Introduction to the West Midlands Combined Authority
Aims

• Secure long term investment rather than short term budget allocations to stimulate economic growth for the region
• Tackle the long term challenges faced by all local authorities and recognised as priorities for the region:
  • transportation
  • skills
  • support for businesses
  • housing needs and land constraints
  • public sector reform
• Influence the delivery of national government programmes to address local need

Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk
Working with the voluntary sector

• The voluntary sector are already working with local authorities on a range of initiatives
• Voluntary sector is at the heart of communities and have established networks that we should utilise
• The voluntary sector voice is a powerful voice and we want to hear you
• Important that you know what’s happening regionally.
Scale of ambition

3 LEPs – key benefits

- 4 million people
- £80bn GVA
- 20 local authorities
- 90% self-containment

Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk
Economy Plus

More than the sum of our parts...

• Facilitates the Midlands Engine
• Accelerate combined benefits
  - close £16bn productivity gap
• Drive public services reform
  - close £3.4bn public spending gap

West Midlands
Combined Authority
The economic context

1.7 million jobs in total, rising private sector employment +43,000 jobs between 2009-2013

1.3 million jobs in the private sector

£7 billion exports

Over 130,000 businesses

Over 130,000 businesses

£6.5bn of GVA from manufacturing

£80 billion of gross value added (GVA) contributed to the UK economy

172 inward investment projects in 2013/14 (74% rise) creating over 9,000 jobs

Third largest exporting region in the UK

Home to 4 million people living in 1.7 million homes

300,000 jobs in high value manufacturing

50% higher than the average for England

Fastest growing LEP areas at 4% GVA growth

Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk
Deal overview

• **Not** the formal devolution deal – it is an agreement that enables the Shadow Board, on behalf of the potential constituent members, to enter into a process of clarification and refinement of the process
• Largest financial deal to date
• Annual contribution from government of £40m for 30 years to unlock an overall investment package of £8b
• Covers the three LEP geography
• Underpinned by strong public / private sector partnership
• First of many deals

Find out more at [www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk](http://www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk)
Skills and employment

• Proposal across the 3 LEP geography

• Potentially up to 500,000 jobs which could add £14 billion to the West Midlands’ economy

• Underpinned by an employment and skills Strategy

• CA to chair a CA-wide area based review

• Devolved 19+ adult skills funding from 2018/19

• Co-design employment support for hardest-to-help claimants

Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk
Supporting business & innovation

- Proposal covers the 3 LEP geography
- Integrated national and local support structure for businesses wanting to invest
- Joint planning and promotion of regeneration sites
- Ring-fenced trade services resources based on agreed export plan
- Design joint approach to enterprise start-ups
- Expert advice offered to develop Innovation Audit Expression of interest

Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk
More and better homes

• Devolved CPO and HCA powers

• Support for the West Midlands Land Commission (covers 3 LEP geography)

• £200m Land Remediation Fund

• Commitment to consider a Housing Investment Fund

Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk
Transport

- Devolved multi-year transport settlement
- Responsibility for franchised bus services – to support smart ticketing
- Responsibility for a new Key Route Network
- Commitment to look at reducing congestion on the strategic road network
- MoU with Highways England and Network Rail
- Implement Low Emission Zones

Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk
HS2 growth strategy

- Support for the HS2 Growth Strategy
- Agreement to the city centre EZ extension
- £97m for Eastside Metro Extension to Digbeth
- Commitment to consider business cases for Metro Extensions to Brierley Hill and Interchange
- Requirement to produce Implementation Plan
Public sector reform

Government commitment to:

• Engage with outcomes of the Mental Health Commission
• Co-design new approach for troubled individuals
• Consider further devolution of youth justice services
• Support public sector relocations

Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk
The Mayor

• Government has decided the West Midlands Combined Authority Devolution Agreement, will be based on the establishment of a directly elected mayor.

• The mayor will operate within a partnership model.

• This will include a cabinet made up of the metropolitan district leaders each with lead responsibility for a different policy area.

Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk
Engagement and consultation

• On-going series of formal and informal briefings and events with the business, private, educational and third sector communities across the region

• A three week formal consultation on the WMCA’s proposed role and function with nearly 2000 respondents

• Overwhelmingly positive support from the region’s businesses with an average approval/support rating of 82% across the five questions in the survey

Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk