

# CIPFA in the Midlands 2017 Annual Seminar

“Where do we go from here?”

# Areas of focus

Who is the West Midlands Combined Authority

The 1<sup>st</sup> Devolution Deal

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Devolution Deal

Connecting with the Key Themes of the 2017/18 CIPFA Presidential Year

Leading the Smart Cities and Smart Region Agenda

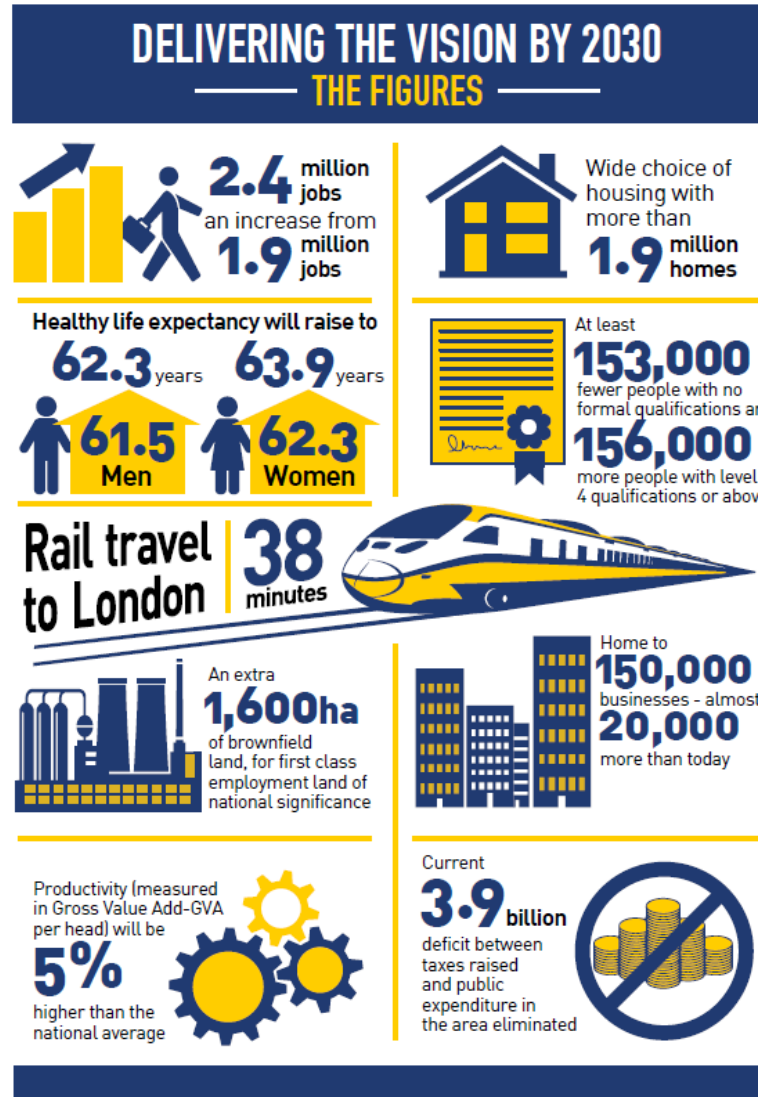
The role of CIPFA and the Finance Professional in this exciting environment

# Who is the West Midlands Combined Authority

A £120 million Transport for the West Midlands organisation that creates the bedrock of the services delivered across the West Midlands

A core £4 million Operational Combined Authority Revenue Budget in 2017/18 to deliver on key Mayoral Commissions

An £8 Billion Investment Programme developed as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Devolution Deal for the West Midlands



# An award winning Transport focus

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) is the transport arm of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).



## What?

We need a fully integrated transport network with rail and rapid transit links offering quick and frequent services between our main towns and cities. We are working to build a network that underpins and accelerates economic growth and has the connections needed to get the very most from HS2 by increasing the number of people who can easily access the region's two HS2 stations.



## Why?

By delivering such a network we will reduce transport's impact on our environment, enjoying cleaner air, lower carbon emissions and improved road safety. The resulting network will underpin economic growth and enable the efficient movement of people and goods, helping businesses connect to labour, supply chains, key markets and strategic gateways.



## How?

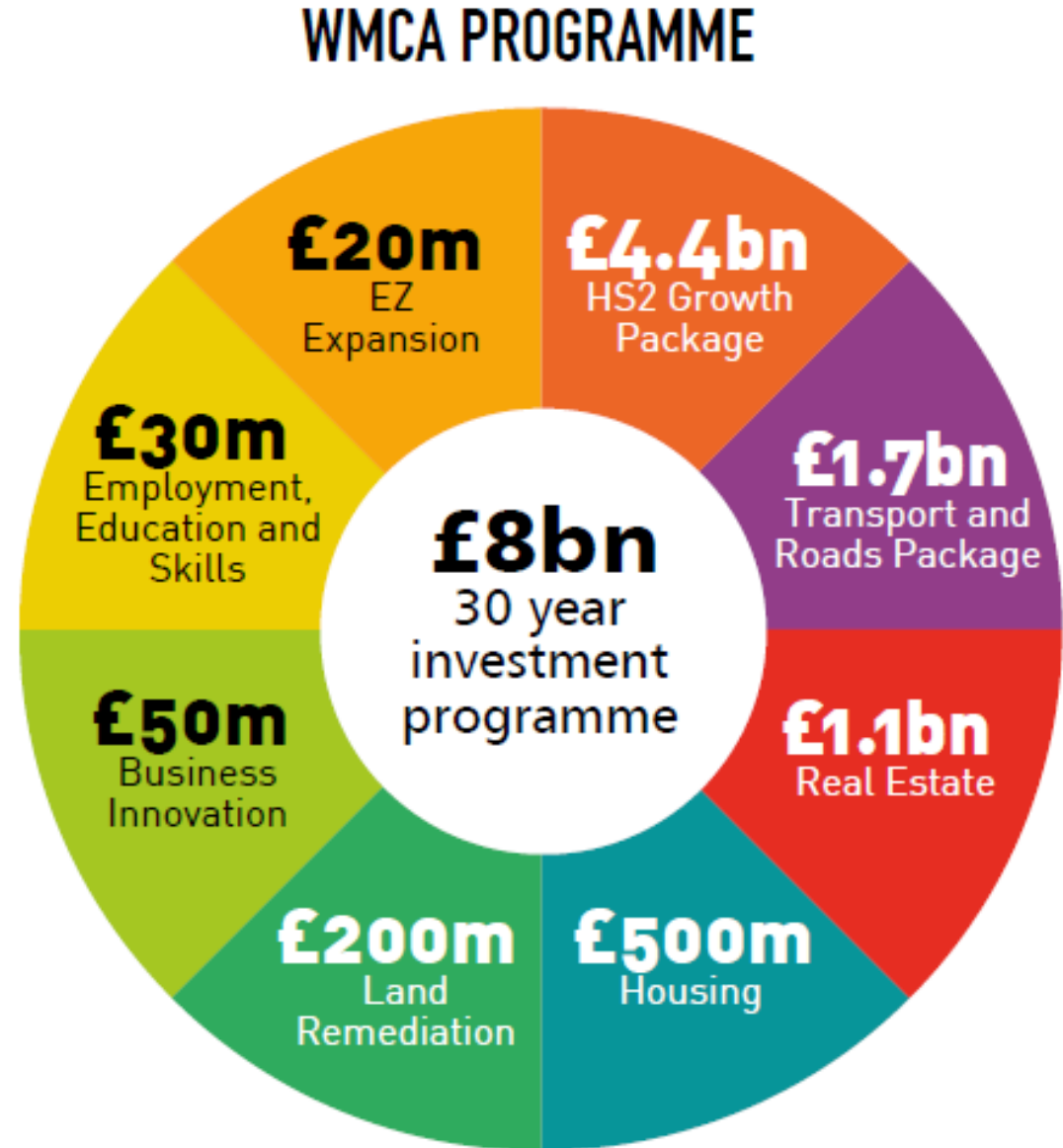
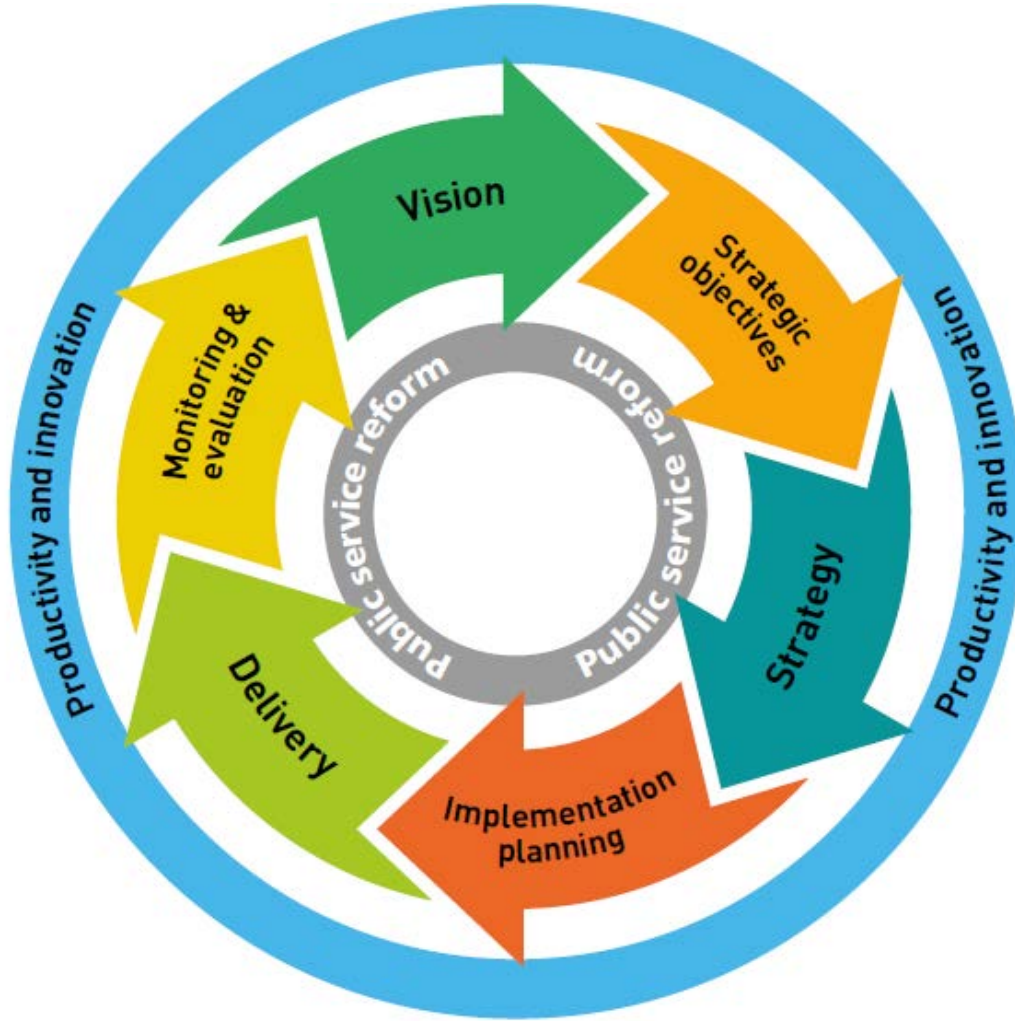
With travel times between London and the West Midlands of just 38 minutes, the HS2 high speed rail line has the ability to transform the regional economy. Our long term transport plan – 'Movement for Growth' – will ensure HS2's potential is fully realised by putting in place the road, rail and tram links needed to best connect and feed into the region's two high speed rail stations.



**WEST MIDLANDS**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY



# The West Midlands 1<sup>st</sup> Devolution Deal



**WEST MIDLANDS**  
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# The West Midlands 2<sup>nd</sup> Devolution Deal

The further transfer of powers and resources to a body at the heart of a region responsible for almost a third of all new private sector jobs in the UK over the last 12 months

Over a quarter of a £ billion investment into the West Midlands including:

- 1) A Transforming Cities Fund with its cornerstone project being the Brierley Hill to Wednesbury Tram extension
- 2) Significant 3 year investments into unlocking housing opportunities across the West Midlands and growing capacity and capability in Construction Skills
- 3) Work towards new Borrowing Powers for the Combined Authority through a Business Rates Supplement and powers for the Mayor to raise a Precept for the Investment Programme (1<sup>st</sup> Devolution Deal)
- 4) A two year Capacity Development Fund of £2 million to deliver on key Mayoral Commissions
- 5) Funding of over £1.25 million to develop Energy Initiatives with the private sector and Midlands Engine Partners
- 6) A £5 million allocation to support the development of 5G alongside Key Route Networks in the West Midlands
- 7) Creating a global centre for new automotive development such as in electric and driverless cars.

**More importantly (potentially) is a signal of a new Conversation with Government on future devolution aims**



# The West Midlands 2<sup>nd</sup> Devolution Deal

- Establishing one of the first Skills Advisory Panels that will create new local partnerships to plan investment in skills around local labour market needs.
- A proposal to combine the Police and Crime Commissioner role into the responsibilities of the Mayor in time for elections in 2020.
- The creation of a digital hub in Birmingham as part of the TechNation programme and a share of a £2m pilot for Coventry and Warwickshire for ultra-fast broadband roll-out.
- Approval for the Housing First pilot to take place in the West Midlands, a new approach to tackling rough sleeping in the region.
- A commitment to work with the WMCA, Urban Growth Company and HS2 to ensure the maximum benefit from UK Central in Solihull.
- Funding to develop a business case to create a Regional Integrated Control Centre to improve resilience on the road, rail and tram networks..
- Continuing support for the work of the Mental Health Commission Thrive West Midlands

# Connecting with the Key Themes of the 2017/18 CIPFA Presidential Year

## 1. Medium Term Financial Planning

1. Adopted for the first year in 2018/19 a Medium Term Financial Planning approach to all the West Midlands Combined Authority Budgets
2. Planning Capital Financing across the years where benefits are derived
3. Spending well and not quickly through effective use of the Balance Sheet

## 2. Sustainable Public Finances

1. Working alongside the Constituent and Non Constituent Authorities to add value recognising the context of declining real term budgets across the West Midlands Public Sector and the need to be more self sufficient
2. West Midlands Funding for Growth Programme chaired by Tony Travers

## 3. Better Alignment and Collaboration

1. A real focus on aligning public services through financial frameworks and incentives
2. Bringing the benefits of a new organisation to move forward areas of joint interest that may have previously operated in more sector based initiatives

## 4. Digitalisation to boost delivery and outcomes – the evolution of Smart Cities and Regions





# Leading the Smart Cities & Smart Region agenda

2 Key Events in October and November to provide a springboard

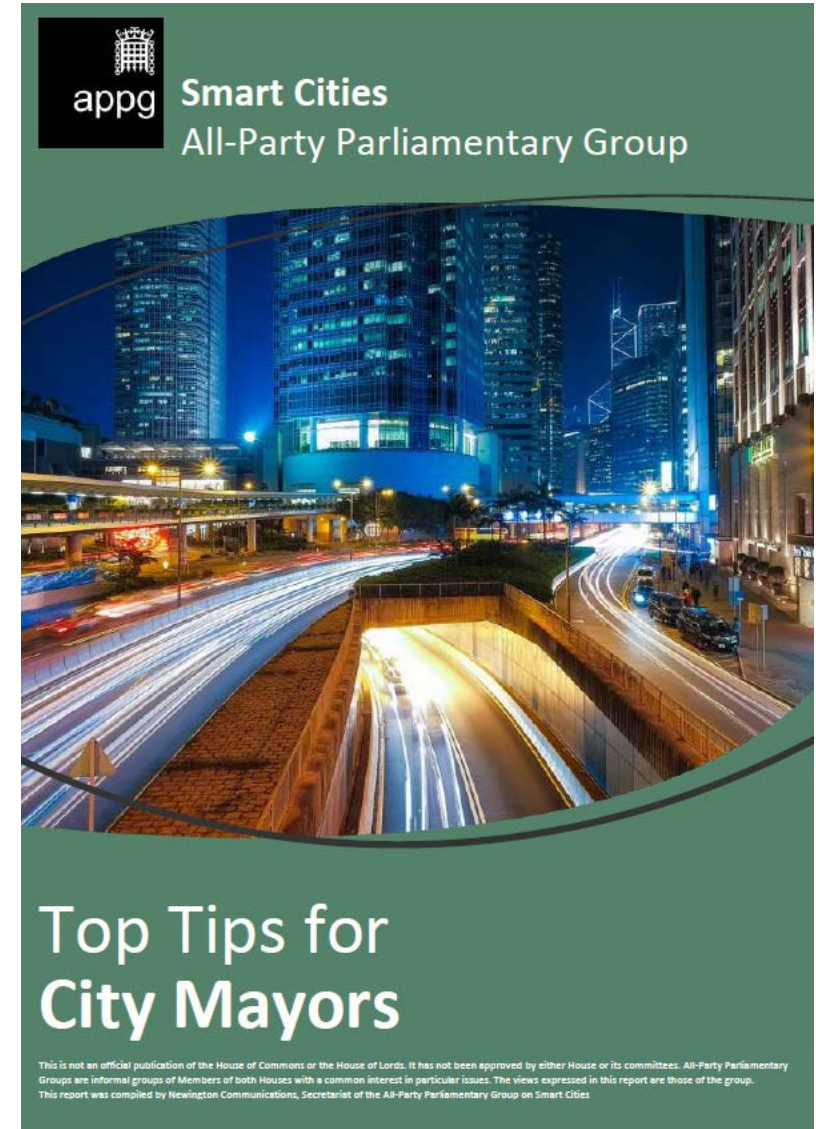
- Innovate UK at the NEC
- UrbanTech Summit hosted by the Mayor and Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government

2 key areas of focus where the West Midlands is well placed

- Mapbox partnership with three global cities
- Controlled Autonomous Vehicles UK Government Investment

At least 3 emerging opportunities

- Office of Data Analytics
- Digital Industrial Strategy
- SportsTech and the Commonwealth Games – making the most of 2022



# The role of the Finance Professional in this exciting and challenging environment

Key skills needed that include:

1. Collaboration, across the Region, Public and Private Sector and with Government to deliver outcomes and add value
2. Commercial Skills across the Investment Programme and Business Cases for Investment
3. Capital Programme and Funding, linking complex funding agreements with the long term projects that they fund
4. Group Accounting and Commercial Accounting knowledge alongside Public Sector reporting expertise delivering a range of Group Company Accounting arrangements
5. Knowledge of the different accounting frameworks and incentives at a local and national level

All supported by a strong evidenced based and practical CIPFA Professional Qualification and Continued Professional Development Offer

# And Finally



Home ▾ People ▾ Planning & Strategy ▾ Communications ▾



Budget confirms second West Midlands devolution deal

Congratulations to our finance team!

Conference aiming to build togetherness through faith

Formal Consultation on the proposal to introduce a Highway Works Permit Scheme

Leadership Commission





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