



WMCA Board

Date	17 January 2020
Report title	Local Industrial Strategy Implementation Update
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Report has been considered by	Programme Board Strategic Economic Development Board

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The WMCA Board is recommended to:

- (1) Note progress to date on delivery against our Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and overall economic growth goals, including activity to ensure our economy is more inclusive and resilient to shocks, and that zero carbon priorities are embedded in all activity to deliver economic growth.
- (2) Agree the more detailed approach being taken to implementation and managing delivery, including actions we are taking to ensure delivery reflects the latest mid-year economic data and informs our future funding asks of Government.
- (3) To consider and agree next steps, as outlined in 3.36.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The aim of this paper is to ensure that the WMCA board has a chance to fully engage with and input to the new opportunities identified in the LIS and to consider the approach being taken to implementation, in the context of the latest economic data, regional priorities for inclusive growth, environment and energy and priorities for future Government funding.

2 Background

- 2.1 The West Midlands Industrial Strategy was published on 16 May 2019, jointly with Government. It builds on 2016 Strategic Economic Plan, setting out our shared intent to continue recent growth and success, whilst tackling the issues of economic inclusion that remain embedded in our economy and communities.
- 2.2 At June's WMCA Board approval was given for the overall approach to implementation and gave delegated authority for the WMCA and 3 LEPs to work together to secure resource and drive delivery, with the SED Board taking an overview of progress and direction.
- 2.3 Future investment by Government is vital, but as outlined in June, our Industrial Strategy does not start from scratch but integrates existing investment across agreed priorities, for example the £350m Housing Deal, Regional Skills Plan, Skills Deal and the 2026 Delivery Plan for Transport, to ensure that our overall efforts to drive a more inclusive economy continue to be successful. This approach has enabled us to progress considerably with implementation activity over the summer.

3 Economic Context

- 3.1 The region continues to show strong growth in the indicators that lag, such as GVA and GDP despite our current economic climate. Economic performance in the region has held up well against other places overall. However leading indicators such as employment and PMI (Purchasing Managers Index) are mirroring national trends, showing we have relative stagnation across the economy.
- 3.2 The evidence base continues to be developed to support the original publication and is regularly updated and reviewed to ensure priority actions remain salient in light of latest developments. An **Economic dashboard** has been developed which is presented to each SED Board to report on the latest indicators across a range of thematic areas. The dashboard is attached as an appendix to this paper. Key trends are as follows:
 - **Economic growth:** Output is up 27% in the last five years, and our £99bn economy represents 5% of UK output. Regional GDP grew by 2.3% from Q1 2018 to Q1 2019 and the PMI is 49.4. However, the latest quarter shows growth slightly below the national average (+.5% vs .6%) with growth being propelled by the construction section. The **output gap** - the difference between current economic output and the output if we performed at the national average level stood at £15.1bn in 2018 and it grew by £0.8bn in 2017-18.
 - **Homes:** We have doubled the numbers of homes built since 2010 and increased by over 2000 in the last year alone to an annual figure of 16,615 2018/19 (net additional dwellings). However, in terms of affordability our house price to income ratio is growing faster than anywhere else in the country – in simple terms it is getting harder to get a foot on the housing ladder in the region.

- **International trade:** foreign investment has trebled since 2011 and we are a region in trade surplus with both China and the USA. However regional exports fell by £1.6bn (-4.8%) over the last year to £32bn compared with the same period as last year, while the UK increased by 3.3% leading to a trade deficit of £5.9bn. There is an **uncertain economic outlook** - foreign direct investment has weakened following the vote to exit the EU in 2016. Regional analysis from HM Treasury of trade only impacts from a range of Brexit scenarios suggests a 10% negative change in GVA in the region over the next 15 years compared to today's arrangements, making the West Midlands one of the most exposed regions in the country to "no deal."
- **Employment levels** continue to rise. In the year ending June 2019, the employment rate in the WMCA (3-LEP area) was 71.7% (1,848,300 people) compared to 75.5% for the UK overall. This is a net increase of 15,000 people (+0.8%) in employment compared to the previous year, resulting in a 0.5pp increase in the employment rate from 71.2%. The UK increased by 1.0% over the same time period. However, the youth unemployment claimant count continues to rise nationally and in the West Midlands, reaches 21,685 18-24-year-old claimants in the WMCA in October 2019.
- **Carbon emissions** reduced 19.1% over five years to 2017 and is current 5 tonnes per capita. To achieve net zero by 2030 would require a significant step change in the annual reduction.
- There are persistent **inequalities** - Healthy life expectancy was 3.8 years lower for females in the West Midlands and 3.5 years lower for males in the region compared to the national average in 2018. 19.2% of the WMCA is in the 10% most deprived in England – an increase from 18.9% in 2015.
- Positive growth in **apprenticeship** starts in 2018/19 - 31,740 apprenticeship starts across the WMCA three LEP geography. This is an increase of 8.7% or 2,540 in absolute numbers from 2017/18 compared to 4.7% nationally. Advanced Level apprenticeships across the WMCA increased by 10.3% compared to the national increase of 5.1%. However overall qualifications remain a challenge with 11% of the working age population (284,000 people) with no qualifications compared to 8% nationally.

3.3 Local Industrial Strategy Implementation

3.4 Implementation of the LIS through the Major New Market Opportunities, Sector Strengths and Foundations of Productivity will drive forward economic growth while ensuring inclusive and clean growth (from the region's many initiatives and emerging #WM2041 Climate Change approach) remain central themes. The Major New Market Opportunities and Sector Strength action plans, along with the Foundations of Productivity will create opportunities to deliver our region's inclusive and clean growth objectives by focussing on key areas which support youth employment and resilience in our wider community, while helping and supporting SMEs make the changes the region needs.

3.5 Moreover, as well as ensuring the Major New Market Opportunities, Sector Strengths and Foundations align to the region's cross cutting priorities, it is worth acknowledging that each opportunity, strength and foundation have different characteristics, are different in nature and therefore require different approaches with varying needs for resources and private/public interventions. As a result, the structure and programme(s) of LIS Implementation will be proportionate to needs. This will result in varied support and intervention requirements used by delivery partners and vehicles.

3.6 Major New Market Opportunities

3.7 Progress is being made in moving forward on the four Major Market Opportunities identified in our LIS, including:

a) Future of Mobility:

- UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC): This purpose-built 18,000m² facility and research technology organisation in Baginton, near Warwick is open access to serve the UK's automotive industry as a whole, and has secured a total of £126m in funding to date. Construction is nearing conclusion and it is on target to open in March 2020. Recruitment is live to deliver c. 100 new jobs, and being industry-focused, supporting OEMs and suppliers, it will also provide a focal point to develop the regional skills base. Putting the region at the forefront of the growing automotive battery supply chain, forecast to be worth £5bn per year in the UK by 2035, there is both further Government investment of up to £50m anticipated and the potential for further FDI to accelerate battery development and production.
- In collaboration with Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), Coventry City Council (CCC) is taking forward the research and development (R&D) of a three-stage project leading to the creation of an affordable light rail network in and around Coventry. The project is currently delivering under phase 1 of its overall programme. It has completed its CWLEP Local Growth Funding Element in 2018/19 (£2.46m) to develop and deliver the virtual prototype vehicle. WMCA funding to Coventry has funded the retaining wall in Dudley. Phase 1b, if successful, will be funded via the Black Country LEP and includes Construction of a VLR National Innovation Centre (VLR NIC) and Test Track in Dudley to support the R&D phase and testing programme. The NIC itself is a £24m project due to open in April 2021.
- Battery and Hydrogen Trains – Warwickshire is home to Vivarail, the company that has built the first modern battery train, launched last year, which has a range of 60 miles, a fast-charging system able to recharge the train in 10 minutes and battery bank storing the energy needed to recharge the train. Vivarail's first fleet of trains were delivered in 2019. They were built as diesel trains but were adapted to run as battery trains. A second fleet are diesel/battery hybrid trains – the first of their kind in the country. At Quinton Rail Technology Centre at Long Marston, near Stratford-on-Avon, Rail Live took place in June 2019 showcasing the launch of HydroFLEX, the UK's first hydrogen-powered train delivered by the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE), part of the University of Birmingham, and Porterbrook.
- The new Dudley Institute of Technology will focus its provision on advanced manufacturing, modern construction methodologies and medical engineering, all of which are critical transformational sectors for the regional economy. The £25m project will change the landscape of Dudley with the development of a three-storey 4,750m² building sited on Castle Hill adjacent to the new Metro stop, the Rail Innovation Centre and the Black Country Living Museum. By 2025 the IoT plans to support over 2,000 new learners following higher level technical programmes with an emphasis on Apprenticeships.

- The West Midlands is leading real-world, open road CAV operation– working beyond the test track. The major CAV trial will soon be operating in the region and is the largest in the UK. Engineering and professional services consultancy, WSP has already carried out the feasibility study and design phases for the Midlands Future Mobility project. The deliver phase will include installing roadside units to enable communication with CAV services on vehicles. Other technologies to be rolled out include hi-tech weather stations, live cameras and GNSS correction towers to provide high accuracy positioning for vehicles using GPS data. The tender invitation has been submitted and TfWM are anticipating the appointment of a construction partner for the delivery and commissioning stages of the CAV facility during January and February.
- Other progress is being made in co-development of the Future Mobility Zone (FMZ) with partners with population demographic work continues a-pace. TfWM anticipate having the updated and expanded Mosaic insights around March 2020. This is a foundation from which WMCA/TfWM can develop consumer understanding more deeply. The Swift One-App is due for first release in March 2020, this is being supported by FMZ and several iterations are planned over the next two years as we improve/understand MaaS better. Mobility credits trial is due to start June – Sept 20. This will be in Coventry only and is focused not only on air quality improvements but also on understanding travel behaviour through this incentivisation. Other demo use cases starting in June, which are targeting modal shift and specifically the human behaviour/psychology alongside the technical requirements for new mobility services.

Following November's SED Board, TfWM and Coventry and Warwickshire LEP have been tasked with convening a business led task and finish group to inform the identification of priority projects and programmes [with the aims and principles of the Terms of Reference acknowledged and supported at 8th January SED Board].

b) Creative Content, Techniques & Technologies:

- Launch of Create Central has taken place since the Summer and work is currently underway to bid for further National Lottery Funding to support delivery activity. There is currently £0.5m WMCA to support the skills element
- £1.2m Creative Scale Up programme was launched in October 2019 with the first cohort of companies now on the programme.
- A major new market opportunities (MMO) Working Group has been established and scoping paper is being prepared with the visioning work for the MMO to be agreed with key stakeholders. On-going work is progressing to identify industry champions for Creative Technologies and Techniques
- An Academic piece of work is to be brought forward to assess the Business Impact of Creativity, justifying investment models for future programmes.
- High level programmes for investment identified to the value of over £50m

c) Data Driven Health and Life Sciences:

- Proposals to establish a WM Med Tech Commission, ambassadorial group, of industry, clinical, HE and government leaders is being progressed. Membership of the commission is being developed to ensure full regional input, with a view to launching in Quarter 1 of 2020.
- In parallel, work is underway on development and delivery of key interventions to support the future growth of the sector with initial focus on creating a new business-led cluster organisation, with strong support from industry and public sector stakeholders

- Activity also includes dedicated pan-West Midlands account managed support for local life sciences companies via the GBSLEP Growth Hub, intellectual property support in conjunction with the IPO and work on future talent development, led by Aston University.
- Ongoing activity to support cross-sector application of new and emerging digital technologies is continuing to be progressed including submission of the £95m Life Sciences Park through a Strength in Places Fund second stage bid.
- Ongoing delivery of the WM5G Citizen Well-Being test bed for health and social care.
- Inward investors are already starting to locate including Dignio Ltd – a Norwegian telehealth company.

d) Modern Services: The Modern Services MMO is one of the MMOs that requires a different approach to delivery and is less reliant on direct public sector intervention and more reliant on private sector uptake. The Modern Services MMO is reliant on having great connectivity, high skill outputs and great places to encourage future private sector investment. Therefore the delivery of the foundations of productivity and having strong sectors is crucial for this MMO to influence growth and respond to change.

Wider progress includes:

- Investment continues with Velocity Birmingham launching in November 2019, to support fintech firms locally. This is complemented by work commissioned by GBSLEP to develop potential interventions to support the development of finance and professional services technologies locally, which is due to report in early Q1 2020.
- Work is also ongoing with local universities to explore the impact of artificial intelligence on professional services firms with a view to implementing a programme of support for the sector to enable them to prepare for the future of the industry.
- In parallel to this, there is close work with the national sector plan to ensure appropriate account is taken of the needs of West Midlands based businesses.

3.8 Sector Action Plans

3.9 Delivery leads have been agreed for all twelve sectors, plans are being developed and, where applicable, aligned with the Major New Market Opportunities and the five foundations of productivity. The Sector Plans are being developed by the region's three Local Enterprise Partnerships and the West Midlands Growth Company, who are working with regional businesses in order to ensure evolving plans clearly address the challenges and opportunities faced by the sectors.

3.10 As part of this work being undertaken on the development of the sector action plans, initial headline indicators have been identified for most sectors. These indicators include economic potential of each sector, what is currently going well, what the initial identified gaps are and where potential opportunities can be explored and developed. A summary of these initial draft indicators for each sector are provided in appendix 2.

3.11 The next steps for the Sector Plans will be to review actions to ensure they are robust and that cross-cutting priorities such as clean and inclusive growth principles are embedded. Consideration also needs to be given to how the plans are approved and monitored. Where resource allows, each sector plan is exploring how best to implement delivery against the plan, with oversight from a relevant industry steering group and/or sector body, and a focus on priority interventions to drive that sector forward across the region.

3.12 Progress to date: Foundations

3.13 The LIS sets out actions to tackle five foundations of productivity: Idea, People, Business Environment, Place and Infrastructure. These actions should benefit many or all of our sectors and opportunities. Most have their own delivery boards or programmes (for example on skills, housing and land, innovation and environment). This ensures that LIS implementation is integrated into the wider work of the West Midlands and associated investment.

3.14 Good progress is already being made across our foundations including:

LIS Foundation of Productivity	WMCA Initiatives
Infrastructure & Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A £30m funding package secured to deliver the Vision for Bus objectives – Launching phase 1 delivery plan including air quality targets for buses. - A pipeline of brownfield sites that have already been invested in, accelerated or acquired to support housing and employment delivery. - Development of a Climate Change Action Plan with a consultation launched at the January CA Board. - Delivery of 5G Programmes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1st UK demo on a 5G remote ultra-sound scan undertaken June 2019 - 6 x 5G Imagine Events held within the region (LAs/Colleges) - Accelerated the roll-out of 5G to Wolverhampton (by at least 6 months) - Regional 5G demonstration events - Developed 1st ‘Connected Map’ of its kind which is an interactive tool that enables a true picture of the infrastructure and asset landscape
Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - Inclusive Growth Corridors Toolkit Launched in June 2019. - 3 Inclusive Growth pilots launched. - Development of a regional spatial investment and delivery plan.
Ideas/ Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first phase of West Midlands Innovation Programme and pilot projects developed. In principle approval for a £2.96m programme given at 24th June Investment Board.

LIS Foundation of Productivity	WMCA Initiatives
People, Skills & Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WMCA has secured funding to enable bespoke construction training including on site hubs in Perry Barr, Wednesbury and Broad Street, Birmingham. These hubs are used to upskill existing workforce and new entrants to the sectors. - The WMCA's £5m Construction Gateway retraining programme, seeing 42% of participants going into employment (both programmes also <i>supporting delivery of the LIS Sector Plan for Construction</i>). - Good progress toward 5 year target for Apprenticeship Levy Funding. With £4.99m of Regional Apprenticeship Levy funding secured, and more than 100 apprenticeships supported. - Over 600 young people engaged through “progressions coaches” (achieving an in-work retention rate of 94%). And an extension to the Progression Coach Model due to its initial success, until 2020. - 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. programme continuing to exceed targets and expand support offers to young people. - 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. Successfully commissioning new provision through our devolved Adult Education Budget.
Business Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Growth Support Programme – strategically significant proposal in development for Spending Review submission. - Secured funding from the Brexit Contingency Pooled Fund, to deliver a regionally aligned Brexit readiness business support programme across the 3 LEP Growth Hubs. - Launched Creative Scale Up Programme (<i>supporting our Creative Sector plan and Major Market Opportunity</i>).

3.15 Inclusive growth priorities are already embedded and cross cutting through this delivery activity, with tools and support being developed by the Inclusive Growth Unit, that are being utilised to support existing and future delivery activity. Key products such as the inclusive growth investment toolkit, inclusive growth framework, public value framework and population health intelligence function will provide the foundation for supporting the development and delivery of LIS initiatives going forward.

- 3.16** Extensive investment in delivery activity is also being driven by our regions 3 LEPs. The Black Country Growth Deal, 'Made in the Black Country, Sold around the World' agreed with Government is worth over £190 million and will generate an additional £310 million in public and private investment totalling to £500 million. From 2015-21, the Growth Deal will create up to 6,384 new jobs, over 2,536 new homes, 3,200 additional businesses helped to grow and 9,014 additional learners supported to develop skills needed by businesses. Key projects in the Black Country Deal include: Improving Junction 10 of the M6, a major congestion-busting scheme by building new wider bridges over the motorway, which will increase the capacity of the circulatory carriageway and allow the junction to operate efficiently; A new Advanced Centre for Advanced Building Technologies and Construction at Dudley College, which will up-skill over 3,250 residents over five years and equip local people with the skills to take up the many construction sector opportunities that will be generated by HS2 across the West Midlands; The redevelopment of Wolverhampton Station into a fully integrated transport hub, providing an attractive and effective gateway for the Black Country and improved links to Birmingham and future HS2 connectivity. The development will include a new railway station, new commercial office accommodation and increased parking facilities. £8 million Access to Finance schemes to strengthen the capacity of Black Country businesses to take advantage of new market opportunities. This will provide Access to Finance via the Regional Growth Fund to grow Priority Sectors via capital investment in plant, machinery & property. The Black Country has enabled 1,800 homes to be Garden City accredited; invested in key strategic existing and future developments at Springfield Campus which will position Wolverhampton as a national and international hub of excellence for construction and the built environment including the National Brownfield Institute; £12.5 million investment into the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills; the forthcoming £28m Rail National Innovation Centre project will deliver a test track and a new national innovation centre and over £8m finance to 39 Black Country businesses through the Midlands Engine Investment Fund - the highest total amount out of the 10 LEPs in the Midlands Engine area.
- 3.17** Within the CWLEP programme, £131.8 million in Local Growth Fund allocations has supported 39 projects across the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP area, which will create 7,500 new jobs, 3,400 new homes and additional investment of £240 million over the next 5 years. These projects include major town regeneration schemes (Transforming Nuneaton), skills development support through apprenticeship provision (Trident Apprenticeship Centre, Warwickshire College Group and WMG Degree Apprenticeship Centre, University of Warwick), innovation (National Transport Design Centre, Coventry University), road infrastructure improvements (A46 Stanks, Warwick and A452 Europa Way, Leamington Spa), rail station redevelopment (Coventry and Kenilworth).
- 3.18** GBSLEP has invested £186 million through Local Growth Fund, across 75 different projects which will create 28,000 new jobs, nearly 12,000 new homes and provide skills support for more than 6,000 new learners. These projects include major new transport schemes including substantial contributions to Midlands Metro and Curzon Station but also connectivity schemes in Longbridge, Birmingham Cycle Revolution and Lichfield Southern Bypass; skills projects such as the Hybrid Vehicle Technology Training Centre at Solihull College and University Centre and the Prince's Trust Young People's Skills & Enterprise Hub and sector specific schemes including Tyseley Energy Park for low carbon technologies and Birmingham Dance Hub for creative industries.

3.19 Cross cutting themes

3.20 Supporting clean growth: WMCA Environment and Energy activities/actions are integral to LIS delivery activity, critically ensuring emerging opportunities or sector plans align with existing or emerging priorities and support delivery of WMCA ambitions. Heads of Environment and Energy are involved in proposals that are being developed and are helping to shape these accordingly, ensuring benefits and opportunities are maximised, duplication and silo projects/programmes/initiatives are avoided and regional approaches adopted.

3.21 We are also working to ensure that the actions and opportunities in the LIS which can have the highest impact on making our economy more inclusive are clearly identified and integrated to our work on short term economic shocks. For example, work is underway to develop a new enterprise and business support programme and to review support for innovation in our supply chain SMEs – helping them stay competitive. We are also ensuring that the inclusive growth corridors are effectively resourced – so that where large scale transport and other infrastructure investment is committed, the work is done to ensure that local communities see the maximum benefit.

3.22 Implementation support

3.23 Additional staffing resources to support LIS implementation activity has been secured, with dedicated resources working full time on LIS implementation activity, supporting the WMCA and 3 LEPS. A Head of LIS Implementation post has also now been filed, with this new appointment starting in January 2020.

3.24 Through these new resources, work has been progressed to map existing delivery activity at both a WMCA and 3 LEP geography against LIS actions. We now have a comprehensive 'matrix' of LEP and WMCA projects, programmes and initiatives, including associated funding and timescales. This is vital as it has enabled us to ensure existing delivery is aligned with the LIS and is helping to identify where there are existing funding gaps and where existing funding streams come to an end in the next couple of years

3.25 Work is also progressing to develop pipeline projects and programmes, through sector action plans and major opportunities. Taken together, this analysis of gaps and pipeline projects and programmes will inform future discussions with Government about a range of funding streams and prioritisation of any remaining uncommitted local funding (although this is minimal). Consideration is being given to the wider economic landscape, including Brexit impacts on sectors with opportunities and actions are being prioritised accordingly.

3.26 Engagement Activity

3.27 Wider stakeholder engagement was critical in the development of our LIS and continues to remain a priority in our ongoing development and implementation activity. This is essential in order to ensure proposals being developed continue to meet the needs of our region's businesses and citizens and engages with key groups such as our Young CA.

3.28 Current work is focused on the development of key messages in order to engage with key government officials/departments to reinforce budget ask as regional priorities, activity to re-engage with businesses, stakeholders and sector groups to review LIS implementation activities, priorities and proposals, the development of regional collateral to ensure common messaging and 'one regional voice' ensuring consistent asks and messaging through all engagement activity at LEPs or WMCA levels.

3.29 Workshops with key government officials are also being arranged in order to scope opportunities and reinforce our priorities as a region. Early workshops have already been held with CLG/DfT with further proposals for a workshop with DiT, BEIS and HMT/No10.

3.30 Future funding

3.31 In parallel to LIS implementation activity, work is progressing on future budget asks. Emerging programmes are being reviewed, refined and developed that align with our Local Industrial Strategy priorities recognising what is going well but also where, as a region we still have challenges, which are also considered in light of the most recent economic data.

3.32 These challenges combined with the priorities emerging through our Local Industrial Strategy Implementation activity, are being used to help shape and prioritise our asks to Government and will also form a critical part of our engagement and communications activity.

3.33 It should be noted that delivery partners remain concerned about the uncertainty about future funding given the resource requirements needed to fully implement the aspirations and emerging priorities for the economy as identified within the Local Industrial Strategy. These issues are also reflected in the financial implications and proactive work is underway to identify new and better ways of resourcing these emerging priorities, programmes and actions.

3.34 Next Steps

3.35 The integrated approach and four key principles recommended and agreed in the June 2019 Board paper are being used to drive the development of LIS implementation activity and are critical to its success, work to date and going forward will continue to ensure these principles are applied to all emerging activity:

1. Creates a single pipeline of significant, strategic projects and programmes.
2. Is proactive – biased toward action.
3. Is collaborative and complements existing activity.
4. Insists and ensures that projects and programmes integrate our commitment to a balanced and a more inclusive economy, engaging with communities and employees.

3.36 As outlined within this report work on LIS Implementation will focus on:

- Reviewing and refining budget asks, aligned to challenges and opportunities.
- Clear alignment to regional priorities including energy and environment.
- Embedding inclusive growth in emerging action plans.
- Further work to develop a consistent set of Sector Action Plans, including prioritised implementation plans, outputs, outcomes and resource requirements clearly set out.
- Ongoing work to support the development and work of associated forums/boards responsible for leading on the LIS Major New Market Opportunities.

- Development of clear dashboard reporting mechanisms for SED Board, including output/outcome measures (an example of this is provided at appendix 1). In relation to this dashboard, the January SED Board (and based on evidence) have identified a number of priority actions which will be taken forward, including: Deep dive into FDI trends – to be coordinate by Growth Company, Deep dive into youth unemployment and Deep dive into exports.
- The further development of a regional LIS communications and engagement activity.

3.37 The Board are asked to note progress made, note priority actions outlined in 3.36 and to receive a further update report in Summer 2020

4 Financial implications

4.1 Delivery of the LIS will have financial implications going forwards. At this time the WMCA and the three Local Enterprise Partnerships are deploying all available resources to deliver LIS objectives but there are emerging priorities that are not resourced. Therefore Spending Review asks will be drawn up to identify/support these gaps to enable the LIS to be delivered across the four agencies.

4.2 There are direct financial implications arising from this paper. Wider additional funding for the region is in place through the WMCA investment programme, recent housing and skills deals, transport investment and existing LEP funding. Existing funding streams and delivery will be aligned to deliver this strategy. However, in the current uncertain financial environment and with significant funding still to be secured to deliver the existing WMCA programme, delivery of the LIS strategy objectives will require additional and replacement funding secured through government and other sources and from which we will continue to lever private sector funding. The LIS implementation process will feed into the wider West Midlands input to a future spending review, through drawing together a single pipeline of strategic projects and programmes and which will be deployed to ensure robust funding bids are ready for any potential funding opportunities as they arise.

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 None directly arising from this report.

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 None directly arising from this report

7.0 Other implications

7.1 None directly arising from this report.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

Appendix 1. Economic Data Summary

Appendix 2. LIS Implementation – Sector Action Plans - Initial identified key elements