

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date	4 March 2024
Report title	Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund Update
Portfolio Lead	Finance - Councillor Bob Sleigh
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Report has been considered by	

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 13th 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 31st 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 16th December 2022:

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

Report to WMCA Board 17th March 2023:

- Commonwealth Games Legacy Funding

Reports to Investment Board 19th 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"> • 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. • 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. • The Fund launched on 6th 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. • Large Grants and Small Capital works Funds closed 4th January as scheduled (to allow for spend within timeframes) • Medium and Small Grants were originally envisaged as a rolling programme but closed 5th February, earlier than planned, due to application volume. • Funding awards are made via delegated authority to HoECF (for small grants only) and through Community Panels (the remainder). • 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

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"> 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.
<p>IC - Social Economy Growth Programme (£2m)</p>	<p>Constituent Local Authorities</p>	<p>Business Support Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Start – for organisations with turnover between £15k-50k, with £2k grant per participant (Enterprise Nation- 42 places) Build – for organisations with turnover of £50-£100k, with £5k grant per participant (Locality – 21 places) 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) 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) 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. An Investment & 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). 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. <p>Social Economy Clusters</p> <p>8 social economy clusters launched across the region on 27th 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"> • Witton Lodge Community Association – Perry Common, Wyrley Birch and Erdington (Birmingham) • iSE – Digbeth (Birmingham) • Coventry and Warwickshire CDA – Foleshill, Hillfields and Woods End (Coventry) • Provision House- St Thomas Quarter (Dudley) • SWEDA – West Bromwich Town Centre (Sandwell) • The Colebridge Trust - Kingshurst (Solihull) • Urban Hax – Palfrey (Walsall) • Access 2 Business – City Centre South (Wolverhampton) • 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.
IC - Inclusive Practice Framework (£300k)	Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The framework will help counter some of the issues faced by the portfolio resulting in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ○ A clearer connection between the different programme areas of the portfolio, building on the value already created with communities. ○ 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.
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"> • 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. • 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

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"> • 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. • 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. • 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.
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"> • 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. • 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. <p>This will be achieved through the following key objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Create good jobs for local people by landing 117 inward investment projects by 31st March 2025 • Facilitate the regeneration of the built environment by landing 3 capital investment projects by 31st March 2025 • 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 <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>

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ETT - Global West Midlands Local Capacity Fund (£700k total - £100k per LA)	Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each LA has been awarded £100k for specific projects connected to key investment opportunities, regeneration opportunities and marketing and events. • 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. • 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.
ETT – Major Events Fund Sport Accord (£3m)	Birmingham with wider regional benefits expected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • 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. • 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 24th July 2023.
ETT – Major Events Fund (£3m)	Constituent and Non-Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Allocations are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ESL One - Dota II esports tournament, Solihull, 26-28 April 2024 - £145,000 ○ European Judo Union Junior Cup, Walsall, 15-19 June 2024 – £250,000 ○ Black Country Festival, Dudley 1-31 July 2024 - £365,000

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Godiva Festival ‘Worldwide Welcome’, Coventry, 5-7 July 2024 - £500,000 ○ Reggae Fever - Celebration of Caribbean Culture, Coventry, 20 July 2024 - £250,000 ○ Birmingham Weekender Festival, Birmingham 22-25 August 2024 - £350,000 ○ SuperDome esports tournament, Solihull, 5-8 September - £250,000 ○ West Midlands Urban Sports, Wolverhampton, 6-8 September 2024 - £390,000 ○ Kabaddi World Cup, Wolverhampton 24-31 March 2025 - £500,000 ● 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.
<p>ETT – Jobs, Skills and Wellbeing (£4.85 EET, £0.9k WS. Allocated at c£800k per LA)</p>	<p>Constituent Local Authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. ● 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. ● 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. ● 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) ● 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
<p>ETT – Mobilising Plan for Growth (£3.25m)</p>	<p>Constituent Local Authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • 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.
CH - Culture and Heritage (£4.1m)	Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> ○ Development of strategic regional frameworks for culture & heritage ○ Increasing cultural engagement, community cohesion and social value generation through culture ○ Supporting the development of the region’s cultural infrastructure to increase civic pride and maximise the role of culture & heritage in placemaking and vibrant high streets. ○ Targeted programme of skills, workforce and business support to ensure our cultural and heritage sectors can grow and prosper. ○ Enabling the West Midlands cultural sector to raise its regional and international profile, and secure new business opportunities. <p>Projects already in train include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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

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		<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"> • 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. • 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 • 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. • 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. • 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.
WS Community	– Constituent Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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"> • 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. • 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. • 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. • The team are continuing to work on with groups to grow the pipeline of projects
WS – Sandwell Aquatics Centre Costs (originally £2m, now £1.4m)	Sandwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Full Business Case for support to Sandwell Aquatics centre was agreed by Investment Board in October 2023. Legal contracts are now being finalised. • 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.