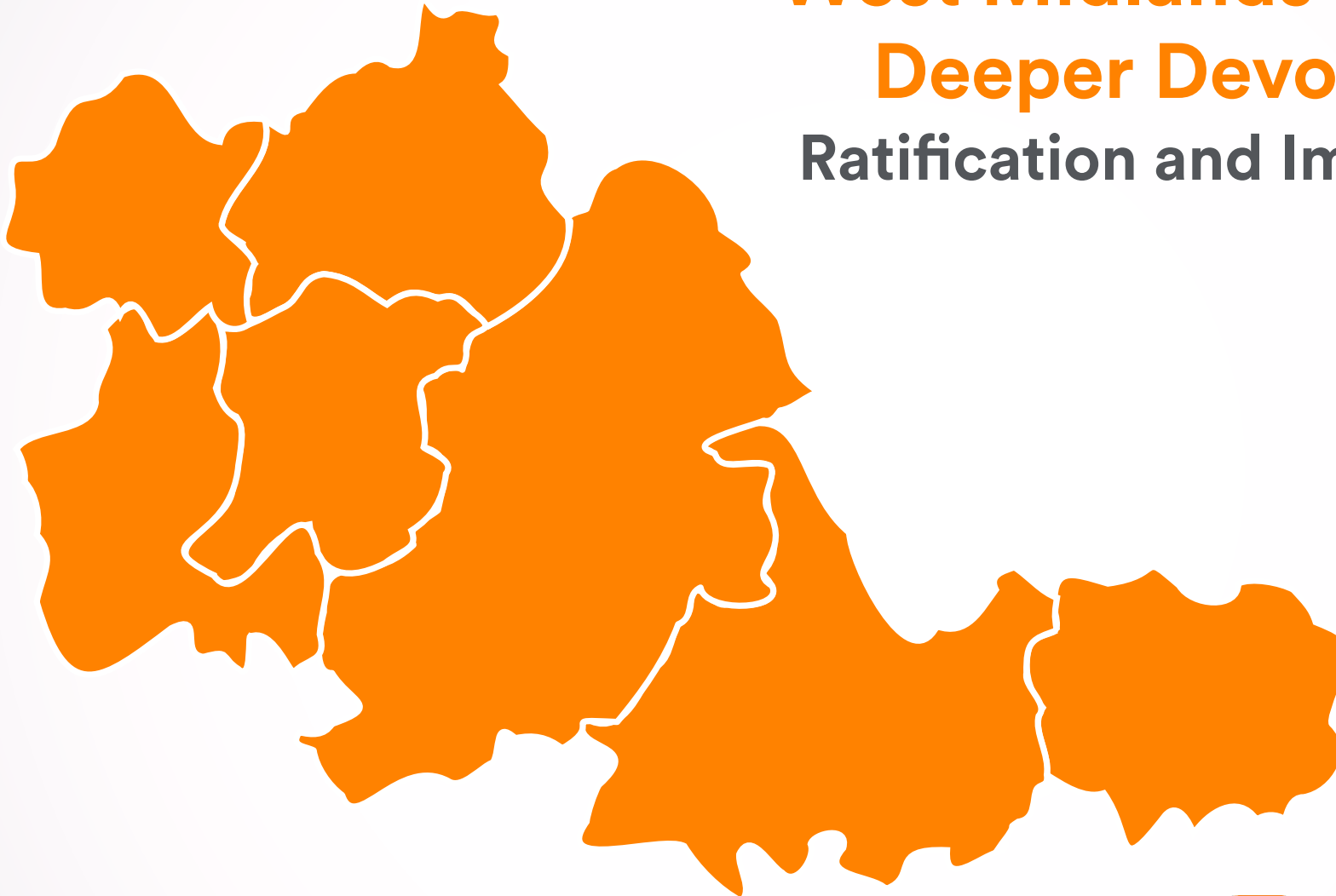


West Midlands 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal: Ratification and Implementation

August 2023



West Midlands
Combined Authority



Thematic summaries

- 4 Introduction
- 6 Operating more effectively
- 9 Special Feature: Single Settlement
- 10 Economy
- 12 Adult skills and employment support
- 14 Special feature: A transport network closer to the standards of London
- 16 Transport
- 18 Supporting nascent clusters
- 20 Net Zero and Environment
- 24 Special Feature: Unlocking Regeneration through Growth Zones
- 26 Transforming Places
- 28 Pride in Place

Implementation approach

- 30 Introduction
- 31 Overview of the Deal
- 32 Governance and Accountability
- 34 Single Settlement, Fiscal Devolution and Capital funding
- 38 Data
- 40 Growth Zones
- 42 Transport Planning, Innovation and Mass Transit
- 44 Bus and Bus Services
- 46 Roads
- 47 Rail partnership with Great British Railways
- 48 Affordable Homes Programme
- 50 Land Reform & Public Land
- 51 Single Regeneration Fund
- 52 Skills
- 54 Employment Support
- 56 Innovation
- 58 Business Productivity
- 60 Trade & Investment and Places for Growth
- 62 Energy and Retrofit
- 64 Environment (including climate adaptation, natural environment and air quality)
- 66 Smart City Region Health & Care Programme (SCR) and Digital Infrastructure
- 68 Culture
- 70 Tourism
- 72 Homelessness
- 74 Health
- 75 Early Years
- 76 Anti-Social Behaviour

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide local authorities (LAs) an overview of the trailblazer deeper devolution deal (the deal) between the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and His Majesty's Government. It sets out how the commitments in the deal will be implemented, how LA partners will be engaged in decision-making, LAs' roles in delivery and implementation and indicative timescales for commitments to be progressed and implemented. A more detailed breakdown of deal implementation activities is set out in the implementation plan below. The different policy areas in the deal have been grouped into the following themes:

- Operating more effectively. This covers governance and accountability, data and the single settlement;
- Economy. This covers business support and finance, innovation, trade and investment and tourism;
- Skills and employment. This covers adult skills and employment support;
- Transport. This covers rail, buses, transport innovation, transport planning and infrastructure capital support;
- Supporting nascent clusters. This covers digital, social economy and Places for Growth;
- Net zero and environment. This covers energy efficiency, industrial decarbonisation, heat zoning, natural capital, local area energy planning and air quality;
- Transforming places. This covers housing, regeneration, Growth Zones and business rate retention;
- Pride in place. This covers homelessness, anti-social behaviour and early years.

In addition, there are three further special features that cover areas of the deal in more detail. These are:

- Single settlement;
- Transport;
- Growth Zones.



Plans on a page

For every thematic summary, a 'plan on a page' is provided to show indicative timescales for implementation activities.

A bar like the below with a single diamond is used to indicate a deadline:



A bar like the one below with a diamond at either end is used to indicate the duration of an activity:



Overview of the deal

There are over 190 different commitments in the deal. The commitments are of different kinds, including:

1. Commitments to provide new funds to the region;
2. Commitments to increase flexibility and local decision-making power over existing and future funding;
3. Commitments to new partnerships to plan and manage the delivery of government programmes; and
4. Commitments to enable the region to co-design new policy initiatives with Government.

The highest number of commitments relate to the themes of economy, operating more effectively and transport.

Taken together, these commitments, the policy levers and funding they include, represent a step-change in our ability to realise our collective vision of a better connected, more prosperous, fairer, greener and healthier West Midlands.



- Operating more effectively
- Economy
- Supporting nascent clusters
- Pride in Place
- Transforming places
- Adult Skills and Employment Support
- Net Zero and Environment
- Transport

Fund	Potential Value	New Money?
Growth Zones ¹	c.£0.5bn Minimum	Yes
10-year Business Rates Retention	c.£450m	Difficult to assess
Affordable Housing Programme	£200-400m	Yes
Single Regeneration Fund	£100m	Yes
Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro Extension	£60m	Yes
Smart City Region	£10.0m	Yes
Air Quality Sensors	£0.5m	Yes
Digital Devices	£4.0m	Yes
Industrial Decarb	£10.5m	Yes
Natural Environment	£1.0m	Yes
Cultural Infrastructure Fund	£4.0m	Yes

¹ Estimate based on incremental Business Rate Retention if all 6 Growth Zones are given Government consent and delivered.

Operating more effectively

Inclusive Growth Fundamental: Power and Participation

Exec Lead: Ed Cox

Governance, Scrutiny and Accountability

What will the deal achieve? A condition of the deal is strengthening existing WMCA scrutiny arrangements and introducing new processes to enhance our accountability, both to central government and to our residents.

What will we deliver?

- Quarterly MPs/Mayor/Portfolio Leader sessions;
- Review of WMCA overview and scrutiny arrangements;
- Revised outcome reporting to Government;
- Publication of a Scrutiny Protocol by Government;
- Enhanced resources and profile for WMCA scrutiny committee chairs;

How will local authorities be involved?

- The Terms of Reference for MPs Quarterly Sessions will be shared with Regional Chief Legal Officer and Senior Local Authority Officer Group for feedback;
- Local authorities will have the opportunity to vote on a resolution to implement the MPs Quarterly Sessions at WMCA Board;
- Through the Regional Chief Legal Officers Meeting, local authorities will be consulted on the recommendations of the review of WMCA overview and scrutiny practices by DLUHC and the Centre for Local Governance and Scrutiny.

Data

What will the deal achieve?

The deal will increase the range of central government data that WMCA and partners have access to, improve data sharing within the region and support our ability to use outcomes evidence in decision making. Improvements in the region's data sharing capability are key to supporting the realisation of benefits across multiple other elements of the deal, for example, partnership agreements in housing and adult skills.

What will we deliver?

- Changes to WMCA data governance;
- Access to the Chief Data Officer's Council;
- A Data Partnerships with Government;
- Data sharing gateways with Government departments.

How will local authorities be involved?

Local authority leaders will be asked to agree proposed changes to enhance WMCA Data Governance and get WMCA ready for enhanced data sharing and agree new data sharing practices and principles at a regional level.

The West Midlands Insights on Society and Economy group with local authorities will develop proposals for local data sharing and scope out what data is held within local authorities and WMCA and what data would be beneficial from central government. Together, they will build on the process used to create the Birmingham Data Charter and lead to the co-creation of a West Midlands Data Charter.

Single settlement

Exec Lead: Linda Horne

What will the deal achieve?

The deal offers the region the opportunity to receive government department-style multi-year financial settlements. This will reduce the amount of competitive bidding for government funding, provide more certainty over levels of funding and enable joined up, strategic funding delivery. The single settlement will also streamline reporting and evaluation processes associated with bidding to multiple competitive pots. The single settlement would provide us with greater decision-making power over investment decisions locally, and greater ability to fund our priorities.

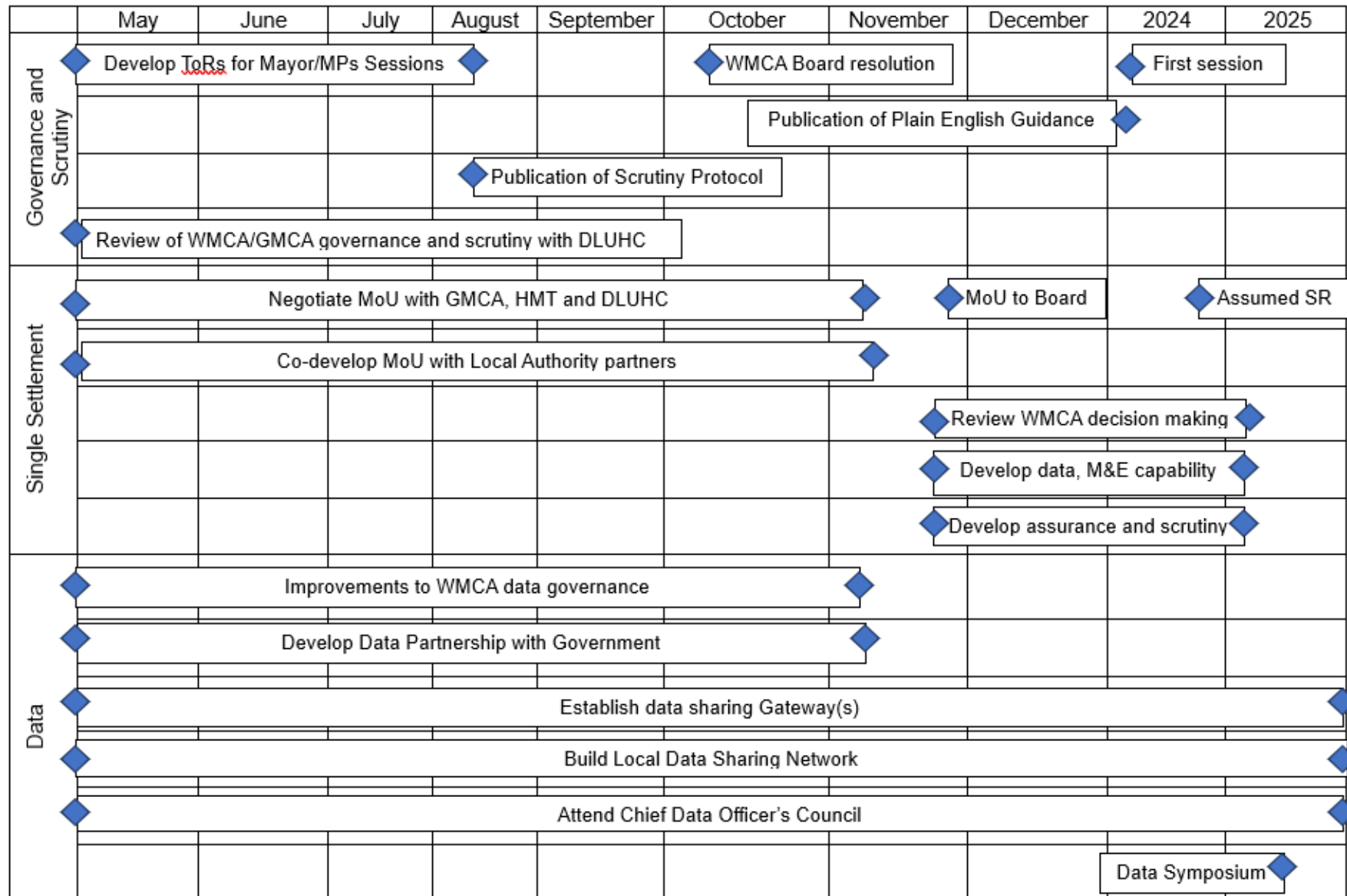
What will we deliver?

- A Memorandum of Understanding covering the design principles for the single settlement.
- Reduction in competitive bidding for government funding.
- Streamlined monitoring, evaluation and assurance processes.
- Funding from central government with fewer prescribed spending conditions.
- Greater funding certainty for greater time periods, enabling simpler financial planning.

How will local authorities be involved?

- The decision on whether or not to sign the MoU will be taken to WMCA Board for agreement.
- The Senior Local Authority Group (SLAOG) will be used to co-develop negotiating positions to be communicated to DLUHC and Treasury. Finance Directors and other subject matter experts from local authorities will also be engaged.
- Special sessions with Leaders will be arranged over Summer and early Autumn to update them on negotiations and refine negotiating positions.
- After the MoU has been developed, there will be further engagement through SLAOG on the changes that are required to WMCA governance and decision-making structures to make most of single settlement funding.
- As part of our approach to funding delivery, we currently expect place-based plans to set out local funding priorities and strategies that join up the multiple functions – and funding streams – of the single settlement.

Operating more effectively



Special Feature: Single Settlement

Challenge & Opportunity

The region has proven its capability to deliver large-scale funding programmes that make a real difference to people, communities and businesses.

Whether it's the 100 derelict sites that have been unlocked, the 200 transport projects the region will deliver by 2026 or the thousands of adult learners who have received support to boost their skills – we have shown we can work in partnership to deliver change at scale.

With the right tools, the region could do more. We receive funding from government through a myriad of funding streams, each with a separate delivery timetable, different output prescriptions and overlapping reporting and accountability arrangements. This gets in the way of our ability to take joined up, strategic decisions drawing on all our resources in the round.

How the deal addresses it

The commitment to a single department-style settlement for the region will change this.

It will allocate a single capital and revenue settlement to the region spanning multi-year Spending Review periods, supporting medium-term, strategic planning.

It will allow us to realise the benefits of delivering local growth and place, local transport, housing and regeneration, adult skills and net zero functions in parallel, generating more impact for the region.

It will give the region greater flexibility and more control to deliver projects and initiatives aligned to local needs and place-based opportunities.

It will significantly reduce pressures on officer time from having to make repeat bids into national funding competitions, with decisions routed through regional decision-making structures instead.

Why that's different from pre-deal

The single settlement represents a significant step forward relative to the status quo.

Without it, the region would continue to receive funding via an extensive range of standalone funding competitions that are a barrier to strategic, multi-year and integrated place-based approaches to funding delivery.

The single settlement will change the way the region works with and receives funding from government for the better, underpinned by new accountability arrangements and a jointly agreed outcomes framework.

It will see new ways of working between partners across the region, with more local control over decisions routed through local decision-making and accountability structures.

When things will happen

- Summer 2023: Early engagement within the region on the design of the single settlement;
- Autumn 2023: A memorandum of understanding between the region and government;
- 2024: Further work across the region to prepare for single settlement implementation, working towards an allocation at the next Spending Review (timing tbc);
- 2025 (tbc): Following the next Spending Review, the first single settlement would be allocated to the region.

Economy

Inclusive Growth Fundamental: Inclusive economy

Exec Lead: Ed Cox

Trade and investment

What will the deal achieve?

The deal will help to bring greater foreign direct investment into the region and help more businesses to export by strengthening the region's influence over the Department for Business and Trade, increasing the region's visibility to overseas investors, securing support from the Office for Investment and better connecting businesses to sources of export and investment support.

What will be delivered?

An International Strategy, joint agreement of future High Potential Opportunities and joint delivery with the Department for Business and Trade.

How will local authorities be involved?

Directors of Economic Development will work with the WMCA and West Midlands Growth Company to progress the commitments in the deal, feeding into the Economic Growth Board and Combined Authority Board.

Innovation

What will the deal achieve?

The deal gives the region greater influence over national innovation funding and makes a number of commitments that will help businesses across the region to innovate and adopt new technologies, building on the region's status as an Innovation Accelerator and the recently-published WMCA – Innovate UK Action Plan.

What will be delivered?

A new Strategic Innovation Partnership, bi-annual meetings with HMG Science Ministers and a knowledge transfer partnership with Innovate UK.

How will local authorities be involved?

Directors of Economic Development are, with Innovation Board and universities, shaping the direction of the Partnership, with the Economic Growth Board and Combined Authority Board in decision-making roles.

Tourism

What will the deal achieve?

The deal strengthens the West Midlands Growth Company's role in coordinating the region's visitor economy and enhances its influence with Government in planning how to attract regional investment.

What will be delivered?

West Midlands Growth Company to be granted Destination Development Partnership pilot 2 status and more LAs acquiring Local Visitor Economy Partnership status.

How will local authorities be involved?

LAs have been engaged in the development of DDP proposals through signing off the Growth Company's Business Plan, while two LAs have already received LVEP status. LAs will be engaged through ongoing quarterly meetings.

Business support and finance

What will the deal achieve?

The deal gives the region greater influence over national business support programmes now and the ability to make the case for devolved business support in future. The deal will also help to better align sources of SME finance and infrastructure investment with regional opportunities.

What will be delivered?

A new Strategic Productivity Partnership, regional engagement in the future of Growth Hubs, a role for the region in the governance of the British Business Bank's regional fund.

How will local authorities be involved?

With input from the Business Support Officers Group and Business Insights Forum, Directors of Economic Development are shaping the commitments in this section of the deal feeding into the Economic Growth Board and Combined Authority Board.

	May	June	July	August	Sept	October	November	December	2024	2025
Business support										
Innovation										
Trade and Investment										

Adult skills and employment support

Inclusive Growth Fundamental: Education and Learning

Exec Lead: Ed Cox

Adult skills and employment

What will the deal achieve? Although the deal has separate chapters on adult skills and employment support, we continue to advocate to Government that these are complimentary and should be treated as one workstream. This will ensure adult skills and employment support are properly integrated and mutually reinforcing, for the benefit of the region.

In adult skills, the deal commits to the creation of a joint governance board to provide oversight of post-16 technical education and skills in the WMCA area, ensuring our training offer is aligned to local skills needs, providing strategic oversight of the Local Skills Improvement Plan, supporting better data sharing and providing oversight for the development of an all-age careers strategy. The deal offers greater flexibility over how existing adult skills funding (Free Courses for Jobs and Skills Bootcamps) can be spent and a commitment to fully devolve these funds as part of the Single Settlement. The deal recognises WMCA as the central convenor of careers provision, with joint governance of the current National Careers Service contract and a commitment to co-designing future careers provision for all ages in the region.

On employment support, the deal commits to the creation of a new regional Labour Market Partnership Board to oversee the development and implementation of a regional labour market strategy. It provides a new role in co-designing future contracted employment programmes for young people and adults, which the CA will commission on behalf of DWP on a WMCA footprint.

We continue to push for the joint governance board for adult skills and the Labour Market Partnership Board to be combined into one.

What will be delivered?

- Terms of reference for an integrated adult skills and employment support board;
- Sign-off of the Local Skills Improvement Plan and of the application for the Local Skills Improvement Fund that supports LSIP implementation;
- An all-age careers strategy;
- Co-design of future contracted employment support programmes, on a WMCA footprint (N.B. no new contracted employment support programmes expected during this SR period);
- Free Courses for Jobs and Skills Bootcamps expanded to create a stronger training offer that meet labour market and skills needs across the economy;
- Better access to data that supports planning and delivery of adult skills provision and demonstrates outcomes and impact;
- Joint governance of the current National Careers Service contractor and role in shaping future specifications.

How will local authorities be involved?

- LAs will have a key role in new governance structures for skills and employment support programmes within the WMCA area. These are currently in development. In the interim, we will engage with LAs via Directors of Economic Development, with governance decisions taken at Economic Growth Board;
- The CA will also work closely with individual LAs and our LA Employment & Skills Officers Group to understand and respond to employment and skills needs in their area – to inform adult skills procurement in each area;
- Adult skills provision will continue to be delivered through an ecosystem of LAs, FE colleges, independent training providers, universities and the VCS. LAs will continue to receive grant funding for community learning provision;
- The CA will also work closely with individual LAs and our LA Employment & Skills Officers Group to understand and respond to employment and skills needs in their area – to inform commissioning of employment support provision.

	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	2024	2025
Adult Skills and employment	Develop new governance structures – with agreed Terms of Reference - for employment and skills									
	Deploy greater flexibility in Adult Skills funding									
	MoU signed with HMT and DLUHC on Single Settlement									Assumed SR

Special feature: A transport network closer to the standards of London

Challenge

A strong multi-modal transport system is key to unlocking the West Midlands' economic potential.

The movement of goods, services, and people is vital for any economy, but it is particularly important to the West Midlands – where, since the pandemic, productivity has stalled.

Progress has been made to strengthen the West Midlands' transport since the first two devolution deals in 2015 and 2017: the next five years will see at least 40% more investment in transport capital compared to the last five years. Moreover, the region remains a world leader in the future of transport. Nevertheless, the productivity challenge remains.

Connectivity reduces production costs, enables businesses to reach customers more effectively, links employers to a wider pool of potential employees and ultimately encourages business development.

Without an integrated network, our progress on levelling up and economic standing relative to other regions will be constrained.

How the deal addresses it

- The deal commits to explore a fully integrated, multi-modal fares and ticketing structure alongside pay as you go ticketing infrastructure pilots and co-development of a regional branding proposition for rail – key tenets of regional transport integration;
- A formal partnership between the West Midlands Rail Executive and Great British Railways (GBR) will increase local, democratic accountability over the region's railway;
- The deal unlocks an additional £60 million for the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension;
- With the devolution of the Bus Service Operators Grant, we can change the mechanisms for providing public subsidy to private bus operators to improve accessibility across the region and support the decarbonisation of bus fleets.

Why that's different from pre-deal

We have made great improvements to our network since the first devolution deal was agreed. However, the pandemic has shifted patterns and behaviours, with patronage remaining below pre-pandemic levels. The bus industry, in particular, is facing acute challenges.

The deal gives the region a greater set of tools to face these challenges and create an integrated transport system that is fit for the future. In line with our Local Transport Plan, we will use the provisions of the deal to deliver a network with improved accessibility, reduced traffic and decarbonised public transport.

When things will happen

- 2024/2025: Reformed commercial BSOG devolved;
- January 2025 onwards: WMRE – GBR Partnership goes live;
- 2027 onwards: Full very light rail routes could form part of the second round of the City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme.



WM 197

Toilet

Alitalia

Transport

Inclusive Growth Fundamental: Connected Communities

Exec Lead: Anne Shaw

Rail

What will the deal achieve?

The deal will lead to a partnership agreement between West Midlands Rail Executive (WMRE) and Great British Railways (GBR). This will enhance local accountability and influence over the regional rail network. It the ability to influence rail planning with our local growth and social priorities, better integrate rail with other modes of transport and support the roll out of integrated smart ticketing.

What will we be delivered?

A new partnership agreement between WMRE and GBR and a pilot for fully integrated fares and ticketing.

How will local authorities be involved?

The partnership agreement will be approved through the WMRE Board, chaired by the Mayor.

Infrastructure and planning

What will the deal achieve?

The deal will drive further investment in the regional transport network, alleviate cost pressures on existing schemes and support regional transport planning. This is additional to the announcement of a further round of funding through the City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme.

What will be delivered?

£60m of additional funding towards the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro Extension and additional transport planning resources for the Combined Authority implement new data and analytical tools.

How will local authorities be involved?

The Senior Transport Officer's Group will support the development and oversight of relevant business cases, with strategic decisions taken by the Combined Authority Board. Coventry City Council is leading the development of very light rail infrastructure.

Buses

What will the deal achieve?

The deal: hands more power to the region over payments to bus operators; commits to investigate additional powers to tackle anti-social behavior on the transport network; and to further work to obtain pavement parking powers for local authorities.

What will be delivered?

Devolution of the Bus Services Operator Grant (BSOG).

How will local authorities be involved?

Transport Support Group will test and refine advice that is provided to DfT on the design of the BSOG scheme and its appropriate boundaries. The BSOG Governance Review and Scheme is provided alongside this document for local authority feedback and will be approved at WMCA Board in October.

Transport innovation

What will the deal achieve?

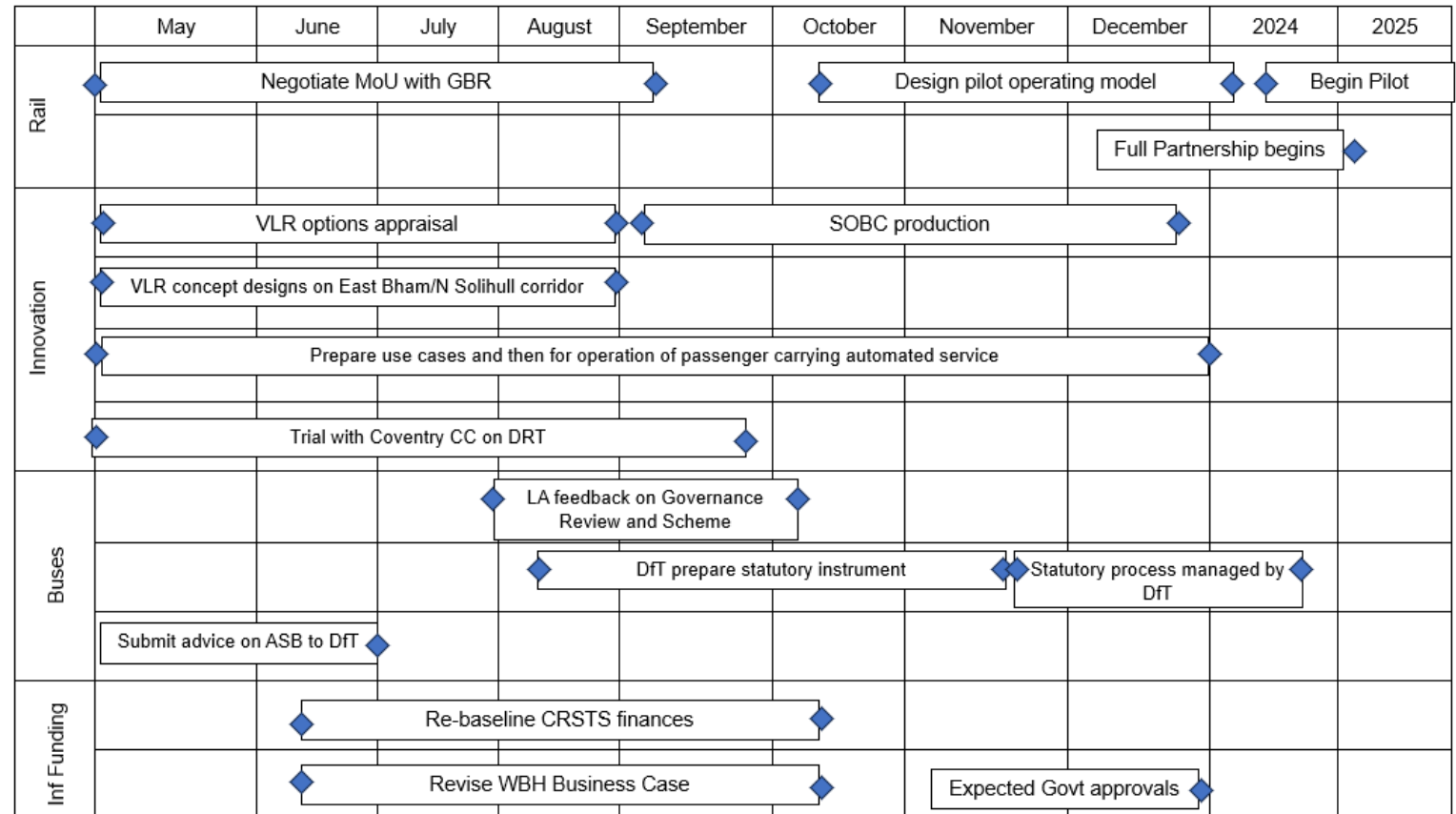
The deal will enable the region to test and demonstrate new, innovative technologies to drive behaviour change in transport usage, including through low-emission and autonomous vehicle trials.

What will be delivered?

Funding and sponsorship from the Department for Transport to develop proposals and evidence.

How will local authorities be involved?

The Senior Transport Officer's Group will support policy development, with strategic decisions taken by the Combined Authority Board.



Supporting nascent clusters

Inclusive Growth Fundamental: Health and Wellbeing, Inclusive Economy

Exec Lead: Ed Cox

Digital

What will the deal achieve?

The commitments in the deal recognise West Midlands 5G's contribution to mapping and closing digital connectivity gaps in the region. The deal includes a commitment from government to engage with the WM Digital Infrastructure Leadership Group to accelerate broadband roll-out, and provides funding to purchase devices to boost digital inclusion and for the Smart City Region project. This will build introduce a network of sensors in healthcare settings to enable remote monitoring and the deployment of 5G technology to underpin remote health diagnosis.

What will we deliver?

- £4m fund for digital inclusion to roll out 20,000 devices;
- £10.1m for Smart City Region project;
- Greater high speed broadband coverage across the region.

How will local authorities be involved?

Accelerating broadband roll out will be coordinated by WM5G, but local authorities will be essential in managing the delivery of broadband through intelligence on forthcoming works and use of planning powers to deliver works.

The Smart City Region project will be project managed by WM5G but delivered by NHS partners in each local.

For digital inclusion, local authorities will take receipt of the purchased devices and distribute them to their networks of voluntary sector organisations, who, in turn, will loan them out or make available to vulnerable residents.

Social Economy

What will the deal achieve?

Recognising WMCA's commitment to double the size of the social economy, the deal will enable WMCA to provide specialist business support to social economy organisations to grow their trading activity. It will also enable local areas develop their own circular, inclusive local social economies.

What will we deliver?

The £1.75 million Social Economy Business Support programme will provide an opportunity for social enterprises, community-owned businesses, co-ops and trading charities, the opportunity to gain the business skills and confidence needed to grow their businesses. This programme will provide incentive grants to encourage increased trading income, leading to more employment, volunteering and beneficiary impact.

The local place-based Cluster development will provide £50,000 each to 8 localities – one per constituent LA and one identified by Power to Change.

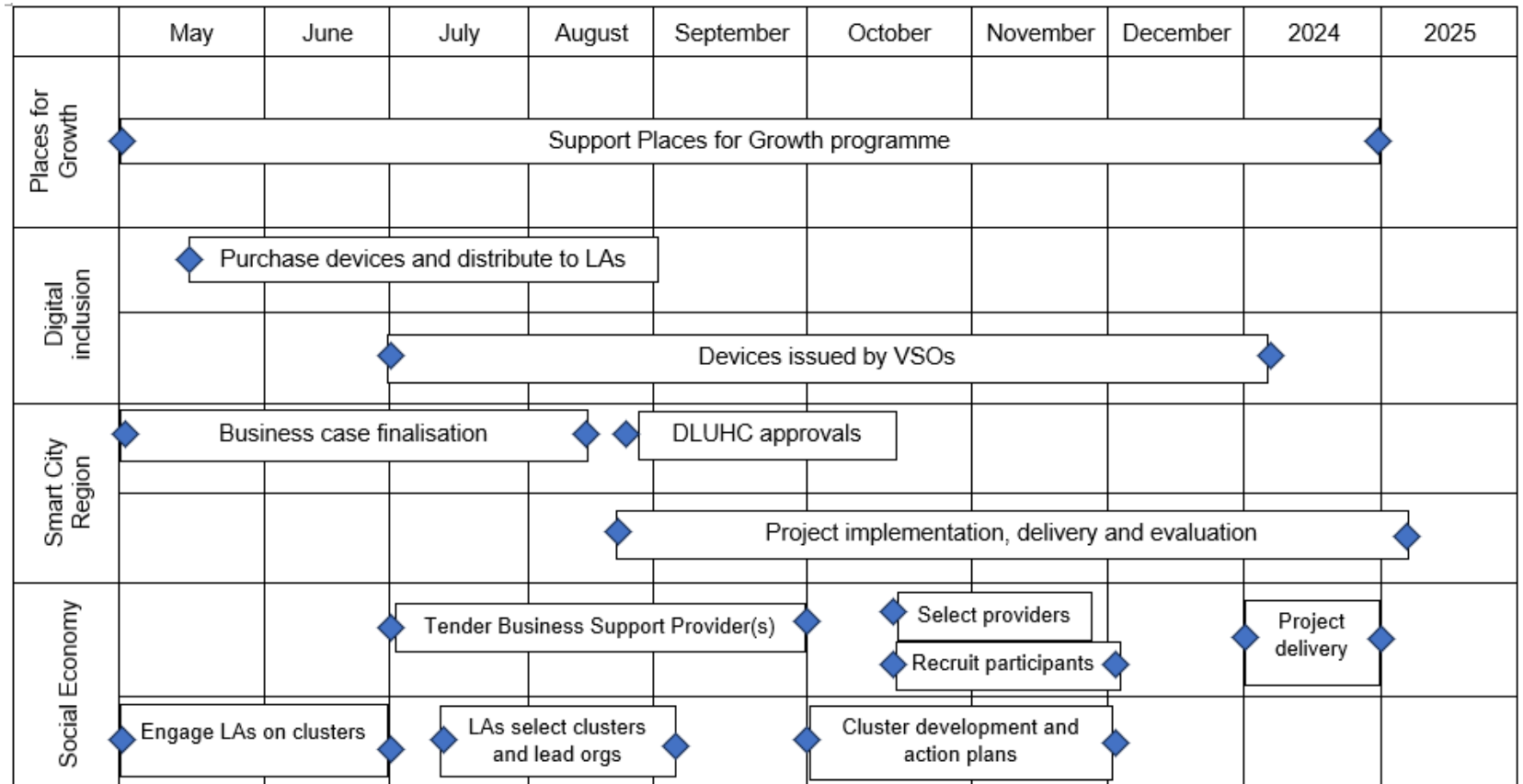
How will local authorities be involved?

For the Business Support programme, local authorities will be asked to help recruit participants from their area. For the place-based cluster development, local authorities will identify and offer their support for place-based economy clusters.

Places for Growth

What will the deal achieve?
 In recognition of the region's growing skills clusters such as in transport and infrastructure a new West Midlands Fast Stream pilot will set a blueprint for establishing long term career pathways for people in the region by delivering a pipeline of civil service talent and skills

What will we deliver?
 We will support Government to relocate 2,100 civil service roles to the West Midlands by 2025.



Net Zero and Environment

Inclusive Growth Fundamental: Climate resilience

Exec Lead: Ed Cox

Domestic retrofit and minimum energy efficiency standards

What will the deal achieve?

The deal secures a greater role for the region in measures that will support retrofit and net zero delivery through the devolution of retrofit and potentially other net zero funding. The deal also opens up the opportunity for local authorities to adopt additional powers to enforce tighter minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES); and commits to further work to bring more private investment into energy efficiency upgrades.

What will be delivered?

Aside from the delivery of retrofit and market enabling activity through the single settlement, the deal provides the opportunity to strengthen MEES with enhanced energy efficiency requirements, allowing the region to maintain its trajectory regardless of national policy decisions in this area. However, this needs to be considered within the context of adequately resourcing existing, as well as any additional, standards.

How will local authorities be involved?

The local authority officers bi-monthly retrofit meeting provides the opportunity to explore how these opportunities should be taken forward in partnership with LAs, with senior level engagement through the Net Zero Directors group.

Industrial decarbonisation

What will the deal achieve?

The deal will support efforts to increase businesses' energy efficiency and resilience to high energy costs, identified through the work of the Mayor's Industrial Energy Taskforce. The deal also re-affirms the greater role the region will be able to play in coordinating the roll-out of clean heat infrastructure, which will further support industrial and domestic heat decarbonisation.

What will be delivered?

The deal provides an additional £10.5m from DLUHC to compliment the £14.1m from DESNZ for businesses to undertake energy efficiency audits and invest in energy efficiency measures, agreed as a result of the groundbreaking work of the Black Country Industrial Cluster.

How will local authorities be involved?

The WMCA has worked with partners to align this funding with other publicly and privately funded programmes already in place, such as the recent Decarbonisation Net Zero programme tendered by WMCA using UKSPF funding. The WMCA will coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of the outputs delivered through these programmes.

Local Area Energy Planning

What will the deal achieve?

The deal encourages the WMCA to use its convening power and partnerships to drive local area energy planning across the region, and to use Energy Capital's expertise to inform approaches to energy system investment and management. This is backed in the deal by the expectation that National Grid will engage with the WMCA to ensure their investments will meet local needs and encouragement to engage with OfGEM on their future systems and network regulation workstream, focusing on network investment.

What will be delivered?

The WMCA will develop a Local Area Energy Planning programme in partnership with local authorities and industry across the region to provide partners with data, tools, expertise, resources and influence to support local area energy planning and investment. Collaborative decision-making structures will be established, which bring together private sector energy system investors, to consider energy infrastructure investment from a multi-vector perspective and feedback will be provided to OfGEM and government. This will ensure that the offer in the deal and its underlying intent are achieved.

How will local authorities be involved?

Energy Capital's new governance structures have been established to ensure Local Authorities are at the heart of this programme. The Local Area Energy Planning-Coordination Group will oversee this programme, working closely with an industry Net Zero Infrastructure Delivery Panel. Additional workshops will be led by LAs to drill down into specific issues in specific areas. Energy Collaboration Days will also continue to be held monthly to enable joint working between energy officers across both the public and private sector.

Heat Zoning Network Pilot

What will the deal achieve?

Heat networks will be an important element of our energy infrastructure going forward and form important anchor projects in the delivery of local net zero solutions. The deal commits to heat network zoning as a national programme and identifies the WMCA and its constituent authorities as heat network zone coordinators (by 2025), with the ability to require buildings, within designated zones, to connect to heat networks.

What will be delivered?

Heat Network Zones are currently being scoped and piloted by Birmingham and Coventry. This will lead to the identification of potential heat network zones across the region, supported by LAEP, providing the necessary scale to engage key partners, including commercial investors, to bring schemes forward that meet local needs. For the new role established by Government for Heat Zone coordinators, this role will be scoped with Local Authorities and resources sought to enable implementation.

How will local authorities be involved?

Where local authorities have the potential for heat networks, they will be approached directly to collaborate with the WMCA. LA's will remain central to the development and delivery of heat networks and associated zone(s) but may choose to work collaboratively with the WMCA to share resources and expertise to drive the delivery of these networks and zones forwards.

Net Zero and Environment

Natural capital

What will the deal achieve?

The region will enable the region to attract more investment in natural capital schemes, supporting the development of the region's Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

What will be delivered?

£1,000,000 to the region through the Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) Programme to boost regional capacity.

How will local authorities be involved?

The Natural Capital Officers group is supporting the development of the LINC Programme and will work to develop and bring forward projects from the constituent authorities to the LINC project pipeline. The pipeline will attract significant private investment into the region to help delivery of our targets for nature recovery, climate adaptation and mitigation and connecting people with nature. This will be fed into both the Environment and Energy and WMCA Boards.

Air Quality

What will the deal achieve?

The deal provides £0.9m in capital funding to install air quality monitors across the region in areas where there are gaps in coverage. The data from these sensors will be fed into a web-based dashboard accessible to the public.

What will be delivered?

Air quality sensors and a live web-based dashboard.

How will local authorities be involved?

Officers working on air quality in the different local authorities will be central to the locating of the low-cost sensors provided through this funding, ensuring that they are being placed in areas with no coverage currently. Data from the sensors will be published on an air quality web platform that will be developed in collaboration with local authorities through the West Midlands Environment Protection Group. This work will support the aims and outcomes identified in the West Midlands Air Quality Framework, currently out for consultation following consideration by the WMCA Environment and Energy Board.

	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	2024	2025	
MEES						LA engagement on MEES					
LAEP		LAEP development & implementation									
Industrial Decarb	DESNZ and DLUHC Develop Business Case										
						Project delivery					
Heat Zoning	Government to have established Heat Zoning Coordinators										
Air Quality	Develop Business Case										
			DLUHC approvals			Project delivery					
Natural Capital	Create and manage pipeline of investable projects										
		Create Natural Asset Register									
							Setup Fund				

Special Feature: Unlocking Regeneration through Growth Zones

Challenge & Opportunity

The West Midlands has a strong track record of regenerating brownfield land, unlocking over 100 derelict, stalled and contaminated sites across the region and delivering thousands of new homes, workspaces and jobs.

However, the speed of delivery and breadth of outcomes that could be achieved have been hindered by the complexity, prescriptive measures and cyclical nature of funding streams.

The trailblazer deal presents an opportunity to overcome these barriers to high-impact regeneration.

How the deal addresses it

Through our pioneering Growth Zones, the region will be able to bring together multiple regeneration levers – funding simplification, optimisation of publicly owned land and greater influence over affordable housing provision – and pursue a joined-up approach to the design and delivery of regeneration programmes, aligned to regional priorities and complementing existing activity.

As part of this package, the deal allows the region to establish areas that could attract 100% business rate growth retention for 25 years. This greater degree of revenue retention certainty will support local authorities to make longer-term, strategic investments in infrastructure and regeneration projects.

Taken in conjunction with the single settlement, the Zones represent a game-changer for the region, its financial position and the economic prospects of some of its most deprived communities.

Investment Zones

In addition, in March 2023 Government also announced the West Midlands as one of 8 Investment Zones – innovation-led economic clusters offering both tax incentives and business rate retention.

In the West Midlands, our approach will be to ensure Investment Zones complement and add value to Growth Zones.

This will give the region an expansive toolkit to drive growth and investment across the region and build its comparative economic advantage over other parts of the country.

Why that's different from pre-deal

Instead of fragmented, output-driven funding approaches, the deal puts the region in a position to adopt a strategic and empowered approach to regeneration that meets the needs of, and opportunities for, local communities.

The package of measures will ensure the West Midlands is a beacon for private sector investment.

When things will happen

- Autumn 2023: Growth Zone proposals are submitted to Government in line with the national Investment Zone programme;
- April 2024: It is anticipated that Growth Zones – particularly those that contain business rate retention powers – will commence, aligned to the Investment Zone programme.



Transforming Places

Inclusive Growth Fundamental: Affordable and Safe Places

Exec Lead: John Godfrey

Regeneration

What will the deal achieve?

The deal will give the region more influence over Homes England policy and funding decisions, ensuring different programmes align for maximum impact and better reflect our priorities; more influence over the disposal of government owned land in the region, to help unlock land assembly opportunities for regeneration schemes; and a flexible source of funding to support commercial, employment and mixed-use development on brownfield land.

What will we deliver?

A Strategic Place Partnership between Homes England, government departments and arm's length bodies; a Public Land Partnership with the Cabinet Office; and a £100m Single Regeneration Fund, which will deliver 4,000 homes across the region.

How will local authorities be involved?

The pipeline of sites for the Single Regeneration Fund will be co-produced by LAs and the Combined Authority. Projects will be approved via the existing SAF process, with local authority leaders and deputies approving funding via Investment Board.

Housing

What will the deal achieve?

The deal gives the region increasing levels of influence and direction over Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) funding and spending decisions, beginning with an Affordable Homes Partnership with Homes England between 2023 and 2026 and leading to the devolution of AHP to the region at the next Spending Review. In addition, the region will now, for the first time, be able to use AHP funds for estate regeneration purposes.

What will we deliver?

At least £200m, and up to £400m, will be spent in the region via the Affordable Homes Programme between 2023 and 2026. This delivery will inform the negotiations for the successor programme post-2026.

How will local authorities be involved?

Local authorities will be key in identifying suitable sites for AHP, informing the joint pipeline and supporting the delivery of sites through coordination of planning processes and social housing development plans. Local authorities are still able to bid for AHP funding separately and can leverage the region's improved access to Homes England to escalate and resolve issues.

Business rates retention and Growth Zones (see special feature)

Exec Lead for BRR: Linda Horne

What will the deal achieve?

The deal provides local authorities with certainty that they will be able to retain 100% of their business rates for the next 10 years, a marked improvement on the one year rolling arrangement at present and estimated to be worth £450 million to the region. This certainty will help to underpin additional, longer-term investment decisions where business rates incomes are likely to be stable.

The deal also allows the region to bring together regeneration levers to drive joined up investment and regeneration in up to 6 Growth Zones – including, for example, areas that could attract 100% business rate growth retention for 25 years – complementing the national Investment Zones programme.

What will we deliver?

Retained business rates would flow to local authorities. Once operational, the Zones would have local management structures with some outcome reporting to the Combined Authority.

How will local authorities be involved?

Constructive engagement across the region is already underway to co-design the designation of Growth Zone sites, as presented to Board in August.

	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	2024	2025
Growth Zones	◆ Negotiate Zone criteria with DLUHC ◆									
	◆ Co-develop Zone proposals with LAs ◆			◆ WMCA Board approval for Zone proposals ◆						
			◆ negotiate interventions with DLUHC ◆				◆ Sites announced at assumed SR ◆			
SRF	DLUHC Bus Case to HMT ◆◆		◆ Negotiate Fund T&Cs ◆◆		◆ Funding begins for projects up to FY 25/26 ◆◆					
AHP	◆ Engage LAs to ensure pipeline is <u>uptodate</u> ◆◆									
	◆ Create joint AHP team with HE ◆◆			◆ Develop strategy, joint pipeline ◆◆					◆ Full devo of AHP from assumed ◆◆	
Partnerships	◆ Negotiate Strat Place Partnership, Public Land Reform, AHP agreements with Govt ◆◆									
					◆ Consult LAs on emerging proposals ◆◆		◆ WMCA Board approval ◆◆			
BRR	◆ Negotiation with DLUHC on design of 10yr BRR ◆◆						◆ Scheme announced at assumed SR ◆◆			
	◆ Consult LAs on DLUHC proposals ◆◆								◆ Beginning of 10 Year BRR ◆◆	

Pride in Place

Inclusive Growth Fundamentals: Affordable and Safe places, Connected Communities

Exec Lead: Ed Cox

Homelessness

What will the deal achieve?

The deal commits to further work between the WMCA, Homes England and DWP to secure investment and systems change to join up the homes and jobs agenda for young people across the region. Additionally, in Birmingham, investment has been secured to enable homeless families living in Temporary Accommodation to move into the private rented sector.

What will be delivered?

An expansion of the Live and Work model in additional localities across the region and a Rent Simplification pilot for young people in supported accommodation to enable transition into work. Birmingham City Council will use the £3.8m secured to lease good quality private sector accommodation for homeless families living in Temporary Accommodation.

How will local authorities be involved?

For the Live and Work expansion and Rent Simplification pilot local authority partners will be engaged regularly via the WMCA Homelessness Taskforce and the WMCA Homelessness Taskforce Members Advisory Group. The Rent Simplification pilot proposal is being developed in partnership with DWP and local authority benefits teams. As we progress the feasibility of the model and establish mechanisms for delivery, we will work with our local authority partners to establish how this could be delivered across local authorities within commissioned supported accommodation for young people. The investment to lease good quality private rented sector properties in Birmingham for homeless families, supporting Birmingham City Council's ongoing work to end the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for families, will be managed and delivered directly by Birmingham City Council and overseen by DLUHC.

Early Years

What will the deal achieve?

The deal invites engagement with government to explore pilot opportunities in relation to early years provision.

How will local authorities be involved?

The Combined Authority has engaged with Regional Directors of Children's Services to take forward this opportunity.

Anti-social behaviour

What will the deal achieve?

The deal commits to further work between the region and Department for Transport (DfT) to explore how devolution could help to address anti-social behaviour on the public transport network. The deal also recognises the street-based anti-social behaviour issues facing local authorities.

What will be delivered?

Engagement between local authorities, the Combined Authority, central government and the Police and Crime Commissioner to explore ways to address these issues.

How will local authorities be involved?

Further engagement is needed to understand the policy options that could be available to the region.

Culture

What will the deal achieve?

The deal provides the means to coordinate and strengthen our cultural and heritage offer. The Regional Culture and Heritage Framework will align and maximise funding from arm's length bodies, such as the Arts Council, including opportunities for co-investment and greater collaboration. DLUHC will also fund a Cultural Infrastructure programme to extend, refurb and improve cultural venues to better support our places, communities and citizens.

What will be delivered?

- A new partnership agreement with between the region and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its arm's length bodies, to align different funding streams and a Regional Cultural and Heritage Framework to guide its work;
- £4 million capital funding to support regional culture projects, building on the £4.1 committed through the Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund for culture.

How will local authorities be involved?

- Local authorities will be engaged in the development of the Culture and Heritage Framework through the Local Authority Cultural Officers Group;
- Each of the seven constituent authorities will receive a grant through the Cultural Heritage Infrastructure Fund.

	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	2024	2025
Partnership Agreement	Develop Regional Culture and Heritage Framework									
	Develop Arm's Length Body Partnership Agreement and Forward Plan									
Cultural Infrastructure	Business case finalisation					DLUHC approvals				
							Project implementation, delivery, evaluation			
Homelessness	Organise online seminar for LAs and RPs to discuss Live and Work model									
	Follow-up with Homes England on LAs and RPs' bid development									
	Support DWP developed Shared Outcomes Fund bid									



Implementation approach

Introduction

This document contains high-level implementation plans for each of the workstreams in the trailblazer deeper devolution deal (the deal), updated where relevant from the Implementation Plan shared with West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board in June and complemented by the summary above. The deal was agreed in principle by the WMCA and His Majesty's Government (HMG) in March 2023. The purpose of this document is to provide WMCA Board with an overview of the implementation activities that are underway and scheduled.

Overview of the Deal

The deal contains over 190 separate commitments from Government to: fund specific projects; give the region greater influence over policies and programmes; confer a new function onto WMCA; and strengthen ways of working with Government across a range of policy areas.

For some of these commitments, there are deliverables or activities with set deadlines, which means the implementation plan can be relatively definitive in these areas. For other commitments, particularly those that commit to further co-production of policy, the outputs and attendant deadlines are less tightly defined. The implementation plans provided here therefore reflect the heterogeneity of the commitments.

The implementation of commitments will be an iterative and dynamic process, responding to new information from government and external events, further deliberations within the region and interdependencies between policy areas. For example, any outcomes and metrics that the WMCA is required to report against to satisfy the scrutiny protocol (see page 4) will have to respond to developments in negotiations over the single settlement (see page 6), which are proceeding to different timelines. For this reason, it is not possible to write a definitive, single implementation plan that captures all of the relevant information. Where plans change, WMCA will work with regional partners to re-calibrate and evolve its response, such as through existing local authority reference groups. Deal implementation is necessarily an ongoing process and will require continued engagement and further detail to be added on to each workstream over time.

The rest of this Implementation Plan is divided into 25 different workstreams covering the different aspects of the deal. The sections are organised in the order of the deal text with cross-referencing to the relevant pages and paragraphs of the deal Text. Each section follows a similar format.

Governance and Accountability

Deal text reference

- Pages 9 to 14

Summary of deal commitments in this area

The deal:

- makes clear that the trailblazer commitments in general, and the single settlement commitment in particular (see page 6) are conditional on stronger scrutiny arrangements. There is also a move to standardise scrutiny processes across mayoral combined authorities (MCAs) through the publication of the English Devolution Accountability Framework;
- states that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) will engage WMCA, and other MCAs, on the development of a ‘scrutiny protocol’ that sets out the relationship between the Mayor, the MCA and its scrutiny and audit functions. The scrutiny protocol will focus on ensuring that each institution has a sustained culture of scrutiny;
- includes measures to enhance the profile and quality of scrutiny committees within MCAs;
- introduces a Mayor’s Question Time, where the Mayor would visit all parts of the region to take questions from the public and chaired by an independent person;
- suggests that where appropriate and only if requested, the Mayor and Portfolio Holders could attend up to one constituent council meeting a year;
- introduces quarterly broadcasted sessions with the Members of Parliament (MPs) representing West Midlands parliamentary constituencies where MPs will be able to scrutinise the Mayor; and
- reinforces existing practices at the WMCA where the Mayor and portfolio leads attend, when appropriate, WMCA Overview and Scrutiny committee meetings.

Legal or financial implications

- The scrutiny protocol and internal review of scrutiny function have potential legal and governance implications. The requirement to design and deliver new MPs sessions will need new, dedicated, resource.
- The deal requires an unspecified amount of funding support for communications and research to be given to chair of scrutiny committees.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Bob Sleigh

Exec Lead: Helen Griffiths

SRO: Julia Cleary

Reference Group: Via Overview & Scrutiny

How will this work be administered?

- WMCA Governance Team will lead the administration of new accountability and scrutiny arrangements.

How will this work be delivered?

- WMCA Governance Team will be responsible for delivering the MPs’ sessions in collaboration with the Mayor’s Office and Portfolio Holders.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Local authorities will be engaged on the development of terms of reference for new MPs' sessions through the overview and scrutiny process.
- Local authorities will be engaged on developments in the English Devolution Accountability Framework (EDAF), and will be consulted where the scrutiny protocol calls for action on the part of portfolio holders.
- Local authorities will be engaged on the outcome of the internal review of scrutiny functions and will have a decision-making role on any proposed changes that are brought to WMCA Board.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Scrutiny protocol to be written – by summer 2023.
- Terms of reference for MPs' sessions – by summer 2023.
- 'Plain English guidance' to increase awareness across the region of the roles of the Mayor, MCA, local authorities and the government – expected by summer 2023.
- Review of Independent Review of Greater Manchester Combined Authority scrutiny arrangements and consider implementation - by March 2024.
- WMCA resolution to introduce the MPs' sessions – to be confirmed.

Outstanding issues and questions

- The relationship between the outcomes and metrics in the EDAF and those required for the single settlement is unclear.

Single Settlement, Fiscal Devolution and Capital funding

Deal text reference

- Pages 17 to 18 for business rates retention
- Pages 21 to 23 for single settlement
- Page 69 for Digital, cultural and environmental projects
- Page 32, para 104, for the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro Extension

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- **Business rates retention (BRR).** over ten years will enable constituent authorities to retain 100% of the rates generated in their respective areas. This replaces the rolling BRR arrangements that have been in place as an annual pilot since 2017. Government has reserved the right to re-set (full or in part) the growth baseline and the ‘no detriment’ protection mechanism in the pilot has been removed. The ‘no detriment’ protection mechanism has not been used in over six years of the pilot so the absence of ‘no detriment’ protection in the deal is considered to be low risk.
- **Single settlement.** WMCA currently manage in the region of 100 individual grants from Government, all with their own declaration requirements and monitoring and reporting requirements ranging from light touch to considerably onerous. The implementation of a “single settlement” will simplify the overall funding landscape. The main characteristics of the single settlement will mean WMCA manages funding to correspond with five ‘functional pillars’: local growth and place, local transport, housing and regeneration, adult skills and net zero. The settlements are intended to cover an entire Spending Review period of typically 5 years. The region will no longer need to bid into specific competitive funding rounds but will instead receive future funding lines through allocation in exchange for agreeing a series of outputs and outcomes, with funding decisions to be taken via the region’s governance infrastructure.

- **Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension.** DLUHC committed to provide £60m to help address cost pressures on the Metro Extension project, subject to approval of a business case.
- **Digital, cultural and environmental projects.** DLUHC has committed to provide £25m capital funding for green and innovative projects, subject to approval of their respective business cases. The projects that will be, and are being, submitted to DLUHC for approval are: additional Air Quality monitors; a Cultural Heritage Infrastructure Fund, capital support for West Midlands Industrial Decarbonisation and Smart City Region.

Legal or financial implications

- **Business rate retention.** The deal does not provide any guidance on how retained business rates should be apportioned between local authorities and WMCA, but WMCA financial plans assume the existing arrangements will be maintained. This will be subject to local agreements and consents in due course. The outcome of this agreement has implications for the financial sustainability of WMCA. It is likely that local arrangements where local authorities pool gains to ‘bail out’ individual local authorities who suffer a detriment, as per the current pilot, could remain in the amended ten-year scheme, subject to local consents.

- **Single settlement.** Until the scope of the settlement is agreed, which we are exploring within the region and engaging with Government on, it is not possible to firmly assess the quantum of funding that WMCA will receive through the settlement. WMCA has the option to not agree to an MoU on the terms of the single settlement with Government, should we consider it to be detrimental to the region. If the implementation of the single settlement lives up to its full potential, there are significant implications for how WMCA makes investment decisions and the governance, outcomes and data structures needed to support local decision making.
- **Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension.** None, as the business case for this project has already undergone significant development with the Department for Transport.
- **Digital, cultural and environmental projects.** None, as the business cases for each project have been under development for some time, some of which have gained approval from WMCA Executive Board and are ready to be submitted to DLUHC.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Bob Sleigh

Exec Lead: Linda Horne

SRO: Carl Pearson

Reference Group: LA Finance Directors

How will this work be administered?

- **Business rate retention.** This will be administered via the pre-existing mechanisms between LAs, WMCA and Government that have been in place since 2017.
- **Single settlement.** The single settlement will be administered by WMCA. The principles for how decisions will be taken is the subject of collaborative, on-going work across the region between the CA and LAs.
- **Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension.** This will be administered through the existing structures for the first phase of the Metro extension project.
- **Digital, cultural and environmental projects.** Each business case for these projects contains a management case that sets out how WMCA, and partner organisations in some instances, will administer these projects. See the relevant plans below for more detail

How will this work be delivered?

- **Single settlement.** The different projects or services funded through the single settlement will be delivered through a range of mechanisms, which can include direct delivery by a constituent authority. The purpose of the single settlement is to free the region from the top-down control and pre-definition of delivery arrangements associated with the grant making process, with greater trust and flexibility locally to deliver against 'outcomes' agreed between the region and HMT. The arrangement gives far more scope for the region to decide collectively how funding should be delivered.
- **Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension.** This will be delivered through contract structures already put in place by Transport for the West Midlands (TfWM) for these works.
- **Digital, cultural and environmental projects.** Each business case for these projects contains a management case that sets out how WMCA, and partner organisations in some instances, will administer these projects. See the relevant plans below for more detail.

Single Settlement, Fiscal Devolution and Capital funding

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- WMCA is engaging across the region with LAs and with HMT/DLUHC on the design and implementation of single settlement. The single settlement MoU will go to a WMCA Board meeting in the autumn.
- The Finance Directors' group will be informed of single settlement and business rate retention developments and have the opportunity to advise and influence accordingly.
- Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro Stakeholder Board will continue to engage Dudley and Sandwell representatives about progress with Metro.

Key milestones and deliverables

- **Single settlement.** We are working towards agreeing an MoU for the single settlement in the autumn, most likely linked to the Autumn Statement. The date for the Autumn Statement is yet to be formally confirmed but November is a possibility.
- **Digital, cultural and environmental projects.** The 4 projects to be funded from the £25m allocation have been designed to be initiated and deliver benefits over the next one, or in some cases two, financial years. The next milestone is to ensure these refreshed business cases complete the WMCA internal assurance and governance process as soon as possible, so they can be submitted to DLUHC for final approval. We would hope to have achieved this by mid-summer.
- **Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension funding.** a refreshed business case is required for DLUHC. The business case is already well developed and had challenge from DfT. In order to de-risk the delivery of this project, it is essential this proceeds through WMCA governance processes as soon as possible. WMCA are in dialogue with Government with respect to developing an appropriate timeline for submitting the business case to secure the funding.
- **Digital, cultural and environmental projects.** Each project business case sets out how the projects will be administered, which varies in each case. See the plans below (for example, culture and digital).

Outstanding issues and questions

- The region is working collaboratively through the range of policy and delivery implications of the single settlement, which we expect will require significant further engagement over the coming year and beyond.



Data

Deal text reference

- Pages 15 to 16 for Data

Summary of deal commitments in this area

The deal commits the Government and WMCA to transform its approach to accessing, using, sharing, and reusing data. It does so through:

- **Legal:** a legal gateway for the safe sharing of data;
- **Accountability:** a data partnership for timely access to data at right geographical level;
- **Engagement:** representation on the Chief Data Officers Council and the establishment of a Local Chief Data Officers Council; and
- **Innovation:** working with the Spatial Data Unit, hosting a data symposium, and the training and development of data experts

These advances in data capability should then be used to support decision making, evaluation and monitoring of the Single Settlement (see below).

Legal or financial implications

- We need to understand the extent to which: the WMCA is compliant with Government Functional Standards on data / data maturity, information security, and assured organisational connectivity, whether the WMCA has appropriate information governance arrangements in place and platforms to store shared data.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Bob Sleigh

Exec Lead: Ed Cox

SRO: Si Chun Lam

Reference Group: New LA data officers group

How will this work be administered?

- There is an existing Research, Intelligence, Analysis and Data (RIAD) Steering Group in place, with a Terms of Reference refreshed in November 2022.
- A task-and-finish group reporting to the Steering Group will be best placed to lead on the data workstream, in line with the WMCA's RIAD Implementation Plan (and the Data & Analytics Development Plan)

How will this work be delivered?

- This is set out in the existing RIAD (and Data & Analytics Development Plan).
- The work will be delivered by a series of task-and-finish groups reporting to the WMCA Steering Group, led by the Head of Research, Intelligence, and Inclusive Growth.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Constituent local authorities will be engaged on the development and content of the Data Partnership through a new LA officers data group - West Midlands Insights on Society and Economy. .

Key milestones and deliverables

The work will be delivered as follows:

Legal:

- Data audit: as soon as possible, the WMCA should commission and independent data audit to ensure that the WMCA is fully compliant with those standards.
- Data partnership: alongside this, the WMCA will need to identify appropriate people to negotiate a data partnership.

Accountability:

- Compliance: the WMCA will need to ensure we have a process in place for information security and assurance, research compliance.
- 'Conway' data platform: develop a data platform for storing data from different sources.

Engagement:

- Representation: a standing item on our research and intelligence journey on the WMCA Exec Board.
- Partnership: establishment of a Local Authority Data Group with constituent local authority insight leads.

Innovation:

- People: developing job families aligned to civil service digital, data analysis and technology roles; developing expectations and standards for data literacy across all internal roles,
- Influence: develop partnerships and networks with constituent local authorities, research partners and private sector to fully maximise opportunities with SDU and the data symposium.
- Data symposium: hold a data symposium (tentative plan for late-2024).

Outstanding issues and questions

WMCA

- Governance arrangements: no timescales or details established yet.
- Appropriate resourcing: no approved funding for the delivery of these programmes of work as of yet.
- Health: the health element specifically looks at working with Health and Wellbeing Boards, and NHS bodies. Delivery of the data sharing elements of this if we are to be able to formally achieve our "new formal duty on WMCA to improve the public's health".

Government

- Timescales and /or further details needed from Government regarding the Chief Data Officers Council, the Local Chief Data Officers Council, the Spatial Data Unit, the Data symposium and the accountability framework.

Growth Zones

Deal text reference

- Pages 16 to 19 on Growth Zones (previously referred to as “Levelling Up Zones” (LUZs))

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- The deal commits Government to work with WMCA to designate a number of specific ‘growth zones’ (up to 6) within which 100% of business rates growth above an agreed baseline will be retained for 25 years, subject to a business case. Retained rates would not be subject to reset at any national reset within this period. WMCA is encouraged to support the success of sites by aligning other investments with them.
- Investment Zones were announced as part of the 2023 Spring Budget outside of the formal Devolution Deal: and more detailed guidance on these has been published for these than is currently available for Growth Zones

Legal or financial implications

- The Business Rate Retention commitment within Growth Zones requires a statutory instrument, similar to the process for designating Enterprise Zones
- Fiscal/financial incentives – although HMG has not identified additional government funding/fiscal streams, designation of Growth Zone could act as a catalyst for coalescing other local and regional funding streams, which will be identified according to the specific needs and opportunities of each Growth Zone. A broader suite of fiscal measures is available for a WM Investment Zone, and it will be important that we align and maximise the opportunities through the two programmes.

- Governance – to be confirmed but initial discussions with DLUHC have indicated that as Growth Zones were identified as ‘locally led’, the governance structures are likely to incorporate: an overarching West Midlands/DHLUC Growth Zone Programme Board with Individual Growth Zone Boards for each area designated.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Sharon Thompson

Exec Lead: Ed Cox, Executive Director for Strategy, Integration and Net Zero

SRO: Jonathan Skinner

Reference Group: LA DSG, SLAOG and Directors of Economic Development Officers’ groups

How will this work be administered?

- Programme Board to be advised, but likely to report to WMCA Board.
- Individual Growth Zones to have dedicated Board & governance agreed by LA(s).
- Designated local authority areas will have responsibility for administering the delivery of their respective areas, while the WMCA will be responsible for liaison with DLUHC to ensure compliance with Devolution Deal expectations.
- A WM Investment Zone will be managed through a regional approach in partnership with local authority and university collaboration.

How will this work be delivered?

- The delivery of Growth Zones will be led by respective local authorities, who will be accountable for the delivery of expected outcomes, with support from WMCA where required. The designation process is still to be confirmed, based on work already undertaken with local authority partners in the development of the initial round of Investment Zones (under the Truss government) which has established a portfolio of development and regeneration opportunities.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Growth Zones – require a Designation framework to be developed with DLUHC. WMCA will work closely with its local authority partners both bilaterally and through the DSG during this process to ensure designation mechanisms are fair and transparent.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Autumn 2023: LUZ proposals are submitted to Government in line with the national Investment Zone programme.
- April 2024: It is anticipated that LUZs – particularly those that contain business rate retention powers – will commence, aligned to the Investment Zone programme.

Outstanding issues and questions

- Designation process – liaison with DLUHC underway
- Governance – outline timeline in development
- Administrative & delivery arrangements etc to be agreed with local authority partners

Transport Planning, Innovation and Mass Transit

Deal text reference

- Pages 24 to 27 for transport planning and innovation, page 30 for mass transit

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- WMCA to deliver a pioneering Local Transport Plan (LTP) approach which embeds quantifying carbon reductions.
- TfWM to establish a transport ‘sandbox’ with government with associated use cases and other innovation activity.
- TfWM to deliver an influencing transport lab.
- WMCA to develop a proposal for the West Midlands to bid to host the 2027 World Intelligent Transport Systems Congress.
- WMCA to develop a local, last mile freight and logistics programme.
- Supporting the development of the Very Light Railway in Coventry.

Legal or financial implications

- The LTP and ITL programmes have resources secured from the Transport Levy and DfT grants respectively.
- Transport sandbox scope will be subject to detailed discussion with DfT. The individual use cases will need to be assessed for legal, equalities and financial implications.
- A funded World Intelligent Transport Systems Congress bid will need to be developed with DfT including detailed financial case.
- VLR development is subject to Single Assurance Framework.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Mike Bird

Exec Lead: Anne Shaw, Executive Director, TfWM

SRO: Mike Waters, Director of Policy Strategy Innovation, TfWM

Reference Group: STOG

How will this work be administered?

- Some approvals required by WMCA Board, oversight by Strategic Transport Board.
- Delivery implementation monitoring by Senior Transport Officers Group and TfWM Strategy Board.

How will this work be delivered?

- The Sandbox requires a new relationship with government, and local authorities are a key part of that approach. This also applies to the ITL programme and possible local, last mile freight and logistics programme. The freight programme can enhance Plan for Growth implementation and the sandbox kerbside management use case.
- Last mile freight logistics will be delivered by Local Authorities within a regional framework
- Local Transport Plans continue to be developed and delivered by Local Authorities within an agreed regional framework



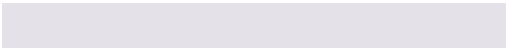
Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- These areas are complex in nature therefore require a combination of engagement, codesign, consultation and delivery between authorities and TfWM, and other regional partners.
- For example, Coventry City Council continues to lead R&D and the testing of VLR technology. TfWM working with Birmingham City Council and Solihull MBC, have commissioned a future mass transit study, including investigating future VLR opportunities for East Birmingham and North Solihull Corridor (aligning to the Levelling Up Zone for that area).

Key milestones and deliverables

- Winter 2022/23 – 2025: ITL programme
- Spring 2023 Operational transport sandbox begins.
- Autumn 2023: Developed use cases.
- Winter 2023: Published LTP QCR targets.
- 2023-2026: Proven VLR technology and city demonstrator delivered.
- 2025 onwards: Research and development helps to update the current TWA Order processes and regulations.
- 2027 onwards: Full VLR routes could form part of a CRSTS2 programme.

Outstanding issues and questions

- Uncertainty on national legislation and policy reforms, especially for new low speed zero emission vehicle categories.
- 

Bus and Bus Services

Deal text reference

- Page 27

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- Devolving Commercial BSOG to the WMCA following a national reform policy consultation process.
- Implementing a further set of Bus Bye Laws, with TfWM having the ability to enforce bye laws on bus vehicles to help improve safety.

Legal or financial implications

- Commercial BSOG: Transfer of powers from the Transport Secretary of State (s154 (1) of Transport Act 2000) to the Mayor (on behalf of the WMCA). This is subject to formal public consultation and a legislative process.
- WMCA resource implications will need to be assessed as the detail of statutory instrument develops and be considered alongside other bus transformation work. Resources will need to be allocated to fully administer BSOG, once devolved.
- Further bus bye laws would be subject to detailed EqIA and public consultation. This will be progressed through a scoping exercise – the expectation is that this can be funded via existing resources.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Mike Bird

Exec Lead: Anne Shaw, Executive Director, TfWM

SRO: Pete Bond, Director of Integrated Transport Services, TfWM and Mark Corbin, Director of Network Resilience

Reference Group: STOG

How will this work be administered?

- Schemes approvals will be required by WMCA Board, with oversight by Strategic Transport Board, TDC and Bus Alliance Board. Scrutiny sessions may also be required.
- Delivery implementation monitoring by STOG and TfWM Strategy Board.

How will this work be delivered?

TfWM reform priorities for commercial BSOG are: -

- Incentivising greener vehicle fleet investment and maximising our position as the UK investment leader in decarbonising bus fleets.
- Incentivising and directing private bus operators to expand bus services into areas of poor accessibility.

TfWM and DfT have already begun to identify cross boundary bus service issues around BSOG devolution.

TfWM will undertake a full scoping exercise with DLUHC and DfT on how to speedily enact a further set of bye laws including on the bus vehicles.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- TfWM reform priorities for devolved commercial BSOG will be subject to engagement with authorities through STOG, EP reference group and the Bus Alliance Board.
- Engagement and codesign will be required for bus bye laws/ASB powers implementation. This will involve partners such as local authorities, DfT, DLUHC, West Midlands Police/OPCC/BTP and transport operators.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Summer 2023: TfWM to respond to national policy consultation process for BSOG reform.
- Summer 2023: WMCA to respond to forthcoming consultation on national ASB Action Plan.
- 2023/2024: DfT to enact BSOG reforms and future bus bye laws for TfWM.
- 2024/2025: Reformed commercial BSOG devolved.

Outstanding issues and questions

- Uncertainty on when DfT will formally consult on national policy reforms and how we fully influence that to meet our desired outcomes.

Roads

Deal text reference

- Page 30

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- Government will work with the WMCA to explore opportunities for traffic officers on the Key Route Network.
- Government is considering options for tackling pavement parking and will work with WMCA to explore appropriate powers for mayoral combined authorities and their constituent authorities in this area.

Legal or financial implications

- Supporting resources would need to be secured and funding identified, and necessary legal permission in place for allowing traffic officers on the Key Route Network.
- Pavement parking powers require national legislation changes.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Mike Bird

Exec Lead: Anne Shaw, Executive Director, TfWM

SRO: Mark Corbin, Director of Network Resilience

Reference Group: STOG

How will this work be administered?

- Approvals will be required from WMCA Board, with oversight by Strategic Transport Board.
- Delivery implementation monitoring by STOG and TfWM Strategy Board.

How will this work be delivered?

- Pavement parking powers would be sought on behalf of constituent local authorities. It would be a decision for individual authorities to decide whether they wanted to enact these powers. TfWM would potentially support authorities to prepare schemes (similar to Moving Traffic Offence powers applications).

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- There will be commitment to engagement and the codesign of the traffic officer pilot
- Pavement parking enforcement would be a decision for individual authorities to decide whether they wanted to enact and deliver these powers (subject to national legislation and following guidance).

Key milestones and deliverables

- Summer/Autumn 2023: TfWM to develop a full business case with relevant partner organisations.
- 2024 onwards: approved business case and live trial operational.

Outstanding issues and questions

- Uncertainty on when DfT will publish its formal response to the 2020 pavement parking powers enforcement consultation and outlining next steps. Powers require national legislation changes.

Rail partnership with Great British Railways

Deal text reference

- Page 27 to 28

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- New partnership agreement between West Midlands Rail Exec (WMRE) and Great British Railways (GBR). WMRE is currently negotiating this agreement with the Great British Railways Transition Team (GBRTT) on behalf of the West Midlands region.

Legal or financial implications

- Short term resource is in place within WMRE. Additional medium-term resource may be required, subject to joint scoping and project planning with GBRTT.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Mike Bird

Exec Lead: Anne Shaw, Executive Director, TfWM

SRO: Mal Drury Rose, Executive Director (WMRE), Director of Rail (TfWM)

Reference Group: STOG

How will this work be administered?

- Approvals required by WMRE Board, and WMCA Board. Delivery implementation monitoring by WMRE Officers Group, STOG and TfWM Strategy Board.

How will this work be delivered?

- This partnership deal will outline WMRE's role in the future West Midlands rail industry and the commitments will be embedded in the outcomes that the partnership will achieve.
- The partnership will deliver greater local accountability and influence over rail services in the region.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- There is ongoing commitment to engagement with constituent authorities, through existing WMRE member and officer representation.

Key milestones and deliverables

- April 2023 – Sep 2023: Joint implementation teams.
- October 2023 – March 2024: Joint development of partnership.
- April 2024 – December 2024: Pilots underway as partnerships embedded into GBR regions.
- January 2025 onwards: Go-Live.

Outstanding issues and questions

- Although a GBR transition team has been established within Network Rail, GBR reforms are subject to a supporting Transport/Rail Bill, which has not been laid before Parliament yet. This means there is uncertainty about fundamental questions such as the exact role, responsibilities and timescales for establishing a functioning GBR

Affordable Homes Programme

Deal text reference

- Pages 33 to 36

Summary of deal commitments in this area

Phase 1: 2023-26

- WMCA will set the overall strategic direction for the deployment of the AHP in the region for the first time outside of London.
- Homes England will invest at least £200 million of AHP funding within the WMCA area by March 2026 with a clear ambition for WMCA, local partners and Homes England to work together to invest up to £400 million to build more social and affordable homes by 2026.

Phase 2: Post 2026

- AHP funding will be devolved to WMCA – empowering WMCA to take many of the decisions currently taken by Homes England (around sites, providers and standards) – while continuing to partner with local authorities and HE. In this new ‘trailblazing’ model of delivery, the WMCA will make the key strategic decisions over local investment and spend of Affordable Homes Programme in the WMCA area in line with its strategic framework.

Legal or financial implications

- Subject to review & amendment of existing Homes England governance processes for current programme (2021-26): administration of funds will continue to sit with HE, with oversight & direction from WMCA. The implementation plan will explore the options for this process in discussion with HE and DLUHC, and in consultation with LA partners.
- There are no revenue funding inclusions within the deal for this workstream, which is currently being managed through existing resources. The scale of capital funding will be dependent upon the region providing a strong pipeline and delivery performance.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ian Courts

Exec Lead: John Godfrey, Interim Executive Director for Housing, Property & Regeneration

SRO: Rob Lamond

Reference Group: LA DSG and SLAOG officer groups

How will this work be administered?

- Through the Housing & Land Delivery Board reporting to WMCA Board for Phase 1. Early discussions are commencing with DLUHC and HE to ensure an appropriate agreement is in place by Autumn 2023.
- Phase 2 will require further governance arrangements to be agreed with DLUHC and HE.

How will this work be delivered?

- Delivery of the AHP up to 2026 will continue to be administered by Homes England but with a stronger strategic role for WMCA, with delivery of new affordable homes coming from investment into schemes with local authorities, registered providers and other providers.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- LA partners will be closely consulted through DSG and SLAOG groups as greater clarity emerges from discussions with DLUHC and HE colleagues. The deal is clear that existing relationships and agreements will be preserved through the new arrangements and that the deal should represent nil detriment to partners in the region.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Outline agreement DLUHC-HE-WMCA in place Autumn 2023.

Outstanding issues and questions

- Joint scheme pipeline & opportunities need to be developed with constituent members.
- Phase 2 details still to be developed.

Land Reform & Public Land

Deal text reference

- Pages 36 to 37

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- A formal public land reform partnership with the government led by Cabinet Office will be signed which provides WMCA with new strategic leadership, and clarity on Government Department/agency land and buildings, centring on decisions on disposals/development in the Government estate in the region.
- The new partnership with Cabinet Office will include a joint plan to anticipate where there may be potential upcoming disposals and reconfiguration of government land and buildings within the West Midlands to drive regeneration outcomes.

Legal or financial implications

- Legal & governance process for WMCA involvement in HMG decision making procedures to be developed in collaboration with Cabinet Office (and in accordance with WMCA existing decision-making governance).
- Funding to support this will need to be considered further through discussions with Cabinet Office.
- Financial implications from decisions ultimately made in the joint approach to Government land and assets will need to work through the partnership agreement to ensure appropriate protections are in place.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ian Courts

Exec Lead: John Godfrey, Interim Executive Director for Housing, Property & Regeneration

SRO: Rob Lamond

Reference Group: LA DSG and SLAOG officer groups

How will this work be administered?

- Joint working with the Cabinet Office, LGA and WMCA is currently in place with the Place Pilots programme. This programme will build upon these existing mechanisms and report via Housing & Land Delivery Board to WMCA Board.

How will this work be delivered?

- Partnership Plan will be co-developed by WMCA with the Cabinet Office.
- Individual land disposals/asset work will include a wide range of local and national bodies.
- WMCA will also work closely with local authority partners to understand if they have ownerships that they would like to identify as part of any comprehensive development scheme.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Local authorities will be engaged through the DSG and SLAOG groups to keep them informed of progress with Government during the negotiations with Cabinet Office. Clearly, once the agreement is in place and assets or land proposals are developing, LA partners will be invited to participate and co-design and delivery solutions if they wish to put forward their own land/assets.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Indicative target for a draft agreement with Cabinet Office is Autumn 2023.

Outstanding issues and questions

- Legal, Metrics and Evaluation and partnership plan TBD

Single Regeneration Fund

Deal text reference

- Pages 31 to 32

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- The government will devolve £100 million brownfield funding to WMCA to administer and deploy to drive placemaking, housing and urban regeneration across the whole region within this spending review period, supporting WMCA to deliver an output of 4,000 homes, as well as (for the first time) commercial and mixed-use development. This is subject to an internal business case between DLUHC- HMT, which WMCA have contributed to.
- WMCA will deploy the funds at scale and pace to de-risk stalled and challenging housing, urban and commercial development sites ensuring the overall programme delivers the outputs agreed with HMG.

Legal or financial implications

- The SRF will require a new Programme Business Case to be developed under the SAF process.
- Legal agreements of T&CS required with HMG
- Financial M&E will be undertaken on programme and individual schemes
- There is currently no identified revenue funding available to WMCA to administer this programme
- Profiling of the devolution of the £100m is currently under discussion with DLUHC with a regional preference for a single lump sum from the outset.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ian Courts

Exec Lead: John Godfrey, Interim Executive Director for Housing, Property & Regeneration

SRO: To be confirmed

Reference Group: LA DSG officer group

How will this work be administered?

- Funds will be deployed by WMCA via the Single Assurance Framework consistent with the criteria and approach used for existing Housing & Land funds.

How will this work be delivered?

- Schemes will be promoted by public and private sector partners who will deliver the outputs and outcomes.
- Key priority schemes are identified through regular engagement by WMCA with LAs and the private sector to identify and remove barriers to regeneration and development and achieve agreed outcomes from funding.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Local authorities will be able to submit schemes to the SRF under existing procedures.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Devolution of funding anticipated Summer 2023 subject to HMG business case processes and profiling of allocation.
- Target of 4,000 new homes set to accompany this fund
- Other targets to be confirmed.

Outstanding issues and questions

- Clarification on T&Cs is ongoing with DLUHC.
- Internal HMG funding approval process and allocation profiling agreement.

Skills

Deal text reference

- Pages 39 to 43

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- Creation of a joint governance board to provide oversight of post 16 technical education and skills in West Midlands. Our current intention is to build on our existing Skills Advisory Board, and to integrate with the Board referenced as part of the employment support workstream.
- WMCA to have strategic oversight of post-16 skills offer linked to delivering the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), including a role in signing off the application for the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF).
- Free courses for jobs: WMCA will have additional flexibility in how they can spend this existing budget in 23/24; Once 80% of the budget has been delivered in year, funds will be devolved. Funding will move into a single settlement in next SR.
- Careers: joint governance of careers in the West Midlands; WMCA to have a role in oversight of current contract, and work with DfE to shape and manage performance of future contracts. New pilot funding to respond to career priorities for those at risk of being NEET.

Legal or financial implications

- WMCA are already in receipt of Bootcamp and FCFJ funding. There will be no new monies for these programmes, though there will be greater flexibility in how funds can be used.
- There will be a small amount of pilot funding for careers, value to be confirmed.
- At present, we plan for a Skills function to form part of the formal public consultation and legislative approvals process. However, we are confirming with DfE to what extent the new Skills commitments in the deal amount to a new function.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr George Duggins

Exec Lead: Clare Hatton, Director of Employment and Skills

SRO: Fiona Aldridge

Reference Group: LA Employment & Skills Officers Group

How will this work be administered?

Funds will be deployed through existing granted and procured arrangements with LAs, colleges and other training providers. Priorities for new or flexible investment will be identified through:

- Engagement with Skills Advisory Board (advisory) and Economic Growth Board (decision making). LAs are represented on both Boards.
- Discussions will also be held with LA employment & skills officers group, that meets on a monthly basis.
- We are currently exploring the role and remit of the new Board – and its integration with the Board out in the employment support strand.

How will this work be delivered?

- FCFJ and Bootcamp funding will be delivered through existing mechanisms – via our grant funded and contracted providers. In addition to the groups/Boards identified above, we will be holding bi-laterals with each LA in which we will discuss priorities for new flexibilities in each area.
- We are currently in discussions with DfE as to how wider commitments will be delivered. We have met with relevant senior staff and are establishing regular meetings to ensure progress. Further detail is not currently available, but we will update as the work progresses.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Local authorities will be consulted on local need and priorities for investment.
- As grant-funded learning providers, LAs in many parts of the region are also delivery partners.
- WMCA will work with LAs to co-develop the all-age carers strategy and the NEET pilots.

Key milestones and deliverables

Ongoing. A series of key milestones and deliverables to be developed.

- LSIP/LSIF – Skills Advisory Board, June 23

Outstanding issues and questions

- We are awaiting further information and engagement from DfE.

Employment Support

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- Creation of a regional Labour Market Partnership Board. Our current intention is to build on our existing Skills Advisory Board, and to integrate with the Board referenced as part of the skills workstream.
- The deal commits to a co-design approach to all future contracted employment support programmes, with delegated delivery on a CA footprint.

Note – while there are no new contracted employment programmes expected in this SR, we will be working with DWP to shape the Universal Support Offer that was announced in the budget alongside the deal.

Legal or financial implications

- WMCA will be commissioning contracted employment programmes on behalf of DWP, on a CA footprint. Details and processes to be agreed with DWP.
- This may require legislative change, as well as changes to DWP wider commercial model.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr George Duggins

Exec Lead: Clare Hatton, Director of Employment and Skills

SRO: Fiona Aldridge

Reference Group: LA Employment & Skills Officers Group

How will this work be administered?

Priorities for contracted employment programmes in the WMCA area will be identified through:

- Engagement with Skills Advisory Board (advisory) and Economic Growth Board (decision making). LAs represented on both.
- Discussions will also be held with LA employment & skills officers group, that meets on a monthly basis, and is already considering UKSPF employment support investment.
- We are currently exploring the role and remit of the new Board

How will this work be delivered?

- Discussions with DWP are on-going as to how this work will be delivered, with key contacts now identified.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Local authorities will be consulted on local need and priorities for investment, to inform co-design with DWP. This will ensure alignment with UKSPF investment on employment support.

Key milestones and deliverables

- A series of key milestone and deliverables to be developed.

Outstanding issues and questions

- We are awaiting further information and engagement from DWP. In addition to DDD arrangements, this will also involve opportunities to shape wider budget announcements including the Universal Support Offer and Work Well Partnerships.



Innovation

Deal text reference

- Pages 47 to 49

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- Strategic Innovation Partnership with Government
- Working in partnership to grow innovation clusters (innovation pilots & programmes):
 1. Innovation accelerator (already funded and being delivered/evaluation underway)
 2. Innovate UK regional action plan
 3. Innovation adoption & diffusion pilot/s
 4. FE Innovation pilot
 5. Locally led place-based knowledge transfer programmes
 6. Innovative procurement pilot
- As far as possible any work on these commitments will align with the priority spatial areas (Investment Zone, LUZs, etc.), and the work of Business Growth West Midlands, using each place's innovation priorities.

Legal or financial implications

- No legal implications at this stage.
- Ref commitment 2-6, new pilot programmes will require Innovate UK programme board approval and possibly DSIT & HM Treasury spending approvals.

Where these commitments involve new spending for or by the region, key decisions will be taken via the Economic Growth Board, Investment Board and WMCA Board (as with Innovation Accelerator).

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: TBC

Exec Lead: Ed Cox, Executive Director, SINZ

SRO: Jonathan Skinner

Reference Group: LA Directors of Economic Development group

How will this work be administered?

- Within the West Midlands, direction will be steered by the WM Innovation Board, working in an advisory capacity to the Economic Growth Board who take any strategic decisions. A representative of City of Wolverhampton Council is invited to the Innovation Board in their capacity as Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation to strengthen local authority links.
- Supported directly by WMCA officers, the Innovation Board's direction will be developed in conjunction with:
 - o WM Directors of Economic Development
 - o University leaders, with research-intensive universities providing specialist advice on relevant areas.

How will this work be delivered?

- At a national level, a senior Partnership will be put in place to provide the opportunity to articulate its research and development priorities to UK Research and Innovation and Science Ministers.
- This will be supported by joint work on the analysis of public research and development investment, working most closely with those organisations that do most research.
- Government and the WMCA will develop measures to evaluate impact.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Local authorities will be consulted about innovation priorities and the proposed content of joint innovation plans with Government agencies through the Directors of Econ Dev group (advisory), along with the Innovation Board. Decisions will be via the Economic Growth Board and WMCA Board/Investment Board (whether policy or financial matters).

Key milestones and deliverables

- First meeting of the ministerial-level Strategic Innovation Partnership sought for autumn 2023.
- Innovation Accelerator is live, with 5 projects receiving £33m in total to March 2025.
- Innovate UK regional action plan launched on 20 July with milestones for particular commitments within that plan being overseen by the Innovation Board.

Outstanding issues and questions

- Nationally:
 - the degree of alignment between DSIT, UKRI and its research councils and agencies.
 - Government's timelines for commitments, particularly the various pilots in the DDD and their procurement routes.
- Within the region, R&D institutions like universities and catapults need to forge a clear understanding about their priorities for boosting research and innovation income, linked to wider economic objectives.
- Ensuring strong connections with complementary agendas – particularly on FDI, skills, land supply and business support which all can help nurture strong place-based innovation clusters.

Business Productivity

Deal text reference

- Pages 50 to 52

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- Establish a Strategic Productivity Partnership between WMCA and DBT, DLUHC, DCMS to bring greater coherence to business support and finance landscape to boost enterprise, business growth and jobs.
- This is based upon WMCA's role as the lead institution for integrating business productivity interventions at the city region level and discrete roles in respect of national programmes and agencies (e.g. Help to Grow; British Business Bank, etc.).
- Closer relationship with the British Business Bank.

Legal or financial implications

None

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: TBC

Exec Lead: Ed Cox, Executive Director, SINZ

SRO: Jonathan Skinner

Reference Group: LA Business Support Officers group

How will this work be administered?

- WMCA and Government to initiate the Strategic Productivity Partnership.
- Regional direction to be steered by the Economic Growth Board.
- Fortnightly delivery meetings with local authority business support officers.
- External technical input via an expert panel.

How will this work be delivered?

Delivery is likely to continue to be through a mixed model, albeit with stronger coordinate and coherence within the region's economic strategy objectives (West Midlands Plan for Growth, Inclusive Growth Framework, etc.):

- National DBT schemes (Help to Grow, Made Smarter, Export Academy) and the potential to co-design new pilots.
- Business Growth West Midlands, funded by UK SPF and including local provision through a hub-and-spoke model with some specialist regional-wide commissioned programmes.
- Local authority 'spokes' provide opportunity to align with core statutory functions (planning, trading standards, etc.).
- Alignment with complementary regional offers (skills, net zero, energy & digital infrastructure, transport, inward investment).
- Greater coordination and collaboration with private sector (e.g. banks, accountants, consultants)

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Deliver – local authority-based delivery is at the centre of the Business Growth West Midlands hub-and-spoke model and will be developed through the fortnightly delivery meetings with local authority business support officers.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Develop scope for Strategic Productivity Partnership with DBT and across Government (summer 2023) working towards the first meeting (October 2023).
- Exploration of the scope to include business support in the context of the single settlement (summer 2023).
- Agree closer relationship between WMCA and British Business Bank (by October 2023).
- Establish Expert Panel for technical insight, build the evidence base and logic chain with Government about the key issues to boost productivity across the region (by autumn 2023).
- Sharpen the interface with private sector providers, building upon the Business Growth West Midlands offer (by autumn 2023).
- Develop options for harnessing Help to Grow and Made Smarter alumni activity within the Business Growth West Midlands system (by autumn 2023).
- Monitoring and evaluation framework (ongoing).

Outstanding issues and questions

- Resolve representation of WMCA on British Business Bank governance bodies for Midlands Engine Investment Fund.
- Understand relevance of UK Infrastructure Bank for WMCA – particularly on region's infrastructure funding needs.

Trade & Investment and Places for Growth

Deal text reference

- Pages 53 to 56 for Trade and Investment, Page 70 for Places for Growth

Summary of deal commitments in this area

Trade & Investment (T&I) elements of the deal, DBT will:

- Recognise the West Midlands Growth Company (WMGC) as the lead agency and adopt the WMCA economic geography for T&I, co-developing an investment plan.
- Provide a convening role to increase the international profile of the region as an investment destination.

In partnership with WMCA/WMGC, DBT will:

- Co-develop a West Midlands international strategy and delivery plan spanning both trade and investment.
- Review key account management (with a view to a longer-term financial commitment) and share intelligence
- Support the recruitment and management of business focussed trade mission to accompany mayor-led visits
- Seek to improve the take up of significant WMCA-based companies in ministerial and high-profile trade missions
- Agree for a UK export academy.
- Jointly develop WMCA-specific events and other activity such as sector themed workshops, sub-regional initiatives and supply chain projects.

The region will:

- Provide signposting to public support
- Invest in skills pipeline development and the formation of a transport and infrastructure cluster.

In terms of Places for Growth, the Deal commits to:

- Continued relocation of civil and public service roles into the region, and the development of a transport and infrastructure cluster through investment into skills pipeline development.
- Government working with the WMCA to explore further opportunities for programmes to develop skills and career pathways into the civil service and public services linked to Transport & infrastructure cluster.
- Establishment of a West Midlands Fast Stream Pilot, to deliver a pipeline of civil servant talent and skills.

Legal or financial implications

NA

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: TBC

WMCA Executive Lead: Ed Cox, Executive Director, SINZ

WMGC SRO: Dan Storer

DBT lead for the T&I elements: TBD

Reference Group: LA Directors of Econ Dev Group

How will this work be administered?

- WMGC will ensure WMCA and LAs are consulted and informed as appropriate – including through the Directors of Economic Development meeting and the WMGC Board and will escalate key decisions to the Economic Growth Board.
- The Places for Growth work will require the creation of a working group with key partners. The groups and Board mentioned above will also be engaged and informed of developments as appropriate.

How will this work be delivered?

- The T&I work will largely be delivered in partnership between WMGC and DBT, consulting and informing WMCA and the LAs as appropriate.
- The Places for Growth work will be led by WMGC and WMCA, working closely with Cabinet Office and the Places for Growth team, consulting and informing WMCA and the LAs as appropriate. A shared engagement plan to establish the West Midlands as Transport Infrastructure cluster by HMG is required. Corresponding commitments by the Government Property Agency are required, to provide further space for relocating agencies and departments through acquisitions of new space within the region. .

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

Upon securing express permission from WMCA and Local Authorities (LAs), WMGC will act as the lead agency for the region in liaison with DBT.

- Our expectation is therefore that WMGC will lead the development and delivery of most elements of this part of the deal. WMGC will engage with local authorities throughout, using existing channels such as quarterly bilaterals, the Directors of Economic Development meeting, and the Economic Growth Board.
- In some areas – such as key account management and the nascent Strategic Relationship Management piece – local authorities will be consulted through bilaterals, the Directors of Economic Development meeting, and the Economic Growth Board. On this piece specifically, WMGC expects there will be an element of co-design and co-delivery.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Secured permission from WMCA and each LA for WMGC to be recognised as the lead agency for matters related to T&I by DBT.
- WMGC ‘lead agency’ recognition by WMCA and geographic footprint alignment; decision on DBT membership of WMGC.
- Emerging thinking on the West Midlands International Strategy brought to the Economic Growth Board in July 2023 ahead of further work and consultation through to the Autumn.
- Places for Growth overall target is to deliver increased relocations into regions by 2025
- Working arrangements in place to assess UK business environment and HMG-WMGC data sharing.
- MoU between WMGC, WMCA and Office for Investment; signposting arrangement between DBT.

Outstanding issues and questions

- On-going development of the international Strategy.
- While the DDD refers to the WMCA geography, further work is on-going to determine what exactly this covers (e.g. the seven Metropolitan authorities; the non-constituent members; etc.)
- In relation to Places for Growth, appropriate governance and decision-making process to be fully scoped.

Energy and Retrofit

Deal text reference

- Pages 57 to 61

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- Piloting the devolution of Net Zero funding, including for retrofit, through allocation (from 2025).
- Develop local area energy plans across the WMCA area, and WMCA continuing to work with central Government to explore how local area energy plans and spatial planning could be meaningfully integrated.
- Confirming that the WMCA may assume the role of heat network zoning coordinator and play a key role in the delivery of heat decarbonisation infrastructure.
- Agreement to explore a range of potential funding options to pilot a new approach to transitioning businesses and clusters to a net zero energy system.
- An option to put forward a case for the WMCA to set minimum energy efficiency standards that exceed the national standards for the private rented sector.
- Requirement by Ofgem for National Grid Electricity Distribution to engage with WMCA to inform its business plan.
- Recognition by Ofgem of the need to look further at roles and responsibilities at a sub-national level (potential for a pilot).
- Trialling of novel approaches to energy innovation zones to inform investment planning.

Legal or financial implications

- Details of a retrofit funding settlement are to be negotiated, however we would expect this to include admin and ancillary funding; we do not expect any of our proposals to require a change to legislation.
- The LAEP and energy infrastructure commitments did not have a funding or statutory responsibility assigned to them so at this point there are no additional legal or financial implications.
- In assuming the role of the heat network zoning coordinator and heat network delivery it is expected that there will be some additional legal and financial implications, but what that will be is not fully clear at present as this is a developing area for Government.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Cotton

Exec Lead: Ed Cox, Executive Director, SINZ

SRO: Cheryl Hiles & George Simms

Reference Group: New LA Retrofit Steering Group / LA Net Zero Directors Group

How will this work be administered?

- Via a newly established Retrofit Steering Group.
- Regular Net Zero Directors' meetings.
- To embed LAEP as a core function the “Local Area Energy Planning Co-ordination Group” has been created to form a two-way working relationship with the “Net Zero Infrastructure Delivery Panel”.

How will this work be delivered?

- For retrofit, the government will facilitate work ahead of the 2025 period to develop a business case, and design a pilot and evaluation approach, harnessing local authority best practice.
- WMCA will work up input to proposals with partners and gather evidence through the SMART Hub programme and local authority retrofit working group.
- If the WMCA or LAs are to adopt the role of heat network zoning coordinator, it will require support from central government.
- For local area energy planning there is no government facilitation beyond their support for the programme, but engagement with DLUHC would be useful to share learnings.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Local authorities are closely involved in the LAEP development process (co-design/deliver) and workshops are taking place now to begin informing this process
- Local Authorities will be key consultees in the development of retrofit funding arrangements via the LA Retrofit Steering Group.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Retrofit – Ongoing
- LAEP/Energy Infrastructure – Ongoing (SIF dates: discovery 03/04/2023 – 30/06/2023, alpha 02/10/2023 – 29/03/2024, beta to be confirmed)

Outstanding issues and questions

- On the single settlement, what additional net zero funds beyond retrofit could be included within the single settlement process, in addition to retrofit?
- On heat network zoning, we are awaiting final details of the role and responsibilities around heat network zoning coordinators and associated support.
- The WMCA want to engage with government, including DLUHC and DESNZ on any future opportunities to support our LAEP programme and links to spatial planning.
- Will OfGEM and Government support the WMCA's proposal for a regional energy system governance pilot in the West Midlands?

Environment (including climate adaptation, natural environment and air quality)

Deal text reference

- Pages 61 to 62

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- A commitment to support the creation of a fund to support natural environment financing through increasing investment from the private sector.
- Recognition of the work the West Midlands is undertaking in relation to climate adaptation through a case study to be included in the National Adaptation Plan.
- Support for the regional monitoring of air quality through funding to support the deployment of additional low-cost sensors across the region.

Legal or financial implications

- None. The funding received to deliver the environment elements of the deal is being taken forward through the Single Assurance Framework, as it has come with grant funding and we will work with the conditions specified.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Cotton

Exec Lead: Ed Cox, Executive Director, SINZ

SRO: Jackie Homan, Head of Environment

Reference Group: LA Net Zero Directors group and sub-groups

How will this work be administered?

- WMCA Environment and Energy Board.
- Net Zero Directors, Net Zero Officers Group and Natural Capital Officers Group.
- Regular catch-ups with the local Air Quality Officers through dedicated meetings as well as the regular WM Environmental Protection Group.

How will this work be delivered?

- The work on air quality and natural capital financing is set out in the grant applications, and Full Business Case, that we had to prepare to access the funding on offer. In order to deliver, we are committed to working with the local authorities as part of the project governance structure.
- On climate adaptation, we will continue to work with climate change strategy officers in each of the local authorities, through the Net Zero Officers Group, as well as with the Sustainability Working Group for Climate Adaptation.
- We will also work with civil servants at DEFRA on the wording to be included in the National Adaptation Plan as well as to continue our lobbying for additional resource to be made available to support climate adaptation at a sub-national level.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- This will take place primarily through the LA Net Zero Directors and LA Low Carbon Officers and Air Quality Officers groups.

Key milestones and deliverables

- All the funding provided through the deal for environment projects needs to have been spent by 31st March 2025. As a result, programme plans have been developed and signed off through the WMCA's SAF process.

Outstanding issues and questions

None.



Smart City Region Health & Care Programme (SCR) and Digital Infrastructure

Deal text reference

- Page 68 for Smart City Region, Pages 68 to 69 for Health and Care Programmes, Page 63 for digital infrastructure

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- **Smart City Region:** DLUHC has committed to invest up to £10.1m funding in scaling-up the technology trials that the West Midlands has successfully pioneered to deliver radically more effective health and social care services and boost productivity. There are five key spending objectives covering scaling-up Remote Monitoring, Community Diagnostics, Preventative Healthcare, Exemplar hospital and a Learning Network to share findings and built the region's knowledge base – working in partnership with the West Midlands NHS and social care integrated care boards (ICBs).
- **Digital Infrastructure:** DSIT has committed to share Open Market Review data – which relates to gigabit broadband coverage – with the WMCA/ WM5G and set-up a new governance group called the Digital Infrastructure Leadership Group (DILG) to explore new market interventions in urban regions, working with the GMCA.

Legal or financial implications

- **Smart City Region:** None. There is no financial commitment from the WMCA.
- **Digital Infrastructure:** No.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Patrick Harley

Exec Lead: Ed Cox, Executive Director, SINZ

SRO for Digital infrastructure: Ian Martin

Reference Group: WM Digital Forum

How will this work be administered?

Smart City Region:

- Will be administered and delivered through a combination of WM5G and WMCA health & wellness staff, NHS ICB teams – including LA social care teams – as well as with human resources leads in local employers and private sector partners which will co-invest in technology solutions.
- In-house resources from WMCA will provide overarching project management and sourcing and be responsible for risk management, budget management and timely, quality delivery on individual project components.
- Nominated WMCA and ICB staff have the necessary skills and capabilities to comply with appropriate standards and procedures having previously worked on major projects with complex procurement and management requirements.
- An Advisory Board will be established with senior representation from the three regional ICBs and a Director level SRO from within WMCA.

Digital Infrastructure:

- Will be administered and delivered by the WM5G connectivity team led by Chris Hudson. We are working through the detailed terms of reference for DILG and also bringing on-board our broadband lead by end May to lead the engagement with DSIT regarding broadband data and initiatives.
- Progress will be reviewed at a working level through the Digital Forum which meets every month and includes the LA leads as well as at a senior level through the WM5G Board which also meets monthly.

How will this work be delivered?

Please see above.

Key milestones and deliverables

Smart City Region: The core delivery team will come together from across WM5G and WMCA's health experts and will adhere to our high standards in governance, managing, reporting and storing project documentation as well as any data and lessons learnt. (The governance structure is provided in the Commercial Case section). The project will be managed in accordance with PRINCE2 principles along with tools from Managing Successful Programmes (MSP) to allow consistency across teams and representatives.

Autumn 2023, Phase 1, Design and Mobilisation

- Funding and scope agreed and signed off (agreed at Investment Board 24 July)
- Funding drawn down (now expected to be drawn down from DLUHC in October)
- IG process agreed
- Resource requirements, comms and engagement strategy agreed
- Convening of relevant working groups

Autumn 2023 – Spring/summer 2024, Phase 2: Sourcing and Procurement

- Tech requirements co-designed
- Connectivity mapping, modelling, demonstrations complete
- Contracts awarded; contract signatures with preferred suppliers
- IG requirements met
- Training and support strategy developed
- Learning Network established with first members

July 2024-March 2025, Phase 3: Deployment and Build

- Testing complete
- First phase deployed
- First mobile diagnostic unit in operation
- First use of Thrive at Work Programme
- Smart Hospital working making progress
- Learning Network expansion evidenced

March 2025, Phase 4: Evaluation

- Digital infrastructure: TBC as part of set-up process with Govt for DILG.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- We will keep Local Authorities fully engaged directly and through their role on ICBs in workstreams that affect them.
- We will co-design the Learning Networks with Local Authorities to ensure they shape the content and events.
- Local Authorities will be consulted on the Remote Monitoring (with its links and reliance on social care) and Preventative Healthcare (with its connections to employers in the region) workstreams.

Outstanding issues and questions

- **Smart City Region:** Main dependency is that we achieve final business case approvals from DLUHC, WMCA and NHS ICBs by end June at the latest to ensure that we can mobilise, source and start delivery this year.

Culture

Deal text reference

- Pages 65 to 66

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- Formal partnership – the Regional Culture and Heritage Framework – with arm’s length bodies of DCMS, including Arts Council England, Historic England, Sport England, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the National Lottery Community Fund and the British Tourist Association (trading as Visit England / Visit Britain).
- The government will support WMCA with £25 million of additional capital funding, £4m of which will be allocated towards cultural and heritage projects.

Legal or financial implications

- Capital funding is subject to approval of a suitable business cases (DLUHC, WMCA), which we are progressing. The staff capacity to deliver the work will come from existing allocations and the Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Patrick Harley

Exec Lead: Ed Cox, Exec Director, SINZ

SRO: Salla Virman, Senior Policy Officer, Culture

Reference Group: LA Cultural Officers Group

How will this work be administered?

- WMCA will work with DCMS and the relevant arm’s length bodies in spring 2023 to establish terms of reference for the regional culture and heritage framework. WMCA Cultural Leadership Board will be consulted on these frameworks, and they should then be formally approved by the WMCA Board.
- Capital funds will be administered by WMCA and a separate business case will be produced for the SAF process and decision making.

How will this work be delivered?

- WMCA will work with DCMS and the relevant arm’s length bodies in spring 2023 to establish terms of reference for the regional culture and heritage framework and agree a forward plan over the coming year, before finalising the framework in 2024. Delivery of the capital investment will be through a contestable call based on EOI submissions from local authorities, with strands to support a few larger awards and a smaller capital awards programme.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

Partnership with arm’s length bodies:

- The WMCA has already undertaken consultation and will keep the local authorities engaged throughout the process. The WMCA will also consult local authorities on the development of the cultural strategy through the LA Cultural Officers Group.

Capital funding:

- WMCA’s £4m Cultural Infrastructure Fund will make a range of capital awards to support development of cultural & heritage infrastructure projects within the WMCA area. The programme is being co-designed with input from WMCA’s Cultural Leadership Board and will specifically focus on pride of place. It is anticipated that the programme will be launched in autumn 2023, with projects to be completed by 31 March 2025.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Our aim is to share a draft outline for the Regional Culture and Heritage Framework with Board in February/early spring 2024.
- Once on-going business case development processes are complete, capital investment will be delivered by 31 March 2025.

Outstanding issues and questions

- In the process of developing and agreeing the business case with HMG to release the culture funding.

Tourism

Deal text reference

- Page 66

Summary of deal commitments in this area

Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) accreditation for Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country (BSBC) (achieved) to deliver strategic regional priorities as per the WM Tourism Strategy and Recovery Plan.

Destination Development Partnership (DDP) pilot 2 to deliver:

- Demonstrable impact and return on investment
- Shared learnings
- Efficiencies across the wider DDP for the visitor economy
- research and insight
- digital innovation
- product development
- business support

Subject to:

- LVEP accreditation for Coventry & Warks (underway)
- WMGC Commonwealth Games Legacy funding (achieved)

Legal or financial implications

- WMGC will sign an agreement with VisitBritain that sets out the requirements for the DDP pilot. This will include spend, KPIs and governance.
- Funding will be secured through the WMGC Commonwealth Games legacy allocation with spend against the business case approved by the WMCA Investment Board.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Patrick Harley

Exec Lead: Ed Cox, Exec Director, SINZ

SRO: Salla Virman, Senior Policy Officer, Culture

Reference Group: LA Directors of Econ Dev Group

How will this work be administered?

- The WMGC board will sign off progress against the LVEP and DDP agreements. All LVEP partners are represented on this board. VisitBritain will be invited to attend for the DDP / LVEP agenda items.
- Advice and oversight will come through the industry-led WM Tourism and Hospitality Advisory Board, which will also provide the leads for working groups.
- Updates will be reported to the Economic Growth Board of the WMCA through the WMGC report.
- The WMGC project management office will establish a risk register and monitor procurements, KPIs and evaluation.

How will this work be delivered?

- Local authority priorities are being agreed through the development of the Global WM Programme. These will inform the BSBC LVEP and DDP growth plans, which are co-signed by WMGC as the lead accountable organisation, and VisitEngland.
- Quarterly meetings will maintain LA destination engagement and record progress.
- The growth plans will include an agreement of deliverables by the DDP, and measurable KPIs, and set out governance, sign off the proposed budget allocation, and state targets and KPIs.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Local authority partners to be closely consulted through existing WMGC relationship routes including the Directors of Economic Development group.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Formal announcement of DDP pilot by end July 2023.
- Set up of any additional governance needed for reporting into Visit England.
- Commissioning of monitoring and evaluation
- Mechanism to share learning.

Outstanding issues and questions

- Dependencies include the Coventry and Warwickshire LVEP accreditation which could go to panel in parallel with the DDP agreement.
- Final WMGC visitor economy budget allocation – staffing and 3rd party costs.

Homelessness

Deal text reference

- Page 37 on Live and Work, page 69

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- Expand the Live and Work model in additional localities across the WMCA region.
- Pilot a Rent Simplification model for young people in supported accommodation to enable transition into work.

Legal or financial implications

- Live and Work: Dependent on Homes England funding and ability to secure investment for an evaluation.
- Rent Simplification: Dependent on DWP securing funding.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Kerrie Carmichael

Exec Lead: Ed Cox, Exec Director, SINZ

SRO: Neelam Sunder, Homelessness Strategic Lead

Reference Group: Homelessness Taskforce

How will this work be administered?

- This work will be overseen by the WMCA Homelessness Taskforce and Members Advisory Group.

How will this work be delivered?

- The Live and Work proposal will primarily be delivered via Homes England. We will work with and support Homes England to engage Registered Providers to develop proposals to deliver Live and Work schemes. We will work with DLUHC, Homes England and Registered Providers delivering Live and Work schemes to capture the learning and build an evidence base for the model. We will support Homes England to form a task group to take this work forwards. This work will also align with the joint Affordable Homes Programme work agreed in the DDD, currently being taken forward by the WMCA HPR team and the Homes England regional affordable housing team.
- The Rent Simplification pilot proposal will be developed in partnership with DWP. As we progress the feasibility of the model and establish DWP mechanisms for delivery, we will work with our local authorities to establish how this could be delivered across local authorities within commissioned supported accommodation for young people. The delivery of the pilot would rely on local authorities, and they can choose to opt out of this pilot.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- Live and Work: local authorities will be engaged throughout the lifecycle of this project through Homelessness Taskforce.
- Rent Simplification: local authorities will deliver this pilot with their commissioned supported accommodation services for your people.

Key milestones and deliverables

Live and Work:

- Meet with Homes England quarterly to contribute to plans on how the Live and Work model can be expanded – ongoing
- Organise online seminar for 7 LAs and Registered Providers to discuss opportunities for Live and Work model expansion – May 2023 - completed
- Follow up with Homes England on LA/ Registered Providers' bid development – June onwards
- Report progress to the WMCA Homelessness Taskforce (Feb, April, July, Sept, Nov) and the WMCA Homelessness Taskforce Members Advisory Group (Jan, April, July, October).

Rent Simplification:

- Meet with central DWP Housing Policy Team monthly and support to prepare business case for pilot – ongoing
- Facilitate contact between DWP Housing Policy Team and local authority benefits teams to feed into pilot design - ongoing
- Support DWP colleagues to develop a bid to the Shared Outcomes Fund – May – July 2023
- Support DWP colleagues to prepare a business case for autumn fiscal event (if Shared Outcomes Fund bid is unsuccessful) – September - December 2023
- Report progress to the WMCA Homelessness Taskforce (Feb, April, July, Sept, Nov) and the WMCA Homelessness Taskforce Members Advisory Group (Jan, April, July, October).

Outstanding issues and questions

- This area of work is ongoing and dependent on DLUHC, Homes England and DWP commitment and investment – we are in continued dialogue to progress.

Health

Deal text reference

- Pages 67 to 68

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- Health Duty: Formal duty to improve public's health, concurrent with local authorities with associated potential public health pilot projects including Healthier Food Environment, Tobacco Alliance, Vaping as quit tool; regional disability strategy.
 - Note: Though this is a commitment in the deal, the region has resolved not to take it forward.
- Digital and Data Pilots: empower residents in the WMCA area through improving their understanding and use of health data through education and skills development; work with NHS England to develop artificial intelligence lab(s); regional linkages of shared care records within the West Midlands integrated care boards; sharing data across the public sector.
- Workforce: use of aligned budgets along with its adult education budget, to help tackle workforce shortages in the NHS and boost capacity within the voluntary and community sector.
- Development of a pan-disability needs assessment and a regional disability strategy.

Legal or financial implications

- None.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Izzi Seccombe

Exec Lead: Clare Hatton

SRO: Dr Mubasshir Ajaz

Reference Group: LA Directors of Public Health

How will this work be delivered?

- The CA will not proceed to take forward the health improvement duty but will continue to progress the commitments in the deal relating to disability and, working with Integrated Care System partners, the health workforce, Smart City Region, digital and data. The CA will also support constituent LAs to take forward work on tobacco and healthy eating if and where it can help to secure additional resources, which would be subject to further policy development work to take forward.

Workstream

Early Years

Deal text reference

- Page 69

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- The deal text includes a commitment from DfE to discuss opportunities for early years pilots, consistent with the Government's wider early years strategy and policies

Legal or financial implications

- At present, meeting the loose commitment contained in the deal to engage DfE on Early Years strategy depends upon local authority capacity and appetite.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Kerrie Carmichael

Exec Lead: Ed Cox, Exec Director, SINZ

SRO: Claire Dhami, Head of Social Change and Inclusion

Reference Group: LA DCS network

How will this work be administered?

- There would need to be a further conversation within the region about whether there is appetite to take forward any further work on early years, following initial engagement on proposal options.

How will this work be delivered?

- N/A

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- N/A

Key milestones and deliverables

- N/A

Outstanding issues and questions

- None

Anti-Social Behaviour

Deal text reference

- Page 69

Summary of deal commitments in this area

- The deal text includes a commitment to discuss emerging proposals for addressing anti-social behaviour with the Police and Crime Commissioner, and recognises the place-based anti-social behaviour powers facing LAs.

Legal or financial implications

- The commitment on anti-social behaviour does not require additional resource from within the WMCA, as engagement will be primarily through the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

Portfolio Holder, Exec Lead and SRO

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Kerrie Carmichael

Exec Lead: Ed Cox, Exec Director, SINZ

SRO: Claire Dhami, Head of Social Change and Inclusion

Reference Group: LA DCS network

How will this work be administered?

- ASB provisions will depend on OPCC leadership and further LA engagement.

How will this work be delivered?

- As above.

Commitments to local authority engagement and co-design

- LA partners and the OPCC will drive these areas of work and draw in WMCA officers as required.

Key milestones and deliverables

- Milestones and deliverables subject to LA and OPCC discussions with departmental contacts.

Outstanding issues and questions

- There was enthusiasm from local authority partners and the OPCC for these provisions. It is up to them how to take this forward.





West Midlands
Combined Authority