

Task and Finish Group's Summary of Functions

Function	Leadership position
Economic strategy	Sits with the Combined Authority through the Economic Growth Board (EGB), reporting into the CA Board. Local authorities and sub-regions/LEPs would be expected to feed into this, but there is no longer a role for LEPs to lead this work.
Economic intelligence	Is being rationalised across the region, and better linked to informing strategic and commissioning priorities for services. This approach will also need to complement Government's emerging approach to data and transparency and any roles or requirements of local authorities (e.g. new Audit Commission).
Business support system	WMCA, through the EGB and using its lead role on UK Shared Prosperity Fund, will have responsibility for leading the framework and commissioning of business support services. This will take account of LEP-led work to review the delivery of business support across the region. Subject to the decisions of individual LEPs/Growth Hubs, our expectation is that they will be able to bid into funding for this. Expectation is that funds will be procured, competitively – tbc.
Skills and employment	WMCA has a lead commissioning role, drawing on insight from local authorities and private sector advisory networks, and the voice of employers. Opportunity to build on LEP experience.
Account management of strategic firms	There's in-principle agreement to the strong account management of key strategic employers. Reflecting the importance of key employers to a place, this must complement local engagement relationships. The Growth Company have begun to develop proposals in this space. These should be linked to the future business support system
Capital funding	Agreed that LEPs will no longer have a role in commissioning capital funds. Instead, the EGB should play a lead role in aligning funding, such as SPF, major investment by Government agencies (UKRI) and local channels like Levelling-Up Fund
Cluster development	there are a variety of cluster/sector development models currently across the region (variously led by private bodies, local authorities, WMGC and LEPs). It was agreed that there is no one-size fits all model, and therefore cluster development should sit where it is best delivered, while integrating with complementary regional and local services like business support, innovation, skills and land supply.
Funding	The CA confirmed that it would not be able to provide core funding to LEPs if government funding is reduced.