



**West Midlands  
Combined Authority**

## **Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

<b>Date</b>	21 July 2021
<b>Report title</b>	Proposed Scrutiny Review 2021/22
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### **Recommendation(s) for decision:**

#### **Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended to:**

- (1) Review and agree the draft scoping document for the first proposed scrutiny review for 2021/22.
- (2) To determine the membership and timescales for the review.

## **Purpose**

1. To review the draft scoping document for a scrutiny review of the remit and use of housing and land powers available to the West Midlands Combined Authority.

## **Background**

2. At its meeting on 25 June, the WMCA Board appointed Councillor Cathy Bayton as Chair of this committee. The Chair subsequently met with the Governance Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer to discuss the WMCA's key strategic priorities and potential areas where scrutiny could add value this year with its work programme.

## **A Review of the WMCA's Housing & Land Policy & Powers**

3. It was suggested that a review be undertaken to examine the role and remit of the WMCA to deliver affordable housing within the West Midlands through the use of the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund, and to consider how this supported and added value to the responsibilities of the constituent authorities in respect of affordable housing provision. A draft scoping document (attached as Appendix A) has been developed which has identified the objectives of the review as:
  - How is the region's affordable housing needs determined and what account is taken for sub-regional socio-economic differences in the calculation of regional need?
  - What is the role of the WMCA in the supply of affordable housing in the West Midlands? How does the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund help support this role, and how clearly is this role understood across the region and amongst partners?
  - How does this role support and contribute to the constituent authority's responsibility for the delivery of affordable housing within their district?
  - To understand the number of sites funded through the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund to date, the number of housing units delivered on these sites, and the percentage of these units that have been designated as affordable.
  - Does the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund adequately use its commissioning and contracting influence to maximise the delivery of affordable housing units within the individual schemes it funds?
  - What are the impacts and implications on the Brownfield Land Remediation Fund of the differential cost of Land Remediation across the region?

## **Arrangements for the Review**

4. Typically, scrutiny reviews involve a small group of Overview & Scrutiny Committee members who will look at a subject in depth and submit a report to committee proposing a number of recommendations arising out of that review. The committee would then consider whether to adopt these recommendations for submission onto the WMCA Board. Members will need to decide whether it wishes to undertake this proposed review in the same manner.

### **Financial Implications**

5. There are no direct financial implications immediately arising out of the recommendations contained within this report.

### **Legal Implications**

6. There are no direct legal implications immediately arising out of the recommendations contained within this report.

### **Equalities Implications**

7. There are no direct equality implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

### **Inclusive Growth Implications**

8. There are no direct inclusive growth implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.

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

9. The WMCA exercises housing and land powers overwhelmingly in respect of the area covered by its constituent authority members.

### **Other Implications**

10. There are no further specific implications arising out of the recommendations contained within the report.