



Leader's Update

Co-ordinating O&S Committee, 7th February 2020

1 Purpose and Attached Documents

- 1.1 The Leader has been asked to attend your committee to cover governance (including update on work of NEAs) and partnerships.
- 1.2 Donna Hall, one of the Non-Executive Advisors appointed to advise the City Council will also be attending.
- 1.3 The following documents have been attached to support the discussion:
 1. Strategic Programme Board – Briefing note: to provide an update on the work of the Strategic Programme Board, set up following Cabinet decision in July 2019 to take forward a model of “progressive assurance” for the City Council’s improvement journey;
 2. Update on Partnerships – Briefing note: to provide an update on the City Council’s work with the City Board, the LEP and the Combined Authority;
 3. City Board – Briefing Note: to provide background information on the City Board and outline the progress and proposed plan for 2020
 4. Double Devolution – Briefing Note: to further details on the idea of “double devolution”, which was proposed in a City Council motion of February 2019 and is being taken forward in discussions across the Combined Authority on “Devo Next”.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider whether there are any new areas of work for the work programme, following this update.

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Information Briefing

Report from: Jonathan Tew, Assistant Chief Executive
Report to: Co-Ordinating O&S Committee

Date: 7 January 2020

Update on Strategic Programme Board

1. SUMMARY

This briefing provides an update on the work of the Strategic Programme Board, set up following Cabinet decision in July 2019 to take forward a model of “progressive assurance” for the City Council’s improvement journey.

2. The Board

Following the Cabinet decision in July 2019 to proceed with a model of ‘Progressive Assurance’ for the Council’s improvement journey and accountabilities to the Secretary of State, a Strategic Programme Board has been established consisting of the Council’s Leadership Team and external Non-Executive Advisors (NEAs). The Board’s work focuses on specific key areas of the Council’s improvement journey with an NEA aligned to each. The NEAs are leaders and experts in their respective fields with extensive knowledge and experience of local government.

The NEAs are:

- Rob Whiteman – Financial Management
- Max Caller – Risk Management
- Javed Khan – Vulnerable Adults and Children
- Sean Hanson – Waste Management and Industrial Relations
- Professor Donna Hall – Good Governance & Culture Change and Peer Support to the Chief Executive

3. Activities

The Board has convened on a quarterly basis since July, with NEAs working closely with Chief Officers on their respective areas in the intervening periods.

Specific examples of work have included:

- A ‘systems thinking’ workshop focusing on the Adults and Children’s care systems bringing together leaders from across the country
- Ongoing support to the Director of Neighbourhoods in relation to the Waste Service and the independent review being undertaken

- Advice and guidance in relation to the Council's newly formed Modernisation Working Groups, which are supporting development of policy and strategy in key areas of the Council's work.

4. Next Steps

Following the letter from the Leader to the Secretary of State in Autumn 2019 there are two further formal reporting milestones for the Board. The first is the next letter to the Secretary of State, which is due to go in March 2020 and which will contain an assessment by the Non-Executive Advisors of the Council's progress in its improvement journey. Following that, the final report of the Board will be sent to the Secretary of State in July 2020. The work of the Board and its reporting to MHCLG continues to be informed by our Audit reports and our published improvement plan.

5. Committee discussion

Professor Donna Hall will be attending the Committee session and members may want to explore matters to do with the progress of the Board and its future work programme.

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Information Briefing

Report from: Jonathan Tew, Assistant Chief Executive
Report to: Co-Ordinating O&S Committee

Date: 7 February 2020

Update on Partnerships

1. SUMMARY

This briefing provides an update on the City Council's work with the City Board, the LEP and the Combined Authority (CA).

2. Statutory Partnerships

We have undertaken vital work over the past year in each of our Statutory Partnership roles in Community Safety, Health and Wellbeing and Birmingham Children's Partnership. Specific areas of focus have included deepening the evidence base within our JSNA and incorporating separate strategic assessments; reprioritising within year through development of new strategies; and reviewing our investments and programmes.

3. City Board

The City Board has been established in September 2018 to enable key strategic partners to identify opportunities and challenges for the city and to improve partnership working. The attached briefing note summarises its work to date and next steps.

3. Local Enterprise Partnership

The Council works closely with the GBSLEP in delivering the city centre Enterprise Zone (EZ), both in its role as the Accountable Body and in delivering key projects such as Paradise, Centenary Square and the Birmingham Westside metro extension. In July 2019 the Council approved the Enterprise Zone Investment Plan (2019), which sets out a £1bn programme of transformation that will ultimately deliver 71,000 jobs and 9,300 homes.

The overall EZ programme status does however remain as Amber due to the complexity of Paradise Phase 2 and the approaching Birmingham Smithfield Project. The delivery of the Smithfield project and the Paradise project are critical to the success of the EZ programme as they will generate substantial business rates income.

Whilst the EZ programme remains 'Amber', there have been a number of positive announcements, including PwC staff moving into Paradise One, the decision of DLA Piper to take a 15 year lease on Paradise 2, BT Group announcing that Three Snowhill will be its new base in Birmingham with 4,000 staff working from these offices, and importantly - of a

total of 15 live projects 13 are classed as green on the basis that they are progressing on budget and on time. Together, these developments are evidence of the continued attraction of the city, which should be further increased through investments such as the newly opened Metro Extension and the pedestrianisation of Southside.

A call for Cultural Action Zones will open in February 2020. This will seek to support places where strong opportunities exist, but where co-ordinated support between agencies and funding streams is required, for example, in the Jewellery Quarter. Establishing a number of action zones is part of the LEP's plans to have a strong investible pipeline of projects ready for new funding streams.

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government has established a National High Street Task Force to support local areas to revitalise their high streets. Stirchley in Birmingham has been chosen as one of the pilot areas to benefit from products being developed. It is not yet clear what shape the support will take or how it will be offered. Furthermore, three areas within the LEP have been identified for the Future High Streets Fund – including Erdington in the north of the city.

The aim of the West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy is to deliver economic growth and drive productivity to fundamentally improves opportunities for all communities, businesses and residents. The West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy highlighted four major new market opportunities – the GBSLEP is responsible for taking forward two of these opportunities; Data-driven healthcare and life sciences and Modern Services, with one programme example being Velocity Birmingham launching in November 2019, to support local fintech firms.

Local Growth Fund Update - Projects completed in Q2/3 2019/20

- **Project: Changan UK Research and Development Facility** – the project is now financially and practically complete with 131 high value jobs delivered.

The project has regenerated one of the oldest parts of Birmingham Business Park to create a state-of-the-art automotive R&D centre. This will further support the areas expertise in the automotive sector, has created 131 high value jobs, and increased the local and UK knowledge economy. The centre's initial use is to create new technology for low emission vehicles which will push the boundaries of technology and create class leading vehicles.

Total Cost - £16.1m, LGF Contribution - £1.56m (9.7%)

- **Project: Longbridge Connectivity** – the project is financially completed but due to practically complete in March 2021

The scheme has enhanced the overall transport offer in Longbridge, Birmingham. It includes the following elements: upgrade of the Longbridge railway station; transformation of the existing bus interchange; improved wayfinding in the area; 800m of cycleways; and highway enhancements to improve connectivity to the M42 and M5.

Total Cost - £8.99m, LGF Contribution - £4.86m (54.1%)

- **Project: Dance Hub** – the project is financially and practically complete.

The project has created a 675m² extension of the Birmingham Royal Ballet building to host the Birmingham Dance Hub. This new One Dance UK cluster will create 17 new direct jobs and 5 apprenticeships, and will enable an increase in productions, performances, community programmes and high-level learning opportunities.

Total Cost - £4.48m, LGF Contribution - £1.16m (25.9%)

4. Combined Authority (CA)

The Leader of the Council now has the Transport portfolio within the CA – overseeing the most significant area of the CA’s activity and spending. In addition the Deputy Leader has been given a portfolio covering Inclusive Communities (which includes the work of the Young Combined Authority).

The full list of portfolios appointed from June 2019 is as follows:

Portfolio	Lead Member
Deputy Mayor	Councillor Bob Sleigh (Solihull)
Culture & Digital	Councillor Patrick Harley (Dudley)
Economy & Innovation	Councillor Ian Brookfield (Wolverhampton)
Environment, Energy & HS2	Councillor Ian Courts (Solihull)
Finance	Councillor Bob Sleigh (Solihull)
Housing & Land	Councillor Mike Bird (Walsall)
Inclusive Communities	Councillor Brigid Jones (Birmingham)
Public Service Reform & Social Economy	Councillor Yvonne Davies (Sandwell)
Skills & Productivity	Councillor George Duggins (Coventry)
Transport	Councillor Ian Ward (Birmingham)
Wellbeing	Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Warks)
The City Council is also represented at Cabinet level on the various thematic Boards of the CA (Environment, Housing and Land Delivery, Investment, Public Service Reform, Strategic Economic Development and Wellbeing) and on the Audit and Assurance, Overview and Scrutiny and Transport Delivery Committees.	

The O&S Committee recently carried out a review of the governance of the transport function and their recommendations are now with Cllr Ward for further consideration. They include the creation of a thematic Board for transport and a sub-committee of the O&S committee.

Following development of proposals and consultation, the CA members eventually decided not to proceed with the merger of Police and Fire and Rescue governance with the Mayor and CA. These functions have therefore remained separate and there will be elections for both the Mayor and the Police and Crime Commissioner in May of this year.

Some of the most significant issues considered by the CA Board over the last year have been:

- The declaration of a climate emergency and the #WM2041 Climate Change green paper – launched publicly for consultation on 23 January 2020
- The Commonwealth Games Strategic Transport Plan and funding for Alexander Stadium
- Funding for Coventry City of Culture 2021
- The Local Industrial Strategy and implementation plan
- The Inclusive Growth toolkit
- The establishment of the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit
- The 5G pilot

Some important areas of work for the CA in the last year have included developing the implementation plans for the LIS (with the LEPs), inclusive growth, delivering on the skills programme, the Broad Street and Wednesbury-Brierley Hill metro extensions and plans for the East Birmingham extension.

2020 will be an important year for the CA as a new mayoral term begins in May and the new government has promised further devolution and increased investment in the regions. The CA will be focused on lobbying government on the devolution white paper and on the Spending Review 2020 and all the local authorities will be engaged in this process.

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City Board - Briefing Note

“A City Vision for Birmingham”



Purpose

To provide background information on the City Board and outline the progress and proposed plan for 2020.

Background and first year

The City Board is a leaders' group launched in September 2018. Chaired by the former Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, it is attended by sector representatives and chairs from statutory partnerships across the city. The City Board provides a forum for representatives to discuss the strategic opportunities and challenges in the city and how partners can work together more effectively. The City Board does not hold any statutory powers, its focus is to build relationships, foster a shared level of understanding and identify opportunities and shared objectives. In its first year, the City Board identified four key themes: an asset-based vision for the city, active lifestyles, violence in communities and homelessness. The board brought the work being done by partners together to promote innovation and collaboration in these areas. The first year also saw the Youth City Board established and representation of young people at the City Board.

City Board (October 2019)

The City Board met on the 22nd October 2019 to discuss the opportunity to create a City Vision for Birmingham and improve the way members engage with citizens. There were several key themes and common points of view raised.

- The City Board needs to enhance its presence by communicate more effectively, being explicit in defining how partners will work together and strengthening links with the Youth City Board.
- Partners supported the creation of a vision for Birmingham, but challenges were raised about how to make it work effectively.
- Good practice in citizen engagement does exist but must have more emphasis on what citizens want by increasing dialogue, which could focus on empowerment and ownership.
- The approach used in Bristol (One City) is less likely to work in Birmingham, we should focus on civic pride and a smaller number of priorities.
- Making it happen requires an experimental approach, 'letting go' of control and using a variety of citizen engagement methods.

Actions following City Board meeting - What have we done so far?

The City Board expressed support for citizen engagement and the production of a City Vision plan. Following the meeting, the methodology to achieve this was discussed and agreed by a project group chaired by Jonathan Tew. The project is jointly funded by Barrow Cadbury Trust, West Midlands Combined Authority and Birmingham City Council. It was clear that there is a vast amount of existing activity and good practice across the city both regarding strategic planning and citizen engagement. It was therefore agreed that the project should be divided into two phases, the first is an initial mapping phase (phase 1) looking at organisational strategies and citizen engagement. The second phase (phase 2) will consist of a citizen engagement project to underpin people's priorities by increasing dialogue.

Both phases of the project require external support to complete. The content of the research will include an assessment of organisational strategies regarding their alignment against the UN Sustainable Development

Goals against a 30-year timeline (2020-2050). It will also analyse the collective targets in the context of city-wide goals; such as the Birmingham Route to Zero Taskforce and the target for the city to be carbon neutral by 2030. It will identify common threads and divergent areas of focus across all partners. The research paper will also include an assessment of the overall engagement approach by City Board partners with residents and communities.

Actions between now and March 2020 – What are we going to do?

The research will be in January 2020 to be completed by March 2020. The findings of the research will be presented at the informal City Leaders breakfast meeting in March.

Alongside the research, there will be meetings with City Board partners to present the proposed plan and outline how the City Board will work in 2020. These meetings will be attended by Jacqui Smith (Chair), the Leader and Deputy Leader who will meet individually with various sectors to secure buy in from partners.

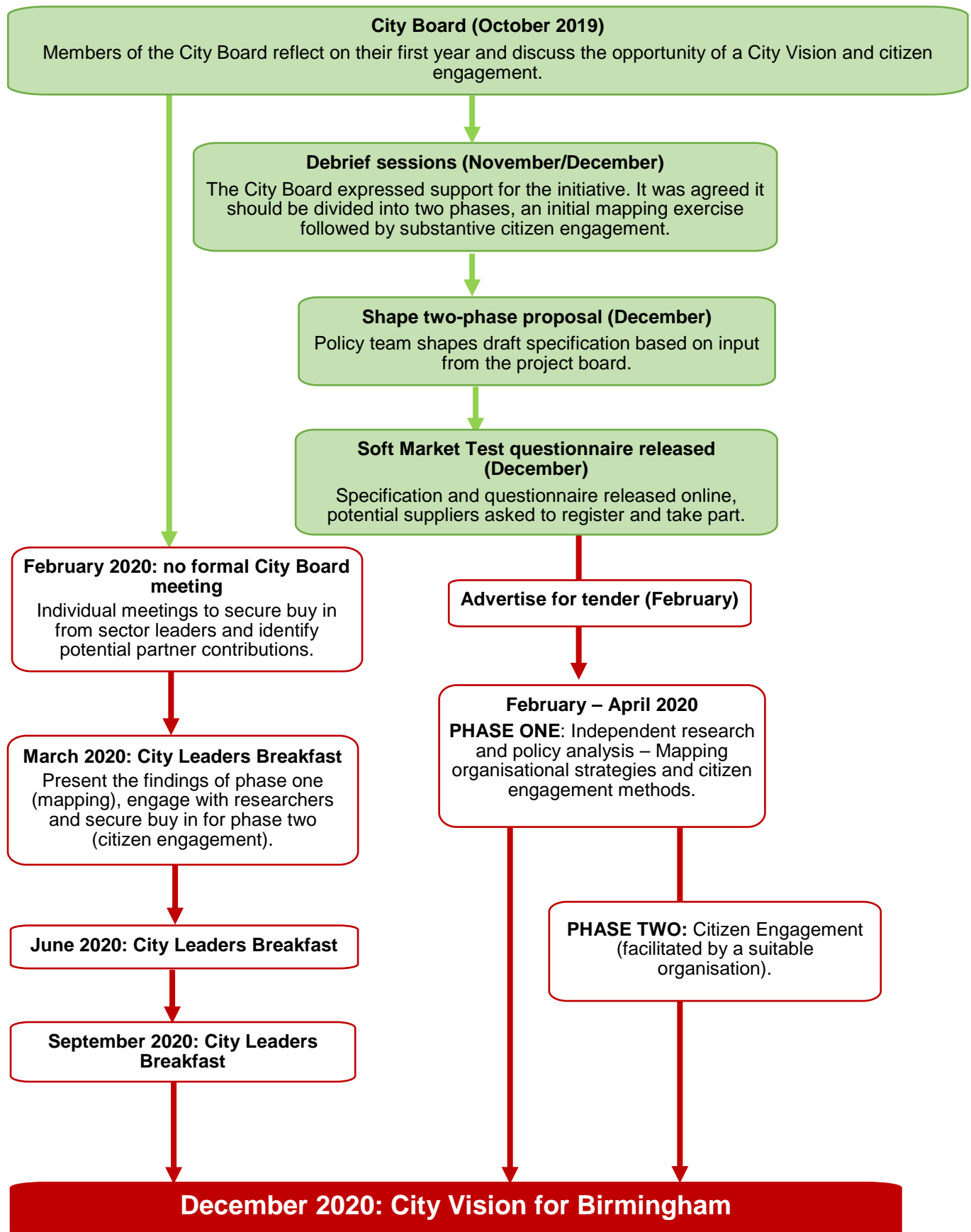
A City Leaders Breakfast and Phase 2 (March – December 2020)

The City Board will gather in March to discuss the findings of the mapping exercise and to commit to the next phase. The second phase (**citizen engagement**) will be completed by an established and experienced organisation in community participation. This will inform the City Board of the people's priorities for the City Vision and will represent what our residents think Birmingham will/should look like in 2050.

A City Vision

The objective for the City Board in 2020 is to create an overarching strategic plan for the city. The outlined plan will provide the necessary foundations to create this vision. The mapping of strategic planning and comprehensive citizen engagement will inform the priorities of the organisations that deliver for this city and the people that live in it. The approach will focus on a small number of priorities and aim to change the relationship that services and organisations have with citizens. Fundamentally the aim is to increase civic pride and create aligned organisational objectives for the benefit of our citizens.

Proposed timeline (draft)



Information Briefing

Report
from:
Report to:

Jonathan Tew, Assistant Chief
Executive
Co-ordinating O&S Committee

Date: 7 February 2020

Double Devolution

1. SUMMARY

This report presents further details on the idea of “double devolution”, which was proposed in a City Council motion of February 2019 (see appendices) and is being taken forward in discussions across the Combined Authority on “Devo Next”.

Double devolution is the idea that devolution should not just involve the functions and funding of the Combined Authority and the Mayor but should include the role of the local authorities in delivery across all programme areas. It is important that we think about the whole system of local governance when designing more devolved delivery models, including all local partners.

The intention is that this concept is included within the principles that guide the development of policy on devolution in the year ahead, as we seek to influence the government’s devolution white paper and the Spending Review.

2. The City Council motion

The attached motion was passed unanimously by the City Council in February 2019. The attached paper provides further background on progress with devolution and the double devolution concept.

3. What would double devolution mean?

Double devolution could include:

- a) **A proper longer term funding settlement for local government** – giving us stability to plan ahead. This includes addressing the future of adult social care and the funding model (business rates retention etc.). It might include a short term stability fund like the one we proposed through the CA in the 2019 Spending Review submission. This should be addressed in the Budget, the Spending Review and a white paper on social care.
- b) **An innovation fund to drive public service reform** – a specific funding pot devolved to the CA from government to drive innovation and improvement in public services in high demand areas (e.g. Children/Adults). CA would approve business cases and monitor performance but LAs would deliver.
- c) **Clarity on how the whole system of governance in metropolitan areas will work** – what are the roles and functions of different levels. This should come through the devolution white paper. For each function we should consider how

the whole system will work together and what strategic, delivery or public engagement functions will be performed by which partner.

- d) **Specific new powers and flexibilities for local authorities** – e.g. flexibility on council tax bands and reliefs, business rates, the Right to Buy, budget and borrowing, land disposals and CPO powers that currently need Sec. of State approval, rights to raise new taxes such as a tourist tax, a range of new powers to regulate town and city centres and stronger powers on local bye-laws.

4. Engaging neighbourhoods and communities

As we have seen in Birmingham's experience over many years and recently through reforms to adult social care services, it is vital that local communities and neighbourhoods have the opportunity to engage in the development of policy and services and to take their own steps to improve their local area. It is also important that devolution helps to strengthen our democratic system, restore confidence in it and enable all communities to benefit from economic growth.

Double devolution therefore also needs to include an element of "triple devolution", with local authorities putting in place measures to strengthen community capacity and engagement, for example through the policies outlined in our Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods paper, published last year. Local places will have to feature strongly in future devolution policy.

5. Committee discussion

Members may wish to discuss the importance of double devolution and add their own suggestions for measures that the concept should include. These can be fed into the policy development work being carried out collaboratively across the local authorities and the CA.

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Appendix 1: City Council Motion, 5 February 2019 (as amended)

This Council:

- Notes and welcomes the progress on devolution in the West Midlands since the first devolution agreement of November 2015, including the second devolution agreement of November 2017 and the subsequent deals on skills and housing.
- Notes the paper from the Leader of the Council attached.
- Supports the current work of the Combined Authority and its member authorities to secure further devolution, including through the Spending Review 2019.
- Believes that the UK needs stronger, more resilient cities and city regions and a more balanced economy if it is to prosper in the years ahead, and that this requires greater devolution and more sustainable public services. The popular desire to “take back control” must mean more powers for our city regions, cities and communities.
- Calls upon the Government, the Combined Authority and the Mayor of the West Midlands and the City Council's Executive to adopt a “double devolution” policy, identifying opportunities for further devolution and flexibilities at the local authority level and below, and recognising the role of local authorities and their services in the delivery of a stronger economy and a fairer society. This should include ensuring that powers taken back from the EU after Brexit are devolved to the most local level that makes sense.
- Calls upon the Government to renew its commitment to devolution and use the 2019 Spending Review to set out a bolder and more coherent approach which can provide for sustainable local government funding, locally controlled economic investment and joined up public services and which can restore civic pride to our great cities.

This Council welcomes and supports the work of Mayor Andy Street and the Combined Authority, as part of the West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy to make sure that Birmingham and the West Midlands remain the heart of the car industry, including:

- Setting up the Jaguar Land Rover Development Partnership to make sure that the workers and company get the support they need
- Helping car companies and supply chains across the West Midlands make the move to making electric vehicles, like winning £80M from Government for the new UK Battery Industrialisation Centre in the region
- Giving young people the technical skills they need to work in the car industry by creating more apprenticeships
- Working with senior executives from car companies around the world to move new jobs to the West Midlands

This Council believes that such work shows the value of regional cooperation and of an Elected Mayor able to work constructively with Central Government and local businesses to deliver for the people of Birmingham and the West Midlands.

Appendix 2: Devolution in the West Midlands paper (February 2019)



Devolution in the West Midlands – Update and Future Prospects

Paper from the Leader of the Council

February 2019

Purpose

This paper provides an update on the second West Midlands Devolution Agreement and the further progress on devolution made over the last year. It also outlines current work to take the devolution agenda forward and argues the case for further devolution and a “double devolution” approach.

Background

The government introduced its policy of agreeing devolution deals with combined authorities, including the creation of elected mayor posts in 2014, with the Greater Manchester deal. This built on the previous approach of growth deals and city deals and was given legal status in the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act, 2016, which enables powers to be devolved to local areas and elected city region mayors to be established. The first wave of deals also saw elected mayors and devolution deals for Liverpool City Region, West of England (Bristol area), Tees Valley and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The leaders of the West Midlands local authorities published a [statement of intent](#) in the summer of 2015, declaring their intention to establish a combined authority. That statement contained the working principles for how the authorities would collaborate, including the key guiding principle that “all communities will benefit from growth, but not necessarily at the same time or in the same way”.

Following the creation of the West Midlands Combined Authority in July 2015, the [first devolution deal](#) was signed in November of that year. That deal included a thirty year investment fund and measures to begin the process of devolution on transport, skills and housing. The Mayor was elected in May 2017.

Birmingham holds the Economic Growth portfolio in the Combined Authority and this includes oversight of the Local Industrial Strategy - a key aspect of devolution that brings together work on skills, housing and infrastructure investment. It is therefore important that the City Council plays a leading role in shaping the agenda for devolution and collaborating across the region on both policy innovation and programme delivery.

Progress in the last year

A [second devolution deal](#) was agreed in November 2017 and this set out a range of commitments to further joint work on employment and skills, transport, housing, a Local Industrial Strategy and public service reform. It agreed to further work on finance and borrowing powers for the CA. It provided £250m of additional infrastructure funding from a new Transforming Cities Fund. Proposals for the transfer of the Police and Crime Commissioner functions to the Mayor are also progressing.

The intention with the second agreement was to move the process on from a stop-start set of deals to a more continuous dialogue with government which would yield further progress across the agenda. During 2018 this has, to a large extent become a reality, with further work including:

- The first [Skills Deal](#) agreed with a combined authority, in July 2018
- The first [Housing Deal](#) agreed with a combined authority, including a £100m Land Fund and a West Midlands delivery partnership with Homes England.
- An extension to the Transforming Cities Fund in the autumn Budget 2018
- Additional funding announcements, including the Perry Barr Athletes Village funding, the 5G pilot, national resources for town centre regeneration and support to creative industries.

There are also ongoing discussions on:

- A social and affordable housing deal
- Financial reforms, including the future replacement for EU structural funds and the development of the Mayoral Combined Authority model, including capacity to deliver on shared ambitions across local partnerships
- The Local Industrial Strategy, which has been consulted upon and will be finalised in the near future.

Overall, the Combined Authority and the devolution deals have brought an additional £1.8bn of funding to the West Midlands and are supporting an £8bn investment programme (see attached table). Investment agreed or under delivery directly in Birmingham includes the Five Ways metro extension, housing investment for the Commonwealth Games athletes' village and regeneration in Perry Barr and the town centre programme in Bordesley Green. Birmingham is also engaged in the employment support pilots and much of the city is included in the 5G pilot area. Longer term investment plans include the Eastside metro extension, including the Curzon HS2 station and Sprint bus routes.

As the largest employment centre in the city region, Birmingham will of course also benefit from the wider infrastructure investment, e.g. the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill metro extension and UK Central and housing investment across the region. It is strongly in the city's interest to be part of a strategic, region-wide approach to housing and transport investment.

At the national level, during the last year further devolution deals and mayors have been put in place in Sheffield City Region and the North of Tyne area (Mayoral election 2019).

Taking devolution forward

Despite the progress outlined above (particularly in the West Midlands) there is a widely held perception that the devolution agenda has stalled or at least slowed considerably in the last year. In part this is due to the impact on government of the Brexit process, but it is also due to changed priorities since the change of Prime Minister in 2016 and the 2017 election.

However, there is no stated intention in government to abandon the current process and the actions outlined above suggest that further progress can still be made if other factors can be overcome. The Northern Powerhouse minister has recently made positive suggestions about fiscal devolution. The Government is also planning the following related steps and these will be progressed as government time allows:

- A **National Framework for Devolution** is expected to be published and is intended to set out a coherent approach to devolution for the whole country.
- As agreed in the second devolution deal, the West Midlands is one of a small number of areas piloting a **Local Industrial Strategy** and the Government has been refining its approach to these and how they will channel future investment in the regions. These will be led by mayoral combined authorities or by LEPs in areas where they don't exist
- The **review of Local Enterprise Partnerships** has sought to rationalise the boundaries of LEPs and strengthen their governance.
- There will be a public consultation on the proposed design of the **Shared Prosperity Fund** – the Government's proposed replacement for EU structural funds, on which private discussions with combined authorities and core cities have already taken place.

The Government also plans to conduct a **Spending Review** this year and (assuming it goes ahead) this provides an opportunity to make the case once again for a stronger approach to devolution.

In particular the Spending Review can be used to highlight the interconnections between spending across different departments and different local services and to argue that the economic growth agenda must be linked firmly to public service reform. Prosperous economies depend on sustainable, high quality public services, high education and skill levels and a healthy and secure population, as much as on infrastructure investment.

The above case has been made by the Core Cities in its publication [Core Cities UK 2030: Global Success, Local Prosperity](#).

The context of Brexit also provides an opportunity to make the case for more radical devolution, whatever the outcome of the process. **The political case** is based on the “take back control” sentiment that surrounded the referendum. It is thought that many people voted to leave the EU because of a general sense of disempowerment and exclusion from the economic and social life of the country. Clearly “take back control” meant a lot more than just moving powers from Brussels to Westminster. In order to tackle the profound economic and social exclusion experienced by many of our citizens we must move power further down, to a level that people can engage with and at which public agencies can better understand local needs and concerns.

The economic case is two-fold:

- Local areas will need additional resources and powers if we are to build greater resilience in regional economies to withstand the impact of change. At present local authorities do not have the capacity to respond to economic shocks as they have done in the past and the loss of EU funding will worsen that position
- Creating stronger city leadership is vital if we are to grasp the opportunities, rebalance the economy and create greater prosperity over the longer term.

There is also a need to develop an approach to devolution that reaches down to local authorities and the neighbourhoods within them – a so called “**double devolution**”. The complex nature of the public services and local leadership, particularly in the city regions, means that leadership and delivery cannot be at one level. It is therefore imperative that local government is empowered at all levels to deliver their part of the jigsaw.

Some functions are clearly local rather than city regional but even in those areas where there is a clear strategic role for the city region, there will be an important element of delivery that is local (for example skills, transport, employment, regeneration, housing). In reality there will be lots of areas where a strategic approach to growth corridors can be married with a local focus on regeneration.

In addition, as suggested above, devolution needs to be felt in local communities if it is to be meaningful and local authorities need to devolve further themselves to empower communities. Place matters in terms of people’s identity, the meaning they derive from their community and social solidarity.

Conclusion

Government needs to develop **a comprehensive policy** for how devolution will enrich and revitalise our local democracy and public services, bringing together the currently separate localism, civil society and city region devolution strands. Such a comprehensive approach could bring together the economic and the social spheres of policy – infrastructure investment and public services – and bring a sense of inclusion and voice back to excluded communities.

Appendix: Summary of Additional Government Funding Secured by the Combined Authority (to September 2018)

WMCA: Additional government funding levered, pre and post Mayoral Election in May 2017

The following table provides a summary of the £1.8 billion worth of government funding levered to date by WMCA since its establishment in June 2016. The funding is separated to illustrate funding levered before and after the Mayoral Election in May 2017.

Funding source	Description & profile	£'000	£'000
<u>Secured pre Mayoral election</u>			
Gainshare	Devo 1 commitment to fund WMCA investment programme. £36.5m a year for 30 years.		1,095,000.0
<u>Secured post Mayoral election</u>			
Transforming Cities Fund	To fund local transport priorities (including Wednesbury to Brierley Hill metro extension) over 4 years.	250,000.0	
Mayoral Capacity Fund	To support Mayoral Housing Delivery Team over 3 years.	6,000.0	
Mayoral Capacity Fund (Housing)	To deliver local growth priorities/Industrial Strategy over 2 years.	2,000.0	
Office for Data Analytics	To deliver regional ODA over 2 years.	800.0	
Adult Education Budget	AEB Transition Funding (one-off for 2017/18).	220.0	
Housing First Pilot	To support rough sleepers over 3 years.	9,600.0	
Construction Training Fund	Construction Skills over 3 years.	5,000.0	
Devo 2 commitment	Regional Integrated Control Centre business case development (one-off)	250.0	
Devo 2 commitment	West Midlands Regional Energy Commission (one-off)	120.0	
One Public Estate	Sandwell MBC to transfer the cash they have received on behalf of the West Mids	490.0	
Clean Bus Technology Fund 2017 to 2019	To enable older vehicles to meet minimum emissions standards & contribute to better air quality over 2 years	3,000.0	
Black Country Growth Deal	Managing Short Trips	4,255.0	
Land Fund	To buy and clean up land around priority sites (one-off)	100,000.0	
Connected & Autonomous Vehicles	Connected Autonomous Vehicles (one-off)	5,675.0	
National Productivity Investment Fund	National Productivity Innovation Fund schemes over 2 years (Birmingham CC, Solihull MBC & Walsall)	11,267.0	
Skills Deal	To boost digital and technical skills	49,000.0	447,677.0
<u>Funding not yet fully secured</u>			
Housing Investment Fund	Development of priority sites - shortlisted		250,000.0
	GRAND TOTAL		1,792,677.0

Note: this table excludes further funding announced in the October Budget, including confirmation of funding for the Perry Barr Athletes Village (shown here within the Housing Investment Fund but subsequently funded from a different source) and an additional £70m of Transforming Cities Fund.