



## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** Monday 4 March 2024

**Time:** 10.30 am                      **Public meeting**                      Yes

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

### Membership

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)	Association of Black Country Authorities
Councillor Naeem Akhtar (Vice-Chair)	Coventry City Council
Councillor Philip Bateman MBE	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Andrew Burrow	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Nigel Lumby	Shropshire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Ewan Mackey	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Emma Marshall	Worcestershire Non-Constituent Local Authorities
Councillor Paul Moore	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Lauren Rainbow	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Jamie Tennant	Birmingham City Council
Amanda Tomlinson	Business Representative
Councillor Adrian Warwick	Warwickshire County Council
Councillor Vera Waters	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

Quorum for this meeting shall be 7 members

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

**Contact**                      Janna Simpson, Governance Services Officer  
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# AGENDA

No.	Item	Presenting	Pages
<b>Items of Public Business</b>			
1.	Apologies for Absence	Chair	None
2.	Declarations of Interests Members are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable prejudicial interests they have in any 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	Chair	None
4.	Minutes - 29 January 2024	Chair	1 - 8
5.	Brownfield Land Remediation Fund - Scrutiny Review Update	Councillor Naeem Akhtar	Verbal Report
6.	Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund Update	Cat Orchard	9 - 22
7.	Grant Register	Kate Taylor	23 - 28
8.	Work Programme (a) Overview & Scrutiny Committee (b) WMCA Board Forward Plan	Chair	29 - 38



### Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 29 January 2024 at 10.00 am

#### Minutes

##### Present

Councillor Cathy Bayton (Chair)  
Councillor Naeem Akhtar (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Andrew Burrow  
Councillor Ian Kettle  
Councillor Nigel Lumby

Councillor Ewan Mackey  
Councillor Paul Moore  
Councillor Jamie Tennant  
Councillor Adrian Warwick

Association of Black Country Authorities  
Coventry City Council  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Shropshire Non-Constituent Local  
Authorities  
Birmingham City Council  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council  
Birmingham City Council  
Warwickshire County Council

##### In Attendance

Dan Essex  
Linda Horne (MS Teams)

Councillor Emma Marshall (MS Teams)  
Lyndsey Roberts  
Laura Shoaf  
Mark Smith (MS Teams)

Kieran Stockley

Governance & Scrutiny Manager  
Executive Director of Finance & Business  
Hub  
Redditch Borough Council  
Statutory Scrutiny Officer  
Chief Executive  
Chair of Audit, Risk & Assurance  
Committee  
Head of Legal Services

##### Item Title No.

##### 170. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Amanda Tomlinson (Business Representative) and Councillor Vera Waters (Walsall).

##### 171. Minutes - 6 November and 14 December 2023

The minutes of the meetings held on 6 November and 14 December were agreed as a correct record, subject to the minutes of 14 December, to include reference to a question raised by Councillor Andrew Burrow in relation to Balsall Common Relief Road, financial cost, and potential impact on the budget.

## 172. Matters Arising

### **(a) Letter received from the Police & Crime Commissioner (minute no. 163 (a) refers)**

The Chair reported that a further letter had been received from the Police & Crime Commissioner seeking an invite to attend a meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to give evidence with regards to the amalgamation of the Police & Crime Commissioner's role into that of the Mayor.

A response had been sent to the Police & Crime Commissioner explaining that, in November 2018 the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the potential transfer of the functions, however at the time the request to transfer the powers required a decision of the WMCA Board. The legislation had now changed and WMCA Board consent was not required. Therefore, there was currently not a role for the committee at this time, but it could, at an appropriate time, consider the impact of the transfer of the functions on the current WMCA functions.

### **(b) WMCA Air Quality Framework and Implementation Plan (minute no. 167 refers)**

The Chair questioned whether local authority lead officers had received the Air Quality Framework and Implementation Plan following its approval at the WMCA Board in November 2023. The Chief Executive agreed to liaise with the lead officer within the WMCA to ensure that the report had been shared with local authority lead officers.

### **(c) Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Mayoral Q&A on the Proposed Draft Budget 2024/25.**

In addition to the current workshops provided by the WMCA to help its scrutiny members to prepare for the Mayoral Q&A sessions on the draft budget, members considered that it would also be helpful to receive additional training from an external provider to help formulate specific questions.

## 173. **Mayoral Question Time: Policy - Response to Observations Presented to the WMCA Board on 17 November 2023**

The committee received a response in respect of the observations it had identified following the Mayoral Q&A session on 19 October 2023, based on WMCA policy related matters. The committee thanked the Mayor for his informative response to their observations presented to the WMCA Board on 17 November 2023.

Resolved

The response be noted.

## 174. Homes for the Future: Final Consideration

The committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Housing, Property & Regeneration on the work undertaken on Homes for the Future, including the Homes for the Future Implementation Plan, Communications Strategy and launch event.

In relation to airtightness and the use of passive house regulations, the Programme Support Officer referred to the comparative information within the report and explained that the use of passive house was the easiest way for the WMCA to compare against the Government's standard, but it was one of many methods that could be used, as the WMCA allowed flexibility in how its standard could be achieved.

Councillor Andrew Burrow enquired about the WMCA's standard and the exclusion of retrofit and non-domestic dwellings. The WMCA's Housing Team specifically looked at new builds and therefore retrofit was not included within the standard, however there was a separate piece of work ongoing by the retrofit team. In relation to non-domestic dwellings, the residential element received the most amount of funding, but both non-residential and retrofit would be considered in the future.

In addition, the Programme Support Officer assured the committee that the WMCA's Homes for the Future Standard would not impact the pace of delivery of homes being built on decontaminated sites. As part of its implementation plan, the WMCA would support and work with SMEs and smaller developers within the region on adopting and understanding the standards, sourcing appropriate manufactures, understanding how to apply for WMCA funding and how to access support from the WMCA if required.

With regards to skills, labour shortages and the potential impact on the strategy, the issues within the labour market were also addressed in the strategy, and it was envisaged that the WMCA could facilitate a skills base to encourage individuals into this specific type of construction.

Resolved

- (1) The work to date to develop the Homes for the Future programme for the West Midlands, and wide-ranging input from the Future Homes Taskforce and local authority partners across the region, among other relevant stakeholders be noted;
- (2) The comments made on the final draft of the Homes for the Future strategy be noted;
- (3) The feedback provided from the Homes for the Future event be noted; and
- (4) The Overview & Scrutiny Committee endorsed the official release of the WMCA's Homes for the Future proposals, subject to assurances sought in relation to retrofit, the commercial sector, the pace of delivery of homes on decontaminated sites and support provided for SMEs and

smaller developers.

- (5) The release of the Government's Future Homes Standard consultation be noted.
- (6) The progress on the work to date on the Homes for the Future Communications Strategy and Implementation Plan be noted; and
- (7) The WMCA's response to the Government's 'The Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023 Consultation; Approved Document L - Conservation of fuel and power and minimisation of greenhouse gas emissions Volume 2: Buildings other than dwellings' which considered the standard in relation to non-domestic dwellings, be noted.

#### **175. West Midlands State of the Region 2023/24**

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Strategy, Economy & Net Zero on the region's performance and the opportunities and challenges in the region.

The West Midlands State of the Region was a high-level report that brought to attention the most important trends in the West Midlands. It was an annual review that considered data relevant for comparison at yearly or longer-term basis.

The committee reviewed the key messages identified within the report and shared comments in relation to the inclusive growth framework, the use of doughnut economics, transparency, access to latest data figures and deprivation areas within the West Midlands.

The Chair enquired about the increase in in-work claimants and asked whether this could be measured and captured within the State of the Region report. The Head of Research, Intelligence & Inclusive Growth agreed to capture this information in future reports and agreed to review the information available in relation to the increase in home schooling caused by the pandemic.

Resolved

- (1) The key messages and recommendations set out in the State of the Region report be noted;
- (2) The areas identified by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that it wished to review as part of its 2024/25 work programme including, areas around connectivity, commuting, air quality and retrofit skills be noted; and
- (3) The Overview & Scrutiny Committee welcomed the report and noted that information in relation to in-work claimants' figures and home schooling should be included within the report for consideration.

## 176. Employment & Skills Strategy for Deeper Devolution

The committee considered a report of the Interim Executive Director, Employment, Skills, Health & Communities that provided an update on the development of an Employment & Skills Strategy for the WMCA area.

Following a review undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee seeking to understand the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget and to identify challenges and ways in which the WMCA and its constituents could most effectively use skills development to address short and longer-term challenges in the region, further consideration had been given by the WMCA's Employment, Skills, Health & Communities directorate to the emerging themes and considerations identified within the scrutiny report.

The committee discussed and shared comments in relation to skills and qualifications, an increase in youth unemployment, attainment of maths and English qualifications, common largest challenges for people to learn and upskill, benchmarking against other combined authority areas, the provision of training linked to the current and future labour market opportunities and how devolution had helped to accelerate progress on skills and employment.

The Chair enquired about the ability, through the devolution deal, to incentivise employers to invest in upskilling and training their employees. The offer to employers was provided via Business Growth West Midlands in addition to other programmes, incentives and support for businesses.

Councillor Andrew Burrow explored questions in relation to the construction industry and a Level 2 qualification, workforce planning across the region and the availability of data to demonstrate that the activities undertaken by the WMCA had an impact on the skills deficit across the key job opportunities within the West Midlands.

Resolved

- (1) The progress being made on the development of an Employment & Skills strategy for WMCA area and the development and implementation of an ESHC Benefits Realisation and Outcomes Framework be noted;
- (2) The approach being adopted through the strategy to ensure the integration of employment and skills across the region, and in establishing an overarching Outcomes Framework to ensure regional benefits were maximised through programme delivery activity be endorsed;
- (3) The key areas of focus set out in the strategy and the indicative benefits set out in the ESHC Benefits and Outcomes Framework be noted;
- (4) The implementation of an ESHC Directorate Performance Panel be noted; and

- (5) The next steps in implementation of the Employment & Skills Strategy and the Benefits & Outcomes Frameworks be endorsed.

### **177. Q3 Performance Reporting Against the Annual Business Plan**

The committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub that set out the context to the monitoring and reporting of the Annual Business Plan and provided year-to-date performance, including trends and comparisons.

In September 2023, it was agreed that performance against the Annual Business Plan would be shared twice a year with Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to provide members with assurance of Executive Board responses, particularly to the red and amber indicators.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Jamie Tennant, the Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub explained that the red indicators related to transport were reviewed by the Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee through regular capital programme monitoring reports considered by the committee.

Following a review of the report, members considered that HDL 72 (One Public Estate and Place Pilots Programme) and HDL 114 (Investment and Modernisation of 16 Summer Lane – 10 Year Property Maintenance Plan), should form part of its work programme for 2024/25.

Resolved

- (1) The approach on how the WMCA monitored the Annual Business Plan and the assurance it provided be endorsed; and
- (2) The areas identified in relation to One Public Estate and the Investment and Modernisation of 16 Summer Lane be included in the committees work programme for 2024/25.

### **178. Scrutiny Protocol**

The committee considered a report of the Governance & Scrutiny Manager that provided an update on the publication of the Scrutiny Protocol that set out the next steps that would be undertaken to ensure that a sustained culture of scrutiny was embedded within the WMCA to ensure transparent and accountable decision-making and delivery of value for money on devolved funds.

The Governance & Scrutiny Manager provided an overview of the Government's protocol that was 'non statutory guidance' and therefore was to be considered as best practice in scrutiny, particularly for institutions like the WMCA that had Level 4 devolution and single funding settlements. It was a reflection of the existing strength of scrutiny within the WMCA that a significant part of the protocol set out activity that was already undertaken by its scrutiny committees.



The committee discussed and shared comments on the 18 key principles of good governance and the areas members considered activity needed strengthening in order to meet the aspirations of the protocol.

Further to discussions held at a recent meeting of the Combined Authorities Scrutiny Chairs Forum, the Chair reported that a consistency of membership and quoracy were issues highlighted across all combined authorities.

It was reported that the arrangements for the Mayor and MPs Q&A sessions were currently under development and a report would be presented to the WMCA Board in March.

Resolved

- (1) The publication of the Department for Housing, Levelling Up & Communities Scrutiny Protocol on 22 November 2023, be noted; and
- (2) A working group be established consisting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of both scrutiny committees, the Chair of Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee, and an additional member from the respective committees, to further strengthen and develop the WMCA's scrutiny function to meet the standards set out within the protocol's 18 key principles.

#### **179. 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

The Grant Register be noted.

#### **180. Work Programme**

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

Resolved

That the work programme be noted, subject to the inclusion of items identified during the meeting, and an item on investment zones and governance arrangements to be considered during 2024/25.

#### **181. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 4 March 2024 at 10:00am.

The meeting ended at 12:10pm

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## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date</b>	4 March 2024
<b>Report title</b>	Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund Update
<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	Finance - Councillor Bob Sleigh
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive, West Midlands Combined Authority Email: laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk
<b>Accountable Employee</b>	Ed Cox, Director Strategy, Economy and Net Zero Email: Ed.Cox@wmca.org.uk
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	

**Recommendation(s) for action or decision:**

**The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:**

- (1) Note the update on progress and impact in relation to the Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund, as requested by the Committee.
- (2) Identify any areas of specific interest to the Committee to inform a future report in March 2025, or as part of the Committee's work programme for 2024-2025.

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 An initial overview of the Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund (CWGLEF) was provided to the Committee by the Executive Director Strategy, Economy and Net Zero on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023. A commitment was given to provide a further, more comprehensive update on the initiatives that would be delivered through CWGLEF monies. This report provides that update.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The CWGLEF is an allocation of £70m secured for the region from unallocated resources within the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games budgets that could not have been utilised for event delivery. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) agreed that the WMCA would be responsible for ensuring the effective utilisation of these monies across the West Midlands region to support outcomes building on the legacy of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- 2.2 In December 2022, WMCA Board agreed that the fund was to be allocated across four thematic pillars relating to economy, trade and tourism (£38.9m), culture and heritage (£4.07m), inclusive communities (£20.8m) and wellbeing and sustainability (£4.07m). A subsequent report to WMCA Board in March 2023 provided further detail on the initiatives sitting below individual thematic pillars. Business cases for the programmes of work were developed via the SAF process and approved at WMCA Investment Board in June 2023, July 2023 and October 2023.
- 2.3 The funding agreement with DCMS was signed in July 2023, enabling projects to begin to deliver. WMCA provides quarterly monitoring reports to DCMS on progress with the CWGLEF and participates in “deep dives” every six months. This reporting will continue for the life cycle of the CWGLEF.
- 2.4 The grant funding period ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. All funding should be spent at that point and an impact evaluation completed. Any funds not utilised will be returned to DCMS.
- 2.5 Details of the initiatives covered by the CWGLEF are included at Appendix 1 of this report.

## **3. Strategic Aims and Objectives**

- 3.1 Strategic aims and objectives for the individual initiatives that comprise the CWGLEF are contained within the business cases for these initiatives considered by Investment Board in June 2023 and October 2023.

## **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial asks associated with this report. Financial implications for each project were provided as part of the business case development and approval process with those reports referenced in the background papers. Financial monitoring is part of the quarterly DCMS reporting process set out in the funding agreement looking at both project and programme level finance. This forms part of the overall risk assessment provided in those reports for the CWGLEF programme.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report and any legal implications linked to specific projects mentioned in this report can be found in the relevant reports associated with those projects.

## **6. Single Assurance Framework (SAF) Implications**

- 6.1 There are no SAF implications from this report. All initiatives that are funded from the CWGLEF have developed business cases through the SAF process.

## **7. Equalities Implications**

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications directly associated with this report. Any equalities implications linked to specific projects mentioned in this report can be found in the relevant reports associated with those projects.

## **8. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 8.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly associated with this report. Any inclusive growth implications linked to specific projects mentioned in this report can be found in the relevant reports associated with those projects.

## **9. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

- 9.1 The CWGLEF is made up of initiatives that reach across the constituent and non-constituent areas of the West Midlands Combined Authority. The geographical reach of individual initiatives is indicated as part of the update provided in Appendix 1.

## **10. Other Implications**

- 10.1 None

## **11. Schedule of Background Papers**

Report to WMCA Board 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022:

- Proposal for WMCA Acceptance of a Share of Unallocated Contingency Funding from Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

Report to WMCA Board 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023:

- Commonwealth Games Legacy Funding

Reports to Investment Board 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023:

- Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund Summary Report
- Community Environment Fund Business Justification Case
- Inclusive Communities Grants Programme Business Case
- Global West Midlands - Strategic Outline Case
- Social Economy Growth Programme - Phase 1
- Mobilising Plan for Growth Business Justification Case
- Jobs & Skills and Wellbeing Business Justification Case
- Legacy Trailblazer Programme -Business Justification Case

- Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund WMCA Culture Programme
- Birmingham Athletics European Championship 2026 - Full Business Case

Report to Investment Board July 2023

- Commonwealth Games Major Events - Programme Business Case

Reports to Investment Board October 2023:

- Global West Midlands - Full Business Case
- Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund -Sandwell MBC Aquatic Energy Costs -Business Justification Case

Report to West Midlands Combined Authority Board January 2024

- European Athletics Championships 2026

## Appendix 1 – Update on CWGLEF Initiatives

The CWGLEF programme has moved on since the initial presentation to WMCA Overview and Scrutiny on 13th March 2023. The 4 ‘pillars’ identified – Inclusive Communities; Economy, Trade and Tourism; Culture and Heritage; Wellbeing and Sustainability are still in place but projects sitting below these themes have been fleshed out, and there has been some movement of funding between themes. The below table provides a complete, high-level overview of CWGLEF projects, and is the simplest way of providing a general update.

Key    Inclusive Communities Pillar = IC  
        Economy, Trade and Tourism Pillar = ETT  
        Culture and Heritage Pillar – CH  
        Wellbeing and Sustainability - WS

Initiative	Geography	Details
IC - Inclusive Communities Fund (£10.5m)	Constituent and Non-Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administered via Heart of England Community Foundation (HoECF) with additional community engagement support delivered via United By 2022 to extend reach, including into Local Authorities directly.</li> <li>• 4 funding streams – Small Grants (up to £15k), Medium Grants (£15k-£75k), Large Grants (£75k-£300k), Small Capital Works (up to £100k). Small capital works funds projects for which planning permission exists / is not required. All projects must complete by December 2024 to enable evaluation to take place.</li> <li>• The Fund launched on 6<sup>th</sup> November. HoECF and UB22 carried out extensive community engagement with 73 engagement events across the region (a combination of in-person and online) between November and December 2023. In addition to this 1:2:1 sessions and advice have been offered to individual community groups, and information was shared with Local Authorities through the Lead Officers Group.</li> <li>• Large Grants and Small Capital works Funds closed 4th January as scheduled (to allow for spend within timeframes)</li> <li>• Medium and Small Grants were originally envisaged as a rolling programme but closed 5th February, earlier than planned, due to application volume.</li> <li>• Funding awards are made via delegated authority to HoECF (for small grants only) and through Community Panels (the remainder).</li> <li>• Community Panel members have been recruited by HoECF from across the West Midlands geography and come from a mix of public / private sector backgrounds. Every attempt has been</li> </ul>

Initiative	Geography	Details
		<p>made to ensure the diversity of the panel across protected characteristics so that it is as representative of the West Midlands as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some small grants awards have already been made; Panels are now being convened for decision making for the remainder of the grants programmes, with awards predicted to be underway in February.</li> </ul>
<p>IC - Social Economy Growth Programme (£2m)</p>	<p>Constituent Local Authorities</p>	<p><b>Business Support Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Business Support Programme providers (Aston University, Enterprise Nation, Locality and SSE) have been contracted to deliver business support for organisations and individuals working in Social Enterprise. The programmes on offer will provide tailored support for organisations at differing points in their lifecycle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start – for organisations with turnover between £15k-50k, with £2k grant per participant (Enterprise Nation- 42 places)</li> <li>Build – for organisations with turnover of £50-£100k, with £5k grant per participant (Locality – 21 places)</li> <li>Grow – for organisations with turnover of £100k - £500k, with up to £10k grant available per participant dependent on increased trading income (Aston Business School – 42 places)</li> <li>Accelerate – for organisations with turnover in excess of £500k, with up to £20k per participant dependent on increased trading income (Aston University Business School – 15 places)</li> </ul> </li> <li>In addition to a structured training programme in key business skills, each participant will receive expert one to one coaching, mentoring and support from the School for Social Entrepreneurs.</li> <li>An Investment &amp; Procurement readiness programme will be offered to at least 40 organisations who wish to take on contracts and secure the working capital needed to service these. This will be delivered by Enterprise Nation in partnership with becleaps (aka Birmingham Enterprise Community).</li> <li>Recruitment to the programmes will begin in April. Providers are working together closely and have already begun to identify where they can continue to work together outside of the programme and into the future.</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Economy Clusters</b></p> <p>8 social economy clusters launched across the region on 27<sup>th</sup> October. A lead organisation in each cluster will be funded to bring together local stakeholders and the wider community to create an action plan that will be able to grow the local social and circular economy. The clusters and leads are as follows:</p>



Initiative	Geography	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Witton Lodge Community Association – Perry Common, Wyrley Birch and Erdington (Birmingham)</li> <li>• iSE – Digbeth (Birmingham)</li> <li>• Coventry and Warwickshire CDA – Foleshill, Hillfields and Woods End (Coventry)</li> <li>• Provision House- St Thomas Quarter (Dudley)</li> <li>• SWEDA – West Bromwich Town Centre (Sandwell)</li> <li>• The Colebridge Trust - Kingshurst (Solihull)</li> <li>• Urban Hax – Palfrey (Walsall)</li> <li>• Access 2 Business – City Centre South (Wolverhampton)</li> <li>• Additional match funding was secured to create a 9th cluster, which was finalised in December. This 9th cluster will be led by Legacy WM focussing on Handsworth, Birmingham.</li> </ul>
IC - Inclusive Practice Framework (£300k)	Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of the framework has been positioned with WMCA’s Inclusive Communities portfolio, to ensure that inclusion principles derived from existing WMCA strategic activity, including the Young Combined Authority, Faith Strategic Partnership Group, Race Equalities Taskforce, Homelessness Taskforce and others, embedding and our wider work to address health and equity within the design.</li> <li>• The framework will help counter some of the issues faced by the portfolio resulting in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A shared vision for inclusive communities across the region that is clearly defined and supports our partners, stakeholders and communities to systematically understand, identify and capitalise on their roles and responsibilities collectively.</li> <li>○ A clearer connection between the different programme areas of the portfolio, building on the value already created with communities.</li> <li>○ An increased focus on social mobility, social capital, social inclusion and social infrastructure that will support us to identify opportunities for more systemic investment at regional level.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
ETT / IC - European Athletics Championships (EAC) 2026 – Birmingham City Council (£14.3m total - £10.7m EET,	Primarily Birmingham but wider impacts expected regionally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosting the European Athletics Championship 2026 (EAC) cements a core ambition for the region to be recognised as a preeminent destination for sporting, cultural and business events. The EAC will represent the first time it has ever been held in the UK and become a further flagship event for the region, helping open the door for future opportunities and events to be hosted across the West Midlands.</li> <li>• Significant regional economic benefits are expected through a combination of increased tourism spend, direct and indirect GVA effects as well as wider societal benefits to regional residents. Direct employment will result through the redevelopment of the Alexander Stadium and organisation of the event as well as increased employment in the tourism sector both in the short</li> </ul>

Initiative	Geography	Details
£3m IC plus £600k from underspend in Fund)		<p>term during the event and in the longer term as the reputation of the region is developed further both nationally and internationally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a result of the S114, BCC has had to step away from holding ‘Host City’ responsibility. To ensure the delivery of a successful event, a Joint Venture arrangement is being finalised with specialist delivery partners.</li> <li>• Due to the timelines for CWGLEF spending (March 2025) a “resource-swap” mechanism is in place, as agreed with DCMS. Part of the funding (£10m) from the CWGLEF will be used to support additional construction and regeneration activity at Alexander Stadium, and some initial championships costs. BCC will then release the amount “swapped” post 2025 to fund the EAC.</li> <li>• The remainder (£4.3m) will be utilised to provide initial set up costs for the Joint Venture and event costs where they are within the Fund lifecycle.</li> </ul>
ETT – Global West Midlands (WMGC) (£13.4m)	Constituent Local Authorities	<p>The Global West Midlands programme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise the conversion of the pipeline of investment and events leads generated from the Commonwealth Games Business and Tourism Programme (BATP), thereby fully exploiting the economic legacy of the Games.</li> <li>• Run a full programme of international promotion in key markets identified in the West Midlands’ forthcoming International Strategy to increase the region’s profile and reputation, resulting in the further growth of the current pipeline. This would also help to maximise the economic impact of other major sporting and cultural events that take place in the region.</li> </ul> <p>This will be achieved through the following key objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the profile and reputation of the region, improving awareness; sentiment; and consideration of the West Midlands’ offer across key audiences by 31st March 2025</li> <li>• Create good jobs for local people by landing 117 inward investment projects by 31st March 2025</li> <li>• Facilitate the regeneration of the built environment by landing 3 capital investment projects by 31st March 2025</li> <li>• Create and sustain vibrant places by securing 12 sporting events and 11 business conferences; in turn attracting 235,233 visitors, spending £23.457m in the region’s visitor economy by 31st March 2025</li> </ul> <p>All objectives will be delivered by 31 March 2025; it is expected that most of the activity will be achieved in 2024/25. The benefits may, however, accrue over a number of years.</p>

Initiative	Geography	Details
ETT - Global West Midlands Local Capacity Fund (£700k total - £100k per LA)	Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each LA has been awarded £100k for specific projects connected to key investment opportunities, regeneration opportunities and marketing and events.</li> <li>• LA's have submitted individual project plans based on their own local priorities and report back against the delivery of these plans on a quarterly basis.</li> <li>• Example projects include support to UKREiiF activity and attendance, public sector relocation, support to extant economic strategy proposals, resource and capacity support for local teams etc.</li> </ul>
ETT – Major Events Fund Sport Accord (£3m)	Birmingham with wider regional benefits expected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding will support delivery of the Sport Accord Sport and Business Summit (7-11 April 2024) in Birmingham. Sport Accord is a globally significant business event hosting world leaders in sport in the region.</li> <li>• UK Sport's assessment is that whilst there is an expected direct and indirect economic impact on the local economy, Sport Accord is a unique hosting proposition with a targeted global profile within the world of sport and the key benefits are around soft power, international relations and reputation. It is also a chance to set the agenda for such an influential global conference, allowing West Midlands and the UK to advance its objectives around, for example: trade and investment through sport, sports tourism, the hosting of major sporting events and delivering sustainable impacts.</li> <li>• It will provide an unrivalled opportunity to promote the region's assets and lay the foundation for the next 10 years and beyond of attracting major sporting and business events. This is the first Sport Accord to be held post-pandemic.</li> <li>• Delivery of the event is the responsibility of Birmingham City Council, supported by WMGC. The decision to support Sport Accord was taken at Economic Growth Board on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023.</li> </ul>
ETT – Major Events Fund (£3m)	Constituent and Non-Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 23 applications from local authorities were received to the Major Events Fund. The process was managed by WMGC, and assessed submissions on a range of criteria including funding and budget, risk and mitigation, track record of the event organisers, event type and outcomes, including but not limited to innovation, diversity and community engagement, sustainability etc.</li> <li>• Recommendations were made to the Major Events Advisory Board, (which is comprised of officers and members from WMCA) and the decision to award ratified by Economic Growth Board and finalised via DSO.</li> <li>• Allocations are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ESL One - Dota II esports tournament, Solihull, 26-28 April 2024 - £145,000</li> <li>○ European Judo Union Junior Cup, Walsall, 15-19 June 2024 – £250,000</li> <li>○ Black Country Festival, Dudley 1-31 July 2024 - £365,000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Initiative	Geography	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Godiva Festival ‘Worldwide Welcome’, Coventry, 5-7 July 2024 - £500,000</li> <li>○ Reggae Fever - Celebration of Caribbean Culture, Coventry, 20 July 2024 - £250,000</li> <li>○ Birmingham Weekender Festival, Birmingham 22-25 August 2024 - £350,000</li> <li>○ SuperDome esports tournament, Solihull, 5-8 September - £250,000</li> <li>○ West Midlands Urban Sports, Wolverhampton, 6-8 September 2024 - £390,000</li> <li>○ Kabaddi World Cup, Wolverhampton 24-31 March 2025 - £500,000</li> <li>● The Major Events Advisory Group (comprised of officers and members from WMCA) will now move to become a Programme Board for the Major Events programme, reviewing progress against outcomes and milestones for each of the events receiving funding from the Major Events Fund.</li> </ul>
ETT – Jobs, Skills and Wellbeing (£4.85 EET, £0.9k WS. Allocated at c£800k per LA)	Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Working with the constituent LAs to deliver employment, skills and wellbeing support through local targeted jobs support, regional careers programme, jobs and skills hubs, paid work placement model and mentoring. Each of the 7 LA’s have identified which of these models they will deliver and tailored their programme of work to local demand.</li> <li>● As at end Q3 (December 2023), project inception meetings had taken place with all contracted local authorities. Coventry, Sandwell, and Dudley were in mobilisation stage. This includes project planning of engagement activity, development of processes, marketing materials and recruitment of staff.</li> <li>● Walsall’s targeted job support programme ‘Walsall Works’ was underway offering employability support to Walsall residents; a New Year New Career event was scheduled for January and the Regional Career Programme was delivering support to young people who are NEET via their Employment Advisors.</li> <li>● Solihull’s targeted job support programme was scheduled to begin in January 2024, and the Regional Careers Programme has commenced delivery and engagement across a number of settings in the Solihull borough including an enhanced Apprenticeship show in November 2023)</li> <li>● Birmingham’s contract has not yet been finalised due to the enhanced processes because of the S114. It is anticipated that this will be resolved following Cabinet approval for the programme in February 2024</li> </ul>
ETT – Mobilising Plan for Growth (£3.25m)	Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Plan for Growth aims to grow the economy in the West Midlands at the fastest rate outside of London. To achieve this, support for businesses needs to focus on high-growth clusters where the West Midlands has comparative advantage.</li> </ul>

Initiative	Geography	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for Growth has already identified these clusters as Creative Content and Gaming; Health and Medi-tech: Aerospace; Logistics: Modern and low carbon utilities; Future Housing; Electric Vehicles and Professional and Financial Services.</li> <li>• Mobilising Plan For Growth will deliver targeted support through 2 streams of work. The High-Growth funding stream will work alongside existing businesses in the identified high-growth sectors across the region, supporting them to develop and grow sustainably. The Supply Chain Transition programme will be open to automotive and manufacturing businesses looking to accelerate their move towards alignment with these high-growth sectors.</li> <li>• The strands will assist 210 businesses registered or operating in the seven-met WMCA geography and grow their revenue by an additional £31.2 million. It will help them create an additional 210 full-time equivalent new jobs. In addition, 45 of these businesses will also be supported to work on new research and development projects.</li> </ul>
CH - Culture and Heritage (£4.1m)	Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture and Heritage programme is made up of a suite of different projects aligned to the delivery of 5 key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Development of strategic regional frameworks for culture &amp; heritage</li> <li>○ Increasing cultural engagement, community cohesion and social value generation through culture</li> <li>○ Supporting the development of the region’s cultural infrastructure to increase civic pride and maximise the role of culture &amp; heritage in placemaking and vibrant high streets.</li> <li>○ Targeted programme of skills, workforce and business support to ensure our cultural and heritage sectors can grow and prosper.</li> <li>○ Enabling the West Midlands cultural sector to raise its regional and international profile, and secure new business opportunities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Projects already in train include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of regional culture and heritage frameworks – tenders have been issued for additional support for consultation in the development of both frameworks. The Heritage Task Force (convened to support the development of the Regional Heritage Framework), composed of Local Authority and ALB representatives, met for the first time on 18 January 2024 and has begun to discuss top-line priorities for heritage across the West Midlands.</li> <li>• Local Authority Double-Devolved Grants (up to £307k per LA) to support creative commissions and place-based work will be finalised shortly. Kick-off meetings have taken place with all the Local Authorities across November – December 2023. By the 19th of January, all Local Authorities had submitted their top-line delivery plans for creative commissions and placemaking</li> </ul>

Initiative	Geography	Details
		<p>to the WMCA, and meetings to provide feedback to the plans are underway until mid-February. Upon provision of the top-line delivery plans, each Local Authority is proceeding with consultation of the cultural and heritage sector, with the aim of providing an updated delivery plan by 31 March 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative Futures Campaign - Big Give has been contracted to establish the Creative Futures Campaign under the larger umbrella of the 'Arts for Impact' campaign, the first-of-its kind national campaign to provide an opportunity for charities to fundraise and receive match funding. The WMCA will be contributing £80,000 for this campaign (with an additional £5,000 for administration purposes) and will support 15 charities working with children and young people in arts and culture, who have now been selected and announced. The charities will fundraise during the Arts for Impact campaign (19-26 March 2024) and the WMCA will be matching all funds raised.</li> <li>• Creative Health - The first meeting under the Creative Health Task and Finish Group took place on 13 December 2023, bringing together creative health and other representatives from the West Midlands. The group has suggested the creation of a Terms of Reference for Creative Health in the West Midlands and the next meeting to begin this work is scheduled for 8 February 2024</li> <li>• Theatre Technician Bootcamp - The Theatre Technician Bootcamp has now begun with 16 students. The students are working and learning from a host of theatres in the region, and the organisers have said that theatres they are working with are interested in taking the bootcampers on as apprentices or via work placements as soon as the bootcamp finishes.</li> <li>• Skills and Business Support Programme -Design of the overall Skills and Business Support Programme is underway; another opportunity, the Future Boards Accelerator, which seeks to promote the diversity of members on arts and culture organisations' boards, will be launched shortly.</li> <li>• International Fund – this grant fund will support West Midlands based organisations to engage with international culture and artistic exchange, sharing, learning and building on the experience of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival. Match funding from the British Council has been secured which has increased the budget of the overall fund to £128,000. The guidance and accessibility provisions are now in their final stages; the first round will then go out in mid-February.</li> </ul>
WS Community	– Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community Environment Fund is an open access grant fund for community organisations working with environmentally themed projects. Grants support projects across 5 themes – natural environment, access to green space, climate adaptation, circular economy and environmental</li> </ul>

Initiative	Geography	Details
Environment Fund £1.2m		<p>awareness. Heart of England Community Foundation (HoECF) have been engaged to provide grant administration support and due diligence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Fund has two streams – small grants (up to £25k) and large grants (up to £100k). It is envisaged that the balance across the funding stream will be c5 large grants and c30 small grants, but this will depend on application uptake and quality.</li> <li>• The Community Environment Fund launched on 27th October 2023. In addition to planned engagement sessions and promotion via HoECF, the team have also joined several general engagement sessions alongside Inclusive Communities Grants Fund to maximise reach.</li> <li>• As at 5th January 2024, the team had received 63 enquiries resulting in 28 Expressions of Interest (first stage). Only 7 full applications were submitted, with 3 being agreed by the Panel in January 2024. Projects supported to date are based in Birmingham, Walsall and Sandwell.</li> <li>• The team are continuing to work on with groups to grow the pipeline of projects</li> </ul>
WS – Sandwell Aquatics Centre Costs (originally £2m, now £1.4m)	Sandwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Full Business Case for support to Sandwell Aquatics centre was agreed by Investment Board in October 2023. Legal contracts are now being finalised.</li> <li>• KPIs will be linked to the delivery targets being finalised for the centre by Sandwell MBC in conjunction with Sandwell Leisure Trust, and are likely to include metrics based around footfall, school usage, enrolment in specific programmes of activity e.g. Swim School and job creation including apprenticeships.</li> </ul>

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## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date</b>	4 March 2024
<b>Report title</b>	Grant Register
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive, West Midlands Combined Authority Email: laura.shoaf@wmca.org.uk
<b>Accountable Employee</b>	Linda Horne, Executive Director of Finance and Business Hub Email: linda.horne@wmca.org.uk
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	

**Recommendation(s) for action or decision:**

**The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:**

- (1) Note and comment on the grant register.

### 1. Purpose

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

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The grant registers are attached as an appendix to this report.

Since the last report the WMCA has had confirmation of the following grants:

- £133.7m from the DfE for Adult Skills Fund (formerly Adult Education Budget) for the 2024/25 academic year.

- £9.4m from the DfE to fund Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs for the 2024/25 academic year.

### **3. Strategic Aims and Objectives**

- 3.1 Grant funding is instrumental in the WMCA being able to deliver on its Aims and Objectives.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from accepting the recommendations in this report. The update on the grant register is provided for transparency purposes.

### **5. Legal Implications**

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

### **6. Single Assurance Framework Implications**

- 6.1 The relevant SAF process will be followed as necessary.

### **7. Equalities Implications**

- 7.1 There are no specific equality implications from this update report. However, individual grant funded schemes and initiatives will be subject to equality impact assessments to ensure key equality and inclusion considerations have been embedded.

### **8. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 8.1 Not applicable for this report.

### **9. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

- 9.1 None arising from this report.

### **10. Other Implications**

- 10.1 No other implications have been identified.

### **11. Schedule of Background Papers**

- 11.1 Grant Register

**Capital Grants Register**

Grant Name	Provider	Date of grant Award Letter	Total Grant Awarded in full £	Notes
DIT - Major Scheme (Eastside / Edgbaston)	DIT	Apr-19	£ 187,559,779	Midland Metro Extensions
ITB WMCA	DIT	Apr-21	£ 17,755,000	Annual rolling settlement from DIT, rolled into CRSTS from 22/23. Funding is distributed to WMCA and all & LAs on a formula basis which is agreed locally. The 21/22 annual value only is shown here.
Road National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIFF)	DIT	Sep-17	£ 17,055,000	National Productivity Investment Fund including projects in Birmingham (Growth Point Public Transport Package), Walsall (Economic Growth and Infrastructure Project) and Solihull (Strategic Cycle Network)
Clean Bus Technology	DIT	Feb-18	£ 5,987,750	Projects that work with bus operators or technology providers to retrofit buses to reduce emissions
Transforming Cities Fund	DIT	Annually	£ 250,000,000	The purpose of the Transforming Cities Fund is to boost productivity, transform intra-city connectivity and reduce congestion through investment in public and sustainable transport in the West Midlands. No detailed constraints as to what it can be spent on, but the WMCA should have regard to the national objectives of the Fund. Programme agreed Nov 2018. Additional £71.5m TCF2 now funded through CRSTS)
Joint Air Quality	DIT	Jan-19	£ 3,456,520	Fund retrofit buses with kits that tackle exhaust emission in Birmingham
Association of Directors Environment Economy, Place & Travel (ADEPT) Live Labs	DIT	Jul-19	£ 2,650,000	Network Resilience Live Lab funding covering the transport network to build up a detailed picture of traffic and transport movements around the region through collection of data
Opening LA Transport Data Competition	DIT	Pre 18/19	£ 100,000	Data / Technology
Future mobility Zones	DIT	Jun-19	£ 20,000,000	The purpose of the Future Mobility Zones is to: trial new transport services modes and models, creating a functioning marketplace for mobility that combines new and traditional modes of transport; improve integration of services; increase the availability of real-time data; and provide access to digital planning and payment options. The fund also aims to explore options for: providing mobility credits, or other low-cost options, for lower income households; and delivering efficiencies through shared (dynamic) demand responsive transport.
TIWM Bus Priority	DIT	Jul-20	£ 24,225,000	Funding bus priority measures in Birmingham City Centre and between Dudley and Druids Heath.
Emergency Active Travel Fund	DIT	Nov-20	£ 13,182,667	Phase 2 of Active Travel Fund to support longer term walking and cycling schemes (Phase 1 classed as revenue grant)
Active Travel Fund (Tranche 3)	DIT	Mar-22	£ 17,250,000	Phase 3 of Active Travel Fund to support longer term walking and cycling schemes
All Electric Bus Town Competition (Coventry) (AEBT)	DIT	Mar-21	£ 50,000,000	Coventry All Electric Bus City project
Zero Emissions Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA)	DIT	Mar-22	£ 30,383,250	Grant to deliver 124 hydrogen buses plus associated infrastructure in the region
City Region Sustainable Transport Summary (CRSTS)	DIT	Apr-22	£ 1,050,000,000	Supporting inclusive economic growth, provide better connections between places and encourage more people to use sustainable and zero-carbon transport
West Midlands Land Fund	MHCLG	Apr-18	£ 100,000,000	Quarterly reporting to MHCLG as part of the grant. This is against the outputs specific to Housing of 8,000 homes and the wider West Midlands target of 215,000 homes by 2031, which includes outputs from the Local Authorities
Brownfield Housing Fund	MHCLG	Apr-20	£ 125,381,582	Quarterly reporting to MHCLG on the outputs of this grant. Deliver between 7,714 and 9,773 homes.
Brownfield Housing Fund Extension	MHCLG	Mar-22	£ 17,350,000	Extension agreed to the Brownfield Housing Fund March 2022.
Sustainable Warmth Competition	BEIS	Mar-22	£ 2,600,000	Upgrade homes to a target energy efficiency rating
BEIS Social Decarbonisation Fund	BEIS	Feb-22	£ 6,174,205	Improve the energy performance of social rented homes
Metro Birmingham Eastside Extension	EZ	n/a	£ 18,000	Enterprise Zone funding
University Hospital Birmingham - University Station	3rd Party	Aug-20	£ 5,000,000	Delivery of University Station build.
Rail Network Enhancement Pipeline (RNEP) Funding	DIT	Oct-21	£ 39,650,000	Rail Station Development-Package 1 Walsall - Wolverhampton
Rail Network Enhancement Pipeline (RNEP) Funding	DIT	Oct-21	£ 19,350,000	Rail Station Development-Package 2 Camp Hill
PB - Highways England	Highways England	n/a	£ 86,400	Relates to HS2 Modelling Framework
Public Realm Schemes	BCC	Jun-22	£ 606,543	Enhance public realms for Commonwealth Games
A435 Alcester Rd Bus Priority Revitalisation	BCC	21/22	£ 154,000	A435 Alcester Rd Bus Priority Revitalisation
Clear Air Zone	BCC	Mar-22	£ 5,218,000	Rail Station Development-Package 2 Camp Hill
Rail Development	Walsall MBC	21/22	£ 68,000	Rail Station Development-Package 1 Walsall - Wolverhampton
Air Quality	Defra	Mar-22	£ 990,000	Develop and/or implement measures that deliver air quality benefits in the near future (one to two years), projects which develop solutions over the longer term by increasing awareness to encourage behavioural changes, and new, innovative ideas if they will successfully and as closely as possible meet the needs and objectives of the Applicant's local area.
LA - Birmingham	LA	n/a	£ 14,279,629	Rail funding = £8.983m: BCC funding for Perry Barr = £5.083m BCC funding for University = £3.9m BCC funding for Package 2 = £5.2m
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - capital element	DLUHC	Dec-22	£ 8,900,000	Capital allocation for 22/23 of UKSPF Fund. Permission has been sought from grant providers to carry forward £5.7m of UKSPF into 2023/24
UK Shared Prosperity Fund - capital element	DLUHC	Aug-23	£ 7,922,222	Capital allocation for 23/24 of UKSPF Fund.
Social Housing Fund	DLUHC	Feb-23	£ c14,900,000	Working with local authorities and registered housing provider for repairs and improvements to properties to raise homes to 'Decent Homes Standard'. Works may include insulation, replacement of doors and windows, roofing repairs, reduction of mould and damp and repairs/replacements to ineffective heating systems.
Air Quality Grant 22/23	DEFRA	Feb-23	£ 140,000	Provision of sensors that monitor air particles PM2.5 and PM10.
ADEPT LIVE LAB 2 - Highways CO2laboration centre	DIT	Feb-23	£ 4,035,000	The UK CO2laboration Centre of Excellence for Materials Decarbonisation will be a single centre based across two campuses: a physical centre based in Birmingham and a virtual centre hosted by North Lanarkshire Council. It will provide a centralised hub for research and innovation for the decarbonisation of local roads materials, developing a knowledge bank, real-life conditions testing and sharing and learning insights.
CCAV - MACAM	Innovate UK	Nov-23	£ 1,485,000	Part of wider automated public transport demonstrator project to prove viability of services.

CCAV - EBNS Feasibility Study	Innovate UK	Nov-23	£	55,000	Feasibility project looking at how Connected and Autonomous Mobility technologies could be used in East Birmingham and North Solihull. Part of larger project.
Social Decarbonisation Fund (Wave 2.1)	DESNZ	Mar-23	£	17,776,915	Funding to make homes more energy efficient through retrofitting with better insulation, new doors and windows and greener heating systems. This will be matched by further £35 million from registered social housing providers across the region to benefit approximately 3000 homes.
Homes Upgrade Grant	DESNZ	Mar-23	£	16,000,000	Retrofit off gas grid homes in Birmingham, Dudley and Sandwell, Dudley. The bid was part of the Midlands Net Zero Hub consortium that successfully bid for £140 million for the wider Midlands area.
DLUHC Capital funding	DLUHC	Feb-23	£	25,900,000	Grant to support delivery of the following schemes: i. The extension to the West Midlands Metro network that will link Dudley and Brierley Hill via Line One to Wolverhampton and Birmingham ii. The extension of the Wolverhampton Metro iii. A package of works to renew life-expired sections of key systems on Metro Line One iv. Funding for the renewal of University station v. The provision of digital devices through the Connected Services Project
Highways Maintenance Funding	DfT	Mar-23	£	3,617,000	For Additional Highways Maintenance and Pothole repair announced within the Central Government 2023 Budget Statement
Local Investment in Natural Capital Programme	DEFRA	Mar-23	£	1,000,000	DEFRA funding to support the establishment of a natural environment investment fund.
Active Travel Fund (Tranche 4)	DfT	Mar-23	£	12,608,201	Phase 4 of Active Travel Fund to support longer term walking and cycling schemes
Live Labs Capital funding	DfT	Jun-23	£	3,617,200	To fund the Transport for West Midlands Live Labs project which is exploring ways to decarbonise local highways infrastructure in the region
Local Transport Capital Block Funding (Pothole Fund)	DfT	Jul-23	£	1,614,000	Capital grant for repairs of potholes across the region. Announced as part of the 2023 budget
West Midlands Business Energy Assessment Service (BEAS)	DESNZ	Sep-23	£	5,000,000	Overall objective is national energy productivity, supply chain resilience and global competitiveness. High volume (2-4000) of well-targeted and tailored energy efficiency interventions in small and mid-sized energy-exposed businesses. The emphasis is on data and evaluation, diversity of sectors and variety of interventions. To include resource efficiency advice, identifying the most cost-effective ways for government to address market barriers, permanently mitigate impacts of the energy cost crisis and increase UK economic and supply chain resilience.
PotHole Funding	DfT	Dec-23	£	2,586,000	As part of the Network North announcement, WMCA has been awarded an additional Pothole Funding for local highways maintenance for 2023/24 and 2024/25. This will be passported in full to local authorities
Single Regeneration Fund	DLUHC	Dec-23	£	100,000,000	Part of the Deeper Devolution Deal, will support WMCA to use brownfield land funding to not only deliver 4,000 homes, but also to deliver commercial, employment land and mixed-used developments

Revenue Grant Register

Grant Name	Provider	Start Date	End Date	Total Grant Awarded in Full	Notes
B SOG	DfT	Annual		1,792,259	A discretionary grant paid to operators of eligible local bus services to help them recover some of their fuel costs.
Emergency Active Travel Fund	DfT	Aug-20	Mar-23	3,765,980	Phase 1 of Active Travel Fund to support temporary walking and cycling schemes in response to Covid 19 pandemic
Intra-City Transport Settlements	DfT			8,900,000	Intracity Prep Fund (now CRSTS)
Cycling for Everyone	DfT	Nov-21	Nov-22	2,000,000	Cycling for Everyone
Supported Bus Services	DfT	Apr-20		879,836	Provided to as revenue support to help provide more bus services in areas by improving current services, restoring lost services or supporting new services
Bus Capacity Grant	DfT	Apr-20		100,000	Funding to support LTAs in developing local bus proposals as outlined in the National Bus Strategy (NBS), in particular, it is being offered to help LTAs towards the development of their Enhanced Partnership Schemes(EPS) or franchising scheme, and Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP) work, and to meet the timescales that go alongside that work.
Adult Skills Fund (formerly Adult Education Budget)	DfE	Annual		133,699,702	Devolved budget from DfE for delivery of adult education (19+) in West Midlands region
Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs	DfE	Annual		9,375,622	Devolved budget from DfE for delivery of level 3 education offer open to adults without an existing L3 qualification in West Midlands
Technical Bootcamps	DfE	Apr-22	Mar-23	11,250,000	Technical bootcamps 22-23 allocation of £11.25m in priority sectors of digital, technical, construction, green and HGV – with 10% to be used flexibly in other areas: Health and Social Care (inc Life Sciences); Creative Industries; Hospitality; Leadership and Management; Professional Services (inc Finance).
Tackling Loneliness through Transport Fund	DfT	May-22	May-23	460,469	The TLwT Fund offers grant funding to the public and charity sectors to run pilot transport schemes that aim to reduce loneliness. The pilots will be measured and evaluated rigorously, enabling DfT to understand more about how transport can be used to help reduce loneliness and to share these findings with organisations within and outside government.
Black Country Cultural Capital Development	Arts Council England	Apr-22	Mar-25	725,000	This grant is specifically marked to be spent in the Black Country, with the aim to support development of future cultural sector capital projects within Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Dudley. The grant activity will specifically focus on developing capital project feasibility studies and business cases, together with some support resources for cultural organisation.
DLUHC - Rough Sleeping Initiative	DLUHC	Apr-22	Mar-25	1,491,707	3 year settlement to allow Authorities to build on the progress of previous funding interventions, moving increasingly from a focus on intervention to supporting long term recovery and preventing rough sleeping.
Multiply	DfE	Apr-23	Mar-24	5,849,000	Multi year grant allocation of 16.7m total funding over 3 years. Amount shown here is for year 1 only. Grant supports literacy and numeracy skills development activities in line with investment plan submitted to HMG
Bus Service Improvement Plan	DfT	Apr-23	Mar-24	36,686,987	Multi year grant allocation of £87.8m total funding over 3 years. Amount shown here is for year 2 only. Grant supports transformation activities to support bus service improvement in line with investment plan submitted to DfT.
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (2022/23)	DLUHC	Apr-22	Mar-23	7,175,415	UKSPF is a central pillar of this government's levelling up agenda, and replacement funding for the European Union Structural Funding. Funds will be spent in line with the investment plan submitted to government.
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (2023/24)	DLUHC	Apr-23	Mar-24	13,536,117	
Technical Bootcamps Wave 4	DfE	Apr-23	Mar-24	10,605,000	Continued support for Bootcamp activity. Amount reflects current amount confirmed via grant letter but total allocation is confirmed as £15.15m.
Thrive into Work	DWP	Feb-23	Mar-25	7,936,260	Continued support for existing Thrive into Work employment scheme.
Active Travel Capability Fund	Active Travel England	Jan-23	Jan-24	3,456,000	To support the better design, planning and development of cycling, wheeling and walking schemes in the region.
Local Government Cyber Security Resilience Fund	DLUHC	Jan-23		175,000	To support digital and data requirements in this area
Air Quality Grant 22/23	DEFRA	Apr-23	Mar-25	778,531	Provision of sensors that monitor air particles PM2.5 and PM10.
Create Central	BFI	Apr-23	Mar-26	1,000,000	National Lottery Funding to support screen production workforce development and training
Place Pilot	DLUHC	Nov-22	May-24	500,000	Grant to support the realisation of efficiencies across the public estate, and also unlock opportunities to release land held by central and local government. It builds on the strength of the One Public Programme and pilots a place-based approach to strategic asset management. Funding can be allocated for purposes such as data analysis and mapping, undertaking feasibility studies, masterplanning, seed funding to initiate opportunities, programme coordination, etc.
Levelling Up Capacity Grant	DLUHC	Apr-22	Mar-23	625,000	Following successful bid to DLUHC on 24/02/2023, the grant has provided funding to build the necessary capacity and capability support infrastructure to support local authorities within the MCAs geographical area to deliver their capital projects. A further 2 years of funding will be made available, subject to delivery of outcomes outlined in the proposal to DLUHC.
Local Transport Fund- Bus Recovery Fund extension	DfT	Apr-23	Jun-23	6,087,372	March Board report indicated that Government had extended the funding for support of the bus network to June 2023 in light of the challenges that the sector continues to face. This report confirms the value
Cycling facilities (velodrome)	DfT	May-23	Maximum term of 7 years specified	40,000	Grant to fund expert consultants to determine whether there is a business case for specialist cycling facilities in the West Midlands. The consultancy will make recommendations to a Cycling Facility Advisory Group chaired by the WM Walking and Cycling Commissioner as to whether there is a strategic, site allocation; business, commercial, management and financial business case(s) for such facilities.
One Public Estate Opportunity Development Fund	DLUHC	Apr-23	Not specified	140,000	The Opportunity Development Fund (ODF) will fund a comprehensive forward-looking assessment of the region's public estate. The assessment will identify pipeline opportunities for land release to deliver new homes, employment, health and community space alongside wider inclusive growth benefits.
Events Screening	DCMS	May-23	May-23	45,000	Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport grant of £30k for coronation screening events across the region plus £10k for the Eurovision screening,
Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) Preparation	DEFRA	Apr-23	Mar-24	126,956	To fund the costs of developing and preparing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which will outline proposals for how and where to recover nature and improve the wider environment. This grant forms the first year of two years of funding for LNRS preparation. The second year of funding will be distributed in 2024/25, pending review of LNRS progress by Defra. There is no restriction on funding being carried over to the next financial year, and the grant is not ring-fenced.
Careers & Enterprise Company	Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC)	Sep-23	Aug-24	1,244,863	Funding for Careers Hub to improve careers provision in schools and colleges. Matched funding to be provided by WMCA

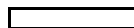
West Midlands Business Energy Assessment Service (BEAS)	DESNZ	Apr-23	Mar-25	9,109,772	Pilot funding for energy assessment audits and roadmaps for SMEs in both the industrial and commercial sectors across the ITL 1 area of the West Midlands
Sport England Solicited Grant	Sport England	Apr-23	Mar-25	2,500,000	An agreed Wellbeing Board Sport England Lottery workstream which includes: a Commonwealth Games collaborative leadership programme for the Physical Activity system, Black Country Moving (placed based funding with grant agreement to Black Country Consortium Limited), Include Me West Midlands (an ongoing work programme consisting secondment to manage work to address identified barriers preventing disabled people getting active e.g. transport), a regional action commitment, citizen voice and a Public Space Design trial and learn programme. Negotiations started in developing a 5-7 year partnership to deliver twin strategic priorities.
Biodiversity Net Gain	DEFRA	Apr-23	Mar-24	26,807	To deliver measures that prepare for applying at least a 10% biodiversity net gain to developments. Biodiversity net gain delivers measurable improvements for biodiversity by creating or enhancing habitats in association with development. Grant must be fully spent by the end of financial year.
Bootcamp wave 5	DfE	Apr-24	Mar-25	26,794,280	Equip adults with technical skills that enable them to access in-demand jobs, apprenticeships (and for the self-employed, new opportunities) leading to increased income and productivity
National Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan	DfT	Jan-24	Mar-25	450,000	One of our Corporate priorities this year is to be an ambitious, forward thinking and determined organisation, which this bid aligns to and it support the deliver of Aim 3.1. Within the National Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan the DfT committed to making public transport safer, building on the model seen in the West Midlands by piloting an expansion to the TSOs with up to £2.5m additional funding – specifically – trained staff to deal with low level nuisance and disorder, who target hotspot routes and locations. Consequently, the DfT is commissioning TfWM to provide advice to the five local transport authorities, who will be responsible for the delivery of the pilot programme.
Capability & Ambition fund	DfT			1,700,000	Revenue funding for Cycling & Walking tranche 2.
Campos + (Place Based Decarbonisation Accelerator)	DESNZ	Mar-24	Mar-26	6,200,000	Deliver a Place-Based Net Zero Accelerator project that will build on the work done in Phase 1 of Project CAMPOS. The objective set by Government is to design a net zero accelerator model which covers energy, transport and building decarbonisation as a minimum and design investment model(s) to attract private investment - which is scalable, replicable and which leads to contracted or secured investment partners capable of delivering at scale by circ. March 26. Delivery will commence shortly after, if not before.

#### Specific Revenue/Devo Grants

Devo Deal Grant	MHCLG	Annual		36,500,000	Devolution Grant Deal (Investment Programme)
MHCLG - Office for Data Analytics	MHCLG	Apr-18	No end date	800,000	Devolution funding to support operational activities of ODA
Devo Housing Package	MHCLG	Apr-17		6,000,000	Revenue grants to support capital housing grant activity delivery
Brownfield Housing Fund	MHCLG	Apr-20		2,826,498	Revenue grants to support capital housing grant activity delivery
One Public Estate	LGA		Apr-22	1,246,141	Support OPE activity - drawn down by partners delivering OPE activity as required.

#### Other Revenue Contributions

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





## WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme

Title of Report	Date of Meeting	Portfolio Lead	Employee to Contact
<b>Brownfield Land Remediation Fund – Scrutiny Review: Report of the Review Panel</b> To consider the findings of the review panel and to make any further recommendations to the appropriate body.	July 2024	Councillor Ian Courts Housing & Land Portfolio Lead	Ben Coleman Rob Lamond
<b>Skills Scrutiny Review: Progress Report on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the review</b> To review the progress being made on the implementation of the recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that were supported by the Skills Advisory Board on 25 September 2023.	July 2024	Councillor George Duggins Skills & Productivity Portfolio Lead	Clare Hatton
<b>Performance Against the WMCA’s Annual Business Plan</b> To consider the performance of the WMCA against the Annual Business Plan and consider whether to make any further recommendations to the WMCA Board	July 2024	-	Fiona Bebbington Jaspal Seehra
<b>Grant Register</b> To receive and review the WMCA’s Grant Register and to make any recommendations to the WMCA Board	July 2024	Councillor Bob Sleigh Finance Portfolio Lead	Kate Taylor

Title of Report	Date of Meeting	Portfolio Lead	Employee to Contact
<b>Grant Register</b> To receive and review the WMCA's Grant Register and to make any recommendations to the WMCA Board	September 2024	Councillor Bob Sleigh Finance Portfolio Lead	Kate Taylor
<b>Members Workshop: WMCA Policy Matters</b> A workshop to prepare members for the forthcoming Mayoral Q&A on WMCA Policies	October 2024	-	Dan Essex Lyndsey Roberts
<b>Mayor's Question Time: Policy</b> A Q&A with the Mayor on WMCA Policy Matters	October 2024	-	Dan Essex Lyndsey Roberts
<b>Q3 – Performance Reporting Against the Annual Business Plan: Investment and Modernisation of 16 Summer Lane – 10 year property maintenance plan</b> To consider and comment on the modernisation plan and make any recommendations to the appropriate board.	November 2024	-	Linda Horne
<b>Q3 – Performance Reporting Against the Annual Business Plan: One Public Estate and Place Pilots Programme</b> To consider the progress made with regard to One Public Estate and make any recommendation to the WMCA Board.	November 2024	-	John Godfrey
<b>Grant Register</b> To receive and review the WMCA's Grant Register and to make any recommendations to the WMCA Board	November 2024	Councillor Bob Sleigh Finance Portfolio Lead	Kate Taylor



Title of Report	Date of Meeting	Portfolio Lead	Employee to Contact
<p><b>Budget Workshop: Joint Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b> A joint Overview &amp; Scrutiny workshop to prepare members from the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and Transport Delivery Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee for the forthcoming Mayoral Q&amp;A</p>	December 2024	Councillor Bob Sleigh Finance Portfolio Lead	Linda Horne Lyndsey Roberts
<p><b>Joint Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee: Mayoral Q&amp;A – Proposed Draft Budget</b> A Q&amp;A with the Mayor and Portfolio Lead for Finance on the proposed draft budget</p>	December 2024	Councillor Bob Sleigh Finance Portfolio Lead	Linda Horne Lyndsey Roberts
<p><b>West Midlands State of the Region Report 2024/25</b> To consider the key messages and recommendations and to identify areas for which the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee may wish to address as part of their work programme.</p>	January 2025	Councillor Stephen Simkins Economy & Innovation Lead	Si Chun Lam Ed Cox
<p><b>Performance Against the WMCA's Annual Business Plan</b> To consider the performance of the WMCA against the Annual Business Plan and consider whether to make any further recommendations to the WMCA Board</p>	January 2025	-	Fiona Bebbington Jaspal Seehra
<p><b>Grant Register</b> To receive and review the WMCA's Grant Register and to make any recommendations to the WMCA Board</p>	January 2025	Councillor Bob Sleigh Finance Portfolio Lead	Kate Taylor

Title of Report	Date of Meeting	Portfolio Lead	Employee to Contact
<p><b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee 24/25: Reflections and Future Ways of Working 25/26</b>            To reflect on the work of the committee during 24/25 and to propose any future items of business, changes or improvements that could be introduced during 2025/26</p>	March 2025	-	Dan Essex Lyndsey Roberts
<p><b>Grant Register</b>            To receive and review the WMCA's Grant Register and to make any recommendations to the WMCA Board</p>	March 2025	Councillor Bob Sleigh Finance Portfolio Lead	Kate Taylor



# West Midlands Combined Authority

## Forward Plan

## Forthcoming key decisions

Title of key decision:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Open or Exempt:	Portfolio Lead	Employee to contact:
<b>WMCA Financial Monitoring Report - March 2024</b> To update on the latest financial position	WMCA Board 15 March 2024	Open	Councillor Bob Sleigh Deputy Mayor	Beverly Sullivan, Sally Truman Financial Planning and Coordination Manager, Lead Financial Planning Accountant
<b>Investment Zone Gateway Ratification / Investment &amp; Delivery Plan</b> To consider updates on Gateway Ratification and the Investment & Delivery Plan.	WMCA Board 15 March 2024	Open	Councillor Stephen Simkins Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation	Steve Bowyer Partnerships and Engagement Strategic Lead
<b>Investment Zone Finance &amp; Funding Plan (including Business Rates Retention Memorandum of Understanding)</b> To approve the Finance & Funding Plan and Business Rates Retention memorandum of understanding.	WMCA Board 15 March 2024	Open	Councillor Stephen Simkins Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation	Carl Pearson Head of Major Funding
<b>Single Settlement Memorandum of Understanding</b> To consider the ratification of the Single Settlement Memorandum of Understanding.	WMCA Board 15 March 2024	Open	Councillor Sharon Thompson Portfolio Lead for Levelling Up / Devolution	Jonathan Gibson Head of Policy & Public Affairs
<b>Black Country Innovative Manufacturing Organisation</b> To consider the latest BCIMO update.	WMCA Board 15 March 2024	Open	Councillor Bob Sleigh Portfolio Lead for Finance	Linda Horne Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub

<p><b>Skills Funding</b> To agree delegations for the commissioning of skills funding.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 15 March 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Councillor George Duggins Portfolio Lead for Skills &amp; Productivity</p>	<p>Dr. Fiona Aldridge Head of Insight &amp; Intelligence</p>
<p><b>Cycle Hire Scheme Update</b> To endorse the additional funding requirements to operate the scheme to October 2025.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 15 March 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport</p>	<p>Andrew Thrupp Head of Operational Assets</p>
<p><b>Bus Service Improvement Plan Additional Funding Allocation</b> To consider additional funding received in respect of BSIP.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 15 March 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport</p>	<p>Adam Lane, Jon Hayes Consultant SPM, Head of Bus</p>
<p><b>Request by Warwick District Council to become a Non-Constituent Authority of WMCA</b> To consider the request submitted by Warwick District Council that it should be granted equivalent status as the non-constituent councils with the right to be represented on the WMCA Board and other boards.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 15 March 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Julia Cleary Head of Corporate Support &amp; Governance</p>
<p><b>Arrangements for Mayoral Question Time with MPs</b> To agree the arrangements for mayoral question time sessions with the region's MPs.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 15 March 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Andy Street Mayor of the West Midlands</p>	<p>Jonathan Gibson Head of Policy &amp; Public Affairs</p>
<p><b>Penalty Fares for Midland Metro</b> Following public consultation, to agree a new penalty fare amount and to consider moving to a proposed two-tier penalty structure, where the fee amount will reduce for early payment.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 14 June 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport</p>	<p>Chris Hopkinson Owner Representative - West Midlands Metro</p>

<p><b>Private Sector Representation</b> To consider retaining existing private sector representation on WMCA boards until such time as the future Single Settlement governance structure is known.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 14 June 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Councillor Stephen Simkins Portfolio Lead for Economy &amp; Innovation</p>	<p>James Hughes Member Relationship Manager</p>
<p><b>Bus Options Report</b> To consider options for the future delivery of the region's bus network.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 19 July 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport</p>	<p>Steven Hayes Head of Network Transformation</p>
<p><b>Key Route Network Review 2023/24</b> To approve the amended Key Route Network within the WMCA area.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 19 July 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>	<p>Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport</p>	<p>Rachel Ing Corridor Manager</p>

## **The Forward Plan**

This document sets out known 'key decisions' that will be taken by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) over the coming months.

Forthcoming key decisions are published online to meet the statutory 28 day notification rule for each meeting where a key decision will be taken. Where it has not been possible to meet the 28 day rule for publication of notice of a key decision or an intention to meet in private, the relevant notices will be published as required by legislation as soon as possible.

### **What is a key decision?**

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A 'key decision' means a decision of the Mayor, WMCA or officer which is likely:

- (a) to result in the WMCA incurring expenditure, making savings or generating income amounting to £1m or more; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the WMCA

The report relating to a decision, together with any other documents being considered, will be available five clear working days before the decision is to be taken (unless the documentation contains exempt information).

The forward plan also provides notice of when the WMCA may decide to exclude the press and public during consideration of a particular matter due to the potential for disclosure of confidential or exempt information. The grounds upon which local authorities can exclude the press and public are specified by law and details of the exempt categories are available on request from the Governance Services team ([governance.services@wmca.org.uk](mailto:governance.services@wmca.org.uk)).

Councillors or members of the public wishing to:

- make a representation about why a matter should be heard in public, or
- submit information to the decision-making body about an item in the forward plan, or
- request details of relevant documents, or
- seek advice about the WMCA's decision-making arrangements,

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should contact the Governance Services team: [governance.services@wmca.org.uk](mailto:governance.services@wmca.org.uk)