

Benefits and Costs of Non Constituent Membership

Benefits of Membership

- We are all working together across the West Midlands region to successfully take powers away from Whitehall and put them in local hands.
- The role of the Combined Authority is one of direct delivery, enabling investment and adding strategic value. As a result there isn't always a physical output for every £ spent.
- The existence of the Combined Authority has benefited the region financially both directly, through attracting devolution grant funding of over £2.3bn, but also indirectly by enabling Housing, Land, 5G and other pilot schemes and test beds.
- This is helping to fund major transport infrastructure projects, with new tram and rail lines as well as major road improvements to enable the region to get the maximum benefits from HS2 and help unlock long-dormant pockets of land for housing.
- We are focused on making sure our diverse communities actually feel the benefit of the economic and cultural renaissance in the West Midlands region. That means people have the skills needed to take advantage of the new jobs being created – jobs that will require different skill sets for a new, digital age.
- Our commitment to clean and inclusive growth means jobs, skills and development opportunities that benefit all our communities to give everyone the chance of a worthwhile job, a good home and a decent quality of life.
- This matters in the West Midlands because we are the most diverse UK region outside London with the youngest population in Europe.

Direct Financial Benefits – Access to Grants and Loans

- Non-constituent authorities are able to access the extended Collective Investment Fund (loans up to £20m on a £140m fund) and the Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund (BLPDF) (grants up to a total fund value of £50m).
- All non constituent authorities have access to the Single Commissioning Framework (£625M) of grant and loan funding for housing projects including the Residential Investment Fund (loans up to £20m on £70m Fund)
- Funds already awarded to Non-Constituent Authorities:
- CIF Collective Investment Fund £26.475M:
 - Cannock £12.850M
 - Nuneaton & Bedworth £ 2.400M
 - Shrewsbury £ 7.825M
 - Telford & Wrekin £ 3.400M
- BLPDF Brownfield Land and Property Development Fund £6.9M
 - Cannock £ 0.900M
 - Nuneaton & Bedworth £ 1.175M
 - Telford & Wrekin £ 4.831M

These funds deliver opportunity for real regeneration investment in housing, jobs and economic regeneration and growth.

Direct Financial Benefits – Lobbying & Influencing Central Government

- Support with lobbying and influencing Central Government.
- Examples from the last two years:
 - Housing Infrastructure Fund
 - High Streets Fund
 - LEP Review
 - Transport infrastructure projects
 - Trade, tourism and investment funding

Direct Financial Benefits - Employment

Connecting Communities Employment Support Pilot:

- Redditch – £173k
- Nuneaton & Bedworth – £210k
- Cannock Chase – £211k
- Tamworth – £189k

Non-constituent member areas, their residents and businesses are also able to access support through:

£5m Construction Retraining Fund

£5m Digital Retraining Fund

£40m Levy Transfer Fund

The Swift travelcard scheme has been rolled out across the West Midlands region, making travel easier for a wider employment pool and encouraging mobility in the workforce. Swift equipment has been installed in both Redditch and Cannock allowing the sale and collection of the Swift PAYG product which should facilitate movement across boundaries.

Other Benefits

- The West Midlands is experiencing an economic renaissance with GVA per hour increasing at 3.1%, significantly above the UK average of 2.5%.
- Additionally, the 5 year survival rate of businesses is 0.6% above the UK average at 43.5%, with those businesses creating a record number of jobs with a growth rate of 3.1%.

Thrive at Work	Number of Organisations	Number of Employees
Nuneaton & Bedworth	8	1,691
North Warwickshire	1	414
Redditch	4	356
Rugby	3	560
Shropshire	3	677
Stratford upon Avon	8	668
Tamworth	1	45
Telford & Wrekin	3	188
Warwickshire	21	8,128

Mental Health First Aid Training	Individuals trained
Cannock	27
Nuneaton & Bedworth	213
Redditch	115
Rugby	211
Shropshire	3,048
Stratford upon Avon	156
Tamworth	277
Telford & Wrekin	801
Warwickshire	3,285