

WMCA Board

Date	19 November 2021
Report title	WMCA Aims and Objectives
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Report has been considered by	Mayor & Portfolio Leads Liaison Meeting Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The WMCA Board is recommended to:

- (1) Agree the WMCA Aims and Objectives.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform WMCA Board of the latest draft of the WMCA Aims and Objectives, which is recommended for agreement.

2. Background

- 2.1 The purpose of the WMCA Aims and Objectives document is to:

- Set out how we will deliver on the region's priorities
- Guide our use of powers and money secured from central government
- Enable the WMCA to measure our progress against our priorities

- 2.2 The Aims and Objectives will be regularly reviewed, including a formal review every six months to monitor progress. The WMCA, as a relatively young organisation, has not developed strategic aims and objectives before but strategic planning is important for our organisation to mature. The aims and objectives sit one level up from the existing annual business planning process and will ensure that as an organisation, we are delivering on the region's priorities. It is important that they are agreed in order to align the budget for 2022/2023 to our workplan. This will allow the Board to monitor progress and delivery of the WMCA.

- 2.3 We have developed the WMCA Aims and Objectives, through bilateral and multilateral engagement with the Mayor and leaders of constituent authorities, with other key stakeholders such as the Young Combined Authority, and with colleagues from across the WMCA.

- 2.4 The process to date has been:

- 11/06 – Aims and Objectives process introduced at Mayor & Met Leaders
- 25/06 – Aims and Objectives headlines shared at WMCA Board
- 19/07 – Preliminary draft of Aims and Objectives shared with leaders and CXs to support bilateral discussions during the period 19/07-02/08
- 01/10 – Aims and Objectives v1 shared to set strategic context for Mayor and Leaders Roundtable
- 18/10 – Aims and Objectives v1.6 shared with leaders who wanted to hold a second bilateral discussion during the period 29/10-04/11
- 29/10 - Aims and Objectives v2 shared ahead of Mayor & Portfolio Leads Liaison and Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- 11/11 – Aims and Objectives vFinal shared ahead of WMCA Board

- 2.5 Please find the latest draft of the Aims and Objectives attached. It contains the following sections:

- Introduction and frontmatter, which briefly articulate our story, explain our role in the region, and set out what the purpose of the document is.
- The Aims and Objectives content itself, of which aims 1-5 have been shared previously. The sixth aim addresses how we will develop our organisation internally, in order that we are best enabled to achieve aims 1-5.

2.6 Next steps:

- Once agreed, we will communicate the Aims and Objectives to our partners in the region and to our staff across a number of platforms in late November.
- We will begin a programme of work to embed the Aims and Objectives with our annual and financial planning processes, our governance, and our activity, including through alignment of the individual performance objectives of our staff with the Aims and Objectives.
- The Aims and Objectives will be formally reviewed every six months, including monitoring of outcome measures associated with each objective.
- Once we have agreed our Aims and Objectives, we will work with partners across the region to develop a strategic regional approach to ensure that the WMCA are focussing our resources and activities in the right way. This approach has been discussed and agreed with the Metropolitan Chief Executives and will offer an opportunity to further scope collaborative working, recognising the changing landscape especially around economic strategy and business support.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 As has been previously reported to WMCA Board, the Aims and Objectives are the first step in the corporate planning process linking through to the medium term financial plan (MTFP) and Annual Budget and Business Plan process for 2022/23. This will ensure that planned expenditure is defined by these Aims and Objectives and the agreed MTFP funding envelope.
- 3.2 This document will establish the core priorities of the WMCA, ensuring that all funding bids are optimised in order to meet these objectives, and support future submissions to government for funding.
- 3.3 An update on the MTFP is given within the financial monitoring report presented at today's meeting which details the work that has been undertaken to date and the next steps underway in the 2022/23 Annual Budget and Business Plan process.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no specific legal implications in relation to this report.

5. Equalities Implications

- 5.1 Inclusion and delivering positive equality outcomes form an integral part of the strategy's key objectives and deliverables.

Appendices

Please find the latest draft of the WMCA Aims and Objectives document attached.