



## WMCA Board

<b>Date</b>	8 December 2017
<b>Report title</b>	Productivity and Skills Dashboard
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	WMCA Programme Board - 24 November 2017

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

**The WMCA Board is recommended to:**

- (1) Agree the proposed approach to the dashboard performance reporting for the Productivity and Skills Portfolio.
- (2) Recommend areas for further development.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To share the emerging dashboard on Productivity and Skills measures for the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and seek feedback on its development so that it can be used as a tool to monitor and improve outcomes for local people.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 On the 13 October 2017, the Combined Authority Board agreed its approach to performance reporting, to include both updates on the WMCA Performance Management Framework (PMF) indicators and a rotating programme of reporting on portfolio dashboards. It was agreed that this would incorporate the relevant PMF indicators and more detailed supplementary indicators and information on programme activity in that area.

- 2.1 Appendix 1 provides the first draft of the emerging dashboard for the Productivity and Skills portfolio. This includes the relevant PMF indicators based on current data that can be updated at least annually and enable us to benchmark West Midlands performance.

- 2.2 Indicators are grouped in terms of:

- a. Productivity
- b. Education and Skills
- c. Employment
- d. Reducing youth unemployment
- e. Improving skills provision

- 2.3 The dashboard demonstrates the scale of the challenge faced by the region in improving overall levels of productivity and skills. It highlights specific issues with GCSE and level 3+ qualifications, apprenticeships and unemployment rates. It also highlights the significant differences between areas across the Combined Authority.

- 2.4 Significant movement in these indicators will not be achieved solely through the activities of WMCA. It requires the combined effort of the public, private and third sector, working together towards a common goal. WMCA has a leadership and influencing role to identify the challenges, promote the vision and drive action across a range of stakeholders.

## **3.0 Developing the Dashboard**

- 3.1 The Productivity & Skills Commission is examining in depth the detailed indicators relating to productivity and skills and will be reporting its initial recommendations on what WMCA and its partners can do to have the maximum impact upon them in Spring 2018. This will inform the development of a WMCA Productivity & Skills Delivery Plan.

- 3.2 Through the development of the Delivery Plan and sector focussed skills plans, programme level indicators will be identified that capture the impact of WMCA activity to be included in future iterations of the dashboard. This will include activity relating to WMCA's devolution deals, for example the Employment Support Pilot and the Construction Skills Initiative, as well as wider activities that support the delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan.

#### **4.0 Technical Issues**

4.1 The majority of figures within the initial dashboard are annual measures with a time lag of up to two years. This limited frequency creates a challenge in terms of the interpretation of the data when assessing performance and determining actions to address the issues identified.

4.2 The availability and timing of data releases will determine the frequency of reporting and will be considered during the development of the dashboard.

4.3 Claimant Count data remains the main indicator of unemployment. However, the introduction of Universal Credit is impacting on the accuracy and credibility of this data and, as of June 2017, Claimant Count statistics have been designated by the Office of National Statistics as experimental. We will need to review carefully and ensure that our interpretation of statistics is cognisant of this change.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 More detailed data will be monitored, where available, by age, gender, ethnicity and disability, to assess specific issues or the need for targeted support.

6.2 The activities of the portfolio are reflected in the WMCA Equalities Scheme.

#### **7.0 Other implications**

7.1 None.

#### **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

8.1 None.

#### **9.0 Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Productivity and Skills Dashboard