



WMCA Board

Date: Friday 28 October 2022

Time: 11.00 am **Public meeting** Yes

Venue: Council Chamber, Birmingham City Council, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B1 1BB

Membership

Constituent Members

Andy Street (Chair)
Councillor Bob Sleigh (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Mike Bird
Councillor Ian Brookfield
Councillor Rose Burley
Councillor Kerrie Carmichael
Councillor Steve Clark
Councillor Ian Courts
Councillor George Duggins
Councillor Patrick Harley
Councillor Brigid Jones
Councillor Abdul Khan
Councillor Bob Piper
Councillor Stephen Simkins
Councillor Ian Ward

Appointing Authority

Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
City of Wolverhampton Council
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Coventry City Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Coventry City Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
City of Wolverhampton Council
Birmingham City Council

Non-Constituent Members

Anita Bhalla

Councillor Shaun Davies
Councillor Matthew Dormer
Councillor Tony Jefferson
Councillor Sebastian Lowe
Councillor Olivia Lyons
Councillor Jeremy Oates
Councillor Lezley Picton
Councillor Izzi Seccombe
Tom Westley
Councillor Kristofer Wilson
Sarah Windrum

Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise
Partnership
Telford & Wrekin Council
Redditch Borough Council
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Rugby Borough Council
Cannock Chase District Council
Tamworth Borough Council
Shropshire Council
Warwickshire County Council
Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise
Partnership
North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor David A Wright

Observers Awaiting Membership

Councillor Andrew Day
Mandy Thorn

Warwick District Council
The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership

Co-Opted Member

Lee Barron

Midlands Trades Union Congress

Observer Members

Councillor Greg Brackenridge
Simon Foster

West Midlands Fire Authority
West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner

Quorum for this meeting shall be at least one member from five separate Constituent councils

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

Contact	Dan Essex, Governance Services Manager
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Email	dan.essex@wmca.org.uk

AGENDA

No.	Item	Presenting	Pages
Items of Public Business			
1.	Apologies for Absence	Chair	None
2.	Declarations of Interest Members are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they have in an item being discussed during the course of the meeting. In addition, the receipt of any gift or hospitality should be declared where the value of it was thought to have exceeded £25 (gifts) or £40 (hospitality).	Chair	None
3.	Chair's Remarks (if any)	Chair	None
4.	Minutes - 15 July 2022	Chair	1 - 8
5.	Forward Plan	Chair	9 - 14
6.	Regional Activity & Delivery Update	Chair	Verbal Report
Levelling Up			
7.	Trailblazer Devolution Deal	Councillor Brigid Jones	15 - 18
Economy & Innovation			
8.	UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan	Councillor Ian Brookfield	19 - 54
Finance			
9.	Financial Monitoring 2022/23	Councillor Bob Sleigh	55 - 82
Governance			
10.	Confirmation of Director of Law & Governance Appointment	Chair	83 - 86
11.	The Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel	Councillor Bob Sleigh	87 - 112
Minutes			
12.	Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - 7 July 2022	Mark Smith	113 - 118

13.	Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 11 July 2022	Councillor Cathy Bayton	119 - 124
14.	Transport Delivery Committee - 11 July 2022	Councillor Richard Worrall	125 - 132
15.	Wellbeing Board - 13 July 2022	Councillor Izzi Seccombe	133 - 136
16.	Investment Board - 18 July 2022	Councillor Bob Sleight	137 - 144
17.	Housing & Land Delivery Board - 20 July 2022	Councillor Mike Bird	145 - 154
18.	Investment Board - 15 August 2022	Councillor Bob Sleight	155 - 162
19.	Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 5 September 2022	Councillor Cathy Bayton	163 - 166
20.	Wellbeing Board - 6 September 2022	Councillor Izzi Seccombe	167 - 170
21.	Economic Growth Board - 23 September 2022	Councillor Ian Brookfield	171 - 178
22.	Environment & Energy Board - 28 September 2022	Councillor Ian Courts	179 - 182
23.	Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee - 4 October 2022	Mark Smith	183 - 188
24.	Housing & Land Delivery Board - 5 October 2022	Councillor Mike Bird	189 - 198
25.	Transport Delivery Committee - 10 October 2022	Councillor Richard Worrall	199 - 206
26.	Investment Board - 17 October 2022	Councillor Bob Sleight	207 - 214
27.	Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 17 October 2022	Councillor Cathy Bayton	215 - 218
28.	Young Combined Authority Update: Summer - October 2022	YCA Representatives	219 - 222
Date of Next Meeting			
29.	Friday 18 November 2022 at 11.00am	Chair	None



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

WMCA Board

Friday 15 July 2022 at 11.00 am

Minutes

Constituent Members

Andy Street (Chair)	Mayor of the West Midlands
Councillor Mike Bird	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Ian Brookfield	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Ian Courts	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor George Duggins	Coventry City Council
Councillor Patrick Harley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Peter Hughes	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Abdul Khan	Coventry City Council
Councillor Stephen Simkins	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Bob Sleigh	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Ian Ward	Birmingham City Council

Non-Constituent Members

Councillor Matthew Dormer	Redditch Borough Council
Councillor Tony Jefferson	Stratford-on-Avon District Council

In Attendance

Lee Barron	Midlands Trades Union Congress
Councillor Cathy Bayton	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Greg Brackenridge	West Midlands Fire Authority
Khuram Mahmood	Young Combined Authority
Lana Saleh	Young Combined Authority
Yesmeen Singh	Young Combined Authority
Mark Smith	Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee
Councillor Richard Worrall	Transport Delivery Committee

23. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Anita Bhalla (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP), Councillor Kerrie Carmichael (Sandwell), Councillor Shaun Davies (Telford & Wrekin), Councillor Andrew Day (Warwick), Councillor Olivia Lyons (Cannock Chase), Councillor Bob Piper (Sandwell), Tom Westley (Black Country LEP), Councillor Kris Wilson (Nuneaton & Bedworth) and Sarah Windrum (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP)

24. Chair's Remarks

The Chair congratulated Telford & Wrekin Council on being awarded Local Authority of the Year at the recent MJ Achievement Awards 2022.

25. Chief Executive's Remarks

The Chief Executive highlighted recent activity of the WMCA, including the preparation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, progress with the West Midlands Virtual Forest, and the activity being undertaken to prepare the region's public transport provision to support the upcoming Commonwealth Games. The Chief Executive indicated that a full report on WMCA activity would be submitted to all future meetings of the board.

26. Minutes

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

27. Forward Plan

The forward plan of items to be reported to future meetings of the board was noted.

28. Financial Monitoring Report 2022/23

The board considered a report from the Executive Director for Finance & Business Hub providing an update on the WMCA's finances as at 31 May 2022.

The position at the end of May showed a surplus of £995,000 which was a favourable variance from budget of £764,000. Within transport, there was a surplus of £1.205m which represented a favourable variance from budget of £376,000. The most notable variance at this early stage of the year related to concessions, where there was lower than budgeted patronage and fare levels. The year to date Metro position was in line with budget, however as a result of increased operating costs due to the unprecedented rise in energy prices and reduced revenues and grant funding during the period of suspended operations, Midland Metro Ltd had informed the WMCA of an increase in operating costs for 2022/23 above the budgeted amount.

Resolved:

- (1) The financial position as at 31 May 2022 be noted.
- (2) The 2022/23 capital budget, which had been revised to reflect the 2021/22 outturn and the allocation of the City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement funding, be approved.
- (3) The update on WMCA's Medium Term Financial Plan be noted.
- (4) The update on bus recovery within the region be noted.
- (5) The acceptance of £460,000 funding from the Department for Transport to fund loneliness initiatives be noted.
- (6) The acceptance of £725,000 funding from Arts Council to fund culture activities within the Black Country region be noted.
- (7) Authority be delegated to the s151 Officer, in consultation with applicable portfolio leads, to accept funds awarded to the WMCA ahead of the next WMCA Board meeting on 16 September 2022.

29. UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

The board considered a report from the Executive Director for Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities seeking approval for the submission of an outline investment plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund by 1 August 2022, noting that this was a high level submission and that further work to develop the detail of priorities and proposals would be brought back to a future meeting of this board for full sign off in Autumn 2022.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was a central pillar of the Government's levelling up agenda. Its primary goal was to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK, with three key investment priorities around 'community and place', 'supporting local businesses, and 'people and skills'. The WMCA was the lead authority for the West Midlands' metropolitan area, with responsibility for developing an investment plan for the Shared Prosperity Fund. This was an opportunity for the WMCA to work collectively with local partners to develop an approach that enabled strong, locally focused, delivery, embracing the principles of double devolution, whilst maintaining efficient systems and recognising the WMCA's overall accountability for the fund.

Councillor Ian Brookfield expressed his disappointment that the level of funding within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund had not matched that previously contained within the European Structural and Investment Programme, despite previous assurances from the Government that it would. He stressed that significant detailed work would be undertaken on the projects within the fund during the Summer, and that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of this board to agree the split in the allocation of funding between the WMCA and constituent authorities. Councillor Ian Ward welcomed this further report, and considered that if Shared Prosperity funding was to be retained that the WMCA level, a demonstrable business case for this should be developed.

The Chair confirmed that he had spoken to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities earlier in the week to remind them that they had still not responded to the letter sent on 14 June regarding concerns with the parameters and processes associated with the Shared Prosperity Fund.

Resolved:

- (1) The submission of an outline initial investment plan to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities by 1 August 2022 to secure the West Midlands £88m allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the next three years be approved, noting that this plan was deliberately very high-level and that the region had not yet agreed the detail of priorities and proposals to be funded.
- (2) Authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities and the s151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation, to submit the initial UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan and to accept any funding awarded as a result of this submission.

- (3) The implementation of the next steps for getting the final plan developed, to include details of priorities, local allocations, supporting administrative costs etc, including approving any necessary agreements related to this, be delegated to the Executive Director for Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation, and that the final detailed plan would be submitted to a future meeting of this board for approval.
- (4) The next steps identified in resolution (3) above include the preparation of a business case for those funds that would be allocated to the WMCA in order for it to undertake business support work, and that until such a business case had been approved by this board, all submissions to the Government should indicate that the funding would be allocated to constituent authorities.

30. Update on Trailblazer Devolution Deal

The board considered a report from the Executive Director for Strategy, Integration & Net Zero providing an update on the progress being made in relation to the Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

The Trailblazer Devolution Deal process was continuing with devolution proposals being developed across a wide range of themes. Proposals were being developed in accordance with the principles and plans previously agreed by this board, in particular, proposals had a clear focus on drawing down powers and finance from Government. The roles and responsibilities held by local authorities would not be drawn away from them through this process. It was still expected that the process for the development of proposals and negotiations would run to the Autumn. This meant that there was more opportunity for members of this board to discuss draft proposals and for local areas to bring forward their own proposals.

The board also watched a video prepared by the Young Combined Authority that set out the thinking of its members regarding the needs of the region that could be addressed through a Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

31. Review of Governance Arrangements - Update

The board considered a report from the Interim Director of Law & Governance providing an update on the progress of the overall governance review, an update on the progress of the transport governance review and on the outcome of the Midland Metro Ltd and the Midland Metro Alliance review, along with the actions being taken.

Following the commissioning of a number of governance reviews, the report set out the progress made to date with the WMCA-wide governance review, the governance review of transport functions, and the independent industry expert appointed to review the relationship between the WMCA, Midland Metro Ltd and the Midland Metro Alliance following the cessation of the Metro service due to safety critical cracks in the trams.

Councillor Ian Ward had expressed his concern that the review of the Midland Metro Alliance and Midland Metro Ltd had not addressed his concerns regarding their ability to deliver and oversee capital projects. He requested that an independent person be appointed to provide assurance on the ability of the Midland Metro Alliance and Midland Metro Ltd to deliver such projects satisfactorily, and that a member board supported by constituent authority finance and transport officers be established to provide oversight of the work of this independent person. Councillor Bob Sleight indicated that he supported this proposal. He also confirmed that a further update report on progress would be submitted to this board in six months' time.

Resolved:

- (1) The update on the governance review be noted.
- (2) The progress on the transport governance review be noted.
- (3) The review of Midland Metro Ltd and the Midland Metro Alliance arrangements and the proposed actions be noted.
- (4) An independent person be appointed to provide assurance on the ability of the Midland Metro Alliance and Midland Metro Ltd to deliver capital projects satisfactorily, and that a member board supported by constituent authority finance and transport officers be established to provide oversight of the work of this independent person.

32. Economic Growth Board - 4 July 2022

The board received the minutes of the Economic Growth Board meeting held on 4 July 2022.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2022 be noted.

33. Young Combined Authority: July Update

The board received an update from Lana Saleh and Yesmeen Singh setting out the activity of the Young Combined Authority during July 2022.

Lana Saleh indicated that the YCA would be looking to engage with the Mental Health Commission to highlight how young people in the region needed robust access to mental health support. Yesmeen Singh reported that the YCA was looking forward to holding a joint meeting with the country's other young combined authorities, which the corresponding elected mayors had also been invited to speak at.

Resolved:

The update be noted.

34. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved:

In accordance with s100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as specified in the paragraphs of the Act.

35. Metro Affordability

The board considered a report from the Executive Director, Transport for West Midlands on the latest position of the Metro delivery programme with respect to capital costs and affordable levels of borrowing which were enabled through passenger receipts.

The creation of a comprehensive metro network was a key priority for the WMCA and formed a key part of the original devolution agreement at the time the WMCA was established. Significant investment was unlocked through the Investment Programme that accompanied the 2016 devolution deal, helping to fund the extensions to Centenary Square, Edgbaston, Brierley Hill and the HS2 station in Birmingham Eastside. In addition to the Investment Programme funding, the decision to bring the metro operations in-house in 2017 meant that the WMCA was able to use net (surplus) passenger receipts as a funding stream to repay debt taken out to accelerate investment in the network. However, at its meeting on 14 January 2022, the board was informed that a series of adverse movements in the economic and commercial landscape had placed pressure on delivery costs/programmes and also reduced the levels of certainty the WMCA had with respect to the levels of borrowing which would be affordable based on the latest income projections.

Councillor Ian Courts stressed the importance of the planned metro network to the region, but noted that this was only one of a number of transport projects that the WMCA would be asked to fund in the coming years, including the proposed Arden Cross multi-storey car park that formed part of the wider growth plans for the UK Central Hub. The Chair and the Executive Director for Finance & Business Hub both confirmed that the decisions taken at this meeting in respect of the affordability of the metro delivery programme did not impact in any way on the decision the board would be asked to take in respect of the Arden Cross multi-storey car park at a future meeting.

Councillor Patrick Harley thanked members of the board for the support they had given to the Wednesbury - Brierley Hill extension, but expressed his disappointment that the project had found itself in the financial uncertainty it was currently in. He stressed the reputational importance that the WMCA was seen to be able to deliver the metro extension programme that had featured in its founding devolution agreement with the Government.

Councillor Mike Bird requested that a further report be submitted to the board in six months setting out the work that had been undertaken to date in evaluating the potential mitigation options for addressing the funding gap identified for Wednesbury - Brierley Hill extension Phase 1. The Chair agreed to this request.

Resolved:

- (1) The delivery of the Birmingham Eastside extension in full and Wednesbury - Brierley Hill extension Phase 1 (to Dudley) be agreed at this time within the revised delivery timescale, acknowledging that delivery of the full Wednesbury - Brierley Hill extension route remained a priority scheme for WMCA, and that the decisions made at this board meeting reflected the current affordability rather than a scaling back of ambition.
- (2) It be agreed that officers take forward the development of the potential mitigation options for addressing the funding gap identified for Wednesbury - Brierley Hill extension Phase 1 and the continued commitment to close the funding gap for the full scheme.
- (3) It be agreed that, only in the event the revenue projections within the metro commercial model were borne out in the future and sufficient mitigations were not identified, there would be a regional commitment by the WMCA to financially underwrite the cost to finance the gap (currently estimated to be £92.3m) via an increase in the transport levy (estimated to be £4.8m pa. over 30 years) for the Birmingham Eastside extension (£17.3m) and the Wednesbury - Brierley Hill extension Phase 1 (£75m) required in two to five years.
- (4) As requested by the Portfolio Lead for Transport, WMCA officers immediately commence work on evaluating all of the potential mitigation options, including identifying the priority that should be given to assessing each of these options.
- (5) The current levels of borrowing achievable using the central case economic estimates within the metro commercial model be noted.
- (6) The latest capital cost estimate required to complete the full network, including the Birmingham Eastside and the Wednesbury - Brierley Hill extensions be noted.
- (7) It be noted that the decision to phase the construction of the Wednesbury - Brierley Hill extension would result in an increased overall delivery cost above the current Target Cost 2 full route cost estimate.
- (8) It be noted that whilst the City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement had provided a budget of £30m to meet the costs of metro line one lifecycle works to March 2024, the residual funding gap for the full lifecycle programme (£31.9m from April 2024 to March 2027) continued to remain unresolved, and the programme would be prioritised to ensure resilient running of the network pending further funding identified at a later stage.
- (9) In the event the recommendations designed to guarantee the delivery of the first phase of the Wednesbury - Brierley Hill extension and the Birmingham Eastside extension schemes were not supported, the subsequent financial and non-financial consequences be noted.

- 36. Date of Next Meeting**
Friday 16 September 2022 at 11.00am.

The meeting ended at 12.15pm.

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

Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Meeting 18 November 2022					
Regional Activity & Delivery Update	<p>Purpose: To provide an update on the activity and delivery across the region since the last meeting.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): To note the report.</p>	n/a	Laura Shoaf	No	n/a
Appointment of Independent Directors to the Board of Midland Metro Ltd.	<p>Purpose: To appoint directors to sit on the board of MML.</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p>	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw / Satish Mistry	No	Transport
Transport Governance Review	<p>Purpose: To consider the recommendations arising from a review into the WMCA's transport governance arrangements.</p> <p>Recommendations(s): To approve the recommendations proposed to improve the WMCA's transport governance.</p>	Cllr Ian Ward	Satish Mistry / Anne Shaw	No	Governance
Trailblazer Devolution Deal Update	<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>	Cllr Brigid Jones	Ed Cox	No	Levelling Up

Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Single Assurance Framework	<p>Purpose: The National Local Growth Assurance Framework Guidance has a mandated requirement for each combined authority to review their assurance framework annually. There is also a further requirement for separate annexes for the assurance approaches for housing, transport and skills.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): To approve the assurance framework.</p>	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Rail Programme Update	<p>Purpose: To provide an update on the current Rail Programme activity.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p>	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport
Meeting 13 January 2023					
Regional Activity & Delivery Update	<p>Purpose: To provide an update on the activity and delivery across the region since the last meeting.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): To note the report.</p>	n/a	Laura Shoaf	No	n/a
Draft WMCA Budget 2023/234	<p>Purpose: To approve the WMCA's draft 2023/24 budget for consultation.</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p>	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
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>	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
Race Equalities Taskforce	Purpose: Recommendation(s):	Cllr Kerrie Carmichael	Ed Cox	No	Strategy, Integration & Net Zero
Wednesbury - Brierley Hill Metro Extension Funding Mitigation Measures	Purpose: To consider the latest progress in securing the mitigation measures for addressing the funding gap identified for phase 1 of the project and to close the funding gap for the full scheme. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Ian Ward	Linda Horne	Yes	Transport
City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement - Metro Line 1 Business Case	Purpose: To consider the business case for essential renewal work to core elements of the existing line, including sections of key systems to ensure they continued to function correctly and avoided interruption to the service on the current routes. Recommendation(s): To approve the business case.	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport
Meeting 10 February 2023					
Regional Activity & Delivery Update	Purpose: To provide an update on the activity and delivery across the region since the last meeting.	n/a	Laura Shoaf	No	n/a



Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
	Recommendation(s): To note the report.				
WMCA Budget 2023/234	Purpose: To approve the WMCA's 2023/24 budget. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Meeting 24 March 2023					
Regional Activity & Delivery Update	Purpose: To provide an update on the activity and delivery across the region since the last meeting. Recommendation(s): To note the report.	n/a	Laura Shoaf	No	n/a
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 9 June 2023					
Regional Activity & Delivery Update	Purpose: To provide an update on the activity and delivery across the region since the last meeting. Recommendation(s): To note the report.	n/a	Laura Shoaf	No	n/a



Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Appointment of WMCA Boards and Committees 2023/24	Purpose: To approve consider the appointments to boards, chairs and meetings dates for 2023/24. Recommendation(s): That the report be approved.	n/a	Satish Mistry	No	Governance
Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report	Purpose: To consider a report setting out the activity of overview & scrutiny during 2022/23. Recommendation(s): That the report be noted.	n/a	Satish Mistry	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 July 2023					
Regional Activity & Delivery Update	Purpose: To provide an update on the activity and delivery across the region since the last meeting. Recommendation(s): To note the report.	n/a	Laura Shoaf	No	n/a
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):				



WMCA Board

Date	28 October 2022
Report title	Trailblazer Devolution Deal
Portfolio Lead	Levelling Up - Councillor Brigid Jones
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, West Midlands Combined Authority email: laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Ed Cox, Executive Director for Strategy, Integration & Net Zero email: ed.cox@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	Mayor & Portfolio Leads Liaison - 14 October 2021

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The WMCA Board is recommended to:

- (1) Endorse the proposed timetable and approach to further developing and negotiating the Trailblazer Devolution Deal – subject to confirmation from Government.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the WMCA Board of recent developments with Government around the emerging timetable for the negotiation and announcement of a Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD) with the West Midlands.
- 1.2 This report seeks WMCA Board's endorsement, in principle, of the proposed timeline as currently intimated by Government, albeit noting that formal confirmation of this timeline is still awaited from Government and that this may be affected by rapidly evolving events.

2. Background

Timeline

- 2.1 The Truss government's focus was primarily on Investment Zones, for which the region has submitted Expressions of Interest in a collaborative programme across the region, coordinated by the WMCA's Housing and Land Board. We continue to liaise with local authority leaders and teams following Government's request to review and rationalise the submissions to inform an announcement by Government anticipated for the end of October.
- 2.2 The region's submissions have emphasised the integration of Investment Zones with Levelling Up and TDD proposals, to ensure that the accelerated growth in successful zones achieves the desired outcomes of a fairer, greener and better-connected region.
- 2.3 'Levelling Up' featured heavily at the Conservative Party Conference although it remains to be seen what this will mean in practice in terms of legislation and policy detail given the ongoing turbulence in government.
- 2.4 The current Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Simon Clarke MP, reiterated the government's commitment to the Trailblazer Devolution Deal, and his officials have suggested the following timeline:
- 31st October MTFP – substantive 'Statement of Intent' to conclude a TDD.
 - November-December Negotiations over Deal content and text.
 - First half December Announcement of a Trailblazer Devolution Deal.
- 2.5 Clearly this is a very tight timeline but given the extent of consultation and collaboration in the development of the TDD proposals to date, the recommendation is to seize the opportunity. It should also be noted that the DLUHC colleagues have been proactively offering support in undertaking negotiations with both officials and ministers to support the region in meeting these targets.
- 2.6 **It must be emphasised that this timeline is indicative only at this stage and confirmation from the Secretary of State is still awaited.**
- 2.7 Should the timeline proceed on this basis, the expectation is that draft Deal Text will be shared with Leaders on **18th November**. This will then form the basis for final stage detailed negotiations with Government with final Deal content to be signed off by the Board at a special extra meeting proposed for **w/c 5th December (tbc)**.
- 2.8 Officers leading on each thematic workstream will be engaging their respective local authority colleagues, partners and portfolio leads on early drafts of 'deal text'. This will be based closely on the summaries of proposals developed for *Getting Devo Ready* previously shared at Mayor and Portfolio leads meetings and discussed in Leader/Chief Exec bilaterals.

- 2.9 It is proposed that the 'high level' negotiating team to take forward the detailed discussions with Government will consist of the Mayor, Cllr Bob Sleigh as Deputy Mayor, Cllr Ian Brookfield as Chair of the Economic Growth Board and Cllr Brigid Jones as Levelling Up portfolio holder. It will be important, if this timeline is to be met and the objectives from the process achieved, that on-going collaboration and engagement among officers and leaders across the region will remain vital, as such, the existing rhythm of meetings between senior LA officers, Chief Executives (Devolution Strategy Group) and portfolio leads will continue.

Proposal Development

- 2.10 Summary versions of all the proposals have been compiled into a single document. This document, *Getting Devo Ready*, provides a summary of each proposal, the benefits (both regional and local) that it is intended to unlock, opportunities for 'double devolution', and which groups have been involved in its development.
- 2.11 This has been developed in close collaboration with local authority officers. Where feedback on these proposals has been provided by local authority partners, the WMCA has, in turn, provided responses to that feedback.
- 2.12 A slide set entitled '*Local Benefits*' has also been produced. Developed with, and endorsed by local authority officers, this details the envisaged benefits for each local authority area should each element be successfully negotiated.
- 2.13 In order to address concerns that there should be a clearer narrative that binds the devolution deal together in one place, we have also developed a *West Midlands Levelling Up Growth Prospectus*. This is a more externally-facing document setting our devolution proposals in the context of existing work in the region to tackle some of the region's levelling-up challenges. Local authority colleagues supported the development of this document. It will be used to secure support from regional MPs, businesses and other key stakeholders. Electronic and hard copies have been shared and further copies are available on request.
- 2.14 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a special working group in order to scrutinise the emerging devolution proposals. The five sessions for this working group provided invaluable insight for the development of the proposals and direction on its further evolution. A summary report of the working group sessions was considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and will form part of the substantive TDD report to be presented to WMCA Board on 18th November if the above timeline is achieved.

3. Strategic Aims

- 3.1 The emerging TDD proposals, as captured in the *Getting Devo Ready* document and as reflected in the region's *Levelling Up Growth Prospectus*, have been developed to align with the WMCA's Strategic Aims – particularly Strategic Aim 5 'To secure new powers and resources from central government'

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The financial implications of each of the proposals within the *Getting Devo Ready* document have been carefully considered. The majority of the proposals have, and all remaining will have been, passed through the relevant meetings of Finance Directors.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Proposals have been developed in close collaboration with the WMCA's Legal team who have advised on appropriate legislative frameworks and governance arrangements that will need to be considered. The team will continue to provide that advice as the Deal text is developed, drafted, and finalised to ensure compliance.

6. Single Assurance Framework Implications

- 6.1 All funding secured for these proposals will be compliant with the Single Assurance Framework. Although the responsible teams have been consulted in its development, until the content of the Deal is more defined, the full SAF implications can not yet be known.

7. Equalities Implications

- 7.1 The development of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal has been undertaken through with clear scrutiny from an equalities perspective. Officers have reviewed emerging proposals and recommended alternative approaches to, or reinforcement of key aspects of, the Deal proposals, which have been incorporated.

8. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 8.1 The principles of inclusive growth have been fundamental to the development of the TDD and are key to the proposed 'Regional Outcomes Framework' which underpins the Deal and its objectives.

9. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

- 9.1 The Trailblazer Devolution Deal relates to all geographic areas of the Combined Authority. In addition, the implications, opportunities, and observations of non-Constituent Authorities have also been incorporated in the development of the TDD proposals.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1 None.

11. Schedule of Background Papers

- 11.1 Levelling Up Growth Prospectus – October 2022



WMCA Board

Date	28 October 2022
Report Title	UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan
Portfolio lead	Economy & Innovation - Councillor Ian Brookfield
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, West Midlands Combined Authority email: laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Dr Julie Nugent, Executive Director for Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities email: julie.nugent@wmca.org.uk
Report has been/will be considered by	Directors of Economic Development (21/9) Economic Growth Board (23/9) Chief Executives (7/10) Finance Directors (13/10) WMCA Board (28/10)

Recommendation(s) for action or decision

The WMCA Board is recommended to:

- i. Approve the submission of the UKSPF Investment Plan to the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DHLUC) to secure the West Midlands £88m allocation for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, for the next 3 years. Note that the Investment Plan should be submitted as soon as possible, given that all other authorities have already submitted their Plans and that year 1 funds are to be spent by 31 March 2023.
- ii. Delegate authority to accept any funding awarded as a result of this submission to the Executive Director of Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economy and Innovation and the WMCA Section 151 Officer.
- iii. Delegate authority to carry out commissioning of UKSPF funding, including any procurement activity as required, to the Executive Director of Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economy and Innovation and the WMCA Section 151 Officer.

- iv. Delegate the final arrangements for the 4% administration allocation, to the Executive Director of Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economy and Innovation, the WMCA Section 151 Officer, Directors of Economic Development and FDs.
- v. Agree the next steps outlined at section 5 to implement the Investment Plan.

1. UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Background

- 1.1 UKSPF is a central pillar of the UK Government’s Levelling Up agenda. Its primary goal is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK, with three key investment priorities around ‘Community and Place’, ‘Supporting Local Business’, and People and Skills’ (including adult numeracy programme, Multiply).
- 1.2 WMCA has been identified as the lead authority and accountable body for UKSPF across the 7 Met area, with responsibility for developing its investment plan, and for delivery of the Fund thereafter. The CA welcomes the opportunity to lead a strategic and joined-up approach, working with local authorities to identify local and regional investment priorities that support our levelling up ambitions.
- 1.3 The overall UKSPF allocation for the WM 7 Met area is set out in the table below. While government has stressed that overall investment in UKSPF, including Multiply, is comparable at a national level with that previously available through European Structural Funds, directly available funding through UKSPF for the CA area is lower than previously available via ESF and ERDF, particularly in years 1 and 2.

2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-25	Total
£10,729,170	£21,458,339	£56,220,848	£88,408,357

- 1.4 As well as advocating for further investment in the region, it is therefore critical that we allocate existing funds where they can have most impact for places, residents, and businesses across the region. We have worked in partnership with Local Authorities and LEPs to develop an approach to UKSPF that enables strong locally focused delivery, embracing the principles of double devolution, whilst maintaining the need for overall regional impact.
- 1.5 We have also worked with local partners to identify the risks associated with the transition between EU funding and UKSPF and there is work underway to mitigate the impact of reduced funding on critical programmes and strands of work – for example, employment support. However, it is also clear that the quantum of funding will be significantly less.
- 1.6 We will continue to lobby government for additional investment in key areas, including through the Trailblazer Devolution process, and for maximum flexibility in the deployment of UKSPF. This is particularly pertinent given funding for ‘people and skills’ is not available until 2024/25, creating a potential ‘cliff edge’ with the end of current EU funds and the start of UKSPF that will impact on a number of projects, and presents risks to local partners, including LAs, Universities and the VCS, who have funded posts with this. We will also continue to lobby for an overall funding allocation for the Spending Review period, rather than three annual allocations, to provide us with more flexibility in meeting local need.

2. Our Approach

- 2.1 The July WMCA Board approved the submission of an outline initial investment plan by 1 August, recognising the need for further work to be undertaken to determine priorities, local allocations, and administrative costs. This outline investment plan was based on the working assumption that:
- 2.1.1 Up to 50% of UKSPF funds would be focused on 'Supporting Local Business' - to provide support to local businesses, including taking forward key recommendations from the West Midlands Business Support Review, agreed previously by WMCA Board. This will be developed with and by LAs, to ensure a broadly consistent approach to supporting businesses across the region, whilst also ensuring support is locally targeted and embedded with local delivery arrangements (eg in local authorities), complementing other local support and services to businesses.
- 2.1.2 50% would be prioritised individually by local authorities, particularly in terms of directing local place and communities, and people and skills provision.
- 2.2 It was agreed that a final detailed plan would be submitted to the October meeting of the CA Board for approval, and that there would need to be a clear rationale for any funds retained exclusively by the WMCA. It should be noted that all other regions have now submitted their Investment Plans, which are currently being assessed.
- 2.3 In developing our plan further, we have reflected the key principles agreed and the feedback received from Met leaders and officials:
- 2.3.1 *Provision for 'communities and place' and 'people and skills' should be directed by Local Authorities* – the investment in local provision in these areas will be determined by each local authority, in line with the principles of double devolution. The Investment Plan provides a summary of overall priorities and expected outputs. Funding for this activity will be passed directly to LAs through a back-to-back grant agreement. The CA will be responsible for overall monitoring and reporting to government on progress.
- 2.3.2 *Where possible, alternative sources of funding should be used to reduce the pressure on the UKSPF budget* – We have worked with each local authority to identify alternative sources of funding for activities relating to people and skills. This has enabled us to increase the overall amount of investment, reduce pressure on UKSPF, target funding on areas of need and support local skills priorities.
- 2.3.3 *The proposed investment in business support should be co-designed with Local Authorities, taking forward the key recommendations of the WM Business Support Review, with a clear commitment to local delivery and alignment with other business support and services. While a working assumption was made that 50% of funds would be used to support local business, this activity should be properly costed as the model is developed* – A costed approach to business support has been developed in partnership with local authorities based on these principles. The overall amount of funding for business support activities is £42.4m – which equates to 50% of UKSPF, but 37.5% of the overall investment pot. (See table at paragraph 2.5)

2.3.4 Within this, £20.2m will be passported to local authorities to fund business advisers and provide direct support for businesses to improve resilience, competitiveness and productivity. These will be employed by and embedded with local arrangements – for example, local authorities or Growth Hubs (where these remain, subject to local preference). In line with the recommendations of the West Midlands Business Support Review previously agreed at Board, the advisors will work within an agreed regional framework (or “hub and spoke arrangement”), overseen by the Economic Growth Board. The intention is to have a consistent offer to businesses across the region, which will include signposting to other services, whilst maintaining maximum local flexibility and links to other local support. The detail of how the hub and spoke arrangement will work is being led by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Councils in conjunction with other local authorities and will be brought to the Economic Growth Board for approval. This model also builds upon the direction of the Levelling-Up White Paper, integration of LEP functions into the WMCA (subject to a decision by the WMCA Board in January 2023) and pursuit of more devolved powers and funding through the Trailblazing Devolution Deal. Alongside the business advisor capacity, local authorities will deploy practical support for businesses to improve business resilience, competitiveness and productivity within a consistent regional framework being led by Birmingham City Council.

2.3.5 *There needs to be a clear rationale for any funds for business support held by and delivered through the CA.* Of the £42.4m allocated to business support activity, the majority will be delivered locally through the network of local SME advisors or targeted at local businesses. This is consistent with the direction of the West Midlands Business Support Review and decisions of the WMCA Board.¹ £22.2m of funding will be for cross-regional specialist programmes. This includes supporting cluster leadership across the region linked to the Plan for Growth, commissioning support for foreign direct investment, support to decarbonise businesses and help for businesses to secure additional growth capital. These programmes are being designed by local authority leads including from Coventry and Wolverhampton City Councils, with commissioning decisions taken by the Economic Growth Board and delivery models shaped with local input.

2.3.6 A minimal amount will be delivered by the WMCA as the central hub, with further detail about the design of that activity led by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and subject to decision by the Economic Growth Board. As an illustration, the Business Support Review highlighted types of activity like:

- co-ordinating marketing activity to promote support available to businesses.
- providing required reporting and assurance to government.
- connect strongly with offers from the private sector, business organisations and universities to ensure this is targeted at the needs of the region’s businesses.
- use data and analysis to proactively target businesses according to regional and local priorities.
- support overall co-ordination and professional development of the network of business advisors, in line with the West Midlands Business Support Review.

¹ The four major changes set by the WMCA Board following the West Midlands Business Support Review:

- Put in place a modern customer journey, built around the user not the provider.
- Implement a new approach to account management, covering the largest firms, investors and SMEs, with the LEP Growth Hubs, local authority teams and the West Midlands Growth Company operating as a fully integrated support ecosystem.
- Replace the current large number of schemes which were coming to an end with new premium products aimed at specific sectors, supply chains and issues, and delivered region-wide at scale.
- Carry out a campaign to drive up demand and usage.

- 2.3.7 *There should be an open and transparent approach to the use of the 4% admin fee, reflecting the balance of work required locally and regionally* – The details of this are being finalised, and we recommend that the final plan is signed off by the Executive Director of Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead, the WMCA Section 151 Officer, Directors of Economic Development and Finance Directors. However, our expectation is to allocate funds to each Local Authority, as well as the Combined Authority, to support the management, monitoring and evaluation of UKSPF. This will be fair and proportionate to activity. This fund will also cover monitoring and evaluation and additional legal costs, including guidance to local authorities on the management of subsidy control.
- 2.4 The West Midlands Investment Plan for UKSPF is set out in **Annex A**. This has been developed through the Economic Growth Board, and with the support of officers from across each local authority and LEP. The plan is deliberately high level, setting out the broad priorities and outcomes that we want to achieve, but leaving us with sufficient flexibility to respond to changing needs.
- 2.5 To ensure value for money, the costs and outcomes included in the Investment Plan are based on a combination of market rates, ERDF benchmarks on business support activities, and £3k unit cost per economically inactive resident supported, based on evidence from previous regional programmes and aligned to ESF IP1.4 rates. This aligns with measures used by other Combined Authorities.

3. Funding Methodology

- 3.1 The WMCA allocation is based on a national approach that adopted a 70:30 methodology, of population and 'need/economic resilience'. As part of the more detailed work undertaken over the summer, the Portfolio Lead for Economy requested officers consider how we might achieve a more equitable split of UKSPF funds across the region. **Annex B** sets out further details on the methodology used by HMG to determine the initial calculations of funding for the region. It also sets out the implications of changing the balance away from population and the impact on investment in local areas. Other local Leaders have been clear that they do not expect to see a decrease in UKSPF investment their areas.
- 3.2 We have therefore looked at ways of maintaining overall levels of investment but moving to a methodology that is more weighted to local need. This includes:
- 3.2.1 *Ensuring a minimum level of investment in business support services in all areas*. This includes:
- Taking a more sophisticated approach to business support, recognising that specialist services will be available to all businesses across the region.
 - Establishing a 'floor' for the number of locally embedded advisors to ensure a minimum service is available.
 - Integrating support for local enterprise, entrepreneurship and start up within the business support offer.

3.2.2 *Maximising the use of other funds and ensuring these are targeted on areas of most need.* This includes:

- Focusing Multiply investment in areas with poor numeracy and with low levels of existing spend on adult numeracy. It should be noted however, that these are notional allocations, with actual spend determined by learner demand. We will work with LAs and providers to stimulate demand across the area.
- Using alternative funding streams, such as the Adult Education Budget, to support local skills priorities.

3.3 This has enabled us to increase the overall level of targeted investment in the region, while ensuring a greater focus on need than the UKSPF funding formula, as outlined in the table below.

	Notional UKSPF allocations: HMG methodology ¹	UKSPF: local allocations	Multiply ²	AEB investment on local skills priorities ³	UKSPF: Business Support		Total spend
					Spend through Local Authorities	Specialist programmes delivered across the WM	
Birmingham	36,375,301	17,460,144	5,670,266	2,600,000	7,223,891	9,014,599	41,968,900
Dudley	9,367,406	4,496,355	2,299,220	1,800,000	2,233,830	2,303,731	13,133,136
Sandwell	9,817,228	4,712,269	1,886,555	2,600,000	2,279,633	2,504,055	13,982,512
Walsall	8,374,365	4,019,695	1,785,434	1,200,000	2,132,714	2,103,406	11,241,249
Wolverhampton	7,831,883	3,759,304	1,434,078	2,600,000	2,077,476	2,103,406	11,974,264
Solihull	5,310,432	2,549,007	1,126,312	1,200,000	1,660,731	1,402,271	7,938,321
Coventry	11,331,741	5,439,236	2,565,268	2,125,000	2,591,726	2,804,542	15,525,772
Total	88,408,356	42,436,010	16,767,133	14,125,000	20,200,001	22,236,010	115,764,154

¹ 4% top slice for administration has been removed prior to the budget being allocated across investment priorities or geographical areas.

² Notional Multiply allocations for adult numeracy training spend in each area have been calculated using a model based on need, existing provision, and our assessment of likely take-up based on previous procurement. Figures include training funds granted to LAs as well as funds to be procured. Multiply investment is focused on adults in work. LAs are also able to use AEB investment to support unemployed or inactive adults.

³ These figures for AEB spend on training in local areas are based on proposals for local skills priorities put forward by each LA. We will continue to work together to identify further opportunities to use AEB funds to relieve pressure on UKSPF.

3.4 Sandwell have raised concerns regarding the UKSPF funding allocation methodology, in that deprivation is not the material factor in the methodology. Their position is that the UKSPF goal to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK can only be delivered if funding is allocated in a way that more fully reflects the deprivation status of the different LAs across the West Midlands.

4. Focus on business support

4.1 The 'Supporting Local Business' theme of the SPF Investment Plan has been developed based on the West Midlands Business Support Review, led by LEPs, the WMCA and Local Authorities in 2021. The overall vision is to boost business growth and jobs across the region by providing businesses with an integrated customer journey through a consistent West Midlands offer, with specialist programmes and a campaign to boost take-up. Here we elaborate on the necessary ingredients of the overall approach across:

- Strategy – what we're committed to achieve through our shared plans and principles
- Economic conditions – the major changes underway in our economy and future unknowns
- Funding mix – quantum, timescales, levers we control, options
- Powers and institutions – aligning with the Trailblazing Devolution Deal discussions to boost local delivery and influence
- Understanding impact in places.

- 4.2 Our strategy is to boost business growth using the approach that set our economic Trailblazing Devolution aims and tackles the relatively low levels of firm productivity in the West Midlands by:
- Catalysing additional growth in high-value clusters where the region has comparative advantage and private sector confidence to create good jobs².
 - Attract more firms at the productivity frontier using FDI, particularly where they are able to add further strategic value to the region.
 - Help indigenous frontier firms to expand.
 - Help firms with mid-level productivity to move to improve through innovation, investment, internationalisation and excellent management and leadership.
 - Prompt firms with low productivity to assess their business models and strengthen incentives to change.
- 4.3 The Business Support Review emphasises that business support must be agile to stay relevant to economic and business conditions in West Midlands. In doing so, support will need to react to immediate needs whilst positioning for long-term sustainability and growth. This means:
- Providing immediate help and advice to help SMEs weather the spike in costs of doing business, covering energy, raw materials, finance and wage increases.
 - Proactively targeting firms and supply chains to shift to higher value added and more resilient activities like decarbonising business processes or adapting to new Rules of Origin requirements.
- 4.4. The SPF is a major funding stream, but it is important to reflect how this sits as part of a cohesive system of public and private support with different connected components including:
- Private sector activity from business organisations, banks, accountants and professional advisers – both paid for and free
 - Charity and non-profit activity, such as The Prince's Trust on young people's entrepreneurship and Business in the Community toolkits and support.
 - National programmes such as the national business helpline for basic signposting advice about starting a business, the Help to Grow programmes delivered by Business Schools, DIT export support, British Business Bank and the Intellectual Property Office's work on patents.
 - Paid-for and free support from universities and Catapult centres, including Knowledge Transfer industry partnerships and spinout support.
 - Locally funded activity, including support to BIDs, local markets and high-streets and social enterprises.

² As set out in the West Midlands Plan for Growth - <https://wmca.euwest01.umbraco.io/media/vd3fjeot/plan-for-growth.pdf>

- 4.5 The amount of SPF dedicated to the business support system (£42.4m) over the SPF period is heavily backloaded. The universal view of Directors of Economic Development is to seek to smooth the funding profile over 2023/4 and 2024/5 because 2022/3 sees significant activity through existing Growth Hubs and ERDF-funded programmes. While comparisons with previous support is very difficult, the balance of the proposed position reflects a deliberate decision to invest in **locally embedded** SME Advisor capacity for intensive relationship management to drive the integrated customer journey and Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council is leading development of an integrated customer relationship management system. With limited SPF resources, this means there will be significantly fewer specialist commissioned programmes than are currently funded through ERDF. Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council is leading on a forward-looking gap analysis to inform the business support offer across the region and capitalise on potential powers and resources from the Trailblazing Devolution Deal.
- 4.6 The new delivery model address fragmentation and lack of capacity in some areas (e.g. data and promotion). SME Advisers will work as a coordinated network across the region but be locally embedded in a way that works; potentially in local authorities, a university, Chamber, charity or Growth Hub with neighbouring areas. Through a Business Support Officers task and finish group, the WMCA will co-design with local authorities the specialist programmes to deliver the strategic priorities of net zero transition, investment readiness and business competitiveness and tailor commissioning and delivery options. Decisions will be made by the Economic Growth Board and WMCA Boards, according to the level of financial commitment. The WMCA will also use Trailblazer Devolution Deal discussions to empower the delivery model by embedding as far as possible nationally commissioned activity.
- 4.7 The final dimension is a robust impact and evaluation system to capture the effect in places and ensure this is visible and accountable to local partners and business groups. Our ambition is that this understanding captures not just the impact of WMCA-commissioned activity but the wider effect of national / publicly funded support and the contribution of private and third sector offers.
- 4.8 Using the structures and priorities from the West Midlands Business Support Review, local authorities, the WMCA and LEPs have shaped a costed model for activity to begin in April 2023. Details and commissioning specifications need to be developed over the next three months, along with a chance to respond to any decisions on funding by central government or regional partners. This model sees £20.2m delivered locally over the next two years, within a connected regional system under the direction of the Economic Growth Board.

	Function	Detail	Proposed SPF allocation (p.a. in years 2 and 3)
Core system	SME Growth Advisors and Strategic Relationship Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employed and embedded locally, this resource provides diagnostic, signposting and advisory support to local small and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs / social enterprises. Works proactively with (<500) most significant firms¹, linking local, regional and national conversations and intelligence to catalyse growth opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource for 70 Advisors in places (100% funded): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 in Birmingham 9 in Coventry 8 in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall & Wolverhampton 7 in Solihull Small coordination/mgmt team £0.5m for campaign to drive take-up 	£7.4m
	FDI and Internationalisation: <i>FDI activity (reactive and proactive) along with capital attraction work and profile-raising</i>	Commissioning of West Midlands Growth Company.	£1.6m
	Cluster Leadership: <i>Funding for organisations convening firms within primary clusters and leveraging additional investment.</i>	Support to be developed following West Midlands Plan for Growth priorities	£0.9m
	Intensive advice and grant support for businesses to improve resilience, competitiveness and productivity	Practical support, to be delivered via locally embedded growth advisors within a consistent overall framework to boost efficiency/productivity.	£4.5m
Specialist targeted programmes	Decarbonisation advice and grants	Programmes to be co-developed with LAs and agreed by Economic Growth Board	£4.5m
	Investor readiness training	Programmes to be co-developed with LAs and agreed by Economic Growth Board	£1.1m
	Advice and services to support trade and export	Connect to other funded provision	£0
	Business leadership, management and workforce planning	Connect to other funded provision	£0
	Advice and grants for entrepreneurs and start-up	Determined and delivered locally	SME Advisors
	Health and wellbeing advice	Connect to other funded provision	£0

¹strategic relationship management has previously been considered by the Strategic Economic Development Board (November 2021). It agreed that strong, coordinated relationship management with the most strategically important firms provides important benefits to the region's communities and supply chains. Further detail on the delivery models should be developed as/when resources are available and Strategic Relationship Management has been a significant element of Trailblazer Devolution Deal discussions.

5 Next Steps

5.1 Subject to the approval of this report, WMCA will submit the UKSPF Investment Plan to release its £88m allocation. A draft version is set out in Annex A, reflecting the ambition and priorities of the region at the current time. The Plan does not require details of local allocations or project proposals.

5.2 Our UKSPF allocation is comprised of 3 annual allocations, against the following profile, with limited flexibility to carry funds between years.

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
£10,729,170	£21,458,339	£56,220,848	£88,408,357

5.3 WMCA will continue working with key stakeholders including DLUHC to identify options to amend funding profiles to best meet the needs of the region, particularly in relation to business support activity, where the availability of Growth Hub and ongoing ERDF programmes means that there is a fairly good business support offer in the region, before a cliff-edge in April 2023. Directors of Economic Development have therefore requested that UKSPF funding for business support should be focused on financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25 to the value of c.£21m per year. As detailed in the financial comments however, the nature of the indicative allocations from April 2023 onwards means this approach introduces significant financial risk and as such, the amendment of delivery profiles is not recommended without the risk being fully negated or accepted by the relevant Authority.

5.4 WMCA will also continue to work with key stakeholders to develop the details underpinning the 4% administration arrangements for approval under delegations, as documented within the recommendations to this report.

5.5 Recognising the challenges associated with maximising spend in year 1 and avoiding any clawback, the WMCA are keen to progress mobilisation of delivery activity as a priority. In order to support this the following steps/actions will need to progress by the CA and Local Authority Partners.

End Oct	WMCA Submit Investment Plan and Supporting Annexes to Government for review/approval
Oct – Nov	WMCA to work with LA partners to develop/refine delivery schedules for inclusion in back-to-back agreements – building on data already provided for the development of the Investment Plan Annexes to align with DLUHC M&E requirements
Oct – Nov	A Business Support Officers task and finish group (CA and LA partners) will draft specifications for business support (for yr2 delivery), with the intention to procure in good time to ensure smooth transition from existing to new funds and progs. This group will report into the monthly Directors of Economic Development standing meeting.
Nov	Government review/clarification questions issued on Investment Plan submission for WMCA response
End Nov (est)	Government approval of the Investment Plan and Deliverables and issue Funding Award Letter/Agreement to WMCA
Early Dec	WMCA Legal, Finance, Procurement, Data and Assurance leads to carryout a review of the funding agreement issued and subject to no issues/clarifications, approve receipt of funding/sign agreement.
Early Dec	WMCA Legal to begin work drafting back-to-back agreement templates for issuing to LA partners
Mid Dec	Back-to-Back Agreements and schedules of delivery activity issued to LA partner legal teams to review, sign off and return to WMCA
Late Dec/ early Jan	Subject to receipt of signed funding agreements from LA partners delivery activity can commence
Jan/Feb	Commissioning of Business Support activity for Yr 2 / Yr 3 to commence

- 5.6 DLUHC recognise that the Plan has been produced quickly and will be subject to change as projects are further developed and agreed, and investment responds to changing local priorities. Negotiations for our Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD) are also ongoing, which includes asks around additional flexibility within / between funds. If relevant additional sources of funding are secured through the TDD process, we will look to reassess priorities and re-deploy UKSPF funds in light of this. DLUHC have confirmed that there will be opportunities for review throughout the funding period.
- 5.7 As set out in the UKSPF prospectus, we are required to seek support for our approach from local partners and MPs. This process is underway, led by the portfolio holder, and is advisory only. Approval of the final Investment Plan is the responsibility of the CA Board.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The overall UKSPF allocation for the WM 7 Met area is as follows. This will be split equally between 'supporting local business' and local allocations directed by LAs, that will predominantly be spent across 'communities and place' and 'people and skills'.

2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-25	Total
£10,729,170	£21,458,339	£56,220,848	£88,408,357

- 6.2 This will be allocated across investment priorities, by year as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Supporting local business	£5,150,002	£10,300,003	£26,986,007	£42,436,011
Local allocations: communities & place, people & skills	£5,150,002	£10,300,003	£26,986,007	£42,436,011
4% administration	£429,167	£858,334	£2,248,834	£3,536,334
Total	£10,729,170	£21,458,339	£56,220,848	£88,408,357

- 6.3 Whilst the year one allocation is confirmed, years 2 and 3 are 'indicative' allocations only, which subsequently introduces some risk into the programme. The risk being that the final allocation could be lower than shown above, as future year allocations will be subject to performance in year.
- 6.4 The nature of the indicative allocations (potentially restricting carrying over of funds between years); and the ineligibility of spend on 'people and skills' before 2024/25 has been challenged through a letter to the Minister but WMCA received a response to confirm that no changes will be made. WMCA will continue to seek flexibilities through our engagement with the new ministerial team. In the meantime, programmes will need to be designed to mitigate the risk, this includes assembling programmes that match (as closely as possible) the funding profile. Any significant variations between the delivery and funding profiles could only be done with the relevant Authority accepting the financial risk.
- 6.5 A maximum of 4% of the total allocation can be utilised to support the administrative costs of managing the fund and options around the utilisation of this funding are being developed. The recommendations within this report request that the final arrangements concerning these costs are delegated to the relevant Executive Officers and the Portfolio Lead for Economy and Innovation accordingly.

6.6 There has been consideration of the value for money implications, through review of market rates, benchmarking against ERDF for business support and evidence from previous regional programmes. The approach aligns with measures from other CA's.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no immediate legal implications as a direct result of this report. Legal will continue to advise on the preparation of the investment plan and any agreements entered into as a result of any funding being awarded.

7.2 Should the final grant terms and conditions place at risk the full award being realised by WMCA (i.e. through under performance in year), then the impact of this will need to be passed on to project sponsors (LAs) through appropriately worded funding agreements. Mitigations around the impact of those risks crystallising would also need to be considered at a local level (i.e. by LAs).

8 Equalities Implications

8.1 There are no immediate equalities implications arising from this report.

9 Inclusive Growth Implications

9.1 As outlined in section 3, we have sought to utilise UKSPF, and align it with wider funds, to ensure a greater focus on need than the UKSPF funding formula adopted by HMG. This includes ensuring a minimum level of investment in business support services in all areas and maximising the use of other funds and ensuring these are targeted on areas of most need.

10 Geographical Area of Report's Implications

10.1 The report covers the 7 West Midlands Combined Authority metropolitan areas.

11 Other implications

11.1 None.

Annex A: Draft UKSPF Investment Plan (see attached)

Annex B: Allocations methodology

1. Launched as part of the Levelling Up White Paper, UKSPF is a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda, with a primary goal of building pride in place and increasing life chances across the UK.
2. Allocations for each area of the UK have been determined through a national methodology [[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: allocations methodology - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-allocations-methodology)], through which:
 - Total allocations, at a minimum, match the size of some EU structural funds across the UK
 - Funding is distributed across all four UK nations, and to all MCAs and LAs within England.
 - The share of total funding allocated to LEPs matches what they were notionally allocated under ERDF and ESF in real terms (once Multiply has been added in)
 - The share of funding allocated to each delivery geography (MCA or LA) is distributed on the basis of both population and need.
3. The distribution of allocations is based on 70% of the total allocation to each LEP being distributed based on LA population size and 30% using a [needs-based index](#) developed for the Community Renewal Fund. The needs-based index seeks to prioritise places that suffer from weak economic performance and are less equipped to resist and recover from shocks, and includes metrics relating to productivity, skills, unemployment, population density and household income.

WM 7 Met allocation

4. The West Midlands 7 Met area is considered to be a single delivery geography, in which WMCA is identified as the lead authority. Using the national methodology outlined above, our UKSPF allocation is as follows:

2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-25	Total
£10,729,170	£21,458,339	£56,220,848	£88,408,357

5. The allocation of funds across different geographies within the 7 Met area and between investment priorities can be locally determined. However, given HMG published LA level figures to illustrate how our allocation was arrived at, most LAs have used these to underpin their assumption of spend in their area.
6. Assuming 50% of overall funds would be distributed as local allocations (as agreed by CA Board), these would be distributed as follows:

Birmingham	Coventry	Dudley	Sandwell	Solihull	Walsall	Wolves	Total
£17,460,144	£5,429,236	£4,496,355	£4,712,269	£2,549,007	£4,019,695	£3,759,304	42,426,010

7. However, some LAs have requested that, in determining local allocations, we explore an alternative methodology to that used by central government, to take greater account of need and better reflect the ambitions of the Levelling Up agenda. While this would not impact the overall funding envelope, it would rebalance investment towards those LAs with greater 'need' and away from those with larger populations.

8. In modelling this, we have developed a range of alternative scenarios, including basing allocations on 50:50 population/need and 30:70 population/need. Each of these adjustments involve reducing allocations for Birmingham and Coventry and increasing allocations elsewhere. Implementing this would require political agreement from the leaders of these authorities.

	HMG model - 70% population, 30% need	50% population, 50% need	Difference from 70:30 model	30% population, 70% need	Difference from 70:30 model
Birmingham	£17,460,144	£12,417,598	(£5,042,546)	£9,588,568	(£7,871,576)
Coventry	£5,439,236	£5,043,436	(£395,800)	£5,013,245	(£425,991)
Dudley	£4,496,355	£5,735,002	£1,238,647	£6,176,942	£1,680,588
Sandwell	£4,712,269	£5,978,519	£1,266,250	£6,519,683	£1,807,413
Solihull	£2,549,007	£2,503,253	(£45,754)	£2,970,364	£421,356
Walsall	£4,019,695	£5,269,014	£1,249,319	£5,893,777	£1,874,082
Wolverhampton	£3,759,304	£5,489,189	£1,729,885	£6,273,432	£2,514,128

9. In addition to these local allocations, we are also exploring how we can use wider UKSPF funds – Business Support Funds and Multiply – to rebalance investment towards areas of greatest need.

10. Furthermore, because it is not possible to invest in People and Skills interventions until 2024/24, the CA has been working with LAs to identify how it can deploy its wider skills investment to meet local priorities. This involves looking at how we use existing AEB and Community Learning grant funding in each area to meet skills and employment support priorities.

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UK Government

**LEVELLING
— UP —**

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan

Version 2
May 2022

Your location

To be eligible for funding, you will need to be applying on behalf of a lead authority in one of the [delivery geographies](#).

Select the lead authority

For Scotland and Wales only: Who else is this investment plan being submitted on behalf of? Select all that apply

Your details

Name: Dr Fiona Aldridge

Email address Fiona.Aldridge@wmca.org.uk

Phone number: 07775 698181

Organisation name: West Midlands Combined Authority

Local challenges and opportunities

In this section, we will ask you:

- If you've identified any challenges or opportunities, you intend to support
- Which of the UKSPF investment priorities these fall under

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

The West Midlands has enormous economic potential, where the success of our region is critical to the success of the UK more widely. Prior to the pandemic we were the fastest growing region outside of London, breaking through the £100bn economic output mark in 2019-20. This success was powered by a young and diverse population, a strong Higher Education base and many Good and Outstanding schools, colleges and training providers. We experienced growth in high value-added sectors, new investment and infrastructure, and a growing digital capability. However, underlying this growth there are significant issues with inequality, poverty, youth unemployment, low skills, poor health and school performance.

Our ambition is to build a better connected, more prosperous, fairer, greener and healthier West Midlands. Inclusive growth is at the heart of our vision. We want to build a region where people thrive in the places they live and work, a region that is focused on people as well as place.

In order to achieve this ambition, our [2021 State of the Region report](#) identified five key challenges to shape future strategic activities across partners. These were agreed through the WMCA Board:

1. Delivering good jobs

- a. Although employment has returned to pre-pandemic levels, parts of the region have low levels of employment and high levels of unemployment. Despite a tight labour market, part of the region continue to display stubborn levels of long-term unemployment
- b. WM has a strong start up rate, but with new businesses most vulnerable to economic shocks. The insolvency rate is also high.

2. Supporting thriving places and communities

- a. Affordable housing – the region is building houses at a good rate but house prices continue to rise, resulting in a decline in affordable housing and additional affordable rented homes
- b. Visitor numbers – prior to the pandemic, visitor numbers were growing steadily. The region relies heavily on business tourism which has been heavily impacted as a result of covid

3. Embedding our green ambitions

- a. The region is a net importer of energy, due to a lack of natural assets for renewables. Despite this, the low-carbon manufacturing sector is the fastest growing in the region.
- b. Even before recent price hikes, WMCA had one of the highest rates of fuel poverty.

4. Tackling inequality and levelling up

- a. While disposable income per person continues to rise, this remains lower than the UK average. Nearly 20% of the region is in the top 10% most deprived.
- b. Pre-covid, health life expectancy was improving, though a gap remains with the national average.

5. Preventing a lost generation

- a. Prior to covid, the WM was a strong apprenticeship performer. However, since then, we have seen a significant drop in opportunities for young people and with SMEs in particular.
- b. The WM has fewer people qualified to Level 4+ (37% vs 43% UK) and more people with no qualifications (9.6% vs 6.6% UK) compared to other areas.

In addition:

- Access to green space across the WMCA region is not equitable. Furthermore, as the population in the WMCA area increases, the levels of publicly accessible park and green space provision per person are likely to fall below the minimum standard of provision. Many of the same communities are also vulnerable to flooding and overheating. Measure to tackle this are outlined in the [West Midlands Natural Environment Plan](#).
- The region has in excess of 10,500 heritage assets, many of which are buildings that are not being used to their full potential, whilst costing a great deal to run and maintain. These assets have been mapped [here](#), and would benefit from further investment to build pride in place.
- The [social economy](#) in the WMCA area is diverse, but that diversity does not lead to asset wealth, or the rewards of growth being shared equitably. A literature review led by Locality (2020), indicated that diverse-led organisations are more likely to be micro enterprises (turnover of less than £10k per year), with lower levels of paid staff and barriers to accessing grants, funding and finance. Addressing this will help to address the region’s lower uptake of social investment.
- West Midlands Police has the highest crime severity score of all forces in England and Wales and a much higher rate of domestic abuse-related incidents per 1,000 population than other forces, leading to harm, disruption and homelessness for those women and children. This undermines the stability of communities and pride in place, and prevents victims from contributing to, or benefiting from social capital.
- [Research by Local Trust](#) has indicated that 20 wards in the WMCA area contain ‘left behind places’ with a lack of places to meet, lower levels of engagement and activity, and poor connectivity (in all respects) to the wider economy.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

As well as deploying UKSPF funds for the improvement of high streets and town centres, community and neighbourhood infrastructure, and local green spaces, we anticipate using funding within the ‘communities and place’ investment priority to build capacity and support local civil society and community groups.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Compared with other regions, the West Midlands has suffered the sharpest decline in economic output over the last two years, as a result of the Covid pandemic, supply chain disruptions and new trade frictions. The region is responding through the West Midlands [Plan for Growth](#) which pinpoints clusters where the region has comparative advantage and there is additional growth potential, alongside an ambitious Trailblazing Devolution Deal to secure more resources and powers for the region.

The West Midlands’ local context and needs include:

- Productivity (GVA per hour worked) is 11% lower than the national rate, with slower growth over last five years, particularly in Walsall, Dudley and Wolverhampton.

- Below average 5-year business survival rate in Coventry, Sandwell, Walsall, and Wolverhampton; lower job density across all areas except Solihull, and decreasing job density in Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall.
- Declining high growth firms: 10% (over 5 years) and lower business demand for innovation.
- Job density is slightly below the national average, though this varies across the area from +22% in Solihull to -13% in Sandwell.
- Manufacturing remains important to the economy with the highest GVA of all sectors, though total employees has fallen (-10%).
- Information & communication and professional, scientific & technical sectors are the two fastest growth sectors in GVA terms with strong employment growth.

In responding to these challenges, we have identified four key areas of economic opportunity for the West Midlands which covers :

- **Support SMEs with low to mid-level productivity:** New jobs and higher wages depend on having more successful businesses. A 1% rise in productivity each year for 5 years, would increase output per head to £26,735, reducing the productivity gap from £17.4bn to £12bn and supporting higher wages.
- **Expand & attract frontier firms:** The number of £1m+ turnover firms is falling in the West Midlands (-0.8% in 2018/19), whilst it is rising in the UK overall (3.4% increase in the same period). Reversing this trend would deliver and safeguard significant numbers of jobs and opportunities for progression.
- **Catalyse growth in target clusters where the region has a competitive advantage:** 10,000 new jobs in priority sectors (Business, Professional & Financial Services, Creative & Digital and Low Carbon & Environmental tech) will provide more than twice as much output and higher wages than in non-priority sectors.
- **Support business transformation to boost jobs growth & safeguard existing jobs:** Supporting even a return to the 2018/19 job growth rate of c.1% through effective business support in priority sectors alone would create 22,857 new jobs and safeguard 135,000 jobs over 5 years, using Government figures.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

As a result of LEP integration and institutional change, public and private partners across the region are repositioning business support in the West Midlands in accordance with the West Midlands Business Support Review. The Supporting Local Business investment priority will be a central plank of the cohesive, sustainable system advocated by the Review, including an integrated customer journey and core support offer to firms across the West Midlands, but with flexibility to respond to hyper-local needs and opportunities. There will also be a range of commissioned specialist programmes targeting shared priorities including decarbonisation, improving investment readiness of firms and supporting firms to grow by adopting new technologies and processes

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

The West Midlands has enormous economic potential, where the success of our region is critical to the success of the UK more widely. Prior to the pandemic we were the fastest growing region outside of London. This success was powered by a young and diverse population, a strong Higher Education base and many Good and Outstanding schools, colleges and training providers. We experienced growth in high value-added sectors, new investment and infrastructure, and a growing digital capability.

However, the region also faces long-standing challenges in relation to 'people and skills', including:

- **lower GVA per head** compared to national figures (£25.5k in the region compared to £30k nationally).
- **Relatively low employment and high unemployment**, particularly in some parts of the region.

- **Growing in-work poverty, driven by low wage levels** (average full-time wages in the WM 7 Met area are £2k lower than the national average).
- **Low skill levels in the population**, with fewer people qualified to Level 4+ (37% vs 43% UK) and more people with no qualifications (9.6% vs 6.6% UK) compared to other areas; 85% of residents are qualified to Level 1 (vs 88% UK), 72% to Level 2 (vs 78% UK) and 55% to Level 3 (vs 62% UK).
- **Persistent skills shortages** faced by employers; around 1 in 4 vacancies in the region are classed as 'hard to fill', particularly in roles that require advanced and/or higher skills
- **Lack of digital skills:** 56% of people in the West Midlands do not have the essential digital skills needed for work. As a result, the WM has the highest proportion of employers who say they find applicants with digital skills difficult to find (38%).
- **Uneven development and attainment by young people** through early years, primary, secondary and tertiary education and training (69% of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception, compared to 72% nationally in 2019).

More recently, the region was hit hard by Covid-19, with a high number of workers furloughed to the end of the scheme, alongside significant job losses and large numbers of benefit claimants. Young people and those from BME communities were hit hardest, particularly those who are less well qualified, and who live in areas with already high levels of unemployment and deprivation. While the economy has now begun to recover, this is uneven with a real risk that some places and people will be left behind. In particular, challenges remain in relation to:

- The **variability of recovery across the region**, across places, sectors and demographic characteristics. Recovery is slowest in areas with high levels of deprivation.
- A **high level of unfilled vacancies** reflecting where many businesses are struggling to fill roles due to labour market and skills shortages.
- **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 claiming Universal Credit and Seeking Work, but who have been unemployed for 12+ months.
- **Economic inactivity**, with a growing number of older people and those with both short-term and long-term health conditions leaving the labour market.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Within the 'people and skills' investment priority, we intend to predominantly focus on employment support interventions, recognising the particular challenges faced in each local area and the need to preserve and develop critical local infrastructure. We will also focus on supporting digital inclusion and developing the digital skills required to access employment and progress at work. We have chosen not to prioritise wider skills interventions within our UKSPF. Instead, we will use alternative skills funding available to the region (Adult Education Budget, National Skills Fund, Multiply), to reduce the demands on UKSPF whilst increasing our overall capacity to deliver skills and training that meet the needs of local residents and businesses.

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Interventions you've chosen for each year of funding
- Outcomes you want to deliver
- Any interventions that are not listed here
- How these interventions fall under the UKSPF investment priorities, and your rationale for them
- Interventions not included in our list will be assessed before being approved, where you will need to show a clear rationale, how the intervention is value for money, what outcomes it will deliver and how you will monitor and evaluate the intervention. This may include a theory of change or logic chain.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
<i>Note – this section will be updated when finalised expenditure and deliverables info is shared with us by LAs.</i>	
Jobs created	✓
Jobs safeguarded	✓
Increased footfall	✓
Increased visitor numbers	✓
Reduced vacancy rates	✓
Greenhouse gas reductions	✓
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility	✓
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	✓
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	✓
Increased users of facilities / amenities	✓
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project	✓
Increased use of cycleways or paths	✓
Increase in Biodiversity	✓
Increased affordability of events/entry	✓
Improved perception of safety	✓
Reduction in neighbourhood crime	✓
Improved engagement numbers	✓
Improved perception of events	✓
Increased number of web searches for a place	✓
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	✓
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	✓
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures	✓
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	✓
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	✓
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.
E2: Funding for new, or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects including those that increase communities' resilience to natural hazards, such as flooding. This could cover capital spend and running costs.
E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.
E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.
E5: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'.
E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.
E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.
E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.
E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.

E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

We do not plan to use any interventions not included in the communities and place list.

Explain how each intervention meets the Communities and Place investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

n/a

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Communities and Place investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

Specific projects under the communities and place investment priority have not yet been identified.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jobs safeguarded	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased footfall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased visitor numbers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced vacancy rates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Greenhouse gas reductions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number of new businesses created	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved perception of markets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased business sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased number of businesses supported	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased amount of investment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved perception of attractions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Number of new to market products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Number of R&D active businesses	✓
Increased number of innovation active SMEs	✓
Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services	✓
Increased number of innovation plans developed	✓
Number of early stage firms which increase their revenue following support	✓
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	✓
Number of businesses increasing their export capability	✓
Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed	✓
Number of businesses with improved productivity	✓
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.

E18: Supporting Made Smarter Adoption: Providing tailored expert advice, matched grants and leadership training to enable manufacturing SMEs to adopt industrial digital technology solutions including artificial intelligence; robotics and autonomous systems; additive manufacturing; industrial internet of things; virtual reality; data analytics. The support is proven to leverage high levels of private investment into technologies that drive growth, productivity, efficiency and resilience in manufacturing.

E19: Increasing investment in research and development at the local level. Investment to support the diffusion of innovation knowledge and activities. Support the commercialisation of ideas, encouraging collaboration and accelerating the path to market so that more ideas translate into industrial and commercial practices.

E20: Research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services.

E21: Funding for the development and support of appropriate innovation infrastructure at the local level.

E22: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects. This can help to unlock site development projects which will support growth in places.

E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.

E24: Funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, 'incubators' and 'accelerators' for local enterprise (including social enterprise) which can support entrepreneurs and start-ups through the early stages of development and growth by offering a combination of services including account management, advice, resources, training, coaching, mentorship and access to workspace.

E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.

E27: Funding to develop angel investor networks nationwide.

E28: Export Grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment.

E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy. Taking a whole systems approach to invest in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation across energy, buildings and transport and beyond, in line with our legally binding climate target. Maximising existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods and services to take advantage of the growing global opportunity.

E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these	
We do not plan to use any interventions not included in the supporting local business list.	
Explain how each intervention meets the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.	
n/a	
Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
n/a	

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority and the location of the proposed project.	
Specific projects under the supporting local business investment priority have not yet been identified.	
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
n/a	

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.	
Outcome	Tick if applicable
<i>Note – this section will be updated when finalised expenditure and deliverables info is shared with us by LAs.</i>	
Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support	✓
Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills	✓
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	✓
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services	✓
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	✓
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support	✓
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	✓
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months	✓
Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance	✓
Number of people in education/training	✓
Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	✓
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	✓
Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	✓
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	✓

Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	✓
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills	✓
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training.	✓
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions	✓
Number of people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills (relationship, organisational and anger-management, interviewing, CV and job application writing)	✓
Multiply only - Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.

E34: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills** provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above. Supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications.

E35: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.

E36: Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion, with a focus on essential digital skills, communicating the benefits of getting (safely) online, and in-community support to provide users with the confidence and trust to stay online.

E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses. This includes supporting the retention of groups who are likely to leave the labour market early.

E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that is not being met through other provision.

E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.

E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors.

E41: Funding to support local digital skills.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

We do not plan to use any interventions not included in the people and skills list.

Explain how each intervention meets the People and Skills investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

n/a

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

ENGLAND ONLY: People and Skills interventions can only be used in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 if you have identified a local voluntary and community provision, previously supported by the European Social Fund, at risk of closure. If you have not identified a suitable provision, you will not be able to select interventions for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and your investment plan will not be approved.

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS for 2024-2025 WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Specific projects under the people and skills investment priority have not yet been identified.

Describe the projects for 2024-25, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

n/a

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A LOCAL VOLUNTARY PROVISION AT RISK AS PART OF YOUR PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITIES?

Yes

No

(If Yes) Describe the local voluntary provision at risk and your rationale for supporting it.

Provide the European Social Fund Project Names and Project References for this voluntary and community provision at risk.

n/a

What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.

~~2022-2023~~

~~2023-2024~~

~~2024-2025~~

Describe the projects for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

n/a

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

Approach to delivery and governance

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Structures you have in place to support delivery
- Support you have from stakeholders and the local community
- How you've engaged with MPs as part of your investment plan
- Opportunities you have identified to work with other places

Places need to show how MPs that cover the lead local authority have been engaged on the investment plan and whether they support it. More detail on the role of MPs can be found here.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Have you engaged with any of the following as part of your investment plan? Select all that apply.

Public sector organisations ✓ Private sector organisations ✓ Civil society organisations ✓

Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible.

In developing our UKSPF Investment Plan, we have engaged extensively with a wide range of stakeholders – from the public sector, private sector and civil society – across the WMCA area. We will continue to engage with stakeholders as we develop detailed project and implementation plans, and review these throughout the duration of the programme.

Engagement has taken place through:

- A series of bilateral meetings with officers and leaders from the 7 Local Authorities that comprise the WMCA area.
- Engagement with existing networks and groups – for example LA/LEP skills officers' group, LA/LEP Employment and Skills Boards, Colleges West Midlands, WMCA/Universities check-in meetings, West Midlands Combined Universities, Regional Business Council, WMCA Economic Impact Group, VCS Chairs Group, WMCA Faith Strategic Partnerships Group, WMCA Cultural Officers Group
- Engagement with WMCA taskforces and commissions – including homelessness task force, race equalities task force, Young Combined Authority
- Presentations for and meetings with individual organisations and sub regional groups/networks, on request – for example Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- A series of interactive webinars – open to all stakeholders, with recordings made available for those unable to attend
- Dedicated [webpage](#) and [email address](#) providing a single source of information and contact for queries.

Summarise the governance structures you have in place, including how any advisory panels or associated partnership groups are made up

WMCA have robust processes in place through a Single Assurance Framework (SAF) to ensure programmes meet our corporate aims and objectives. Our SAF is a set of systems, processes and protocols designed to provide the Combined Authority with a consistent approach for appraisal, assurance, risk management and performance through the lifecycle of a programme. This includes processes for ensuring accountability, probity, transparency and legal compliance, and for ensuring value for money is achieved across investments. This high level UKSPF Investment Plan has been taken through this SAF process, providing initial internal assurance and oversight. As we move into detailed project planning and delivery, project businesses cases will be developed using the green book 5 case business model which will also go through this SAF approval process.

In addition to the SAF processes, oversight, implementation and monitoring of the WMCA UKSPF Investment Plan and delivery activity will be the responsibility of the WMCA Economic Growth Board. Representation on this Board includes the WMCA Mayor and Leaders of our 7 constituent Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs, Chair of WM Innovation Board, Chair of WM Growth Company and representatives from Midlands TUC, WM Chambers of Commerce and the Higher Education sector. The UKSPF will be monitored through this Board throughout the delivery period.

WMCA have also established a UKSPF Local Partnership Group, with representation across a wide variety of sectors, stakeholders and partners, aligned to the guidance as set out in the UKSPF Prospectus. A first meeting of the Group was convened to consider the outline Investment Plan and a second meeting took place in October to provide sector input and subject matter expertise into our more detailed proposals. Contact details for all members of the Group are provided on the [WMCA UKSPF webpage](#), alongside the terms of reference for the group, clearly outlining its role in supporting development of the Investment Plan, strategic fit and deliverability. Clear processes have been established around declarations of conflicts of interest and how these are managed as part of this Group.

The West Midlands Combined Authority Board provide final approval to submission of the plan and will receive updates annually as the plan is refined and programme delivery commences.

Confirm all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the local partnership group.	
Yes We have written to MPs sharing our Investment Plan and offering individual meetings to discuss this. All MPs were also invited to an MP engagement group. Local Authorities have also engaged with their local MPs in developing local plans. We will continue to engage with MPs as the programme develops.	No
Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?	
Yes	No
(If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why.	

PROJECT SELECTION	
Are you intending to select projects in any way other than by competition for funding?	
Yes	No
(If Yes) Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way.	
<p>The WMCA UKSPF Investment Plan has been developed in collaboration with our 7 Local Authority partners, recognising their key strategic and delivery role at a local level, aligned to local need. Through our detailed project planning process, a proportion of WMCA UKSPF funding will be awarded to support projects at a local level delivered by our Local Authorities, with a clear focus on community and place interventions.</p> <p>In developing more detailed project plans aligned to the objectives and interventions set out in our Investment Plan, we have established a process for Local Authorities to profile deliverables, including local interventions, outputs, outcomes and costs. Through regular one to one meetings with our Local Authority partners we will consider proposals in more detail, ensuring they are deliverable, compliant and will achieve maximum benefits to the area and region. We are also exploring opportunities to align regional and local offers through other funding streams, including our devolved AEB and Multiply, whilst also identifying opportunities for local projects or programmes to be expanded to cover a wider WMCA geography.</p> <p>Whilst the investment plan brings our local and regional proposals together into a clear consistent regional offer, we have a clear understanding of specific local interventions, outputs and outcomes that will form this wider plan. We will work with local partners as they progress to implementation, ensuring any onward commissioning of delivery activity is compliant with the requirements set out in the UKSPF MoU/Funding Agreement that is issued to the WMCA.</p> <p>The higher level interventions, outputs and outcomes as set in this plan have been considered by a number of Boards and Groups, both within the WMCA Governance process but also at Local Authority levels. This includes our WMCA UKSPF Local Partnership Group, WMCA/LA Heads of Economic Development, WMCA Economic Growth Board, West Midlands WMCA/LA Finance Directors, through to final approval by our WMCA full Board.</p> <p>Following submission and approval of the WMCA UKSPF Investment Plan, and a requirement of our WMCA assurance processes, we will update our UKSPF Programme Business Case to provide further detail on delivery activity against the themes set out in the UKSPF prospectus, for approval by our SAF Investment Board, aligned to the Green Book 5 stage business case model (as set out in the governance structures above).</p> <p>We have established a process to consider/assess at-risk VCS projects and brought together Local Authority partners and WMCA officers to consider businesses cases and potential to support these going forward. Our Local Authority partners have made commitments to work closely with the VCS sector in their areas, in particular to support delivery of community and place interventions. Our Local Authorities have also reviewed projects that have operated across more than one LA area and are working collaboratively to identify approaches to continue to support these projects or to re-</p>	

shape offers based on current and evolving economic circumstances, ensuring flexibility can be built into local offers to meet changing needs and demands.

The processes proposed above are subject to the Grant Funding Agreement issued by government. In addition to this, full account is being given to the Government Functional Standards 015: Grants, and the Cabinet Office Guidance for General Grants. We anticipate a mix of open and closed/restricted competitions throughout the lifecycle of the programme and have dedicated legal, procurement and assurance resources who will ensure processes are compliant and transparent.

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

n/a

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

We do not currently intend to work with other places on any of the interventions under the communities and place investment priority.

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

n/a

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

We have not identified specific interventions under the supporting local business investment priority where we intend to work with other places. However, we are keen to maintain relevant economic geographies where appropriate and will therefore review this as the programme develops.

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

n/a

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

We do not currently intend to work with other places on any of the interventions under the people and skills investment priority.

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

How have you considered your public sector equality duty in the design of your investment plan?

We have considered the public sector duty in the design of our investment plan, particularly with regards to stakeholder engagement and in the selection of our interventions and outcomes.

How will you consider your public sector equality duty when implementing your investment plan, including in the selection of projects?

Our investment plan outlines our high-level approach to UKSPF, and we have not yet identified specific projects. As we select projects, we will consider the public sector equality duty in line with the Equality Act 2010. In developing projects, we will set out information on equalities impact, identification of affected groups based on protected characteristics, and what, if any, measures have been identified in response to these impacts. This will enable us to ensure equality considerations shape the design of projects and appropriate mitigations are put in place. As we move into delivery, through our monitoring and evaluation processes we will seek supporting qualitative and quantitative data against these impacts, in order to review how these are being delivered and managed.

RISKS

Have you identified any key risks that could affect delivery, for example lack of staff or expertise?

~~Yes~~ | No

(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

This is a high-level UKSPF investment plan, with projects not yet fully detailed. As this activity progresses, we will closely work with all delivery partners to capture and monitor any specific project level risks. We will develop a risk register with contingency measures to mitigate risk at both project and programme level.

We have identified a number of programme-level risks that could affect delivery, associated with the inability to carry funds across financial years and the inability to invest in 'people and skills' until 24/25. These parameters and processes impose national restrictions in a way that prevents us from being agile and responsive and are counter to the principles of devolution. We have outlined these risks and our proposals for mitigation to DLUHC ministers and officials.

At a regional level we have identified a risk to spend for year 1 activity. Our rationale for this is based on the short delivery window the WMCA and delivery partners will have to mobilise and move into delivery for year 1 activity, particularly where onward commissioning activity is required. To mitigate this, we are engaged in ongoing dialogue with partners to re-check activity and delivery timescales, as well as working with regional and local finance directors to establish processes now to progress mobilisation of delivery activity as soon as the Plan is approved.

Have you identified any key fraud risks that could affect UKSPF delivery?

~~Yes~~ | No

(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

Controls are in place within WMCA to identify potential fraud risks; these are incorporated into assurance and appraisal processes aligned to project development, award and delivery stages. This includes an internal review to check organisations are eligible to receive funding including cross checks at companies' house where applicable. Where delivery leads are looking to sub-contract or work with delivery partners, we will require a full flow down of funding agreement terms and conditions to be put in place.

Contract monitoring processes will be put in place throughout the lifetime of the UKSPF programme, replicating processes we already have in place for the Adult Education Budget (AEB), Community Renewal Fund and other funding streams, including regular reporting on financials, performance and milestones. Payment schedules will be put in place with delivery leads, this will include a requirement for leads to submit financial claims and supporting evidence. These are checked by WMCA Finance Officers and submitted to a payments and performance board, chaired by our S151 Officer.

Capacity and capability

In this section, we will ask you about:

- The capacity and capability of your team to manage funding
- The resources you have in place for work related to UKSPF

Your answers here will help us know how to support you with delivery. They will not affect the amount of funding you will get.

Answer as honestly as possible.

TEAM RESOURCE
<p>How many people (FTE) will be put in place to work with UKSPF funding?</p> <p>A total of 6.5 employees will be employed by the WMCA to oversee the implementation, marketing and communications, monitoring and reporting, and refresh requirements for SPF. This does not include existing internal WMCA resources who provide guidance and support on assurance, compliance, finance, legal, procurement, and data requirements.</p> <p>Our 7 Local Authority partners will also receive an allocation from the 4% management fee, to support local monitoring, reporting and oversight working closely with the WMCA UKSPF Programme Team.</p> <p>In-kind support is also being provided by the WMCA and Local Authorities in order to develop proposals, engage with local providers, oversee and lead on governance requirements, reporting and briefings and provide full oversight of the programme as it is developed and once in delivery. .</p>
<p>Describe what role these people will have, including any seniority and experience.</p> <p>The dedicated resources will support as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • x1 Senior Delivery Manager, UKSPF – Leading day to day operational and contractual delivery. To have full oversight of UKSPF projects including performance, risks and issues. To work with delivery leads to ensure successful delivery of projects, share lessons learned, best practise and support annual updates to WMCA UKSPF Investment Plan. To provide updates to respective Boards, Meetings, Group on SPF activity. • x1 UKSPF Monitoring and Evaluation Officer – To provide performance management and monitoring of projects/programmes. To include contract, performance and relationship management and programme compliance. • x2 UKSPF Project Officers – To lead and support on development and implementation of projects including assurance support, advice, guidance and support to delivery partners and monitoring and managing risks. To support UKSPF Partnership Group and other forums as required. • X0.5 Modelling and Forecasting Analyst – To provide data support in compiling UKSPF returns and analysis against targets/delivery. • X 1 Delivery Manager: Business Support – to lead on development, implementation and oversight of SPF related Business support interventions. • X 1 Delivery Manager (Cluster Leadership) - responsible for convening and commissioning business-led cluster activities, including driving innovation and connections across the clusters to maximise benefits and opportunities in these areas. • x1 Marketing and Communications Officer – Senior level role providing support to the WMCA and 7 Local Authority Partners in raising awareness, good news stories and other related marketing and communications activities as required. • Resource Support will also be in place across our 7 Local Authorities to work with the WMCA team as outlined above. Providing project management, monitoring and evaluation capability on local delivery activity.

- Strong capability: Has extensive experience and/or a proven track record of delivery in this area.
- Strong capacity: High degree of confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Some capability: Has previous experience of delivery in this area.

- Some capacity: Confident that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Limited capability: Does not have previous experience and/or no track record of delivery in this area.
- Limited capacity: Limited confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area. Additional resource may be needed to support delivery.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
How would you describe your team's current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds?		
Very experienced	Some experience	No previous experience
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Communities and Place interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
n/a		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
n/a		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
n/a		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
n/a		

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
As a result of LEP integration and BEIS' decision to reduce funding to Growth Hubs by 50%, partners across the West Midlands are establishing the shape and structure of a future cohesive business support system that is co-designed and commissioned regionally, with local delivery. The West Midlands Business support review sets the vision direction, with the WMCA's Economic Growth Board taking on new decision-making responsibility. The challenges include the system's agility to work alongside private sector provision to meet changing business needs such as energy costs and changing market needs.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
Clear positions from Government about the structure and funding of business support activities, including the position on Growth Hubs, national programmes like Help to Grow and the local interface with national agencies like British Business Bank and HMRC.		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
n/a		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
n/a		

PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
n/a		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
n/a		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
n/a		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
n/a		

SUPPORT TO DELIVERY UKSPF

All lead authorities can use up to 4% of their UKSPF allocation to support the delivery of their chosen interventions but by exception, lead authorities will be able to use more than 4%. Are you planning to use more than 4%?		
Yes	No	
(If Yes) Explain why you wish to use more than 4%.		
n/a		

Approvals

Before submitting your investment plan, you should have approval from your:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Section 151 Officer
- Leader of your lead authority

Do you have approval from your Chief Executive Officer for this investment plan?

- Yes
 ~~No~~

Do you have approval from your Section 151 Officer for this investment plan?

- Yes
 ~~No~~

Do you have approval from the leader of your lead authority for this investment plan?

- Yes
 ~~No~~

If you do not have approval from any of these people, please explain why this is:
--

n/a

Additional documents

You will have received an email giving you access to a folder where you will need to upload supporting evidence to your investment plan. All applicants must complete and upload the following spreadsheet to the folder prior to submitting their investment plan:

- UKSPF Expenditure Profile spreadsheet
- UKSPF Indicative Deliverables spreadsheet

Your investment plan submission will be considered incomplete without the required documents.

Have you completed and uploaded the two spreadsheets to the SharePoint folder as requested?

- Yes
 ~~No~~

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WMCA Board

Date	28 October 2022
Report title	Financial Monitoring Report 2022/23
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, West Midlands Combined Authority email: laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Linda Horne, Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub email: linda.horne@wmca.org.uk
This report has been considered by	SLT - 12 October WM FDs - 13 October

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

WMCA Board is recommended to:

- (1) Note the financial position as at 31 August 2022, as detailed in Sections 2 and 3.
- (2) Note the latest forecast for 2022/23 as detailed in Section 4, including the change to the Value for Money criteria for Bus Access Standards to £4.10.
- (3) Note the update on WMCA's Medium Term Financial Plan, as detailed in Section 5.
- (4) Note the Levelling Up Fund bid submitted by WMCA under delegations previously approved by the Board.
- (5) Note the grant award of £1.5m over 3 years from Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing for Rough Sleeping.
- (6) Note the award of £6.9m Made Smarter Phase 2 grant for 2023/24 to 2025/26 from BEIS.
- (7) Note the approval of the Multiply investment plan for £16.7m allocation and award of £5.1m for 2022/23 activity.
- (8) Approve recharge of 2022/23 Business Rates Growth monies, as detailed in Section 12.
- (9) Note the West Midlands Co-Invest project update and approve the setup of a new wholly owned company for the fund rather than using the existing WMDC structure (Section 15).

- (10) Note the package of 'good will measures' offered by the contractor, as set out in paragraph 16.2, in relation to Metro track replacement works on Corporation Street.
- (11) Note the potential for WMCA to bid for the hosting the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) World Congress in Birmingham in 2027, with the bid due to be submitted in early November (Section 10).

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on the Combined Authority's finances as at 31 August 2022.

2.0 2022/23 Year to Date Revenue Position

- 2.1 Appendix 1 shows the overall consolidated revenue position for the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- 2.2 The position at the end of August is a surplus of £2.177m which is a favourable variance from budget of £1.288m.
- 2.3 Within Transport there is a surplus at the end of August of £2.730m which represents a favourable variance from budget of £1.376m. The most notable variances at this early stage of the year relate to Concessions where expenditure is less than budget due to lower patronage and fare levels and within the Metro budget where Local Transport Fund (LTF) grant has now been received. The favourable position to date is expected to be largely offset by the full year due to an increase in Metro subsidy requirement and also to reflect the risk in relation to the bus network in the last quarter of the year.
- 2.4 Within the Portfolio budgets there is an adverse variance of £0.090m where savings against staffing and external advice across several budgets are offset by a lower than budgeted draw down of reserves.
- 2.5 The Mayoral Office position as at the end of August 2022 was in line with budget.
- 2.6 Appendix 1 shows the overall consolidated revenue position for the WMCA and appendices 2 to 4 present the detailed summaries for Transport, the WMCA Delivery budget and the Mayoral office respectively.

3.0 2022/23 Capital Programme Position

- 3.1 Appendix 5 sets out the position on the Capital Programme as at the end of August 2022. Actual costs totalled £142.4m, resulting in a favourable variance of £57.1m against budget.
- 3.2 The year to date expenditure to budget variance is primarily contained within Transport (£38.3m) and Housing (£11.0m).
- 3.3 The Transport Programme has been categorised into five sub programmes. The largest of these is the Investment Programme with a budget of £205.3m, including all the Rail/Sprint & Metro extension schemes.
- 3.4 At the end of August, actual costs for the Investment Programme are £19.2m below the budget of £77.9m. The main variances are within the Metro Programme totalling £11.5m and the Rail Programme totalling £7.6m.

3.5 Within Housing, the underspend largely relates to the Phoenix 10 scheme (£5.2m) and in relation to the Brownfield Land & Property Development Fund (£3.2m).

3.6 Further detail is available in Appendix 5.

4.0 Revenue and Capital Forecast Update

4.1 The first forecast of 2022/23 was completed in July 2022. This forecast incorporates the latest position on central government transport funding and the increase in MML operating costs as flagged to WMCA Board in June 2022. It also contains the profiling and cost of delivering activities over the remainder of the year.

4.2 WMCA has now received confirmation of the transport recovery grant funding and accepted the grant letter terms and conditions. WMCA will receive £3.7m of Local Transport Funding for the period 4 April to 4 October 2022 which includes £1.8m for light rail and £1.9m to support bus services. Additionally, WMCA has been awarded £14.9m of Network Stabilisation Fund to provide network stability over the Commonwealth Games period. This funding is for the period 6 April to 8 August 2022 and will be distributed to operators. Additionally, £8.6m of Network Planning Fund has been awarded for the period 1 September to 31 December while the network review is undertaken. This will also be distributed to operators.

4.3 WMCA has confirmed to operators that it will continue to pay concessions at pre pandemic budget levels until December 2022 to ensure network stability to this date. As noted in 2.3, there are year to date savings within the concession budget. The forecast position has been held at budget in recognition of the network risk from January to March 2023. This will be kept under close review for the next forecast position. Following discussion with Mayor & Leaders and Transport Delivery Committee, it has been agreed to increase the Value for Money criteria within the wider Bus Access Standards to £4.10 to reflect the increased cost of those services.

4.4 The key movements within the full year position reflects an increase in the MML operating costs of £4.2m to reflect ongoing cost pressures and revenue lost during the service shutdown. This increase has been offset by additional Local Transport Fund (LTF) grant of £1.8m and non-pay savings of £2.5m.

4.5 The capital forecast shows a movement of £80.6m from the budget largely in relation to CRSTS (£31.5m) and Grants to Local Authorities (Transport £19.7m and Investment Programme £17.5m).

4.6 The CRSTS budget reflects the Programme level budget approved in February 2022 based on information provided by WMCA and LA delivery partners. This will be rebased as part of the Q2 forecast to reflect the most up to date information on delivery. A paper will be brought to November WMCA Board updating on the latest position around University Station.

4.7 In July, the National Joint Council (NJC), made a final pay offer to local government employees which is currently out to consult with Unison members. The main points of the offer are a one year pay offer from 1 April 2022 of £1,925 on all pay points and 4% increase on allowances. If this offer were to be accepted and implemented there would be an increase to the pay expenditure forecast of £1.5m above budget.

- 4.8 WMCA has also been assessing the impact of rising energy prices across its asset base. This assessment is ongoing and will be reported as part of the Q2 forecast update, however early indications suggest a potential impact of c.£400k for this financial year. The impact assessment is also seeking to identify any mitigating actions that can be taken to reduce these costs.
- 4.9 The increase in mortgage rates and withdrawal of products on the market could lead to a slowdown in the house programme pipeline until developers are reassured that there will be sufficient buyer confidence and ability to purchase new homes. This will be reviewed as part of the future forecasts to assess any impact.

5.0 Medium Term Financial Plan and Business Planning Update

- 5.1 As reported to WMCA Board in July, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) has continued to be reviewed and refined over the Summer to reflect any known changes. The updated position is presented in the table below and represents the current base case.

£M	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Transport Functions	0.0	20.1	19.4	31.4	30.1
Portfolios	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mayoral Office & Elections	0.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Deficit / (Surplus)	0.0	24.1	20.4	32.4	31.1

- 5.2 The MTFP has been updated to reflect the decisions agreed by WMCA Board in July in respect of Metro including the transport levy underwrite from 2025/26 of £4.8m to allow construction of Birmingham Eastside Extension and Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension to Dudley, as well as £30m of CRSTS funding to be used in first 3 years to fund lifecycle renewals works. The Target Cost 2 (TC2) for WBHE to Dudley was approved in September at a value of £384.7m.
- 5.3 The significant uncertainty that was noted in the last MTFP update has remained which continues to impede WMCA's ability to set a multi year budget. Trailblazer Devolution Deal provides significant opportunities around fiscal devolution that it is expected will provide the sustainable medium term financial plan. As these discussions develop and there is more certainty around value and timing, these opportunities will be incorporated into future iterations of the MTFP.
- 5.4 It is, however, acknowledged that these are not going to materialise in time for setting a balanced budget for 2023/24. Mayor and Leaders have indicated that a one off funding solution is required for 2023/24 utilising a combination of transport levy increase, one off utilisation of reserves and use of 2023/24 share of Business Rates Growth. This reduces WMCA's ability to absorb any future fiscal shocks, particularly in relation to the transport network which remains vulnerable due to there being no national sustainable funding solution in place post March 2023. The draft budget will be presented to January WMCA Board.
- 5.5 It is very likely that the revenue pressures impacting on the current financial year, namely pay increases, energy costs and inflation, will continue to have an impact into 2023/24 and there is a risk that the financial cost could exceed current planning assumptions.

5.6 There are also emerging pressures across the capital programme as a result of hyperinflation, supply chain issues in both materials and labour and increased costs of construction including energy. This has the potential to impact both in train and future delivery across both WMCA and local authority delivered projects. A new risk has been added in respect of this to the strategic risk register to reflect the increased likelihood and significant impact that this poses. The risk continues to be actively and closely monitored so that any project risks are understood as soon as possible to allow mitigations and solutions to be developed as required. Those solutions may include descoping or value engineering of projects and/or programmes as it is unlikely that the current proposed programmes can be delivered in full within the financial envelope.

5.7 Over October and November, the annual business planning process for 2023/24 will take place. A collaborative approach will enable detailed plans showing all project and BAU activity function and portfolio, aligned with a bottom-up budget and identified resources. The final stage will be developing metrics to measure performance over the year with SMART 1-year High Level Deliverables and phased milestones to be reported on a monthly cycle to Senior Leadership Team and 6 monthly to the WMCA Board.

6.0 Levelling Up Fund Round 2

6.1 WMCA has submitted a bid into the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 for £29.3m for upgrade of bus shelters and stops across the network to improve customer experience and confidence in bus travel through increased safety and security. This was included in the original BSIP proposal but could not be accommodated in the reduced allocation. Bids are currently being assessed by HMG.

7.0 Rough Sleeping Grant

7.1 WMCA has been awarded a multi-year allocation of £1.5m from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for 2022 – 25 to continue its work in this area building on the work started under the previous funding allocation.

8.0 Made Smarter Phase 2

8.1 WMCA has been awarded £6.9m over 3 years from BEIS, equating to circa £2.3m per annum, to build on the success of the pilot scheme run in 2021/22. Made Smart adoption programme aims to help manufacturing SMEs in the West Midlands to increase productivity, competitiveness, resilience and efficiency through the take-up of digital technologies.

9.0 Multiply

9.1 WMCA investment plan submission for Multiply funds has been agreed by HMG for the allocation of £16.8m over 3 years. £5.1m relates to 2022/23 and will be used to deliver activity in this financial year.

10.0 Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) World Congress Bid

- 10.1 WMCA plans to submit a bid in November 2022 to host the ITS World Congress in Birmingham in 2027, in partnership with the Department of Transport. The Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) World Congress is an annual large-scale, prestigious trade and academic conference event in the field of Transport Technology / Intelligent Mobility. The international trade is anticipated to bring hundreds of exhibitors and c15,000 visitors to the region for over a week, with a significantly positive economic impact, and therefore a prestigious event for the West Midlands. It also aligns to West Midlands economic growth aspirations as well offering significant opportunities to ensure a legacy impact.
- 10.2 It should be noted that should a formal bid be secured, the costs of running the ITS World Congress are proposed to be split between ERTICO (the award authority for the bid) and the Local Host accountable body (WMCA). Funding to offset the costs will come from a varied source of funds, including ERTICO proposed contributions, DfT contribution to costs, volunteer and industry contributions, Income from tickets, dinners, visits, and sponsorship.
- 10.3 As a prudent measure, a provision of £1m will be set aside in reserves to mitigate against the risk if the event was to be cancelled, poor attendance or low level of sponsorship. WMCA is liaising with DfT to underwrite this risk.

11.0 Investment Programme

- 11.1 The financial results for the West Midlands Regional Investment Programme run one month behind the regular management accounts, due to the requirement to consolidate outputs across the metropolitan area.
- 11.2 The July expenditure is shown at Appendix 10, which reports the gross delivery totals for programmes delivered by both WMCA and other entities (being primarily constituent member local authorities).
- 11.3 Appendix 11 summarises grant funding commitments approved by WMCA for projects within the Investment Programme, which total £858.4m as at 31st August 2022 (£858.4m as at 31st July 2022).
- 11.4 WMCA Investment Programme funding drawn / incurred by projects against these funding commitments as at 31st July 2022 totals £467.4m.

12.0 Business Rates Growth 2022/23

- 12.1 In line with the approved 2022/23 Budget, the Board is requested to approve a recharge to our Constituent Authorities for the 2022/23 Business Rate Growth monies from the 50% HMG share retained locally as part of the West Midlands pilot. This is agreed as £10.5m for the current year and has been allocated pro-rata using the underlying rateable values for each area; in a manner consistent with prior years.

Local Authority	2022/23 BR Growth Attributable to the Combined Authority
Birmingham	£4,580,800
Coventry	£1,288,100
Dudley	£936,100
Sandwell	£1,047,000
Solihull	£1,079,500
Walsall	£768,200
Wolverhampton	£800,300
TOTAL	£10,500,000

12.2 WMCA are continuing to prioritise the unlocking of long-term Business Rates Growth with Government through the Trailblazer Devolution Deal negotiations, and appropriate updates will be reported to the Board accordingly.

13.0 Administered Funds

13.1 Administered Funds which were live as at 1 April 2022, totalled £27.4m as of 31st August 2022. This sum excludes funds fully utilised and concluded by 31 March 2022. A breakdown of this amount is included within Appendix 12.

13.2 These funds do not form part of the Authority's own revenue and capital budgets but are effectively funds received by WMCA and passported to partner authorities for delivery.

13.3 Elements of the overarching grants listed at Appendix 12 which are not passported are excluded from this appendix.

14.0 Balance Sheet

14.1 Appendix 13 presents the West Midlands Combined Authority Balance Sheet which shows a healthy financial position as at 31 August 2022.

14.2 The increase in property, plant and equipment reflects TfWM capital spend and work-in-progress funded mainly by grants in advance, resulting in an increase of £9.7m.

14.3 The increase in short-term debtors is mainly due to grant income receivable in respect of the Commonwealth Games from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games Organising Committee.

14.4 The increase in short-term deposits is largely due to the receipt of grants from the DfT offset by payments in respect of PWLB principal loan repayment, Adult Education Budget, Commonwealth Games, Investment Programme and Metro extension schemes.

14.5 The grants received from the DfT offset by the increase in property, plant and equipment mentioned above, and payments for CRSTS, Intra-City Transport and the Commonwealth Games led to a net increase in grants receipts in advance.

14.6 The increase in short-term creditors/accruals related to higher accounts payables.

15.0 West Midlands Co-Invest Update

- 15.1 The Full Business Case (FBC) for the WM Co-Invest project was approved on the 14 January by the WMCA Board. Good progress has been made with tenders from Fund Managers indicating that all target outputs can be achieved. The FBC approved £12.5m funding from the Investment Programme and the project is on course to match this with a further £12.5m from an initial co-investor. It is expected that legal agreements will be finalised and the £25m fund launched in the coming weeks.
- 15.2 The FBC set out an intention to route WMCA investment through West Midlands Development Company (WMDC), a wholly owned subsidiary of WMCA. Further investigation of this has found this to be very complex due to the Teckal status of the company and technical issues arising from its structure being tailored to the CIF and RIF Funds. An alternative option to form a wholly owned company fulfilling the same administrative functions is simpler, more cost effective, adds no risk and achieves the same aims. Therefore, this option will be pursued instead. The governance and operational controls for the project are unaffected.

16.0 Corporation Street Track Replacement

- 16.1 During 2021, a decision was taken in relation to Corporation Street Metro track to replace the tracks due to safety concerns over the original track. The cost of the repair works to Corporation Street were £7.25m. The costs were agreed as essential works to the operation of BEE with the approval and funding agreed as an adjustment event through the Metro Programme Board governance route. The overall value of the scheme change remained within the 10% tolerance allowed by the Authority's financial regulations.
- 16.2 As part of the governance of the decision to replace the tracks it was agreed to investigate recovery of costs, however following a review of both the technical detail and contractual legal documentation, including the certification arrangements in place at the time, it is felt that the matter could not be taken any further forward. However, officers have been in discussion with the original contractor to identify options around any goodwill gestures that they are able to deliver which would go some way to support the local residents and businesses in the area to make up for the levels of disruption that have been experienced as the tracks have been replaced. A number of goodwill measures have proposed by the contractor that include support during the Commonwealth Games, skills programme and measures within the BID. This was previously reported to the Mayor and Leaders. A full report regarding these goodwill measures and lessons learnt as part of the contract will be presented to ARAC in November.

17.0 Financial Implications

- 17.1 The financial implications are set out in the report.

18.0 Legal Implications

- 18.1 In respect of the funding and passporting of funds there will be conditions that WMCA will need to adhere to. Legal support will be required for any legal documentation entered into in respect of the above.

19.0 Other Implications

- 19.1 There are no Equalities, Inclusive Growth, Geographical or Other implications arising from this report.

20.0 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – WMCA Consolidated Summary – August 2022
- Appendix 2 – WMCA Transport Revenue Summary - August 2022
- Appendix 3 – WMCA Delivery Budget Summary – August 2022
- Appendix 4 – WMCA Mayor Revenue Summary – August 2022
- Appendix 5 – WMCA Capital Programme – August 2022
- Appendix 6 – WMCA 2022/23 Transport Capital Programme
- Appendix 7 – WMCA 2022/23 Housing and Land Capital Programme
- Appendix 8 – WMCA 2022/23 Investment Programme to Local Authorities Programme
- Appendix 9 – WMCA 2022/23 City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement Programme
- Appendix 10 – Total Regional Investment Programme Expenditure – July 2022
- Appendix 11 – WMCA Investment Programme Commitments – August 2022
- Appendix 12 – WMCA Administered Funds – August 2022
- Appendix 13 – WMCA Balance Sheet – August 2022

Appendix 1

WMCA Consolidated Revenue Budget Summary – August 2022

£000's	Year to Date			Full Year		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Forecast	Budget	Variance
Transport Levy	48,756	48,756	0	117,015	117,015	0
Commonwealth Games	19,350	18,656	694	26,459	18,656	7,803
Revenue Grants & Other Income	7,030	3,401	3,629	22,173	8,339	13,834
Adult Education Funding	64,697	69,056	(4,359)	140,577	140,577	0
Share of Business Rates	0	0	0	10,500	10,500	0
Constituent Membership	1,935	1,935	0	4,644	4,644	0
Non Constituent Members	212	213	(1)	510	510	0
Investment Programme	5,952	5,381	571	36,500	36,500	0
Investment Income	974	374	600	2,422	898	1,524
Use of Reserves	450	4,841	(4,391)	15,414	14,064	1,350
Total Funding	149,356	152,613	(3,257)	376,214	351,703	24,511
Transport for West Midlands	46,474	50,715	4,241	125,880	124,964	(916)
Commonwealth Games	19,350	18,656	(694)	26,459	18,656	(7,803)
Economy & Innovation	3,410	1,243	(2,167)	4,355	2,896	(1,459)
Environment, Energy & HS2	818	634	(184)	2,336	1,839	(497)
Housing and Land	508	606	98	1,443	1,455	12
Wellbeing	501	497	(4)	1,571	1,202	(369)
PSR & Social Economy	337	566	229	2,685	2,653	(32)
Culture and Digital	1,731	137	(1,594)	447	423	(24)
Productivity & Skills	65,370	71,040	5,670	156,499	145,347	(11,152)
Inclusive Communities	329	371	42	1,263	1,262	(1)
Business Support	1,481	1,481	0	3,390	3,055	(335)
Investment Programme	6,552	5,425	(1,127)	48,629	47,105	(1,524)
Mayoral Office	318	353	35	846	846	0
Mayoral Election	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	147,179	151,724	4,545	375,803	351,703	(24,100)
Net Expenditure (before earmarked reserves)	2,177	889	1,288	411	0	411

The outturn position at the end of August shows a surplus of £2.177m which represents a favourable variance from budget of £1.288m.

This is made up of £1.376m within Transport, largely due to savings within the Concessions and Metro budgets due to lower patronage and fare levels and additional Local Transport Fund (LTF) grant funding that has now been confirmed.

This favourable variance is offset by a deficit of £0.088m within the Portfolio budgets where savings due to vacant posts and external advice across several Portfolios are offset by a lower reserves drawdown as budgeted reserves have not yet been drawdown.

The key movements within the full year position reflects an increase in the MML operating costs of £4.2m to reflect ongoing cost pressures and revenue lost during the service shutdown. This increase has been offset by additional Local Transport Fund (LTF) grant of £1.8m and non-pay savings of £2.5m. The full year Portfolio position remains broadly in line with budget.

Appendix 2

Transport for West Midlands Revenue Budget – August 2022

	ACTUAL £000			BUDGET £000			YTD VARIANCE	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	FULL YEAR VARIANCE
	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	NET	£000	NET	NET	£000
Transport Levy	48,756	0	48,756	48,756	0	48,756	0	117,015	117,015	0
Use of Reserves	450	0	450	3,312	0	3,312	(2,862)	7,948	7,948	(0)
TOTAL FUNDING	49,206	0	49,206	52,068	0	52,068	(2,861)	124,963	124,962	
Concessions										
National Bus Concession	44	18,606	(18,562)	72	19,827	(19,754)	1,193	(47,703)	(47,843)	140
Metro / Rail	0	1,892	(1,892)	0	1,899	(1,899)	7	(4,563)	(4,576)	13
Child Concession	0	2,370	(2,370)	0	2,672	(2,672)	303	(6,684)	(6,710)	26
	44	22,868	(22,823)	72	24,398	(24,326)	1,503	(58,951)	(59,130)	179
Bus Services										
Bus Stations / Infrastructure	3,141	4,979	(1,838)	3,091	5,296	(2,205)	367	(5,271)	(5,642)	371
Subsidised Network	1,515	6,695	(5,180)	852	6,117	(5,265)	85	(13,420)	(13,420)	0
Accessible Transport	67	2,144	(2,077)	0	2,314	(2,314)	237	(6,508)	(6,638)	130
	4,723	13,818	(9,095)	3,943	13,727	(9,784)	689	(25,200)	(25,701)	501
Rail and Metro Services										
Metro Services	80	2,571	(2,491)	80	3,514	(3,435)	943	(8,069)	(6,137)	(1,932)
Rail Services	510	1,714	(1,204)	637	2,104	(1,467)	262	(3,705)	(4,165)	460
	589	4,285	(3,696)	717	5,618	(4,901)	1,206	(11,774)	(10,302)	(1,472)
Integration										
Safety and Security	277	625	(347)	279	806	(527)	180	(1,395)	(1,257)	(138)
Passenger Information	6,764	9,113	(2,349)	351	3,027	(2,676)	327	(6,234)	(6,959)	725
Sustainable Travel	29	650	(620)	58	369	(311)	(309)	(611)	(763)	152
	7,071	10,388	(3,317)	688	4,202	(3,514)	197	(8,240)	(8,979)	739
Network Resilience										
		1,028	(1,028)		1,301	(1,301)	274	(3,549)	(3,744)	195
Commonwealth Games	19,350	19,350	0	18,656	18,656	0	0	0	0	0
Business and Democratic Support	0	1,462	(1,462)	0	1,556	(1,556)	94	(3,706)	(3,698)	(8)
Strategic Development	410	1,909	(1,498)	462	2,234	(1,772)	274	(4,577)	(4,863)	287
Transport Governance	0	54	(54)	0	56	(56)	3	(123)	(135)	13
Capital Finance Charges	0	3,504	(3,504)	0	3,504	(3,504)	(0)	(8,410)	(8,410)	(0)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	32,188	78,665	(46,477)	24,538	75,252	(50,714)	4,238	(124,528)	(124,962)	435
NET before Earmarked Reserves	81,394	78,665	2,730	76,606	75,252	1,354	1,376	435	0	435

At the end of August 2022 there is a £1.4m favourable variance against budget and the first full year forecast of the year shows a £0.4m favourable movement from budget.

The key movements within the full year position reflects an increase in the amount due to Midland Metro Limited (MML) of £4.2m due to ongoing cost pressures and revenue lost during the service shutdown. This increase has been offset by additional Local Transport Fund (LTF) grant of £1.8m and savings of £2.5m from within existing budgets.

Concessions

The driver behind the year to date saving relates largely to the ENTCS budget due to lower patronage and fare levels.

The full year forecast has been retained at budgeted levels to reflect the risk in relation to the bus network. Additional bus funding has now been extended to 31 March 2022 and officers are working with DfT to understand the details, as such the full year position remains under close review.

Bus Services

Within the Subsidised Bus position there is currently a minor favourable variance of £0.1m largely due to additional Local Transport Fund (LTF) grant now being received partly offset by additional service costs.

Within Accessible Transport there are savings to date of £0.2m favourable due to contractual savings plus additional revenue received from WMAT.

There are also savings across Bus Infrastructure budgets of £0.4m in the main relating to staffing, cleaning, and maintenance budgets.

The full year position within Bus Services reflects savings to date within the Accessible Transport along with relatively minor savings across several budgets partly offset by a reduction in departure charge income.

Rail & Metro

Within Metro Services the favourable position to date is due to Local Transport Grant (LTF) that has been received in relation to the first half of year alongside savings on general insurance premiums to date.

The full year position reflects an increase in subsidy requirement of £4.2m. This increase has been partly offset by additional Local Transport Fund (LTF) grant of £1.8m.

Within Rail Services the year to date savings are largely within staffing and maintenance budgets. The full year favourable position reflects savings within external advice of £0.65m which have been committed in order to help fund the additional Metro subsidy requirement.

Integration

Savings to date largely relate to staffing where there are vacant posts across a number of budgets. The favourable movement in the full year position mainly reflects a forecast reduction in external advice expenditure which will contribute to fund the additional Metro subsidy requirement.

Network Resilience

Within the Network Resilience budget there are savings against Staff due to vacant posts alongside external advice savings.

Reserves

Reserves drawn down to date relate to the delivery of the West Midlands Cycle Hire scheme. Budgeted reserves earmarked to support the 2022/23 Transport Budget have not yet been drawn down.

Appendix 3

West Midlands Combined Authority Portfolios Budget – August 2022

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS AT PAY AUGUST 2022	AUGUST 2022 YEAR TO DATE			FULL YEAR 2022/23			
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	
Operational Income							
Mayoral Capacity Funding	64	64	0	154	154	0	
Other Revenue Income	0	0	0	500	500	0	
Notional Interest Receivable	374	331	43	794	794	0	
Contribution - 7 Met Council's	1,935	1,935	0	4,644	4,644	0	
Contribution - Non constituent members	212	213	(1)	510	510	0	
Total Income	2,585	2,543	42	6,602	6,602	0	
Corporate Support Recharges to Portfolios	(1,481)	48	(1,529)	2,228	2,563	(335)	
Total Expenditure	(1,481)	48	(1,529)	2,228	2,563	(335)	
Operational Income Net Total	1,104	2,591	(1,487)	8,830	9,165	(335)	
Economy & Innovation							
Other Industrial Strategy Income	787	236	551	1,282	567	715	
DDCMS - Creative Scale Up	20	83	(63)	22	200	(178)	
Create Central Projects	295	102	193	1,063	410	653	
Policy and Programme Development	1,799	0	1,799	585	0	585	
IAWM	107	90	17	128	108	20	
Total Income	3,008	511	2,497	3,080	1,285	1,795	
Industrial Strategy	(852)	(305)	(547)	(1,473)	(733)	(740)	
DDCMS - Creative Scale Up	(34)	(83)	49	(82)	(200)	118	
Create Central Projects	(327)	(313)	(14)	(1,147)	(915)	(232)	
Policy and Programme Development	(1,799)	0	(1,799)	(585)	0	(585)	
IAWM	(107)	(90)	(17)	(128)	(108)	(20)	
Economic Intelligence	0	(160)	160	(240)	(240)	0	
Funding For Growth	(292)	(292)	0	(700)	(700)	0	
Total Expenditure	(3,411)	(1,243)	(2,168)	(4,355)	(2,896)	(1,459)	
Economy & Innovation Net Total	(403)	(732)	329	(1,275)	(1,611)	336	Post budget a third year of the Create Central funding has been secured giving rise to an overall favourable variance of £179k. External advice within Economic Intelligence is underspent by £160k, but with the full budgeted committed in the second half of the year.
Environment & Energy, HS2							
Environment	78	87	(9)	345	210	135	
Community Green	124	19	105	353	47	306	
Energy Capital	349	232	117	682	625	57	
Net Zero Neighbourhood	138	25	113	111	59	52	
Total Income	689	363	326	1,491	941	550	
Environment	(202)	(358)	156	(1,146)	(1,108)	(38)	
Community Green	(124)	(19)	(105)	(353)	(47)	(306)	
Energy Capital	(349)	(232)	(117)	(682)	(625)	(57)	
Net Zero Neighbourhood	(143)	(25)	(118)	(155)	(59)	(96)	
Total Expenditure	(818)	(634)	(184)	(2,336)	(1,839)	(497)	Staff savings due to three vacant posts total £51k, where recruitment is now expected later in the year and resultant lower levels of activity on external advice £98k.
Environment & Energy, HS2 Net Total	(129)	(271)	142	(845)	(898)	53	
Housing and Land							
Director of Housing & Regeneration	508	606	(98)	1,443	1,455	(12)	
Total Income	508	606	(98)	1,443	1,455	(12)	
Director of Housing & Regeneration	(508)	(606)	98	(1,443)	(1,455)	12	
Total Expenditure	(508)	(606)	98	(1,443)	(1,455)	12	
Housing and Land Net Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Wellbeing							
Head of Health & Communities	104	0	104	137	0	137	
Thrive at Work	78	76	2	168	76	92	
IPS Programme	122	65	57	296	155	141	
Total Income	304	141	163	601	231	370	
Head of Health & Communities	(302)	(310)	8	(898)	(761)	(137)	
Thrive at Work	(78)	(123)	45	(378)	(287)	(91)	
IPS Programme	(122)	(65)	(57)	(296)	(155)	(141)	
Total Expenditure	(502)	(498)	(4)	(1,572)	(1,203)	(369)	Wellbeing - Health and Communities £112k favourable - Grant income totalling £104k, comprising £56k DfT Social prescribing walking & cycling pilot, £20k Sports England and £20k Midland Engine, were expected to end in 2021/22 but have been extended into 2022/23. The funding covers staff costs and external advice, enabling savings against core budget. Thrive at work £46k favourable, mainly due to savings in staff costs from three vacancies.
Wellbeing Net Total	(198)	(357)	159	(971)	(972)	1	

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS AT PAY AUGUST 2022	AUGUST 2022 YEAR TO DATE			FULL YEAR 2022/23			
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	
Skills and Productivity							
Productivity and Skills	38	30	8	84	30	54	
Employment Support	45	0	45	71	0	71	
Construction Skills	(400)	0	(400)	0	0	0	
Adult Education	64,697	69,056	(4,359)	140,577	140,577	0	
Careers	7	0	7	7	0	7	
Digital Skills	(176)	0	(176)	10,976	0	10,976	
Investment Programme (Skills)	182	116	66	350	298	52	
Commonwealth Games	244	225	19	460	470	(10)	
European Structural & Investment Funding	405	862	(457)	2,069	2,068	1	
Total Income	65,042	70,289	(5,247)	154,594	143,443	11,151	
Productivity and Skills	(366)	(801)	435	(1,990)	(1,935)	(55)	
Employment Support	(45)	0	(45)	(71)	0	(71)	
Construction Skills	400	0	400	0	0	0	
Adult Education	(64,697)	(69,056)	4,359	(140,577)	(140,577)	0	
Careers	(7)	0	(7)	(7)	0	(7)	
Digital Skills	176	0	176	(10,976)	0	(10,976)	
Investment Programme (Skills)	(182)	(98)	(84)	(350)	(298)	(52)	
Commonwealth Games	(244)	(225)	(19)	(460)	(470)	10	
European Structural & Investment Funding	(405)	(860)	455	(2,069)	(2,068)	(1)	
Total Expenditure	(65,370)	(71,040)	5,670	(156,500)	(145,348)	(11,152)	There are savings against the staffing and external advice budgets pending recruitment to a new staffing structure.
Skills and Productivity Net Total	(328)	(751)	423	(1,906)	(1,905)	(1)	
Culture and Digital							
Culture	13	0	13	0	0	0	
Total Income	13	0	13	0	0	0	
Culture	(48)	(55)	7	(202)	(178)	(24)	
Digital	(30)	(82)	52	(245)	(245)	0	
Total Expenditure	(78)	(137)	59	(447)	(423)	(24)	Activity has been re-profiled pending recruitment to a new structure.
Culture and Digital Net Total	(65)	(137)	72	(447)	(423)	(24)	
Inclusive Communities							
Homelessness	131	95	36	492	478	14	
Total Income	131	95	36	492	478	14	
Head of Systems Change & Inclusion	(72)	(122)	50	(337)	(365)	28	
Youth Combined Authority	(44)	(76)	32	(232)	(223)	(9)	
Homelessness	(155)	(110)	(45)	(537)	(523)	(14)	
Inclusion	(58)	(63)	5	(157)	(151)	(6)	
Total Expenditure	(329)	(371)	42	(1,263)	(1,262)	(1)	Head of Service to start in September with related activity budgeted on external advice reprofiled to later in the year.
Inclusive Communities Net Total	(198)	(276)	78	(771)	(784)	13	
Tourism, trade and Investment Programme							
Tourism, Trade and Investment Programme	1,652	0	1,652	8,228	8,402	(174)	
Total Income	1,652	0	1,652	8,228	8,402	(174)	
Tourism, Trade and Investment Programme	(1,652)	0	(1,652)	(8,228)	(8,402)	174	
Total Expenditure	(1,652)	0	(1,652)	(8,228)	(8,402)	174	
Tourism, trade and Investment Programme Net Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Levelling Up							
Office of Data Analytics	17	34	(17)	67	81	(14)	
Total Income	17	34	(17)	67	81	(14)	
Office of Data Analytics	(39)	(92)	53	(245)	(261)	16	
Executive Director of Strategy, Integration and Net Zero	(140)	(147)	7	(1,538)	(1,552)	14	
Head of Research & Intelligence	(61)	(149)	88	(376)	(371)	(5)	
Head of Policy & Public Affairs	(83)	(116)	33	(392)	(315)	(77)	
Public Affairs	(31)	(61)	30	(150)	(154)	4	
Total Expenditure	(354)	(565)	211	(2,701)	(2,653)	(48)	Staff savings £162k and underspends on stakeholder engagement £12k and external advice £67k are due to vacancies, with outsourced collaboration work with University of Birmingham and Oxford Economics rescheduled for later in the year.
Levelling Up Net Total	(337)	(531)	194	(2,634)	(2,572)	(62)	
Operational Income Net Total	(554)	(464)	(90)	(19)	0	(19)	

Appendix 4

West Midlands Combined Authority Mayoral Budget – August 2022

	AUGUST 2022 YEAR TO DATE			FULL YEAR 2022/23				
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000		
MAYORAL OFFICE								
Other Grants	318	353	(35)	846	846	0	No material variations year to date.	
TOTAL INCOME	318	353	(35)	846	846	0		
Staff Costs	(308)	(329)	21	(766)	(788)	22		
IT	0	(6)	6	(1)	(11)	10		
Travel & Subsistence	0	(5)	5	(11)	(14)	3		
Other	(10)	(13)	3	(68)	(33)	(35)		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(318)	(353)	35	(846)	(846)	0		
MAYORAL ELECTION								
Use of Reserves	35	0	35	35	0	35		
TOTAL INCOME	35	0	35	35	0	35		
Mayoral Election Costs	(35)	0	(35)	(35)	0	(35)		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(35)	0	(35)	(35)	0	(35)		
NET MAYORAL BUDGET	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Appendix 5

West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Capital Programme – August 2022

	YEAR TO DATE - AUGUST 2022			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000
Metro	54,064	65,612	11,548	164,228	160,040	(4,188)
Rail	4,540	12,128	7,587	30,706	42,436	11,729
Sprint	96	172	76	2,601	2,810	209
TRANSPORT - INVESTMENT PROGRAMME	58,700	77,912	19,211	197,535	205,285	7,750

ACTUAL V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

At the end of August 2022, actual expenditure was £19.2m lower than budget.

Metro

Birmingham Eastside Ext £4.8m

The main underspend is relating to HS2 utilities works due to the process of agreeing revised commercial terms. An agreement has now been reached so now awaiting HS2 claim for reimbursement.

Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Ext £2.0m – Funding has now been secured for construction to Dudley with TC2 expected to be approved in September.

Network Enhancements – Wednesbury Depot Upgrades £2.4m – the construction for the power upgrade, due to possible additional power requirements, will commence in the coming months.

Network Enhancements – Line 1 Renovation Works £1.7m – project business case yet to be approved. It is now expected to begin commencement in the coming months.

Rail

Camp Hill Line Local Enhancements Package 2 £6.1m – This is made up of £3m related to physical construction, due the signing of the construction contract and subsequent mobilisation along with the time scales in agreeing site land access. £0.9m relates to rephased Network Rail APA Risk Fees payable when construction commences. This is expected to be recovered this financial year.

Walsall to Wolverhampton Local Enhancements Package 1 £1.5m – Rephasing of project works due to identification of mining infrastructure on construction site.

FORECAST V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

Metro

Birmingham Eastside Extension (£8.7m) – Originally there were no works planned during the Commonwealth Games period, however dispensation has been granted for some works to take place during the embargo. These include paving, street lighting and traffic signals.

Wednesbury Depot Upgrades £2.8m – rephasing of construction works to Delta Junction and deferred TC2 submission.

Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension - £1.2m - rephasing of works as a result of the timing of TC2 agreement for the project. Funding has now been secured for construction to Dudley with TC2 expected to be approved in September.

Rail

Camp Hill Line Local Enhancements Package 2 £8.3m – a majority of this underspend is driven by a slower start to construction than budgeted for as the original budget was not based on the current construction partner's programme. £2m underspend is due to blockade work (which is an extended possession of the line for works) being deferred to 23/24.

Walsall to Birmingham Local Enhancements Package 1 £3.5m - work is required at both station sites to reduce the risk of ground collapses due to historic mining. This has been estimated at £5m (which will be funded by contingency and expected construction savings) but will delay the construction phase.

	YEAR TO DATE - AUGUST 2022			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000
Highway	1,235	2,340	1,105	9,041	9,291	250
Other	94	590	495	590	590	0
Rail	14,845	21,723	6,878	28,548	28,548	0
Sprint	18,142	23,883	5,741	23,107	23,107	(0)
TRANSPORT - COMMONWEALTH GAMES	34,317	48,536	14,219	61,285	61,535	250

ACTUAL V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

At the end of August 2022, actual expenditure was £14.2m under budget.

Rail

University Station Improvement £4.6m - The variance is driven by ongoing discussions with construction contractor regarding compensation events. Total underspend is expected to be recovered in the coming months.

Perry Barr Station Improvement £2.3m - £1.6m of this relates to physical construction activity now expected to take place between August to October. Network Rail costs £0.3m underspend due to planned train line possession and prolongation costs not required. Land acquisition £0.2m - Due to the timing of payment application from the Lessee of the old station for compensation events.

Sprint

A34 Walsall to Birmingham £4.8m - The main area of underspend is relating to construction works, requiring review and approval of a significant number of compensation events, creating a time lag of work done and contractor approval. Most of the underspend will be caught up during Q3.

A45 Birmingham to Airport and Solihull £0.9m – minor snagging works are taking place and the variance is due to the review and approval of compensation events which are ongoing but most of the underspend will be caught up during Q3.

	YEAR TO DATE - AUGUST 2022			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000
Bus	3,322	5,306	1,984	25,649	29,128	3,479
Cycling	55	61	6	311	311	(0)
Other	1,785	2,942	1,157	9,439	9,439	(0)
TRANSPORT - OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMMES	5,162	8,309	3,147	35,399	38,878	3,479

ACTUAL V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

At the end of August 2022, actual expenditure was £3.1m below budget.

Bus

Coventry Electric Bus City £1.5m - power supply connection scheduled to be completed may not now be required, owing to contractors arranging separately. This is being reassessed by the Project team in September.

Major Route Network – A45 Coventry Road/Damson Parkway Junction £0.3m – claims from LAs have been lower than expected.

Other

Future Mobility Zone Enabling Data Exploitation £0.8m – The primary underspend relates to resource allocation for the Mobility as a Service Project (MaaS). The procurement tender to secure the resources is expected to be awarded in the coming months.

Future Mobility Zone – Innovation Showcases £0.4m – £0.16m of this relates to a slight change in scheduling in phase 2 of the Hub Design and Development, the cost is now expected in the coming months and £0.12m reflects the timing of procurement.

FORECAST V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

Cross City Bus – Dudley to Druids Heath Package £4m – construction of the Burnt Tree scheme improvement plan has been phased back for delivery in 2024 due the timing of the Full Business Case and preference by TfWM and local authorities to begin construction at this later date.

Dudley Interchange (£0.5m) – these are land acquisition costs which will be fully funded from project contingency.

	YEAR TO DATE - AUGUST 2022			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000
Minor Work Programme	997	1,971	973	8,243	8,565	322
TRANSPORT - MINOR WORKS	997	1,971	973	8,243	8,565	322

ACTUAL V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

At the end of August 2022, actual expenditure was £1.0m under budget. The main variances are as follows:

Asset Management Programme £0.3m - rephasing of procurement materials, to be used for upgrades to bus stations and rail park & ride sites, will commence in the coming months.

Key Route Network Safety £0.2m - rephasing of project works subject to compliance with TAG guidelines.

A435 Alcester Road Bus Priority Revitalisation £0.3m - rephasing of construction works into early 2023.

FORECAST V BUDGET COMMENTARY

Priority 1 Development Workstream £0.3m – forecast reduction as BCC schemes are running into 2023/24 due to lack of resourcing and a construction embargo during the Commonwealth Games.

West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Capital Programme Grants to Local Authorities – August 2022

	YEAR TO DATE - AUGUST 2022			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000
Grants to Local Authorities	2,438	2,790	352	17,086	36,757	19,671
Total Grants to Local Authorities	2,438	2,790	352	17,086	36,757	19,671

ACTUAL V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

At the end of August 2022, actual expenditure was £0.3m under budget.

MRN-A45 Coventry Road/Damson Parkway Junction £0.3m - rephasing of works, with additional surveys and developing further design detail, will commence in the coming months.

FORECAST V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

Active Travel Fund – Tranche 3 £13.4m – local authorities are producing the individual business cases with funding due to be committed by March 2023 as required within the grant conditions. The delivery of the individual schemes will go beyond March 2023 and DfT have been fully engaged with the revised timelines to mitigate any risk of funding clawback.

Priority 1 Delivery – A45 Coventry Road Birmingham £4.3m – this is largely due to resourcing challenges over the last 6 months, Birmingham City Council are looking to secure additional resource to support delivery.

Priority 1 Delivery – Perry Barr to Sutton Coldfield £1.4m – a design review is currently being undertaken and as a consequence the OBC is not likely to be approved until November 2022 which will impact delivery commencement into late Q3.

Priority 1 Development Workstream £0.3m – forecast reduction as BCC schemes are running into 2023/24 due to lack of resourcing and a construction embargo during the Commonwealth Games.

West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Capital Programme CRSTS – August 2022

	YEAR TO DATE - AUGUST 2022			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000
CRSTS Programme	477	864	387	58,808	90,343	31,535
Total CRSTS	477	864	387	58,808	90,343	31,535

ACTUAL V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

At the end of August 2022, actual expenditure was £0.4m under budget.

Sprint Phase 2 A45 – Package F Solihull £0.1m - the variance is related to the timing of raising relevant purchase orders as project support costs are currently being incurred.

Sprint Phase 2 A34 – Package G Walsall £0.1m - the variance is related to the timing of raising relevant purchase orders as project support costs are currently being incurred.

Sprint Phase 2 A45 – Package H Birmingham £0.1m - the variance is related to the timing of raising relevant purchase orders as project support costs are currently being incurred.

FORECAST V BUDGET COMMENTARY

Without further information available at this early stage in the CRSTS delivery timeline, spend has been rephased later in 22/23 and deferred to future years to reflect the updated business case approval dates for each project. Only projects with Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) or Outline Business Case (OBC) approval expected in this financial year have a forecast included this year. There have been no changes to overall project life forecasts.

West Midlands Combined Authority Capital Programme Investment Programme Grants to Local Authorities – August 2022

	YEAR TO DATE - AUGUST 2022			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000
Investment Programme (Grants to Local Authorities)	31,081	37,350	6,269	66,206	83,671	17,464
Total Investment Programme Grants to Local Authorities	31,081	37,350	6,269	66,206	83,671	17,464

ACTUAL V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

At the end of August 2022, actual expenditure was £6.3m under budget.

Coventry City Centre South Regeneration – Coventry City Centre South £0.4m - the project was originally conceived as a largely retail development. However, due to changes in consumer behaviour, accelerated by the pandemic, and further increased regional need for housing, the project is being re-designed to include a significantly larger proportion of residential developments. Therefore construction has been delayed while a suitable property developer is selected and a change request is obtained for the revised project.

Coventry UKC Plus – Coventry Station Masterplan £0.2m - significant spend for the multi-storey car park is now expected to be incurred in September 2022, with final drawdown occurring in October 2022.

CoW Technical Centre £3.1m - WMCA and City of Wolverhampton Council are yet to complete the required funding agreement. Nil funding reimbursed to date, and no funding is likely to be approved for reimbursement until the funding agreement is legally completed.

UK Central Infrastructure Programme £1.0m - this project is made up of 23 sub-projects, some of which have small slippages combining to the overall variance. These include Solihull Town Centre Low Carbon Energy Network £0.4m, Local Strategic Network Resilience Connectivity £0.2m, A452 Chester Road Corridor Enhancement £0.2m, Solihull Town Centre Access Improvements £0.2m.

UK Central HS2 Interchange Programme £1.5m – YTD budget variance is a combination of 9 discrete projects, with respective overspends within HS2 parallel designs – roundabout over-trace £0.8m, Highway pinchpoint improvements (NEC longabout) £0.6m and HS2 parallel design process £0.2m.

FORECAST V BUDGET COMMENTARY

Coventry Regeneration Friargate (£1.0m) - accelerated construction, plot acquisition and infrastructure costs and subsequently increased professional fees which are calculated as a percentage of the construction contract, have resulted in forecasted accelerated drawdown of IP funding.

Coventry City Centre South £15.4m - this scheme was originally largely a retail development but due to changes in consumer behaviour and increased regional need for housing, the project is being re-designed to include significantly more residential developments. A new development partner is required which has resulted in construction costs scheduled to incur in 2022/23 being deferred to 2023/24.

UK Central Infrastructure Package £1.5m - this project is made up of 25 sub-schemes. There have been forecast reductions on several sub-schemes resulting in an overall variance.

UK Central Interchange £1.5m - this is primarily due to the NEC Longabout sub-project. A change request has been submitted to re-scope the outputs of the project.

West Midlands Combined Authority Housing Capital Programme – August 2022

	YEAR TO DATE - AUGUST 2022			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000
Housing	9,582	20,585	11,003	65,026	65,167	141
Total Housing	9,582	20,585	11,003	65,026	65,167	141

ACTUAL V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

At the end of August 2022, actual expenditure was £11.0m under budget.

Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) £5.2m - the variance is primarily a claim timing difference in respect of the Phoenix 10 scheme. The update received from the LA states the project is on programme at present.

Brownfield Land & Property Development Fund (BLPDF) £3.2m - the underspend is largely due to the Shard End project which is currently under review and the Pipe Hall project which is looking to secure external funding.

Housing Land Fund £2.5m – largest variance is Abbots Lane £1.2m driven by planning delays at Coventry City Council, who are reconvening in the coming months to resolve current issues.

FORECAST V BUDGET COMMENTARY

LPIF (£5.1m) - accelerated spend of £5m is expected on the Phoenix 10 project towards the end of Q4.

BLPDF £2.5m - this is made up of two main components. Shard End £2.1m, this project has not yet commenced due to environmental reasons, the assumption is that the project plans will be delayed by 6 months pending decisions on next steps. Walsall Waterfront £0.4m, works have been put on hold for 6 months to allow the administrator of Urban Splash to find a buyer.

Port Loop Phase 3 and 4 £1.5m - this project is being constructed by Urban Splash House who have gone into administration putting this project at risk. An administrator has been appointed to look for a buyer and further expenditure has been deferred for 6 months.

Phoenix Park - £1.1m - programme has been delayed by 6 months to allow completion of due diligence work requested by Investment Board.

West Midlands Combined Authority Net Zero Capital Programme – August 2022

	YEAR TO DATE - AUGUST 2022			FULL YEAR		
	ACTUAL £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000	FORECAST £000	BUDGET £000	VARIANCE £000
Net Zero Programme	0	1,490	1,490	8,894	8,894	0
Total Net Zero	0	1,490	1,490	8,894	8,894	0

ACTUAL V BUDGET VARIANCE COMMENTARY

At the end of August 2022, actual expenditure was £1.5m under budget.

Social Housing Decarbonisation £1.2m

The scheme is in the mobilisation phase, with the customer recruitment and property assessment originally planned for the first quarter now expected to commence in Q2, with the installations phased later into Q3.

Sustainable Warmth Competition £0.3m

The scheme is in the mobilisation phase, with the customer recruitment and property assessment originally planned for the first quarter now expected to commence in Q2, with the installations phased later into Q3.

Appendix 6 – 2022/23 Transport Capital Programme

TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME (£M)		2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2025 / 2026	2026 / 2027	TOTAL
Investment Programme - Metro	Metro Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension	73.7	144.3	88.7	9.4	-	316.1
	Metro Birmingham Eastside Extension	48.5	73.7	18.9	4.0	-	145.1
	Metro Network Enhancements	12.4	23.4	20.8	0.2	0.2	57.0
	Metro Edgbaston Extension	3.2	-	-	-	-	3.2
	Wolverhampton Metro Extension	8.7	-	-	-	-	8.7
	Metro Enabling and Other Works	9.1	0.1	-	-	-	9.2
Investment Programme - Rail	Rail - Camp Hill Line Local Enhancements (Package 2)	26.9	24.9	0.4	-	-	52.3
	Rail - Walsall to Wolverhampton Local Enhancements (Package 1)	15.3	22.8	5.0	-	-	43.2
	Rail - Sutton Coldfield Gateway	0.2	21.1	-	-	-	21.3
	Rail - Snow Hill Lines	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1
Investment Programme - Sprint	Sprint - Hagley Road Phase 1	2.3	1.7	-	-	-	3.9
	Sprint - Longbridge to Birmingham	0.2	17.2	11.7	13.4	-	42.5
	Sprint - Hall Green to Interchange via Solihull	0.2	7.3	5.7	8.9	9.9	32.0
	Sprint - Hagley Road Phase 2	0.2	11.2	11.2	20.0	12.2	54.8
	Sprint - Sutton Coldfield to Birmingham	0.0	25.9	-	-	-	25.9
INVESTMENT PROGRAMME TOTAL		201.0	373.5	162.4	55.9	22.3	815.1
CWG Programme	Sprint - A45 Birmingham to Airport and Solihull	12.3	-	-	-	-	12.3
	Sprint - A34 Walsall to Birmingham	10.9	-	-	-	-	10.9
	University Station Improvement Project	20.9	-	-	-	-	20.9
	Perry Barr Rail Station	7.7	-	-	-	-	7.7
	Regional Traffic Control Centre	8.6	-	-	-	-	8.6
	Other Works	0.8	-	-	-	-	0.8
CWG PROGRAMME TOTAL		61.0	-	-	-	-	61.0
Other Major Programmes	Dudley Interchange	0.9	1.4	16.8	-	-	19.2
	Dudley Port Integrated Transport	0.2	1.1	1.1	-	-	2.4
	Cross City Bus - City Centre & Druids Heath	6.0	16.0	-	-	-	22.0
	Coventry City Electric Bus	16.2	25.5	1.7	0.1	-	43.6
	Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA)	5.7	24.6	-	-	-	30.4
	Future Mobility Zone	8.3	-	-	-	-	8.3
	A435 Alcester Rd Bus Priority Revitalisation	1.2	-	-	-	-	1.2
	West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme	0.3	-	-	-	-	0.3
	Key Route Network Safety	0.6	-	-	-	-	0.6
	Major Road Network	9.8	-	-	-	-	9.8
	Other Works	1.5	-	-	-	-	1.5
OTHER MAJOR SCHEMES PROGRAMME TOTAL		50.8	68.7	19.7	0.1	-	139.4
Minor Work Programme	Asset Management Programme	2.0	0.1	-	-	-	2.1
	Real Time Information Upgrades	0.8	-	-	-	-	0.8
	Better Streets Community Fund	0.4	-	-	-	-	0.4
	DfT Tackling Nitrogen Dioxide and Air Quality	1.2	-	-	-	-	1.2
	Strategic Transport Officer Group Top Slice	0.1	0.2	-	-	-	0.3
	Priority One Schemes	12.5	-	-	-	-	12.5
	Active Travel Fund	17.2	0.2	-	-	-	17.3
	Other Works	9.0	1.6	-	-	-	10.6
MINOR WORKS PROGRAMME TOTAL		43.2	2.0	-	-	-	45.2
GRANTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES PROGRAMME	Birchley Island (Sandwell MBC)	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
	B4106 Spon End (Coventry CC)	1.0	-	-	-	-	1.0
	New St/High St/Victoria Sq Public Realm	2.1	-	-	-	-	2.1
GRANTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES PROGRAMME TOTAL		3.6	-	-	-	-	3.6
TRANSPORT TOTAL		359.5	444.2	182.1	56.0	22.3	1,064.2

Appendix 7 – 2022/23 Housing and Land Capital Budget

HOUSING AND LAND CAPITAL PROGRAMME (£M)		2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2025 / 2026	2026 / 2027	TOTAL
IP Land	Brownfield Land & Property Development Fund (BLPDF)	6.8	3.1	0.7	0.1	0.0	10.8
Remediation	LPIF (Black Country Consortium)	16.6	59.5	20.1	20.1	17.0	133.3
Land Fund	Land Fund - Simon Digby	-0.0	0.6	1.8	0.6	-	3.0
	Land Fund - Stone Yard	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.1
	Land Fund - Abbotts Lane	2.2	0.0	0.0	-	-	2.2
	Land Fund - Aga	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	1.5
	Land Fund - Portersfield	0.4	0.3	0.3	3.8	1.4	6.1
	Land Fund - Fountain Lane	0.7	1.0	0.7	-	-	2.3
	Land Fund - Brierley Hill	0.2	-	-	-	-	0.2
	Land Fund - Port Loop phase 3 & 4	2.1	1.2	0.0	-	-	3.3
	Land Fund - Culwell St	1.8	2.3	1.2	0.1	-	5.3
	Brownfield Land - Pipeline	20.6	24.7	25.1	13.7	7.5	91.6
	National Competitive Fund - West Longbridge	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2
	Woodend Henley Manor Farm	0.8	0.2	-	-	-	1.1
	Brownfield Land - Phoenix Park	2.6	-	-	-	-	2.6
	Brownfield Land - Murdoch and Pitman	0.8	0.9	0.2	-	-	1.8
	Brownfield Land - Black Country Lvg Museum	0.7	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.7
	Brownfield Land - Globe House	0.6	-	-	-	-	0.6
	Brownfield Land - Erdington Baths	-	0.7	1.4	0.0	-	2.1
	National Competitive Fund - Pipeline	0.1	0.9	9.9	6.6	-	17.5
	Land Fund - Dobbs Street	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	-	0.6
	Land Fund - Lioncourt	0.4	0.2	-0.0	-	-	0.5
	Land Fund - Steelhouse Lane	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0
	Land Fund - Pipe Hall	-0.0	-	-	-	-	-0.0
	Land Fund - Friar Park	0.4	0.1	0.0	4.5	0.0	5.0
	Land Fund - Pipeline	0.8	24.3	-	-0.1	-	24.9
	Land Fund - Abberley Street	0.5	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
	Land Fund - Cranford Way	0.1	0.0	0.1	-	-	0.2
	Land Fund - Caparo	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.0	-	1.7
Land Fund - Icknield Port Loop Phase 2a and 2b	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	2.7	
Land Fund - Cookley Works	0.2	0.5	0.1	-	-	0.8	
Land Fund - Other	-0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	
HOUSING AND REGENERATION PROGRAMME TOTAL		65.1	122.3	62.6	51.3	26.1	327.4

Appendix 8 – 2022/23 Investment Programme Grants to Local Authorities Programme

INVESTMENT PROGRAMME GRANTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAPITAL PROGRAMME (£M)		2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2025 / 2026	2026 / 2027	TOTAL
Investment Programme	Coventry South Package - Tile Hill Station Improvements	0.0	3.1	3.8	-	-	6.9
	Coventry City Centre South Regeneration - City Centre	22.5	44.4	-	17.4	-	84.3
	Coventry City Centre South Regeneration - Friargate	23.8	2.5	1.5	-	-	27.9
	Coventry UKC Plus - Coventry Station Masterplan (CSMP)	2.7	-	-	-	-	2.7
	Coventry UKC Plus - UK City of Culture 2021 Regeneration	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1
	Coventry UKC Plus - Coventry South Package	6.7	30.5	23.4	26.7	14.4	101.6
	Coventry UKC Plus - Coventry North Package	-	4.0	11.3	6.2	-	21.4
	Coventry UKC Plus - Very Light Rail: Transforming Connectivity	0.0	2.8	15.0	15.0	10.0	42.8
	UK Central Infrastructure Package - Programme Total	8.6	62.1	60.4	55.3	36.6	223.0
	UK Central HS2 Interchange - Programme Total	13.2	64.5	67.4	77.2	72.6	294.9
	CoW Technical Centre	6.1	1.6	0.1	-	-	7.8
IP GRANTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES		83.7	215.6	182.8	197.7	133.5	813.3

Appendix 9 – 2022/23 City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement Programme

CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT PROGRAMME (£M)		2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2025 / 2026	2026 / 2027	TOTAL
	Rail Development	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	3.0
	Aldridge Station	0.5	1.0	3.0	5.5	20.0	30.0
	Demand Responsive Bus	1.0	1.5	3.0	4.5	-	10.0
	BSIP Retrofit Programme	3.0	-	-	-	-	3.0
	Park and Ride Tile Hill and Whitlocks End	1.5	1.5	1.0	0.5	-	4.5
	BSIP Bus Priority Cross City Routes	6.0	35.0	18.0	-	-	59.0
	Mobility Hubs and E Bikes	1.0	2.3	2.3	3.1	-	8.6
	Swift cEMV contactless payment broker	7.3	8.9	1.8	-	-	18.0
	Ultra Rapid Charging Transit Stations	6.0	8.0	-	-	-	14.0
	ULEV	1.5	4.0	5.0	1.5	-	12.0
	Metro Line 1 Renovation	7.5	18.8	3.6	-	-	30.0
	A45 Bham to Solihull - Phase 2	5.1	11.5	8.8	-	-	25.4
	A34 Walsall to Bham - Phase 2	5.3	16.8	8.4	-	-	30.6
	Hagley Road Rapid Transit	0.1	4.9	5.0	10.0	5.0	25.0
City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Programme	CRSTS - IG - Smethwick - Birmingham Corridor Transport Package	0.3	0.8	4.0	8.0	6.0	19.0
	CRSTS - IG - East Birmingham to Solihull Corridor	2.0	10.5	7.5	5.0	-	25.0
	CRSTS - IG - Chester Road Segregated Cycleway and Capacity	0.3	0.5	6.0	-	-	6.8
	CRSTS - IG - Active Travel - A45 Segregated Cycleway	0.5	5.1	8.0	0.7	-	14.3
	CRSTS - IG - Wolverhampton CC Walk, Cycle and Bus Package	0.5	5.0	4.0	-	-	9.5
	CRSTS - IG - A454 Walk, Cycle and Bus Corridor	0.6	3.2	4.5	9.9	-	18.2
	CRSTS - IG - BCW Access: Darlaston and Willenhall Train Stations	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.5	-	3.0
	CRSTS - IG - WBHE: Sustainable Access Measures	1.5	3.0	5.0	6.5	-	16.0
	CRSTS - CoP - Very Light Rail Phase 2	18.1	23.3	21.0	8.2	0.9	71.5
	CRSTS - CoP - Sutton Coldfield Gateway	0.8	7.2	14.5	2.5	-	25.0
	CRSTS - CoP - Solihull Station Integrated Transport Hub	0.4	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.3	5.0
	CRSTS - CoP - UKC - Dorridge Bus Priority	-	-	2.5	2.5	-	5.0
	CRSTS - CoP - Snow Hill Growth Strategy	0.6	1.8	1.5	1.2	-	5.0
	CRSTS - HSaS - A38 Selly Oak to Longbridge Segregated Cycling	0.5	6.2	7.3	0.5	-	14.5
	CRSTS - HSaS - City Centre Active Travel to Interchange	0.8	9.5	9.0	0.7	-	20.0
	CRSTS - HSaS - One Station and Smallbrook Queensway	0.5	2.0	6.5	1.0	-	10.0
	CRSTS - HSaS - Black Country Walking and Cycling Package	0.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	8.0
	CRSTS - HSaS - Dudley Interchange Sustainable Connectivity	2.0	3.0	2.5	-	-	7.5
	CRSTS - HSaS - Dickens Heath to Solihull Town Centre LCWIP	4.0	6.3	-	-	-	10.3
	CRSTS - HSaS - Knowle to Solihull Town Centre LCWIP	3.0	5.0	-	-	-	8.0
	CRSTS - HSaS - Stourbridge TC Sustainable Connect Package	0.2	1.0	1.8	-	-	3.0
	CRSTS - CRNaC - Multi-modal Access HS2	-	-	1.0	2.0	2.0	5.0
	CRSTS - CRNaC - Foleshill Transport Package	0.5	3.0	1.0	-	-	4.5
	CRSTS - CRNaC - A461 Walsall WCB Corridor	1.0	1.6	2.4	6.0	14.0	25.0
	CRSTS - CRNaC - A41 Mox IP Wal TC WCB Corr	1.0	1.5	2.0	5.5	9.0	19.0
	CRSTS - CRNaC - A4123 Walk, Cycle and Bus Corridor	0.5	1.5	7.0	10.0	10.1	29.0
	CRSTS - CRNaC - A449 Walk, Cycle and Bus Corridor	2.0	4.0	2.0	-	-	8.0
	CRSTS - CRNaC - BCW Access: Walsall Town Centre Interchange	-	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0
	CRSTS - CRNaC - West Coast Mainline M42 bridge	-	0.3	1.3	1.7	1.7	5.0
	CRSTS - DaGR - Cov South Sustainable Transport (GIGA Factory)	0.3	8.4	8.4	-	-	17.0
	CRSTS - Data Scheme Development Support	1.8	0.7	1.1	1.1	2.5	7.0
	CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT PROGRAMME		90.3	232.1	196.8	103.7	75.3

Appendix 10

Total Regional Investment Programme Expenditure as at 31st July 2022

PROGRAMME	COST TO COMPLETION			
	PRIOR PERIOD SPEND	2022 / 2023 FORECAST	FUTURE YEARS FORECAST	TOTAL FORECAST OUTTURN
	£000	£000	£000	£000
COVENTRY UKC PLUS	194,177	87,626	427,699	709,502
SPRINT PROGRAMME	76,447	20,996	231,617	329,060
RAIL PROGRAMME	47,690	34,687	132,866	215,243
METRO PROGRAMME	481,503	147,021	1,058,717	1,687,241
UK CENTRAL INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE	88,655	94,441	1,170,124	1,353,220
UK CENTRAL HS2 INTERCHANGE	35,297	9,129	488,247	532,673
HS2 GROWTH STRATEGY TOTAL	923,768	393,902	3,509,270	4,826,940
COVENTRY CITY CENTRE SOUTH REGENERATION	55,370	37,908	239,838	333,116
INNOVATION PROGRAMME	37,876	6,495	150,628	194,999
LAND RECLAMATION AND REMEDIATION	55,918	26,513	117,569	200,000
COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022	73,028	5,320	-	78,348
EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & SKILLS	1,018	290	18,687	19,995
BUSINESS AND TOURISM PROJECT - BATP	10,687	12,250	1,010	23,948
COVENTRY ELECTRIC BUS CITY	11,407	16,110	111,983	139,500
REGIONAL RECOVERY & RISKS	12,286	12,145	25,120	49,550
COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT FUND	87,111	40,759	872,130	1,000,000
OTHER INVESTMENT PROGRAMME SCHEMES	344,700	157,790	1,536,966	2,039,456
GRAND TOTAL	1,268,468	551,692	5,046,236	6,866,396

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Appendix 11

WMCA Investment Programme Commitments as at 31st August 2022

£m	Total Expected Approvals	Approved Commitments	Actual Spend (Jul-22)
Coventry UK Central Plus	288.1	94.8	87.4
Sprint Programme	217.4	47.0	42.5
Rail Programme	119.6	63.0	29.6
Metro Programme	222.8	222.8	98.3
UK Central Infrastructure Package	288.0	34.4	23.3
UK Central HS2 Interchange	398.0	62.9	37.4
SUB TOTAL HS2 GROWTH STRATEGY	1,533.9	525.0	318.5
Coventry City Centre South Regeneration	150.0	150.0	44.8
Innovation Programme	50.0	16.13	13.1
Land Reclamation and Remediation	200.0	103.0	57.7
Commonwealth Games 2022	25.0	25.0	25.0
Employment, Education & Skills	20.0	1.3	1.2
Business and Tourism Project - BATP	2.6	2.6	0.3
Coventry Electric Bus City	5.0	5.0	0.3
Regional Recovery & Risks	35.5	30.4	6.5
OTHER INVESTMENT PROGRAMME	488.1	333.4	148.9
TOTAL	2,022.0	858.4	467.4

Appendix 12 – WMCA Administered Funds – August 2022

Funding Stream	Grant Awarded £'000	Spend to Date £'000	Purpose
Midlands Connect	11,095	10,095	Work is continuing on delivering the Midlands Engine 'Vision for Growth'.
One Public Estate	1,453	664	It was agreed by WMCA Board that WMCA would assume accountable body status for this grant award, that is delivering various projects that secure more from public sector assets through collective action.
Community Renewal Fund	3,369	3,369	This Fund aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK to pilot programmes and new approaches and will invest in skills, community and place, local business, and supporting people into employment.
Emergency Active Travel Fund - Capital	10,304	3,887	Funding awarded to external local authorities for the delivery of an array of capital schemes throughout the region.
Emergency Active Travel Fund - Revenue	1,157	464	Revenue funding.
Total	27,378	18,479	

Appendix 13 – WMCA Balance Sheet

	31 August 2022 £'000	31 July 2022 £'000	Movement £'000
Property, plant and equipment	662,472	652,823	9,650
Intangible assets	1,646	1,698	(53)
Investments	37,648	36,582	1,066
Loan Receivables	15,922	15,922	-
Long-term assets	717,688	707,025	10,663
Short-term debtors	70,975	56,285	14,690
Short-term deposits	746,681	738,187	8,494
Cash and bank	218	192	26
Current assets	817,874	794,664	23,210
Loans - interest due	(4,340)	(3,940)	(400)
Short-term loans	-	-	-
Short-term creditors/accruals	(135,272)	(126,494)	(8,778)
Current liabilities	(139,612)	(130,434)	(9,178)
Net current assets	678,262	664,230	14,033
Provisions	(4,836)	(4,836)	-
Loans - PWLB	(502,461)	(504,526)	2,065
Other loans - Barclays	(10,000)	(10,000)	-
Dudley MBC	(4,678)	(4,678)	-
Grants receipts in advance	(441,209)	(406,354)	(34,854)
Long-term liabilities	(963,184)	(930,394)	(32,789)
Net assets	432,767	440,861	(8,094)
General fund balance	3,784	3,080	704
Earmarked reserves	346,036	344,515	1,521
Capital grants unapplied reserve	1,841	1,841	-
Usable reserves	351,661	349,436	2,225
Revaluation reserve	6,126	6,126	-
Deferred capital grants account	700,169	690,573	9,596
Capital financing account	(621,327)	(601,412)	(19,915)
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(2,724)	(2,724)	-
Accumulated absences account	(1,138)	(1,138)	-
Unusable reserves	81,106	91,425	(10,319)
Total reserves	432,767	440,861	(8,094)



WMCA Board

Date	28 October 2022
Report title	Confirmation of Director of Law & Governance Appointment
Accountable WMCA Director	Linda Horne, Finance Director and Authority Treasurer, West Midlands Combined Authority email: linda.horne@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Laurence Adams, Head of HR email: laurence.adams@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	Employment Committee - 1 September 2022

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The WMCA Board is recommended to:

- (1) Endorse the appointment of Helen Edwards as Director of Law and Governance and statutory Monitoring Officer for the West Midland Combined Authority ('WMCA')
- (2) Note that the appointment will take effect upon her taking up duties in early January 2023.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to endorse the appointment of the Director of Law and Governance and to formally confirm that she will act as the Combined Authority's Monitoring Officer upon taking up appointment.

2. Background

- 2.1 The post of Director of Law and Governance is a key role in the organisation. It also acts as the WMCA's statutory Monitoring Officer. It is crucial that the Authority has access to professional and timely legal and governance advice on a regular basis. Since the departure of the previous permanent Director, Tim Martin, the post has been occupied by Satish Mistry on an interim basis.
- 2.2 In the latter part of 2021 a recruitment process was carried out for the permanent appointment of a Director of Law & Governance. An Executive Search Agency was engaged, and a number of candidates were considered as part of the longlist process. However, after further internal consultation with the Mayor and Chief Executive, a decision was taken not to continue with the recruitment process due to the calibre of the individuals taking into account the significant responsibilities the Authority expects this person to be responsible for. In addition, at that time it was felt that there were some major issues including the Governance Review and significant legal service issues which needed attention. Accordingly, it was decided to extend the current interim contract with a view to revisiting the permanent recruitment process in Summer 2022. This was reported to Employment Committee in December 2021.
- 2.3 A further exercise was undertaken through the appointment of Gatenby Sanderson, an Executive Search agency, in Summer 2022. Their purpose was to carry out the search and initial sift for candidates for the position. A longlisting panel comprising of Linda Horne, Executive Director of Finance, Laurence Adams, Head of HR, and Satish Mistry, Interim Director of Law and Governance, interviewed a number of candidates and were able to recommend three individuals to proceed to the formal Employment Committee supported by a Stakeholder Panel.
- 2.4 The candidates were interviewed by the Employment Committee. The Committee was chaired by Cllr Bob Sleight, Deputy Mayor, together with Cllrs Brookfield, Cotton, McCarthy and Clark. The interviews were held on 1st September 2022 and the decision by the Committee was that Helen Edwards was the best candidate for the position and should be recommended for appointment to the permanent role of Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer. Helen is the current Director and Monitoring Officer at Norfolk County Council.
- 2.5 As this is one of the three statutory officers of the Authority, it is the responsibility of the Board to approve this appointment.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 This role is included within the Authority's approved budget for Law and Governance.
- 3.2 The costs of Gatenby Sanderson are also contained within the Directorate's approved budget.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations of this report are in line with the Authority's Constitution and Pay Policy.

5. Equalities Implications

5.1 Recruitment processes for the appointment complies with Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies, Recruitment and Selection policies and the Equality Act 2010.

6. Inclusive Growth Implications

6.1 None to note.

7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

7.1 None to note.

8. Other Implications

8.1 None to note.

9. Schedule of Background Papers

9.1 None.

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WMCA Board

Date	28 October 2022
Report title	The Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel
Portfolio Lead	Finance - Councillor Bob Sleigh
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, West Midlands Combined Authority email: Laura.Shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Satish Mistry, Interim Director of Law & Governance email: Satish.Mistry@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	Programme Board - 1 July 2022

The WMCA Board is recommended to:

A Mayor's Allowance

- (1) Agree with the Independent Remuneration Panel's ('IRP') recommendation to increase the Mayoral allowance from £79,000 to £95,000 pa.
- (2) Not backdate the increased allowance to May 2021.

(the Mayor has written to the Chief Executive to state that he will not personally take up the increase).

B Deputy Mayor's Allowance

- (3) Agree with IRP recommendation to set up an allowance payable to the Deputy Mayor at £31,675 pa (less any Basic and Special Responsibility allowances received)
- (4) Agree to backdate the allowance to May 2021.

(the Deputy Mayor has written to the Chief Executive to state that he will only take £10,000 of the recommended allowance for the Deputy Mayor).

C Other Allowances

- (5) Agree not to proceed with the IRP's suggestion to recommend to Constituent Authorities to set an additional responsibility allowance for Portfolio Leaders in the sum of £9,500 pa
- (6) Agree that the Monitoring Officer should write to the Secretary of State to request that the West Midlands Combined Authority Order 2016 be further amended to allow the payment of allowances to all members and co-opted members of the Authority
- (7) Agree, pending the Transport Governance Review, to retain the allowances paid to the Chair and Members of the Transport Delivery Committee (TDC)
- (8) Accept the recommendation that the Chair of the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee should receive a Chair's allowance of £9,500 pa.
- (9) Accept the recommendation that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee should receive a Chair's allowance of £6,650 pa and backdate to May 2021.
- (10) Agree all allowances should be index linked and increased annually as proposed.
- (11) Agree that the current scheme of travel and subsistence allowances should continue to apply to all Members of the Combined Authority.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This Report sets out the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) set up to look at allowances at the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

2. Background

- 2.1 At the meeting of the WMCA Board held on the 18 March 2022, Members agreed to appoint an IRP to consider:
 - the allowances that should be paid to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor,
 - whether allowances should be recommended for Portfolio Leaders,
 - the allowances paid to the TDC and whether allowances should be recommended to other Members of the WMCA.
- 2.2 The IRP have carried out a thorough review of Members Allowances, including carrying extensive interviews with key stakeholders and considering comparative data across the country. The Panel has now issued their report for the Board's consideration. This is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Where an IRP has issued a report, the Board are required under the provisions of the West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 to determine the allowances payable to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor "*in accordance with the recommendations of the IRP.*"

3. The Mayor

- 3.1 In the case of the Mayor, having taken into account the responsibilities of the Mayor and having looked at the allowances paid to the Mayors of comparable Authorities, the IRP have determined that the appropriate level for the Mayor should be £95,000 per annum. The Panel has recommended that any increased allowance should be made payable from when the Mayor was re-elected in May 2021.

4. The Deputy Mayor

- 4.1 When the allowance for the elected Mayor was first considered by an Independent Panel before the first election of the Mayor in 2017, no consideration was given to an allowance for the Deputy Mayor. Section 107C of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 requires the Mayor to appoint a Deputy Mayor to act in the Mayor's absence. Over the last five years the position of Deputy Mayor has developed into an important part of the governance arrangements of WMCA providing an important link between the elected Mayor and the Leaders of the Constituent Authorities.
- 4.2 The IRP have considered the role and responsibilities of the Deputy Mayor and recommend that these are of sufficient weight to justify the payment of an allowance. They have determined that the appropriate allowance level for the Deputy Mayor at WMCA should be 33% of the allowance payable to the Mayor so that if the Mayor's allowance is set at £95,000 the appropriate allowance would be £31,675 pa
- 4.3 The IRP were keen to ensure that the Deputy Mayor's allowance should not exceed the remuneration being paid to the Leaders of the Constituent Authorities. The Chair of the IRP has since provided clarity that the recommended figure of £31,675 should be subject to the proviso that any Deputy Mayor should not receive a total remuneration that was greater than that of the Leaders of the Constituent Authorities. Therefore, where an occupant of the Deputy Mayor post is already in receipt of other allowances at his or her Constituent Authority, an allowance should be made for the receipt of these payments to ensure that the figure does not exceed £31,675.

5. Allowances to Portfolio Holders.

- 5.1 At the same time as the Panel considered the allowances that should be paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, they also considered the roles and responsibilities of the Portfolio Leaders. The Panel considered that these were becoming significant and that the Portfolio Leaders deserved a special responsibility allowance to reflect their role and responsibility. However, such an allowance is prohibited by the 2017 Order and so the Panel recommended that the WMCA Board recommend to the Constituent Authorities that they should include in their own Schemes of Allowances a special responsibility allowance for the Portfolio Leaders. This would of course be a matter for decision by each of the Constituent Authorities.
- 5.2 The Panel consider that if the Constituent Authorities were to consider paying an additional Special Responsibility Allowance to reflect the role of Portfolio Leaders on WMCA the appropriate level of such an allowance would be 10% of the recommended Mayoral allowance or £9,500 pa.

5.3 An alternative proposal has been put forward that the Monitoring Officer should write to the Secretary of State to request that the West Midland Combined Authority Order 2016 should be further amended to allow the payment of allowances to all members and co-opted members of the Authority

6. Chairs of Audit Risk and Assurance Committee and Scrutiny Committee

6.1 As part of their review the Panel considered the roles and responsibilities of the Chair and Members of the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee. The Panel were of the view that only the Chair of the Committee should receive an allowance to reflect the special responsibilities of that position. The Panel recommended that the Chair of the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee should receive an allowance equal to 10% of the Mayor's allowance amounting to £9,500 pa to reflect the responsibilities of the role.

6.2 The Panel also considered the roles and responsibilities of the Chair and Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Again, they considered that only the Chair should receive an allowance to reflect the responsibilities of the post and recommended that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should receive an allowance equal to 7% of the Mayors allowance amounting £6,650.

6.3 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill currently going through Parliament includes a specific provision to enable the payment of allowances to members of Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees demonstrating that it is government policy that it is reasonable for such allowances to be paid. In the meantime, Section 113A of the Local Democracy and Construction Act 2009 enables WMCA to do:

- (a) anything it considers appropriate for the purposes of the carrying out of any of its functions (its "functional purposes"),
- (b) anything it considers appropriate for purposes incidental to its functional purposes,
- (c) anything it considers appropriate for purposes indirectly incidental to its functional purposes through any number of removes.

This power is subject to the limitation that it applies to an action provided that there is no legislative restriction against it, (as is the case with the payment of allowances to Members of the Board).

6.4 The Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee are not Members of the Board to whom the general prohibition against paying allowances to members applies. Since the prohibition does not apply in this case the WMCA Board may consider paying the allowances recommended for the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Risk and Assurance Committee under this general power.

7. Transport Delivery Committee

7.1 In 2016, when WMCA took over the functions and powers of the West Midlands Passenger Executive and the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (WMITA), the Constitution adopted by the CA, incorporated the TDC, which had been part of the governance arrangements of the Integrated Transport Authority.

- 7.2 The Integrated Transport Authority had been an Authority which was entitled to draw up a Scheme of Members Allowances and following the recommendations of an IRP the Integrated Transport Authority had previously set up a Scheme of Allowances for members of the TDC.
- 7.3 When WMCA incorporated the TDC into its own structure it decided to continue to pay allowances to Members of the TDC in accordance with the Scheme adopted by WMITA. WMCA inherited the functions and powers of the WMITA in relation to transport including the power to pay allowances under a Scheme of Allowances under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003 in relation to the TDC. The current allowances are:
- (a) Members Annual Basic Allowance - £4,060.00 (x19)
 - (b) Chair's Special Responsibility Allowance - £16,467.00 (x1) (plus basic allowance)
 - (c) Vice- Chairs' Special Responsibility Allowance - £8,461.00 (x2) (plus basic allowance)
 - (d) Lead Member Special Responsibility Allowance - £5,491.00 (x3) (plus basic allowance)
- 7.4 The West Midlands Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 includes a prohibition against the payment of allowances to Members of WMCA other than the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, but this does not apply in the case of members of the TDC, who are not Members of the WMCA Board, but are appointed to the Committee as co-opted members.
- 7.5 Since the Scheme of Allowances had not been reviewed for 5 years it was appropriate to ask the IRP to consider the allowances paid to the TDC Members at the same time as the allowances payable to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- 7.6 The Panel have considered the current role and responsibilities of the TDC. The Panel has come to the view that the role and responsibilities of the Committee have changed since the Committee was part of the WMITA and the role of the Committee is no longer a strategic role but one of delivery and implementation. The Panel have recommended that the current allowances paid to all members of the Committee should be discontinued and the current scheme be replaced by a single co-optee's allowance for the Chair of the Committee of 7% of the Mayor's allowance amounting to £6,650.
- 7.7 This would amount to a revocation of the current Scheme of Allowances and under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003 if the Board were to accept this recommendation it would not come into effect until the beginning of the next financial year. Allowances payable under the current Scheme of Allowances would continue to be paid for the remainder of this financial year.
- 7.8 Under the provisions of regulation 19 of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 the Board is under a duty "*to have regard to the recommendations of the IRP*" when agreeing the allowances to be paid to Members of the Transport Delivery Committee. This means that the Board must take account of the recommendations of the Panel and should implement them unless there are good reasons not to do so.

7.9 Transport is a very significant function of the Combined Authority and the only area in which WMCA delivers services direct to the public through its wholly owned subsidiary Midland Metro Ltd. The TDC has a role in implementation and delivery of this important service and of other public transport services which has been recognised through the continued payment of the scheme of allowances that was inherited from the ITA.

7.10 The Panel have recommended that the allowances currently paid to the TDC should be discontinued and replaced by an allowance just for the Chair of the TDC equal to 7% of the Mayor's allowance or £6,650 pa. However, Members will be aware that there is currently a review of Transport Governance taking place at Member level. This is looking at a number of issues, including the role of TDC. As it is likely that this will have implications for TDC, it is suggested that this recommendation not be accepted but be reviewed following the Transport Governance Review.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1 The Panel have recommended that all new and increased allowances should be backdated to May 2021.

8.2 The Panel have also proposed that all allowances should be up-rated annually using as an index the previous year's percentage increase in household earnings in the West Midlands as set out in the Annual Survey of Household Earnings (ASHE), published by the Office of National Statistics.

8.3 The IRP have recommended that WMCA consider the eligibility of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for pension provision. Unfortunately, current legislation does not allow for this.

8.4 The prohibition in the WMCA Orders which prevents the payment of allowances to Board Members does not apply to the payment of travel and subsistence allowances. The Panel have recommended that the existing scheme of travel and subsistence allowances should continue to apply to officers and office holders of WMCA and all Members of the Combined Authority.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 The financial impact of the recommendations in this report can be contained within the Combined Authority's approved budget.

9.2 The financial impact of any changes proposed to allowances following the outcome of the Transport Governance Review will be reflected in the Combined Authority's budget for 2023/24 onwards.

10. Legal Implications

10.1 The legal implications are set out within the report.

10.2 The Monitoring Officer has granted a Dispensation to Members of the Board other than the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor to enable them to take part in this item of business so far as it relates to Special Responsibility Allowances for Portfolio Leads.

11. Equalities Implications

11.1 There are no specific equalities implications flowing from the contents of this report.

12. Inclusive Growth Implications

12.1 There are no inclusive growth implications flowing from the contents of this report.

13 Geographical Area of Report's Implications

13.1 None specifically

14. Schedule of Background Papers

14.1 Appendix 1 - Report of the IRP

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Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel
2022

A review of Allowances at West Midlands Combined Authority

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The Regulatory Context

- 1.1 This report contains the analysis and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Panel or IRP) appointed by West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to make recommendations to the Combined Authority Board (Board) on a number of matters as set out in the Panel terms of reference.
- 1.2 The West Midlands Combined Authority was established in 2016 through [The West Midlands Combined Authority Order 2016 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)
- 1.3 There have been numerous subsequent Orders which are detailed in Appendix A of this report. [The West Midlands Combined Authority \(Functions and Amendment\) Order 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) set out the functions of a Combined Authority Mayor and in PART 8 - Amendment of the West Midlands Combined Authority Order 2016; incidental provisions it sets out the requirements as they relate to an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.4 Full details of this provision are detailed in the Order, in short they state:
- The Combined Authority may establish an independent remuneration panel to recommend allowances payable to the Mayor and the deputy Mayor.
 - An independent remuneration panel must consist of at least three members none of whom —
 - a) is also a member of the Combined Authority or is a member of a committee or sub-committee of the Combined Authority;
 - b) is disqualified from being or becoming a member of the Combined Authority.
 - An independent remuneration panel must produce a report in relation to the Combined Authority, making recommendations as to any allowances payable to the Mayor and deputy Mayor.
 - No remuneration is payable by the Combined Authority to its members, other than allowances for travel and subsistence paid in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Combined Authority.
 - The Combined Authority may pay the Mayor and Deputy Mayor such allowances as it may agree, in accordance with any recommendations made by its independent remuneration panel.”.
- 1.5 The Board agreed on 18 March 2022 to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel with an agreed terms of reference and agreed membership for the review.

The Panel

- 1.6 The membership of the Panel that undertook the review was as follows:
- Professor Steve Leach – Emeritus Professor of Local Government, Department of Politics & Public Policy at De Montfort University, Leicester
 - Rose Poulter – Birmingham City Council Independent Remuneration Panel Chair
 - Sylvia Parkin – City of Wolverhampton and Sandwell Independent Remuneration Panel member
- 1.7 Professor Steve Leach was appointed Chair of the Panel. Professor Steve Leach also chaired the previous Panel review in 2017 which Sylvia Parkin was also a member of.

Background

- 2.1 The terms of reference for the review are set out in Appendix B. It should be noted that, although the only allowances for which the Panel is formally empowered to make recommendations on are those of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, the Panel was requested to consider a range of other issues, including the package of allowances paid (for historical reasons) to members of the Transport Delivery Committee (TDC) and the case for portfolio- leads receiving additional allowances from their own local authorities, to acknowledge their important responsibilities in the WMCA.
- 2.2 The various Orders establishing the WMCA and allocating functions and responsibilities to it over the past five years are listed in Appendix A. It is not felt necessary to provide further detail here, except to note that there is a degree of variation in the responsibilities attached to the different Combined Authorities and the Mayors who lead them. In particular, the responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner have been allocated to the elected mayors of the Combined Authorities of Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire, but not to the WMCA or any of the other Combined Authorities.
- 2.3 In the 2017 report of the previous Panel, three principles which it felt should underpin its work were set out. These were as follows
- ❑ the 'democratic discount' principle. It has been customary in the vast majority of members allowances reviews to acknowledge that individuals standing for election to local authorities do so on the basis (inter alia) of a commitment to 'public service'. As a result, any remuneration they receive would not be expected to cover the whole of the time they devote to their role. 50% is the discount figure invariably used.
 - ❑ the mayoral allowance should be justifiable in the light of allowances received by other elected mayors and by other elected public sector office-holders with comparable roles and responsibilities (including M.P.s)
 - ❑ the recommended allowance should reflect the nature and scope of the executive responsibilities of the Mayor, but also the longer-term transformational expectations attached to the role.
- 2.4 The Panel was of the view that each of these principles remained relevant. It noted that whilst the specific executive responsibilities of the Mayor remained limited, the transformational and networking roles had been deployed to an increasing extent and with increasing effect by the current incumbent. In addition, the scope of the WMCAs responsibilities had increased considerably since 2017, as had its budget, with expectations of further increases in the near future. It had also become clear the role of elected mayor, in the West Midlands as elsewhere, was clearly a full-time one.
- 2.5 In coming to judgements about the appropriate level of allowances to recommend for the various posts concerned, the Panel was minded to adopt the 'good practice' approach of the Birmingham IRP, which involves, once having made a recommendation as to the mayoral allowance (or in Birmingham, the leaders SRA), to ensure that recommendations for other allowances were set as percentages of that figure. This gives a coherence to the allowances schedule which it would otherwise lack and is the practice followed in this report.
- 2.6 Although there are some IRPs which have attempted to use the time commitment of members in carrying out the duties of the positions they hold, this approach was not thought to be feasible nor appropriate in this review. It would not have been possible in the time available to assemble the necessary data, and in any event time commitment is not in itself a

relevant guide to the allocation of allowances. The nature of the responsibilities involved in different positions is a much more relevant factor and it was this which the Panel focused on. The other major consideration was to draw on relevant comparative information, especially with regard to the allowances paid to other elected mayors of Combined Authorities. This was a major influence on the thinking of the three other IRP reports (Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire) which the Panel accessed.

Approach

3.1 The Panel undertook a review of written evidence and undertook a series of interviews, both in person and virtually. Full details of the range of evidence considered by the Panel is set out in Appendix C of this report, this evidence contained:

- a range of information that was formally presented to and considered by the Panel and sent to the Panel prior to its formal meetings
- individuals, such as the Mayor and WMCA Chief Executive, who made representations to the Panel and the Officers who provided factual briefings to the Panel
- benchmarking data that was review and considered by the Panel
- analysis of the existing allowances arrangements and expenses scheme

3.2 The Panel undertook a scoping meeting prior to commencement of the evidence gathering for the review in order to determine the evidence that was required and the individuals it wished to interview.

3.3 The Panel held 2 all day evidence gathering sessions at which they undertook a number of interviews as detailed below:

27 April Evidence Day

- Andy Street – Mayor of WMCA
- Councillor Ian Courts - Portfolio Lead for Environment, Energy & HS2
- Councillor Patrick Harley - Portfolio Lead for Digital and Culture
- Councillor Ian Brookfield – Portfolio Lead for Economy and Innovation
- Councillor Mike Bird – Portfolio Lead for Housing and Land

9 May Evidence Day

- Councillor Kerrie Carmichael – Portfolio Lead for Public Service Reform & Social Economy
- Councillor Izzi Seccombe – Portfolio Lead for Wellbeing
- Councillor Bob Sleight – Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Lead for Finance
- Councillor Hartley – Chair of Transport Delivery Committee
- Councillor Cathy Bayton – Chair of Overview and Scrutiny
- Laura Shoaf – Chief Executive
- Linda Horne – Director of Finance
- Satish Mistry – Director of Law & Governance

3.4 The Portfolio Leads for Transport, Skills and Productivity, and Inclusive Communities were unable to be interviewed on the designated evidence dates and were therefore approach for evidence electronically.

3.5 The Panel was provided with a range of helpful background information, including:

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- the reports of the IRPs of the Combined Authorities of Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire
 - comparative data regarding the allowances paid to the elected mayors of other combined authorities, elected mayors of local authorities and council leaders in the seven local authorities in the West Midlands conurbation
 - the responsibilities of the different Combined Authorities
 - the Governance Review recently carried out in the WMCA and much else besides.

3.6 The Panel is most grateful to Jodie Townsend for the level and quality of support he provided, including setting up the Panel's meetings and responding to numerous 'one off' requests for information.

Analysis and Conclusions

4.1 The Panel, through the interviews and briefings it undertook and the examination of key data and documentation, considered key evidence in order to arrive at an agreed set of conclusions.

The Mayor

4.2 In 2016, soon after the establishment of West Midlands CA, an independent panel was established to make recommendations regarding the allowance which should be paid to the elected mayor, who had not at that stage been elected. The Panel's work was carried out at a time when no recommendations had yet been made elsewhere in CAs in respect of such allowances and when there was a good deal of uncertainty as to the way in which a mayor would interpret his or her roles and responsibilities.

4.3 The Panel identified a series of benchmarks against which a mayoral recommendation might be evaluated (including M.P.'s salary; allowances paid to elected mayors in local authorities; allowances paid to leaders of large urban authorities; the allowance paid to the elected mayor of the Greater London Authority). Noting that, at that time, the executive responsibilities allocated to the elected mayor were limited in extent (unlike those enjoyed by local authority elected mayors and many local council leaders), the Panel was of the view that the allowance recommended should not be greater than the highest allowance paid to a local authority elected mayor.

4.4 On this basis, a figure of £79,000 was recommended and accepted at a meeting of the Combined Authority early in 2017.

4.5 In the range of allowances allocated to CA elected mayors in 2021, West Midlands came in the middle of the range. Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire were at the higher end of the scale, at £110,000 and £105,000 respectively, but in both areas, the elected mayor operates as the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), which is not the case in the West Midlands. In some of the CAs with significantly smaller populations than the West Midlands, such as West of England and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough), the mayoral allowances are higher following recent Independent Remuneration Panel reviews.

4.6 Since 2017, the role of the elected mayor in the West Midlands has become clearer. Whilst his personal executive responsibilities remain limited to the field of transportation (most executive decisions are taken collectively by the CA or the Boards attached to it), his ambassadorial, networking and convening roles have become increasingly important and, in so far as the Panel can judge, effective.

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- 4.7 The Panel concluded that an attempt to link the mayoral allowance to a formal performance measurement scheme was not feasible. However the success of the incumbent in securing increasing levels of funding for the CA , whose budget has increased from 160 million (revenue and capital) in 2016-17 to 700 million in 2021-22): the achievement (aided by the deputy mayor) in creating a positive working environment in a CA in which Conservative and Labour-controlled authorities have almost equal representation: the successful negotiation with central government to secure an opportunity for the further devolution of powers to the CA; and the Mayors re-election in 2021 all provide evidence of effective mayoral performance; and these are traits and skills which the Panel would expect future mayors to bring to the post.
- 4.8 In these circumstances, the Panel was of the view that a substantial increase in the mayoral allowance was justified. Because the Mayor in the West Midlands does not have PCC responsibilities, it would not be appropriate for the allowance to match those of Greater Manchester or West Yorkshire.
- 4.9 However given the population size of the West Midlands (close to that of Greater Manchester) and the size of its budget, which are in both cases higher (often much higher) than other CAs, the Panel’s recommendation is that the mayoral allowance should be increased to £95,000, as from May 2021. This figure is approximately midway between the mayoral allowance paid in Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire (110,000 and 105,000 respectively) and the average of the mayoral allowances paid in the other CAs.

The Deputy Mayor

- 4.10 The current deputy mayor, who chaired the CA before the election of the current mayor, was appointed by the latter in 2018. When the panel met in 2016-17, it was uncertain whether the post of deputy mayor could be allocated an allowance. It has since become clear that it can.
- 4.11 The responsibilities of the current deputy are demanding and wide-ranging, these include:
- delegated responsibility for formulating the annual budget and steering it through the authority
 - has been instrumental in the process of finding a consensus among members of the CA on challenging issues
 - regularly deputises for the mayor in meetings with partners
 - chairs the Investment Board
 - led the work of the Governance Review Working Group.
- 4.12 The value of his contribution is widely acknowledged and appreciated throughout the authority.
- 4.13 The Panel was clear that in these circumstances, it was appropriate to recommend a deputy mayoral allowance, although it recognized that future incumbents of the post may seek or be expected to interpret the role in a different way (in which case a review of the allowance recommended may be necessary).
- 4.14 There are other CAs in which the deputy mayor is allocated an allowance – Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire – where the sum involved is £80,000 and £72,000. However both are CAs where the mayor also holds the responsibility of the PCC, subsequently the Deputy mayor leads on Police and Crime and it is likely that the demands on the role of the deputy will be greater in these circumstances.

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- 4.15 The Panel was uneasy about recommending an allowance for the deputy mayor which would be greater than the average figure for the total allowance (SRA and basic) received by the leaders of the authorities in the West Midlands conurbation (excluding Birmingham), given the wider range of their executive responsibilities. An allowance of one third of that recommended for the elected mayor (£31, 650) would meet this criterion, and this is the recommendation tabled by the Panel.

Portfolio Lead Members

- 4.16 The posts of elected mayor and deputy are the only ones where the regulations permit the allocation of allowances. However, during the course of the interviews, it became clear to the Panel the responsibilities of a portfolio lead are considerable (with some variation) and involve a significant time commitment, which has to be found in addition to the demands of leading a large metropolitan local authority (a post which is widely regarded as in itself requiring a 'full-time' commitment). Those involved are managing to juggle the workloads involved, although for a leader with some form of paid employment, it would be extremely difficult.
- 4.17 If West Midlands CA were a directly elected authority, then a substantial SRA for the portfolio leads would certainly be justified, in the light of the responsibilities involved. This case was supported by some but by no means all of the portfolio holders interviewed. But the Panel was clear that in principle there was a strong case for dealing with this 'allowances deficit'.
- 4.18 The only way it could suggest of responding to this situation was with a recommendation that the leaders' own authorities should consider 'topping up' the SRAs they allocate to the leaders, in a way which recognizes the scope of the extra responsibilities involved in CA work.
- 4.19 There are precedents for this initiative; the Wolverhampton Panel made a recommendation of this nature in its 2021 review, which was accepted by the council; and Wellingborough Council implemented a Panel recommendation for a similar measure, when its leader was chairing the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority.
- 4.20 The Panel's recommendation is therefore that the other six West Midlands MDCs should consider adopting a similar 'top-up' increase in their leaders SRAs to that which has been agreed in Wolverhampton. It would of course be up to each authority, taking advice from their respective IRPs, to decide the level of the top-up, but the Panel felt that an increase of 10% of the recommended mayoral allowance (£9,500) would be appropriate. This figure is based on the fact that the average SRA paid to cabinet members/portfolio-holders in the West Midlands conurbation authorities is 12,970 and 9,500 is close to 75% of this figure, an appropriate percentage, given the wider range of executive responsibilities in their parent authorities, compared with the WMCA.

Transport Delivery Committee

- 4.21 At present, a total of £147,310 in members allowances is allocated to members of the Transport Delivery Committee (TDC) per annum. All its members receive a basic allowance of £4,060. The Chair receives an SRA of £19,836 and a further five SRAs are allocated to the vice-chairs and lead members of Transport Delivery Committee. The continuation of these payments has been justified by designating the members of this committee as co-optees to the CA and relying on the legal powers to pay allowances inherited from the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.

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- 4.22 The Panel understands that there remains some doubt as to whether allowances can legitimately be paid to other designated co-optees. However, this initiative has been introduced in the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in West Yorkshire CA and the Panel's assumption is that such payments are legitimate, until or unless proved otherwise.
- 4.23 The allocation of allowances to the TDC can be regarded as an historical accident. They date from the time prior to the establishment of the CA, when the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority was the designated authority with responsibility for all public transport matters – strategy and policy, as well as delivery. In 2016, the most convenient way of dealing with this service within the CA was to incorporate it, as it stood, into the CA's organizational structure, with its current system of allowances (which had been reduced following an allowances panel report in 2015).
- 4.24 Its current status within the CA's structure is, in the Panel's view, clearly an anomaly, and it shares the perception of unfairness noted in the brief. There are other positions in the structure, for example overview and scrutiny, which have a stronger case for allowances than the TDC, in particular. the chairs of the various boards which advise the CA itself.
- 4.25 All but one of these Boards are currently chaired by portfolio holders, for whom the case for allowances were discussed in the previous section (the exception is the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee, whose chair is not). The TDC no longer deals with transport strategy and policy, which is the responsibility of the Combined Authority Board supported through the advisory Strategic Transport Board; it is now purely an implementation/delivery body. As such, its role remains a significant one, particularly in relation to dealing with the widespread public responses to its implementation responsibilities. Bus routes, the location of bus stops, the operation of the METRO are all topics which generate much public interest and concern, but the TDC's role has reduced significantly since the Integrated Transport Authority era.
- 4.26 The Panel was also made aware that the future role of the TDC is currently the subject of a member level review of Transport Governance. However, the Panel can only express a view concerning its current responsibilities. Its view is that the current elaborate system of allowances paid to members of this committee should be discontinued, but that its chair should receive an SRA of 7% of the recommended mayoral allowance (£6,650) as co-opted member of the WMCA. The Panel was advised by WMCA legal staff that it could not legally discontinue allowances during a Municipal year, this advice has been considered in the relevant wording of the recommendation.
- 4.27 This figure reflects the Panel view that the responsibilities involved in this post, although of significance, are less than those involved in holding a portfolio or chairing a policy board. These recommendations should be regarded as interim; they will need to be reviewed in the light of the outcome of the Transport Governance Review, due to report later this year.

Other Allowances

- 4.28 Although there were different views expressed to the Panel as to the effectiveness of the overview and scrutiny arrangements in the CA, it is, in its view, important to recognize the importance in principle of this role, especially because the CA (elected mayor excepted) is not a directly elected body; its members are appointees from the seven metropolitan authorities and hence cannot be held directly accountable by the electorate.
- 4.29 The Panel recommendation is that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should receive an allowance of 7% of the recommended mayoral allowance (£6,650), on the basis that parity with the allowance for the Chair of the TDC is felt to be appropriate. This

allowance can be justified, as is the case in West Yorkshire, by regarding the post holders as co-opted members of the CA. In West Yorkshire, all members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees receive a small allowance, but the Panel did not feel it appropriate to make a similar recommendation. In local authorities, it is typically only the chairs and sometimes vice-chairs who are seen as eligible for SRAs and there is no reason to depart from this practice in the WMCA.

- 4.30 The same principle can be applied to the Chair of the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee, whose role is clearly one of undoubted significance in the work of the CA. It too should be allocated a co-optees allowance of 10% of the recommended mayoral allowance (£9,500). The chairs of the other subject-specific Boards established by the WMCA (e.g. Investment, Wellbeing, Environment and Energy etc.) are all currently held by portfolio-holders, otherwise a similar allowance would be appropriate.
- 4.31 The overall impact of these recommendations would, in the Panel's view, lead to a system of allowances which is fairer and more consistent with regard to the responsibilities attached to the various positions, and which avoids the excessive use of co-optees allowances which currently exists within the TDC.

Indexation and other elements

- 4.32 The Panel recommends the introduction of a system of annual up-rating of allowances which is based on the average increase in salaries (public and private sector) in the previous financial year in the West Midlands, as published in the Annual Survey of Household Earnings (ASHE). This is the criterion used by the Birmingham allowances panel and has the advantage of being geared specifically to circumstances in the region.
- 4.33 The Panel considered it appropriate that its recommended allowances should be backdated to May 2021, when the last mayoral election took place.
- 4.34 However the Panel was advised that allowances cannot be discontinued part way through a municipal year and it therefore reluctantly accepts that the status quo should continue until April 2023 or until a structural change impinging on the work of the TDC is implemented.
- 4.35 The Panel accepts in principle that the allowances paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should be pensionable. This is not possible under existing legislation, but the possibilities of achieving this end in other ways should be explored.
- 4.36 The Panel sees no reason to depart from the current provisions for travel and accommodation and other allowances, whereby officers and members are treated equally.

Recommendations

- 5.1 The subsequent recommendations from the Panel are as follows:
- 1 The annual allowance paid to the elected mayor should be increased from £79,000 to £95,000.**
 - 2 The annual allowance paid to the deputy mayor should be set at 33% of the mayoral allowance (£31,675)**
 - 3 Independent Remuneration Panels within the seven Constituent Councils of the Combined Authority area should be encouraged to consider recommending a 'top up' to their council leaders' overall allowance (basic plus SRA) to acknowledge the time commitment and responsibilities of their role as portfolio**

holders in the WMCA. The Panel's recommendation would be to set this at 10% of the mayoral allowance (£9,500) but that will be a matter for each individual panel to decide.

- 4 The Chair of the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee should be allocated a co-optees allowance of 10% of the mayoral allowance (£9,500) in acknowledgement of the responsibilities involved in the position.
- 5 The current scheme of allowances paid to members of the Transport Delivery Committee cease by the end of 2022/23 and be replaced by the allocation of a co-optee's allowances of 7% of the mayoral allowance (£6,650) to its Chair
- 6 The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be allocated a co-optees allowance of 7% of the mayoral allowance (£6,650).
- 7 All allowances should be up-rated annually using as an index the previous year's percentage increase in household earnings in the West Midlands as set out in the Annual Survey of Household Earnings (ASHE), published by the Office of National Statistics.
- 8 All recommended allowances should be backdated to May 2021, the date of the last mayoral election.
- 9 Eligibility for a pension scheme should in principle be provided for the mayor and deputy mayor. This is not currently possible through the CA, which is, however, encouraged by the panel to explore other options (e.g. private pension schemes)
- 10 The current schedule of travel, subsistence and childcare allowances should continue to apply to both officers and members of the CA.

5.2 The Panel commends these recommendations as a consistent and fair system of allowances, easy to understand and straightforward to administer.

APPENDIX A – Combined Authority Orders

WMCA Orders

West Midlands Combined Authority Order 2016: [The West Midlands Combined Authority Order 2016 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

West Midlands Combined Authority Order (Election of Mayor) 2016: [The West Midlands Combined Authority \(Election of Mayor\) Order 2016 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

The Value Added Tax (Refund of Tax to Tees Valley and West Midlands Combined Authorities) Order 2016: [The Value Added Tax \(Refund of Tax to the Tees Valley and West Midlands Combined Authorities\) Order 2016 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

West Midlands Combined Authority Order (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017: [The West Midlands Combined Authority \(Functions and Amendment\) Order 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

West Midlands Combined Authority Order (Adult Education Functions) 2018: [The West Midlands Combined Authority \(Adult Education Functions\) Order 2018 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

West Midlands Combined Authority Order (Business Rate Supplements Functions and Amendments) 2018: [The West Midlands Combined Authority \(Business Rate Supplements Functions and Amendment\) Order 2018 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

APPENDIX B – Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

Part A. Review of Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Allowance

- ❑ review of remuneration to be paid to the position of the WMCA Mayor from June 2022 that is commensurate with the responsibilities of the position;
- ❑ review of remuneration to be paid to the position of the WMCA Deputy Mayor appointed by the Mayor from amongst the members of the MCA Board;
- ❑ review of the allowances scheme that will cover expenses.

Part B. Wider Roles and Responsibilities at Board Level

- ❑ In the context of the recent Governance Review, it is recognised that greater responsibility is being placed on other Board members to carry out roles for respective portfolio areas. The review will look at this issue and make any observations or recommendations to individual constituent IRPs as part of setting their allowances. It would of course be up to each individual Constituent Authority to decide if they wish to follow such observations.

Part C. Other Allowances in the Organisation

- ❑ The review of allowances be extended to examine the roles and responsibilities of other positions within the Combined Authority Governance Structure in order to make observations on whether allowances could and should be provided. Recent reviews at West of England and West Yorkshire have examined allowance issues for other positions such as Overview & Scrutiny.
- ❑ In addition, at the Inaugural Meeting of the WMCA Board in June 2016 the Board was advised that because the members of the Transport Delivery Committee were co-opted members of the Committee and not members of the WMCA Board, the prohibition on the payment of allowances did not apply and the allowances formerly agreed by WMITA could continue to be paid.
- ❑ The Transport Delivery Committee has continued to receive basic and special responsibility allowances that were agreed by the former West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority before the WMCA was established. The arrangement has not been reviewed since 2016. This is quite clearly an anomaly in the organisation and has led to some perceptions of unfairness.
- ❑ Examination of the roles and responsibilities of other positions across the Combined Authority will provide an opportunity to examine the allowances currently paid to members of the Transport Delivery Committee. A Review of Transport Governance at Member level will also assist in deciding what to do in relation to these payments.

APPENDIX C – Evidence Considered

- ❑ WMCA Orders
- ❑ WMCA Constitution
- ❑ 2021 Review of Governance Report
- ❑ 2021/22 schedule of meetings
- ❑ 2022/23 DRAFT schedule of meetings
- ❑ 2016 WMCA report of the IRP
- ❑ Most recent reports of IRPs at Greater Manchester Combined Authority, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, South Yorkshire Combined Authority, West of England Combined Authority

Comparative Data

Remuneration paid to Elected Mayors in English Combined Authorities 2021	
Combined Authority	Remuneration (Allowance)
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	£75,000 (IRP rec to increase to £86k)
Greater Manchester	£110,000 *
Liverpool City Region	£80,631
North of Tyne	£65,000
South Yorkshire	£79,000
Tees Valley	£65,000
West Midlands	£79,000
West of England	£65,000 (will be £87k by 24/25)
West Yorkshire	£105,000 *

* = includes PCC & Fire responsibilities

Annual Allowance of City Mayors

Council	Mayor (since)	Allowance pa (2021/22)
Bedford	Dave Hodgson (2009)	£62,551
Bristol	Marvin Rees (2016)	£79,468
Copeland	Mike Starkie (2015)	£50,000
Doncaster	Ros Jones (2013)	£66,080
Hackney	Philip Glanville (2016)	£85,375
Leicester	Peter Soulsby (2011)	£77,063
Lewisham	Damien Egan (2018)	£78,118

Liverpool	Joanne Anderson (2021)	£83,539
Mansfield	Andy Abrahams (2019)	£55,762
Middlesbrough	Andy Preston (2019)	£63,560
Newham	Rokhsana Fiaz (2018)	£86,589
North Tyneside	Norma Redfearn (2013)	£67,321
Salford	Paul Dennett (2016)	£68,701
Tower Hamlets	John Biggs (2015)	£80,175
Watford	Peter Taylor (2018)	£67,05

Remuneration paid to other Public Posts 2021	
UK/ Devolved Nations Elected Representative	
UK Member of Parliament (MP)	£81,932
Minister of State (UK)	£116,019
UK Parliamentary Under Secretary	£106,409
Member of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly	£50,500
Member of the Scottish Parliament	£64,470
Member of the Welsh Assembly	£67,649
Greater London Assembly	
Mayor of London	£152,734
Deputy Mayor	£105,269
Chair of London Assembly	£70,225
London Assembly Member	£58,543
NHS Non-Executive Appointment	
NHS Non-Executive	£13,000
NHS Trust Chair	£43,000 - £60,000*
* NHS Trust Chair salary dependent upon annual turnover of Trust	
West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner	£100,000

Combined Authority Populations 2021 (Office of National Statistics)	
Combined Authority	Population
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	859,800
Greater Manchester	2,848,300
Liverpool City Region	1,564,000
North of Tyne	839,500
South Yorkshire	1,415,000
Tees Valley	667,200
West Midlands	2,939,900
West of England	950,000
West Yorkshire	2,345,200

Combined Authority Devolved Powers

Combined Authority	Devolved Powers
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Skills & Adult Education budget <input type="checkbox"/> Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development/Business Support <input type="checkbox"/> Non-statutory spatial planning
Greater Manchester	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Economic development/ Business support <input type="checkbox"/> Regeneration and Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic spatial planning <input type="checkbox"/> Skills and training <input type="checkbox"/> Police and Crime Commissioner <input type="checkbox"/> Fire and Rescue <input type="checkbox"/> Waste <input type="checkbox"/> Public health co-ordination powers <input type="checkbox"/> Power to create Mayoral Development Corporation
Liverpool City Region	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Economic development <input type="checkbox"/> Energy & environment <input type="checkbox"/> Skills, Adult Education and apprenticeships <input type="checkbox"/> Culture <input type="checkbox"/> Power to create Mayoral Development Corporation
North of Tyne	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development/Business Support <input type="checkbox"/> Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Power to create Mayoral development Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Skills and adult education budget <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism/culture <input type="checkbox"/> Transport
South Yorkshire	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Skills, training & Adult Education <input type="checkbox"/> Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Economic development/ Business Support <input type="checkbox"/> Non-statutory spatial planning <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism/Culture <input type="checkbox"/> Power for to create Mayoral Development Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Employment
Tees Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development/ Business support <input type="checkbox"/> Skills and Adult Education Budget <input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Power to create Mayoral development Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism/culture <input type="checkbox"/> Housing
West Midlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Regeneration <input type="checkbox"/> Productivity & Skills <input type="checkbox"/> Culture & Digital <input type="checkbox"/> Environment & Energy & HS2

	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Strategy
West of England	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic development <input type="checkbox"/> transport <input type="checkbox"/> Skills, apprenticeships and adult education <input type="checkbox"/> Power to create Mayoral development Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Employment
West Yorkshire	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic development <input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Power to create Mayoral development Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Police and Crime <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education and Skills

Constituent Allowances

Role	Birmingham (2021)	Coventry (2021)	Dudley (2021)	Sandwell (2018)	Solihull (2022)	Walsall (2018)	Wolverhampton (2021)
Leader	£56,579 + basic £18,681	£26,081 + basic £14,490	£25,213 + basic £10,737	£26,278 + basic £10,620	£24,215 + basic £10,000	£22,841 + basic £11,146	£25,000 + basic £9,763
Deputy Leader	£45,265 + basic £18,681	£18,832 + basic £14,490	£19,940 + basic £10,737	£23,650 + basic £10,620	£11,623 + basic £10,000	£14,916 + basic £11,146	£20,000 + basic £9,763
Portfolio Holder	£28,289 + basic £18,681	£11,593 + basic £14,490	£14,355 + basic £10,737	£15,768 + basic £10,620	£9,686 + basic £10,000	£11,431 + basic £11,146	£15,000 + basic £9,763
O&S Chair	£14,145 + basic £18,681	£11,593 + basic £14,490	£9,560 + basic £10,737	£8,751 + basic £10,620	£7,748 + basic £10,000	£7,430 + basic £11,146	£15,000 + basic £9,763
O&S Member	£900 + £18,681	-	-	-	-	-	-

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**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

Thursday 7 July 2022 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Mark Smith (Chair)

Councillor Ram Lakha OBE (Vice-Chair)	Coventry City Council
Councillor Dave Borley	Dudley Metropolitan Council
Councillor Craig Collingswood	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Ram Mehmi	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne	Warwickshire Non-Constituent Authorities

In Attendance

Fiona Bebbington	West Midlands Combined Authority
Peter Farrow	City of Wolverhampton Council
Satish Mistry	West Midlands Combined Authority
Lorraine Quibell	West Midlands Combined Authority

Item Title No.

1. Inquorate Meeting

It was reported that the meeting was inquorate and therefore the recommendations contained within the minutes would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 16 September 2022 for formal approval and adoption.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Allen (Sandwell), Sean Farnell (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP), Councillor Yvonne Mosquito (Birmingham) and Councillor Mike Sutherland (Staffordshire Non-Constituent Authorities).

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and stressed the importance of the need to attend meetings in person to ensure that they were quorate and able to make decisions. He requested that if members gave apologies for future meetings, a substitute be requested to attend. He particularly highlighted the importance of attendance at next meeting due to the accounts approval being required of the committee. He asked that Governance Services email all members of the committee regarding the importance of attending meetings.

The Chair informed the committee of a potential induction sessions welcoming new members to the WMCA, and was in discussion with the Governance Services Manager regarding the arrangements for this.

He also spoke briefly about the recent activities undertaken by himself of the committee, including attending Investment Board, meetings with the Chief Executive of the WMCA and with the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

4. Terms of Reference

The Interim Director of Law & Governance provided the committee with an overview of its roles and responsibilities, as outlined within the terms of reference.

The Chair informed the committee of his discussions with the Interim Director of Law & Governance in relation to the need to undertake a review/refresh of the committee's terms of reference. It was agreed that a revised terms of reference would be submitted to the next meeting for members comment and approval. Councillor Craig Collingswood requested that all future reports that the committee received had a covering report to ensure that members were aware of what decisions the report was seeking.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The report be noted.

5. Minutes -12 April 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

6. Matters Arising

Following items raised at the last meeting with regard to the number of vacancies at the WMCA, the Head of Business Planning, Performance & Transformation updated the committee in terms of the number of vacancies which at the time of the meeting was 42, which was deemed as to be 'reasonable' for an organisation of this size. She also provided the committee with the number of temporary contracts that the WMCA currently had.

In regard to a previous risk identified on the Strategic Risk register relating to the Adult Education Budget, members were informed that the risk was de-escalated following discussions with the Director of Employment & Skills and the implementation of improvement processes.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The report be noted.

7. Draft Process for Accounts and Process for Finalisation

The Head of Financial Management updated the committee in regard to the approval process of the WMCA's financial accounts. The Chair reported that he had been involved in this process and was keen to get members' input once required. The External Auditor confirmed that they were reviewing the accounts and working through the various queries, highlighting that they had the appropriate resources in place to ensure completion by the end of September 2022, although this was dependent on being provided with the necessary assurances from West Midlands Pension Fund.

The Chair informed the committee of a report from Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd outlining the timeliness of account sign off.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The report be noted.

8. Update on Public Sectors Audit Appointment Process

The committee received an update on the Public Sectors Audit Appointment Ltd process. The Head of Financial Management provided details on the market engagement exercises that had taken place and the timescales in place as to when the contract and tender process would commence. It was expected an award decision will be made around the beginning of August 2022.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The report be noted.

9. Strategic Risk Register

The committee considered a report and presentation from the Head of Business Planning, Performance & Transformation outlining the Strategic Risks currently faced by the WMCA as outlined within the Strategic Risk register.

The Chair informed the committee of his separate meeting with the team to discuss the register in depth, which resulted to changes in relation to the inflation risk.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

- (1) The risks contained within the Strategic Risk register be noted.
- (2) The key messages regarding changes that had been made and planned for the Strategic Risk register be noted.

10. Internal Audit Report

The committee received a report of the Interim Director of Law & Governance providing an update on the latest work completed by Internal Audit so far this financial year. The Chair requested that he be informed of the progress made towards the key financials' systems audit.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The contents of the latest Audit Update report be noted.

11. Treasury Management Outturn Report

The committee considered a report of the Director of Finance & Business Hub outlining the WMCA's borrowing and investment held at 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

Borrowing and investments held at 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 showed that net borrowing decreased by £35.46m to leave a net investment position of £159.49m. New borrowing of £335m was undertaken to unwind a proportion of WMCA's historic under-borrowed capital financing position and mitigate against interest rate rises.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The report be noted.

12. Forward Plan

The committee considered the plan of items to be reported to future meetings of the committee.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The items of business to be reported to future meetings be noted.

13. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved:

In accordance with s100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

14. Cyber Essentials Report

The committee received a presentation from the Strategic Head of Digital & Data outlining the areas of need for attention on Cyber Essentials accreditation, which had been held since 2019. The WMCA had made a new submission against the new enhanced Cyber Essentials criteria, which had received the support of the Strategic Leadership Team.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The report be noted.

15. Whistleblowing Investigation

The committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Law & Governance providing an update on the outcomes of any recently completed investigation into concerns that had been raised with the WMCA through the whistleblowing route.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The findings of the investigation undertaken following receipt of a whistleblowing claim regarding operational arrangements between WMCA and Midland Metro Ltd be noted.

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm.

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West Midlands Combined Authority

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 11 July 2022 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Naeem Akhtar (Vice-Chair)	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 Mike Sutherland	Staffordshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Jamie Tennant	Birmingham City Council
Amanda Tomlinson	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Vera Waters	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance

Ed Cox	Executive Director, Strategy, Integration & Net Zero
Dan Essex	Governance Services Manager
Clare Hatton	Director of Employment & Skills Delivery
Lyndsey Roberts	Scrutiny Officer
Laura Shoaf	Chief Executive
Kate Taylor	Head of Finance Business Partnering & Strategic Planning

Item No. Title

- 65. Appointment of Chair**
The committee noted that at the WMCA Board meeting held on 10 June 2022, Councillor Cathy Bayton had been appointed as the Chair of this committee for 2022/23.
- 66. Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Simms (Sandwell), Councillor Sweet (Wolverhampton) and Councillor Wood (Birmingham).

67. Appointment of Vice-Chair

The appointment of Vice-Chair was the responsibility of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and had to be a member from a different political group to the Mayor. The Chair proposed that Councillor Akhtar be appointed as Vice-Chair of this committee.

Resolved:

- (1) Councillor Akhtar be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for 2022/23.

68. Appointment of Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The appointment of the Chair of Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee was the responsibility of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and had to be a member from a different political group to the Mayor.

The Vice-Chair proposed that Councillor Bayton be appointed as Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

Resolved:

- (1) Councillor Bayton be appointed as Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee for 2022/23 and be co-opted onto the sub-committee for this purpose.

69. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed new members to the first meeting of the year and thanked the former Vice-Chair and members of the committee for their work and contributions during 2021/22.

In terms of its focus for 2022/23, the Chair proposed that the committee continued to focus on whether the policies, investment and actions of the WMCA continued to benefit all communities in the West Midlands.

70. Minutes - 7 March 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

71. Update on Trailblazer Devolution Deal

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Strategy, Integration & Net Zero that provided an update on the progress being made in relation to the Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

The Trailblazer Devolution Deal process was continuing with devolution proposals being developed across a wide range of themes. Proposals were being developed in accordance with the principles and plans previously agreed by the WMCA Board. In particular, proposals had a clear focus on drawing down powers and finance from Government, and the roles and responsibilities held by local authorities would not be drawn away from them through this process.

The committee received an overview of the 17 draft devolution proposals that were grouped into four thematic areas: Going Further & Faster, Rebooting the Economy, Increasing Pride in Place and Enabling Delivery.

Members discussed and shared comments on the development of a West Midlands outcome framework, investment zones and compulsory purchase orders, drawing down powers and finance from Government, working alongside Greater Manchester Combined Authority whilst recognising the important differences, the importance of communication and the availability of up-to-date information, increased public engagement at the appropriate time, the use of existing funding pots and funding simplifications for transport, housing, skills and retrofit.

In terms of new money, as a matter of principle the WMCA would not accept new responsibilities via a devolution deal unless it had adequate resources attached to those new powers. In addition, the Executive Director, Strategy, Integration & Net Zero agreed to consider ways in which local authorities could further demonstrate their support for the proposals, which could be in a form of a complimentary letter to support negotiations.

The committee enquired about funding and the structures and safeguards in place to avoid competitive bidding amongst local authorities and to ensure that respective authorities received their fair share of funding. It was noted that as a region, the WMCA would seek to administer the funding strategically and in a co-ordinated manner, however competitive bidding could not be ruled out.

In terms of next steps, the Chair proposed that a series of scrutiny working groups be held over the summer period to review each of the Trailblazer Devolution proposals in detail.

Resolved:

- (1) The progress being made in relation to the Trailblazer Devolution Deal be noted; and
- (2) The Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be kept abreast on the development of a West Midlands outcome framework that would provide a levelling up evidence base with outcome measures for monitoring.

72. Implications of the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill for the WMCA

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Strategy, Integration & Net Zero on the implications of the upcoming Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill for the WMCA.

The Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill was announced in the Queen's Speech on 10 May 2022. This legislation would have implications for the WMCA in a number of areas, including planning and regeneration, consents and WMCA geography, accountability and devolution and local governance.

Members noted the provisions of the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill and enquired about the potential for the integration of the West Midlands Fire & Rescue Fire Authority into the WMCA's structures. The Executive Director, Strategy, Integration & Net Zero agreed to look into this further as it was not specifically mentioned within the provisions of the Bill.

Resolved:

- (1) The implications of the upcoming Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill for the WMCA be noted; and
- (2) Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be kept abreast on the developments of the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill.

73. Review of Governance - Update

The committee received a verbal report from the Interim Director of Law & Governance on the progress being made in relation to the review of governance arrangements.

In June 2021 the Mayor and Constituent Authority Leaders commissioned a review of WMCA governance that specifically looked at the formal decision-making and consultative bodies at the WMCA, the process of report drafting and preparation and effective stakeholder engagement. A Governance Working Group developed a series of recommendations that were now being progressed.

As part of the overall governance review, a review had also been undertaken with regard to members' allowances. At its meeting on 18 March 2022 the WMCA Board agreed to convene an Independent Remuneration Panel to review and make recommendations in relation to the allowances that should be paid to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and other members of WMCA's boards and committees. The Independent Remuneration Panel had now concluded its review and its recommendations would be reported to the WMCA Board in September 2022.

The Interim Director of Law & Governance explained that with regards to allowances, only the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and members of the WMCA Board could receive an allowance, although he had received legal guidance noting that members of the other boards and committees were considered to be 'co-opted members' and therefore an allowance could also be paid if a recommendation were to be made by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

In response to a question raised by the Chair, the Interim Director of Law & Governance explained the difference between a co-opted member and non-co-opted member and confirmed that all members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee were deemed to be co-opted members of the WMCA Board. He added that the WMCA Board confirmed the acceptance of the co-opted members through a report which was considered by the WMCA Board at its annual meeting.

Resolved:

- (1) The update be noted.

74. Skills Provision Review Overview

The committee considered a report of the Director of Employment & Skills Delivery that set out the proposed scope for the committee's review of skills provision across the region and provided a background scope 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.

The Adult Education Budget for the constituent member area was devolved to WMCA for delivery from 1 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 colleges and adult education providers.

The Director of Employment & Skills Delivery brought the committee's attention to the shared challenges and funds that were available to help to address these challenges, including the Adult Education Budget, National Skills Fund 'Free Courses for Jobs', Technical Bootcamp Fund, Community Renewal Fund, Multiply and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The committee discussed and shared comments in relation to the number of skills and training providers, which had reduced to 70 core providers working across the West Midlands, concerns on the lack of encouragement to enable individuals to fulfil their potential within their place of work, skills being broader than qualifications and the importance of reviewing individuals' life chances and looking at and understanding outcomes.

The Director of Employment & Skills Delivery confirmed that the short term and long-term challenges would be reviewed as part of the scrutiny review and, in relation to the engagement with business communities, this could also be included within the review.

The committee questioned the allocation of skills funding per local authority area and emphasised the importance of levelling up. Members expressed concern that the current funding formula used for the allocation of the Adult Education Budget had been on an historic investment basis rather than a needs basis. Given this, the committee agreed that this matter should be reviewed as part of the scrutiny review.

Resolved:

- (1) The draft scoping document be agreed, subject to the incorporation of the committee's comments.

- (2) It be agreed that Councillors Burrows, Kettle, Tennant and Waters be appointed as members of the review group; and
- (3) The review to commence during October with a report to be submitted to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 12 January for consideration.

[NB Amanda Tomlinson declared an interest in this item as a Governor at Wolverhampton College]

75. Grant Register

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub 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.

Resolved:

- (1) The grant register be noted.

76. Minutes: Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee - 23 March 2022

The committee received the minutes of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 23 March 2023.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of 23 March 2023 be agreed.

77. Work Programme

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

78. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 5 September at 10.00am

The meeting ended at 12.00pm.



West Midlands Combined Authority

Transport Delivery Committee

Monday 11 July 2022 at 12.45 pm

Minutes

Present

Councillor Richard Worrall (Chair)	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Zaker Choudhry	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Bill Gavan	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Robert Grinsell	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Shabrana Hussain	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Timothy Huxtable	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Carol Hyatt	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner OBE	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Mary Locke	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Saddak Miah	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Anne Millward	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Josh O'Nyons	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Gurmeet Singh Sohal	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Clare Simm	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor David Stanley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Julie Webb	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Item Title No.

1. Appointment of Chair

It was reported that at the WMCA Board on 10 June 2022 Councillor Richard Worrall had been appointed as the Chair of this committee for the municipal year.

Resolved:

Councillor Richard Worrall's appointment as Chair of the Transport Delivery Committee for 2022/23 be noted.

2. Welcome from the Mayor

The Mayor attended the meeting to welcome new and returning members of the committee for 2022/23. He stressed the important role members of the committee undertook, noting the importance that public transport played in the lives of residents in the West Midlands, both in the lead up to the forthcoming Commonwealth Games and in enabling them to access employment and leisure opportunities. He also noted the key role public transport would play in the region achieving its net zero goals by 2041, along with the likely impact that technological innovation would play in driving modal shift onto public transport.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairs

Resolved:

That Councillor Timothy Huxtable and Councillor Mary Locke be appointed Vice-Chairs of this committee for the 2022/23 municipal year.

4. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Linda Bigham (Coventry).

5. Chair's Remarks

(a) **Councillor Kath Hartley**

The Chair placed on record his thanks to Councillor Kath Hartley, the previous Chair of the committee, for her many years' service to public transport across the region. Members of the committee endorsed these sentiments.

(b) **Role of the Transport Delivery Committee**

The Chair noted that the role of this committee was not to determine transport policy, which remained the responsibility of the WMCA Board, but to oversee the delivery of those policies, including by championing the passenger experience. He also requested that members avoid raising local 'ward issues' at the meeting, and instead use a dedicated Transport for West Midlands email address where these issues could be logged and addressed more effectively.

6. Minutes - 14 March 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

7. Forward Plan

The forward plan of items to be reported to future meetings of the committee was noted. The Director of Integrated Transport Services confirmed that an update report on Park & Ride facilities would be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the committee in September.

8. Update on Review of Transport Governance

The Governance Services Manager provided an update on the review of transport governance that was currently being undertaken by the WMCA. A review of wider governance across the WMCA was undertaken in 2021 which had identified that a more focused review of transport governance should be undertaken. The purpose of this review was identified as being to improve, rationalise and simplify transport governance to improve decision making.

This review was currently gathering evidence, including by meeting with the Mayor, Portfolio Lead for Transport, the Chair of this committee and the Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee. Recommendations arising out of the review were expected in the Autumn.

Resolved:

That the update be noted.

9. Financial Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report from the Head of Finance Business Planning & Strategic Planning setting out the financial position as at 31 May 2022 relating to the WMCA's transport delivery revenue and capital budgets.

The year to date position on the transport revenue budget showed an overall favourable variance of £376,000 against budget. The most notable variance at this early stage of the year related to concessions where there were lower than budgeted patronage and fare levels. These savings had been partly offset by lower than budgeted drawdown of reserves to support the overall budget as they had not yet been required. Capital programme expenditure totalled £39.7m, which was £7m below the May year to date budget of £46.8m, with the variance primarily contained within the Investment Programme portfolio.

In respect of the £100,000 Minor Works Programme budget for 'Top Slice', the Head of Finance Business Planning & Strategic Planning undertook to provide further information from the Strategic Transport Officers Group on what this money would be spent on in 2022/23. She also confirmed that the 'Social Housing Decarbonisation', 'Sustainable Warmth Competition' and 'Net Zero Neighbourhood - Capital' were not Transport for West Midlands projects and so should not fall within the monitoring responsibilities of this committee.

The Director of Strategic Partnerships & Delivery Integration confirmed that there was an increased risk associated with inflation pressures within the construction sector. Mitigation was sought where this occurred to ensure that Transport for West Midlands continued to get best value from its capital projects.

Resolved:

- (1) The year to date position as at the end of May 2022 against the Transport for West Midlands revenue budget, showing an overall favourable variance of £376,000, be noted.
- (2) The Transport for West Midlands capital programme expenditure as at the end of May 2022, totalling £39.7m which was £7m below budget, be noted.

10. Capital Programme Delivery Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report from the Director of Strategic Partnerships & Delivery Integration, Transport for West Midlands, on a progress monitoring update on the approved Transport for West Midlands-led 2022/23 programmes and projects.

The report identified those elements of the capital programme that had been completed during March - July, including the Perry Barr rail station and bus interchange, the University rail station and the West Midlands cycle hire scheme. There had also been a variation to the baseline programme in respect of Dudley Interchange, where a completion date of September 2024 had now been set due to compulsory purchase order delays and the uncertainty around construction costs. It was anticipated that construction would start in September 2023 for a 12 month build period.

Councillor Timothy Huxtable expressed his concern that the bus shelters would be installed at the Perry Barr rail station and bus interchange in the week preceding the start of the Commonwealth Games. He also noted the commitment made by the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner to significantly increase the number of average speed enforcement cameras in operation, and asked the impact this was likely to make to making the Key Route Network safer. The Director of Strategic Partnerships & Network Integration confirmed that he was working closely with Birmingham City Council to ensure the bus shelters were installed ahead of the Commonwealth Games. He also undertook to provide a more detailed response in respect of the use of average speed enforcement cameras on the Key Route Network.

In respect of a number of questions raised around the financial pressures impacting on the Dudley Interchange scheme, the Director of Strategic Partnerships & Network Integration undertook to provide a detailed briefing note on the issues relating to this.

Resolved:

- (1) The achievements since the March meeting of the Transport Delivery Committee be noted.
- (2) The progress of deliverables and outturn of the 2022/23 capital programme be noted.
- (3) The variations from the baseline programme be noted.

11. Sprint Monitoring Delivery Report

The committee considered a report from the Head of Sprint Development, Transport for West Midlands, on the completion of Phase 1 work for the A34 and A45 Sprint routes, an update on the A456/Hagley Road advanced works being delivered by the Midland Metro Alliance, and on the progress being made on the zero emission challenge and the role Sprint was playing in this.

Phase 1 works for the A34 and A45 routes had now been completed, on time and to budget. These works had finished in time for the Commonwealth Games embargo and would ensure that the games transport could benefit from the infrastructure. In respect of the A456/Hagley Road route, work was now underway to appoint a designer and to understand construction cost for the scheme at updated market prices. The next stage would be preliminary design work, informed by building knowledge and the collection of survey data to underpin that design.

Transport for West Midlands' role in the current deregulated bus market was to encourage the move to zero emission bus operation, and it was working to support operators in their ambitions, whilst at the same time using the Enhanced Partnership agreement with bus operators to require the introduction of non-diesel buses on the corridor line with wider WMCA aspirations.

Councillor Timothy Huxtable sought further information as to when it was expected that zero emission vehicles would be operating on the Sprint corridors. The Head of Sprint Development reported that it was expected that articulated vehicles would be used for Sprint services, and it was planned for infrastructures works on the route to be completed in early 2025 that would permit these vehicles to be used. She also undertook to provide members of the committee with a map showing the planned Sprint route network.

Resolved:

- (1) The progress of the Sprint phase 1 delivery be noted.
- (2) The Phase 2 funding that had been secured and works that were underway to progress the scheme be noted.
- (3) The relationship between Sprint and other local schemes be noted.

12. Transport Services Recovery Update

The committee received an update from the Director of Integrated Transport Services, Transport for West Midlands, on the impact and recovery across the transport network from COVID-19. This included the extent to which patronage across transport modes was returning to previous levels and where the bus network was seeing a slower recover in passenger numbers on Mondays - Fridays but a stronger recovery across weekend services. He also confirmed that Transport for West Midlands was looking to work with the Department for Transport on marketing campaigns that would be targeted at encouraging the public to return to public transport.

In response to a question from Councillor Robert Grinsell, the Head of Bus confirmed that Transport for West Midlands did consult with local ward councillors when there were proposals that would impact local bus services.

Resolved:

That the update be noted.

13. Member Engagement Groups Update

The committee considered a report of the Governance Services Officer on recent developments and meetings of the six Member Engagement Groups. The report provided further details on recent meetings of the Rail & Metro MEG and the Air Quality, Congestion & Environmental Impact MEG.

Resolved:

- (1) The following appointments to Lead Member roles for 2022/23 be approved:

Air Quality, Congestion & Environmental Impact - Councillor Linda Bigham
Finance & Performance - Councillor Pervez Akhtar
Putting Passengers First - Councillor Mary Locke
Rail & Metro - Councillor Timothy Huxtable
Safe & Sustainable Travel - Councillor Robert Grinsell
Sprint - Councillor Richard Worrall

- (2) The following appointments to the Member Engagement Groups for 2022/23 be approved:

Air Quality, Congestion & Environmental Impact - Councillor Robert Alden, Councillor Linda Bigham, Councillor Zaker Choudhry and Councillor Carol Hyatt.

Finance & Performance - Councillor Pervez Akhtar and Councillor Anne Millward.

Putting Passengers First - Councillor Bill Gavan, Councillor Shabrana Hussain, Councillor Carol Hyatt, Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner, Councillor Mary Locke, Councillor Clare Simm and Councillor David Stanley.

Rail & Metro - Councillor Bill Gavan, Councillor Timothy Huxtable, Councillor Clare Simm, Councillor David Stanley and Councillor Julie Webb.

Safe & Sustainable Travel - Councillor Robert Grinsell and Councillor Julie Webb.

Sprint - Councillor Josh O'Nyons, Councillor Saddak Miah, Councillor Gurmeet Singh Sohal and Councillor Richard Worrall.

- (3) The recent activities of the committee's Member Engagement Groups be noted.

14. WMCA Board Transport Reports

The committee noted that the WMCA Board was due to consider a report on Metro Affordability at its meeting on 15 July. The report would be shared with members of this committee once it had been published, and members were to feed any comments they had on the report back to the Chair.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 12 September 2022 at 1.00pm

The meeting ended at 3.05 pm.

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**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Wellbeing Board

Wednesday 13 July 2022 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Margaret Bell
Councillor Ian Bevan
Councillor Julian Gutteridge

Councillor Suzanne Hartwell
Mark Axcell
Dr Sue Ibbotson

Philip Johns

Sean Russell
Dr Justin Varney

Warwickshire County Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough
Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Black Country Integrated Care Board
Office for Health Improvement and
Disparities
Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated
Care Board
Universities West Midlands (Coventry)
Birmingham City Council, West Midlands
Association of Directors of Public Health
Representative

In Attendance

Dr Mayada Abu Affan
Angela Aitken
Dr Mubasshir Ajaz
Harry Barton
Phil Cole
Dr Clara Day

Jed Francique
Stacey Gunther
Simon Hall
Anita Hallbrook
Mike Hastings

Matthew Leak
Tatum Matharu
Dr Julie Nugent
Sophie Petrie
Andrea Simmonds

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
West Midlands Combined Authority
West Midlands Police
West Midlands Combined Authority
Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care
Board
West Midlands Combined Authority
West Midlands Combined Authority
West Midlands Combined Authority
West Midlands Combined Authority
Black Country and West Birmingham
Integrated Care System
City of Wolverhampton Council
West Midlands Combined Authority
West Midlands Combined Authority
West Midlands Police
West Midlands Fire Service

1. Appointment of Chair to meeting

The Governance Services Officer noted to the board that apologies had been received from the Chair and the board was asked to endorse the appointment of a Chair for the meeting to commence.

Resolved:

- (1) In the absence of the Chair, the Wellbeing Board endorsed Dr Sue Ibbotson as Chair for the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following Wellbeing Board Committee members:

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Chair), Councillor Kamran Caan (Coventry), Councillor Tony Diccico (Solihull), Councillor Gary Flint (Walsall), Councillor Jasbir Jaspal (Wolverhampton), Councillor Karen McCarthy (Birmingham), Lisa Stalley-Green (Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board) and Pete Wilson (West Midlands Fire Service).

3. Nomination of Substitutes

The following substitutes had been received from Wellbeing Board Committee members:

Dr Clara Day for Lisa Stalley-Green and Andrea Simmonds for Pete Wilson.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed new board members to the meeting for the start of the 2022/23 municipal year and invited introductions of the Wellbeing Board members.

6. Minutes of the last meeting

The board considered the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 March 2022.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record.

7. Matters Arising

(a) Revisiting the Health of the Region Report – Draft Report (Minute no.57)

The Chair requested an update on the production of the new health of the region report following discussions from the previous board meeting. The Head of Health and Communities noted objections had been received previously in the sense of requirement, need and case studies that were included. The Head of Health and Communities noted therefore for the board to consider a focus on the next edition of the report due in 2023 rather than to publish a brief update in regards to the data hub, as the online data hub was being established by another department of the WMCA in thinking about how to combine the various data sets, as well as what could be accessed publicly in to an online resource led by the WMCA's new Head of Research and Innovation.

The Chair thanked the Head of Health and Communities for the update and noted that the pandemic had significantly changed statistics, therefore, if any board members wanted to view the health profile for English regions which had recently been published by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, the health profile was available on the gov.uk website.

[Health Profile for the West Midlands 2021](#)

The Head of Health and Communities noted that Birmingham City Council had also recently published community health profiles for various communities which had been praised nationally as well.

[Overview | Community health profiles | Birmingham City Council](#)

Mike Hastings noted to the Head of Health and Communities in supporting the work of the WMCA's new Head of Research and Innovation to ensure a collaborative approach in the sharing of data sets, as this was already being undertaken on multiple and local levels, as well as Integrated Care Boards to add prompt value to the piece of work to ensure efforts were aligned and to avoid repetition.

(b) Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT) and Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

In response to a question from Dr Clara Day who requested an update in the combination of the Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT) and the Equality Impact Assessment, the Public Health Programme Manager noted due to crossover and similarities between the two, the compromise was to merge both together with a draft document that had been written following piloted projects within the WMCA for submission to the WMCA's Corporate Leadership team for agreement and adoption.

The Public Health Programme Manager offered to share the written paper and proposed merger with the board, as well as contact details for the Equalities Impact Manager at the WMCA for board members to contact.

The Chair noted once the paper was distributed, it would be helpful for board members to share their feedback on its usefulness, how it might be improved and how it could be used particularly within integrated care systems.

8. Wellbeing Programmes Update

The board considered a report from the Head of Health and Communities on the Wellbeing Board High Level Deliverables Annual Update. The Head of Health and Communities provided an update on the status for each of the deliverables and highlighted key achievements in 2021/22.

The Chair thanked the Head of Health and Communities for the annual update to enable the board to reflect on the achievements and in how the WMCA was able to add value on specific deliverables that was useful for board members to note.

The board also received a detailed update from the Head of Mental Health Partnerships regarding Thrive at Work and the work of the West Midlands Mental Health Commission, as well as an update from the Strategic Lead for Wellbeing and Prevention regarding wellbeing and prevention programmes to outline the Department for Transport's social prescribing walking and feasibility study called the "People Powered Health" pilot, and partnership working to improve the health outcomes of disabled people from encapsulating on the Commonwealth Games and opportunities in the future from the Games' legacy.

Justin Varney supported from a public health director perspective and commended the partnership working linking to the Commonwealth Games, noting that to maximise potential, delivering a whole system approach as part of a wider strategy and integration that connected advice given in healthcare settings and community physical activities to enable and support people with health conditions to be active was important for this to work.

Resolved:

- (1) The progress to date on the 2021/22 High-Level Deliverables was noted.
- (2) The High-Level Deliverables for 2022/23 was reviewed.
- (3) The Wellbeing Board to receive an update on the High-Level Deliverables at each future board meeting.

9. Forward Plan

The board considered for the following items to be noted on the forward plan for discussion at future meetings of the Wellbeing Board.

Agreed:

- (1) Physical activity and disability within the region.
- (2) Legacy of the Commonwealth Games.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Wellbeing Board would be held on Tuesday 6 September 2022.

[The meeting ended at 11:15am]



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Investment Board

Monday 18 July 2022 at 11.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Bob Sleigh (Chair)	Portfolio Lead for Finance & Investments
Councillor Mike Bird	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Tony Jefferson	Non-Constituent Authorities
Councillor Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Jim O'Boyle	Coventry City Council
Councillor Bob Piper	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Stephen Simkins	City of Wolverhampton Council
Nick Abell	Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Paul Brown	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Shaz Saleem	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Item Title No.

18. Virtual Meeting

The Chair reported that because this meeting was being held virtually on MS Teams, under the terms of the WMCA's Constitution the meeting was inquorate. The decisions subsequently taken would formally be recommended to the Chief Executive, who would then approve those recommendations using her delegated authority to do so under the provisions of the Constitution.

19. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clark and Grinsell, Sue Summers and Gary Taylor.

20. Notification of Substitutes

Councillor Saleem was nominated as a substitute on behalf of Councillor Clark.

21. Minutes - 27 June 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2022 were agreed as a true record.

22. Investment Programme Update and Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Director of Investment and Commercial Activities on the status of the Investment Programme to help set the context of any investment decision being made by the board.

Ian Martin, Director of Investment and Commercial Activities provided and update on the Investment Programme and the Investment Programme Dashboard.

He reported that since the previous WMCA Investment Board meeting on 27th June 2022, WMCA Statutory Officers have been provided with a Change Request submission under delegated approval for the NEC Longabout project to amend the project completion date to 31 December 2022 and award a further £1.2m of grant funding from the WMCA Investment Programme moved from a related project. He advised that the existing WMCA Investment Programme grant funding awarded for the Roundabout Over-Trace project would be correspondingly reduced by £1.2m as a result of the same change request submission.

It was noted that the WMCA Investment funding actually drawn/incurred by projects against these funding commitments as at 31 May 2022 totals £463.3 million.

Resolved:

1. Approval under delegated authority by WMCA Officers of the business case submission disclosed at Section 3 of the report be noted;
2. The WMCA Investment Programme funding status and current affordable limit, as outlined at Section 4 of the report be noted;
3. The status of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement ("CRSTS"), as outlined at Section 4 of the report be noted and
4. The Regional Investment Programme delivery update detailed within this report and appendices (including the project-level summary within the WMCA Investment Programme dashboard at Appendix 4) be noted.

23. WMCA Collective Investment Fund (CIF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Collective Investment Fund dashboard (public iteration) as at 1 July 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

24. WMCA Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (BLPDF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund dashboard (public iteration) as at 1 July 2022.

25. WMCA Revolving Investment Fund (RIF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Revolving Investment Fund Dashboard (public iteration) as at 1 July 2022.

26. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

27. Holbrook Lane Phase 2

The board considered a report from West Midlands Development Capital that sought approval for loan funding from the Collective Investment Fund (CIF) for the sum specified in the report for the 'Company' for the development of 14 light industrial units on the former Meggitt Facility, Holbrook Lane, Coventry totalling 149,458sqft. The development would create 290 new jobs once all units are occupied.

It was noted that Phase 1 loan and Phase 2 loan in total would exceed the agreed total exposure limit, however, Phase 1 would be sold in its entirety, and this was scheduled for completion in October 2022 at which point Phase 2 loan would not have started drawing.

Ed Bradburn (WMDC) confirmed that loan funding could not be drawn over the set loan cap and the loan for Phase 1 would be repaid by the end of the year.

The Director of Investment and Commercial Activities, Ian Martin confirmed he was supportive of the loan application.

Resolved:

1. That a loan for the 'Company' from the Collective Investment Fund (CIF) for the sum specified, under the key terms and conditions set out in the report be approved for the development at Holbrook Lane Phase 2 and
2. That the overall loan cap will not be exceeded at any point be noted.

28. West Midlands Metro - Buy Before Boarding

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Transport for the West Midlands that provided an update on progress on the Buy Before Boarding project and sought approval of an increase in the interim cash flow funding due to changes in scope and unforeseen circumstances.

The West Midlands Metro Project Director, Michael Anderson outlined the report highlighting the background and benefits of introducing the 'Buy Before Boarding' ticketing system including the improvement for passengers and the significant operational cost savings that would result from the installation of ticket vending machines at all tram stops.

It was noted the penalty fare for ticketless travel would be increased significantly and a change to the Metro Byelaws would follow in due course.

The Executive Director of Finance and Business Hub, Linda Horne reported that support for the project has been pre-approved by the WMCA Board and reassured Investment Board that the costs of the project were taken into consideration as part of the wider costs of Metro affordability that were recently agreed by the WMCA Board at its meeting on 15 July 2022.

Resolved:

1. The contents of the report highlighting the outcome of the procurement process and the feedback from the single assurance framework be noted;
2. The long-term aspirations for operational cost reductions through redeployment of revenue protection resources (when fully deployed the Buy Before You Board system is projected to deliver annual operational savings of £3m) be noted and
3. That an increase in interim cash flow funding from £4.7m to £11.6m to enable the installation of one ticket vending machine all stops on the existing route, that will be able to handle cash and card transactions, and includes the provision of one ticket vending machine of the same specification, at all stops on the future extensions to Brierley Hill and Digbeth be approved and
4. The provision of cash enabled ticket vending machines along with validators ensures the payment solution is fully inclusive and accessible be noted.

29. Cycling & Walking Capital Programme Business Case

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Transport for the West Midlands that sought endorsement to the scope of work planned for the Cycling and Walking Programme and sought approval for the release of funds towards development and delivery of schemes funded by the Department for Transport, Active Travel Fund Capital 2021-22 (ATF3).

The Implementation Manager, Transport for the West Midlands, Hannah Dayan reported that the ten year Cycling and Walking Programme supports the WMCA's vision for the West Midlands to build a better connected, more prosperous, fairer, greener and healthier West Midlands and outlined the aims and objectives of the Programme. This included increasing the number of cycling routes, expanding West Midlands cycle hire and increasing the number of cycling and walking trips to reach the Government's Gear Change target of 50% of all journeys by active travel by 2030.

The Programme Business Case attached to the report, provides the overview of the programme, its concept, strategic aims and economic context. It was noted that individual business cases would be presented in respect of individual projects in due course, in accordance with the Single Commissioning Framework and scheme of delegation to enable the delivery and benefits of each scheme to be reviewed accordingly.

The Implementation Manager reported that the board is asked to approve up to 10% of the total amount secured for each scheme that would be made available to the Sponsors of each individual business case for development and design of schemes. This includes 12 schemes totalling £1.7m of secured funding from the Active Travel Fund (ATF) round 3 and further funding expected over subsequent years.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Saleem seeking clarification regarding the revenue and future maintenance cost of schemes, Hannah Dayan reported that individual local authorities would fund these costs themselves which should be included in future budgets.

Resolved:

1. The scope of work planned within the Cycling and Walking Capital Programme covering the next ten years be endorsed and
2. The release of up to 10% of secured funds (£1.7m) for the development and delivery of each scheme funded by the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund, tranche 3 2021-22 Capital (ATF3) be approved.

30. Made Smarter West Midlands (MSWM) Phase 2

The board considered a report of the Executive Director of Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities that informed the board of the success of the pilot Made Smarter West Midlands Programme and sought endorsement for this project to proceed and to access £6.9m of Government funding with the aim of continuing the Made Smarter movement within the West Midlands.

It was noted that the Made Smart adoption programme (sponsored by BEIS) aims to help manufacturing SMEs in the West Midlands to increase productivity, competitiveness, resilience and efficiency through the take-up of digital technologies by building on the success of the Made Smarter West Midlands pilot in 2021/22.

The Innovation Lead, Jamie Elliot, reported that BEIS have allocated £24m over the next three years for the continuation of the programme in the UK and the West Midlands would receive up to £2.3m per annum to deliver phase 2 of the programme. It was noted that the processes and delivery partner utilised for Phase 1 of the programme would continue in order to build on the successes and learning provided by the pilot.

Councillor Jefferson commented that the programme would deliver a good deal if it succeeded in delivering the GVA forecast stated in the report and enquired whether the programme would apply across the 3 LEP areas of the WMCA.

Jamie Elliot confirmed that programme did apply across the 3 LEP area and that it covers 6 LEP areas.

Resolved:

1. The continuation of the project be endorsed and
2. The WMCA continue to be the accountable body for the Made Smarter West Midlands Programme be endorsed.

31. Briefing Note -Coventry City Centre South

The board received a briefing note on the Coventry City Centre South project, a key regeneration project for Coventry City Council and the WMCA which has benefited from WMCA funding awarded in 2018.

The briefing note was submitted for information.

The board also received a presentation from Adam Hunt (Coventry City Council) that included an update on progress and proposed changes to the scheme; a Change Request would be submitted to the board for approval in the Autumn.

The board were fully supportive of the changes outlined.

Resolved: The briefing note and presentation be noted.

32. WMCA Collective Investment Fund (CIF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report setting out the dashboard for the Collective Investment Fund (private iteration) as at 1 July 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

33. WMCA Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (BLPDF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report setting out the dashboard for the Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (private iteration) as at 1 July 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

34. WMCA Revolving Investment Fund (RIF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report setting out the dashboard for the Revolving Investment Fund (private iteration) as 1 July 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

35. Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF)

The board considered a report out the dashboard for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund as at 1 July 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

36. Housing & Land Fund Dashboards

The Executive Director for Housing, Property and Regeneration, Gareth Bradford, presented the Housing and Land Funds Dashboards that provided and update on the three funds; Brownfield Housing Fund, National Competitive Fund and Land Fund.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 12.03 pm.

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West Midlands Combined Authority

Housing & Land Delivery Board

Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Mike Bird (Chair)
Chris Lawes
Councillor Charn Padda
Dawn Ward

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Coventry and Warwickshire LEP
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local
Enterprise Partnership

Participating via MS Teams

Councillor Peter Butlin
Jim Davies
Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal
Councillor Daren Pemberton
Jo Nugent
Councillor Sharon Thompson

Warwickshire County Council
Environment Agency
City of Wolverhampton Council
Stratford on Avon District Council
Homes England
Birmingham City Council

Item Title No.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fitzgerald, Mackiewicz, Overton, Smith, Sullivan, Welsh and Wright and Sarah Middleton, Kevin Rogers and Suzanne Ward.

2. Nomination of Substitutes

Suzanne Ward (Environment Agency) had nominated Jim Davies to attend on her behalf.

3. Terms of Reference - to note

The terms of reference for the board were submitted for information.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

4. Minutes - 27 April 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2022 were agreed as a true record.

5. Quarterly Report on Housing & Land Portfolio Deliverables and Progress on Housing and Land Annual Business Plan

The board considered a report of the Executive Director of Housing, Property and Regeneration that provided the end of year report for 2021/22 on progress in delivering the High Level Deliverables for the Housing and Land Portfolio as co-developed with the Housing & Land Delivery Board throughout 2021/22 and agreed by WMCA Board in February 2021.

This report provided a summary of the end of year position and highlighted progress on the portfolio's High Level Deliverables for 2022/3.

Resolved:

1. The positive progress to achieve the Housing & Land portfolio's approved Annual Deliverables in 2021/2022 and the clear plans in place for progressing the agreed High Level Deliverables work programmes during 2022/23 be noted;
2. The key performance highlights set out in Section 3.0 of the report be noted and
3. The positive performance and effective deployment of WMCA's Devolved Housing and Land funds illustrated by the Single Commissioning Framework schemes summarised in the confidential Annex to this report (many of these schemes are now in delivery phase, having progressed through to the end of the process, which shows the role of WMCA in unlocking, accelerating and problem solving on '*difficult to deliver*' schemes) be noted.

6. Levelling Up: Trailblazer Devolution Deal Update

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration that provided a further update on the work taking place around the formation of the Housing, Property and Regeneration proposals within the West Midlands Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD).

The Head of Strategy and Analysis, Rob Lamond outlined the progress made since the last meeting and reported that positive discussions have been held with Government recently with regards to the headline TDD proposals. He explained that there had been extensive engagement with Delivery Steering Group, WMCA taskforces, including special meetings, and that this had provided valuable insight into how the devolution asks should be shaped.

In relation to a comment from Councillor Padda regarding the need for the WMCA's processes to be made simpler, the Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration, Gareth Bradford, reported that he was seeking a single regeneration fund from Government as part of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal that would allow the WMCA more flexibility on deploying housing and land funds.

Resolved:

1. The progress made since the last meeting of Housing & Land Delivery Board on the development of the Housing, Property and Regeneration proposals within the West Midlands Trailblazer Devolution Deal be noted;
2. The current version of these proposals as set out in the report be endorsed;
3. The ongoing extensive internal and external engagement programme supporting development of and testing these proposals be noted;
4. The ongoing engagement and input from Delivery Steering Group members in this process be welcomed and
5. The direction of travel set out for the further development and refinement of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal proposals be noted.

7. Presentation: Affordable Housing

The Head of Strategy and Analysis, Rob Lamond, summarised the WMCA's approach to affordable housing over the last 12 months and explained that the work is seeking to integrate a number of WMCA activities as an enabler e.g. working with Housing Associations, leveraging private sector funding, developing new products (e.g. help To Own), aligning funding with Homes England's National Affordable Housing Programme and aligning with the identified needs of local authorities. He also explained that WMCA's own definition of affordable housing is being applied to WMCAs own investments. He reported that progress has been excellent on the Help to Own Scheme in Wolverhampton and that there is the opportunity to develop other schemes across the region. WMCA has exceeded its target of 20% minimum affordable housing (26% currently) and a Partnership Board will look at how all parties can work together better to address the issues impacting affordability.

The Chair along with Councillors Gakhal and Butlin commented on the great success of the Help to Own Scheme in Wolverhampton and considered the need to implement the scheme/adopt the model in more areas. The Chair also credited Sue Summers (West Midlands Development Capital) who has been instrumental in setting up the Help to Own scheme.

Councillor Thompson noted that the West Midlands could be losing skills and talent where people are forced to move to take-up jobs where housing is more affordable and enquired whether Help to Own could help in this regard.

The Head of Strategy and Analysis reported that there are great variations with regards to affordability across the region but could look at this issue as part of the strategy and would check on the Help to Own figures.

Councillor Thompson added that she would like to see more options on shared ownership and would like more information on the Help to Own scheme.

The Chair asked that the Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration provide a one page briefing note on the Help to Own scheme for Councillor Thompson and all board members.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

8. Future Homes Strategy: Discussion Paper

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration of the work being undertaken to develop a Future Homes Strategy that would integrate workstreams on Advanced Manufacturing in Construction (AMC), Zero Carbon Homes and the Government's proposed Future Homes Standard.

It was noted that the strategy was directly linked to the West Midlands Plan for Growth and West Midlands Investment Prospectus alongside delivering the key components of the Housing & Land Delivery Board's Business Plan and 2018 Housing Deal.

The Head of Policy and Planning, Patricia Willoughby, presented the report that set out the scope of the strategy, progress to date, proposed next steps and invited members to provide a steer on what they would want to see included in the strategy.

The Chair reported that he would like to see more modular build/zero carbon homes manufacturing companies based in the region and for the WMCA to champion this. Councillor Thompson concurred with the Chair and the need to progress this action quickly, particularly on small sites.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Gakhal as to whether the work of the Future Homes Taskforce would impact or restrict a local authority's powers, the Head of Policy and Planning advised that the WMCA would help local authorities with their own policies and provide additional support. The Chair confirmed that the WMCA does not have planning powers but would impose grant conditions if these were applicable to the relevant funding streams.

Resolved:

1. The work undertaken to progress a '*Future Homes Strategy*' to drive take up of advanced modular construction techniques, zero carbon homes and the roll out of the Future Homes Standard with the aim of establishing the West Midlands as the leading UK region in terms of future homes policy and delivery be noted;
2. The product of this work will be an integrated strategy that directly supports key policy agendas of WMCA such as the Plan for Growth, WM2041, 2018 Housing Deal and the 2022 Investment Prospectus be noted;
3. The potential contents and remit of a Future Homes Strategy as discussed be noted;

4. The work of the Future Homes Taskforce (previously called the AMC Taskforce) chaired by Mark Farmer to support and drive the work forward be noted and supported and
5. The proposed next steps be endorsed.

9. Brownfield Regeneration Strategy: Discussion and Scope

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration that set out the suggested aim, purpose, scope of work and forward work programme for a West Midlands Brownfield Regeneration Strategy for discussion by the Housing & Land Delivery Board.

It was noted that the board had agreed, at its last meeting, that an Integrated Brownfield Regeneration Strategy be produced to bring together the different brownfield, housing and regeneration initiatives, projects and programmes being delivered by the board.

The Head of Policy and Planning, Patricia Willoughby outlined the approach to developing the strategy, including the scope, expected outcomes and next steps and invited members to be put forward their views.

The Chair reported that the implementation of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) by Stafford Borough Council for developments within 15km of Cannock Chase has implications for any future housing developments proposed by neighbouring authorities such Walsall and considered the need for this to be discussed.

The Head of Policy and Planning reported that this issue would be discussed as part of the work being undertaken with local authorities.

The Chair also reported on the need to persuade Government of the need for further funding to tackle the issue of contaminated land which is a particular feature of the Black Country due to its industrial heritage.

Resolved:

1. The broad scope of the Brownfield Regeneration Strategy commissioned by the Housing and Land Delivery Board in April 2022 be endorsed;
2. That the purpose of a Brownfield Regeneration Strategy (Delivery and Investment) is similar to the 2022 Investment Prospectus and West Midlands Plan for Growth in providing an enabling strategic framework and robust evidence base to support, underpin and advise future policy, delivery and investment work in the region on brownfield regeneration be noted;
3. That in line with the clear steer of the Board, this strategy is not a planning/land use document: it is a high level strategy supported by an understanding of key projects that will inform and guide delivery and investment in the region on brownfield sites and the case for further funding to the region be noted;

4. That the strategy be discussed at a number of industry-led taskforces including public land taskforce, town centre taskforce and commercial property taskforce be noted and

5. That as with other successful strategies, charters and frameworks produced by WMCA, the brownfield regeneration strategy will be developed by WMCA, and a dedicated local authority officer group nominated by the Delivery Steering Group reporting to the Board be noted.

10. Public Land Charter: Implementation

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration that reported on the successful launch of the West Midlands Public Land Charter at the UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiif) in May 2022 and asked the board to consider how the principles of the Charter should be implemented and embedded in our region.

The Head of Policy and Planning, Patricia Willoughby, outlined the report and next steps that would build on the successful launch of the Public Land Charter and seek to secure additional funding from Government.

To demonstrate support for the Charter to Government, the Head of Policy and Planning asked that local authority colleagues seek endorsement for the Public Land Charter through their own governance arrangements which would enable a letter of support to be sent to Government.

The Chair noted that reviews of the Single Commissioning Framework (SCF) had been referred to in the previous 3 reports and asked whether a separate report could be submitted on the subject to provide consistency.

The Director of Housing, Property and Regeneration, Gareth Bradford, undertook to submit a report on the Single Commissioning Framework to a future meeting.

Resolved:

1. The successful launch of the Public Land Charter in May 2022 be noted;
2. The outline of the proposed next steps to be taken forward by WMCA with the Public Land Taskforce and other partners to implement and embed the principles of the Charter on work around public land, property and buildings across the West Midlands and influence national policy thinking and investment decisions around public land and buildings be endorsed;
3. The opportunity to inform wider HMG thinking on property strategy and public land through the Trailblazer Devolution Deal, One Public Estate and wider engagement with the Department for Levelling Up, Homes & Communities, HM Treasury and Cabinet Office be noted and

4. The importance of this agenda to the West Midlands Investment Prospectus and unlocking private sector investment and opportunity be noted.

11. WMCA Housing Deal 2018: Local Plans Progress Update

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration that provided a further update on the progress of local plans in the region following a request from the Housing & Land Delivery Board at its meeting in April 2022.

The Head of Policy and Planning outlined the report that had been produced in conjunction with local authority colleagues.

Resolved:

1. Progress made on local plans in the region in relation to WMCA's 2018 Housing Deal be noted and
2. Officers are working with local authority colleagues to develop a suitable approach to the regional employment land provision question as requested by the Housing & Land Delivery Board at its last meeting in April 2022 be noted.

12. Strategic Partnership Programme: Update

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration that sought endorsement to the Strategic Partnership Programme and provided an update on progress to date.

Graham Russell (Amion Consulting) summarised the report including the background to the Strategic Partnership Programme and the purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) that underpins the four Strategic Partnerships that are currently in place between the WMCA and Lovells/ Morgan Sindall, Urban Splash, St Modwen and Legal and General.

The Chair considered that Strategic Partnerships were beneficial, and he would like the board to receive a six-monthly update report that sets out the progress of the partnerships.

Resolved:

1. The positive progress in establishing and launching new Strategic Partnerships between WMCA and major developers/investors in line with the core deliverables of the Housing & Land Delivery Board for 2022/23 and the steers provided at the meeting of the Board in April 2022 be noted;
2. That the approval and monitoring process for the strategic partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) follow the standard assurance processes of WMCA be noted;

3. That the WMCA is currently in negotiation with additional potential partners with a view to developing further Strategic Partnership MoUs be noted and
4. The Strategic Partnership Engagement Plan and programme timeline for delivering new Strategic Partnerships for the 2022/23 financial year be endorsed.

13. West Midlands Local Transport Plan: Next Steps

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration that provided an update on the development of the new West Midlands Local Transport Plan 5 and the next stages of work which included the preparation of Area Strategies.

The Principal Policy and Strategy Officer (TfWM) outlined the report and reported that work was being undertaken with local authorities to bring together land use and a transport in a better way through the development of more Area Strategies, mini 'Big Move' strategies and utilising the active travel plan more effectively.

The Chair considered that the local transport network was very important and hoped the strategy would include the car.

Councillor Butlin reported that the car was often the only viable transport option in rural areas and considered the need for a holistic approach.

Councillor Gakhil commented that whilst he fully supported public transport, the car was necessary for practical reasons such as supermarket shopping and for transporting heavy retail goods.

Dawn Ward reported that many young people cannot afford a car or, choose not to drive for environmental reasons and the need to take their views into consideration.

The Principal Policy and Strategy Officer outlined the next steps and reported that a final draft Local Transport Plan would be prepared for consideration by the WMCA Board later in the year ahead of further public and stakeholder engagement activity.

Resolved:

1. That progress on the West Midlands Local Transport Plan and the development of wider elements including the proposed Area Strategies be noted and
2. That steps are being taken to better integrate transport and planning workstreams to help deliver against shared regional outcomes be noted.

14. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved: That in accordance with Section 100A4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

15. Confidential Annexe to Quarterly Report

The board considered an appendix to the Quarterly Housing and Land Portfolio Deliverables report that provided an update on Single Commissioning Framework Schemes. It was noted that the report was also provided to the Investment Board.

The Chair considered that developers receiving investment from the WMCA should state this on their site board.

The Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration undertook to follow-up the Chair's proposal.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 11.24 am.

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**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Investment Board

Monday 15 August 2022 at 11.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Bob Sleigh (Chair)	Portfolio Lead for Finance & Investments
Councillor Karen Grinsell	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Tony Jefferson	Non-Constituent Authorities
Councillor Jim O'Boyle	Coventry City Council
Councillor Stephen Simkins	City of Wolverhampton Council
Nick Abell	Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Gary Taylor	Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership

Participating via MS Teams

Councillor Bob Piper	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Shaz Saleem	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Item No.

37. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bird, Clark, Jones and Sue Summers.

38. Notification of Substitutes

Councillor Saleem was nominated as a substitute on behalf of Councillor Clark.

39. Minutes - 18 July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2022 were agreed as true record.

40. Investment Programme Update and Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Director of Investment and Commercial Activities on the status of the Investment Programme to help set the context of any investment decision being made by the board.

Ian Martin, Director of Investment and Commercial Activities provided an update on the Investment Programme and Investment Programme Dashboard.

He reported that approved grant funded awarded and administered by the WMCA within the Regional Investment Programme totals £858.5m as at 31 July 2022.

Ian Martin advised that further to the last meeting on 18 July, WMCA Statutory Officers approved a Change Request submission under delegated authority for the NEC Longabout project to amend the project completion date to 31 December 2022 and award a further £1.2m of grant funding from the WMCA Investment Programme moved from a related project.

It was noted that the existing Investment Programme grant funding awarded for Roundabout Over-Trace project was correspondingly reduced by £1.2m as a result of the same change request submission.

Councillor Simkins commented that more Change Requests would be needed given inflationary pressures and the increase in material costs and enquired as to how Change Requests are dealt with and how they fit into the governance processes.

The Director of Investment and Commercial Activities advised that a report on the subject was submitted to the board recently [25 April] and undertook to forward a copy of the report to Councillor Simkins.

Councillor Simkins noted the Single Commissioning Framework (SCF) was being re-assessed and enquired as to whether an update on this could be provided for the board as he was particularly interested as to how the SCF would fit within the wider governance process.

Ian Martin reported that the Single Commissioning Framework was developed by the Housing and Land Team and was therefore unable to comment on this issue as this was a matter for Gareth Bradford, Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration.

The Chair reported that the issue would be noted in the minutes so the matter could be reported back to a future meeting.

Resolved:

1. Approval under delegated authority by WMCA Officers of the business case submission disclosed at section 3 of the report be noted;
2. The WMCA Investment Programme funding status and current affordable limit, as outlined at Section 4 of the report be noted;
3. The status of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement ("CRSTS"), as outlined at Section 4 of the report be noted and
4. The Regional Investment Programme delivery update detailed within this report and appendices (including the project-level summary within the WMCA Investment Programme dashboard at Appendix 4) be noted.

41. WMCA Position regarding Funding & Investments in relation to Overseas or Offshore Companies

The board considered a briefing note of the Interim Director of Law and Governance that sets out the WMCA's guidelines for dealing with offshore and/or overseas companies. The report was prompted by a recent proposal and the subsequent request from the board for appropriate guidance to be prepared and was submitted for information only.

The report outlined how investments or grants are made, the due diligence undertaken on beneficiaries, guarantees and, general principles for investments in overseas and offshore companies.

The Director of Investment and Commercial Activities, Ian Martin thanked the board for asking for the paper that has informed the WMCA's thinking in this area and clarifies the approach that would be taken when considering investment proposals from overseas or offshore companies.

The Chair alerted the board to the governance arrangements and the different due diligence processes (section 4.6) that would apply for overseas/offshore companies.

Nick Abell noted the importance of not just focusing on the financial transaction but also examining the financial arrangements of the company seeking investment so as to ensure any investment does not go overseas.

Councillor Simkins considered the paper should be submitted to the WMCA Board with a recommendation.

The Director of Investment and Commercial Activities advised that the report was not a policy change but was seeking to clarify the WMCA's position when dealing with investments requests from overseas/offshore companies.

Councillor O' Boyle reported that he was happy with the approach outlined noting that local authorities frequently do business with overseas/offshore companies who provide employment/regeneration opportunities for their local area and acknowledging decisions would be taken on a case- by- case

Resolved: The contents of the report be noted.

42. WMCA Collective Investment Fund (CIF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Collective Investment Fund dashboard (public iteration) as at 1 August 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

43. WMCA Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (BLPDF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund dashboard (public iteration) as at 1 August 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

44. WMCA Revolving Investment Fund (RIF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Revolving Investment Fund dashboard (public iteration) as at 1 August 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

45. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

46. cEMV Contactless Broker Outline Business Case

The board considered a report of the Executive Director, Transport for the West Midlands (TfWM) that sought agreement for the immediate drawdown of £4.6m to enable the cEMV Broker Project to progress from Outline Business Case to Full Business Case.

The Head of Swift, Matt Lewis outlined the report and explained the need to establish a standard for the secure transfer of data across public transport operators across the UK. He advised that outside of London, an agreed solution is required to provide customers with the best value fares for public transport journeys when using bank cards across multiple operators or on different modes.

The Head of Swift reported on the proposed solution (broker system) that has been developed with Midlands Connect which is supported by the Department for Transport and that the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) funding would cover the capital up-front costs of delivery.

It was noted that a Special Purpose Vehicle would be set up for the delivery of the project that would deploy the solution over a minimum area, the West Midlands Metropolitan Area and Nottingham City; the delivery and operating approach is supported by bus operators.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor O' Boyle regarding utilising CRSTS funding for the project and whether Nottingham would be providing a financial contribution, Matt Lewis advised that Nottingham was unable to provide any funding and it was not part of a combined authority so did not qualify for CRSTS funding. He added that the project needed Nottingham to participate to ensure it was commercially viable; the project could not go ahead in the West Midlands alone. Also, Midlands Connect wanted to see Nottingham included as they had invested significant sums of money along with TfWM into this initiative.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Grinsell regarding whether people would still be able to use cash on public transport, the Head of Swift confirmed cash fares would still be accepted. He advised that additional Swift vending machines would also be installed to enable people to convert cash into a Swift card thereby benefiting from cheaper fares.

Resolved:

That the drawdown of £4.6m of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) from £18m allocation within the overall approved CRTS programme, to take the cEMV broker from Outline Business Case to Full Business Case as set out in the report be approved.

47. Spencer Yard

The board considered a report from West Midlands Development Capital (WMDC) that sought approval for loan funding from the Collective Investment Fund (CIF) for the sum specified in the report for the 'Company' to facilitate the regeneration of a site off Spencer Street in the centre of Leamington Spa that would deliver 18, 198 sq. ft of new office space and educational space aimed the digital and creative sector.

The development would regenerate 3 vacant depilated properties (nursery, crown building and united reform church) creating c.140 jobs and c. £179k of new business rates.

It was noted the 'Company', has entered into a collaborative agreement with Warwick District Council (for 10 years from 2017 with an option to extend for a further 5 years) the freeholder of the site and buildings, who have agreed to grant the 'Company' a 250 year long lease.

In relation to an enquiry from the Chair regarding the security of the loan, Ed Bradburn (WMDC) reported that a headlease would be in place and security would be held by way of debenture over the company along with the appropriate collateral warranties.

The Director of Investment and Commercial Activities, Ian Martin reported that he was comfortable with the arrangements.

Resolved: That a loan from the Collective Investment Fund (CIF) to the 'Company' for the sum specified in the report, to facilitate the development of Spencer Yard be approved.

48. Abbotts Lane

The board considered a report from West Midlands Development Capital that sought approval to extend the existing Collective Investment Fund (CIF) loan to the 'Company' for a further 24 months to facilitate planning, on site remediation and public realm infrastructure works at the property in order to deliver c.730 residential units 7653 sq. ft of commercial space in the centre of Coventry. The existing loan facility expires on 30 September 2022.

It was noted that the existing loan was originally approved in 2017 for the purchase of Abbotts Lane, ex National Grid site for the intention of bringing forward 8 light industrial/commercial units and was extended again in September 2020 to allow a more detailed proposal to be worked up. Following Covid delays and a re-working of the scheme to provide for residential development, outline planning for the entire scheme is expected September 2022.

In relation to Councillor Grinsell's enquiry as to whether there was certainty the development would be built given the original loan approval date of 2017, Ed Bradburn reported that as soon as planning approval is granted for the new scheme, he was confident it would be built.

Resolved:

That the existing CIF loan, specified in the report, be extended to the 'Company' for a further 24 months to facilitate planning, on site remediation and public realm infrastructure works at the Property in order to deliver c730 residential units 7635 sq. ft of commercial space in the centre of Coventry be approved.

[Nick Abell declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as the law firm he chair's acts for the Company]

49. WMCA Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (BLPDF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report setting out the dashboard for the Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (private iteration) as at 1 August 2022.

Nick Oakley (WMDC) provided an update on the drawn schemes and clawback.

In relation to the schemes not drawn, the Chair reported that it would be helpful for the board to receive an update report on how these schemes are operating and to ascertain whether funding could be allocated elsewhere if appropriate.

The Director of Investment and Commercial Activities undertook for a report on undrawn schemes to be submitted to the next meeting.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

- 50. WMCA Collective Investment Fund (CIF) - Dashboard**
The board considered a report setting out the dashboard for the Collective Investment Fund (private iteration) as at 1 August 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

- 51. WMCA Revolving Investment Fund (RIF) - Dashboard**
The board considered a report of the Revolving Investment Fund (private iteration) as at 1 August 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

- 52. Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF)**
The board considered a report setting out the dashboard for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund as at 1 August 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

- 53. Housing & Land Fund Dashboards**
The board considered the Housing and Land Fund Dashboards that provided updates on the three funds; Brownfield Housing Fund, National Competitive Fund and Land Fund since the last meeting.

The Chair reported that it would be helpful if the dashboard reports included a column on the amount drawn going forward.

The Head of Strategy and Analysis, Rob Lamond undertook to provide the information requested from the next meeting.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 12.27 pm.

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West Midlands Combined Authority

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 5 September 2022 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Naeem Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor David Barker (substitute)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Andrew Burrow	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
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 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

In Attendance

Gareth Bradford	Executive Director for Housing Property & Regeneration
Dan Essex	Governance Services Manager
Clare Hatton	Director of Employment & Skills
Rob Lamond	Head of Strategy & Analysis, Housing Property & Regeneration
Lyndsey Roberts	Scrutiny Officer

Item Title

No.

79. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Chalk (Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local Authorities), Councillor Lauren Rainbow (Birmingham) and Councillor Ken Wood (Birmingham).

80. Minutes - 11 July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record, subject to an amendment to minute no. 74 ('Skills Provision Review') to include concerns that the report expressed a focus on level 3 and above qualifications.

81. Matters Arising

(a) Review of Governance

The Governance Services Manager reported that work continued on the governance review, and it was anticipated that a report would be presented to the next meeting of the WMCA Board.

82. Helping to Deliver Affordable and Social Housing Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Update on Progress

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Housing, Property & Regeneration that provided an update on the work of the WMCA and its partners in implementing and responding to the recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's review of Affordable and Social Housing.

At its meeting on 21 July, this committee identified the provision of affordable and social housing within the region as a key area of focus for 2021/22. The recommendations arising from the review were reported to the WMCA Board on 18 March 2022.

The committee received clarification on the definition of public land and affordable housing, which the Government defined as land in public ownership, and with regards to regional affordable housing, the WMCA reviewed local household incomes and the different type of housing required within local authority areas. The Head of Strategy & Analysis agreed to share the regional affordable housing definition.

In terms of best value, the West Midlands Public Land Charter asked public owners to take a long-term strategic approach to the disposal and development of land and to look to support inclusive growth. The WMCA continued to work together with Transport for West Midlands to consider how it could unlock land using transport investments and infrastructure corridors. The Head of Strategy & Analysis agreed to share the West Midlands Public Land Charter.

The committee discussed and shared comments on the affordable housing target and the affordable housing pilot project in the region. The proposal in development was seeking to deliver 100% affordable delivery on specific sites in the region, alongside other wider policy ambitions including zero carbon modular constructed homes. Members welcomed the pilot project and requested to receive further updates and briefings at future meetings on the development of the pilot and delivery of modular and zero carbon homes.

In addition, the Executive Director for Housing Property & Regeneration informed the committee of the work being undertaken on the development of a Future House Building Strategy that includes approaches to improving energy efficiency. It was noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the committee.

The committee questioned whether the WMCA consulted with The Almshouse Association, as its approach was different to that of a housing association. The Executive Director for Housing Property & Regeneration agreed to look into this further and would report back via the Affordable Housing Strategy. It was subsequently reported that a meeting with the Association had been diarised for November.

The Chair reported that she had received communication from Birmingham's Fair Housing Campaign in relation to the provision of transit sites and accessibility to services. The WMCA was currently in dialogue with local authorities and would respond accordingly.

Resolved:

- (1) The progress that has been made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2021/22 Overview & Scrutiny review undertaken to examine the role and remit of the WMCA to deliver affordable and social housing within the West Midlands be noted.

83. Skills Provision Scrutiny Review - Updated Scope

The committee considered an amended scoping document for the forthcoming Skills Scrutiny Review, which incorporated the committee's comments made at the last meeting.

Whilst the importance of a wide range of skills was recognised, it was important that residents could obtain access to the initial skills required to progress. The Chair emphasised the need for the review to encompass the specific needs of the regional areas.

Resolved:

- (1) The amended scoping document for the forthcoming scrutiny review be agreed.

84. Grant Register

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub 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.

The committee discussed a number of the specific grants including the Rough Sleeping Initiative, Sustainable Warmth and Technical Bootcamps and requested further details on these. The Head of Finance Business Partnering & Strategic Planning noted the comments made and agreed to provide an update to the committee.

Resolved

- (1) The Grant Register be noted.

85. Minutes: Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee - 14 July 2022

The committee received the minutes of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 14 July 2022

Resolved

- (1) The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2022 be agreed.

86. Work Programme

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

Resolved

- (1) An additional meeting of the committee be held on 17 October 2022 to review the UK Shared Prosperity Fund submission and a report on findings of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal Scrutiny Working Group.

87. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 20 October 2022 at 10.00am (Mayoral Q&A on WMCA Policy)

The meeting ended at 11.15am



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Wellbeing Board

Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 11.15 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Chair)
Councillor Julian Gutteridge
Councillor Suzanne Hartwell
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal
Mark Axcell
Dr Sue Ibbotson
Jo Pitman
Sean Russell
Lisa Stalley-Green

Portfolio Lead for Wellbeing
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
City of Wolverhampton Council
Black Country Integrated Care Board
Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
West Midlands Police
Universities West Midlands (Coventry)
Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board

11. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed board members to the Wellbeing Board and introduced Jo Pitman from West Midlands Police to the membership of the board.

12. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following Wellbeing Board members:

Councillor Margaret Bell (Warwickshire), Councillor Ian Bevan (Dudley), Councillor Kamran Caan (Coventry), Councillor Tony Diccico (Solihull), Councillor Karen McCarthy (Birmingham) and Pete Wilson (West Midlands Fire Service).

13. Notification of Substitutes

The following substitute had been received from a Wellbeing Board member:

Andrea Simmonds (West Midlands Fire Service) for Pete Wilson.

14. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

15. Chair's Remarks (if any)

The Chair gave thanks to everybody involved in the Commonwealth Games and to Mark Fosbrook for his work on accessibility. The Chair noted it was a fantastic and well organised event that showcased the West Midlands exceptionally well and hoped the legacy from the Commonwealth Games would be seen for years to come to benefit everyone.

16. Minutes of the last meeting

The Wellbeing Board considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Resolved:

- (1) The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 July were agreed as a correct record.

17. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

18. Appointment of Vice-Chair

The Chair noted for Wellbeing Board members to send their expressions of interest for the role of Vice-Chair to the Governance Services Officer for the board to vote and appoint at the next Wellbeing Board.

19. Trailblazer Devolution Deal Health Proposal

The board received a presentation from the Head of Health and Communities to update on the focus of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal Health Proposal following previous feedback received from board members and health and care leaders.

The Head of Health and Communities welcomed further comments and observations from board members on whether the board was satisfied that all previous comments had been addressed, if there were any further amendments for recommendation, and how best the proposal could be championed amongst local and regional partners.

The board thanked the Head of Health and Communities and his team for their work in developing the proposal, and noted their support of the four devolution asks and principles of the proposal to add value to the health and inequalities of the region.

The Head of Health and Communities thanked the board for their comments and observations and noted that the added value was the WMCA's goal. The next steps would be to schedule key dates for further conversations with colleagues from the Directors of Public Health, Integrated Care Boards and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities to note detailed feedback and make any final changes, as well as to champion the devolution deal health asks with meetings scheduled for the WMCA to discuss with local authorities and partners.

Resolved:

- (1) The Trailblazer Devolution Deal Health Proposal was discussed and noted.

20. Include Me WM - Citizens Voice

The board considered a report from the Strategic Lead for Wellbeing & Prevention and the Include Me WM Manager on the growing purpose, impact and value of the WMCA's Include Me WM Citizen's Network and Panel.

The board received a presentation from the Include Me WM Manager to highlight a summary of the Include Me WM Citizen Panel 2022/23 priorities which had been developed following consultation with its members to highlight the importance of both sport and physical activity in health outcomes, additional barriers which prevent disabled people getting active and improved health outcomes for disabled people.

Resolved:

- (1) The Wellbeing Board advised how members could support in strengthening the local to regional citizen voice by linking to local authority, emergency services and NHS networks.
- (2) The Wellbeing Board discussed the Include Me WM Citizen Panel priorities and advised on its role to gather further evidence and influence on needs and barriers.
- (3) The Wellbeing Board to continue to champion the commitment to being an exemplar region in improving the health outcomes of disabled people and co-development of future initiatives with the panel.

21. Wellbeing Board High Level Deliverables Update

The board considered a report from the Head of Health and Communities on an update to the Wellbeing Board High-Level Deliverables and milestones to date.

The Chair thanked the Head of Health and Communities for the updates and noted that it would be good for the Wellbeing Board to have an impact on the legacy of the Commonwealth Games and in how disability may have changed as a result, as well as to obtain feedback on the outcomes from the implementation of innovative pilots to reduce health inequalities and physical inactivity as a long-lasting legacy partnership with Sport England following the Commonwealth Games.

Resolved:

- (1) The progress to date on the 2022/23 High-level Deliverables was considered.
- (2) The Wellbeing Board to continue to receive an update on the High-level Deliverables at each future board meeting was agreed.

22. Forward Plan

The Wellbeing Board agreed for the following forward plan items at future board meetings.

Agreed:

- (1) Update on WMCA and Sport England's Commonwealth Games legacy plan.

- (2) The Head of Health and Communities noted his team now sat within the WMCA's Economy, Skills and Communities Directorate and would be beneficial for members of the team in skills and employment to attend a future Wellbeing Board for identification of overlaps and for the board to be made aware of opportunities in skills for disabled people in the region.

[The meeting ended at 1.00pm]



West Midlands Combined Authority

Economic Growth Board

Friday 23 September 2022 at 11.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Ian Brookfield (Chair)
Tom Westley (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Peter Hughes
Councillor Simon Phipps
Andy Street
Anita Bhalla

Corin Crane
Matthew Hammond
Mike Wright
Councillor Mike Bird
Councillor Karen Grinsell
Rob Johnston

Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation
Black Country Local Enterprise
Partnership
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Mayor of the West Midlands
Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local
Enterprise Partnership
Black Country Chamber of Commerce
West Midlands Growth Company
West Midlands Innovation Board
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Midlands Trade Union Congress

Item Title No.

9. Virtual Meeting

The Chair reported that because this meeting was being held virtually on MS Teams, under the terms of the WMCA's Constitution the meeting was inquorate. The decisions subsequently taken would formally be recommended to the Chief Executive, who would then approve those recommendations using her delegated authority to do so under the provisions of the Constitution.

10. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Courts (Solihull), Councillor Dormer (Non-Constituent Authorities) Councillor Duggins (Coventry) Councillor Sleigh (Portfolio Lead for Finance and Investments) Councillor Ward (Birmingham) and Lee Barron (Midlands Trade Unions Congress), Stuart Croft (Higher Education) and Sarah Windrum (Coventry & Warwickshire LEP).

11. Notification of Substitutes

Councillor Karen Grinsell (Solihull) was nominated as the substitute for

Councillor Courts and Rob Johnston (Midlands Trade Union Congress for Lee Barron.

12. Chair's Remarks

The Chair referred to the recent fiscal event with the announcement of Investment Zones in 3 potential areas in the West Midlands. Further details were awaited from Government and details would be reported to this board in due course.

13. Minutes - 4 July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

14. Economic Conditions in the West Midlands

The board considered a report of the Executive Director of Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities summarising the long-term economic forecasts for the West Midlands, latest quantitative economic intelligence, recent feedback and insight from West Midlands businesses and from the Economic Impact Group.

Delma Dwight (Black Country Consortium) highlighted key insights from the report.

Resolved: That the current economic conditions, including insight from the region's businesses and long-term economic forecasts be noted.

15. Update on BATP and Games-time impact

The board considered a report of the Chief Executive of West Midlands Growth Company (WMGC) that provided an update on the impact of the Business & Tourism Programme (BATP) activity to date, particularly during the Commonwealth Games and plans for the next 6 months.

Matt Hammond (WMGC) introduced the report.

The board also received a presentation from the Chief Executive of WMGC, Neil Rami, who highlighted performance to date, regional and local impacts of the Business & Tourism Programme and outlined the events that WMGC were involved in or leading during the next six months. He also conveyed his thanks to local authorities and partner organisations for their support and involvement in the programme.

Corin Crane (Black Country Chamber of Commerce) congratulated WMGC on their achievements and enquired as to how the profile of employment opportunities in the hospitality sector could be raised noting that these had not been well received.

Neil Rami advised that the West Midlands Tourism Board would support people in the leisure and tourism sectors including hospitality.

The Executive Director Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities, Dr Julie Nugent, reported that a Hospitality Taskforce has been set up to promote the

sector through job fairs and other activities to encourage recruitment.

The Chair conveyed his thanks to Neil Rami and Matt Hammond on behalf of the board for the excellent work undertaken by WMGC.

Resolved: That progress to date be noted.

16. West Midlands Growth Company - Future Funding and Priorities

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities that sought a comprehensive review of the future funding, focus and reporting framework for the West Midlands Growth Company.

The Chief Executive City of Wolverhampton Council, Tim Johnson, introduced the report and advised that the review would look to put in place a funding strategy for the sustainability of WMGC going forward and outlined the approach to the review as set out in paragraph 6.2 of the report.

The Chair reported that the Growth Company was vitally important for the West Midlands and if it didn't exist, it would need to be invented as it is the vehicle to bring investment into the region and he hoped everyone would be able to support the report's recommendations.

Matthew Hammond (WMGC) highlighted the importance of all partners working together and the scale of what can be achieved for the region.

Resolved:

1. The accompany paper (Annex A) that sets out the West Midlands Growth Company's summary of current activity, alongside proposed objectives for 2023- 24 be noted;
2. That funding has not yet been secured to deliver these objectives, where the Growth Company anticipates it needs to continue to deliver at the same scale as current activity (£6m finding from the WMCA/region plus £6m additional funding from government pursued through discussions about the Trailblazer Devolution and Commonwealth Games residual contingency) and to deliver any new activities that the region may require(£3m additional funding from UKSPF) be noted;
3. A detailed options review be initiated for the West Midlands Growth Company (WMGC) to identify and secure funding to deliver agreed priorities be agreed (in doing so, to take forward the recommendations of the West Midlands Business Support Review to ensure WMGC is fully embedded into the business support ecosystem, removing any duplication and ensuring activities are streamlined with appropriate governance and accountability)
4. The terms of reference for the review be delegated to the Portfolio Lead for the Economy, the Mayor and the Chair of WMGC;

5. That the review be led by the WMCA Chief Executive, Chief Executive of the City of Wolverhampton Council and the Chief Executive of the Growth Company (the leadership group will work closely with local authority chief executives and finance directors) be noted and
6. The key recommendations be submitted to the WMCA Board in November be noted.

17. LEP Integration Update - Progress Report

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities that provided an update on progress towards LEP integration.

Dr Julie Nugent, Executive Director Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities outlined the proposals for the 3 LEPs and reported that the WMCA was working through the details of the functions which each LEP.

Anita Bhalla (Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP) provided an update on issues from the GBSLEP following their board meeting held the previous day. Anita reported on the importance of ensuring the business community's needs are heard moving forward in particular SMEs, and the need to consider equality implications. Concern was also expressed regarding staffing/TUPE matters and for these be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Tom Westley (Black Country LEP) echoed Anita's concern regarding SMEs and the need for proper representation of business owners. He added that innovation was crucial for small businesses and would want to see this work well in the future.

Paula Deas (Coventry and Warwickshire LEP) reported on the timeline for the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP that is to close in March 2023 and the remodelling of the Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub.

In relation to comments regarding the representation of small businesses, the Executive Director Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities, Dr Julie Nugent referred to the section in the report entitled, 'Business Voice in Decision Making' and in particular 3.10 where it is recommended that LEP nominated private sector members of existing WMCA groups, excluding the WMCA Board have terms of service extended by a further year to support transition. Additionally, it is also recommended that this board will open up a place for an SME representative and will formalise the link between the Economic Growth Board and the Regional Business Council as outlined and, will review private sector representation post LEP integration in Autumn 2023.

The Chair confirmed he was comfortable with these proposals.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Peter Hughes as to how a SME nomination for the board would be sought, Dr Julie Nugent advised that the

WMCA would look at the process that the LEPs use, utilising their network, ensuring this process is open/ transparent and would circulate this to board members in due course.

Resolved:

1. That progress to date be noted;
2. The status of the LEP integration plan be noted and
3. The next steps including key recommendations as set out to inform the final report submitted to WMCA Board be agreed.

18. UK Shared Prosperity Investment Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities that provided an update on progress towards developing the WMCA's more detailed UKSPF Investment Plan for approval by the WMCA Board on 28 October 2022. The report set out the WMCA's approach, funding methodology, the focus on business support and next steps.

The Head of Insight & Intelligence, Dr Fiona Aldridge outlined the report and advised that following the submission of the outline Investment Plan to Government on 1 August, the WMCA was working with local authorities and strategic partners on developing a detailed Plan that would be submitted to the next meeting of the WMCA Board. The proposals would be focused on needs and local allocations to rebalance investment.

Paul Kitson (Birmingham City Council) reported of the need to ensure the proposals support SMEs and considered the need to do more from a Birmingham perspective around business support. He added that he would like the opportunity to shape the proposals for business as he was not in agreement with the allocation of funds as currently set out.

Dr Fiona Aldridge reported that she would work on the suggestions proposed to ensure the model was right but added that the full details were not included in the plan.

Dr Julie Nugent advised that funding was embedded in local areas but would ensure the language was more explicit in future to show delivery through local channels and undertook to speak to Paul Kitson with regards to his concerns.

Stephen Weir (Coventry City Council) considered that more work was needed in the SME area and that he would also like to see how the local support structure was maintained for Coventry.

Councillor Peter Hughes (Sandwell) echoed the support required for SMEs and that he would like to continue the conversation with Directors and Officers outside of the meeting.

Corin Crane (Black Country Chamber of Commerce) commented that he

wanted to be able to see the balance between regional and local business support.

The Chair asked that Julie Nugent and Fiona Aldridge address any issues of concern with colleagues within the next week to enable an agreed report to be submitted to the WMCA Board on 28 October.

Resolved;

1. The contents of the report be noted and
2. The report be updated accordingly following discussions with local authority officers and partners for submission to the WMCA Board.

19. West Midlands Innovation Accelerator

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities that outlined progress and the process for the development of the Innovation Accelerator and sought endorsement for the regional strategic prioritisation criteria developed by the Innovation Board on 7 September.

The Chair of West Midlands Innovation Board, Mike Wright highlighted key areas in the report that included the scope and prioritisation of the Innovation Accelerator referred to in Annex A of the report.

The Head of Economic Partnerships & Policy, Jonathan Skinner advised the board that an update on the decision-making process for developing and selecting the project would be reported to the next meeting.

Resolved:

1. That progress and the process for the development of the Innovation Accelerator be noted and
2. The regional strategic prioritisation criteria developed by the Innovation Board on 7 September be endorsed.

20. Economic Growth Board Work Programme

The board considered a report of the Executive Director Economic Delivery, Skills and Communities that provided an update on its work programme and decisions that would support the region's overall vision to build a healthier, happier, better connected and more prosperous West Midlands.

The Head of Economic Policy and Partnerships, Jonathan Skinner advised that the work programme would be updated to include Investment Zones following the recent Government announcement.

Rob Johnston (Midlands Trades Union Congress) reported of the need for a strategy on what good jobs/work looks like in the light of Investment Zones

which could take account of the work of a regional expert in this field such as Mike Lewis.

The Chair agreed with Rob Johnston's proposal noting that the topic has been raised at previous WMCA meetings.

Resolved: That the updated work programme attached to the report as Appendix 1 be noted.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm.

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West Midlands
Combined Authority

Environment & Energy Board

Wednesday 28 September 2022 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Ian Courts (Chair)
Councillor Rob Clinton
Councillor Steve Evans
Councillor Peter Hughes
Councillor Andy Mackiewicz
Councillor Majid Mahmood
Councillor Kerry Murphy
Matthew Rhodes
Suzanne Ward

Portfolio Lead for Environment, Energy & HS2
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
City of Wolverhampton Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Energy Capital
Environment Agency

Item Title No.

- 1. Welcome and Introduction to the Birmingham and Black Country EcoPark**
The Chair welcomed board members to the meeting for the start of the 2022/23 municipal year and invited introductions of the Environment & Energy Board members.
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Jim O'Boyle (Coventry).
- 3. Notification of Substitutes**
There were no notification of substitutes received.
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest made.
- 5. Chair's Remarks (if any)**
The Chair had no remarks to make at this time.
- 6. Minutes - 9 March 2022**
The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.
- 7. Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

The Chair agreed for a response from a member of the Environment team to a public question regarding when the next West Midlands Greener Together Forum would be scheduled.

The Environment Behaviour Change Project Officer noted electronic invitations were due to be sent imminently and the date of the next forum would be held on 21 November 2022 in Coventry.

8. Community Green Grant Update

The board considered a report from the Community Green Grants Project Officer to provide a progress update on delivery of the WMCA Community Green Grant, covering projects funded, grant take up and wider community engagement.

The aims of the Community Green Grant were to;

- i. Increase or improve green spaces close to where people live.
- ii. Connect people to nature, especially communities experiencing green deprivation.
- iii. Enhance the local environment.
- iv. Tackle barriers to accessing green spaces.

Resolved:

- (1) The funding available to not-for-profit groups in the combined authority area through the small and large grants be noted.
- (2) The support available through the environment team to small charities and grass roots groups to look at how they can increase biodiversity through a community green grant be noted.
- (3) Board members in their role as local leaders, considered how to promote the community green grant especially in areas of low take up.

9. Net Zero Neighbourhood

The board considered a report from the SMART Hub Lead officer to provide an overview of the decision to award £1.65m grant funding to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council to deliver the first Net Zero Neighbourhood (NZN) demonstrator in Brockmoor, and to set out the proposed approach to working with other constituent member authorities to continue to develop their NZN plans.

In March 2021 the WMCA Board approved £5.1 million funding from the Investment Programme to fund the development of the priority initiatives to deliver on the WM2041 Five Year Plan. The Net Zero Neighbourhood Demonstrator programme was awarded £2.1million as part of this decision.

The aims of the Net Zero Neighbourhood Demonstrator were;

- i. To take a place-based approach to retrofit and wider improvements to neighbourhoods such as new green spaces and transport links.
- ii. To create a replicable model based on wider benefits (health and wellbeing, employment opportunities and inclusive growth) to enable scaling-up of retrofit.

While the funding made available through the Investment Programme was intended to fund the first demonstrator project, a key aim of the demonstrator phase was to develop a pipeline of Net Zero Neighbourhood projects to help attract further funding and investment into the programme in the future, with each of the seven constituent member local authorities invited to first complete a Net Zero Neighbourhood Expression of Interest (EoI) form and then complete a full Net Zero Neighbourhood plan by early July 2022. Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council's plan for Brockmoor was the plan that best aligned with the goals of the programme, providing high confidence of successful delivery and had been selected to receive the remaining £1.65m Investment Programme funding.

Resolved:

- (1) The decision to award £1.65m grant funding to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council to deliver the first net zero neighbourhood demonstrator in Brockmoor was endorsed.
- (2) The intention to create a net zero neighbourhood working group to support other constituent members to further develop their net zero neighbourhood plans and identify areas of particular interest where there could be potential for specific collaboration with other work and stakeholders was endorsed.
- (3) Board members provided feedback on how to be engaged or informed on specific areas of the programme, outside of any board meetings.

10. Presentation: Industrial Energy Taskforce - update on progress

The board received a presentation from the Chair of the West Midlands Industrial Energy Taskforce to provide an update of the taskforce that was established on 3 August to focus entirely on the impact from the recent rise in energy costs on energy-exposed businesses in the region which was business-led with the taskforce producing an interim report due in November and final report in June 2023 on support from government.

The purpose of the West Midlands Industrial Energy Taskforce was;

- i. To identify and support short-term interventions to deliver more effective support to energy-exposed businesses to reduce their energy demand and exposure to wholesale prices.

- ii. To identify and promote medium-term interventions to adjust regulations and levies and to reduce network costs and other burdens which fall disproportionately on West Midlands businesses.
- iii. To lobby government to recognise the unique situation facing the West Midlands and to enhance its commitments to addressing the challenges facing energy-exposed businesses in the region.

The presentation noted the immediate 5-point plan following the first meeting of the taskforce in September of government to support for the demographic of the West Midlands region as the energy crisis was having a disproportionate impact on the region and businesses, with the most exposed businesses to increased energy costs being small to medium manufacturing businesses exporting or competing in global markets.

Resolved:

- (1) That the presentation be noted.

11. Presentation: Trailblazer Devolution Deal Net Zero and Environment

The board received a presentation from the Corporate Strategy Lead to provide an update, overview of principles and summary of policy areas of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

Officers from the Environment team highlighted from the presentation the net zero and environment asks to government through the Trailblazer Devolution Deal for energy and energy efficiency, as well as adaptation and natural environment.

Resolved:

- (1) That the presentation be noted.

12. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 7 December 2022.

The meeting ended at 11:55am.



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

Tuesday 4 October 2022 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Mark Smith (Chair)

Councillor Ram Lakha OBE (Vice-Chair)	Coventry City Council
Councillor Dave Borley	Dudley Metropolitan Council
Councillor Craig Collingswood	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Ram Mehmi	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Nick Bardsley	Shropshire Council Non-Constituent Authorities
Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne	Warwickshire Non-Constituent Authorities

In Attendance via Teams

Councillor Yvonne Mosquito	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Charn Padda	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Item Title No.

16. Inquorate meeting

It was reported that the meeting was inquorate and therefore the recommendations contained within the minutes would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 28 October 2022 for formal approval and adoption.

17. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Allen (Sandwell) and Councillor Meeson (Solihull).

18. Notification of Substitutes

Councillor Padda attended the meeting via Teams on behalf of Councillor Allen.

19. Chair's Remarks

The Chair reported on recent activities he had undertaken including meetings he had attended on behalf of the committee.

He also he informed the committee that Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, the nominated LEP representative on the committee was in the process of being disbanded and therefore there was currently no LEP member on the committee.

20. Minutes - 7 July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July were agreed as a true record.

21. Matters Arising

Minute no. 14 Cyber Essentials Report

Further to consideration of the Cyber Essentials Report at the last meeting, it was confirmed that the WMCA had made a new submission against the new enhanced Cyber Essentials accreditation criteria last month.

22. Forward Plan

The committee considered a report on agenda items to be submitted to future meetings.

In relation to the terms of reference for the committee which are under review and are scheduled to be submitted to the next meeting, the interim Director of Law and Governance, Satish Mistry, reported that the new Director of Law and Governance (joining the WMCA in January 2023) might want to be involved in this area of work and would therefore look to re-schedule this item to a future meeting.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The report be noted.

23. Public Sector Audit Appointments: Audit Quality Monitoring Report 2021

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director of the Finance and Business Hub that had been prepared to share a summary of the Public Sector Audit Appointments Audit Quality Monitoring Report 2021.

The Head of Financial Management, Louise Cowen, outlined the report that covers the work of local auditors appointed by the Public Sector Appointments Limited (PSAA) for the financial year 2019/20.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The report be noted.

24. WMCA Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Finance and Business Hub. Attached to the report was an appendix prepared by Grant Thornton that provided the committee with an update in delivering their responsibilities as the WMCA's external auditors.

Grant Patterson, Grant Thornton, presented the report and advised the committee of the factors that had delayed this year's audit deliverables until November and reported that the Auditor's Annual Report was now planned for December.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The report be noted.

25. Health & Safety Annual Update

The committee considered a report of the Director of Integrated Transport Services that provided an annual update on health and safety.

The Health and Safety Manager, Ben Gittings provided a summary of the principle activities relating to the promotion and management of health and safety outcomes during the year and outlined the strategic direction for occupational health and safety within the wide-ranging remit of the West Midlands Combined Authority. He reported that there no specific areas of concern or areas that required attention and that was looking to benchmark the WMCA with other Combined Authorities and organisations.

The Chair commented that benchmarking the WMCA against others would provide a good opportunity to learn good practice.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The annual update on health and safety be noted.

26. Strategic Risk Update

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Finance and the Business Hub that provided the committee with the visibility of the strategic risks faced by the WMCA and the monitoring of risk management.

The Risk Manager, Peter Astrella, outlined the report, highlighting the key messages discussed by the WMCA's Strategic Leadership Team and the new risks added since the last meeting.

In relation to an enquiry from the Chair regarding whether the committee should be aware of any risks relating to pensions given the recent volatility in the markets, the Executive Director of Finance and the Business Hub, Linda Horne, reported that pension risks would apply to all of the public sector and received regular updates on the West Midlands Pension Fund; the WMCA was not in deficit position.

Grant Patterson, Grant Thornton advised the committee that he was the auditor of the pension fund and was not aware of any specific issue of concern.

The Chair asked that an update on the pension fund risk be submitted to a future meeting.

Councillor Collingswood noted the risk relating to Metro availability focuses on cracks to trams and enquired whether this should also capture the planned strike action by Metro staff.

The Risk Manager reported that the risk relating to the Metro had been changed to remove the numerous wider risk causes affecting tram availability and focused instead on the cracks. The strike action had been announced recently and after the committee report had been prepared, however, TfWM have operational risk registers that capture various risks and control activity.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

1. The key messages in the Strategic Risk Update be noted and
2. That revisions or planned revisions to the Strategic Risk Register be noted.

27. Single Assurance Framework - Assurance Performance Report - April to August 2022

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub that provides details of thematic performance information from WMCA projects that have been assured through the Single Assurance Framework (SAF). The report also outlines progress of WMCA directorates transitioning to the new SAF assurance and governance arrangements and includes Programme Assurance and Appraisal Team activity from April 2022 to August 2022.

The Head of Programme Assurance and Appraisal, Joti Sharma, highlighted keys in the report.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

1. The contents of the report be noted and
2. The attached Single Assurance Framework which has been updated in accordance with annual review requirements mandated by Government (the updated SAF now meets the National Local Growth Assurance Framework requirements, published by the Cabinet Office in September 2021) that is to be submitted to the WMCA Board for approval in November 2022 be noted.

28. Internal Audit Update - October 2022

The committee considered a report of Interim Director of Law and Governance that provided an update on the work completed by internal audit so far this financial year.

In relation to concerns expressed by the Chair regarding the number of audits outstanding from 2021/22 that are to be completed alongside audits for the current financial year and whether internal audit are confident they can deliver these on time, the Head of Audit, Peter Farrow advised that he hopefully had the resources for delivery and advised that time has been assigned for each audit.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The contents of the Internal Audit Update report be noted.

29. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

30. Whistleblowing Investigation - Adult Education Services

The committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Law and Governance that presented the findings of an investigation undertaken following receipt of a whistleblowing claim regarding the non-compliance of a contractual agreement in place between a provider of adult education services (as identified in the report) and the WMCA.

It was noted that the two core recommendations relating to subcontracting and performance review have been progressed by officers.

The Director of Employment and Skills, Clare Hatton was in attendance to respond to enquires from the committee relating to the case.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The contents of the report be noted.

31. Whistleblowing Investigation – Housing

The committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Law & Governance that presented the findings of a whistleblowing investigation regarding the potential distortion of property valuations when the WMCA has conducted its land and property transactions as part of the work undertaken by Housing and Land.

The Interim Director of Law & Governance, Satish Mistry outlined the background to the report and introduce Andrew Round and Mark Whitehouse, CBRE who had undertaken an independent investigation on behalf of the WMCA.

Andrew Round (CBRE) presented the report, outlined key findings, recommendations and responded to questions from members.

The Interim Director of Law and Governance, Satish Mistry reported that an action plan would be prepared with the Executive Director Housing, Property and Regeneration for consideration by the committee at a future meeting.

The Chair reported that he would leave the timing as to when the action/follow-up report comes back to the committee for the Interim Director of Law and Governance to determine.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

- 1.The findings contained in the report be noted and
- 2.That an action plan in response to the report recommendations be shared with the committee in due course be noted.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm.



West Midlands Combined Authority

Housing & Land Delivery Board

Wednesday 5 October 2022 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Stephen Simkins
Councillor Charn Padda
Jo Nugent
Dawn Ward

City of Wolverhampton Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Homes England
Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local
Enterprise Partnership

Participating in the meeting via Teams

Councillor Andy Mackiewicz
Councillor Richard Overton
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor David Welsh
Delma Dwight

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Telford and Wrekin Council
Nuneaton and Bedworth Council
Coventry City Council
Black Country Local Enterprise
Partnership
Environment Agency

Suzanne Page

Item Title No.

16. Inquorate meeting

It was reported that the meeting was inquorate and therefore the recommendations contained within the minutes would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 28 October 2022 for formal approval and adoption.

Councillor Simkins in the Chair

17. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the Chair, Councillor Bird (Walsall), Councillor Butlin (Warwickshire), Councillor Fitzgerald (Cannock), Councillor Gakhal (Wolverhampton), Councillor Thompson (Birmingham) Kevin Rogers and Sarah Middleton.

18. Nomination of Substitutes

Councillor Gakhal (City of Wolverhampton Council) had nominated Councillor Simkins to attend on his behalf.

Sarah Middleton (Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership) had nominated Delma Dwight to attend on her behalf.

19. Minutes - 20 July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2022 were agreed as a true record.

20. Quarterly Report on Housing & Land Portfolio Deliverables and Progress on Housing and Land Annual Business Plan

The board considered a report of the Executive Director of Housing, Property and Regeneration, which provided a regular quarterly update on progress in delivering the High Level Deliverables for the Housing and Land Portfolio as co-developed with the Housing & Land Delivery Board throughout the year and agreed by the WMCA Board in February 2022.

Councillor Simkins commented that a number of big priority projects in Wolverhampton had stalled and there is a need for the WMCA to look at these.

Councillor Mackiewicz commented that some brownfield sites in rural areas are difficult to develop on sustainability grounds e.g. due to lack of public transport. He enquired whether the WMCA could help bring forward brownfield sites in rural locations, such as those in in Solihull.

Tracy Darke commented that development in rural locations needs to be considered very carefully against the criteria of the National Planning Policy Framework: there might be some that are more accessible than others but not all.

The Executive Director of Housing, Property and Regeneration, Gareth Bradford, reported that WMCA is on track against various targets set out in the devolved housing and land funds and works closely with all local authorities to bring forward developable projects, create a pipeline of future projects and consider whether projects meet current HM Government funding criteria. More Government funding is needed for brownfield sites and having more flexibility in the criteria applied by HM Government lies at the heart of negotiations on the Trailblazer Devolution Deal. Where projects do not meet current HM Government funding criteria, the WMCA would be submitting these as case studies to Government to demonstrate the need for flexible funding. He advised the board that the WMCA regularly meets with local authority colleagues to identify their priority projects and undertook to inform the board of the 'difficult to deliver' projects/sites that are coming through the WMCA funding processes.

Councillor Simkins asked that the WMCA process used to determine applications for devolved housing and land funds be reviewed to consider how the pace of delivery might be increased. He suggested local authorities should provide a list of difficult to deliver sites for potential WMCA support, looking at worst sites first.

The Executive Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration commented that, at the last meeting, Members had considered a range of very difficult to deliver sites which had been unlocked and accelerated through the WMCA housing and land programme and were now on site or completed. He offered to produce a list of sites for the next meeting which would highlight the specific problems which are being encountered and how increased flexibility in funding might help with this. He added that where improvements are needed to the process, these will be implemented. Discussions will also continue with individual local authorities.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

1. Positive progress to achieve the Housing and Land Portfolio's approved Annual Deliverables in Q1 & Q2 2022/23 be noted ;
2. The key performance highlights set out in Section 3 of the report be noted and
3. The positive performance and effective deployment of WMCA's devolved housing and land illustrated by the Single Commissioning Framework schemes summarised in the confidential annex to the report (many of these schemes are now in delivery phase, having progressed through to the end of the process, which shows the role of the WMCA in unlocking, accelerating and problem solving on 'difficult to deliver' schemes) be noted.

21. Levelling Up : Trailblazer Devolution Deal - Update

The board considered a report of the Executive Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration that provided an update on progress on the development of the Housing & Regeneration proposals within the West Midlands Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

The Executive Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration stated that work on investment zones was proceeding at pace and thanked local authorities for their engagement in this work.

The Executive Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration stated that, in relation to Investment Zones, HM Government appears very focused on economic growth; he explained that discussions continue to highlight the board's wider ambition for Investment Zones to drive social and environmental benefits.

The Head of Strategy & Analysis, Rob Lamond, informed the board that the devolution proposals could be subject to change due to the changes made within Government and referred to the latest proposals set out in section 4 of the report. The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest, led by WMCA, is 14 October 2022.

The Executive Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration, Gareth Bradford undertook to follow up a conversation with Suzanne Ward (Environment Agency); the agency is being approached by local authorities to explore how delivery on some projects could be accelerated.

Councillor Mackiewicz suggested that retrofit would help to deliver economic growth and problems in the supply chain (materials, labour costs) need to be addressed.

Councillor Simkins suggested the board's work should be aligned with that of the Economic Growth Board and wider regeneration benefits needed to be considered e.g. health, education. Conversations need to take place on housing delivery/retrofit with local authorities and/or through their arms' length management organisations.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

1. Progress made since the last meeting of the Housing & Land Delivery Board on the development of the Housing, Property and Regeneration proposals within the West Midlands Trailblazer Devolution Deal be noted;
2. The current version of these proposals as set out in the report be endorsed and
3. The ongoing extensive internal and external engagement programme supporting development and testing of these proposals with the new Government be noted and
4. The ongoing engagement and input from the Housing and Land Delivery Board Members in this process be welcomed.

22. Affordable Homes Supply Strategy : Discussion Paper

The board considered a report of the Executive Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration that set out the work to date on the preparation of an Affordable Homes Supply Strategy and invited discussion on the proposed approach and indicative content.

The Head of Strategy & Analysis, Rob Lamond, presented the WMCA's proposed approach to an Affordable Homes Supply Strategy. This included the strategic context (key drivers and key trends) and the vision and approach to the strategy (delivery arrangements and key independencies and links).

Dawn Ward (GBSLEP) commented that many individuals, in particular young people, cannot afford to buy or rent property in the West Midlands and that the region risked losing talent to other areas where housing was affordable.

Rob Lamond reported that he was speaking to universities in the region on this issue and undertook to speak to Dawn Ward to discuss to how the WMCA could obtain access to students and student organisations.

Councillor Padda (Sandwell) proposed that the vision needs to ensure a supply of affordable homes are meeting local needs and that these are really affordable for local people.

Rob Lamond undertook to speak Councillor Padda on the matter outside of the meeting.

Councillor Mackiewicz reported on a pilot project in Solihull that helps key workers buy a house (shared ownership) at a rate that is cheaper than renting using HRA reserves.

Councillor Simkins considered the WMCA should look at best practice across the WMCA area to ensure the best housing options are utilised.

The Executive Director of Property, Housing and Regeneration, Gareth Bradford, reported that the WMCA seeks to add value with regards to affordable housing and would welcome feedback from members and, further to Councillor's Simkin's suggestion would research best practice.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that :

1. Progress with developing an 'Affordable Homes Supply Strategy' as commissioned by the Housing & Land Delivery Board, to help drive the increased provision of a range of affordable homes within the region to meet local needs and establish the West Midlands as the leading UK region in terms of affordable homes and policy delivery be noted;
2. The product of this work will be an integrated strategy that directly supports key policy agendas of WMCA and local authorities through enabling affordable housing delivery and driving advanced manufacturing in construction, zero carbon homes and the design quality and devolution asks be noted;
3. The potential contents and remit of an affordable homes supply strategy as set out in the supporting slides (attached as Annex 1) be noted and
4. The proposed next steps be endorsed.

23. Future Homes Strategy Update : Themes and Structure

The board considered a report of the Executive Director of Housing, Property and Regeneration that provided an update on the wide-ranging activity that has been undertaken to develop a new Future Homes Strategy and a programme of targeted action.

Rachel Atterbury, Projects Officer, introduced the report and the Chair of WMCA's Future Homes Taskforce, Mark Farmer who presented more detailed information.

Mark Farmer, CEO of Cast Consultancy and the UK Government's MMC Champion reported on the work of WMCA's Future Homes Taskforce that seeks to shape the strategy development programme and to identify opportunities for industry-driven leadership on Future Homes in the West Midlands. He explained that the challenge is to land more new zero carbon homes alongside an agenda focused on how they are built. Most combined authorities are focused on zero carbon; the West Midlands would focus on how we build in order to deliver that outcome.

In relation to an enquiry from Suzanne Ward (Environment Agency) as to whether Severn Trent were involved with the Taskforce, Mark Farmer advised that the Taskforce would look at water consumption and sustainable drainage along with changing behaviour.

Projects Officer, Rachel-Ann Atterbury explained that two previous reports on this subject matter had come to the board and that the final strategy will be presented in early 2023. The current report presented the context for the Future Homes Strategy, the four key points of difference which frame the Future Homes Strategy putting the region in pole position, the key themes and structure of the strategy and next steps.

Councillor Overton asked how SMEs might work with the system and whether it related to smaller sites. Rachel Atterbury explained that the Future Homes Strategy links to WMCA's Plan for Growth which highlighted the potential of the region in this area (a cluster of expertise already existing in the supply chain) and there is more potential to be developed.

Councillor Mackiewicz (Solihull) commented that the key to growth is consistency in policy and taxation. He considered that there is a need for a vision that covers the next 5-10 years that encourages local suppliers to come into this space and make a long-term commitment.

Councillor Simkins asked for engagement with the Economic Growth Board on this subject matter.

Councillor Padda was supportive of the proposals and, in particular, using local supply chains and suggested looking at other places in the world such as Scandinavia on how they deal with warmer homes.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

1. Work undertaken to date to develop an integrated West Midlands Future Homes Strategy that establishes the West Midlands as the centre of excellence for low carbon living, modular construction in the UK and demonstrates the WMCA is going faster than national regulatory standards due to be introduced in 2025 be noted;
2. The expert Future Homes Taskforce has now been established and is fully engaged in development of the strategy and its successful implementation be noted;
3. The proposed key themes and points of difference of the West Midlands Future Homes Strategy be endorsed and
4. The proposed structure of the Future Homes Strategy be endorsed.

24. West Midlands Brownfield Regeneration Strategy : Discussion Paper

The board considered a report of the Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration that sought their views on the WMCA's current thinking on the nature and form of West Midlands Brownfield Regeneration Strategy as previously commissioned by this board.

The Head of Policy and Planning, Pat Willoughby, outlined the report and advised the board that the brownfield regeneration strategy would bring together the different brownfield, housing and regeneration initiatives, projects and programmes the board is overseeing into a single coherent strategy. Working with local authorities, it was proposed the strategy document that would be produced would be similar to the Investment Prospectus document and that seeks to unlock private sector investment.

Councillor Welsh (Coventry) agreed that there is a need to bring forward brownfield land for development but expressed concerns about the report and approach as currently written in this report. He suggested that the document should evidence it is more collaborative in its approach and should include explicit reference to local authorities and other agencies so that it reflected a partnership approach. He reported that the WMCA does not have the powers to intervene in this area and would appreciate a meeting with the Director of Housing, Property and Regeneration to discuss the matter further with regards to Coventry City Council.

The Director of Housing, Property and Regeneration, Gareth Bradford reported that the document is intended to be a partnership document that seeks to add value and would be produced in the same collaborative way as had been used for the Investment Prospectus; he committed to look afresh at the approach and report with the local authority officer group.

Councillor Simkins stated that local authorities need to drive this agenda and that the WMCA should be focusing on its role as an enabler, adding value to the work of local authorities.

Councillor Welsh agreed the strategy document should be adding value. A report that addresses the concerns raised should come back to the board, when ready.

Councillor Mackiewicz (Solihull) considered the document should reference economic growth as this was now central to the Government's policy agenda.

The Director of Housing, Property and Regeneration advised that in the light of comments on the contents of the report, and the issues raised by Members, he would bring forward a revised report to a future meeting following significantly greater engagement, collaboration and co-development.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that :

No decision be taken and the item be deferred to a future meeting to address the issues highlighted by Members and to ensure full co-development with partners across the region.

25. WMCA & Homes England - Strategic Partnership Opportunity

The board considered a report of the Executive Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration that sought discussion and endorsement of the initial conversations held with between the WMCA and Homes England to establish a new strategic partnership, the fifth partnership to be signed by the WMCA under the Housing and Land Delivery Board.

The Head of Strategy & Analysis, Rob Lamond outlined the report and highlighted the principles of establishing a Strategic Place Partnership with Homes England.

Jo Nugent (Homes England) reported that Homes England supported the WMCA's Public Land Charter and would look at how land could be utilised to support local plans.

Councillor Simkins stated that a partnership with Homes England is needed; both organisations have the same ambitions. The partnership could be used to drive delivery.

Councillor Overton said that this was a positive report and that public sector land could be used to develop the strategy.

The board acknowledged this was a positive report.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that :

1. The principles and progress to date on establishing a formal strategic partnership between the WMCA and Homes England to unlock the delivery of new homes in the West Midlands be endorsed;
2. The proposed next steps of work be endorsed and
3. This would form part of the work under the Housing & Land Delivery Board to establish formal strategic partnerships be noted.

26. WMCA Housing Deal Local Plans : Progress Update

The board considered a report of the Executive Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration that provided a further update on the progress of local plans in the region following a request from the board at its meeting in April 2022 that local plans update should be provided at all future meetings. The report explained that WMCA had also been asked to provide a regional overview on employment land supply and demand.

Councillor Mackiewicz (Solihull) reported that he was very disappointed with the inspector's opinion regarding the delivery of new housing on the NEC site and the proposed relocation of a school. He was seeking clarification on the matter.

The Head of Policy and Planning, Pat Willoughby, advised that WMCA was already in discussion with Solihull officers regarding delivery of development on the NEC site and that WMCA would help in any way that they could.

Tracy Darke (Shropshire) updated the board on the status of Shropshire's Local Plan; a final first stage hearing was planned for January 2023.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The progress update on local plans in the West Midlands be noted.

27. WMCA Taskforces : Progress Update

The board considered a report of the Executive Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration that provided an update on the activities of the WMCA taskforces which support the Housing & Land Portfolio and provide vital industry insight, challenge and steer across its range of projects and programmes.

The Head of Policy and Planning, Pat Willoughby, introduced the report that was submitted for information.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

1. The positive work and contributions to date of the industry-led taskforces established by the WMCA under its Housing & Land Delivery Board be noted and
2. The recent activity that has taken place around each of the four taskforces in operation be noted.

28. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

29. Confidential Appendix to Quarterly Report

The board considered an appendix to the Quarterly Housing and Land Portfolio Deliverables report that provided an update on Single Commissioning Framework Schemes.

It be recommended to the WMCA Board that:

The report be noted.

The meeting ended at 11.49 am.

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West Midlands Combined Authority

Transport Delivery Committee

Monday 10 October 2022 at 1.00 pm

Minutes

Present

Councillor Richard Worrall (Chair)	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Timothy Huxtable (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Mary Locke (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Robert Grinsell	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Shabrana Hussain	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Carol Hyatt	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner OBE	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Josh O'Nyons	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Gurmeet Singh Sohal	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Clare Simm	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor David Stanley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Julie Webb	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Item Title

No.

16. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Robert Alden (Birmingham), Councillor Linda Bigham (Coventry), Councillor Bill Gavan (Sandwell), Councillor Saddak Miah (Birmingham) and Councillor Anne Millward (Dudley).

17. Chair's Remarks

The Chair paid tribute to former councillor Graham Wilkes, previously a member of the West Midlands Passenger/Integrated Transport Authority, who had recently passed away.

Councillor Mary Locke paid tribute to former councillors Mohammed Azim and Mohammed Fazal, both previously members of the Transport Delivery Committee, who had recently passed away.

18. Minutes - 11 July 2022

Councillor Carol Hyatt requested that her comments made at the previous meeting in respect of minute no. 12 relating to bus funding be included within the minute as follows: 'Councillor Carol Hyatt raised concerns over the funding available for bus services until December, with a network review expected in January and a further publicity campaign to encourage the use of bus services, without consideration of the commitment of the funding available'.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 July 2022, as amended, were agreed as a correct record.

19. Forward Plan

The committee considered items to be reported to future meetings of the committee. Further to Councillor Carol Hyatt's request for information on the Demand Responsive Transport trial in Coventry, it was agreed that this information would be included within the Bus Delivery Monitoring report being considered by the committee at its November 2022 meeting. Councillor Timothy Huxtable also noted that a Park & Ride update would also be brought to its November 2022 meeting.

Resolved:

The forward plan of items to be reported to future meetings of the committee be noted.

20. Financial Monitoring Report 2022 / 23

The committee received a report outlining the financial position as at 31 August 2022, the contents related to the financial position of the WMCA's Transport Delivery Revenue and Capital Budgets.

Councillor Carol Hyatt queried appendix four of the report relating to Other Major Works Programme and in particular the variance allocated against Dudley Interchange. Both the Head of Finance Business Partnering & Strategic Planning and Director of Strategic Partnership & Delivery Integration indicated that although there was a significant variance against the budget, there were no causes for concern, with it being acceptable for a project to overspend within a financial year as long as a project was not overspent against their allocated budget. The Director of Strategic Partnership & Delivery Integration also provided detail on the Dudley Interchange project, providing details on the delays to the scheme due to issues with the Compulsory Purchase Order of key land acquisitions. It was also recognised that from a financial perspective, this project was in line with its allocated approved budget and future consideration would be due if there was a significant overspend identified. Councillor Timothy Huxtable suggested that Dudley Interchange be a subject at an upcoming briefing of the committee.

Councillor Pervez Akhtar understood that the projects outlined within the financial monitoring report were multiyear projects. However, he asked the Head of Finance Business Partnering & Strategic Planning to look at how best to report projects overspend and underspend within the report / financial data provided to Transport Delivery Committee.

Resolved:

- (1) The year to date position as at the end of August 2022 against the Transport for West Midlands revenue budget, showing an overall favourable variance of £1.4m, be noted.
- (2) The Transport for West Midlands capital programme expenditure as at the end of August 2022, totalling £102.1m, which was £38.3m below budget, be noted.

21. Capital Programme Monitoring Delivery Report

The committee received a report providing them with a progress monitoring update on the approved Transport for West Midlands 2022 / 2023 programme and projects. Councillor Pervez Akhtar requested further information on the methodology used to consider 'DCA' against the projects outlined within appendix one. The Director of Strategic Partnerships & Delivery Integration explained the methodology used which was based on time, programming and delays.

It was again recognised that the Dudley Interchange had been given a 'DCA' status as Amber / Red. To which the Director of Strategic Partnerships & Delivery Integration explained that due to issues relating to the Compulsory Purchase Orders and key land not yet being secured, the project had been given an Amber/Red status. Councillor David Stanley confirmed this by stating the main delay related to a property that had not yet been acquired.

The Chair requested further detail as to why the Walsall Town Centre Interchange Feasibility Study had been put on hold. The Director of Strategic Partnerships & Delivery Integration explained that there had been long standing partnership work with Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council and, although the town centre regeneration progress work had progressed at a slower pace, work would continue with Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council to ensure the right interventions are in place. He also sought to provide the committee with a verbal update on this at its next meeting.

It was recognised that the reporting going forward needed to be broader to reflect the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Programme as well as other capital funded schemes. It was therefore noted that Councillor Pervez Akhtar would be the main contact member in helping officers to develop an appropriate reporting format over the coming months.

Resolved:

- (1) The achievements since the July meeting of the Transport Delivery Committee be noted.

- (2) The progress of deliverables and outturn of the 2022/23 capital programme be noted.
- (3) Where indicated, the variations from the baseline programme be noted.
- (4) The approach on future reporting arrangements to the Transport Delivery Committee be endorsed.

22. Rail Programme Update

The committee received a report providing them with an update on the schemes in the scope of the West Midlands Rail Programme. Information and detailed updates were provided on Perry Barr Station, University Station and new stations.

Councillor Mary Locke praised officers for their engagement with residents in regard to the Camp Hill Line. Following the Director of Rail's comment relating to lessons learnt from Perry Barr Station, councillors expressed their hope that that these lessons would impact positively on the delivery of new stations.

Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner highlighted that Perry Barr station no longer provided ramp accessibility to passengers, and therefore passengers requiring this were at a disadvantage. It was recognised that a lift was also available, however if any issues arose then there would be no access availability for those passengers. The Director of Rail confirmed that the ramp had been superseded by the addition of the lift which were more compliant. It was noted that the lift was external visibility at the control centre so if any issues arose then these would be identified. He also noted that there were currently no plans to reinstate the ramp at this station, however, he would request further information from West Midlands Trains on how it managed the issues arising from this.

Resolved:

- (1) The report be noted.

23. Bus Service Improvement Plan Implementation

The committee received a report from the Head of Network Transformation providing it with an update on the delivery of the West Midlands Bus Service Improvement Plan in the context of wider challenges faced in the bus market and seek approval to make variation 002 of the region's Enhanced Partnership scheme.

Councillor David Stanley expressed his support for the report and its potential outcomes, however highlighted concerns regarding the service from the principal operator and the negative impact the poor service was having on residents within his ward. He indicated that if the Bus Service Improvement Plan was to be implemented correctly then the operator needed to ensure they were able to supply a good service to the region. Both Councillor Mary Locke and Councillor Clare Simm echoed these comments.

Further to the announcement of Bus Ticket Freezing, Councillor Mary Locke felt that Transport for West Midlands should have communicated this better with members of the committee. Councillor Clare Simm requested assurances that the work being undertaken on simplifying fare rates did not impact on the fares that were currently available in terms of value for money for passengers. The Head of Network Transformation commented that any new ticketing structures introduced would seek to protect those existing discounted tickets. It was also highlighted that Transport for West Midlands was unable to impact the cost of operators' single fare tickets due to operating in a de-regulated market.

Further to Councillor David Stanley's comment relating to bus driver shortages, the Director on Integrated Transport Services noted that this issue was across the conurbation, however Transport for West Midlands was providing assistance to National Express to address this issue. As well as new driver programmes and campaigns, it was also recognised that retention of current bus drivers was important.

Following members concern on the poor service being provided by the region's main bus operator, it was agreed that a briefing with them would be arranged to take place ahead of committee scheduled for the 14 November 2022.

Resolved:

- (1) The proposed approach and activities to enable effective implementation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan be endorsed, recognising the detailed delivery arrangements would be subject to agreement with bus operators.
- (2) The proposal to adopt bus service registration powers from 1 January 2033 to align with the proposed amendment of the Enhanced Partnership, to include the introduction of route requirements within the West Midlands on or after this date, be endorsed.
- (3) The Enhanced Partnership variation 002 be approved.
- (4) The intent to revoke existing Advanced Quality Partnership Schemes, given they would be superseded by a further updated Enhanced Partnership (variation 003) later this year be noted, and the public consultation to this be approved.

24. Metro Monitoring Delivery Update

The committee was unable to consider this item and therefore it was agreed that it would become a key item for consideration at the next Rail & Metro Member Engagement Group meeting.

Resolved:

It be agreed that this update would be deferred and become a key item for consideration at the next Rail & Metro Member Engagement Group meeting.

25. Walking & Cycling Monitoring Update

The committee received a report relating to Transport for West Midlands-led initiatives within the Cycling and Walking Programme. The report also outlined progress of schemes within the development, delivery and West Midlands Cycle Hire work streams.

Resolved:

The progress to date of the Transport for West Midlands-led initiatives of the cycling and walking programme be noted.

26. Tram Naming Update

The committee was unable to consider the Tram Naming briefing note due to time pressure therefore it was agreed that this item would be considered at the next Rail & Metro Member Engagement Group meeting.

Resolved:

It be agreed that this it would be deferred and would be considered at the next Rail & Metro Member Engagement Group meeting.

27. Transport Services Recovery Update

Due to time constraints, it was agreed that this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

Resolved:

It be agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the committee.

28. Notice of Motion

It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the next meeting of the committee.

29. Member Engagement Groups Update

The committee received a report outlining the recent activities of the committee's six Member Engagement Groups.

Resolved:

The recent activities of the committee's Member Engagement Groups be noted.

30. Exclusion of Public and Press

Resolved:

In accordance with s100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 2 of the Act.

31. West Midlands Bus Network - January 2023

The committee received a report and presentation from the Director for Integrated Network Services providing them with an update on the forthcoming bus network review requested by Government of each Local Transport Authority as a condition of Bus Recovery Funding and Bus Service Improvement Plan funding. It was recognised that bus patronage had not recovered to full pre-pandemic levels and therefore Government requested that commercial operators adapt their services to the new levels of patronage.

Resolved:

- (1) The position of the West Midlands Bus Network Review, implemented as requested by the Government and due to come into place on 1 January 2023, be noted.
- (2) The changes outlined by commercial bus operators for bus service reductions across the region be noted.
- (3) The combined impact that commercial bus de-registrations and the increased costs on buying bus services contracts was having on Transport for West Midlands's ability to maintain delivery of its tendered bus network in the way it had historically in accordance with Access Standards be noted.
- (4) A revision to the Value for Money criteria to £4.10 (option 2) within the wider Bus Access Standards to allow Transport for West Midlands to support a higher number of bus services than it would without changing this be approved.
- (5) The likely impact on the West Midlands bus network due to funding shortfalls despite this revaluation of the Value for Money Criteria be noted.
- (6) The proposals to support the development and implementation of some new transformational services through the Bus Service Improvement Plan that would mitigate some impacts of bus service cuts be welcomed.
- (7) Transport for West Midlands use its best endeavours to work with bus operators to retain as much as possible of the subsidised bus network.
- (8) Transport for West Midlands lobby the Government for additional funding to support the subsidised bus network.

- 32. Date of Next Meeting**
Monday 14 November 2022 at 1.00pm.

The meeting ended at 3.15 pm.



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Investment Board

Monday 17 October 2022 at 11.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Bob Sleigh (Chair)	Portfolio Lead for Finance & Investments
Councillor Steve Clark	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Karen Grinsell	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Jim O'Boyle	Coventry City Council
Councillor Stephen Simkins	City of Wolverhampton Council
Sue Summers	West Midlands Development Capital
Gary Taylor	Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Matt Jennings	Non-Constituent Authorities
Sarah Windrum	Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Item No. Title

54. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bird, Councillor Jefferson, Councillor Jones, Councillor Piper and Nick Abell.

55. Notification of Substitutes

Councillor Jennings was nominated as a substitute for Councillor Jefferson and Sarah Windrum was nominated as a substitute for Nick Abell.

56. Minutes - 15 August 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2022 were agreed as a true record.

57. Matters Arising

Minute no. 41, WMCA Position regarding Funding & Investment in relation to Overseas or Offshore Companies

Councillor Simkins reported that he felt the briefing note that sets out the WMCA's guidance for dealing with offshore and/or overseas companies should be submitted to the WMCA Board.

The Chair reminded Councillor Simkins that the report was submitted to Investment Board for information only and was not a policy change to be considered by the WMCA Board.

Councillor Simkins indicated that he would raise the matter at the WMCA Board as a point of principle.

58. Investment Programme Update and Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Director of Investment and Commercial Activities on the status of the Investment Programme to help set the context of any investment decision being made by the board.

Ian Martin, Director of Investment and Commercial Activities provided an update on the Investment Programme and Investment Programme Dashboard.

He reported that the approved grant funded awarded and administered by the WMCA within the Regional Investment Programme totals £858.7 million as at 30 September 2022.

Ian Martin provided an update on the Investment Programme and dashboard including changes to projects/schemes that were approved by Statutory Officers since the previous meeting on 15 August 2022.

Resolved:

1. Approval under delegated authority by WMCA Officers of the business case submissions disclosed at Section 3 of the report be noted;
2. The WMCA Investment Programme funding status and current affordable limit as outlined in Section 4 of the report be noted and
3. The Regional Investment Programme delivery update detailed within the report and appendices (including the project-level summary within the WMCA Investment Programme dashboard at Appendix 4) be noted.

59. WMCA Collective Investment Fund (CIF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Collective Fund dashboard (public iteration) as at 1 October 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

60. WMCA Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (BLPDF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund dashboard (public iteration) as at 1 October 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

61. WMCA Revolving Investment Fund (RIF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Revolving Investment Fund dashboard (public iteration) as at 1 October 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

62. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A4 of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

63. Morris & Company- Stadium Point

The board considered a report from West Midlands Development Capital (WMDC) that sought approval for loan funding from the Collective Investment Fund (CIF) for the sum specified in the report for the 'Company' to support the development of 11 new build mixed use industrial, office and food units divided into smaller units at a key employment location close to the A5 in Shrewsbury.

It was noted that the development is the first of 3 phases the Company would be undertaking over the next c4-6 years and the loan would fund Phase 1 of the development.

The loan would be secured via a first charge over the whole c28 acres as the Company's wish for Phase 3 funding (counter intuitively the development is built sequentially as Phase 1, Phase 3, then Phase 2) to also be provided via CIF. This is to be presented separately in around 18-24 months and there is no commitment to provide this funding at this stage. Appropriate collateral warranties from sub-contractors and consultants with any significant design or structural responsibilities would also be in place.

It was noted that the Company was well-established and had a track record with the WMCA, having recently repaid a CIF loan for a completed development that achieved greater rental income and sales figure compared to the original appraisal values.

The Director of Investment and Commercial Activities, Ian Martin reported that the Company was well-known in the Shrewsbury area and he was comfortable lending to an established company.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor O' Boyle as to whether Shrewsbury would part of an Investment Zone area as this would impact on land values, Nick Oakley (WMDC) reported that Shrewsbury was not applying for Investment Zone status and advised that there was a lot of old commercial stock in the area that was not fit for purpose. He added that there was also significant value hidden in the land values which covered risks.

Resolved:

That a loan from the Collective Investment Fund (CIF) to the Company for the sum specified in the report, to fund the development outline in the report be approved.

64. Business Justification Case Approval for initial spend under CRSTS - Line 1 Renewal

The board considered a report of the Executive Director of Transport for the West Midlands that sought approval for the release of £2.1m from the City Region Sustainable Transport Sustainable (CRSTS) Fund that is part of a £30m settlement and forms part of the full business case that would be submitted to the WMCA Board for approval in January 2023 for Metro Line 1 renewals.

The West Midlands Metro Projects Director, Michael Anderson, reported that the Metro infrastructure was 20 years old and advance funding was needed this financial year to undertake urgent maintenance works for Overhead Line Equipment and track updates.

Councillor O' Boyle indicated he supported the report but noted the high costs for Metro compared to Very Light Rail (VLR) and stressed the need for the WMCA to continue to support VLR.

Resolved:

1. The intention to submit a Full Business Case for approval at the WMCA Board in January for Line 1 Renewals for £30m be noted;
2. The need to release emergency grant funding in advance of this full approval to enable West Midlands Metro to deliver some of the more urgent packages within the full £30m funding stream be noted and
3. The release of £2.1m in anticipation of approval of the CRSTS £30m Full Business Case be approved.

65. Coventry City Centre South

The board considered a report of the Property Services and Development Director, Coventry City Council that sought approval of a Change Request for the Coventry City South Scheme.

Adam Hunt, Coventry City Council, outlined the background to the Coventry City Centre South scheme and presented details of the revised scheme that reduces the amount of retail space and provides significantly more housing including 20% affordable. Adam also presented details of the project outcome, key benefits, how the grant would be re-structured and next steps.

Ian Martin reported that WMCA colleagues had worked with Coventry City Council on the scheme and was pleased this would be a more deliverable scheme. He advised that no additional funding is required from the WMCA and the commercial details would be worked through with Coventry City Council to insert conditions into the grant.

Councillor Grinsell enquired as to the profit targets for the scheme as these were not itemised and also asked whether the health centre plans were well developed.

Adam Hunt reported that he was working through the commercial details with the developer and with regards to the in health centre there were no detailed plans at this stage but outline planning consent had been awarded.

Councillor Grinsell reported of the need to involve the NHS at the early stages of the scheme development to ensure the health centre gets built.

Councillor Simkins reported that he was very supportive of the scheme as it supported city centre regeneration but wanted to understand the intervention rate for housing as he wanted to see a level playing field across the WMCA.

Ian Martin advised that the intervention rate was high for the scheme due to the high demolition costs involved. He advised that an intervention was not applied for the revised scheme but if an intervention rate was applied, the WMCA would not have provided financial assistance.

Sarah Windrum advised that the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP was fully supportive of the scheme.

Resolved:

1. The introduction of a council funding contribution completes the funding package for the scheme and is subject to Cabinet and Full Council approval as well as Subsidy Control review be noted;
2. The Change Request for the Coventry City Centre South Scheme subject to Coventry City Council Cabinet and Full Council approval of the Local Authority Contribution and resolution of any associated Subsidy Control review matters be approved;
3. The commercial terms and grant structure be delegated to the S151 Officer, in consultation with the Investment and Commercial Activities Director, to undertake the necessary due diligence to approve the funding and enter into any associated legal agreements that are necessary to give effect to the recommendations contained in the report be approved;
4. The principle that overall affordability of the Investment Programme (as evidenced by the financial model) should be no worse off as a result of any accelerated drawings which might be required as a result of the Change Request be approved.

The board considered a report of the Investment and Commercial Activities Director that provided an update on the status and performance of the Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (BLPDF) and sought approval to the strategy with regards to undrawn and unallocated funding and to the provisional BLPDF fees.

Resolved:

1. The performance and status of the Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund be noted;
2. The strategy with regards to the undrawn but allocated funding as set out in section 5 of the report which would release up to £4.921m combined with the remaining £1.575m to provide £6.496m of available funding be approved and
3. The provisional fee arrangements outlined in section 6 of the report be approved.

67. Encocam -Mira

The board considered a report of West Midlands Development Capital (WMDC) that sought approval from the Collective Investment Fund (CIF) for the sum specified in the report for the 'Company' to enable a key motor industry passive crash testing facility at the expanded Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA) Technology and Manufacturing Park to be retained and supported for re-equipped premises the loan would be subject to the key terms set out in the report.

Grant funding, for the sum specified in the report, was also sought from the Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund towards site redevelopment, where costs would not be fully demonstrably serviceable or recoverable within 5 years to provide significant job outputs saved directly on the wider site and across the West Midlands.

It was noted that Warwickshire County Council are supporting this business with match funding (as specified in the report) which they provide on loan as they able to offer such a facility for up to 10 years, subject to further diligence.

Councillor Clark noted that JLR are the biggest client user of this facility and enquired whether the company would build anything themselves.

Gerald Gannaway (WMDC) reported that JLR had written a letter of support of for continued investment in the facility but had indicated they would not invest themselves and would have to explore alternatives within Europe to ensure NCAP 2025 compliance if the facility was not upgraded to meet the new standards.

Councillor O' Boyle commented that there always risks within the automotive sector and that if investment was not provided in the sector, automotive companies would take their business elsewhere.

Ian Martin advised the board that security for this investment was different to what is normally provided in that it is reliant on two guarantees; the Company was a tenant rather than the owner so the WMCA could not take a first charge over the property. He reported that lending to an SPV carries a high risk than what the WMCA usually deals with and the direct outputs from the investment were not very high. He added that subsidy control also needs to be looked at very carefully.

The board noted the risks as outlined and the importance of MIRA to the sector and the region.

Resolved:

1. A fully repayable loan from the Collective Investment Fund (CIF) to the 'Company' for the sum specified in the report, at the agreed interest rate be approved and
2. Grant funding from the Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (BLPDF) to the 'Company' for the sum specified in the report be approved.

68. WMCA Collective Investment Fund (CIF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report setting out the dashboard for the Collective Investment Fund (private iteration) as at 1 October 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

69. WMCA Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (BLPDF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report setting out the dashboard for the Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (private iteration) as at 1 October 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

70. WMCA Revolving Investment Fund (RIF) - Dashboard

The board considered a report of the Revolving Investment Fund (private iteration) as at 1 October 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

71. Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF)

The board considered a report setting out the dashboard for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund as at 1 October 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

72. Housing & Land Fund Dashboards

The board considered the Housing and Land Fund Dashboards that provided updated on the three funds (Brownfield Housing Fund, National Competitive Fund and Land Fund) including a summary of the funds since the last meeting.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 12.18 pm.



West Midlands Combined Authority

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 17 October 2022 at 2.00 pm

Minutes

Present

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Burrow
Councillor Mike Chalk

Councillor Ian Kettle
Councillor Nigel Lumby

Councillor Martin McCarthy
Councillor Lauren Rainbow
Councillor Jamie Tennant
Councillor Vera Waters

Association of Black Country Authorities
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local
Authorities
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Shropshire Non-Constituent Local
Authorities
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Birmingham City Council
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance

Fiona Aldridge
Steve Bowyer

Julia Cleary

Dan Essex
Carl Pearson
Lyndsey Roberts
Laura Shoaf

Head of Insight & Intelligence
Partnerships & Engagement Strategic
Lead
Head of Corporate Support &
Governance
Governance Services Manager
Head of Major Funding
Scrutiny Officer
Chief Executive

Item Title No.

88. Inquorate Meeting

The meeting was inquorate and therefore decisions taken at the meeting would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 28 October 2022 for formal approval.

89. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Naeem Akhtar (Coventry), Councillor Ellen Fenton (Association of Black Country Authorities), Councillor Paul Sweet (Wolverhampton) and Amanda Tomlinson (Black Country LEP).

90. Minutes - 5 September 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

91. UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan - Draft Report for WMCA Board

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, prior to its submission to the WMCA Board on 28 October 2022.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was a central pillar of the Government's Levelling Up agenda, providing funding for local areas to increase life chances across the UK and to build pride in place. The funding could be spent on three investment priorities relating to community and place, supporting local businesses and people and skills.

The committee discussed the allocation of Shared Prosperity Fund for non-constituent authorities and the potential opportunities to work in collaboration with them. In terms of the funding gap for 'people and skills', there were a number of challenges including the availability of the fund (not available until 2024/25) and that the overall value of the Shared Prosperity Fund was lower than previously available through the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund. However, each local authority had undertaken a risk assessment and had mitigation strategies in place.

The committee questioned the role of the business support advisors and their locality, the 4% administration allocation, the allocation of the Shared Prosperity Fund to each local authority and need and the ability to spend year 1 funds by 31 March 2023. In addition, members noted the importance of an integrated approach to the investment priorities.

With regards to the Adult Education Budget, the Head of Insight & Intelligence agreed to share the allocation of the fund to each local authority area through the forthcoming skills scrutiny review.

Recommended to the WMCA Board:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee support the approval of the recommendations contained within the report and being considered by the WMCA Board at its meeting on 28 October 2022.

92. Trailblazer Devolution Deal Scrutiny Working Group - Summary Report

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Strategy, Integration & Net Zero on the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny Trailblazer Devolution Deal Working Groups that considered each of the trailblazer devolution proposals in detail.

At its meeting on 11 July, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed to hold a series of working groups over the summer period to review each of the proposals in detail and to discuss the local benefits that could be delivered to each local authority area through the proposed Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

The Partnerships & Engagement Strategic Lead welcomed the valuable engagement with members of the committee, which had helped to develop the proposals and shape the impact of the devolution deal. In terms of the timetable, negotiations continued with Government, and it was envisaged that the draft deal would be considered by the WMCA Board on 18 November.

In response to a question raised regarding young people and breaking the cycle of criminality through the devolution deal, the WMCA was seeking a combination of responsibility and resource and it was recognised that there was a need for a regional perspective through early years and prevention.

The committee highlighted the possibility of future initiatives to generate energy through the utilisation of roof-based solar panels and shared comments regarding retrofitting and sustainable funding, market shaping, affordable housing and the work of the homelessness taskforce, fiscal challenges and the impact on the trailblazer devolution deal.

In terms of next steps, the Governance Services Manager confirmed that the conclusions of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would form part of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal report that was to be considered by the WMCA Board on 18 November.

Recommended to the WMCA Board:

- (1) The conclusions of the working groups, as set out within the report, that would help to support and shape the Trailblazer Devolution Deal submission to Government being considered by the WMCA Board be endorsed; and
- (2) Further updates and briefings be submitted to future meetings of the committee on developments following the submission of the devolution proposition to the Government.

93. Minutes: Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee - 8 September 2022

The committee received the minutes of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 8 September 2022.

In relation to the delivery of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension, the committee referred to the recent press releases and sought clarification as to whether the funding was available to deliver the extension. The Chief Executive confirmed that whilst there was a funding challenge, earlier this year the WMCA Board had reiterated its commitment to deliver the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro scheme in full and funding solutions were being explored. During a visit to Birmingham, the Prime Minister had reiterated her personal commitment to deliver the scheme in full.

Recommended to the WMCA Board:

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2022 be agreed.

94. Work Programme

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

Recommended to the WMCA Board:

The work programme of items to be reported to future meetings be noted.

95. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 20 October 2022 at 10.00am (Mayoral Q&A on WMCA policy)

The meeting ended at 3:40pm



Young Combined Authority

Young Combined Authority (YCA) Board update, Summer - October 2022

SUMMER 2022 ACTIVITY!

1. Levelling Up

Following their workshops in May and June, the YCA presented their video on Levelling Up to the WMCA Board's meeting in July. The video sets out the YCA's vision for what Levelling Up and a Trailblazer Devolution Deal should mean for young people living in the West Midlands. You can watch the video at: <https://youtu.be/V5-99zINVzw>

2. Board Training

The YCA used their meeting in July as a training session to learn more about how to effectively participate at board meetings.

They were joined by Claire Spencer (WMCA) and Chris Burden, who was previously co-chair of the YCA and is now Cabinet Member for Skills and Education at the City of Wolverhampton Council.

Top tips for maximising the YCA's impact at meetings included:

1. Understanding the different roles of the YCA, WMCA boards and the WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
2. The importance of planned, punchy and polite presentations.
3. Collective responsibility: speaking with the voice of the full YCA.
4. Being a good critical friend.
5. Building positive relationships with decision makers.

3. GBSLEP

At their August meeting, the YCA were joined by Amrit Sandhu from Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP). Amrit introduced their 'reverse mentoring' project, which will connect young people from East Birmingham to local employers. The YCA shared their support and feedback, and look forward to seeing the project launch in January.

Key Project: National YCA on Transport

The West Midlands YCA are collaborating with youth voice reps from other Mayoral Combined Authority areas through the National Youth Combined Authority forum (NYCA). Their aim is to work with Metro Mayors to deliver a better future for under 25's.

In their Summer meeting with the Mayors (Andy Street, Andy Burnham and Steve Rotherham), the NYCA was asked to undertake some research into young people's views on transport and getting around.

Members of the NYCA have since created and launched a survey, to give young people their say.

The survey is live until the end of October. Link:

<https://aspire4u.typeform.com/to/U4o9KODG?typeform-source=t.co>

NATIONAL
YCA X

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE!

We are the National YCA, a group of young people from England campaigning for a better future for under 25s.

We're currently conducting a research project on young peoples' uses of public transport and active travel, and would really appreciate your time to fill out a 5 minute online survey.

The data collected will be presented to the Metro Mayors and used as evidence in discussions around, for example, better cycling infrastructure, road safety and cheaper public transport fares.

Link in bio to complete!

Want to influence how you will get around Yorkshire and Humber in the future?

As the region develops its vision for an integrated public transport system, we want to better understand young people's experiences of getting around the region.

If you travel frequently on buses, trams, trains and by foot or bike, or feel that you are put off by public transport and active travel, the regions Youth Combined Assemblies wants to hear from you.



TAKE PART IN A SURVEY

[click here](#)

Your views will help influence future policies designed to improve the lives of young people in Yorkshire and the Humber and beyond.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY BEFORE 31 OCTOBER.

GET YOUR VOICES HEARD

- Is travel too expensive ?
- Are your trains and buses unreliable?
- Do you want to see change ?
- Then complete our survey!

NATIONAL
YCA X

 **Young**
Combined Authority

Want to influence how you will get around Greater Manchester in the future?



YOUTH COMBINED AUTHORITY
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

METROMAYOR'S
YOUTH IMPACT

Key Project: Mental Health Commission

In August, the YCA also received an update from Jed Francique and Jenny Drew (WMCA) about how the Mental Health Commission has taken forward their recommendation to explore mental health in education settings.

The Commission have invited the YCA to review their recommendations or work together on an event to engage more young people about their priorities.

YCA members are catching up during the October half term to plan a youth engagement event to help 'test' the Mental Health Commission's ideas.

YCA Stocktake

YCA members and the WMCA share an ambition to reset and recharge the way the Young Combined Authority works, so it can make a greater impact in the future.

In September, YCA members shared their ideas with Liz Harding, who is leading a stocktake of the project for the WMCA.

Key themes from the conversation included thinking about the purpose of the YCA, how YCA members can connect with other young people and the various types of leaders that YCA members should aspire and develop to be.

YCA members look forward to receiving updates on how their ideas will be taken forward and help to strengthen regional youth voice.

COMING UP...

Focused on delivering more impact, the YCA have developed a forward plan of future activity. This is currently to:

- Continue engagement with the Mental Health Commission, National YCA Forum and stocktake of the YCA
- Respond to any opportunities that may arise from a **Trailblazer Devolution Deal**, to help maximise the benefit for young people.
- Plan their next **meeting with the Mayor** (booked for January 2023!)

Any questions, please email: Lucy.Gosling@wmca.org.uk

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