

West Midlands Combined Authority
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
17 October 2022

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) needs to submit the UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment plan to the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to secure the £88.4 million for the next 3 years.

The first year's fund needs to be spent carefully but quickly. Following the presentation numerous questions were asked and a discussion followed. One area discussed was the switch from European Structural Funds to UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF); officers did not see this as a problem.

A key question was raised: was there a business support officer who could propose/suggest areas to invest in our share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund?

On the trailblazing/devolution deal the WMCA was still in discussion with His Majesty's Government. The WMCA has several good schemes that did not require new money, just more control over how to spend the available and existing funding.

There was concern over a shortage of energy, and the need was highlighted for more cells on roofs and for retro fitting of older building.

There followed a report from the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee. Areas reported were the development of the Midland Metro, the walking and cycling index report, automated transport and travel demand management.