

THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVOLUTION AGENDA – PROPOSALS FOR A WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Bill Hartnett
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Kevin Dicks
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	None Specific
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non-Key Decision

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To set out key issues relating to the Government's devolution agenda.
- 1.2 To update the Council on the proposals to establish a West Midlands Combined Authority by 1 April 2016 and the development of a devolution 'deal'.
- 1.3 To determine the position of the Council in respect of the invitation to join the emerging West Midlands Combined Authority; subject to this decision, to consider the Governance Review and draft Scheme.
- 1.4 To update Council on discussions in Worcestershire about the Government's devolution agenda.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to:

- 2.1 Consider its response to the invitation to become a non-constituent member of the proposed West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).
- 2.2 Decide whether to accept or decline the invitation to become a non-constituent member of the proposed WMCA.
- 2.3 Subject to decisions made on 2.1 and 2.2, to approve the Governance Review and Scheme and request that further reports are brought back to Council on governance arrangements and a devolution 'deal' for WMCA and any proposals for devolution in Worcestershire.
- 2.4 If the Council decide to accept the invitation to become a non-constituent member of the proposed WMCA, to approve the release of balances of £10,000 for this Council's contribution to the WMCA set up costs in the 2015/16 financial year and for the inclusion of £25,000 in the medium term financial plan for an ongoing financial contribution.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The £10,000 contribution to set up costs in 2015/16 will need to be met from balances.
- 3.2 Subject to the decisions of the Council, further financial contributions that may be required from 2016/17 onwards will need to be considered as part of the Council's annual Budget process. Initial discussions are that these should be in the sum of approximately £25,000 per authority.

Legal Implications

- 3.3 The legal implications are set out in the report.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.4 Combined Authorities and Economic Prosperity Boards are the primary mechanism identified by central government for the devolution of further powers and funding to local areas. They were introduced in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, (sections 103-113). The power to set them up extends to England only. Local authorities must trigger a review process in advance of setting a combined authority up, but the power actually to create a combined authority lies with the Secretary of State, via statutory instrument. The membership and functions of the combined authority are to be specified in the Order setting it up. Local authorities are included in the Combined Authority by consent.
- 3.5 The seven Metropolitan Councils of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton have made a commitment in principle to develop a proposal to establish a West Midlands Combined Authority by 1 April 2016. A Statement of Intent was published on 5 July 2015 setting out how a proposed West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) would work across the three existing Local Enterprise Partnerships of Greater Birmingham & Solihull, Black Country and Coventry & Warwickshire to deliver conditions for business to flourish, creating more skilled and better paid jobs, bringing more investment into the area, improving health outcomes and reforming public services. It sets out key objectives to increase competitiveness and productivity and be a driver for growth nationally.
- 3.6 Redditch Borough Council has been invited to join the proposed West Midlands Combined Authority along with all other District and Borough Councils in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership and the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (including Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council in Leicestershire). This report sets out the key issues for Members to consider in considering this invitation including any financial

implications. Discussions about devolution involving the seven local authorities in Worcestershire have also taken place and the report updates on the status of this.

Functions of a Combined Authority / Economic Prosperity Boards

- 3.7 A combined authority is a type of local government institution introduced in England outside Greater London by Section 6 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. Combined authorities are created voluntarily and allow a group of local authorities to pool appropriate responsibility and receive certain delegated functions from central government in order to deliver transport and economic policy more effectively over a wider area.
- 3.8 The Act also introduced the power to set up Economic Prosperity Boards (EPB) which are also legal entities and can have devolved powers and hold funding but with more limited scope than combined authorities e.g. there is no provision in the Act for EPBs to be given borrowing or tax raising powers, nor to have the power to issue a levy to constituent authorities, nor to retain business rates.
- 3.9 Any proposal to establish a Combined Authority or Economic Prosperity Board must meet the statutory tests set out in part 6 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. These tests are that a combined authority is likely to improve
- the exercise of statutory functions relating to transport in the area;
 - the effectiveness and efficiency of transport in the area;
 - the exercise of statutory functions relating to economic development and regeneration in the area;
 - economic conditions in the area.

The Secretary of State will also have regard to the need:

- to reflect the identities and interests of local communities;
 - to secure effective and convenient local government
- 3.10 The Secretary of State should normally undertake formal public consultation lasting 8 weeks on any Scheme to establish a combined authority unless he considers that no further consultation is necessary. Subject to Ministerial agreement, a draft Order to establish the combined authority would then be laid before Parliament.
- 3.11 Once established, a combined authority is a legally recognised entity able to assume the role of an integrated transport authority and economic prosperity board. This gives the combined authority the power to exercise any function of its constituent councils that relates to economic development and regeneration, and any of the functions that are available to integrated transport authorities. For

transport purposes, combined authorities are able to borrow money and can levy constituent authorities. The draft Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill proposes to confer additional powers on combined authorities (see below).

- 3.12 Combined authorities should consist of two or more contiguous English local government areas. The creation of a combined authority is voluntary and all local authorities within the area must give their consent before it can be created. The geographical footprint for a combined authority should be based on a coherent functional economic area.
- 3.13 The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill was introduced in the House of Lords on 28 May 2015 and had its third Reading on 21 July before it passes to the House of Commons. It covers England and Wales and is proposing the following key changes:
- Makes provision for elected mayor (and chair) of a Combined Authority and appointment by the elected mayor of a deputy mayor (drawn from one of the constituent council leaders).
 - Power for elected mayor to exercise the powers of a Police and Crime Commissioner in the CA area.
 - Makes provision for the CA to be responsible for any local authority function or functions of public bodies outside of local government
 - Makes provision for the CA to exercise general power of competence (Localism Act 2011) with consent of constituent councils.
 - Granting powers to a mayoral CA to levy a precept.
 - Power for elected Mayor to approve any subsequent change to the combined authority boundary.
 - Makes provision for CA's to have Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Audit Committees.
 - Removal of geographical restrictions in relation to CA's;
 - Enables the Secretary of State to devolve certain health service functions subject to meeting various conditions.

The Act is expected to receive Royal Assent in December 2015.

The Mayor would only cover the geography of the Constituent Authorities (i.e., the 7 metropolitan borough councils) and as such the power to levy a precept are only relevant to this area. There will be no influence over non constituent authorities therefore the districts sovereignty is maintained.

Membership, Governance and Two Tier Arrangements

- 3.14 The 2009 Act enables the Secretary of State to make an order establishing a combined authority for an area which meets specified geographic conditions that:
- the area is contiguous and forms a continuous area;

- consists of the whole of an authority. In the case of a County, this would require the agreement of the County Council and all the District / Borough Councils in the county area.

These Councils become the constituent members of the combined authority. There is also the possibility of non-constituent membership. This is relevant to District / Borough councils (if the County Council has decided not to join) and Local Enterprise Partnerships. At present, a district may only be a constituent member if the county within which it sits, and all of the districts in that county, are also constituent members. However, not all Districts are members of the Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP and so have not been invited to join the WMCA – therefore, this District cannot become a constituent member via this option. There is a restriction at the current time about part of a County Council area joining a CA outside of its administrative boundaries.

- 3.15 The Government proposes to remove this geographical restriction and allow local authorities that are in the same Functional Economic Area without contiguous boundaries to form or join a CA or EPB. Draft legislation was published in March 2015. This would also allow part of a County to join a combined authority if the County Council and District Council(s) for that area agreed. This issue is now included in the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill.
- 3.16 The legislation at present also requires that there is no local government area that is surrounded by local government areas that are within the CA or EPBs, but the ‘surrounded’ local government area is not within the CA or EPB, preventing a ‘doughnut shape’ CA or EPB being formed. This restriction is removed by the Bill.
- 3.17 A local authority can be a member of multiple combined authorities but can only become a constituent member of one combined authority. Even if the draft legislation comes into force, Redditch Borough Council can only become a constituent member of the West Midlands CA if Worcestershire County Council agreed to join and transfer certain functions to the Combined Authority e.g. transport. If that does not occur, the Borough Council can only join the WMCA on a non-constituent basis as a result of its existing powers.
- 3.18 Although it would not be set out in the Order it is open to the combined authority to determine locally how the non-constituent members are involved in decision making via the CA constitution. It is also open to authorities to delegate functions to other authorities, which includes a combined authority or EPB, under s101 of the Local Government Act 1972. This could be in the form of a Joint Committee.

Functional Economic Area

- 3.19 The Heseltine Review of economic growth in the UK outlined a policy agenda that put increased emphasis on the role of Functional Economic Areas (FEAs) in securing increased economic productivity and prosperity. To strengthen FEAs,

Lord Heseltine recommended that Government should ‘remove all legislative barriers that are preventing local authorities from collaborating within FEAs’ including legislation relating to CAs and EPBs as part of a wider agenda on local growth and fiscal devolution’.

- 3.20 In its White Paper response to the Heseltine review, the Government set out a “view of a future where local authorities put economic development at the heart of all they do; collaborating, including with private sector partners across a FEA”. This consultation outlines that the Government regard the amendment of legislation relating to CAs and EPBs as a key policy in enabling local authorities within FEAs to create ‘opportunities for greater collaboration and increased economic development’.
- 3.21 A combined authority must reflect the area’s economic geography and provide a collective voice and enable collective decision making by the local authorities that make up the combined authority.
- 3.22 Attached at Appendix 2 is the statutory governance review that needed to be undertaken in order to prove that a Combined Authority should be formed for the West Midlands Combined Authority. The study analysed 3 areas:
- Travel to work areas (TTWA) as an effective definition of the local labour market;
 - Migration data as a tool for analysing the local housing market, and;
 - Industrial specialization.
- 3.23 With regard to travel to work patterns if the WMCA covers the geographic footprint of the 3 LEP’s the self containment ratio rises to 90% from 85% (if focused purely on the 7 metropolitan areas). The migration data broadly replicated the pattern of the Travel to Work Analysis. The industrial specialisation data demonstrated that the area has a particularly strong representation in the manufacturing, wholesaling and automotive sectors. There is therefore more than a compelling case for forming a CA over the geographic footprint of the 3 LEP’s.
- 3.24 Attached at Appendix 4 shows the detailed Functional Economic Market Analysis (FEMA). Contained within that document are the detailed travel to work patterns for Redditch which show that there is a net outflow of 3,876 commuters. This is made up of 13,747 inflow with the top 3 areas being Bromsgrove, Birmingham and Stratford upon Avon. The outflow of commuters totals 17,623 with again the same top 3 areas in the same order.
- 3.25 Also contained within the FEMA at Appendix 4 is the migration figures which show 2,933 inflow – primarily from outside the UK and secondly from Birmingham. The outflow of 2,777 is primarily to Birmingham.

- 3.26 There is therefore more than a compelling case for forming a CA over the geographic footprint of the 3 LEP's and for Redditch being part of it.

Proposal to establish a West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

- 3.27 The seven metropolitan authorities of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton have made a commitment in principle to develop a proposal to establish a West Midlands Combined Authority by 1 April 2016. The seven metropolitan authorities published a Statement of Intent on 5 July 2015. The Statement identifies an ambition for the WMCA to encompass a much wider and important geography across the three Local Enterprise Partnership areas (Greater Birmingham and Solihull; Black Country; and Coventry & Warwickshire). The WMCA would also incorporate the functions of the existing West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.
- 3.28 The rationale for a 3 LEP combined authority covering some 20 local authorities is that it is a much more coherent functional economic market area. Evidence to support this includes a much higher self-containment ratio across the 3 LEP area than any individual LEP. Self-containment ratio means the percentage of people who live and work in a given geography. The self-containment ratio for the proposed WMCA (3 LEP area) is 90% whereas the same measure for each LEP is as follows: Black Country LEP (71%), Coventry & Warwickshire LEP (77%) and Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (77%). 90% is at the higher end of most proposed or established combined authorities to date. What this means is that if the 3 LEP's join the proposed WMCA, then this body could directly relate to 90% of the resident working population.
- 3.29 Delivering the 3 LEP area ambition means that 13 Councils within the LEP areas have been invited to join and all are considering their position. The 12 October 2015 is the deadline for any District / Borough council to be named in the Scheme which sets up the proposed WMCA.
- 3.30 The Statement of Intent has identified five early delivery priorities for the WMCA:
- Developing an overarching Strategic Plan for the West Midlands
 - Access to a Finance and Collective Investment Vehicle
 - Getting the transport offer right for the long term
 - Creation of an economic policy and intelligence capacity
 - A joint programme on skills
- 3.31 The Statement also proposes to establish three major new independent commissions to help shape the future of the Combined Authority. It will be seeking support from government to deliver these commissions. They are:
- The West Midlands Productivity Commission
 - The West Midlands Land Commission

- The West Midlands Commission on Mental Health and Public Services

Additional details regarding the early delivery priorities and commissions can be found within the Statement of Intent (see Background Papers below).

3.32 The three key steps for the creation of a combined authority are:

- A review of existing governance arrangements for the delivery of economic development, regeneration and transport. The conclusion based on evidence must be that there is a case for change as it will bring about real improvement that could not otherwise be delivered.
- Drafting a Scheme which sets up the WMCA and contain issues such as membership, funding, functions and executive arrangements.
- The Secretary of State will consider the scheme and undertake formal consultation lasting 8 weeks. If he is satisfied with the outcome and persuaded that the improvements are likely to be delivered, a draft Order will be laid before both Houses of Parliament for adoption.

Any changes to the membership of a CA need to undergo the same process of consultation by the Secretary of State. If Council agree to join the WMCA as a non-constituent member, then it should also recommend approval of the Governance Review and draft Scheme which are attached as Appendix 2 and 3.

Relationship with existing Local Economic Partnerships

- 3.33 Local Enterprise Partnerships will continue to operate alongside any combined authority that is established. The Chairs of the Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP, the Black Country LEP and the Coventry & Warwickshire LEP have written in support of the proposal to establish a WMCA and look forward to jointly creating “.. an economy that is the strongest outside London and contributes fully to the Government’s vision of a wider Midlands Engine for Growth”.
- 3.34 If the Council determine not to join the emerging West Midlands CA, it still remains as a full and proactive member of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP and also of the Worcestershire LEP. It is anticipated that the three LEP’s identified above intend to join the WMCA as non-constituent members. If that occurs, it does not mean that District / Borough Councils who are part of a LEP would be automatically committed to non-constituent membership through LEP membership of the CA. Similar to District / Borough Councils, LEPs can only be non-constituent members of a combined authority. The longer term role of the three LEPs may need to be reviewed in light of any approval given to establish a West Midlands CA.

Devolution ‘Deal’ & Public Sector Reform

- 3.35 Establishing the legal entity of a combined authority does not guarantee any devolution of powers or responsibilities from Government. A set of devolution

proposals have been submitted to Government from the emerging CA and these will be subject to negotiation prior to final agreement. The combined authority needs to demonstrate the case for 'added value' – in other words, if the same level of activity or outcomes will be delivered as the relevant Government department then devolution is unlikely to be agreed for that specific function or area. The combined authority has to present a compelling case for devolution and reach agreement with Government that it will deliver more.

- 3.36 Alongside the negotiation over devolution, the Government will also require clear accountability mechanisms to hold the combined authority to account. It has already become clear from various meetings and statements by senior national politicians that any substantial devolution of powers from central to local government will only occur if the combined authority accepts the need for an elected mayor. If it does not, it may still be able to agree some limited devolution of powers, responsibilities and / or resources but these will generally be at a lower level than a mayor led combined authority. A mayoral CA is likely to have substantially more powers than a CA that does not have an elected mayor if the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill is passed as currently proposed. An elected mayor would be elected by and responsible for only the area of the constituent members of the combined authority i.e. as things stand, this would not include Redditch. There is no agreement or decision at this time about whether the WMCA will have an elected mayor.
- 3.37 As part of any devolution agreement with Government, the combined authority will need to make a commitment to public service reform which would result in reducing and managing demand for services in a period when financial pressures on local government will be immense. This will require new ways of looking at old problems. The proposed WMCA has set up a Public Services Board co-chaired with West Midlands Police to look at reform and system change which could include issues such as re-offending rates. Part of the challenge of public sector reform will be to re-engineer services within a substantially reduced financial envelope as local government funding reductions are applied during the course of this parliament to 2020.
- 3.38 Detailed proposals for a devolution package to be negotiated with Government have been developed and submitted on 4 September 2015 to HM Treasury. The general areas included are:
- Securing greater local control of funding
 - Transforming growth through HS2 and enhanced connectivity
 - Transforming land supply
 - Revitalising the housing market
 - Transforming the education, employment and skills system
 - Transforming business support and inward investment
 - A National Pathfinder for Innovation
 - Creating a Midlands Magnet – investing in quality of life

- Transforming public services and closing the public funding gap

The WMCA proposal has been identified for an accelerated devolution deal. It is unfortunately impossible to provide any more detail of the proposed devolution deal at this time as it is highly confidential. If members decide to join the WMCA a separate report will be brought back to the Council in the future on the devolution detail – this is especially important given the potential devolution deal for Worcestershire.

- 3.39 In order to enable joint working across a 3 LEP geography, it is proposed that a Joint Committee is established between District / Borough Councils and the proposed WMCA using the Local Government Act 1972. The details of how the Joint Committee would work are not yet available. A separate issue that needs to be resolved is that the legislation appears to suggest that there cannot be a greater number of non-constituent members (Districts / LEPs) than constituent (metropolitan councils) on the CA Board. Detailed discussions are ongoing with DCLG legal advisers to clarify this point.
- 3.40 It is likely that the initial devolution ‘deal’ agreed with Whitehall will relate primarily to the functions exercised by Metropolitan authorities. However, there are specific proposals intended to cover the 3 LEP geography which have been included in the devolution submission to Whitehall. It should also be noted that lessons from other areas such as Manchester indicate that devolution is an ongoing process and the first ‘deal’ is a foundation for other devolution to be agreed over a period of time. It is also likely that when District / Borough Councils have made their decisions about membership of the ‘first wave’ WMCA, a greater focus on how non constituent members can benefit from devolution can be progressed over time.

How could Redditch / Redditch Borough Council benefit from membership of the WMCA?

- 3.41 The current and proposed legislation on combined authorities restrict District / Borough Councils role in combined authorities to non-constituent membership only unless the relevant County Council joins the CA in parallel with all its District / Boroughs. The legislative framework does not therefore facilitate District / Borough Councils playing a full part in combined authorities. However, it is expected that the Leader of any Council who decides to join as a constituent or non-constituent member of the WMCA would sit on the board of the combined authority. The voting rights for District / Borough Councils will need to be agreed locally by the constituent members. As the devolution deal is not agreed with Government yet, it is not possible to describe with any precision what the benefits might be for Redditch. If the Council determine to join the WMCA as a non-constituent member, it will need to receive further reports on the detail of the governance arrangements and the benefits arising from any devolution. It is hoped that more detail on these will be available by the time of full Council.

3.42 However, notwithstanding the current uncertainty about governance and the detail of devolution, Council are aware that the Borough has significant economic linkages and interdependencies as part of the city region area and has a significant outflow of its working residents to Birmingham. The economic future of the conurbation and its ability to compete in global markets such as automotive is directly relevant to the economic prospects of the Borough. Redditch and its businesses have benefitted from membership of the Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP. The proposed combined authority can be seen as a further development building on the achievements and relationships built up over the last five years. The ambition of the proposals is to work across the functional economic area of the 3 LEPs. The economic geography of the Borough goes beyond the administrative boundaries of local government and it is these factors that should be central to any Council decision to join WMCA as a non-constituent member or not. Whilst the ambition of the WMCA is to work across the three LEP areas as a proven functional economic area, it is unfortunate that neither the current or proposed legislation on combined authorities facilitates this strategic aim particularly effectively.

Survey

3.43 In order to seek the views of the general public with regard to the possibility of joining the WMCA a simple survey was conducted with the question:

Would you support the idea of our area joining a combined authority?

This was a simple yes / no answer with the ability to add free text comments.

The survey closed on Sunday 27th September with 90 people responding as follows:

	Number	%
Yes	40	44.44%
No	44	48.89%
Don't know	6	6.67%
Resident	87	96.67%
Non-resident	3	3.33%

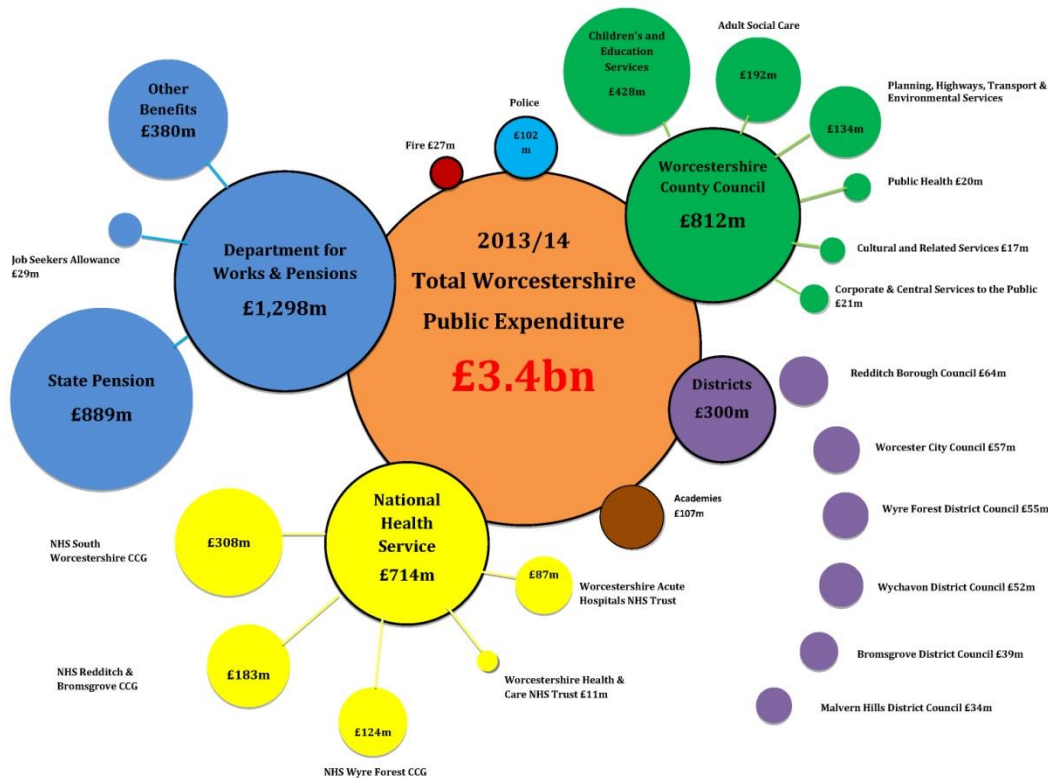
An analysis of the survey is attached at Appendix 5

3.44 It is understood that there is some concern that the survey didn't ask about or reference Worcestershire however the survey is solely in relation to Combined Authorities and as there is no discussion with regard to the forming of a CA in Worcestershire it was not appropriate to ask the question. There are ongoing and positive discussions in both Worcestershire and WMCA over potential devolution deals but these are entirely separate but related matters.

Devolution discussions in Worcestershire

3.45 As members are aware ongoing and positive discussions have been held between the 7 local authorities and partners in Worcestershire with regard to a possible devolution deal. Initially consideration was being given to the forming of a Combined Authority for Worcestershire however very strong feedback from central government officials made it clear that Government were very unlikely to allow a CA to be formed on a single County footprint. Therefore discussions have focussed on a potential devolution deal for Worcestershire.

3.46 As a starter it is helpful to know and map what the total public spend is within the county. The ‘Worcestershire pound’ as it is known is shown below:



3.47 The local authority Leaders came to a consensus view that how we use this spend to facilitate public sector reform should be a high priority in addition to the shared ambition to improve the economy of Worcestershire. All leaders are committed to delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan (the SEP) which was published by the Worcestershire LEP and supported by all local authorities.

3.48 As a working assumption the vision for Worcestershire could be encapsulated into the following two goals:

- We want to lead the way in driving economic growth and develop a reputation at home and overseas for innovation and opportunity
- We want to reform our public services so that we are able to deliver the very best for our residents

- 3.49 The Leaders have discussed what are 'red lines' for our local context. The first one would be that there is no appetite for a 'metro' mayor for Worcestershire. Secondly, that this is not unitary by the 'back door'.
- 3.50 All seven local authority Leaders commissioned KPMG during the summer to work alongside the 7 Councils and their partner organisations to look at the case for devolution as a single county geography and what priorities would be important to us locally. The attached letter to Greg Clark (Appendix 6) , was sent, on a without prejudice basis, to advise the Minister that we are looking at a number of potential areas, as follows:
- Public Estates
 - Connecting People
 - Health and Social Care Reform
 - Infrastructure and Investment
 - Skills and Innovation
 - Environment
- 3.51 Each one of these areas has a discrete set of initial 'asks' and 'offers' drafted to discuss with central government ranging from support from the Information Commissioner to support data sharing and thereby better outcomes for our residents, through to support for long term infrastructure projects through greater business rate retention.
- 3.52 Any governance model would need to be proportionate to the 'deal' if and when agreed. The current proposal would be for a Public Sector Leadership Board with votes for those publicly democratically elected but the principle of proportionality means this could change.
- 3.53 It is intended that the proposed devolution deal would be brought before each Council for consideration before being submitted.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.54 None at this stage

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 There are some risks posed by the legislative framework for combined authorities as it does not facilitate full involvement for Districts; and a risk that the decision on membership needs to be taken in advance of the details of governance arrangements and benefits of devolution deal are known but further reports will be provided on these matters.
- 4.2 As Council is aware from the previous report to Executive on Combined Authorities, member briefings and briefing notes and indeed this report there are

active discussions in which the Leader and Chief Executive of this Council are actively involved – in both Worcestershire and WMCA. Unfortunately whilst there has been significant progress in both areas the WMCA are in active discussions with Central Government and are likely to announce a deal in the not too distant future. Within Worcestershire it is likely that the proposed devolution deal will be brought through each council's democratic process before Christmas however it is unclear when central government will be willing / able to negotiate the deal in detail. Further reports will need to be brought before the Council to determine which elements of any devolution deal they may be interested in as there will undoubtedly be overlap and conflict.

- 4.3 Given the sensitivities around the ongoing involvement of the Council in the WMCA there may be reputational and relationship risks to all concerned as a result. This risk can best be mitigated by making sure of continuous communication between all of the sub regional authorities potentially involved but this Council will need to be alert to signals of fall out and any consequences.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Scale of WMCA
Appendix 2	WMCA Statutory Governance Review
Appendix 3	Draft Scheme
Appendix 4	Functional Economic Market Area
Appendix 5	Analysis of survey
Appendix 6	Letter to Greg Clark from Worcestershire Leaders

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill
Executive Committee Report 14th July – Devolution and Economic Growth –
Options for a Combined Authority

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