



**West Midlands**  
Combined Authority

## **Transport Delivery Committee**

<b>Date</b>	11 January 2021
<b>Report title</b>	Freight & Logistics in the West Midlands – Information Briefing
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<b>Report has been considered by</b>	TDC Lead Members

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

Transport Delivery Committee is requested to:

1. To note the attached briefing which provides an update on Freight & Logistics matters in the West Midlands.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide this committee with an overview of key issues relating to freight & logistics in the West Midlands and an update on relevant TfWM activity.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Freight and logistics movements are vital to the West Midlands economy and supply the goods and services used by people every day. Freight movements do not simply occur but rather they reflect our economic activity and provide the means to trade nationally and internationally.
- 2.2 Pre-pandemic, the West Midlands was the fastest growing region outside London, with GVA reaching a record high in 2017 and the region also experiencing record numbers of job creation. The region is served by a complex network of freight and logistics movements, which impose a variety of demands on our transport networks.
- 2.3 The West Midlands metropolitan area is located at the heart of the UK and is at the centre of the UK's motorway and railway networks. Our location gives us strong access to major domestic and international markets and provides the West Midlands with a strategic economic advantage.

## **3.0 An overview of Freight & Logistics in the West Midlands**

- 3.1 Attached to this report (Appendix 1) is a detailed briefing which provides an overview of:
- 3.2 The West Midlands Freight and Logistics Context including key trends on:
- Road freight,
  - Rail freight,
  - Air Freight,
  - Urban freight and,
  - Regional employment in the freight & logistics sector.
- 3.3 Strategic challenges for freight and logistics in the West Midlands including:
- Brexit,
  - The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic
  - Overcoming supply constraints to meet changing demand patterns and maintain supply resilience
  - Preventing productivity losses and maintaining competitiveness of UK plc
  - Addressing road safety, tackling air quality and supporting decarbonisation to meet the net zero target.
- 3.4 Action by TfWM to the support Freight & Logistics in the West Midlands including short term and longer term activity to improve the relationship between Public Sector Policy and the Freight & Logistics Sector.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report. Any policies, strategies or programmes developed in relation to Freight & Logistics will be subject to relevant equalities impact analysis as appropriate.

#### **8.0 Inclusive Growth Implications**

8.1 The transport interventions set out within this report form an integral part of an efficient and resilient transport system which support inclusive growth objectives by:

- Enabling wider labour markets,
- Providing access to skills, education and training
- Supporting regeneration and place making initiatives

#### **9.0 Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

9.1 The report deals primarily issues within the Metropolitan Area, but action to improve and support freight and logistics activity will potentially have benefits across the wider WMCA area.

#### **10.0 Other Implications**

10.1 No implications