

WMCA Board

Date	24 May 2019
Report title	National Centre for Construction and Development Excellence
Portfolio Lead	Economic Development - Councillor Ian Ward
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Report has been considered by	Programme Board - 10 May

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The WMCA Board is recommended to:

- (1) Endorse the report and the intention to establish an internationally significant National Centre for Construction and Development Excellence in Wolverhampton.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the WMCA Board of ongoing work with the City of Wolverhampton Council and the University of Wolverhampton to establish an internationally significant, cross-sector National Centre for Construction and Development Excellence in Wolverhampton at the Springfield Campus in Wolverhampton. The work is being managed by the West Midlands Growth Company and builds on significant investment in the Springfield site by the Black Country Consortium. Initial discussions with leading members of the private sector, such as Tony Pidgley of Berkeley Homes, suggest there is industry support for developing this proposal.

The work is being divided into parts. Part One is a scoping study to identify the additional activity required to turn the Springfield location into a National Centre for Excellence. Part Two is to develop a detailed bid for funding to deliver this activity.

2. Background

The background to the work is set out in Appendix A.

3. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from this update report. The cost of the scoping study and the further work to develop a bid for funding is estimated at approximately £105,000. The University of Wolverhampton, City of Wolverhampton Council and WMCA have agreed in principle to share this cost equally up to a maximum of £35,000 each. From a WMCA perspective this will be funded from within existing resources during 2019/20.

4. Legal Implications

None

5. Equalities Implications

None

6. Inclusive Growth Implications

Establishing a cross-sector National Centre for Construction and Development Excellence in Wolverhampton will offer significant opportunities to improve skills across the region, and enhance the prospects of local people accessing employment opportunities created by economic growth in the West Midlands and beyond.

7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

The National Centre would be based in Wolverhampton and benefit the region as a whole

8. Other Implications

None.

9. Schedule of Background Papers

A: Current activity and ambitions for the Springfield Campus