



**West Midlands**  
Combined Authority

## WMCA Board

<b>Date</b>	13 November 2020
<b>Report title</b>	Annual Delivery 2020/21: Mid-Year Update
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<b>Report has been considered by</b>	Strategic Leadership Team - 21 October 2020 Programme Board - 30 October 2020 Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 2 November 2020

### **Recommendation(s) for action or decision:**

#### **The WMCA Board is recommended to:**

- (1) Note the mid-year summary of progress against portfolio deliverables for 2020/21.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present a mid-year summary of progress against portfolio deliverables for 2020/21.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 As part of its business planning and performance management, the WMCA normally produces an Annual Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to set out the priorities of the WMCA, provide a strategic context for the WMCA as an organisation, and to articulate what is being delivered and planned across each of the priority portfolios.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 5 June 2020, the WMCA Board agreed not to publish an Annual Plan for 2020/21 given a need to reassess the portfolio deliverables originally agreed for 2020/21 (by the WMCA Board on 14 February 2020) and review WMCA's ongoing activity, strategic aims and planning processes in the context of the Region's recovery from Covid-19.
- 2.3 A report to the Board on 18 September 2020 provided a further update on annual delivery for 2020/21, including the changes that had been made in-year to deliverables to better align portfolio activity to recovery. That report also proposed that a mid-year review of delivery be presented to the Board in November, in line with our usual performance reporting practice.

## 3. Progress against portfolio deliverables

- 3.1 The ***Annual Delivery 2020/21: Mid-Year Update*** document attached at **Appendix 1** provides a half year summary of delivery and progress against 2020/21 WMCA portfolio activity. It enables the Board and other stakeholders to review the progress of portfolio activities that support our inclusive economic growth aspirations and realise the vision of a healthier, happier, better connected and more prosperous region. It also provides an opportunity to summarise how the context of COVID-19 and the region's recovery from it has changed the environment the Authority is operating in, and how it has impacted on portfolio activity delivered and planned.
- 3.2 The document has a section on each of the portfolios including:
  - A statement summarising overall progress and the context for delivery
  - Commentary against each of the high-level deliverables
- 3.3 There is also a section summarising some of the enabling activity that has supported portfolio delivery. This includes how governance and decision-making has been adapted, and how the Combined Authority has played a role in leading and convening the region's economic response to the pandemic, complementing and supporting activity at both a regional and national level.
- 3.4 In terms of progress against deliverables, most milestones and targets are being met, despite the onset of COVID-19 and there has been some notable progress, achievements and delivery across portfolios including:

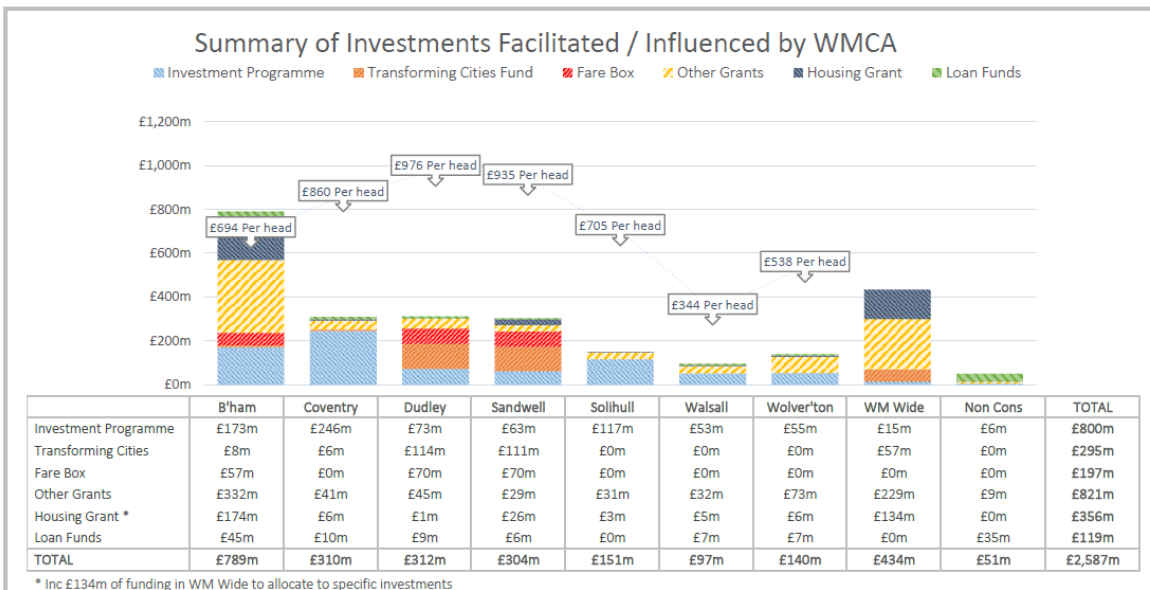
Portfolio	Progress, achievements and delivery
<b>Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 and the climate emergency are shaping delivery of the Local Transport Plan.</li> <li>• Successful restart and safe management of the transport system post lockdown</li> <li>• Supported the safe return of children to school.</li> <li>• Secured and coordinated funding to support recovery including the Emergency Active Travel Fund and the UK's first eScooter pilot on public highways.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing &amp; Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £84m secured for brownfield regeneration.</li> <li>• Housing and Land Business Plan reviewed in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure effective response to COVID-19.</li> <li>• Establishment of Zero Carbon taskforce to take forward critical work on this priority.</li> </ul>
<b>Productivity &amp; Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieved the Mayor's Mentors project target, meaning 10,000 young people across the West Midlands have benefited from mentoring interventions.</li> <li>• Successfully completed the £5m Construction Gateway programme.</li> <li>• A further £1.5m Government funding to scale-up the £5m Digital Retraining Fund.</li> <li>• Continuing to see apprenticeship starts despite the onset of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Secured an additional £5.3m into our Adult Education Budget in response to the crisis.</li> </ul>
<b>Economy and Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Recharge the West Midlands' proposition helped prioritise local investment and shape an ambitious submission to Government's Spending Review.</li> <li>• West Midlands intelligence teams have informed policy decisions through intelligence products such as the State of the Region report.</li> <li>• Create Central and the Creative Scale-Up programme have provided specialist support to important growth sectors.</li> <li>• The West Midlands Innovation Programme is now operational and seeks to boost demand-led innovation by businesses.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment &amp; Energy, HS2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WSP Global appointed to develop the first Five Year Plan in support of WM2041.</li> <li>• There is increasing visibility of WM2041 amongst a diverse set of stakeholders who are keen to support our ambitions for net zero.</li> <li>• £350k funding secured to enable Energy Capital to establish an implementation plan for the Fuel Poverty and Regional Retrofit programme.</li> <li>• Energy infrastructure strategy to support ULEV/ transport decarbonisation underway.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Service Reform &amp; Social Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New project initiated in Homelessness Prevention focusing on Rough sleepers.</li> <li>• Established a £20K spot purchase fund with Royal British Legion to support veterans at risk of homelessness.</li> <li>• Through a successful collaboration with Solihull MBC we have worked together to build an outcomes framework.</li> <li>• Advising and supporting East Birmingham Board to codesign with Birmingham City Council to ensure it is focused on inclusion and collaborative delivery.</li> <li>• Developed rich insight from civil society, public services and a range of partners into the incredible innovation, enterprise and flexibility undertaken during the pandemic.</li> </ul>
<b>Culture &amp; Digital</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked with the region's Culture Response Unit to coordinate information about support and guidance to cultural organisations.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Cultural Leadership Board are now focussing on supporting the cultural sector post-COVID-19 and ensuring that culture is at the heart of the region's recovery.</li> <li>COVID-19 emphasised the importance of digital connectivity in our region and gave a new focus to the refresh of our digital strategy.</li> <li>WM5G – is continuing to deliver against the Infrastructure Acceleration targets and have successfully renegotiated dates with Telefonica to offset delays associated with COVID-19 and have secured approval for £10m of funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPS Trial recruitment at 75% despite Covid and additional funding secured till Jun-21.</li> <li>Physical Activity strategy presented to Wellbeing Board.</li> <li>Regional Health Impact of COVID-19 Task and Finish Group established and interim report published.</li> <li>Thrive at Work Awards Night held with 400 businesses now engaged.</li> <li>Population Intelligence Hub established and delivering Health of Region Report.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusive Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enabled the Young Combined Authority to provide challenge and insight from the 16-25 year olds.</li> <li>Repurposed planned activity, in response to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on disadvantaged communities.</li> <li>Supported the Leadership Commission to identify key aims for improving economic opportunities for underrepresented groups.</li> <li>Championed the WMCA's equalities, diversity and inclusion agenda, and the development of further actions to improve diversity and inclusion outcomes.</li> </ul>

#### 4. Financial Implications

4.1 The portfolio deliverables were developed as part of the Authority's 2020/21 Annual Planning and Budget setting process. The 2020/21 Budget was approved at the WMCA Board on 14 February 2020 and contained a summary of the planned delivery that the budget underpins. The WMCA Board receives a regular Financial Monitoring Report which provides a comprehensive update on financial performance.

4.2 The diagram below shows a per capita breakdown of investments facilitated and/or influenced by WMCA since the first Devolution Deal.



## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications as a direct consequence of this report. The Annual Plan however does support the principle of transparency in the actions of the Authority and indirectly reduces the prospect of legal challenges.

## **6. Equalities Implications**

- 6.1 The individual projects and programmes listed in the portfolio deliverables will be equality impact assessed to ensure key equality considerations are taken into account.

## **7. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 7.1 The document attached sets out activity that contribute to the overall vision of a West Midlands that has a healthier, happier, better connected and more prosperous population. At the heart of that vision is an ambition to drive inclusive economic growth.

## **8. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

- 8.1 The documents appended to this report include information about delivery and performance across the region.

## **9. Other Implications**

## **10. Schedule of Background Papers**

Report to WMCA Board on 5 June 2020: Annual Planning: Review of 2019/20 delivery and update on 2020/21 planning

<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/documents/s4196/Annual%20Review%20Report.pdf>

Report to WMCA Board on 18 September 2020: Update on Annual Planning and Delivery 2020/21 <https://governance.wmca.org.uk/documents/s4645/Report.pdf>

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Annual Delivery 2020/21 – Mid Year Review