



**Name of meeting:** Investment Zone Board

**Meeting date:** 25 July 2024

**Report title:** Investment Zone Board Governance

**Responsible Director:** Helen Edwards, Director of Law and Governance

**Report author:** Julia Cleary, Head of Governance and Corporate Support

**Key Decision?** No

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Is the ability for the Combined Authority to make a decision internally reliant on Constituent or Non-Constituent Councils making a formal decision first?

Yes  No

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**Public/private report:** Public

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**1. Decision/s Recommended**

- (1) To elect a Vice-Chair for the Investment Zone Board.
- (2) To note the terms of reference for the Investment Zone Board.
- (3) To agree the Work Plan for the Investment Zone Board .

**2. Voting Requirements**

- 2.1 A majority of voting members, in attendance in the meeting room and indicating their preference, are required to vote in favour of any recommendation/proposition for it to become a decision of the committee.

**3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 At the meeting of the WMCA Board held on 14 June 2024, members agreed to evolve the Investment Zone Joint Committee into the Investment Zone Board. WMCA Board also considered and agreed the terms of reference for the board as set out in Appendix B.
- 3.2 The terms of reference include an action for a Vice-Chair to be appointed from among members.

**4. Matters for Consideration**

- 4.1 The appointment of the Vice Chair.  
Board members may wish to note that in its previous incarnation as the Investment Zone Joint Committee, it was agreed that the Vice-Chair should be a representative of the one the WMCA’s constituent authorities given its accountable body function and Cllr Sharon Thompson was duly elected to that role for the Joint Committee.
- 4.2 The Terms of Reference – these are included as Appendix 1A.
- 4.3 A Work Plan has been developed to outline the future meetings of the Investment Zone Board. Although the terms of reference indicate a quarterly frequency, it has been recognised that in the start-up phase of the programme, and to accelerate delivery, shorter intervals in the Autumn-Winter would expedite the approval process. Future meetings and indicative business to be discussed are outlined in Appendix 1B.

**5. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?**

- 5.1 The decisions to evolve the Investment Zone Joint Committee into the Investment Zone Board and to agree the terms of reference were taken by WMCA Board at its meeting on 14 June 2024, therefore no other options have been considered.

**6. Reasons for recommending preferred option**

- 6.1 Decision by WMCA Board on 14 June 2024.

**7. Implications and Considerations**

Priority:	Contribution:
Delivery of Strategic Transport Plan	Site delivery plans are likely to incorporate measures to improve access to sites: eg Birmingham Knowledge Quarter includes proposals for Active Travel enhancements.
Promote inclusive economic growth in every corner of the region	WMIZ is fundamentally founded on the principle of boosting, and removing the barriers facing, priority sector growth. Integrating the Inclusive Growth principles into the IZ, will ensure it supports the wider benefits and opportunities articulated here.
Ensure everyone has the opportunity to benefit	Strong engagement with local authority and university partners will ensure that interventions are geared towards the widest possible communities.
Connect our communities by delivering transport and unlocking housing and regeneration schemes	Although the IZ has an economic rather than housing focus, in many instances, particularly at the site level, it will act as a catalyst for wider transport accessibility and community regeneration opportunities.

Priority:	Contribution:
Reduce carbon emissions to net zero and enhance the environment	The IZ is focused on Advanced Manufacturing and in particular its intersection with battery technology and green industries (as well as digital and medtech). As such it will be directly supporting the industries and supply chains providing the products, goods and services for a net zero transition. In addition, investment into site level public realm will help to enhance environmental conditions and through encouraging Active Travel, contribute to air quality improvements.
Secure new powers and resources from central government	Although the IZ programme requires DLUHC sign-off and regular reporting, its development through co-design and the degree of flexibility afforded to the local management of the scheme demonstrates a commitment from Government to devolve greater responsibility to the region.
Develop our organisation and our role as a good regional partner	Strong engagement with local authorities, universities and other regional partners by the WMCA has reinforced the organisation's credibility as a regional partner in seeking co-design and co-development routes for the proposition.

**8. Internal Consultation and Scrutiny:**

8.1 Not applicable.

**9. External Consultation and Scrutiny:**

9.1 Not applicable.

**10. Financial implications:**

10.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. Specific and relevant financial implications will be provided for all future decisions that come to the Investment Zone Board for consideration.

**11. Legal implications:**

11.1 The Work Plan together with the Terms of Reference will provide the parameters in which the IZ Board will operate. This will ensure that the IZ Board is taking decisions legally and compliantly. Specific and relevant legal implications will be provided for all future decisions that come to the board for consideration.

**12. Programme Assurance and Appraisal implications:**

12.1 There are no direct single assurance framework implications associated with this report. Specific and relevant single assurance framework implications will be provided for all future decisions that come to the Investment Zone Board for consideration.

**13. Risk implications, including Risk Appetite:**

13.1 Not to have an agreed and up to date work plan could create risk by delaying decisions being made in a timely manner.

**14. Procurement Implications:**

14.1 There are no direct procurement implications associated with this report. Specific procurement implications will be provided when appropriate, for future decisions that come to the Investment Zone Board for consideration.

**15. Equality implications:**

15.1 All proposals that come through the board for consideration will be expected to demonstrate that they support the WMCA's Equalities and Diversity objectives set out in the Equality Scheme. The WMIZ will directly support objectives in the Equality Scheme and will be articulated in project propositions.

**16. Inclusive Growth Implications:**

16.1 The principles of the Inclusive Growth Framework will be incorporated into many of the considerations in bringing forward Investment Zone sites. As part of WMCA's overall accountability function, the Inclusive Growth Framework Fundamentals will provide a valuable mechanism for measuring and demonstrating wider benefit outcomes. These will be outlined in specific programme and project proposals.

**17. Local Authority Impact:**

17.1 All relevant local authorities and partners are represented on the Investment Zone Board.

**18. List of appendices referred to:**

18.1 Appendix A – Investment Zone Board Work Plan

18.2 Appendix B – Investment Zone Board Terms of Reference

**19. Background papers used to compile this report:**

19.1 Report to WMCA Board on 14 June 2024 – West Midlands Investment Zone

19.2 Report to WMCA Board on 14 June 2024 – Appointment of WMCA Boards and Committees 2024/25

**20. List of Other Relevant Documents**

20.1 None