32 SMEs in Sandwell since April 2019.
- 33,777 (17,261 individual residents) in skills training, 1,752 residents enrolled on Level 3 courses, and 3,261 unemployed residents progressing into work as a result of training since 2019.
- New DWP Youth Hub at Sandwell College with satellite sites across the LA area identified, as well as Youth and Adult Employment platforms specific to Sandwell.
- Increasing qualification profile. A reduction in those without any qualifications (20.3% 2019 down to 11.2% now) alongside an increase in those with higher level quals NVQ4 (22.2% in 2019 up to 27.5% now).

Concerns and areas for development

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- Lack of alignment of offer from providers across the LA area.
- Much more work needed to address low levels of qualifications.
- Continue to bring partners together to implement the new 'Sandwell Offer' and ensure alignment of provision for maximum impact.
- Further partnership work to identify key areas of need across the LA and collectively develop interventions.
- End of ESF funding presents real risks to delivery; funding for 'people and skills' does not begin until 2024/25.



Solihull

Employment rate: 77.4%

Unemployment rate: 3.7%

Inactivity rate: 19.6%

Claimant count: 4,735 (3.7%)

Youth claimant count: 870 (5.7%)

Proportion of residents with no qualifications: 4.7%

Highest qualification levels: Level 1 (89%)
Level 2 (80.8%) Level 3 (61%) Level 4 (42.2%)

Context, partnership work and impact

Context

- Better rates of employment, lower levels of unemployment and inactivity than elsewhere in the 7 Met area
- The only LA in the 7 MET area to have higher qualification levels at KS4 than the England average, fewer residents with no qualifications, and a higher proportion qualified to levels 3 and 4.
- However, youth claimants are above UK average and above pre-pandemic levels.
- Deprivation in the north of the Borough, closest to Birmingham. In many cases, this mirrors places such as East B'ham which it adjoins.

Investment, collaborative work and impact to date

- Largest provider is Solihull College. Provision also delivered by 19 Independent Training Providers.
- Each year we invest £130m in training and skills in the West Midlands. In addition to the AEB funding spent in Solihull (£7.4m 2019-22), we have secured increased investment as a result devolution through NSF (£48k).
- Secured £955k through our Apprenticeship Levy fund, supporting 113 new apprentices in 26 SMEs in Solihull since April 2019.
- 8,288 (4,891 individual residents) in skills training, 661 residents enrolled on Level 3 courses, and 1,429 unemployed residents progressing into work as a result of training since 2019.
- New DWP Youth Hub at Chelmsley Wood with more satellite sites across the LA area identified, as well as Youth and Adult Employment platforms specific to Solihull.
- Increasing qualification profile. A reduction in those without any qualifications (5.5% 2019 down to 4.7% now) but also a decrease in those with higher level quals NVQ4 (44.9% in 2019 up to 43.5% now).

Concerns and areas for development

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- Low level of SWAP provision, linked to employers actively recruiting.
- Higher levels unemployment and deprivation in North Solihul; targeted interventions with partners in the locality are key.
- Low number of Independent Training Providers in the area.
- Higher proportion of residents 'In Work' and on Benefits – need to accelerate work for more in work progression support.
- Lower recording/capturing of destinations. Enrolments not always progressing learners to the next level based on their starting points.
- End of ESF funding presents real risks to delivery; funding for 'people and skills' does not begin until 2024/25.



Walsall

Employment rate: 70.1%

Unemployment rate: 7.3%

Inactivity rate: 24.4%

Claimant count: 10,405 (6%)

Youth claimant count: 1,930 (8.4%)

Proportion of residents with no qualifications: 9.9%

Highest qualification levels: Level 1 (79.4%)
Level 2 (68.2%) Level 3 (49.2%) Level 4 (27.2%)

Context, partnership work and impact

Context

- Below average levels of employment and higher levels of unemployment and inactivity, compared to the rest of the UK.
- Poor performance at KS4. Qualification levels below UK average. Second lowest proportion of residents qualified to level 4+ in 7 Met area.
- Concerns for young people in Walsall.
- Areas of deprivation, particularly in the East of the Borough.

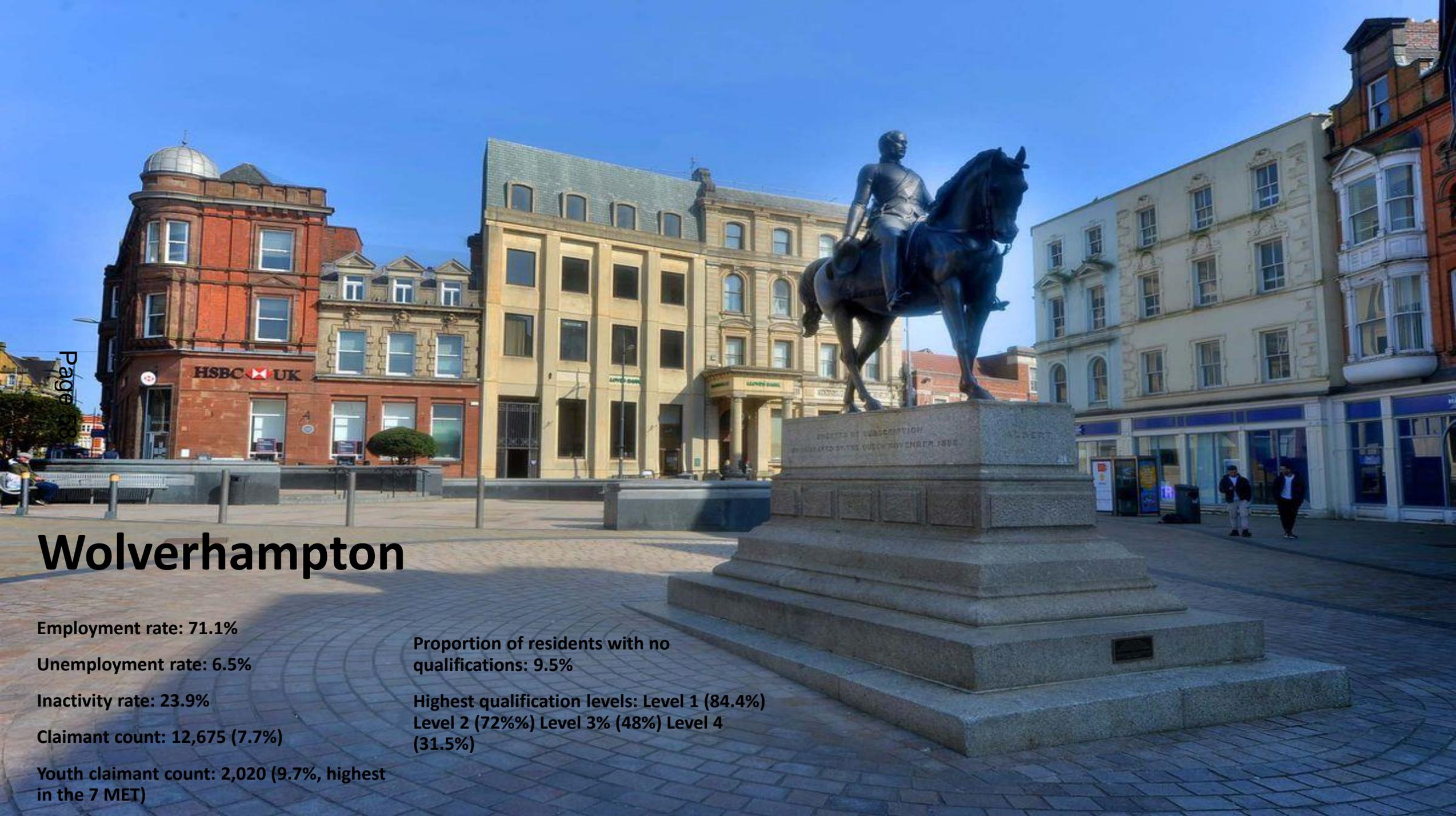
Investment, collaborative work and impact to date

- Exemplary provider in Walsall College, the largest in the LA area. Provision also delivered by 32 Independent Training Providers.
- Each year we invest £130m in training and skills in the West Midlands. In addition to the AEB funding spent in Walsall (£15.2m 2019-22), we have secured increased investment as a result devolution through NSF (£243k), as well as investments in Walsall College for a Digital Innovation Hub (£100k).
- Secured £628k through our Apprenticeship Levy fund, supporting 102 new apprentices in 35 SMEs in Walsall since April 2019.
- 21,579 (11,548 individual residents) in skills training, 1,119 residents enrolled on Level 3 courses, and 1,917 unemployed residents progressing into work as a result of training since 2019.
- New DWP Youth Hub at Walsall College with more satellite sites across the LA area identified, as well as Youth and Adult Employment platforms specific to Walsall.
- Increase in qualification levels, both decreasing those without any qualifications (12.3% 2019 down to 9.9% now) and increasing those with higher-level qualifications NVQ4 (27.6% in 2019 up to 26.8% now).

Concerns and areas for development

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- Dominance of single provider i.e. Walsall College
- Further work needed with the College to ensure implementation of the Health and Care plan and associated pathways including the health care diplomas at level 2/3 to support in-work progression
- Introduce bootcamps, including digital, and consider other areas where a bootcamp model would support the needs of local employers and residents e.g engineering, green EV
- Destination tracking to monitor positive outcomes for residents who engage in offers at Walsall College needs to be improved
- Continue to implement vocational ESOL
- Walsall Pathfinder, opportunity to develop a better understanding of the situation and motivations of those not in work in Walsall and how we can encourage them into work
- Opportunity to support SMEs in creating bandwidth to innovate through introduction of L&M offer leading to increased productivity and growth
- End of ESF funding presents real risks to delivery; funding for 'people and skills' does not begin until 2024/25.



Wolverhampton

Employment rate: 71.1%

Unemployment rate: 6.5%

Inactivity rate: 23.9%

Claimant count: 12,675 (7.7%)

Youth claimant count: 2,020 (9.7%, highest in the 7 MET)

Proportion of residents with no qualifications: 9.5%

Highest qualification levels: Level 1 (84.4%)
Level 2 (72%) Level 3 (48%) Level 4 (31.5%)

Context, partnership work and impact

Context

- Below average levels for employment and high levels of unemployment and inactivity, compared to the rest of the UK.
- Poor performance at KS4. Qualification levels below UK average.
- Youth claimant rate considerably above UK average, on of the highest rates in the country.
- Chunks of deprivation, particularly in outskirts of the city centre and the north.

Investment, collaborative work and impact to date

- Largest provider is the City of Wolverhampton College and City Council, who we have strong relationships with. Provision also delivered by 37 ITPs.
- Good alignment of offer and strong rates of SWAPs, linked to employers recruiting.
- Each year we invest £130m in training and skills in the West Midlands. In addition to the AEB funding spent in Wolverhampton (£17.5m 2019-22), we have secured increased investment as a result devolution through NSF (£250k), as well as investments in new initiatives such as Electric Vehicle Training Centre (£250,000), Rail Training Academy (£750,000), Construction Training Hub (£100,000), Plant Training Facility (£100,000) and an investment of Contribution of £7.4m to City of Wolverhampton College campus upgrade bid.
- Secured £1m through our Apprenticeship Levy fund, supporting 100 new apprentices in 35 SMEs in Wolverhampton since April 2019.
- We have seen a number of benefits to date through our joint work, 25,104 enrolments with a range of difference courses accessed by local residents (14,436 unique learners), 1,430 enrolments on Level 3 courses. Both NSF and AEB funded and with 3,917 residents moving into work since 2019.
- New DWP Youth Hub in the City Centre at 'The Way' with more satellite sites identified, as well as Youth and Adult Employment platforms specific to Wolverhampton.
- Increase in qualification levels, both decreasing those without any qualifications (12.3% 2019 down to 9.9% now) and increasing those with higher-level qualifications NVQ4 (24.9% in 2019 up to 35.4% now).

Concerns and areas for development

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- Need to accelerate progress achieved, including SWAPs aligned to businesses and labour market demand.
- Further potential to expand training linked to green and future tech given initiatives already in place e.g. EV Centre
- City Council need to accelerate Community Learning delivery and return to pre-pandemic levels much more quickly.
- End of ESF funding presents real risks to delivery; funding for 'people and skills' does not begin until 2024/25.

Looking to the future

Potential changes to regional employment

- Impact of Covid, flexibility of where people work vs where they live.
- Smaller growth of prof services vs decline in manufacturing – areas like the BC will be hit harder.
- Increased automation of workplaces.
- Advanced manufacturing and modern methods of construction.
- Green technologies such as retrofit.
- Greenifying of existing jobs and companies generally.
- Digitization, AI and VR.
- Battery technology.
- **But the potential risks for each area due to their industry makeup can also be a strength to build on.**

Industry	BCLEP	CWLEP	GBSLEP
Primary sector and utilities	-2.40%	-2.50%	-4.70%
Manufacturing	-13.20%	-11.20%	-11.50%
Construction	1.30%	-0.50%	0.30%
Trade, accomod. and transport	-0.80%	-0.60%	-0.30%
Business and other services	2.90%	4.10%	2.40%
Non-marketed services	3.90%	1.20%	1.50%

Opportunities with high growth and emerging jobs

Digital:

The Digital Sector in the region has already seen massive growth, growing by an average of 7.6 per cent a year between 2014 and 2019, **the fastest region in the UK.**

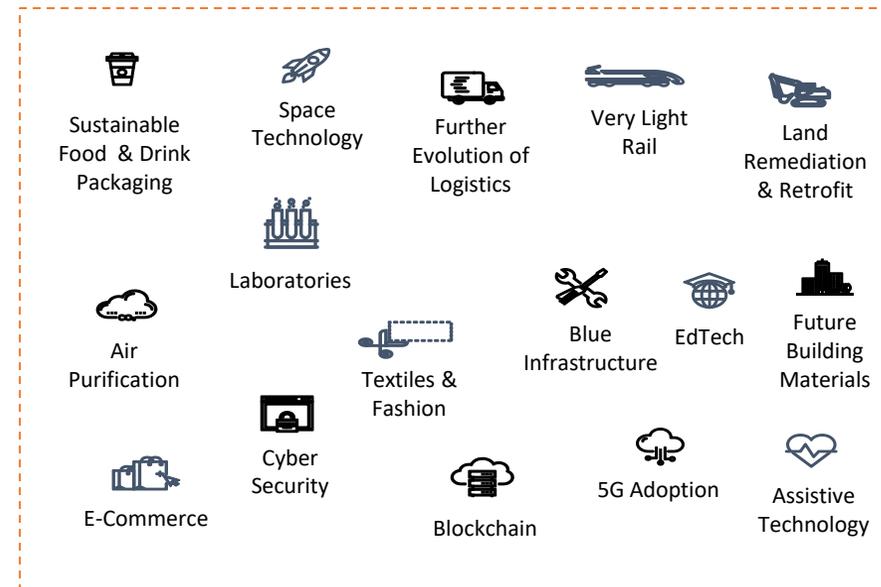
The sector is predicted to create an additional 52,000 roles over the next four years, generating at least £2.7 billion for the local economy by 2025.

Low Carbon and Green Industries:

Nearly 100,000 people are employed in low carbon manufacturing industries, with research showing that a further 21,000 new jobs could be created over the next five years and 92,000 more by 2041 as we move towards becoming a **zero carbon region by 2041.**

Construction:

Given the significant investment in infrastructure projects across the West Midlands, sector growth regionally is predicted to be at 4.8% over the next 5 years – **higher than the UK average of 4.4%** with 25,000 new workers being required (5,000 each year) from 2021 to 2025 and the potential for thousands of more workers as further investment occurs and the sectors continues to grow.



By working together, we have already demonstrated the value of devolution

- We have proved that through regional leadership and collaboration, devolution can make a difference and meet the specific challenges the region faces, not a 'One Size' fits all national model of delivery.
- We have improved the qualifications profile of the region and worked in partnership with employers and providers to ensure our training offer meets the needs of the local economy.
- We have placed a greater emphasis on getting more people into jobs, developing more higher-level skills, and being more responsive to employer needs:
 - We have responded quickly and flexible to meet demand from current and emerging sectors, as well as applying flexibilities to respond to sudden demand e.g HGV drivers.
 - We have invested in more higher-level skills training
 - We have seen a 20% increase in job progression and work outcomes since devolution of skills funding.
- **BUT we want to do much more working together!**

Creating an integrated employment and skills system for the West Midlands

As part of a Trailblazer Devolution Deal, we are seeking to build further on this success, by creating **an integrated employment and skills for the region through which we can deliver better outcomes for residents and businesses.**

Our skills devolution asks include:

1. **Greater influence over post-16 technical and vocational education in the region**, including FE capital spend, level 4/5 delivery through HE as well as FE, and a role in stimulating further growth in apprenticeships – potentially supported through a single funding pot for skills related activity.
2. **A new approach to co-commissioning employment support provision** in the region with DWP, to ensure that programmes respond quickly and effectively to local labour market challenges, and better meet the needs of residents, businesses and local economies.
3. An all-age **West Midlands Careers Service** supporting residents to make informed decisions about careers, better work and the pathways into existing and emerging opportunities.

Future joint work

An increased focus on provision for young people and engaging those who are economically inactive.

Further joint work on supporting the 'Places for People work'.

WMCA working with BCC to develop a new outreach offer to young people – this could be replicated across the 7 MET.

Further place based/localised interventions in key areas, like we have already done in areas like North and East Birmingham.

More jobs fairs in target areas working with LAs – what more can we do together to do more of this?

Further increase employer engagement, bringing all partners together to ensure alignment of offers, maximum impact and so training is relevant to demand.

Building on success together – your thoughts

What should be the next actions we implement to strengthen joint working in general between the WMCA and LAs across the 7 MET?

What more can we do jointly to ensure better links to employers to strengthen their input and ensure residents have the skills needed to get jobs now, and in the future?

What more can we do to identify key areas of need in each LA area so that we can better target interventions working together?

What should be the key overarching priority for devolution for the region?

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Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	11 July 2022
Report title	Grant Register
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive, West Midlands Combined Authority Email: laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Linda Horne, Executive Director of Finance and Business Hub Email: linda.horne@wmca.org.uk

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) note and comment on grant register.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper provides an update on the grant register. This contains all current 'live' grants where the WMCA is the accountable body and captures a comprehensive total of grants, awarding body, time period for delivery and a description of what the grant delivers.

2. Grant Register Update

- 2.1 The grant registers are attached as an appendix to this report.
- 2.2 There have been a number of new grants added to the register since the last update to the Committee in March. The most significant grants are:
- Zero Emissions Bus Regional Areas scheme – £30.383m to deliver 124 hydrogen buses and associated infrastructure for the region.
 - Active Travel Fund Tranche 3 - £17.25m to deliver walking and cycling infrastructure schemes.
 - Technical Bootcamps funding - £11.25m allocation for 2022/23 to continue delivering this activity across the region in a number of key skills areas.
 - Social Decarbonisation Fund - £7.511m split between revenue and capital to deliver improvements to social housing to improve energy efficiency performance.

3. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications as a direct consequence of this report.

4. Impact on Delivery of Strategic Transport Plan

None

5. Equalities Implications

None

6. Inclusive Growth Implications

None

7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

None

8. Other Implications

None

9. Schedule of Background Papers

Appendix - grant register

Capital Grants Register

Grant Name	Provider	Date of grant Award Letter	Total Grant Awarded in full £	Notes
DfT - Major Scheme (Eastside / Edgbaston)	DfT	Apr-19	£ 187,559,779.00	Midland Metro Extensions
ITB WMCA	DfT	Apr-21	£ 17,755,000.00	Annual rolling settlement from DfT, rolled into CRSTS from 22/23. Funding is distributed to WMCA and all & LAs on a formula basis which is agreed locally. The 21/22 annual value only is shown here.
Road National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIFF)	DfT	Sep-17	£ 17,055,000.00	National Productivity Investment Fund including projects in Birmingham (Growth Point Public Transport Package), Walsall (Economic Growth and Infrastructure Project) and Solihull (Strategic Cycle Network)
Clean Bus Technology	DfT	Feb-18	£ 5,987,750.00	Projects that work with bus operators or technology providers to retrofit buses to reduce emissions
Transforming Cities Fund	DfT	Annually	£ 250,000,000.00	The purpose of the Transforming Cities Fund is to boost productivity, transform intra-city connectivity and reduce congestion through investment in public and sustainable transport in the West Midlands. No detailed constraints as to what it can be spent on, but the WMCA should have regard to the national objectives of the Fund. Programme agreed Nov 2018. Additional £71.5m TCF2 now funded through CRSTS)
Joint Air Quality	DfT	Jan-19	£ 3,456,520.00	Fund retrofit buses with kits that tackle exhaust emission in Birmingham
Association of Directors Environment Economy, Place & Travel (ADEPT) Live Labs	DfT	Jul-19	£ 2,650,000.00	Network Resilience Live Lab funding covering the transport network to build up a detailed picture of traffic and transport movements around the region through collection of data
Opening LA Transport Data Competition	DfT	Pre 18/19	£ 100,000.	Data / Technology
Future mobility Zones	DfT	Jun-19	£ 20,000,000.00	The purpose of the Future Mobility Zones is to: trial new transport services modes and models, creating a functioning marketplace for mobility that combines new and traditional modes of transport; improve integration of services; increase the availability of real-time data; and provide access to digital planning and payment options. The fund also aims to explore options for: providing mobility credits, or other low-cost options, for lower income households; and delivering efficiencies through shared (dynamic) demand responsive transport.
TfWM Bus Priority	DfT	Jul-20	£ 24,225,000.00	Funding bus priority measures in Birmingham City Centre and between Dudley and Druids Heath.
Emergency Active Travel Fund	DfT	Nov-20	£ 13,182,667.00	Phase 2 of Active Travel Fund to support longer term walking and cycling schemes (Phase 1 classed as revenue grant)
Active Travel Fund (Tranche 3)	DfT	Mar-22	£ 17,250,000.00	Phase 3 of Active Travel Fund to support longer term walking and cycling schemes
All Electric Bus Town Competition (Coventry) (AEBT)	DfT	Mar-21	£ 50,000,000.00	Coventry All Electric Bus City project
Zero Emissions Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA)	DfT	Mar-22	£ 30,383,250.00	Grant to deliver 124 hydrogen buses plus associated infrastructure in the region

City Region Sustainable Transport Summary (CRSTS)	DfT	Apr-22	£ 1,050,000,000.00	Supporting inclusive economic growth, provide better connections between places and encourage more people to use sustainable and zero-carbon transport
West Midlands Land Fund	MHCLG	Apr-18	£ 100,000,000.00	Quarterly reporting to MHCLG as part of the grant. This is against the outputs specific to Housing of 8,000 homes and the wider West Midlands target of 215,000 homes by 2031, which includes outputs from the Local Authorities
Brownfield Housing Fund	MHCLG	Apr-20	£ 125,381,582.00	Quarterly reporting to MHCLG on the outputs of this grant. Deliver between 7,714 and 9,773 homes.
Brownfield Housing Fund Extension	MHCLG	Mar-22	£ 17,350,000.00	Extension agreed to the Brownfield Housing Fund March 2022.
Sustainable Warmth Competition	BEIS	Mar-22	£ 2,600,000.00	Upgrade homes to a target energy efficiency rating
BEIS Social Decarbonisation Fund	BEIS	Feb-22	£ 6,174,205.00	Improve the energy performance of social rented homes
Metro Birmingham Eastside Extension	EZ	n/a	£ 18,000.00	Enterprise Zone funding
University Hospital Birmingham - University Station	3rd Party	Aug-20	£ 5,000,000.00	Delivery of University Station build.
Rail Network Enhancement Pipeline (RNEP) Funding	DfT	Oct-21	£ 39,650,000.00	Rail Station Development-Package 1 Walsall - Wolverhampton
Rail Network Enhancement Pipeline (RNEP) Funding	DfT	Oct-21	£ 19,350,000.00	Rail Station Development-Package 2 Camp Hill
PB - Highways England	Highways England	n/a	£ 86,400.00	Relates to HS2 Modelling Framework
Public Realm Schemes	BCC	Jun-22	£ 606,543.00	Enhance public realms for Commonwealth Games
A435 Alcester Rd Bus Priority Revitalisation	BCC	21/22	£ 154,000.00	A435 Alcester Rd Bus Priority Revitalisation
Clear Air Zone	BCC	Mar-22	£ 5,218,000.00	Rail Station Development-Package 2 Camp Hill
Rail Development	Walsall MBC	21/22	£ 68,000.00	Rail Station Development-Package 1 Walsall - Wolverhampton
Air Quality	Defra	Mar-22	£ 990,000.00	Develop and/or implement measures that deliver air quality benefits in the near future (one to two years), projects which develop solutions over the longer term by increasing awareness to encourage behavioural changes, and new, innovative ideas if they will successfully and as closely as possible meet the needs and objectives of the Applicant's local area.

LA - Birmingham	LA	n/a	£ 14,279,629.00	Rail funding = £8.983m: BCC funding for Perry Barr = £5.083m BCC funding for University = £3.9m BCC funding for Package 2 = £5.2m
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Revenue Grant Register

Grant Name	Provider	Start Date	End Date	Total Grant Awarded in Full	Notes
21/22 Adult Education Budget (Devolution)	DfE	Annual		131,678,142	Devolved budget from DfE for delivery of adult education (19+) in West Midlands region
BSOG	DfT	Annual		1,792,259	A discretionary grant paid to operators of eligible local bus services to help them recover some of their fuel costs.
Emergency Active Travel Fund	DfT	Aug-20	Mar-23	3,765,980	Phase 1 of Active Travel Fund to support temporary walking and cycling schemes in response to Covid 19 pandemic
Intra-City Transport Settlements	DfT			8,900,000	Intracity Prep Fund (now CRSTS)
Cycling for Everyone	DfT	Nov-21	Nov-22	2,000,000	Cycling for Everyone
LA Capability Fund	DfT	Oct-21	Oct-22	1,911,316	This revenue grant enables local transport authorities to promote cycling and walking in their areas by the development of infrastructure plans, including drawing up bids for capital funding that are compliant with local transport note (LTN) 1/20 and carrying out behaviour change activities, such as training and promotion
UK Community Renewal Fund	DLUHC	Jan-22	Dec-22	3,350,633	WMCA acting as lead authority. 8 projects awarded funding following assessment by DLUHC.
Commonwealth Games	DCMS	Apr-18	Aug-22	28,305,213	This grant is for the Transport Budget of the overall Games Delivery Budget which was allocated to the Organising Committee for the delivery of the CWG. The transport Budget has delegated to TFWM. Grant is paid based on expenditure incurred.
Tourism, Trade & Investment	DCMS			13,200,000	An integrated programme of tourism, trade and investment jointly developed and to be jointly delivered by the West Midlands Growth Company, DCMS, DIT and Visit Britain. It will leverage the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham to deliver a legacy of economic benefits across the region.
British Film Institute	BFI	Apr-20	Mar-23	1,000,000	Activity delivered by Create Central. Delivery a programme of activities to support the continued growth of the region's screen sector heavily focused on the 'future of media', with innovation, digital infrastructure, immersive storytelling and digital employability programmes taking place amongst more traditional elements such as attracting film and TV production to the region and promoting the West Midlands screen sector on a global stage.
Creative Scale Up	DDCMS	Apr-18		1,300,000	Support to Creative Businesses in the West Midlands with targeted support including Access to Finance, Marketing and Branding, Value and Pricing, Intellectual Property and Contract Law and Sales, Pitching and Presenting support. This will be delivered through a series of workshops, seminars and peer to peer mentoring sessions.
DWP - ESF Find Your Future	DWP	Nov-21	Dec-23	2,620,730	Tailored engagement and support project for residents that will enable those less likely to benefit from the opportunities provided by the Commonwealth Games and City of Culture to do so.
Digital Skills Retraining Pilot	DfE	Jun-19	Mar-23	5,000,000	Funding to support entitlement to digital skills training across the region.
Adult Education Budget (Level 3)	DfE	Apr-21	Jul-22	11,446,329	Devolved budget from DfE for delivery of level 3 education offer open to adults without an existing L3 qualification in West Midlands
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	BEIS	Apr-22	Mar-23	2,425,632	Overall grant award of £7.51m
Sustainable Warmth	BEIS	Apr-22	Mar-23	260,000	Overall grant award of £2.86m

Future mobility Zones	DfT	Jun-19	Mar-23	2,000,000	The purpose of the Future Mobility Zones is to: trial new transport services modes and models, creating a functioning marketplace for mobility that combines new and traditional modes of transport; improve integration of services; increase the availability of real-time data; and provide access to digital planning and payment options. The fund also aims to explore options for: providing mobility credits, or other low-cost options, for lower income households; and delivering efficiencies through shared (dynamic) demand responsive transport.
Supported Bus Services	DfT	Apr-20		879,836	Provided to as revenue support to help provide more bus services in areas by improving current services, restoring lost services or supporting new services
Bus Capacity Grant	DfT	Apr-20		100,000	Funding to support LTAs in developing local bus proposals as outlined in the National Bus Strategy (NBS), in particular, it is being offered to help LTAs towards the development of their Enhanced Partnership Schemes(EPS) or franchising scheme, and Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP) work, and to meet the timescales that go alongside that work.
22/23 AEB Devolution	DfE	Annual		131,875,523	Devolved budget from DfE for delivery of adult education (19+) in West Midlands region
22/23 Adult Education Budget Level 3	DFE	Annual		10,954,673	Devolved budget from DfE for delivery of level 3 education offer open to adults without an existing L3 qualification in West Midlands
National Lottery	National Lottery	May-21	Dec-22	834,669	The project is to support disadvantaged young people to access the Commonwealth Games Volunteering Programme delivered through the Jobs and Skills Academy. To use the Commonwealth Games brand and leverage to create more employment, training, and volunteering opportunities to support young people who have been hardest hit as a result of COVID-19. To engage with a minimum of 800 young people on JSA To support a minimum of 280 young people into jobs To support a minimum of 320 individuals to volunteer To support a minimum of 64 individuals into specialist support Other positive outcomes for the young people will include accessing further training; access to Kickstart and Apprenticeships; personal development, the development and monitoring of soft skills. The outcome for each young person will be dependent on their bespoke plan.
LIS Energy Support	BEIS	Apr-22		163,900	Walsall Heat Network
Commonwealth Sports Foundation	Commonwealth Sports Fou	Jan-21	Jul-22	120,000	To support the delivery of the Birmingham 2022 Jobs and Skills Academy, Funding to support a post focused on the delivery of this programme.
Technical Bootcamps	DfE	Apr-22	Mar-23	11,250,000	Technical bootcamps 22-23 allocation of £11.25m in priority sectors of digital, technical, construction, green and HGV – with 10% to be used flexibly in other areas: Health and Social Care (inc Life Sciences); Creative Industries: Hospitality: Leadership and Management: Professional Services (inc Finance).
Tackling Loneliness through Transport Fund	DfT	May-22	May-23	460,469	The TLwT Fund offers grant funding to the public and charity sectors to run pilot transport schemes that aim to reduce loneliness. The pilots will be measured and evaluated rigorously, enabling DfT to understand more about how transport can be used to help reduce loneliness and to share these findings with organisations within and outside government.

Specific Revenue/Devo Grants

Devo Deal Grant	MHCLG	Annual		36,500,000	Devolution Grant Deal (Investment Programme)
MHCLG - Office for Data Analytics	MHCLG	Apr-18	No end date	800,000	Devolution funding to support operational activities of ODA

Devo Housing Package	MHCLG	Apr-17		6,000,000	Revenue grants to support capital housing grant activity delivery
Brownfield Housing Fund	MHCLG	Apr-20		2,826,498	Revenue grants to support capital housing grant activity delivery
One Public Estate	LGA		Apr-22	1,246,141	Support OPE activity - drawn down by partners delivering OPE activity as required.

Other Revenue Contributions

MHCLG -Brexit	MHCLG	Apr-18	No end date	1,375,059	
IPS Programme	DWP	Mar-17	Jun-22	2,059,911	



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**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Wednesday 23 March 2022 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Liz Clements (Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Barbara McGarrity (Vice-Chair)	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Martin McCarthy	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance

Emma Crowton	Implementation Manager - Programme Development
Graham Jones	Commonwealth Games Technical Director
Lyndsey Roberts	Scrutiny Officer
Anne Shaw	Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands
Adam Tranter	Cycling and Walking Commissioner
Colin Whitehouse	Senior Development Manager

Item Title No.

43. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gurdev Hayre (Coventry) and Councillor Thabiso Mabena (Sandwell).

44. Inquorate Meeting

The Chair indicated that the sub-committee was inquorate and therefore the decisions taken would be submitted to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 11 July for formal approval.

46. Minutes - 17 January and 23 February 2022

The minutes of the meetings held on 17 January and 23 February 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

47. WMCA's Cycling & Walking Commissioner

The sub-committee received an update from Adam Tranter, West Midlands Walking & Cycling Commissioner, on the active travel activities within the region.

Members discussed the work being undertaken with Active Travel England to secure funding (Active Travel Fund 3) for the region, the bidding process, normalising cycling, the availability of a safe environment for cyclist and pedestrians, and the importance of a variety of travel options.

Resolved:

(1) The report be noted.

48. Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 Delivery Update

The sub-committee considered a report from the Implementation Manager, Transport for West Midlands, that provided an update on the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2.

In November 2020, the West Midlands received £13.1m, to deliver a programme of active travel schemes. Tranche 2 schemes were delivering the long-term vision for the West Midlands, which supported health and economic recovery and provided transformational active travel networks that enabled long lasting behaviour change.

The WMCA managed the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 grant, with allocations paid to each local authority upon delivery of schemes through a grant agreement milestone-based programme management approach. There were bi-monthly progress reports to the Department for Transport capturing delivery updates and changes to the programme. This would continue until completion.

With regard to the allocations paid to each local authority and the spend made to date, members were assured that where spend had been low, this would be carried forward into the next financial year.

In terms of planning, the sub-committee noted the internal and external arrangements in place to ensure the provision of cycling facilities for new developments, including the attribution of s106 funding, the Government's proposal for Active Travel England to have statutory consultee requirements for developments over 100 - 150 dwellings and the need to utilise local authority planning policy frameworks.

Resolved:

(1) The delivery progress of the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 be noted.

49. Commonwealth Games Update - Community Engagement Typical Plan

The sub-committee received a presented from the Commonwealth Games Technical Director on the progress being made with the transport preparations for the Commonwealth Games.

Members discussed and shared comments on the level of scrutiny of the transport plans, community engagement events and dissemination of information, the impact of the Games on residents and businesses, the use of community drop in forums, member engagement sessions, inclusivity and accessibility of the Games and timescales.

The first results from the spectator survey had now been received that would help to guide the travel demand management plan. The results had indicated that there would be a high proportion of people that would use their car to travel to the games and only 30% stating that they would use the train network. There was also a low awareness of the free public transport and Park & Ride offer available.

With regards to the opening of Perry Bar railway station, the Executive Director for Transport West Midlands explained that this facility was due to open at the end of May 2022.

Resolved:

- (1) The report be noted.
- (2) The sub-committee be kept updated of any developments and progress in terms of raising the level of awareness of the free public transport offer.

50. Tackling Violence Against Women & Girls and the Work of the Transport Champions

The sub-committee received a presentation on the Government's strategy to tackle violence against women and girls. In July 2021 the Executive Director of Transport for the West Midlands and the Chief Executive were appointed as the first Violence Against Women & Girls Transport Champions, to address safety on the transport networks.

The sub-committee received an overview of the recommendations that had been submitted to the Department for Transport that focussed on the improvements to make the transport network safer for women and girls. Members enquired about the process and research that been undertaken which led to the series of recommendations submitted to Government.

Members expressed concern at there not being a recommendation with regards to improving bus reliability, as this was thought to have an impact on women feeling vulnerable when alone on the transport network late at night. It was emphasised that the public transport system needed to be trustworthy to avoid women and girls feeling this way. The Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands agreed with the comments made and added that, as part of the National Bus Strategy, there was a requirement for bus operators to provide operational performance information. She proposed that the sub-committee reviewed Transport for West Midlands's projects that were looking at producing reliable information assets as part of its work programme for 2022/23.

Resolved:

- (1) The presentation be noted.

51. Progress Update: Delivery of West Midlands Metro Extensions

The sub-committee received an update on the delivery of West Midlands Metro extensions.

The Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands provided an overview of the Birmingham City Centre Westside Metro extension and its challenges, including the changes in traffic management and safety. A solution had now been sought and work continued. In terms of the Wolverhampton Metro extension and the interface with Wolverhampton railway station, discussions had been held with the City of Wolverhampton Council and Network Rail regarding light rail standards, and work had now recommenced. It was envisaged that all works would be completed ahead of Commonwealth Games.

In terms of the testing of the trams, Councillor Martin McCarthy questioned the status of the design verification activity that generated the test plan. The Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands clarified that the testing and commissioning that had taken place during the delivery of the metro infrastructure was to check that it was safe and compliant.

Resolved

(1) The updated be noted.

52. Midland Metro Closure November 2021: Lessons Learnt – Transport for West Midlands

The sub-committee received a report from the Interim Director of Network Resilience that noted that lessons learnt by teams across Transport for West Midlands following the Metro closure in November 2021. The report also explored the best way to implement changes for the future to ensure an improved customer service.

Physical cracks were identified on the Metro fleet, potentially impacting the safety and integrity of the service and a decision was taken to close the Metro service following ongoing assessment of its fleet. It was announced that there would be no service from 15 November 2021 until further notice (at least four weeks). This was later altered to no service from 13 November until further notice. The closure lasted for 32 days, from 13 November until 15 December 2021.

The sub-committee discussed and shared comments on the impact the closure had on its customers and how Transport for West Midlands and partners worked together to address the challenges and to provide alternative modes of transport to help alleviate the impact on customers.

Resolved:

- (1) The update on the lessons learnt across Transport for West Midlands following the Midland Metro closure in November 2021, in particular the next steps and recommendations for future actions, be noted.

53. Work Programme

The sub-committee discussed its work programme of business for consideration at its future meetings and at the WMCA Board.

Resolved:

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting ended at 11.40am.

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WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme 2022/2023

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Lead Officer/Member
Progress Update: Helping to Deliver Affordable and Social Housing Scrutiny Review - Implementation of Recommendations	To receive an update on the progress with the recommendations approved by the WMCA Board on 18 March 2022	5 September 2022	Gareth Bradford Rob Lamond
Grant Register	To receive and review the Grant Register	5 September 2022	Kate Taylor
Mayor’s Question Time: Policy - 20 October 2022			
WMCA Aims & Objectives Annual Review	To review the WMCA’s Aims & Objectives previously agreed in November 2021	7 November 2022	Linda Horne
Grant Register	To receive and review the Grant Register	7 November 2022	Kate Taylor
Mayor’s Question Time: Proposed Draft Budget 2023/24 - 15 December 2022			

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Lead Officer/Member
Mayoral Q&A (Policy): Mayor's response to the recommendations presented to the WMCA Board	To receive a formal response to the recommendations and/or considerations presented to the WMCA Board on 18 November 2022	12 January 2023	Lyndsey Roberts
LEP Integration Plan	To receive an overview of the proposed integration plan for the LEPs	12 January 2023	Julie Nugent
Grant Register	To receive and review the Grant Register	12 January 2023	Kate Taylor
Mayoral Q&A (Proposed Budget): Mayor's response to the recommendations presented to the WMCA Board	To receive a formal response to the recommendations and/or considerations presented to the WMCA Board on 13 January 2023	13 March 2023	Lyndsey Roberts
Grant Register	To receive and review the Grant Register	13 March 2023	Kate Taylor

WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN: JULY 2022 - MARCH 2023

Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Meeting July 2022					
Levelling Up White Paper	<p>Purpose: To provide an update on the latest work being undertaken in support of the WMCA's Trailblazer Devolution Deal.</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p>	n/a	Ed Cox	No	Governance
Independent Remuneration Panel	<p>Purpose: To consider the recommendations arising out of the independent review of members allowances.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): To consider the recommendations.</p>	n/a	Satish Mistry	No	Governance
Governance Reviews Update	<p>Purpose: To provide an update on the governance reviews recently undertaken within the WMCA.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): To note the report.</p>	n/a	Satish Mistry	No	Governance
Financial Monitoring 2022/23	<p>Purpose: To outline the latest financial position of WMCA and provide an update on any current financial matters affecting WMCA.</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p>	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance

Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Metro Affordability	<p>Purpose: To consider the latest financial position of Metro schemes.</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p>	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw / Linda Horne	Yes	Transport
Shared Prosperity Fund	<p>Purpose: To consider initial, outline prioritisation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund to inform the region's submission of an outline investment plan, which is due by 1 August 2022</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p>	Cllr Ian Brookfield	Julie Nugent	No	Economy & Innovation
Meeting September 2022					
Levelling Up White Paper	<p>Purpose: To provide an update on the latest work being undertaken in support of the WMCA's Trailblazer Devolution Deal.</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p>	n/a	Ed Cox	No	Governance
Financial Monitoring 2022/23	<p>Purpose: To outline the latest financial position of WMCA and provide an update on any current financial matters affecting WMCA.</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p>	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance

Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Meeting November 2022					
Levelling Up White Paper	Purpose: To provide an update on the latest work being undertaken in support of the WMCA's Trailblazer Devolution Deal. Recommendation(s):	n/a	Ed Cox	No	Governance
WMCA Aims & Objectives Annual Review	Purpose: To review the WMCA's Aims & Objectives previously agreed in November 2021. Recommendations(s):	n/a	Laura Shoaf	No	Governance
Financial Monitoring 2022/23	Purpose: To outline the latest financial position of WMCA and provide an update on any current financial matters affecting WMCA. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Meeting January 2023					
Draft WMCA Budget 2023/234	Purpose: To approve the WMCA's draft 2023/24 budget for consultation. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Financial Monitoring 2022/23	Purpose: To outline the latest financial position of WMCA and provide an update on any current financial matters affecting WMCA.	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance



Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
	Recommendation(s):				
LEP Integration Plan	Purpose: To approve the proposed integration plan for LEPs. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Ian Brookfield	Julie Nugent	No	Economy & Innovation
Meeting February 2023					
WMCA Budget 2023/234	Purpose: To approve the WMCA's 2023/24 budget. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance