



West Midlands Combined Authority

Corporate Update

**Together we are
making the West
Midlands the best
place to live, work
and visit.**



The Mayor



Richard Parker
Mayor of the West Midlands



Cllr Sharon Thompson
Deputy Mayor of the West Midlands



Jonathan Todd Chief of Staff	Joe Dundas Director – Mayoral Strategy	Roisin Lyons Mayoral Strategy Advisor	George Fraser Policy & Casework Officer	Jas Gill Executive Assistant to the Mayor
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Mayoral Priorities



The Taskforces

To help deliver on these priorities, the Mayor formed four dedicated taskforces of experts across a range of sectors - our very own **council of experts**. They will provide insights, challenge ideas, and help deliver for everyone in the West Midlands.

The role of a Taskforce member will involve:

- **Advise the Mayor** and WMCA board, shaping strategies to drive progress in your specialist area.
- **Bring fresh perspectives** to policy development and help push forward the key priorities that will improve people's lives.
- **Lead short-term projects** to accelerate action and ensure delivery in each priority area.
- **Collaborate with experts** from across the region to support wider engagement and help promote our ambitious agenda.

Executive Leadership Team

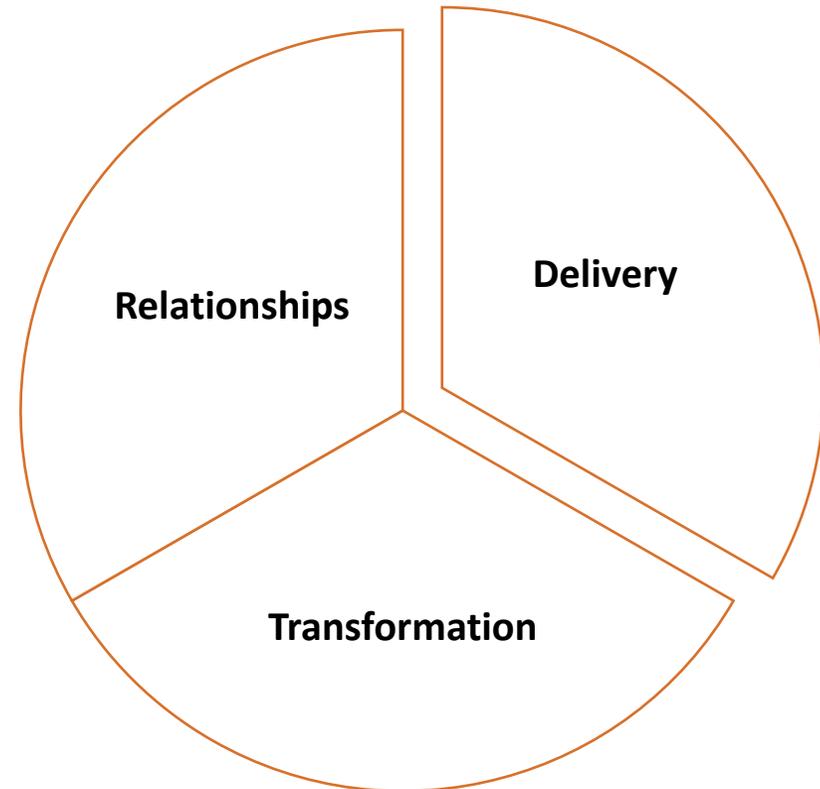


Bold = Statutory Officer

Priorities of the Interim Chief Executive

Despite the interim arrangements, we can't afford for delivery to stall. For this reason, he has set himself, and the organisation three challenges:

- to have a relentless focus on delivery built on optimistic vision and clear strategy;
- to accelerate and begin implementing the Transformation Programme; and
- to strengthen our relationships with local authorities, government and other regional stakeholders



WM Growth Plan



The West Midlands Growth Plan will drive a new era of prosperity in all parts of the region by creating 100,000 good jobs in fast-growing industries, getting tens of thousands of residents into work, improving public transport, and building 120,000 homes.

There will be more support for business leaders and entrepreneurs and backing for workers in the everyday economy such as teachers, bus drivers, shop workers and carers.

Towns and cities and their high streets will be transformed through a series of major investments including £2.4 billion of improvements to the region's transport network.

Building on the growth driving sectors set out the government's Industrial Strategy, the West Midlands Growth Plan highlights five key industries where the region has a leading edge and significant potential for growth and the creation of skilled, secure, and high-paid jobs that people can build their futures around. They are:

- Advanced engineering, including electric vehicles and battery technology
- Clean tech and energy
- Health and medical tech
- Digital and the creative industries
- Professional and financial services (next generation services)

Spatial Development Strategy

Last year the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board agreed to begin preparing a Spatial Development Strategy that will highlight the best locations to meet future demand for new homes and workplaces.

The strategy will also set out the transport, energy and social infrastructure needed to serve new developments – as well as measures to protect the environment and improve quality of life.

The move is in response to a government proposal requiring all major regions to produce a Spatial Development Strategy for their part of the country. It is part of the government's ambition to deliver 1.5 million new homes before the next general election.

A West Midlands Spatial Development Strategy would help deliver a fairer distribution of new housing across a wider area, helping those councils struggling to find enough land to meet standalone housing targets set by government. **Under the blueprint, local councils will continue to be responsible for detailed planning policy, site allocations and Green Belt boundaries. They will also continue to decide most planning applications.**

The strategy will help guide the local plans drawn up by councils by identifying what new infrastructure, such as transport, energy, schools and GP surgeries, is needed to support new developments so they can better drive economic growth and build strong communities.

Areas where protection or restoration of the natural environment is required will also be identified, while housing need will be distributed to the most appropriate locations to help promote climate resilience and improve people's health.



Regional Investment Summit

A major UK investment summit was held in the West Midlands in October, after the Chancellor and Secretary of State for Business and Trade backed Mayor Richard Parker's plans.

The investment summit, originally planned by the Mayor, evolved into a flagship national event showcasing the UK's regional investment strengths, with the West Midlands proudly hosting.

The joint event called Regional Investment Summit – West Midlands 2025 focused on unlocking investment into the UK's cities, towns and industrial clusters - placing the West Midlands at the heart of the Government's economic strategy.

At the event almost £1 billion in private sector investment into the region was announced including a £400 million from Hines to support the £4 billion Birmingham Knowledge Quarter Regeneration.



English Devolution & Community Empowerment Bill/Act

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill 2024-25 was introduced into the House of Commons on 10 July 2025. It is currently in the House of Lords Committee Stage

The bill would standardise the structures of English devolution, with the intention of creating a new tier of 'strategic authorities' covering the whole of England.

The bill sets out standard powers that will be available to 'mayoral strategic authorities'. The bill would reintroduce the supplementary vote system for mayors of mayoral strategic authorities, local authority mayors, and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).



What could this mean for the WMCA?

- Potential for the WMFRS and OPCC to merge with the WMCA.
 - In 2028 the region would elect a Mayor who held the powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner, under a supplementary vote system.
- General Power of Competence over functional areas.
- Simplified Voting: moving from a 2/3rd requirement to a simple majority.
- Right to formally request new powers or funding changes to deliver against our functions.

Budget & Business Plan

A New Approach: Corporate Planning

After listening to feedback from regional colleagues, we are taking steps to overhaul the way in which we plan as an organisation.

With the Growth Plan setting a long-term direction, we will underpin this with a Medium-Term Strategic Plan which will detail how we will move towards achieving the aims of the Growth Plan and allow the organisation to think strategically about the resources needed to do this over the time period.

The Medium-Term Strategic Plan will be supported by a Rolling Annual Plan that will ensure that WMCA maintains annual targets to meet our three-year goals



2025/2026 Financial Year Budget

This year's Budget totals £1.2 billion, and is historic in that it includes, for the first time, an Integrated Settlement marking an unprecedented shift in power, funding and responsibility from Westminster to the West Midlands.

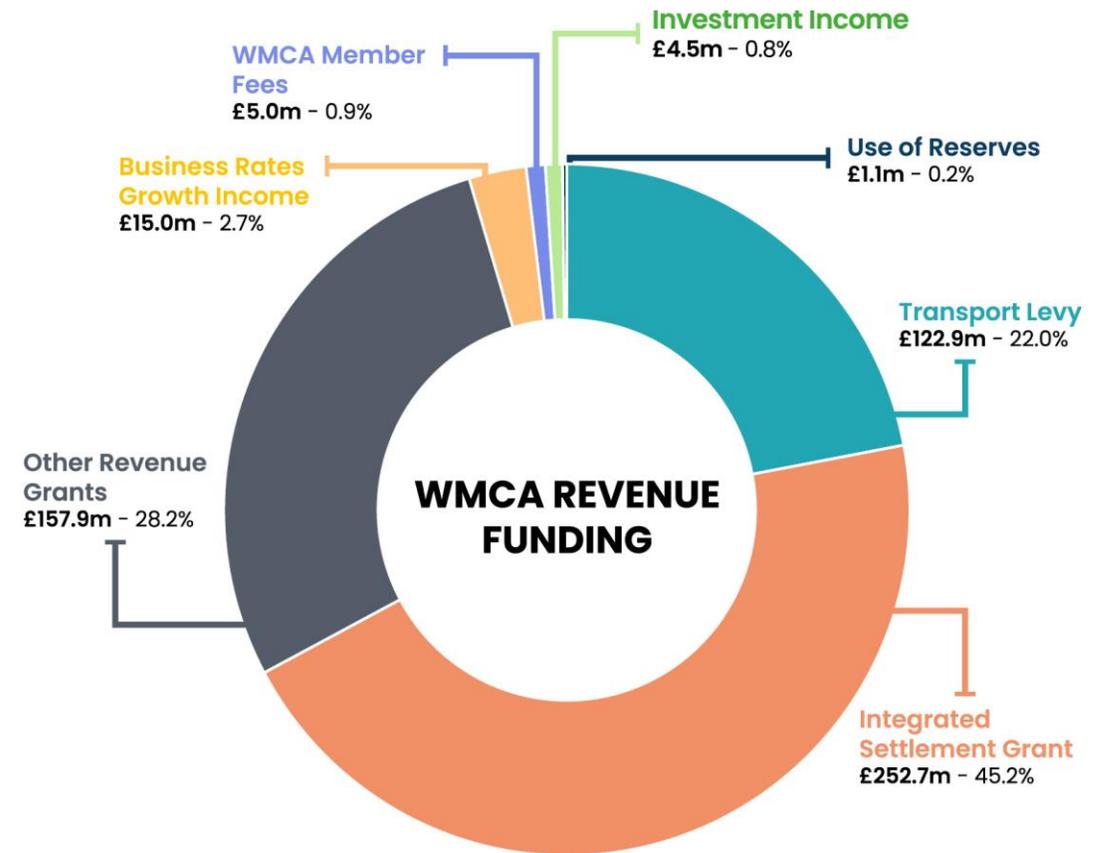
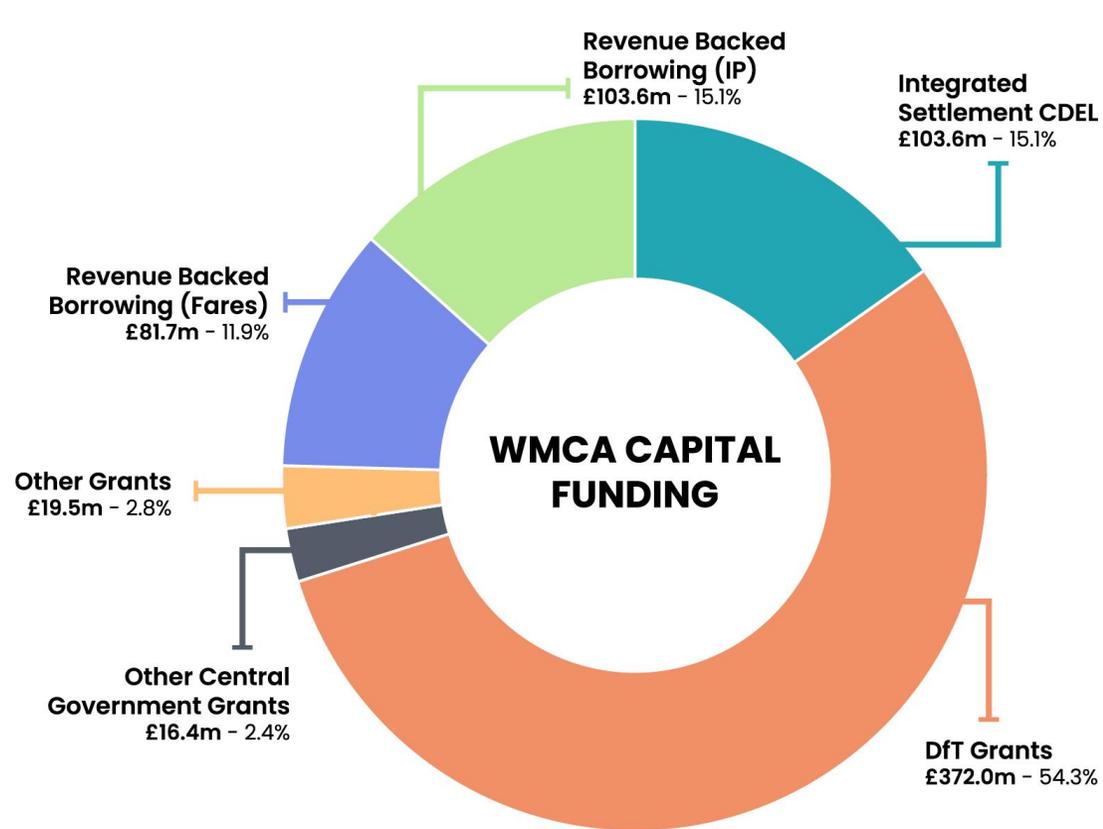
The £389m Settlement will cut bureaucracy and give Richard Parker, Mayor of the West Midlands and local Leaders, greater control, choice and power to focus the money on regional priorities.

Together with additional funds secured from Government and other sources, the WMCA's indicative Capital Budget for 2025/26 will be £684.4m.

This will be used to invest in projects that support the Mayor's four key priorities – Growth for Everyone, Homes for Everyone, Jobs for Everyone and Journeys for Everyone. It will be accompanied by a revenue budget of nearly £559m.



Capital & Revenue Output



2025/2026 Annual Business Plan

This year marks a major shift for WMCA. We have greater responsibility, stronger partnerships, and more control over how we invest in our region than ever before. The opportunity to drive real, lasting change has never been greater - but neither has the expectation.

For the first time, we have the flexibility and power to decide how to make that happen. The Integrated Funding Settlement puts us in control of how investment is allocated, meaning we can take a long-term view rather than being limited by short-term, fragmented funding pots.

Reporting:

Monthly reports flag any KPIs that are under-performing (rated amber or red). These go to the Business Management Panel, where mitigation commentary can be discussed.

Quarterly reports give a full picture of all performance indicators, making sure nothing is overlooked.

Serious performance issues are escalated to the Executive Board, either through directorate leadership meetings or panel reviews.

Our Aims:

1. To promote inclusive economic growth in every corner of the region and stimulate the creation of good jobs.
2. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to benefit across the region, we improve our resilience and tackle long-standing challenges.
3. Connect our communities by delivering transport and unlocking housing and regeneration schemes.
4. To reduce carbon emissions to net zero, enhance the environment and boost climate resilience.
5. To secure new powers and resources from central government, and demonstrate the strength of our regional partnership.
6. To develop our organisation and strengthen our role as a leading regional partner, fully aligned with the WMCA Transformation Programme.

The Integrated Settlement

- The first Integrated Settlement was only for a single year, and we anticipated that we wouldn't see the level of change as we will in future years.
- This financial year, Sandwell have been **directly** paid £1.5m – not inclusive of funding given to other organisations within the Council boundary i.e colleges.
- The flexibility provided by the Integrated Settlement has given the region more flexibility on how it delivers the Connect to Work Programme. This has led to a joint commissioning model across the Black Country support 200 residents in each LA area to provide support for residents with health conditions to commence and retain employment



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**