

# RESETTING THE REGION

Our strong history of collaboration has powered our pandemic response.

We have:



- adapted existed plans and programmes and transforming the region's public transport system to be Covid-safe



- set up a rapid recruitment team to find suitable candidates for industries in critical need of extra staff, such as supermarkets, care homes, hospitals and other essential services.



- set up new groups and taskforces. Our economic impact group was convened on 4 March 2020 and meets every week to understand the impact on the regional economy, pinpoint gaps for emergency support and drive economy recovery.



- researched to understand peoples' experiences - we convened 36 people in a representative citizens panel to set their priorities for region. Academics, business leaders and partners examined how new megatrends will affect the West Midlands' recovery.



- used evidence to develop and guide our decision making

We came together as a region to set up new programmes, address gaps in support, lobby government and allocate funds to support our communities. Now we need to strengthen this partnership work as we face the future.

We know we need to rethink and reset the way we think and work together across the region to deliver fundamental change – doing things differently and innovating when it's needed so that we can tackle the challenges we're facing. These challenges include the need to:



## Deliver good jobs

- 164,000 fewer jobs in September 2020 compared to September 2019.
- Furloughed workers rose to 620k (July) down to 142k (Oct)



## Support thriving places and communities

- Footfall in Birmingham city centre had only recovered to 31% of its pre-pandemic levels by early December with expenditure at 17% - the lowest of any city in the UK



## Embed our green ambitions

Stay within a cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 74.1 MtCO<sub>2</sub> for the period of 2020 to 2100. At 2016 CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels, the budget would be used within six years



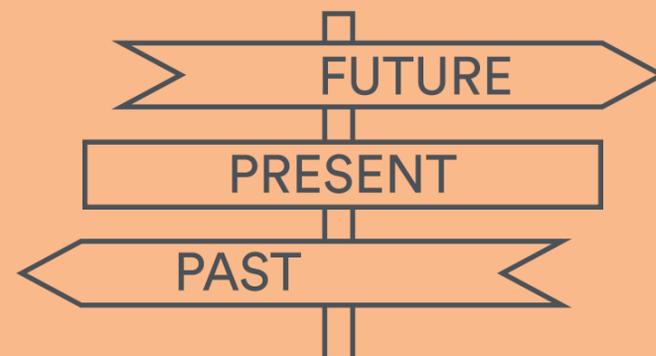
## Tackle inequality and level up

- COVID-19 deaths are 2.2 times higher in the most deprived areas compared to least deprived areas and all deaths 1.9 times higher
- Nearly one in seven are looking for employment within Birmingham – which has the worst levels of joblessness in the UK, with five of its ten constituencies with the highest jobless rates across the entire UK



## Prevent a lost generation

- 211,575 claimants aged 16 years and over in November
- +99,660 claimants since March. Youth Claimants have doubled to 42,850 and 8.7% of all 16 to 24 year olds.
- A fifth of the population don't use the internet – the highest number in the UK
- Highest proportion of employers saying they find digital skills difficult to obtain from applicants



## Where next?

We're ambitious for the West Midlands and want to do much more than simply recover from the pandemic by rebuilding and recharging our region to come back stronger. We can only do this by working in partnership, focusing together on our shared challenges and finding new and innovative ways to make a lasting difference.

Together we're determined to lead the region to take its rightful place in the world with economic and cultural recovery shared with everyone. We will build a fairer, greener and healthier future for everyone who calls the West Midlands their home.