



## Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme Consultation

### **Transport** *For more information click here*

#### **Transport Networks**

Getting around the West Midlands by car or public transport is not as easy as we would like it to be. For instance, congestion is costing the regional economy around £2 billion per year. Ensuring our residents and businesses can reach job opportunities across the region is key to economic growth and success.

By devolving functions to a Mayoral WMCA, the region will be able to create a more efficient, integrated West Midlands transport network, specifically a Key Route Network of local roads.

Local councils currently receive funding from central government for managing and maintaining their roads on a year by year basis. As part of the devolution agreement the West Midlands will receive more funding and this will be guaranteed on a five yearly basis.

This together with the functions identified in the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme will allow the Constituent Councils and partners to collaborate to deliver more effective and coordinated improvements and maintenance of the West Midland's region road network.

**Q1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Mayoral WMCA should get the functions highlighted above, and detailed in the 'transport' section of the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme, to deliver these ambitions?.**

397 (43%) Strongly agree

314 (34%) Agree

52 (6%) Disagree

122 (13%) Strongly disagree

33 (4%) Don't know

**Please explain your reason(s) for holding this opinion (maximum 50 words)**

479 (100%)

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#### **Low emissions**

In some areas of the West Midlands region, air quality is very poor. Air quality however is not limited by council boundaries which makes tackling it on an individual council basis difficult.

By devolving functions to a Mayoral WMCA, the region and partners will be able to create and deliver low emissions and clean air zones, thus improving public health.

**Q2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Mayoral WMCA should get the functions highlighted above, and detailed in the 'low emissions' paragraph of the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme, to deliver these ambitions?**

339 (37%) Strongly agree

306 (33%) Agree

87 (10%) Disagree

121 (13%) Strongly disagree

62 (7%) Don't know

**Please explain your reason(s) for holding this opinion** (maximum 50 words)

388 (100%)

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## High Speed 2 (HS2) growth

The HS2 Growth Strategy is about maximising the benefits of HS2 for the West Midlands. However, there is a concern that this huge investment will only benefit a small portion of the region.

By devolving functions to a Mayoral WMCA, the region and partners will be able to make sure HS2 benefits the whole West Midlands region through the creation of a combined authority-led development corporation. This will include the Metro extensions from Curzon in central Birmingham to Solihull HS2 Interchange Station and from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill

**Q3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Mayoral WMCA should get the functions highlighted above, and detailed in the 'HS2 Growth' section of the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme, to deliver these ambitions?**

317 (35%) Strongly agree

259 (28%) Agree

70 (8%) Disagree

195 (21%) Strongly disagree

70 (8%) Don't know

**Please explain your reason(s) for holding this opinion** (maximum 50 words)

415 (100%)

## More and Better Homes *For more information click here*

There is a large amount of brownfield land, which through remediation, could be brought back into productive use. The West Midlands also needs more homes and better homes.

Through the Mayoral Functions Scheme, the region will receive the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) objectives and functions, and exercise these alongside the HCA to deliver our housing and economic growth strategies. Specifically the Mayor will receive the HCA compulsory purchase order powers, although to exercise these powers, the Mayor would require the consent of the appropriate council(s).

**Q4 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Mayoral WMCA should get the functions highlighted above, and detailed in the 'More and Better Homes' section of the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme, from Westminster to deliver these ambitions?**

342 (38%) Strongly agree

288 (32%) Agree

85 (9%) Disagree

138 (15%) Strongly disagree

55 (6%) Don't know

**Please explain your reason(s) for holding this opinion** (maximum 50 words)

393 (100%)

## Skills and Employment

The West Midlands has above average low-wage jobs and a low-skilled workforce, which is hampering productivity and economic growth in many businesses.

In order to provide better jobs and opportunities for existing workers and future generations, the area needs to move to a higher-wage, higher-skilled economy.

Through devolution, the Mayoral WMCA will bring together partners from across education, industry and the third sector to deliver better skills and training for jobs now and in the future. This will involve looking at further education provision, apprenticeships, working closer with the Department for Work and Pensions and connecting local employers with local schools

**Q5 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Mayoral WMCA should get the functions highlighted above, and detailed in the 'skills and employment' section of the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme, to deliver these ambitions?**

387 (43%) Strongly agree

308 (34%) Agree

61 (7%) Disagree

114 (13%) Strongly disagree

39 (4%) Don't know

**Please explain your reason(s) for holding this opinion** (maximum 50 words)

364 (100%)

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## Finance

The West Midlands economy needs more investment in order to compete at a global level.

By devolving functions to a Mayoral WMCA, the West Midlands will have access to a number of funding streams including a Mayoral precept (an additional charge to council tax payers), business rate supplement and the ability to borrow.

The legislation gives the Mayor the ability to raise a precept in order to deliver investment into the regional economy. As part of the checks and balances of the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme, this precept forms part of the Mayoral annual budget and is therefore subject to agreement by the West Midlands Combined Authority board and would be subject to the existing local council capping arrangements.

Through the Scheme, the Mayor would also be able to raise a business rate supplement to create funds to invest into specific schemes within the regional economy. This would require agreement with the relevant Local Enterprise Partnership board(s) and the West Midlands Combined Authority board.

**Q6 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Mayoral WMCA should get the functions highlighted above, and detailed in the 'finance section' of the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme, to deliver these ambitions?**

218 (24%) Strongly agree

267 (29%) Agree

122 (13%) Disagree

208 (23%) Strongly disagree

101 (11%) Don't know

**Please explain your reason(s) for holding this opinion** (maximum 50 words)

388 (100%)

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## Secretary of State Statutory Tests

In deciding whether to proceed with a Statutory Order in Parliament that reflects the functions being requested in the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme, the Secretary of State must consider that making the Order:

- is likely to improve the exercise of statutory functions in the Combined Authority 'area' (i.e. the Constituent Councils),
- reflects the identities and interests of local communities.
- secures effective and convenient local government

**Q7 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the functions proposed in the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme will secure effective and convenient local government in the West Midlands region?**

223 (24%) Strongly agree

334 (36%) Agree

69 (8%) Disagree

141 (15%) Strongly disagree

149 (16%) Don't know

**Please explain your reason(s) for holding this opinion** (maximum 50 words)

287 (100%)

**Q8 What impact, if any, do you think that the functions proposed in the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme will have on the identity and interests of local communities?**

466 (51%) Positive impact

136 (15%) No impact

183 (20%) Negative impact

121 (13%) Don't know

**Please explain your reason(s) for holding this opinion** (maximum 50 words)

330 (100%)

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**Q9 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Combined Authority should have the same duty to consider equality as other councils do?**

516 (57%) Strongly agree

240 (26%) Agree

32 (4%) Disagree

65 (7%) Strongly disagree

56 (6%) Don't know

**Please explain your reason(s) for holding this opinion** (maximum 50 words)

258 (100%)

**In order for us to better understand the responses received, please also answer the following questions:**

**Q10 Which council area are you or your organisation most closely associated with?**

150 (16%) Birmingham

225 (24%) City of Wolverhampton

78 (8%) Coventry

99 (11%) Dudley

59 (6%) Sandwell

207 (22%) Solihull

72 (8%) Walsall

33 (4%) Other

Other please specify:-

27 (100%)

**Q11 Are you responding to this survey as:**

592 (64%) A resident

57 (6%) A business or organisation

29 (3%) A councillor within the West Midlands

204 (22%) An employee of a council within the West Midlands

41 (4%) Other

**Q12 Please share any further comments you have about any element of the proposals in the Mayoral WMCA Functions Scheme below:- (maximum 100 words)**

327 (100%)

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**Please provide your email address (if you have one) so that we can send you the results of the consultation once complete**

923 (100%)

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## Equality and diversity monitoring

In order to help us monitor our services effectively, would you please complete this monitoring form? All information provided by you will be treated in confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act and used for statistical purposes only. Answering these questions is voluntary. If you choose not to answer any or all of the questions it will not make any difference to the service you receive. However, by answering the questions below, you will help us make our services fairer and more accessible to all

**If you do not wish to answer any monitoring questions, please tick the box:** 257 (100%)

**Marital Status - are you:-**

392 (62%) Married/In a civil partnership

210 (33%) Co-habiting/Divorced/Widowed/Single/Other

34 (5%) Prefer not to say

**What is your age?**

0 (0%) 17 years and under

15 (2%) 18 – 24 years

66 (10%) 25 – 34 years

120 (18%) 35 – 44 years

196 (30%) 45 – 54 years

142 (21%) 55 – 64 years

76 (11%) 65 – 74 years

22 (3%) 75 – 84 years

3 (0%) 84+

22 (3%) Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your ethnic origin?

**White**

- 581 (98%) English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- 12 (2%) Irish
- 2 (0%) Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Other White Background (specify below if you wish)
- 21 (100%)

**Black/African/Caribbean/Black British**

- 0 (0%) African
- 6 (100%) Caribbean
- Other Black/African/Caribbean Background (specify below if you wish)
- 2 (100%)

**Asian/Asian British**

- 2 (8%) Bangladeshi
- 0 (0%) Chinese
- 21 (84%) Indian
- 2 (8%) Pakistani
- Other Asian Background (specify below if you wish)
- 6 (100%)

**Mixed/ Multiple Ethnic Groups**

- 2 (33%) White and Black Caribbean
- 1 (17%) White and Black African
- 3 (50%) White and Asian
- Other Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Background (specify below if you wish)
- 4 (100%)

**Gender Identity - Are you:-**

- 251 (38%) Female
- 377 (57%) Male
- 5 (1%) Gender Neutral/None Gender
- 23 (4%) Prefer not to say

**Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?**

- 604 (94%) Yes
- 5 (1%) No
- 31 (5%) Prefer not to say

Disability - Do you have a disability which affects your day to day activities, which has lasted, or you expect to last, at least a year?

- 89 (14%) Yes
- 516 (81%) No
- 7 (1%) Not sure
- 24 (4%) Prefer not to say

Sexual Orientation - Are you:-

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 (0%) Lesbian/gay woman | 529 (83%) Heterosexual/straight |
| 29 (5%) Gay man          | 5 (1%) Unsure                   |
| 14 (2%) Bisexual         | 60 (9%) Prefer not to say       |

Religion - Are you:-

- |                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 (0%) Buddhist     | 12 (2%) Sikh               |
| 317 (49%) Christian | 230 (36%) No Religion      |
| 7 (1%) Hindu        | 12 (2%) Any other religion |
| 6 (1%) Jewish       | 56 (9%) Prefer not to say  |
| 4 (1%) Muslim       |                            |

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***Thank you***