

Public Service Reform Board

Date	10 September 2020
Report title	Recovery Coordination Group Community Recovery Priorities
Portfolio Lead	Councillor Maria Crompton, Interim Portfolio Holder for Public Service Reform
Accountable Chief Executive	Deborah Cadman, West Midlands Combined Authority Deborah.Cadman@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Ed Cox, Director of Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform Ed.Cox@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	Recovery Coordination Group

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Public Service Reform Board is recommended to:

- To note the programme of activity to respond to the community recovery priorities and principles developed by the Recovery Coordination Group, and presented to the Recovery Forum.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update PSR Board on the programme of activity to respond to the community recovery priorities and principles presented to the Recovery Forum in July and September 2020.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 17th July, the Recovery Forum was presented with a set of recommended Community Recovery Priorities and Principles informed by the Citizens Panel, the evidence base collected in the State of the Region Report, insights from engagement by Local Authorities, and input from a range of stakeholder groups.
- 2.2 The Forum endorsed the priorities and principles and asked that the WMCA and Met Chief Executives carefully consider how best to progress work to respond to the priorities, including where there is benefit in taking a regional approach to address priorities and principles

identified. It was highlighted that many of these priorities are already being addressed at a local level and are part of emerging Local Authority recovery plans and the plans of other RCG partners.

3. **Process**

- 3.1 The RCG has agreed a programme of work, led by Local Authorities, to align, enable, and support activity at a regional level where there is added value. This work is being sponsored by Nick Page (Chief Executive, Solihull) and Tim Johnson (Chief Executive, Wolverhampton), with the WMCA supporting the process.
- 3.2 The programme has started with a short process to understand and collate the work that RCG partners are doing, or planning to do, in relation to these community recovery priorities and principles. Further steps include developing 'good and effective practice groups' and the suggested production of a community recovery 'prospectus' as a proposition to Government but also a stimulus and framework for regional collaboration.
- 3.3 The three stages of activity are:
 - Stage 1 (August / September)- Define core areas of focus: a short process to understand and collate the work that RCG partners are already doing, or planning to do, in relation to community recovery priorities. This will identify programmes and projects that are already being delivered, where there might be concerns and/or interdependencies regarding community recovery themes where there might be opportunities for collaboration or mutual learning such that a whole region approach, and there is potential ask or requirement of Government support.
 - Stage 2 (September) - Develop good and effective practice groups: to identify capacity and willingness to develop good and effective practice groups around the core areas of focus, drawn from RCG partners. It is envisaged these groups would be time limited in the first instance. The most suitable local government forum in each Authority for this work to be coalesced will be identified (e.g. Health and Wellbeing Boards) and serve as the foundation for broader RCG collaboration.
 - Stage 3 (October) - Develop a community recovery 'prospectus': With the support of the WMCA, it is proposed that we develop an analysis for the conditions for success, the enablers, the barriers and the lubrication to accelerate delivery across the core areas and develop into a proposition document (on a similar basis to the economic recovery 'Recharge' document). Stage 1 is being utilised to draw out any immediate/short term asks that might usefully feature in the Comprehensive Spending Review submission.

4. **Financial Implications**

4.1 There are currently no financial implications associated with this report, but any new or extended activity generated by successful Comprehensive Spending Review asks will require officer time to develop and implement.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

6. Equalities Implications

6.1 The prospectus will draw upon current and existing partner research – such as the Regional Health Inequalities of Covid-19 interim report – to ensure that the people who have borne the heaviest burden during the pandemic are prioritised for focus as part of community recovery. Local authority, public health and wider partners are working to ensure that the insight coming into this work reflects that.

7. Inclusive Growth Implications

7.1 There is a risk to inclusive growth if the people identified as part of 6.1 are not prioritised in the wider WMCA 'Recharge' document. As such, this community recovery-focused work is a vital 'bridge' between planned investments and those people, ensuring that everyone is benefiting from wider investments into the region.

8. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

8.1 This work is relevant across the WMCA 3-LEP region, but focuses specifically on the seven metropolitan authorities.

9. Other Implications

None.