

WMCA Board

Date	15 January 2021
Report title	Recovery Coordination Group Community Recovery Roadmap and Prospectus
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Report has been considered by	Recovery Co-ordination Group Recovery Forum Public Service Reform Board

WMCA Board is recommended to:

- (1) Reconfirm its endorsement of *Levelling-up the West Midlands: Our roadmap to community recovery and prospectus for government* made at the Recovery Forum on 20 November 2020.
- (2) Consider this further update on the Community Recovery work programme.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek formal endorsement of the *Levelling-up the West Midlands: Our roadmap to community recovery and prospectus for government*. The report was previously endorsed at the Recovery Forum on 20 November 2020 but requires formal endorsement by the WMCA Board.

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 the Chief Executive Officer for 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*' have been allocated a senior leader 'sponsor' from a constituent local authority. The sponsor will meet regularly with a priority area delivery lead within the WMCA 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 launch an open innovation challenge in January 2021 aimed at gathering new ideas and supporting further good practice in community recovery.

4) The Combined Authority is continuing 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.

Appendix 1

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