



Economic Growth Board

Date	2 February 2022
Report Title	Economic Growth Board Work Programme
Portfolio lead	Economy and Innovation – Councillor Ian Brookfield
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Report has been considered by	

Recommendations for action or decision:

The Economic Growth Board is asked to:

- a) Agree the suggested work programme attached at **Appendix 1**.
- b) Note that the work programme will be refined after the release of the Levelling-Up White Paper to take account of any decision-making roles for the Economic Growth Board, and that this be informed by a new senior officer group, strengthening the input of local authorities.

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To approve the work programme for the Economic Growth Board and confirm arrangements for the Officer Group to manage, refine and deliver the work plan. The suggested work programme supports the region's overall vision and strategy to build a healthier, happier, better connected and more prosperous West Midlands.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Economic Growth Board (EGB) was established to put democratic leadership, working with business, at the heart of decision-making on inclusive economic growth. In so doing, it builds on the work of the former Strategic Economic Development (SED) Board and will influence other areas of delivery, such as transport and skills, which are direct enablers of inclusive economic growth. It will not, however, affect the governance arrangements for these topics.

Economic Growth Board Work Programme

2.2 The EGB work programme attached at **Appendix 1** meets the functions identified in its Terms of Reference. Activities fall across four types:

- Oversight of regional economic strategies, plans, and their implementation, including influencing plans to attract government and commercial investment.
- Deliver inclusive economic growth through the West Midlands Jobs Plan, ensuring we link local communities to new jobs and opportunities.
- Oversee a coherent and complementary approach to business support across the region.
- Oversee the work of the Innovation Board and other relevant sub-Boards.

2.3 The work programme will be further refined following publication of the Levelling-Up White Paper and confirmation about budgets and decision-making processes. This refinement will be supported by a senior officer group representing partner local authorities who will be responsible for managing, developing and delivering the work programme for EGB and ensuring strong cross regional working.

3 Financial Implications

3.1 Whilst the EGB has decision making powers, it does not have authority to approve WMCA incurring financial liabilities.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 Economic Growth Board is established as a decision-making Board under the WMCA's constitution with newly adopted terms of reference.

5. Equalities Implications

5.1 There are no immediate equalities implications arising from this report.

6. Inclusive Growth Implications

6.1 The EGB will place inclusive economic growth at the heart of CA decision making.

7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

7.1 The Economic Growth Board's remit is for the 3 LEP area with all constituent and non-constituent authorities within that area. Subject to the individual items of work being considered by the EGB, work, policies and programmes might relate to either the 7-met WMCA area, or the wider economic footprint.

8. Other implications

8.1 None.

Economic Growth Board – Draft Workplan 2022

Subject to LUWP Release and further input from partner authorities & agencies

	24 th March '22 <i>(Subject to availability)</i>	June '22	September '22	December '22	Feb/March '23
1. Oversight of regional economic strategies, plans, and their implementation, including influencing plans to attract government and commercial investment.	<p>Economic opportunities from the Levelling-Up White Paper</p> <p>Task group work on economic functions to clarify roles and responsibilities and mobilise on the West Midlands Plan for Growth.</p> <p>Endorse West Midlands Investment Prospectus following approval by Investment Board, and its use with investors.</p> <p>Agree to digital economy strategic partnership following tender</p>	<p>Impact of the 2022 Budget (23 March) on the West Midlands' competitive strengths and communities</p> <p>Agree scope of the Business Taxation Commission & Review</p>	<p>Review Commercial Land Strategy, in line with West Midlands Plan for Growth priorities</p> <p>Agree response to the Race Equalities Taskforce as it affects economic opportunity and outcomes</p> <p>Annual report of the Midlands Engine for its benefits to the West Midlands</p>	<p>Agree response to Life Chances Commission as it affects economic opportunity and outcomes</p> <p>Agree the West Midlands Town Centre Regeneration Delivery Strategy</p> <p>Agree next steps on the West Midlands Digital Roadmap</p> <p>Agree next steps from the Regional Productivity Forum report about what's needed to increase productivity in a way that's inclusive</p>	<p>Agree outcome and actions from the Business Taxation Review</p> <p>Agree next steps on the Circular Economy Routemap after its first year</p>
2. Deliver inclusive	Agree high level West Midlands Jobs Plan -	Regional Skills: Input to prioritisation	Devolved Funding: decisions about devolved funds (e.g.		



<p>economic growth through the West Midlands Jobs Plan, ensuring we link local communities to new jobs and opportunities.</p>	<p>regional activity to link new jobs and opportunities with local people, through training, support and other interventions.</p>	<p>of regional skills provision</p>	<p>UKSPF) from the LUWP. This could cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills programmes • Employment • Premium products for business growth • Resource efficiency <i>(scope to be confirmed when LUWP released)</i> <p>Agree Plan to address gaps in provision in line with Employment Support Framework</p> <p>Agree skills provision to support inward investment pipeline and Plan for Growth priorities</p>		
<p>3. Oversee a coherent and complementary approach to business support across the region.</p>	<p>Agree proposals for a new business customer journey that is sustainably funded which covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key account management of strategic companies • business support programmes. • skills advice. • resource efficiency and sustainable travel. 	<p>Agree the shape and funding of an integrated regional economic services offer, (subject to funding and direction of LUWP), including the role of the WMGC</p>	<p>Agree how demand-led innovation from the WM Innovation Programme will be continued, including through premium business support products</p>	<p>Agree to a region-wide campaign to drive up business demand</p> <p>Determine how decision-making over the Co-Invest Fund aligns with business support offer</p>	



<p>4. Oversee the work of the Innovation Board and other relevant sub-Boards</p>	<p>Agree Create Central's plan for 2022/23 following BFI decision about further cluster development support.</p>	<p>Potentially agree shape/focus of a 'West Midlands Innovation Accelerator/Deal' and role of Innovation Board</p>	<p>Receive report from Cultural Leadership Board</p>	<p>Agree next steps from Commercial Green Energy Taskforce</p> <p>Contribute to a potential Energy Deal</p>	<p>Endorse Energy Capital Smart Local Energy System activity and how this can be supported by business services</p>
<p>Standing items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest economic evidence (including qualitative issues from EIG and Regional Business Council), forecasts and key impact measures. • Annual reports from sub-boards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create Central ○ Innovation Board ○ Energy Capital ○ Tourism Board ○ Cultural Leadership Board 				