

Update on West Midlands Combined Authority



Outline

1. A Combined Authority: what it is and isn't
2. Strategic context for the WMCA
3. WMCA Commissions
4. West Midlands Devolution Deal
5. Creation of the CA
6. Governance next steps
7. Summary

A Combined Authority: What it is

- A joint governance arrangement for economic development, regeneration and transport
- A means of achieving better collaboration
- A vehicle through which to secure devolution from Whitehall
- A body to drive public service reform

- LAs continue to exist in own right – sovereignty retained



A Combined Authority: what it isn't

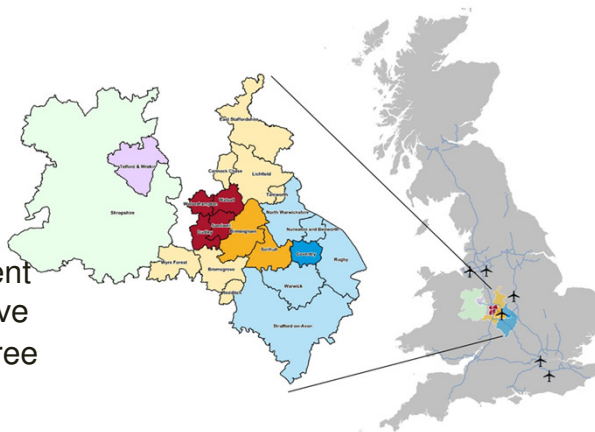
- Not a body that replaces LAs i.e. a 'super council'
- Powers not devolved from LAs to the CA...unless agreed by each LA
- Not a means through which
 - 'Birmingham' services operate in other LAs
 - planning decisions are imposed



Strategic Context for the WMCA

3 LEPs

- 4 million people
- £80bn GVA
- 20 local authorities
- 90% self-containment
(% of people that live and work in the three LEP area)



Commissions

- Mental Health
- Land
- Productivity and Skills



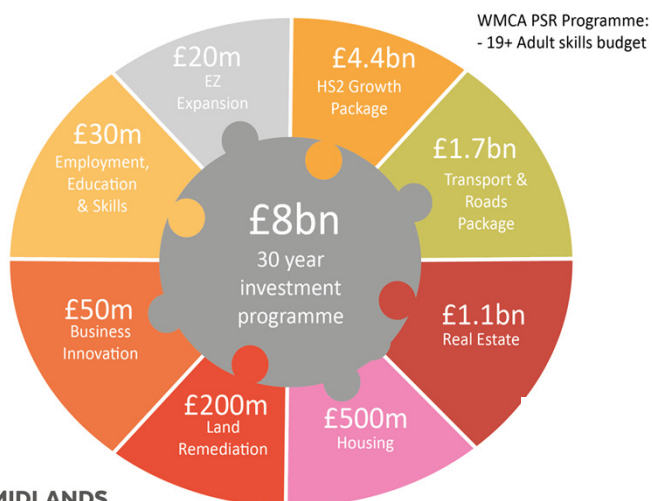
WM Devolution Deal

- Largest financial deal to date
- Annual contribution of £40m for 30 years
- Addresses 2 sides of the coin
- Covers the three LEP geography
- Underpinned by strong public/private sector partnership
- Elected mayor required



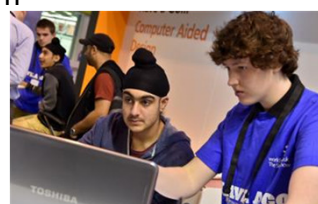
Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk

£8bn Investment Package



Skills and Employment

- Proposal across the 3 LEP geography
- Underpinned by an Employment and Skills Strategy
- CA to chair a CA-wide Area Based Review
- Devolved 19+ adult skills funding from 2018/19 (governance tbd)
- 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 EoI



Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk

More and Better Homes

- Devolved CPO powers to the mayor
- Support for the West Midlands Land Commission (covers 3 LEP geography)
- £200m Land Remediation Fund (from annual revenue sum – geography tbd)
- Commitment to consider a Housing Investment Fund



Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk

Transport

- Devolved multi-year transport settlement for CA “area”
- Mayor to have:
 - 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



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



WEST MIDLANDS
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk

Public Sector Reform

Government commitment to:

- Engage with outcomes of the Mental Health Commission (covers 3 LEP geography)
- Co-design new approach for Troubled Individuals
- Discuss how to improve use of national data sets
- Consider further devolution of youth justice services
- Support public sector re-locations



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WM Elected Mayor

- Devo Deal requires a directly elected mayor.
- Elections to take place in May 2017
- Electorate drawn from the constituent member geography
- Mayor will operate within a partnership model
- A Cabinet made up of the constituent members, each with lead responsibility for a different policy area will be formed



The first of many Deals...

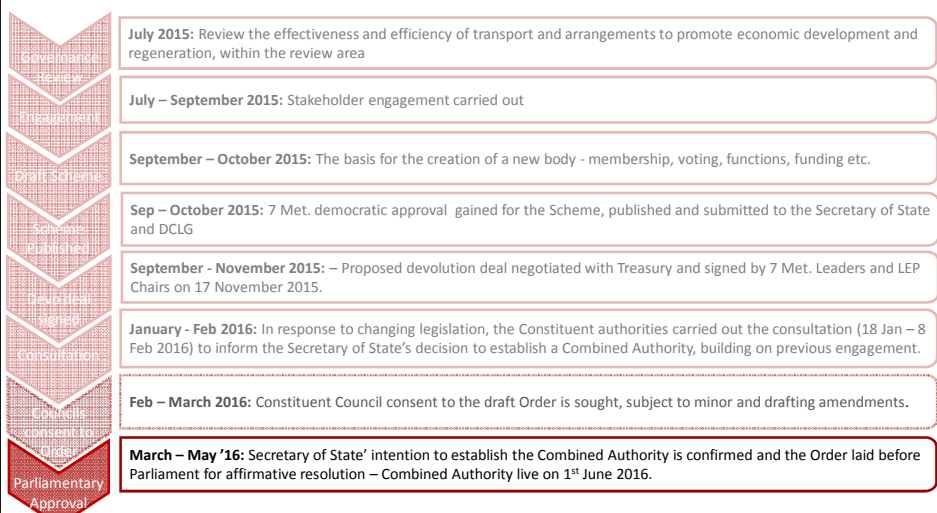


Current Membership

- Constituent members:
 - 7 Metropolitan Councils
- Non-constituent members:
 - 3 LEPs
 - 5 non-constituent councils: Cannock Chase, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Redditch, Tamworth, Telford and Wrekin
 - Stratford upon Avon and Shropshire CC have notified the CA of their formal decision to apply



Creation of the CA



Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk

Voting rights for NCM

- adoption of growth plan and investment strategy and allocation of funding by the CA;
- the Super SEP along with implementation plans being undertaken using funding provided to the CA;
- the grant of further powers from Govt and/or local public bodies that impacts on the area of a NCM;
- land and/or spatial activity undertaken by the CA within the area of a NCM;
- Public Service reform which affects the areas of NCM
- areas of LEP activity relevant to the NCM through geographical location or as part of a joint committee;
- all CA matters concerned with education, employment and skills, enterprise and business support, access to finance, inward investment, business regulation, innovation, transport, environmental sustainability, housing, economic intelligence, digital connectivity and regeneration;
- future use of business rate retention funding generated beyond that retained within new and existing Enterprise Zones;
- specific decisions to bid for and allocate revenue and capital funding provided to the CA for use in economic development activities;
- investment activity related to transport and connectivity, not funded by the transport levy and current Maintenance and Integrated Transport blocks;

Any vote including Members appointed by NCM will be carried on a simple majority subject to the requirement that there is a majority of two-thirds of Constituent Members



Mayoral Order

- Mayoral Order (provision for a Mayor *only*) drafted by DCLG and presented to Constituent Councils for approval in May
- Constituent LAs to approve by 31st May 2016
- Mayoral Powers Scheme drafted by CA and presented to Councils alongside the Mayoral Order, for approval to consult
- Powers Order approved by LAs – October 2016
- Powers Order laid in Parliament – November 2016
- Powers incorporated into CA Constitution – Dec/Jan 16-17



Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk

Opportunity for Membership

- Mayoral Powers Scheme consulted on June – Aug
- Additional members *must* be included in Scheme
- 10 June 2016 final date for consideration of membership by constituent members
- No consultation required – just the LA's decision
- Window of opportunity not open again until May '17



Find out more at www.westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk

Summary

- WMCA has momentum, is developing an ambitious SEP and has secured a large Deal
- Significant benefits from joining the CA:
 - Ability to influence plans and investments
 - Access to new funding streams
 - Opportunity to inform future Devo Deals
- Sovereignty of Bromsgrove not challenged
 - Powers devolved *down* from Whitehall not *up* from



LAs