

Cabinet – 20 June 2018

Approval of the West Midlands Combined Authority West Midlands Devolution Deal 2 and Action Plan

Portfolio: Councillor M. Bird, Leader of the Council

Related portfolios:

Service: Chief Executive

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Summary

- 1.1 The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) was formed in 2016, with all 7 West Midlands Councils as constituent members, together with 10 councils joining as non-constituent members and the 3 Local Enterprise Partnerships. Following the agreement made between the government, constituent Local Authority Leaders and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Chairs of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), its first Devolution Deal was agreed and launched.
- 1.2 This first Devolution Deal consisted of asks, functions and powers identified through the WMCA's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) 2016-2030. It saw the government commit to supporting the WMCA to establish £8bn of funding to deliver a number of key local priorities through the launch of key programmes, including; the HS2 Growth Strategy, the Land Remediation Fund, the Housing Loan Fund and the Collective Investment Fund
- 1.3 Walsall Council and private sector applications going through the processes to support projects across Walsall Borough, by accessing the WMCA Land & Property Investment Fund (LPIF) so far include, but are not limited to:
 - Middlemore Lane £4million subject to new bid submission
 - Phoenix 10 £15million
 - Moxley Business Park £7million, pipeline project, subject to approval.
 - Goscote Lane £3.6million

- 1.4 Council discussions with WMCA identified Walsall's pipeline of top priority schemes to support the delivery of regeneration and improvement to the Town and District centres. This identified a 57% contribution ask of £206m towards the total resource required to deliver development schemes to include 1500 new jobs, 83,522sqm of new employment floor space, 25.4 ha of land remediation and 532 new homes.
- 1.5 A further Devolution from central Government, Devolution Deal 2 is now proposed, the WMCA has requested that all constituent member cabinets consider and if acceptable approve these new proposals, as set out in section 3.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet consider, and if satisfied with the content, agree to recommend to Council the approval of the West Midlands Devolution Deal 2 (appendix 1).
- 2.2 That Cabinet delegates authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to take part in the continuous negotiations that form part of the evolution and development of Devolution Deal 2.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 Negotiations for the first Devolution Deal for the West Midlands commenced in July 2015, culminated in an initial proposed deal on 17 November 2015; demonstrating the intent of Government and the WMCA to move towards greater devolution. This was followed by Approval of the West Midlands Combined Authority Draft Mayoral Scheme, Mayoral Elections Order, and West Midlands Devolution Deal (1) by cabinet and full Council on the 2 June 2016.
- 3.2 The financing of the Investment package includes a blend of external funding and income generated from the WMCA (£2bn). The WMCA funded elements assumed to be generated include:
 - revenue grant of around £36million per year which would fund borrowing repayments for the £0.7bn of investment.
 - The Mayor would raise a precept generating income to fund up to £0.2bn on investment, (an agreed increase in domestic council tax rates across the West Midlands) however this was rejected for 2018/19. It's understood that a request for consideration of a precept to be raised from 2019/20 to support the Investment Programme will be made.
 - Business Rate growth (supporting £0.5bn of investment)
 - Supplementary business rates, supporting £0.2bn of investment

- 3.3 The second Devolution Deal which is now under discussion with government proposes an alternate approach of continuous negotiation, with initiatives and agreements announced throughout the working relationship. The agreement looks to commit government and the WMCA to work towards the establishment of a local Industrial Strategy for the West Midlands, based upon the Strategic Economic Plan, which provides a programme of delivery to maximise the social and economic ambitions for industrial growth.
- 3.3 Devolution Deal 2 commits to a number of working priorities, including housing, skills and employment, transport, air quality, energy and digital, and also looks to deliver investment in key growth sectors including advanced manufacturing, digital and new technologies.
- 3.4 To support the West Midlands' commitment of building 215,000 homes by 2031, funding of £6m will be provided over three years, beginning in 2017/18, which will support a Mayoral Housing Delivery Team for the WMCA. The team will look to work with partners to bring forward a pipeline to support housing delivery and to progress any future Housing Deal discussions.

The Housing Deal also includes a Land Fund of £100m to buy and clean up land around priority site, focussed on the Walsall to Wolverhampton Corridor, delivering at least 8000 homes.

- 3.5 The second Devolution Deal requires that WMCA will work with government to establish a Skills Advisory Panel (SAP), with membership from WMCA, local employers, post 16 skills providers and central government. The SAP will look to bring together strategic planning for post-16 skills provision to influence future planning, including the implementation of T (Technical) levels, new work based qualifications and future capital funding. Additionally, a 3 year £5m construction training programme will be delivered across the region, alongside a career learning pilot as part of the government led National Retraining Scheme.
- 3.6 The WMCA will receive £250m over four years from the Transforming Cities Fund to be spent on local transport priorities, including the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill metro extension. This will include discussions with Department for Transport (DfT), Network Rail and the WMCA, to potentially transfer ownership of the non-operational section of the Round Oak to Walsall railway route to support the delivery of the extension.
- 3.7 Devolution Deal 2 also provides a commitment from Government to support the newly established Network Resilience partnership that includes Highways England, Network Rail, HS2 Ltd and other key agencies. Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) has received £250k funding to develop a business case for a Regional Integrated Control Centre for the West Midlands to support network resilience across the region.
- 3.8 Within the second Devolution Deal there is a commitment to partnership working between Government, the WMCA and local authorities to develop plans to achieve improvements in air quality. Proposals will require closer working to develop a more detailed air quality monitoring and reporting system linked to the management of the Key Route Network. A comprehensive strategy will be developed and implemented in partnership with local authorities.

- 3.9 Four key industrial sectors have been identified that will see investment to deliver on key national priorities of the Industrial strategy to enable sector growth across the region. Energy, Automotive, Culture and Digital are the four identified sectors.

A number of key projects have been identified for delivery:

- a) Discussions are currently underway with the 11 Midlands Engine LEPs (Black Country, Greater Birmingham & Solihull, Coventry & Warwickshire, Worcestershire, SEMLEP, Leicester & Leicestershire, The Marches, Stoke & Staffs, D2N2, Greater Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire), for funding of up to £1.12m to support delivery of energy and low carbon projects across the Midlands, under which projects will be considered for support. Further discussions will look to develop a scheme to enhance energy efficiency in homes and businesses, including the use of smart home technology and different business models for funding energy efficiency.
- b) £31m has been awarded to the West Midlands to create testing infrastructure and autonomous vehicle (Connected and Automated Vehicle) technology as part of the Industrial Strategy. An initial trial of fifth generation wireless technology (5G) Testbeds will begin in 2018 and will test 5G applications and deployment on roads.
- c) Coventry and Warwickshire will deliver a £2m voucher scheme to provide local companies with the opportunity to receive vouchers from broadband suppliers to pay for gold-standard full-fibre gigabit connections.

- 3.10 A number of initiatives will be supported to enable public sector transformation to improve how services are delivered:

- a) £0.8m over 3 years to support a WMCA Office for Data Analytics. A 3-year project, led by Black Country Consortium.
- b) The Mayors Homelessness Taskforce is one of three national Housing First pilots that will receive some of the £28m to test the redesign of services and care offered to homeless people across the region.
- c) Funding to support the establishment of a Social Work Academy-‘Future Social’ to provide end to end support for career development, including post-qualification and recruitment and retention.

- 3.11 Enhancing mental and physical health, well-being and resilience remain a priority with the Thrive Mental Health literacy programme currently being rolled out across the region. The Black Country Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) is developing a proposal for a prevention programme to focus on the development of professional and community capability to deliver social prescribing and asset based interventions to improve health outcomes. Planned delivery will be through the West Midlands Behavioural Change Network that includes the WMCA and the regions universities.

- 3.12 Work is currently underway to develop plans for the shared use of the public estate, with the proceeds from the disposal of locally owned National Health Service (NHS) assets retained within the region.
- 3.13 Two key consultations have taken place to review the proposals to integrate the local Police and Crime Commissioners role into the mayoralty by 2020 and to integrate the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service with the WMCA

4. Council Corporate Plan priorities

- 4.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2021 identifies 5 key priorities:
- Economic Growth-for all people, communities and businesses
 - People-have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities
 - Children-have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well
 - Communities-are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion
 - Internal focus- all council services are efficient
- 4.2 The proposed Devolution Deal 2 could potentially support all five of our priorities and help us to increase the economic prosperity of the area and provide healthy and positive community impact for the people of Walsall, by aiding, funding and in the delivery of the WMCA Strategic Economic Plan.
- 4.3 The WMCA sets out within its Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), 'Making our Mark' how the West Midlands will be the best region in the UK to do business with through the delivery of a set of objectives including: Economic Growth, Employment & Skills, Accessibility, Business Competitiveness and Productivity, Land, Public Service Reform, Housing and Environment. The strategy is for a rapid acceleration in growth, employment and productivity through targeted actions in key sectors, enhanced innovation incubation and skills development alongside public sector reform.
- 4.4 The Marmot Review ('Fair Society, Healthy Lives') presented a national strategic review of health inequalities post 2010. It concluded that reducing inequalities will require action on six policy objectives, being:
1. Give every child the best start in life.
 2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.
 3. Create fair employment and good work for all.
 4. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all.
 5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable communities.
 6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.

Devolution Deal 2 has the potential to make significant contributions towards these policy objectives.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 There is a risk that, despite the commitment to working closely with Government to secure future funding commitments, that any changes in policy or Government could prevent the second Devolution Deal plans from coming to fruition. There is also a risk that negotiations with government do not lead to the expected level of devolutionary commitment currently envisioned.
- 5.2 There is a risk that future investment decisions of the WMCA fail to be made in an open and transparent way, or embrace the founding principles of how investment will seek to benefit all communities appropriately. This risk should be mitigated through the emerging governance arrangements, the Assurance Framework agreed with Government and the Dynamic Economic Impact Model.
- 5.3 There is a risk that despite substantial financial funding packages being available, Walsall is unable to compete for funding with a pipeline of robust projects. This is mitigated through the work of the Council's Economic Growth Programme and directorate teams proactively engaging partners to develop a pipeline of eligible activity.
- 5.4 Risks associated with the WMCA are managed at both a local level through the Council's corporate risk register, and through programme management governance that supports the WMCA, including: management by work stream leads overseen by the Programme Board formed from the Chief Executives and Executive Officers of the Constituent and Non-Constituent members.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 There is a risk for both Devolution Deals that the funding generated falls short of the levels required to meet all of the WMCA commitments, today and moving forward, resulting in any shortfalls falling to the constituent members to find. This risk should be mitigated through the emerging governance arrangements, the appointment of the WMCA's section 151 officer, the production of WMCA financial and business plans and accounts, together with the roles that the constituent members will play through their officers (including section 151) in monitoring, scrutinising and reporting on their contents etc.
- 6.2 This second Devolution Deal identifies the potential for a package of possible and agreed funding in support of the delivery of the WMCA SEP sources of income, these will followed by further negotiations with government. Value and timescales in a number of areas are not confirmed, and there is no guarantee that additional powers, functions and funding will be secured.
- 6.3 Council officers will continue to work with the WMCA and Government as appropriate to secure the best possible deal for Walsall and the Black Country.

- 6.4 The WMCA has a budget setting process similar to Councils that requires the consent of its Board, in addition the Mayor has the power to set his budget for his functions subject to restrictions. The CA budget (including Mayors), where no funding has been provided for its activities and or functions, and no other funding stream is available the 7 Constituent Councils are responsible for the funding. If no local agreement is made, then it is apportioned according to population.
- 6.5 As constituent members underwrite the CA, and we have limited access to all terms and conditions of grants, and control of projects, then the Council may have significant contingent liabilities should the CA be unable to repay current liabilities as they fall due in the event of clawback.
- 6.6 As the scope and budgets, including the additional monies in relation to Devolution Deal 2 of the Combined Authority grows there is a risk that activity in relation to Devolution Deal 2 may result in an overspend on operational budgets and capital budgets. As the Combined Authority has limited revenue income streams, there is a risk that it may result in an increase to constituent subscriptions, noting that existing subscriptions are c£250k per annum although this was increased to £600k in 2017/18. If capital budgets overspend it may fall onto constituents to service the debt if external funding fails or is clawed back, as the CA is underwritten by the Constituent Councils.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no immediate legal implications at this stage, however there is the potential that some areas of work may lead to further devolution of powers and flexibilities requiring statutory processes. All related proposals will be brought to the constituent authorities for approval.

8. Property implications

- 8.1 There are currently no property implications arising directly from this report

9. Health and wellbeing implications

- 9.1 There are currently no direct health and well-being implications arising from this report

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1 Existing staff resources from across a number of service areas, in particular Economy and Environment and Resources & Transformation directorates are providing support to the work of the WMCA. They work to represent Walsall Council and its priorities through partnership working in office-led working groups. Staff continue to play an active role in discussions and negotiations to ensure the Council is effectively engaged and can respond and receive the benefits of the Devolution Deal.

11. Reducing inequalities

The Equality Impact Assessment (appendix 2) – Is attached to this report.

12. Consultation

12.1 The Seven Metropolitan Constituent Councils, led by the WMCA carried out public consultation on the 'Scheme' document – Functions required to deliver the devolution agreement in the West Midlands, from 4th July 2016 – 21st August 2016. The consultation survey was hosted on the front page of the Constituent Councils websites and the WMCA website. The survey consisted of 9 key questions, two profile based questions and a free text option to provide any further feedback. 1309 responses were received through this medium.

Paper copies of the consultation were available in public buildings, 19 responses were received through this medium.

The scheme outlines the functions required for the West Midlands to deliver the devolution agreement, which started with Devolution Deal 1 and is continued and expanded through the second Devolution Deal.

Background papers

- Cabinet Report 7 March 2016 'Approval of the Order to establish the West Midlands Combined Authority
- Approval of the West Midlands Combined Authority Draft Mayoral Scheme, Mayoral Elections Order, and West Midlands Devolution Deal (1) by Cabinet on the 2 June 2016
- Approval of the West Midlands Combined Authority Draft Mayoral Scheme, Mayoral Elections Order, and West Midlands Devolution Deal (1) by Council on the 2 June 2016

Attachments

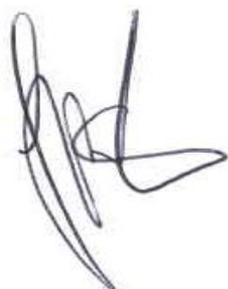
Appendix 1 - West Midlands Devolution Deal 2

Appendix 2 – EQIA

Author

Mark Lavender
Head of Programme Management
☎ 654772
✉ mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk

Zoey West
External Programme Manager
☎ 655998
✉ zoey.west@walsall.gov.uk



Firstname Lastname
Executive Director

12 June 2018



Councillor M. Bird
Leader

12 June 2018



HM Treasury



WEST MIDLANDS
COMBINED AUTHORITY

WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED
AUTHORITY

A SECOND DEVOLUTION DEAL
TO PROMOTE GROWTH

Contents

Introduction	3
Delivering an Industrial Strategy for the West Midlands	5
Housing	5
Creating opportunity: improving skills and employment	6
Transport	8
Transport and digital	10
Air quality	10
Supporting Key Regional Industrial Strategy Sectors	12
Supporting business growth through the Industrial Strategy	12
Energy.....	12
Automotive	13
Culture.....	14
Digital	15
Transforming public services	16
Finance and Funding	19
West Midlands Funding for Growth Programme	19
Mayoral powers.....	20

Introduction

1. The agreement made between the government and the Local Authority leaders and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Chairs of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) area in November 2015 enabled significant devolution of powers, funding and responsibilities and marked a further step to deepen devolution in the area. Both government and the WMCA remain committed to the aim of bringing increased productivity and improved life chances to the West Midlands, as part of realising the potential of the Midlands Engine as a key growth centre for the UK.
2. The election of the Mayor means that strong and accountable governance arrangements for the West Midlands are now in place. Government and local leaders will build on the foundations laid over the last two years and ensure that the West Midlands is able to achieve its full potential and make its full contribution to the success of the UK.
3. This provides an appropriate moment at which to confirm and cement our joint commitment to the region. Accordingly, government is now further strengthening the West Midlands' devolution arrangements with this second devolution deal for the WMCA. These new proposals will support the ambitious plans of the WMCA for additional growth and improved wellbeing and demonstrates government's continued commitment to devolution and the future of the West Midlands.
4. Since the first agreement was signed the need for a successful industrial strategy delivered through strong local leadership has become even greater, as we seek to prepare the UK for a successful post-Brexit economy, improve skills, boost exports and invest in our infrastructure and the growth sectors that will provide for future prosperity. This new agreement reflects that changing context and recognises the need for the WMCA to develop a local industrial strategy to shape the long-term vision for growth in the area.
5. The Mayor and the WMCA will produce a local industrial strategy for the West Midlands, based upon the Strategic Economic Plan, which will set out a programme for accelerated delivery on the aims of the national strategy through maximising the advantages of the West Midlands, bringing together social and economic ambitions to achieve inclusive growth. The WMCA will continue to work closely with the non-constituent authorities to jointly deliver the Strategic Economic Plan.
6. This devolution agreement commits government and the WMCA to a number of steps which support the delivery of a local industrial strategy in areas including housing, skills and employment, transport, air quality, energy and digital and through investment in key growth sectors such as advanced manufacturing, digital and new technologies.
7. The West Midlands is a key manufacturing centre and vital to the future growth of exports and the UK economy. The arrival of HS2 provides an unparalleled opportunity to boost growth. The blend of strategically important large businesses

combined with an entrepreneurial culture is driving a high rate of business start-ups. The recent economic performance of the WMCA area exceeds national levels on GVA. The West Midlands performs well on exports and inward investment.

8. In recent years, the region has seen:
 - Stronger GVA per head growth of 2.8% from 2014 to 2015, closing the gap with national levels of growth (1.85%) and employment has grown by 55,700 over the past year to over 1.23 million;
 - 2,700 more business births than in 2015, with over 18,000 new start-ups in 2016,
 - Strong growth in goods exports, reaching almost £30bn across the region in 2016;
 - The value of goods exports was £29.7bn in 2016. The 12.6% rise in exports from 2015-2016 meant that the West Midlands was the fastest growing UK region for goods exports.
 - In the first two quarters of 2017, goods exports in the West Midlands have so far been worth £16.8bn.
 - 13,100 fewer working age people with no qualifications since 2015.
9. This agreement has been developed jointly by government and the WMCA. It represents the next big step in the West Midlands devolution process. Government and the WMCA commit to continuing a collaborative approach in future discussions.
10. This agreement is between the government, the Mayor, the leaders of the constituent authorities of the WMCA and the three LEP Chairs, and it recognises the role played by the leaders of the non-constituent authorities. It is subject to agreement from the WMCA Board and the constituent local authorities. This agreement is also subject to the statutory requirements, including public consultation and Parliamentary approval, of any necessary secondary legislation. Throughout this document, the term 'West Midlands' refers to Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton Metropolitan areas collectively, unless otherwise stated.

Delivering an Industrial Strategy for the West Midlands

Housing

11. To help the West Midlands to deliver the supply of houses needed to meet the ambition of the West Midlands Strategic Economic Plan of 215,000 homes by 2031, the government will provide £6m over three years, beginning in 2017/18, to support a new Mayoral Housing Delivery Team in the WMCA and make an immediate impact on delivery and longer term supply.
12. Through an integrated programme, the WMCA and its partners will bring forward a pipeline of new homes across all tenures, aligned to transport and infrastructure priorities. This will include unlocking housing opportunities from transport investment.
13. The government, the WMCA and its local partners will jointly consider levers at their disposal to support housing delivery where this will result in accelerated delivery and genuinely additional housing above local housing need and existing plan targets.
14. The Mayor, local leaders and government are committed to an ambitious increase in the number of new homes in the West Midlands and are continuing work on a Housing Deal to increase the supply of land and increase housing delivery across the West Midlands. This would build on the work done by the Mayor and leaders to establish an independent Land Commission and agree an innovative land delivery plan. Key requirements that areas must deliver in order to agree a Housing Deal with government will be addressed as part of future Housing Deal discussions.

Creating opportunity: improving skills and employment

15. Improving skills and ensuring that skilled labour is available in key growth sectors is essential to both economic growth and individual opportunities and life chances.
16. The government commits to the full implementation of the skills measures included in the Midlands Engine Strategy.
17. The government commits to work with the WMCA as we establish one of the first Skills Advisory Panels (SAP). The SAP will involve a new local partnership between the WMCA, local employers, post-16 skills providers and central government. SAPs will have a key role in bringing together strategic planning for post-16 skills provision based on data and intelligence on local labour market demand, and in influencing post-16 skills provision, including the implementation of T levels in the local area. In particular, the government, the WMCA and local colleges will take account of SAP analysis when allocating future capital funds to colleges to ensure they have plans which meet local labour market needs. The WMCA will work with government and local employers to encourage a strong West Midlands offer of work placements and apprenticeship placements.
18. The government will provide the WMCA with £5m over the next three years for a local construction training programme. This will be the first step in training up a new generation of construction workers and will help ensure that the West Midlands is well prepared for the technological changes that will affect our economy and society in the coming years. This will sit alongside employer-led interventions to boost construction with the government is taking forward as part of the early stages of the National Retraining Scheme.
19. The government and the WMCA will ensure that government and WMCA driven or commissioned skills and AEB activity relevant to the West Midlands takes account of local priorities as identified by the Skills Advisory Panel.
20. The WMCA has established a Productivity and Skills Commission. The outcomes of the Commission's work will play a key role in addressing the region's productivity challenges and taking forward the Industrial Strategy. This will need to be aligned with the Department for Education's Skills Advisory Panels, which are designed to support a national skills strategy and prevent a fragmented approach.
21. Working within the government's new strategy for careers services, the government will work with the WMCA to ensure that local priorities directly inform the provision of careers advice and that the WMCA fully engages employers in playing a full role as will be set out in the forthcoming careers strategy.
22. The WMCA will want to work with and support its local Further Education and Higher Education providers to develop ambitious bids for Institutes of Technology within the West Midlands region.
23. Government will work with the WMCA to test innovative new approaches to lifelong learning through a career learning pilot in the West Midlands, to help adults upskill and reskill throughout their working lives. These will comply fully with the evaluation

and reporting requirements from the Department for Education to ensure the pilots contribute to a valuable evidence base for what works in tackling barriers to people upskilling.

24. Government and the WMCA will explore ways to support those returning to the labour market after time out of paid employment to care for children or other family members.
25. Government and the WMCA will jointly develop and adopt an Employment Support Framework Agreement to drive the better coordination of employment, skills and health services across the West Midlands in order to increase the number of residents moving into work. This will specifically include:
 - How locally funded employment support programmes are designed, commissioned and performance managed;
 - How the Combined Authority and local partners can work together to align local public services to support people into work;
 - How the WMCA, DWP, JobCentre Plus and the LEPs will work together to offer apprenticeships and other work related training and work experience opportunities to young people to drive down youth unemployment;
 - How Jobcentre Plus, local authorities and their partners will work together to promote skills development and progression from low-paid employment to support growth.

Transport

26. A modern and efficient transport network, particularly the enormous opportunity presented by HS2 that will be a crucial driver of regional regeneration, underpins the economic growth and the whole of the local industrial strategy of the West Midlands. Effective management of local transport networks is equally critical to reducing the economic and human costs of congestion and air pollution.
27. The overall aims for transport devolution to the West Midlands have been to enable the Mayor and the WMCA to:
- Take forward their own priorities for investment in transport infrastructure through local control of funds to enable genuine alignment of rail and highways investment priorities.
 - Manage the local transport networks in an integrated way to reduce congestion and enhance public safety.
28. The WMCA will receive £250m over four years from the Transforming Cities Fund to be spent on local transport priorities. This will enable the WMCA to fund the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill metro extension, should they choose to do so. We expect this funding to support projects which represent value for money and meet local need. Appropriate assurance processes to enable development of robust business cases and scheme appraisals will be put in place so that local decision-makers can make properly informed and evidenced decisions. Government will continue to work with the WMCA to help the Combined Authority refine its scheme and assess financing and delivery options.
29. DfT will facilitate a discussion between Network Rail and the WMCA to discuss the transfer of ownership of the non-operational section of the Round Oak to Walsall railway route to enable the timely delivery of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill metro extension. TfWM and the WMCA will seek to establish the most appropriate contractual and regulatory framework including, but not limited to, the Track Access Agreements for shared use of the line and commits to running services along the corridor from 2026.
30. The West Midlands' transport infrastructure needs to be made more resilient if the increased capacity and connectivity envisaged is to be delivered efficiently and effectively. The government had agreed to support and participate in a formal collaboration to achieve this.
31. Government is committed to working in partnership with, and to support, Transport for West Midlands (on behalf of the WMCA) in leading a formal multi-agency collaboration which will keep the West Midlands open for business and supporting growth during the extended construction period. A Minister will endorse the top tier of the robust multi-agency 'Network Resilience' partnership and will aim to attend a meeting early in the process to encourage all organisations to commit to the aims of the partnership. This will include the Department for Transport, Highways England, Network Rail, HS2 Ltd and other key agencies. The way of working developed will be

an exemplar and model of best practice for future phases of HS2 delivery and other major investment programmes. Government will work with the partnership in applying the latest technology and best innovative solutions.

32. As part of this collaboration, government will work with TfWM to explore the scope for improved management of the highway, in particular to understand how the capacity for the West Midlands Key Route Network can be maximised.
33. Government will work with the Mayor and the WMCA to identify barriers to improving mobility in the region.
34. Following receipt of £250k government funding, Transport for West Midlands, on behalf of the WMCA, will develop a business case and options for a Regional Integrated Control Centre, including both 'virtual' and 'physical' solutions. If the business case demonstrates a clear case for a network resilience solution, the WMCA will explore funding options, including a local contribution.
35. Street Works Permit Schemes have a key role in meeting the Network Resilience challenge in the West Midlands. Therefore, the government will support the WMCA in bringing their non-permitting authorities together to implement a consistent area-wide scheme, in accordance with Highways Authorities and Utilities Committee (England) Guidance. This will provide a unified approach to co-ordinating the road and utility works taking place, minimising local disruption.
36. As the strategic road authority, Highways England will work collaboratively with local partners to ensure smooth operation of and investment in the Strategic Road Network.
37. Thousands of people and businesses depend on the Strategic Road Network in the West Midlands every day. It is therefore imperative, and a shared priority of government and the WMCA, that there are appropriate contingency plans in the event of a catastrophic infrastructure failure so that the region can remain open for business. In recognition of this, government will discuss with the WMCA contingency relief options in case of incidents on the Strategic Road Network and the role of the Mayor in considering those contingencies. The government, Highways England and TfWM are also in discussions about ensuring there is a workable, clear and transparent process for using Operation Freeway on the M6 Toll when it is most needed. This will include discussions between government, the Mayor and Midlands Expressway Ltd on how to ensure optimal and timely decisions are made in relation to the potential usage of Operation Freeway.
38. Government will continue to maintain a dialogue with the WMCA as part of its plans to develop Enhanced Quality Partnership Schemes.
39. The WMCA is developing a long-term West Midlands Transport Delivery Plan. A key component of this Plan will be a focus on sustainable transport schemes, in particular cycling. The West Midlands has an ambitious plan to raise levels of cycling across the Metropolitan area to 5% of all trips by 2023. The WMCA will work collaboratively with government to identify new local funding opportunities to deliver high quality cycle infrastructure. This will support both national and West

Midlands public policy objectives for transport and preventative health and well-being, with opportunities for sharing of best practice with other urban areas in the UK.

40. Government recognises the importance of HS2 to the West Midlands economy and will continue to work with the WMCA, the Urban Growth Company and HS2 Ltd to discuss local ambitions to maximise its potential.
41. Government will continue to work with the WMCA to explore how the planned HS2 Interchange and Curzon stations can be designed so as not to preclude opportunities for international connectivity if HS1 and HS2 are connected in the future. Any costs associated with these decisions must be met locally.

Transport and digital

42. Mobility as a Service (MaaS) has the potential to revolutionise how we think about and use transport. For its users, MaaS should offer the best value proposition, by helping them meet their mobility needs and solve the inconvenient parts of individual journeys as well as the entire system of mobility services. A successful MaaS service also brings new business models and ways to organise and operate the various transport options, with advantages for transport operators including access to improved user and demand information and new opportunities to serve unmet demand. The aim of MaaS is to provide an alternative to the use of the private car that may be as convenient, more sustainable, help to reduce congestion and constraints in transport capacity, and can be even cheaper.
43. The WMCA and local partners have demonstrated clear ambition and innovative thinking on MaaS. Government is keen to support this ambition by:
 - Sharing best practice through a discussion on the development of innovative Mobility as a Service programmes, such as Whim, in order to advance our shared drive to explore future connected transport options;
 - Exploring the possibility of a regulatory framework to open up transport data access;
 - Convening future discussions on Mobility as a Service in the West Midlands, including exploring non-legislative opportunities to improve services for customers across the region.

Air quality

44. Government will participate in a partnership with the WMCA and any local authorities required to develop local plans to achieve improvements in air quality and the consequent impact and opportunities on health, businesses, development, the economy and the environment. The aim of the partnership will be to enhance

current national and local policy on air quality through developing a more comprehensive regional approach.

45. Officials from Defra and DfT will support the WMCA in developing proposals for:

- A more detailed air quality monitoring and reporting system for the West Midlands linked to the management of the Key Route Network;
- The Mayor and the WMCA to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for improving air quality across the West Midlands in collaboration with the local authorities.

Supporting Key Regional Industrial Strategy Sectors

Supporting business growth through the Industrial Strategy

46. The Mayor and the WMCA will develop a package of investments in key growth sectors as part of their overall investment programme. This will reflect sector deals developed as part of the Industrial Strategy.
47. The government wants to work closely with the West Midlands to deliver on key national priorities within the Industrial Strategy where the region provides a good opportunity to secure global leadership and enhanced growth.
48. Government will work with the WMCA to develop a local industrial strategy. This will be a long-term vision for growth, based on robust evidence and focused on raising productivity and pay in the area. It will be underpinned by strong cooperation between national government and the private sector, local leadership and key institutions.
49. The strategy will set out how the WMCA will work in partnership with government to support the key foundations of productivity. It will focus on raising skills levels across the area. It will identify and work to grow its leading sectors, develop new high value businesses, back the area's world-class science and innovation assets, and build on opportunities in all parts of the area. The strategy will reflect the main themes of the national Industrial Strategy, but also take a place-based approach which builds on the area's unique strengths and ensures all people in the West Midlands can contribute to, and benefit from, economic growth.
50. The West Midlands has significant potential for growth in the creative and digital sectors, building on the region's young population, excellent universities, entrepreneurial culture, connectivity and strong focus on digital technology. Both local partners and industry bodies have identified strong potential in these areas.
51. The WMCA will work with partners, including Government (BEIS), Local Enterprise Partnerships and Growth Hubs to develop a strategic approach to regulatory delivery, building on the Better Business for All national programme, overcoming regulatory barriers and supporting local priorities for growth and reform.
52. Government will work with the WMCA to understand the significant potential of professional and business services as a growth sector in the West Midlands.
53. Government will explore with the WMCA and partners how more intensive supply chain management and specialist business support can accelerate productivity growth, informing emerging sector deals and national thinking on clusters.

Energy

54. The government agrees to support the work of the West Midlands Regional Energy Commission, subject to agreement with government on the terms of reference, with a £120,000 fund for a local energy strategy as part of the local energy programme set out in Clean Growth Strategy, with input from relevant BEIS and Ofgem officials.

55. The West Midlands Regional Energy Commission will:

- build on initial work already in progress in the region, specifically to explore and develop appropriate regional governance and policy mechanisms which complement national market regulation while maximising economic opportunities for the region;
- recommend how to accelerate significant local demand-led economic opportunities from energy systems innovation;
- create mechanisms which drive and support the commercialisation of energy systems innovation and provide a platform for the region's manufacturing companies and innovators to compete globally;
- unlock clean energy and low carbon investment opportunities;
- develop and test a replicable and robust model of regional energy market governance.

56. The government look forward to publication of the initial findings of the Commission in 2018.

57. Government is in discussions with Midlands Engine LEPs for funding of up to £1.12m to support delivery of energy and low carbon projects across the Midlands, under which WMCA projects can be considered for support. Decisions over the allocation of this support will be made based on local energy priorities across the Midlands. Government commits to a discussion with the WMCA about a scheme to enhance energy efficiency in homes and businesses, including the use of smart home technology and different business models for funding energy efficiency.

Automotive

58. The government wants the West Midlands to be a national and international hub for developing new automotive technologies, enhancing the UK's global share of these key growth sectors and contributing to climate change and air quality objectives.

59. This government is committed to supporting the West Midlands as a centre of electric vehicle manufacturing, competing with China, Germany and the United States, creating tens of thousands of new jobs in the next ten years, while autonomous vehicles are already being tested in Coventry City Centre.

60. As these two technologies come together into electric, driverless vehicles, the government will work with the Mayor to ensure the West Midlands has the infrastructure it needs to secure its place as one of the leading places in the world for these industries.

61. In line with this ambition, government recently awarded £31m to the West Midlands to create testing infrastructure for connected and autonomous vehicle

(CAV) technology. This will help to ensure that the UK has the world's most effective CAV testing ecosystem, as part of the Industrial Strategy.

62. Government will also be investing £5m from the 5G Testbeds and Trials programme for an initial trial, starting in 2018, to test 5G applications and deployment on roads, including helping to test how we can maximise future productivity benefits from self-driving cars. This builds on the West Midlands existing expertise on future mobility technologies.
63. The West Midlands will be a key testing location for the best entries to a new innovation prize led by the National Infrastructure Commission to determine how roadbuilding should adapt to best support driverless cars.
64. Government is also currently considering £80m funding through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund's Faraday Challenge, supporting the area's industrial strengths and research excellence.
65. Government will continue to discuss the future of energy supply in the West Midlands to support the delivery of an action plan for power supply and infrastructure which enables industry and business to flourish.

Culture

66. The Mayor and the WMCA will work with government to support and build the culture and sport sectors in the region, recognising the important role they play in driving economic revival.
67. Work is already underway to further enhance the cultural assets of the West Midlands, from the significant progress that has already been made in raising funds for the Black Country Living Museum's latest development, to the proposals from Birmingham Museums Trust and Birmingham Royal Ballet to create a new joint cultural facility that will be spearhead social and economic regeneration on its proposed brownfield site.
68. Getting more people from every background regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport and physical activity is of utmost importance to government. Building on the success of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and subsequent major sporting events, Government supports Birmingham's bid to host the Commonwealth Games in 2022 and looks forward to hearing the decision.

Digital

69. Building on the area's unique specialist strengths, the Mayor and the WMCA have a compelling vision to become a global tech hub to rival Berlin, Austin and Tallinn. Harnessing the power of digital in the public sector and creating the right environment for tech start-ups to flourish are two key shared objectives of the government, the Mayor and WMCA.
70. Effective digital leadership and governance is key to implementing successful digital change. Working with GDS and DCLG, the WMCA will draw up a Digital Capability Framework which sets out the level of skills required to deliver effective digital programmes and which can be used to disseminate best practice across local government. The WMCA will be an informed, intelligent, efficient customer for digital innovation in the public sector. This will be supported by best practice digital governance.
71. The WMCA recognises the potential of data to improve public service delivery. Key to exploiting this successfully is that the WMCA continues to use data and analytics securely and effectively for integrated local decision-making, planning and delivery. GDS and DCLG will work with the WMCA to explore further opportunities for using open data and secure data to improve public service delivery.
72. The WMCA have already recognised that digital is the 'golden thread' in the modern economy with the recent launch of their Urban Challenge programme. To further support their ambitions to use technology to solve the complex problems faced by the public sector, government encourages the WMCA to put forward new challenges to the recently announced GovTech Catalyst, which is supported by the new £20m GovTech Fund. The GovTech Catalyst and Fund will support public bodies to work closely with our world-leading tech sector, taking on the most innovative ideas, to boost productivity in UK public services.
73. Government has announced new funding to create 'Tech Nation' which will see the organisation expand its successful hub model to more cities around the country, including establishing a new hub in Birmingham.
74. Coventry and Warwickshire is a pilot location for a new £2m voucher scheme which will help bring the UK's fastest and most reliable broadband to homes and businesses across the country. Local companies will be among those offered vouchers by broadband suppliers to pay for gold-standard full-fibre gigabit connections, to help revolutionise our digital infrastructure and make it fit for the future.
75. Working with their local One Public Estate partnership the WMCA will explore the option of converting unused public sector office space into co-working spaces for local tech entrepreneurs.

Transforming public services

76. Devolution provides the opportunity for public service transformation to improve how services are aligned around individuals, to remove the barriers to collaborative working and to bring together social and economic ambitions to support inclusive growth.
77. The Mayor and the WMCA want to grasp this opportunity and are already working with local stakeholders to put their aims into action. Government supports these objectives and commends the WMCA on the progress made so far. The government also sees this agreement as an opportunity to create a step change in the public services agenda, by establishing the building blocks to further public service transformation in the West Midlands in the future and ensuring continued close collaboration between the WMCA and government.
78. To take this process forward, the government and the WMCA commit to working together over the coming months on how the Combined Authority can be given greater flexibility to invest in and develop innovative approaches to delivering public services in order to produce a plan for next steps.
79. The government will support initiatives designed to enable public transformation:
- In response to the innovative proposals it has received from the WMCA for an Office for Data Analytics, government will provide £0.8m over three years for this initiative. This will bring together the considerable existing investment in research, data and intelligence to support delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan's economic and social outcomes, and enable the evidence base for further public service transformation.
 - The Mayor's Homelessness Taskforce is working with partners to redesign the services and care offered to homeless people across the West Midlands, with a strong focus on prevention. Government has committed £28m for Housing First pilots in three areas across England, one of which will be in the West Midlands. This will pilot the Housing First approach to ending the homelessness of rough sleepers with the most complex needs. Under this approach individuals will be provided with accommodation alongside intensive key worker support to enable them to recover from issues such as mental health or substance abuse and sustain their tenancies.
 - Establishment of a Social Work Academy – 'FutureSocial'. This is a collaboration between 14 local authorities bringing together resources and capabilities to build workforce capacity at a regional level. The Academy will provide end-to-end support for career development, including post-qualification and recruitment and retention. Government has approved funding for the scheme and will work with the WMCA to develop this programme, including exploring the links to the LGA 'Return to Social Work' project and the government's 'Step up to Social Work' programme.

80. The Mayor and the WMCA are prioritising enhancing mental and physical health, wellbeing and resilience and making the maximum impact on productivity and the reduction of inequalities in the future. There are a number of approaches to this:
- Government will work with the WMCA to facilitate discussions with local authority public health, as well as other local commissioners about opportunities to fund innovative pilots through local budgets to promote health and wellbeing in the West Midlands with a view to increasing levels of physical activity in both adults and children and piloting early preventative programmes.
 - The government supports the WMCA's aim of delivering the Thrive Mental Health Literacy programme across the WMCA, targeting 500,000 people. Government and the WMCA will work together to explore the right delivery models for the programme and how to build long-term sustainability into the programme.
 - Government and the WMCA commit to continuing to work towards the ambitions of the Mental Health Commission. To date we have agreed that project management will be put in place for the following projects:
 - o Individual placement support
 - o A framework for improving wellbeing at work
 - o A wellbeing incentive to address mental health and muscular skeletal problems
 - WMCA and the Black Country Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) will engage with health systems partners, on behalf of the other STPs in the area, to develop a proposal and business case for a prevention programme. The programme will initially focus on the development of professional and community capability to deliver effective social prescribing and asset-based interventions to improve health outcomes. This will be delivered through an emerging West Midlands Behavioural Change Network – a partnership including the WMCA and the region's universities.
81. The government will work with the Mayor and the WMCA as well as with the NHS agencies to identify other devolved powers and funds that will support the Mayor's priority of tackling health inequalities. This will include exploration of:
- Shared use of the public estate, so that proceeds from the disposal of locally owned NHS assets are retained in the West Midlands, in so far as statutory powers permit and subject to agreement with national and local partners;
 - Regional use of transformation, research and development funds, including how STP transformation funding could take into account, where appropriate, the WMCA health and wellbeing objectives.
82. The government, the WMCA and the PCC will work together to agree a detailed governance model and a legislative timetable for incorporating the role and power

of the Police and Crime Commissioner into the mayoralty, with a view to electing the first Mayor with these powers in 2020.

83. The WMCA reaffirms its intention to integrate the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service with the WMCA and Mayor and will engage with government and other stakeholders on the details of this governance change.
84. The government recognises the ambition of the Combined Authority to improve outcomes for offenders in the West Midlands area, and will work with the WMCA and local Police and Crime Commissioner to develop and strengthen the local role in commissioning joined up local criminal justice services.

Finance and Funding

85. The election of the Mayor, the changing economic context described above and the establishment of a Strategic Economic Plan for the three-LEP area has expanded both the ambition of the outcomes and the pace of delivery that local partners seek to achieve.
86. The first devolution deal saw the government commit to making a major investment in the West Midlands, with over £1bn allocated to the area for local priorities.
87. The government will launch a one-off Mayoral Capacity Fund totalling £12m over two years which will be available to Mayoral Combined Authorities with elected mayors, including the WMCA. This fund will support the new mayors by boosting their capacity and resources to deliver for their local area.
88. To align the WMCA's financial powers with their new responsibilities, and to provide the flexibility they need to invest in economically productive infrastructure, the government and the WMCA will reach agreement on a debt cap which will enable the government to take steps to extend the WMCA's borrowing powers to align with the WMCA's functions.

West Midlands Funding for Growth Programme

89. The Mayor and the WMCA have established a West Midlands Funding for Growth Programme to review public finance mechanisms and private sector funding opportunities. It will develop specific West Midlands solutions as well as pilots for potential national application.
90. The Programme will explore financial innovations with the aim of bringing greater autonomy and more effective use of public resources to the West Midlands and of spreading these innovations nationally. The Programme will include reforms for rapid implementation as well as longer-term work on bigger challenges, such as better use of existing local taxes. Government will work with the WMCA on selected themes as appropriate.

Mayoral powers

91. The government will, subject to the agreement of Parliament, provide for the Mayor of the WMCA to have the power to introduce a business rate supplement, which would be subject to a ballot of affected businesses.
92. Government recognises the ambitions of the WMCA and the Mayor and their wish to support a significant investment programme to drive growth. The government will work with the WMCA to consider whether there are appropriate functions that could be exercised by the Mayor to support the investment programme.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

Proposal name	WMCA Devolution Deal 2		
Directorate	Economy & Environment Directorate		
Service	Borough Wide Development		
Responsible Officer	Simon Neilson		
Proposal planning start	April 2017	Proposal start date (due or actual date)	January 2018
1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Policy	Yes	New
	Procedure	No	
	Guidance	No	
	Is this a service to customers/staff/public?	No	
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?	No	
	Other - give details		
2	What is the business case for this proposal? Please provide the main purpose of the service, intended outcomes and reasons for change?		
	<p>The Mayoral WMCA 'powers and functions' Scheme details the powers and functions that are being sought by the WMCA to enable the Mayoral WMCA, in conjunction with the Mayor, to deliver the devolution deal. These were approved by Walsall's Cabinet and council on the 2 June 2016</p> <p>The establishment of a West Midland Combined Authority (WMCA) represented a major opportunity to have a strong, shared voice for the West Midlands and to make a step change in our collective efforts to drive the economic prosperity of the area. Effective engagement with the Local Enterprise Partnerships ("LEPs") and the wider business community remains critical to the delivery of this ambition.</p> <p>Following the establishment of the WMCA, Government negotiated and made its first Devolution Deal agreement with the Combined Authority, which aims to support the public and private sector of the West Midlands to reach its economic potential.</p> <p>Government has now reached agreement for a second Devolution Deal, the agreement looks to commit government and the WMCA to work towards the establishment of a local Industrial Strategy for the West Midlands, based upon the Strategic Economic Plan, which provides a programme of delivery to maximise the social and economic ambitions for industrial growth. Together with some specific projects and funding allocations that support economic development including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £6million to support the building of 215,000 homes - £5million, 3 year construction training programme - £250million for local transport priorities 		



Within the second Devolution Deal there is also a commitment to partnership working between Government, the WMCA and local authorities to develop plans to achieve improvements in air quality.

A number of initiatives will be supported to enable public sector transformation to improve how services are delivered, including:

- a) £0.8m over 3 years to support a WMCA Office for Data Analytics. A 3-year project, led by Black Country Consortium.
- b) The Mayors Homelessness Taskforce is one of three national Housing First pilots that will receive some of the £28m to test the redesign of services and care offered to homeless people across the region.
- c) Funding to support the establishment of a Social Work Academy-‘Future Social’ to provide end to end support for career development, including post-qualification and recruitment and retention.

Enhancing mental and physical health, well-being and resilience remain a priority with the Thrive Mental Health literacy programme currently being rolled out across the region.

3 Who is the proposal likely to affect?

People in Walsall	Yes / No	Detail
All	Yes	All people of the West Midlands, as such Walsall will be able to access and benefit from the projects, employment opportunities and service changes / improvements arising from the WMCA and the implementation of the Devolution Deal. Specific groups, may also access and benefit from targeted support once initiatives are developed and implemented these are not known at this time.
Specific group/s	No	
Council employees	Yes	
Other (identify)	Yes	

4 Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer’s protected characteristics.

The second Devolution Deal forms part of the WMCA’s programme of work to improve economic outcomes across the region. It is recognised that protected groups can be disproportionately economically disadvantaged, so activity to reduce deprivation and increase employment opportunities would potential have a positive impact on these groups. The second Devolution Deal also includes specific activities to support the homeless and those with poor mental health, through a number of interventions that are currently being designed.

For Walsall MBC around 1 in 6 residents from a non-white British minority ethnic group. People of South Asian background (Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi) for the largest proportion of BAME in Walsall. Employment levels in Walsall are considerably lower than the region and nationally, with less than two thirds of the working age population in employment. One in three Walsall adults has no formal qualifications. An estimated 9.6% of the Walsall population has mixed anxiety and depressive disorder, higher than the regional and national average. Between 8-12% of the population experience depression in any year. Prevalence of common mental health disorders is higher among females, at approximately 1.58 female to male cases. The highest prevalence of mental

ill health exists amongst lower socioeconomic groups.

Walsall has seen a 400% increase in those sleeping rough for 5 or more nights, an estimated 25 individuals. Walsall Council recently tracked a customer - 65 year old male rough sleeping on/off for 10 years who has been admitted into A&E on 48 separate occasions during any one year, at a cost of between £160 and £359 on each occasion depending on treatment. Therefore taking an average costing the amount involved here is in the region of £9600, an additional cost of £450 on each occasion that an ambulance was called and the customer taken to A&E.

Changes to benefit arrangements and levels mean there are a broader range of people who may find themselves threatened with homelessness. Within this customer base are high risk groups who may not receive the highest level of support due to their perceived need and vulnerability, foremost of which are the non-priority young, single people who are particularly impacted upon by changes to Local Housing Allowance rates and Universal Credit. In Walsall, there are 3,519 households who are receiving Employment & Support Allowance WRAG and face further reductions in their income.

The development of new interventions by the WMCA will have a positive impact on these individuals and the wider residents of Walsall.

5 Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal. (Please use a separate box for each engagement/consultation).

Between 3 August and 11 September 2015 the seven West Midlands local authorities undertook engagement with key stakeholders on the proposals to form a combined authority and the draft governance review. 305 responses were received, a response rate of 65% of which;

- 69% believed that the WMCA provided a platform for better joined up working with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's)
- 67% believed that the WMCA would make an improvement to economic development and regeneration and impact growth and prosperity
- The positive impact on economic development was ranked the highest priority by Walsall at 77%.

The Seven Metropolitan Constituent Councils, led by the WMCA carried out public consultation on the 'Scheme' document – Functions required to deliver the devolution agreement in the West Midlands, from 4th July 2016 – 21st August 2016. The consultation survey was hosted on the front page of the Constituent Councils websites and the WMCA website. The survey consisted of 9 key questions, two profile based questions and a free text option to provide any further feedback. 1309 responses were received through this medium.

Paper copies of the consultation were available in public buildings, 19 responses were received through this medium.

The scheme outlines the functions required for the West Midlands to deliver the devolution agreement, which started with Devolution Deal 1 and is continued and expanded through the second Devolution Deal.

Public consultation was undertaken between 18 January and 8 February 2016 asking all stakeholders (public, businesses partners) what their views were of the establishment of the Combined Authority with 1907 responses received.

There was no strong evidence that suggested there was public concern that the proposal is being operated in a discriminatory manner, however the public consultation survey results did not break down responses by different equality protected characteristics.

As the programme of delivery begins to develop, including specific project related activity, such as the homelessness strategy, there will be a need for further consultative activity. Type of activity and timescales are, as yet unknown, however it is likely that this will begin with identified key stakeholders and, dependent upon the proposed work programme, will be rolled out to a wider consultative base. A public request for opinion and information on the homelessness strategy is currently open, with responses requested to the WMCA Mayor's office.

The WMCA Inclusive Growth Board and Overview and Scrutiny Committee will ensure that any major initiatives within the second Devolution Deal programme will be assessed and monitored in order to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

Consultation Activity

Please see previous section.

Type of engagement/consultation		Date	dd/mm/yy
Who attended/participated?			
Protected characteristics of participants			

6 Concise overview of all evidence, engagement and consultation

As the programme of delivery begins to develop, including specific project related activity, such as the homelessness strategy, there will be a need for further consultative activity. Type of activity and timescales are, as yet unknown, however it is likely that this will begin with identified key stakeholders and, dependent upon the proposed work programme, will be rolled out to a wider consultative base. A public request for opinion and information on the homelessness strategy is currently open, with responses requested to the WMCA Mayor's office.

The WMCA Inclusive Growth Board and Overview and Scrutiny Committee will ensure that any major initiatives within the second Devolution Deal programme will be assessed and monitored in order to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

There may be opportunities for local consultation, these will be assessed and if required developed / implemented.

7 How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group? The effect may be positive, negative, neutral or not known. Give reasons and if action is needed.

Characteristic	Affect	Reason	Action needed Yes / No
Age	The Combined Authority through its two Devolution Deals will be delivering and working up interventions, projects and funding delivery that will benefit the people and businesses of Walsall. The range of these proposals is wide and covers many aspects, including:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding Adult Education, post 18 programmes - Public Sector Reform - Targeted help for those with Mental Health - Homelessness reduction programmes 	
Disability			
Gender reassignment			
Marriage and civil partnership			
Pregnancy and maternity			
Race			

	Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air pollution reduction - Major Capital Land Investment programmes - Major investment in transport programmes - Supporting the growth of priority employment sectors - The development of low carbon transport initiatives / vehicles etc. <p>It is anticipated that these initiatives / funding streams will potentially have a positive effect / impact on all Characteristic groups.</p> <p>Action will be required to ensure that the positives from these programmes are maximised for the people of Walsall.</p>
	Sex	
	Sexual orientation	
	Other (give detail)	
	Further information	
8	Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative effect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details.	(Delete one) Yes
	These proposals will be looked at in detail and will be actively linked to complimentary council projects and programmes funded, for example through the Councils Inclusive Economic Growth Programme, approved by Cabinet in 2017.	
9	Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation feedback suggest you take?	
A	No major change required	
	Yes	
B	Adjustments needed to remove barriers or to better promote equality	
	No	
C	Continue despite possible adverse impact	
	No	
D	Stop and rethink your proposal	
	No	

Action and monitoring plan				
Action Date	Action	Responsibility	Outcome Date	Outcome
On-going	Review implementation of Devolution Deal initiatives	Economy & Environment Directorate Staff	On-going	Project details understood, implementation dates known, benefits to Walsall understood and the work to maximise outcomes is undertaken, or tasked / shared with those who can.
On-going	Review benefits to Walsall of the Devolution Deal Initiatives	Economy & Environment Directorate Staff	On-going	Understand and if possible quantify and share what the benefits to Walsall are from the Devolution Deals.

Update to EqIA	
Date	Detail
Use this section for updates following the commencement of your proposal.	

Contact us

Consultation and Equalities
Change and Governance

Telephone 01922 655797

Textphone 01922 654000

Email equality@walsall.gov.uk

Inside Walsall: http://inside.walsall.gov.uk/equality_and_diversity-7.htm