

Appendix B

Agreed Actions and outstanding issues arising from bilaterals with LEPs.

1 Key issues

- 1.1 Government has now provided a LEP Integration Plan template. The template is designed primarily for areas where there is one LEP to be integrated.
- 1.2 In particular, the following areas require urgent attention:
 - Discussions with Coventry & Warwickshire regarding how CWLEP's responsibilities will be integrated into Warwickshire County Council
 - Discussions with both Staffordshire and Worcestershire County Council's regarding how GBSLEP's responsibilities will be integrated into the County Councils
 - Inventories of projects, programmes and services being delivered by each LEP; discussions will also be required, including with local authorities, as to whether those projects will continue and how they will be funded
 - Arrangements for assets, contracts and liabilities. The working assumption is they will remain with accountable bodies and that WMCA will have a role in the assurance process, but further discussions are required with the accountable bodies. In addition, further discussions will be required by the districts of Staffordshire and Worcestershire about a commitment that was made regarding investment from the Birmingham Enterprise Zone.
 - The staff in scope for TUPE and, crucially, where they will transfer to. At present it would seem some staff will transfer to WMCA, some to local authorities and some potentially to the West Midlands Growth Company. In addition, Growth Hub Directors are due to provide a paper soon on potential future Growth Hub models.
 - Less urgently, while we believe our proposals are compliant with the requirements set out by Government, there is more work to be done to achieve best practice in engaging the private sector.
 - A key point to note is that while the LEP Integration Plan will need to be submitted to Government in January, the timescales for implementation can be longer – Government has advised there is no hard longstop date, but clearly it is in the interests of all parties to implement a sensitive but swift integration.

2 Next steps

- 2.1 In order to make rapid progress, additional resource will be allocated to LEP Integration by WMCA.
- 2.2 We propose that a series of one-day meetings is held with each LEP and their accountable bodies, including HR as appropriate, to review the above. These workshops should take place in October, once all parties have had chance to review and digest each LEP's plans for their own operational futures. In addition, we propose that meetings are held with

Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire Counties to clarify our collective positions. We propose that those meetings take place during October.

- 2.3 This will allow time for all parties to take independent legal advice and have further discussions as necessary, which should enable a strong draft of the Integration Plan to be brought to the Economic Growth Board for endorsement in December, before WMCA Board approval in January.
- 2.4 Government will ultimately need to sign off on the Plan, which creates a risk for those in scope for TUPE. To mitigate this risk, we propose that plans are shared early and frequently with Government and any issues reported to the Functions Task Group.