

Public Service Reform Board

Date	15 December 2020
Report title	Recovery Co-ordination Group Community Recovery Priorities
Portfolio Lead	Public Service Reform & Social Economy - Councillor Maria Crompton
Accountable Chief Executive	Deborah Cadman, West Midlands Combined Authority email: deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk tel: (0121) 214 7200
Accountable Employee	Ed Cox, Director of Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform email: ed.cox@wmca.org.uk tel: 07788 224179
Report has been considered by	Recovery Co-ordination Group

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Public Service Reform Board is recommended to:

- (1) Note, and disseminate *Levelling-up the West Midlands: Our roadmap to community recovery and prospectus for government* and the next steps of 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 At its meeting in July, the Recovery Forum endorsed a set of community recovery priorities and principles, and a process by which the Combined Authority would work with local authorities and other Recovery Co-ordination Group (RCG) partners on these matters. The Community Recovery Roadmap (attached) is a key milestone in that process. The Roadmap was endorsed by the mayor, leaders and portfolio holders at the Recovery Forum on Friday 20 November 2020.

3. Process

- 3.1 The Recovery Coordination Group (RCG) agreed the programme of work, led by Local Authorities, to align, enable, and support activity at a regional level where there is added value. This work has been sponsored by Nick Page (Chief Executive, Solihull) and Tim Johnson (Chief Executive, Wolverhampton), with the WMCA supporting the process.
- 3.2 The role of the Combined Authority has been - and will continue to be - one of co-ordination and support, developing a shared evidence base, facilitating and convening, and pulling together proposals to unlock access to resources and double devolution. Any involvement by the Combined Authority in delivery will be a mutually agreed regional approach or where this role is mandated by central government.
- 3.3 The community recovery priorities identified by the Citizens' Panel have provided a framework, but the nearly all delivery will be led by local authorities and their partners. Clearly there is scope for collaborative action but this must be decided and driven by local authorities and RCG partners themselves.

4 The Community Recovery Roadmap and Prospectus

- 4.1 The Community Recovery Roadmap sets out a united vision for the recovery we are seeking in the region – this is based on the 6 priorities and 4 cross cutting principles agreed by the Citizens Panel and agreed by the Recovery Forum.
- 4.2 The Roadmap includes 41 examples of good practice, 27 shared ambitions for recovery, 29 asks of government and 15 initial areas for future collaboration. Of the asks of government, over £2bn of these were set out in the WMCA *Recharge the West Midlands prospectus* for transport, affordable housing and skills programmes and these are repeated here. A further £203m is requested for programmes of work directly associated with community recovery on issues such as digital inclusion, radical health prevention and access to green spaces. All of the asks in this prospectus have been previously made in our Comprehensive Spending Review and Devolution White Paper and the primary recommendation is for a sustainable and fair funding settlement for local government.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The Community Recovery process is deliberately permissive and open. Activity against any of the key priorities set out in the Roadmap will be led by local authorities and other agencies as appropriate.
- (1) Each of the 6 priority areas and the additional cross cutting theme of '*extra help for the most affected*' will benefit from a senior leader 'sponsor' from a constituent local authority. The sponsor will meet regularly with a priority area delivery lead to challenge and support progress and unlock barriers.
 - (2) We are developing 4 or 5 collaborative opportunities drawn from the roadmap with partners.
 - (3) The Combined Authority will be launching an open innovation competition aimed at gathering new ideas and supporting further good practice in community recovery.
 - (4) The Combined Authority will continue to lobby for funding and for devolution asks as part of its wider programme to secure Recharge, CSR and Devolution White Paper propositions.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 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.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

8. Equalities Implications

- 8.1 The prospectus draws upon current and existing partner research – such as the State of the Region Health 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.

9. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 9.1 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.

10. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

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

11. Other Implications

None.

Annex 1

Levelling-up the West Midlands: Our roadmap to community recovery and prospectus for government.