
West Midlands Combined Authority Annual Plan 2019/2020

Progress update and summary October 2019



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**
Building the Future



Contents

1	Introduction
1	Executive Summary
3	Regional Economic Context
4	Portfolio delivery and progress
5	Transport
11	Housing & Land
13	Productivity & Skills
16	Economy & Innovation
19	Environment & Energy, HS2
22	Public Service Reform & Social Economy
25	Culture & Digital
28	Wellbeing
31	Inclusive Communities

Introduction and Executive Summary

The purpose of this document is to provide a half-year summary of delivery and progress against the WMCA Annual Plan 2019/20.

The Annual Plan 2019/20 was approved and endorsed by the WMCA Board at the Annual General Meeting on 28th June. The purpose of the Annual Plan is to set out the short-term delivery and activity that will contribute to the longer-term aspiration of driving inclusive economic growth in the West Midlands region and enabling a healthier, happier, better connected and more prosperous population.

The Annual Plan document:

- Sets out the WMCA priorities for 2019/20 so that partners and stakeholders are clear on the key areas of focus
- Provides a strategic context for the WMCA as an organisation so that service plans and operational activity are aligned to the overall vision and priorities
- Enables the WMCA to articulate what is being delivered, and be able to oversee and review progress against priorities

This Progress Update and Summary is presented in line with the priority portfolios set out in the Annual Plan, and for each portfolio it provides:

- A reminder of the overall aim and long-term ambition
- A reminder of the focus for delivery/activity in 2019/20
- A summary of overall progress and the context for delivery
- A summary of progress against each of the delivery milestones/indicators

It also provides an updated summary of the regional economic context against which the Annual Plan continues to be delivered.

Executive summary of progress against the plan

Overall progress against the delivery activity set out in the Plan is on track. The majority of milestones and targets are being met, and there has been some notable progress, achievements and delivery including:

Transport

- Commonwealth Games Transport Plan published for engagement
- Extended the half fare concession schemes pilot for 16-18 year-olds
- Women's Concessionary Travel Scheme was launched in July 2019
- Continued development of the Regional Transport Coordination Centre (RTCC)
- Launch of a new Better Streets Community Fund with £2m available to help communities improve their streets for cycling and walking
- A £30 million funding package secured to deliver the Vision for Bus objectives.

Housing and Land

- Launch of the Single Commissioning Framework (SCF) providing clear criteria and a robust process for on how WMCA investment and interventions will be focussed on the delivery of enhanced design quality, higher levels of affordable homes, and modern methods of construction on brownfield sites.
- The Town Centre Programme and Regional Taskforce have been set up to guide how we repurpose our local centres and are driving development and securing investment.
- A pipeline of brownfield sites have been invested in/accelerated/acquired to support housing and employment delivery and key policy documents provided such as regional affordable housing definition and design charter.

Productivity and Skills

- The WMCA's £5m Construction Gateway retraining programme is also seeing significant success, with 42% of participants going into employment. Over 600 young people have been engaged through 'progression coaches' approach (which is achieving an in-work retention rate of 94%). £4.99m of Regional Apprenticeship Levy funding secured, and more than 100 apprenticeships have been supported.

Economy and Innovation

- Local Industrial Strategy launched, and delivery plans being developed.
- Support to the regional preparations for Brexit, through deployment of pooled contingency funding, support to the Birmingham Brexit Commission and the WMCA Brexit Economic Contingency Group.

Environment, Energy and HS2

- Progress made in developing a climate action plan.
- Notable delivery on the HS2 Connectivity package.
- Additional resource secured from BEIS in developing an Energy Innovation Zone toolkit, with other innovation grant applications awaiting decision.

Public Service Reform and Social Economy

- Worked with partners to launch the Regional Violence Prevention Unit (VRU) in September 2019.
- Ongoing delivery of Housing First.
- Inclusive Growth toolkit and approach being used with partners in the development of growth corridors.

Culture and Digital

- WM5G launched in May 2019, and delivery programme developed.
- A new Cultural Leadership Board was established in July 2019.

Wellbeing

- 'Good Gym' is now active in Coventry, Solihull, and Birmingham.

- The Thrive Into Work pilot has seen 324 businesses aligned to the programme with a potential reach of 135,000 employees across the region.
- WMCA has now been accredited as a bronze recipient within the Armed Forces Covenant.

Inclusive Communities

- The Young Combined Authority has been established and is starting to get involved in the business of the WMCA, helping to shape and inform policy and decisions. The Inclusive Leadership Pledge scheme, which initially went live in January 2019, continues to be a priority and an online toolkit to support signees has been developed.

There has been some minor slippage or changes to a few of the delivery milestones. None of these are considered to have major impact or consequences in terms of overall delivery and impact. Delivery milestones not met or on track include:

- The Connecting Communities Employment Support Pilot was slower to start than originally expected, as providers took time to establish and embed delivery in communities.
- The development of five town centre delivery plans and investment packages were slower to start than anticipated to ensure the approach was fully endorsed by the new regional town centre taskforce and the CA focus remained on delivery of tangible projects and investments in the five centres. Town centre delivery and investment plans are to be agreed in December, rather than by end of September as originally envisaged.
- A childhood obesity plan was presented to the Wellbeing Board earlier this year. Following their recommendation a 'Healthy Weight Strategy' is in development and was considered by the WMCA Wellbeing Board in October.
- The proposed regional approach to electric vehicle charging was originally earmarked for September 2019. This is now included in a report to the November WMCA Board proposing a Low Emissions and ULEV Strategy.
- In terms of the Inclusive Communities portfolio, the planned cross-sector HR roundtable event (recommended by the Leadership Commission) is being scheduled for January 2020, rather than November 2019 to allow for joint planning and collaboration with University of Birmingham.

Current regional economic context

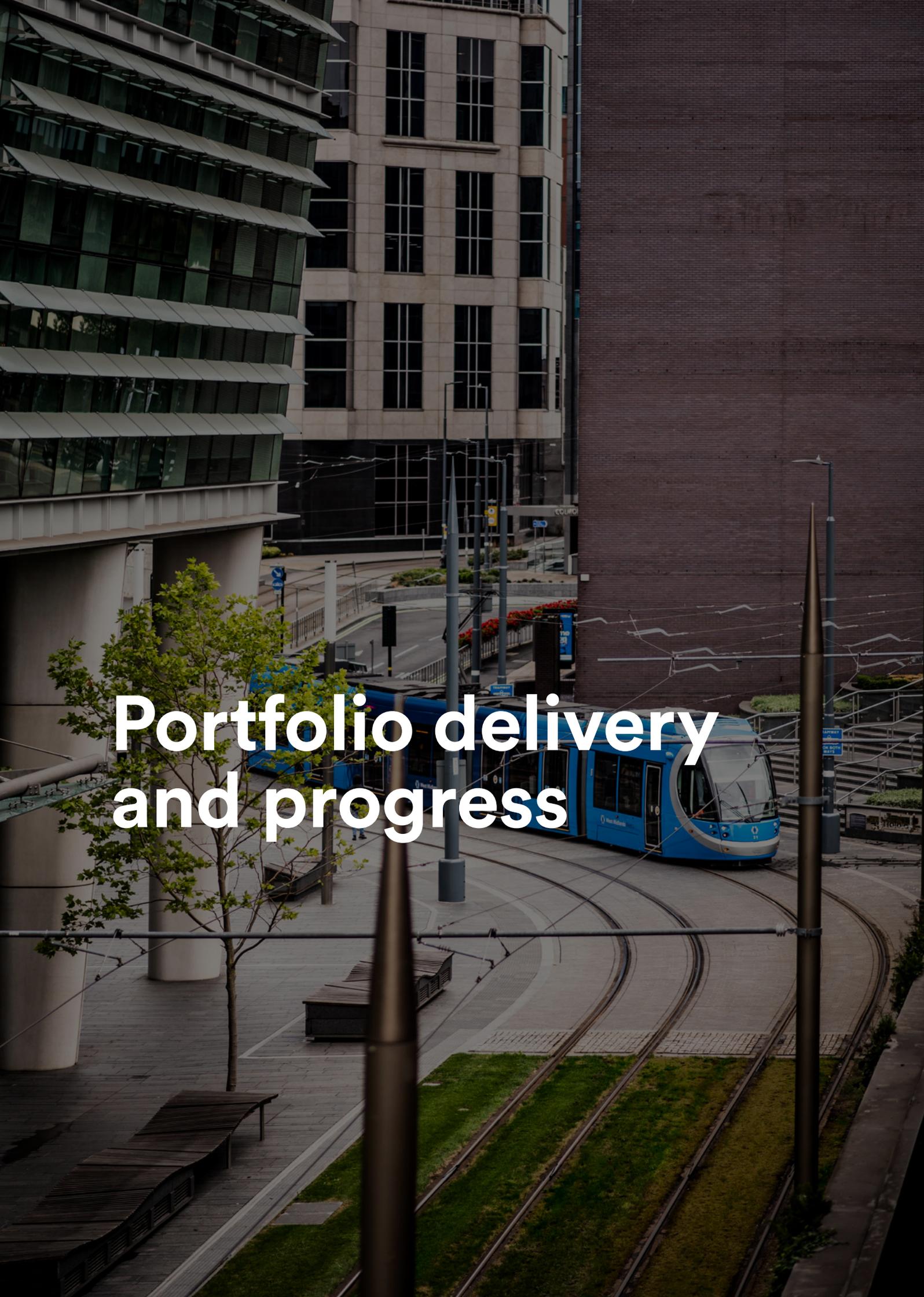
The region continues to be economically buoyant and is the only region outside London and the South East continuing to show growth. Data on Gross Value Added (GVA) - the measure we use to assess the value of goods and services in an area - has not been updated since the Annual Plan publication – when it was reported that it is growing at the same rate as the UK at 3.6% and is at an eight year high reaching £99bn. Latest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data shows that the West Midlands is one of only 4 regions to have above the UK growth at 2.2%. This data states that the construction sector is driving this growth and to some extent offsetting a fall in the production sectors.

Many economic fundamentals are expected to stay strong. Current economic growth is coming from sectors beyond manufacturing which is continuing to contract. The strongest growth is in construction, driving real estate growth and demonstrates the importance of investment in the three city centres, housing and transport infrastructure to maintain the current growth path and protect our economy and outlook.

Business, professional and financial services continue to grow and are the largest part of the regional economy and maintaining our ability to attract investment in this sector is key. HS2, Coventry City of Culture in 2021 and the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022 provide potential opportunities to improve productivity, connectivity, skills and job opportunities, and to bring investment in venues, transport, housing, jobs and tourism, as the region's profile on the global stage is boosted.

Our Local Industrial Strategy identifies four major national and global strategic opportunities, where the evidence shows that the West Midlands has both existing strengths and the ability to make a major future contribution across all its sectors. The recent focus on Research and Development aligned to place is a key opportunity for the region with its strong university sector attracting more funding.

There are still significant challenges – both current and those that we know are ahead. The impacts of Brexit are still not fully known. The Purchasing Managers Index continues to worsen. Trade figures are down 4.8% on last year. Headline productivity still lags behind the rest of the UK, as does the proportion of WMCA residents with qualifications and those with a healthy life expectancy. Youth unemployment is still relatively high. So we know there is still a way to go to meet our inclusive growth ambitions and ensure that people across the region are able to feel the full benefits of sustained economic growth.

A blue tram is shown on a curved track in a modern urban environment. The tram is moving along the tracks, which are set within a landscaped area with green grass and paved walkways. In the background, there are several tall buildings, including one with a prominent glass facade and another with a brick exterior. The scene is captured from an elevated perspective, showing the tram's path and the surrounding architecture. The text "Portfolio delivery and progress" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

Portfolio delivery and progress



Transport for
West Midlands

Transport

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), the transport arm of the WMCA, works with all parts of the combined authority and alongside the seven metropolitan councils to ensure the region benefits from an effective transport system that meets the economic and environmental needs of the West Midlands.



Portfolio Lead Member
Cllr. Ian Ward, Leader of Birmingham
City Council



Lead TfWM Officer
Managing Director of TfWM
Laura Shoaf

Focus of delivery in 2019/20

- Improving the customer experience
- A common approach to cycling and walking
- Ensuring Safety and Security on the network
- Help improve Air Quality
- Support Bus as the backbone of the West Midlands public transport network
- Deliver the best rail services
- Continue to invest in Metro
- Invest and develop our Key Route Network
- Develop the future West Midlands Transport Strategy

Progress summary

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) has been working closely with regional partners including our Local Authorities to:

- Manage the recent closure of Broad Street and the Five Ways Underpass, to enable the Edgbaston metro extension. TfWM has worked successfully with Birmingham City Council and Midland Metro Alliance to deliver a successful closure, with a joint programme that helped mitigate the impacts, communicate to local residents and workers in the area and provide travel choice options as part of engagement events.
- Develop a new “Yellow” disruption branding - alongside the new West Midlands Network brand. With its first successful implementation at Five Ways, it delivered a 70% awareness and encouraging 40% of drivers to re-route their journeys.
- Publish revised plans to deliver the A34 Sprint schemes - considering the key concerns raised by local residents and business along the 14.5km route.
- Secure a £30 million funding package, working with Government, Birmingham City Council and Bus Alliance, to deliver our Vision for Bus objectives. Investment includes upgraded bus routes across Birmingham and the Black Country.
- Work closely with new provider for the Ring and Ride service, now operated by West Midlands Accessible Transport (a new company and wholly owned subsidiary of National Express West Midlands.) TfWM has worked hard to ensure that this transition is simple and easy for customers.
- Extend the pilot half fare concession schemes for all 16 to 18-year-olds who live in the metropolitan area. This provides half price travel to those younger people in at school or college, in work, on a training course or an apprenticeship.
- Open a new Better Streets Community Fund with £2m available to help communities across the West Midlands improve their streets for cycling and walking. 140 bids have been received by TfWM.
- Through WMRE, launched the West Midlands Grand Rail Collaboration (GRC). The GRC aims to tackle train service performance, simplifying fare structures, improving the quality of trains and stations, sharing busy track capacity in the most efficient way and delivering timetables to improve reliability.
- The Safer Travel Partnership has recorded that crime so far in 2019/20 has reduced by 3% compared with the same time in August last year. This is based on the combined totals from bus, train and Metro.
- Progress the delivery of Bus related Byelaws - addressing various types of anti-social behaviour. The Partnership is currently seeking full approval from Government.
- Commence public engagement on the draft Games Strategic Transport Plan for B2022.
- Deliver a strategic approach for the RTCC to handle unplanned disruption during major events and trialled the approach during Velo, 2019 Cricket World Cup and Five Ways underpass closure.
- Redesign the Major works and Events area on networkwestmidlands.com and defined a consistent layout for travel advice and key information to improve customer experience.

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators		
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019
Begin co-development of the Future Mobility Zone with partners	Spring 2019	Detailed project planning is underway. Project procurement activity and mobilisation commenced.
Launch phase 1 of the Vision for Bus delivery plan including air quality targets for buses, a bus infrastructure investment plan, and Bus Vision Delivery Plan	June/July 2019	WMCA Board approved Vision for Bus delivery options on 28th June. Enhanced Partnership (EP) development for Sprint has commenced with Legal notice issued on 14th July. First EP Reference Group met with Bus Users UK appointed as an independent Chair (30th July). Procurement for Outline Business Case began in mid-September 2019.
Deliver further enhancements to the National Concessionary Travel Scheme	June 2019	The Women's Concessionary Travel Scheme was launched on 7th July 2019. TfWM has received a total of 978 applications, 518 cards have been used with a total of 5,423 journeys.
Improve bus stations and interchanges at Walsall and Coventry, and develop plans for the new Dudley bus and Metro interchange	Ongoing through 2019/20	Walsall St Pauls Refurb - The wrapping of the facilities building has now been completed and work has started on the rebrand. The painting programme has now started well and making an impact. Coventry Pool Meadow - Stakeholder workshop held that included colleagues and stakeholders from Coventry CC and Coventry City of Culture 2021. Budget identified for asset enhancements. Dudley Interchange Project – Concept design completed. Steering group now in progress and meets monthly to discuss progress and risk register. Working to secure full funding with Black Country LEP and Dudley MBC.
Continue Delivery of the Edgbaston / Five Ways Metro extension	Commence main construction works June 2019	Construction programme underway - with Five Ways tunnels closures commenced from June 2019. Further Broad Street closures occurred from 2nd September 2019 – to facilitate further construction activity. The project remains on schedule to open by December 2021.
Enhancing Swift – delivered through a new fares and payment strategy	Summer 2019	A new Fares and Payment Strategy has been developed and well received by partners. Awaiting final endorsement by TDC/WMCA.
Continue delivery of the Wolverhampton City Centre Metro extension	Completion of civil engineering works - Bilston Street to Station Drive	Works completed and awaiting completion of the new railway station buildings.

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators		
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019
Deliver a WM Metro asset management system and asset renewal programme	Ongoing through 2019/20	A series of projects are being progressed by TfWM to support the network expansion programme (Wednesbury Depot Additional Stabling and Maintenance Facilities, Tram Preparation & Stabling Facility – Eagle Lane, Line 1 Traction Power and OLE Upgrade
Deliver a series of Park and Ride expansions including Longbridge	Ongoing through 2019/20	Longbridge P&R piling work is completed, and project is on schedule. Ground-breaking ceremony took place on 30th July.
Publish a Commonwealth Games (CWG) Transport Plan for consultation	Autumn 2019	Internal and external games partner engagement undertaken in July and August to agree draft Plan. Approved for public engagement by WMCA Board on 13th Sept. Engagement events planned across the region to gather feedback to inform the next steps.
Complete with partners a procurement strategy and delivery plan for transport operations for the CWG	Autumn 2019	Procurement Strategy for Bus is agreed by Sept 2019. Procurement Strategy for delivery of remaining transport operations has been delayed due to delayed interdependencies with the Organising Committee (for Venue and Sport Optimisation work, funding agreement). Remaining procurement strategies expected Q4. Delay is being managed within programme.
Order up to 25 3rd Generation Trams to operate on the extended Metro network	Autumn 2019	Four bidders were pre-qualified and taken through to the Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) stage. Contract was awarded to CAF in October 2019.
Commence work on the Birmingham Eastside and Wednesbury Brierley Hill Metro extensions	Autumn 2019	The Inquiry into the Transport and Works Act is now with the Secretary of State for consideration and determination of the order. A decision is anticipated end 2019. The Final Business Case was approved by WMCA Board on 22nd March 2019. Advanced works commenced by Midland Metro Alliance.
Open a new travel centre and customer information point at New Street Station	Autumn 2019	Design work currently being developed, with concourse kiosk designs led by Network Rail.
Conclude a Park and ride development framework and implementation plan	Autumn 2019	Two work programmes are in development; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P&R Development Workstream • P&R Charging and Booking Workstream Both workstreams reported in early October 2019 with initial findings. Work will continue to be refined over the next year.

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators		
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019
Secure business case and planning approvals for schemes within the West Midlands Rail Programme including New Stations Packages	Autumn/Winter 2019	Additional funding of £25m secured from DfT in July 2019 to deliver Packages 1 and 2. Camp Hill stations (Kings Heath and Hazelwell) planning application submitted in October 2019 and principle designs are being developed. Outline Business Case developed and awaiting consideration by WMCA.
Deliver Snow Hill Third Access	Winter 2019	Planning permission has been granted for scheme and detailed design works ongoing.
Deliver the first phase of the Regional Transport Coordination Centre (RTCC)	December 2019	Building of the RTCC is currently under construction, with the Phase 1 will open in December 2019.
Identify a first iteration of the CWG routes that will improve journey time reliability for the CWG and everyday users.	December 2019	Completed - June 2019.
Commence passenger services on the Centenary Square Metro extension	December 2019	Programme is to schedule with tracks and new stops being installed. Successful tram testing began in September 2019. Route and services are due to open to passengers in December.
Commence the Sprint-Bus Rapid Transit delivery programme for new routes and agree the operating model	January 2020	Re-phasing of Sprint has been agreed with Local Authorities with detailed design and outline business case development being undertaken. Full business cases have been submitted for the A34 and A45 schemes with approval scheduled for January 2020. Contractor has been appointed to undertake cost review and provide target construction costs. Legal review underway on operator model and is expected to be concluded by the end of October 2019.
Set up the Strategic Road Safety Partnership and produce the delivery plan	Spring 2020	The Regional Road Safety Strategy has been adopted. TfWM has secured a secondee from West Midlands Fire Service to support the delivery of the wider initiatives associated with the strategy including a delivery plan.



Housing & Land

To enable the delivery of 215,000 new homes by 2031, significantly increasing the proportion of affordable housing and driving new quality and design benchmarks.



Portfolio Lead Member
Cllr Mike Bird,
Leader of Walsall Council



Lead WMCA Officer
Gareth Bradford,
Director of Housing &
Regeneration

Focus of delivery in 2019/20

- Setting a strategic investment and delivery strategy for housing and land (e.g. regional spatial investment and delivery plan, single commissioning framework)
- Delivering a pipeline of land for development and investment, unlocking and accelerating delivery on challenging brownfield sites
- Increasing the supply of the right homes in the right places for region (e.g. submit an ambitious regional affordable and social housing proposal to Government)
- Transforming the quality of development (e.g. new regional design charter)
- Brokering new funding and investment for development, infrastructure and land (e.g. Accelerating place-making and regeneration in town centres and beyond (e.g. town centres programme))

Progress Summary

Significant progress is being made in delivering the ambitions and priorities for the Housing and Land portfolio. Figures for the last year show a 20% increase in delivery of new homes on the previous year, above the trajectory set out to reach 16,500 new homes per year. The CA's role as an enabler and

trailblazer for new approaches is bearing fruit with real impact on delivery.

Designed to help address market failure, the Single Commissioning Framework works to channel WMCA investment towards the delivery of enhanced design quality, higher levels of affordable homes and modern methods of construction on those development projects WMCA supports, putting Inclusive Growth front and centre of our funding agreements. This approach maximises every pound of CA funding and our expertise to leverage private investment and unlock schemes. In tandem with our Investment Prospectus, which sets out £10bn worth of development schemes coming forward in the region, this is providing clarity of focus for developers and investors in the region.

Our regional pipeline of housing and commercial sites, including opportunities in town centres and along key transport corridors, is bringing forward brownfield sites for development, some of which have been dormant for decades. The Town Centre Programme, and the Regional Taskforce set up to guide and inform how we repurpose our local centres, is focused on driving development and securing investment. And our collaborations, including the One Public Estate programme, working closely with our local authorities, and strategic partnerships with the private sector, are working collectively to bring together all the elements required for a genuine transformation in the housing and regeneration of the region.

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators		
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019
Publication of a regional spatial investment and delivery plan (SIDP)	By end of June 2019	Document agreed in Feb 2019. Published version due in third quarter of 2019/20.
Development of five Town centre delivery and investment packages	By end of Sept 2019	To be agreed by end of December 2019
Launch a Regional Design Charter	By Autumn 2019	Launch due in November 2019
Publish a summary version of the Single Commissioning Framework for housing and land investments	By end of Sept 2019	Launched on 17th September at the Forum for Growth Conference
Work with local councils to ensure local plans across the region are reviewed and/ or updated (as necessary) to enable the delivery of 215,000 homes by 2031	Continual process	Ongoing



Productivity & Skills

To see more people move into employment and higher skilled jobs so that all communities benefit from the region's economic growth and businesses can access the skills that they need to grow.



Portfolio Lead Member
Cllr George Duggins,
Leader of Coventry City
Council



Lead WMCA Officer
Julie Nugent,
Director of Productivity & Skills

Focus of delivery in 2019/20

- Prepare our young people for future life and work – for example, secure an extension to the successful Progression Coach pilot supporting young unemployed people
- Create regional networks of specialist technical education and training – oversee an increase in courses developing higher technical skills, including more digital, construction and automotive training
- Accelerate the take up of good quality apprenticeships across the region – secure levy funds to fund apprenticeships for SMEs
- Support inclusive growth by giving more people the skills to get and sustain good jobs and careers – deliver the Connecting Communities Employment Support Pilot to help more people in to work
- Support an agile skills ecosystem - develop a new approach to commissioning and delivering provision funded through the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to include a greater focus on regional and local priorities

Progress summary

Work with young people has expanded, to better support young people at risk of dropping out. Alongside work with the region's (FE) colleges, this includes extension of DWP Progression Work Coaches and partnering with Movement to Work to secure c.1000 work experience opportunities for young unemployed people.

WMCA has secured funding to enable bespoke construction training, including on-site training hubs in Perry Barr, Wednesbury and Broad Street, Birmingham. The on-site hubs are used to upskill the existing workforce as well as to support new entrants to the sector. The WMCA's £5m Construction Gateway retraining programme is also seeing significant success, with many residents helped in to employment. All training activity is shaped by our Construction Skills Taskforce, led by industry partners.

WMCA has launched similar funds, in collaboration with industry and education partners, to support more training in digital and automotive sectors.

WMCA is the first Combined Authority to set up a new approach to encourage businesses to transfer unused levy to support apprenticeships at small and medium-sized businesses. We have already secured £4.99m and supported over a hundred apprenticeships. This will retain much needed investment for skills in the region.

We are testing new approaches to collaboration around training in local communities, using AEB delivery to support better connections between providers, local authorities and new job opportunities for local residents. We have successfully commissioned new provision through our devolved Adult Education Budget. This has included close working with local authorities, to ensure greater focus on local and regional priorities, with an expected impact of:

- More training that leads to jobs – we have procured c£20m new of provision focus on helping unemployed people into jobs and supporting those in work to progress
- More higher-level skills – a planned increase in level 3 provision
- More training in priority skill areas – planned increase in provision aligned to regional priority sectors

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators			
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019	
Mayor's Mentors – No of people being mentored ¹	3,000	3,500	The Mayor's Mentors partnership network has expanded to include 6 new partners – all of whom deliver a range of mentoring support to young people. The first Mayor's Mentors celebration event will take place on 24th October. This event will see the launch of the Mayor's Mentors Awards.
No of people trained through construction retraining fund	745	449	Engagement with residents for construction retraining continues to hit targets, and the conversion into jobs currently stands at over 42%. Programmes are taking place across the West Midlands, with training in plant, formwork and civil engineering as well as construction operative training. In addition, the roll-out of on-site delivery, attached to major projects, is raising awareness of opportunities in construction, with local residents.
No of people into construction jobs following WMCA training	373	192	
Apprenticeship Levy funding committed to levy pool	£10m	£4.99m	There is good progress towards the overall 5 year target (£40m), and the WMCA programme currently accounts for over 15% of all transfers that have happened nationally.
No of young people engaged through progression coaches	600	653	The progression coach model is continuing to provide positive outcomes for young people engaged in the pilot, including an in work retention rate of 94%. The success of the pilot has led to a further extension of activity in to 2020
People engaged and supported through Connecting Communities	2,000	921	The Connecting Communities employment support pilot is now in its second year of delivery. The pilot was slower to start than expected, as providers took time to establish and embed delivery in communities. Actions are in place to improve performance and ensure that local people are actively engaged.

1. Based on deducting end of March figure from the cumulative. 5179 – 1679 =3500



Economy & Innovation

To create the conditions to support inclusive economic growth that help sustain the economic renaissance of the region and make the West Midlands the best place to grow up, live and work.



Portfolio Lead Member

Cllr Ian Brookfield,
Leader of City of
Wolverhampton Council



Lead WMCA Officer

Julia Goldsworthy,
Director of Strategy

Focus of delivery in 2019/20

- Secure publication of the Local Industrial Strategy
- Identify key strategic priority projects and programmes with LEPs to support Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) delivery
- Develop new LIS delivery infrastructure to support pursuits of the 4 major market opportunities
- Review and influence funding frameworks to support LIS delivery (including consultation on post Local Growth and Shared Prosperity funds)
- Support the regional preparations for Brexit, through deployment of pooled Brexit Contingency funding, support to the Birmingham Brexit Commission and the WMCA Brexit Economic Contingency Group

- Equip the WMCA with the tools to deliver programmes with impact (economic intelligence, annual State of The Region economic profile, Office for Data Analytics, policy research and evaluation).

Progress summary

Local Industrial Strategy launched, and delivery plans being developed. Support to the regional preparations for Brexit, through deployment of pooled contingency funding, support to the Birmingham Brexit Commission and the WMCA Brexit Economic Contingency Group.

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators		
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019
Launch Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)	June 2019 and ongoing	LIS launched in May 2019 jointly with government – the first in the country to be published.
Identify key strategic projects and programmes for LIS delivery	June-November 2019	<p>Priority projects and programmes identified and are feeding into Spending Review discussions with government, in line with major market opportunities, foundations of productivity, and sector action plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Central launched - to build on the region's existing creative and cultural talent and take it to the next level, helping to drive investment, growth and jobs in the screen industries. • UK BIC – £28m additional funding secured to expand activity, supporting the Future of Mobility opportunity • Discussions underway with government on life sciences park and radical prevention to support commercialisation of data driven life sciences • Modern services – sectoral analysis has informed national sector action plan

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators		
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019
Establish new LIS delivery infrastructure	July 2019 onwards	LIS implementation group (LEP and CA officers) in place, supporting existing portfolio governance. Delivery plans and progress dashboard to be reviewed and approved at 20th Nov SED Board. Some delivery already underway through existing resource, though extended funding uncertainty is constraining the ability to make longer term plans. The next step is to agree pipeline and funding requirement for Spending Review 2020 and SPF decisions.
Develop proposals for West Midlands Innovation Programme	June 2019	Investment Programme resource secured to support the first phase of Innovation Programme development and delivery.
Inform development of funding framework resource to support shared strategic economic objectives	March 2020	Single Assurance Framework in development. Future funding discussions linked to the Shared Prosperity Fund delayed to the 2020 Spending Review.
Deploy Brexit Contingency Pooled fund	Oct 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding pool held up as best practice nationally. The funds have supported: Region wide Brexit Health Check Additional support for growth hubs Automotive supply chain research Local authority key suppliers research Recruitment of shared Environmental Health and Trading Standards officers to support businesses with new systems
Develop programme of economic intelligence reporting	June 2019, then ongoing	Annual State of the Region Report (SOTR) published June 2019. Statistical release briefing programme in place, aligned to SOTR priority indicators.
Deliver Creative scale up pilot	June 2019, then ongoing	Creative Scale up pilot due to launch 7 th November



Environment, Energy & HS2

To make a significant positive impact on our environment and deliver clean growth that improves the quality of life for everyone in the region.



Portfolio Lead Member
Cllr Ian Courts,

Leader of Solihull
Metropolitan Borough
Council



Lead WMCA Officer
(Environment)

Dr. Henry Kippin,
Director of Public
Service Reform



Lead TfWM Officer
(HS2)

Laura Shoaf,
Managing Director of
TfWM



Lead WMCA Officer
(Energy)

Julia Goldsworthy,
Director of Strategy

Focus of delivery in 2019/20

Environment

- Support the development of a regional carbon reduction target
- Develop a low emission strategy and action plan – working with local authorities, TfWM and partners
- Build and deliver on priorities within UK's first clean growth Local Industrial Strategy
- Focus on greenspaces and waterways – by developing a natural environment infrastructure investment plan

Energy

- Ensure the energy infrastructure of the region supports a competitive industrial base, clean growth and social inclusion.
- Institutionalise Energy Capital within the CA as the delivery body for the Regional Energy Strategy
- Support further development of implementation of new Regional Energy Strategy by Energy Capital.

HS2

- Work with partners to continue advocating for HS2 as a fundamental building block on which the region's economic growth, transport and sustainable/inclusive/green growth strategies are based.
- Work with partners and the HS2 Growth Delivery Board to ensure the scheme is delivered in conjunction with wider strategic regeneration schemes
- Challenge and support partners and stakeholders to ensure the region mitigates against adverse impacts of the building of the scheme and ensure the overall delivery of the growth strategy benefits the whole region.

Progress summary

HS2

The main focus of attention of the programme in recent weeks has been on the Oakervee Review Panel which was set up by the Prime Minister to review the overall HS2 programme. Partners from across the region have come together in a show of unity and have submitted a comprehensive and detailed evidence portfolio to the review panel and DfT. The review is expected to be completed soon, with a report expected to be presented to both DfT and the Prime Minister during November.

Work has continued apace across the region with good progress being made in relation to both the Curzon Station and UK Central. Progress has also been notable on the HS2 Connectivity package, with schemes like the Centenary Square Extension and the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill line making significant progress.

Work also continues to maximise the skills & employment opportunities presented by the construction of HS2 and within its supply chains.

Work by the WMCA HS2 Environment & Landscape Board has continued, with a particular focus on the removal of ancient woodlands in this region. Discussions are on-going on this sensitive subject with HS2 Ltd as E&L Board members look to ensure that suitable and appropriate mitigation is taken.

Environment & Energy

The focus of the portfolio has been on creating a credible, evidence based carbon reduction target for the region; brokering this with partners – including bringing a paper to WMCA Board; and developing the action plan that constitutes the basis for a regional response to the 'climate emergency' declared by WMCA Board in July 2019. This plan emphasises four key areas: clean air, clean growth, natural capital and 'leading by Example'. It will be published in November 2019, and will contain a mix of strategic priorities, areas for further investment and collaboration, and specific initiatives that can be progressed in the immediate term.

Alongside this has been the development of an options appraisal for the acceleration of electric charging infrastructure – and underlying energy supply – across the region. This will be brought to November 2019 WMCA Board and contains a detailed appraisal of the business case for collaboration, and the choices WMCA members have available in terms of market shaping and the pace and extent of regional coverage.

The WMCA has also begun its own climate change adaptation work with the announcing of an ambition to ban single-use plastics by the end of 2020 within the WMCA and those parts of the transport network in the region for which it has responsibility.

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators		
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019
Publish a WMCA environment action plan (including carbon reduction targets and a pipeline of potential investments to support clean growth) and internal environmental improvement plan	Autumn 2019	A proposed action plan is due to be considered by WMCA Board on 8th November
Regional review of air quality, Action Plan and Delivery Unit launched – including regional approach to electric vehicle charging	September 2019	Air quality will remain a local priority with WMCA playing a regional coordination role. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging approach will be a specific part of action plan delivered in Autumn 2019.
Launch of Natural Capital Investment Strategy and Delivery Programme – including key local site for funding and ‘greening’ existing and planned TfWM and partners infrastructure	October 2019	Resource from Environment Agency has been secured to support the development of natural capital pipeline
Set out new green business growth targets as part of the Local Industrial Strategy implementation	November 2019	Local Industrial Strategy priorities under development
Clean growth challenge	Autumn 2019	This will be part of the action plan being considered by WMCA Board on 8th November
Progress discussions with central government about Energy and Power devolution	March 2020	



Public Service Reform & Social Economy

To deliver on the promise of more inclusive growth, with the confidence to more deliberately shape investment, infrastructure and services around social as well as economic goals.



Portfolio Lead Member

Cllr Yvonne Davies, Leader of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council



Lead WMCA Officer

Dr. Henry Kippin, Director of Public Service Reform

Focus of delivery in 2019/20

- Inclusive Growth – providing the tools and capability to create a more deliberate and socially purposeful model of economic growth
 - To support public service and whole-system collaboration across the West Midlands that delivers better outcomes for citizens, supports more inclusive development and inclusive infrastructure, and helps to close the region's fiscal gap over the long term.
 - Inclusive Growth Unit - continue to deliver several programmes of work including an inclusive growth investment toolkit, an inclusive growth framework, and population health intelligence function
 - Working with the Homelessness Taskforce to develop its objectives in support of statutory authorities – including the £9.6m Housing First pilot across the region
 - Continuing a joint programme of work in partnership with the PCC which focuses on vulnerable young people within the justice system, which we will be using to develop a platform for better regional collaboration to support violence prevention
 - Collaboration to Support Radical Prevention including substantial work supporting evolving partnership arrangements with police and fire service partners, and building shared Public Service Reform commitments around prevention, addressing vulnerability and supporting greater place-based collaboration.
- into accommodation and wrap-around support across our boroughs
- Establishment of the regional Violence Reduction Unit in partnership with the PCC, WMP and Public Health England as part of progressing the region's work on vulnerability and young people
 - Kick-off of the first pilot of our work with HM Treasury to trial the Public Value Framework in the region as a tool for public service collaboration

Progress summary

Progress against annual plan outcomes has been solid in the year to date, including:

- The completion (and planned launch in early November) of the Social Economy Taskforce, and embedding of social economy/inclusive growth goals within the Industrial Strategy
- The application of Inclusive Growth tools in 2 pilot areas of the West Midlands
- Ongoing delivery of Housing First which is getting some of the most vulnerable people

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators		
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019
Launch of Inclusive Growth toolkit and Civil Society Engagement Report	June 2019	Launched at June WMCA board
Adoption of Inclusive Growth toolkit and approach within at least three pilot initiatives within the region	December 2019	Inclusive Growth Unit team now working with partners in Wolves-to-Walsall corridor; north Solihull; Wednesbury Brierley Hill corridor
Launch of regional violence prevention unit (with WMCA supporting partners), strategic reform of regional support for vulnerability and publication of criminal justice reform and vulnerability evidence base	Summer 2019	The Violence Reduction Unit was launched in September 2019.
Commence veteran's mental health and homelessness work programmes	July 2019	Recruitment to programmes commenced with a view to starting substantive work in autumn
Completed Year 1 delivery of Housing First	November 2019	Programme is ongoing and reported through the Housing First Board and homelessness taskforce members advisory group
Launch of the Social Economy Taskforce Report	July 2019	Draft report received by WMCA board in July; official full launch with the sector scheduled for Sept/Autumn 2019.
Creation of a number of public service use cases through the 5G and Digital public services programme	Quarterly	First use case for WM5G was '5G connected ambulance' – a world first tested at UHB and covered by CNN, BBC and other media outlets. Further test cases scheduled for Autumn 2019.



Culture & Digital

To provide a focus on the opportunity that digital transformation provides for our economy, public services and wider society, and also reflect the intent to develop a more strategic approach to culture across the region.



Portfolio Lead Member
Cllr Patrick Harley,
Dudley Metropolitan
Borough Council



Lead WMCA Officer (Digital)
Dr. Henry Kippin,
Director of Public Service
Reform



Lead WMCA Officer (Culture)
Julia Goldsworthy,
Director of Strategy

Focus of delivery in 2019/20

This newly configured portfolio focuses on increasing the social and economic benefits from those culture activities and digital transformation in the region, including for our public services and wider society. It also reflects the intent to develop a more strategic approach to culture across the region. Activity includes:

- West Midlands 5G (WM5G): The 5G programme includes early test-beds focused on health and public service applications, mobility and advanced manufacturing and citizen connectivity.
- Digital Growth & PSR: continue to develop our capacity to support digital public services across the region, supporting local authorities and public service partners to realise benefits of new digital service models, and build readiness to take advantage of 5G.
- Develop a Strategic Approach to Culture: Including a new Cultural Leadership Board promoting wider leadership and involvement in our region's diverse range of culture.
- Supporting the Commonwealth Games and Coventry City of Culture - Working with partners to maximise the impact of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2021 Coventry City of Culture as major opportunities for local firms and communities, a showcase of the region to investors and visitors, and a lasting legacy for people living in the West Midlands.

The WMCA's digital skills programme has been rolled out, including a 'beat the bots' fund launched in May 2019 to help train the future workforce and those at risk from automation. This is part of the regional skills plan and overseen by the Productivity and Skills portfolio.

There has been ongoing work to support digital innovation in public services, including working with health service partners to develop the 'Radical Prevention Fund' launched in the DHSC Prevention Green Paper, through the WM5G team and partners such as University Hospitals Birmingham and the region's local authorities.

Progress summary

There has been ongoing work of the WM5G team to support investment and roll-out of 5G connectivity in the region. Highlights have included the testing of connected healthcare solutions (5G ambulance based scanning), manufacturing and design 5G solutions (as part of a week-long demonstrator conducted with Ericsson and Birmingham City University), 5G sites now live in Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton, and ongoing progress of 'infrastructure acceleration' to unlock new sites for roll out across the WM.

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators		
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019
Launch of WM5G delivery programme – including ‘quick wins’ establishing 5G connectivity within regional centres.	June 2019 (with ongoing deliverables through 2019/20)	WM5G launched and delivery programme begun May 2019 – with quick wins including testing of first 5G connected ambulance, and forthcoming 5G accelerator facility with WMCU partnership
Develop and deliver WMCA Digital Strategy to support public service collaboration and leverage 5G	November 2019	On track to deliver this by Autumn 2019
Establish new Cultural Leadership Board.	July 2019	New Cultural Leadership Board launched. Expressions of interest for the new Board, chaired by Coventry City of Culture Chief Executive, were invited in September. The inaugural meeting will be taking place later in the autumn.



Wellbeing

To create a region in which positive, proactive and preventative approaches to citizen wellbeing are normalised, giving our young and diverse population a better chance to thrive in life and work.



Portfolio Lead Member
Cllr Izzi Seccombe,
Leader of Warwickshire
County Council



Lead WMCA Director
Dr. Henry Kippin, Director
of Public Service Reform

Focus of delivery in 2019/20

- Thrive West Midlands: Ongoing delivery of the successful West Midlands Thrive programme, which continues to grow and support a culture of support and awareness for mental health issues across the region.
- Childhood Obesity: Development and delivery of a childhood obesity strategy for the West Midlands, designed in partnership with local authorities and Public Health England.
- West Midlands on the Move: continue to roll out our West Midlands on the Move strategy which promotes physical activity and wellbeing - including the expansion of 'Good Gym West Midlands', a work programme on disability and sport
- 'Radical Prevention' Fund: Development and delivery of an innovative new funding mechanism (developed in partnership with central government, PHE, NHS and local government partners) which brings together our regional ambitions around digital and prevention
- Population Health Intelligence: Working closely with Public Health England to continue to host a population intelligence hub within the Inclusive Growth Unit
- Supporting place-based health and care: Continue to support our regional health and care partnerships, with a place on the West Midlands STP executive, and through the development of our population hub and preventative activities

Progress summary

Thrive West Midlands

Thrive at work is continuing with the pilot due to finish taking referrals on 31st October 2019 – we currently have 5545 referrals since the start of the trial of which 3008 have been randomised into the programme. We have 1091 individuals with job profiles complete and 298 people now in work. The recruitment ends on 31st Oct 2019 and runs with the participants for a further 12 months to seek job outcomes for the individuals in the intervention cohort.

Thrive Into Work pilot programme finishes on 31st Dec 2019 and will publish the findings of the fiscal incentive trial by the End of March 2020. In total 324 businesses are aligned to the programme with a potential reach of 135,000 employees across the region.

'Include me' has now signed up 31 organisations to the pledge. A number of workshops have taken place to train Health and Social care workers around social prescribing and 32 staff have been specifically trained. The citizen network for the disabled voice has been out to tender and will commence work in mid-October.

Veterans work stream

The focus for the wellbeing work is developing veterans with poor mental health into work. A structured approach built within the PSR programme has been established. On 17th October a number of businesses were convened in the region to establish pathways into work. In addition, the WMCA has now been accredited as a bronze recipient within the Armed Forces Covenant.

Mental Health Literacy

So far we have trained 42,000 individuals in Mental Health First Aid across the region. Every Mind Matters is due to launch nationally on 7th October 2019 following Ministerial announcement. The ambition will be for this to become an induction tool for all employers in the region and support the drive from World MH day on 10th October 2019.

Childhood Obesity

A healthy weight strategy is due to be presented to the Wellbeing Board on 24th October 2019 and will then be finalised for public and stakeholder consultation.

Population Health Intelligence

A consultant in Public Health and public health analyst has been recruited into posts in late August 2019. The programme of work has commenced and will seek to align the existing PHE analyst team, Population intelligence Hub, Population Health Management programme to start work on the inclusive growth agenda. It is anticipated that the work will then develop the wellbeing dashboard to drive future decision making.

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators		
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019
Launch of prevention funding mechanism in partnership with PHE and local partners	Summer 2019	Prevention fund launched within the Government's prevention green paper – work now being undertaken to secure central government funding before substantive work commences
Completed Year 2 delivery of Thrive into Work IPS Trial	December 2019	Trial is successfully continuing – green rag rating will need to wait until year-end
Doubling of business (to c200) and employee engagement through Thrive at Work programme	March 2020	Thrive at work now has 324 businesses engaged and has a total reach of 135,000 employees across the region
Commence Veterans mental health work programmes	July 2019	Recruitment started to enable substantive work to begin from autumn 2019. WMCA accredited as a bronze recipient within the Armed Forces Covenant.
Launch of WM Childhood Obesity Action Plan, including specific early deliverables	May 2019	A healthy weight strategy is due to be presented to the Wellbeing Board on 24th October 2019 and will then be finalised for public and stakeholder consultation.
Roll out of Good Gym across the whole West Midlands constituent geography	March 2020	Good Gym now active in Coventry, Solihull, Birmingham and Warwick
Roll out the Mental Health Literacy and Mental Health First aid programmes across the whole West Midlands	March 2020	Every mind matters campaign trial started October 2018 and reached 117,000 people. Formal campaign restarting in October 2019 with ministerial launch. MHFA training continuing and now has reached 38,125 people



Inclusive Communities

To enable and support growth that is measured not only by how fast or aggressive it is, but also by the social and environmental outcomes it realises for people in our most vulnerable and marginalised communities.



Lead Portfolio Member
Cllr Brigid Jones, Deputy
Leader of Birmingham
City Council



Deborah Cadman
Lead WMCA Officer,
Chief Executive of the
WMCA

Focus of delivery in 2019/20

This was a new portfolio for 2019/20 and has a strong emphasis on challenging, enabling and supporting other portfolios to embed inclusivity, equalities and diversity into their policy and delivery.

The portfolio will also drive the delivery of recommendations set by WMCA's Leadership Commission, including:

- Establish a diverse Young Combined Authority (YCA) to influence and constructively challenge WMCA policy, better connecting the organisation to the communities it serves and building future political leadership capability in the West Midlands.
- Inclusive Leadership Pledge – encouraging leaders and employers across the region to commit to realising greater inclusivity within their organisations; promoting the business case for diversity, enabling positive action and celebrating success.
- Supporting and enabling HR best practice across sectors.

Progress summary

The new portfolio has been effective in providing a strategic home for the delivery of actions recommended by the WMCA Leadership Commission.

Progress over the first half of the year has included:

- Recruited and launched a diverse Young Combined Authority with support from our delivery partner, Young Giant (September 2019).
- Extended support for the Inclusive Leadership Pledge by: creating a pledge for senior leaders to sign, developing a communications campaign and engaging business partners at events (secured 150+ pledges by October 2019).
- Developed an online toolkit for Inclusive Leadership, which offers signposting to best practice. The toolkit was showcased at the Mayor's Business Advisory Group meeting and promoted to pledge signees (September 2019).

Next steps for Leadership Commission activity are to:

- Enable the Young Combined Authority to influence WMCA decision-making (ongoing).
- Convening a strategic HR roundtable (originally planned for November 2019, this is now being scheduled for January 2020).
- Promoting the Inclusive Leadership Pledge, and plan for its one-year review (January - March 2020).
- Liaising with universities to confirm current or potential opportunities around inclusive communities, including measuring the impact of WMCA's efforts (ongoing – March 2020).

As anticipated, the Inclusive Communities portfolio is continuing to develop its work programme, including its relationship with external partners and other WMCA portfolios. Activity to date has included: liaising with other portfolios about potential work (e.g. Skills), participating in partner-led workshops (Fawcett and West Midlands Women's Voice) and championing inclusion (social media campaign for National Inclusion Week).

Progress against delivery milestones and indicators		
Key Performance Measure/ Indicator	2019/20 target	Progress as of September 2019
Develop our online toolkit for Inclusive Leadership	August 2019	Content gathered and uploaded throughout August, with the completed toolkit presented at the Mayor's Business Advisory Group in September 2019. Further work is being undertaken to promote the resource with businesses who have signed the Inclusive Leadership Pledge. The toolkit will likely evolve over time with partner contributions and dissemination.
Establishment of the Young Combined Authority	September 2019	Young Combined Authority is up and running. Induction events held on 14th and 18th September. Focus is now be on enabling the YCA members to influence WMCA decision-making and policy development.
Convene a cross-sector HR roundtable event	November 2019	The roundtable will convene leaders of business membership organisations and key sectors to agree how they can work together to promote inclusive leadership and disseminate best practice. Next steps: continue collaboration with University of Birmingham to refine the agenda/ aims and finalise a date and invitees. The event will be held in January 2020, later than the target, to enable planning and secure attendance.
Increase number of organisations signing up to the Inclusive Leadership Pledge	March 2020	Uptake of the Inclusive Leadership Pledge has significantly increased, following the creation of a pledge for senior leaders to sign (as well as the pledge for organisations) and the creation of a communications campaign. Further events are planned to secure wider reach.
Review of WMCA contribution to Inclusive Leadership	March 2020	Initial plans are taking shape to evaluate the impact of particular projects (Young Combined Authority and Pledge), but further work is needed to systematically capture impact across the organisation. This will involve connecting to WMCA's work (Strategy team and Inclusive Growth), and may extend to further collaboration with universities.



West Midlands
Combined Authority

October 2019