



MAYOR'S FIRST 100 DAYS LAY FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE

Mayor Andy Street has spoken of his passion for collaborative working across the region as he completes his first hundred days in office.

Since his election in May, Andy has met all of his initial ten promises around tackling congestion, inclusion and making himself accessible to the people of the West Midlands.

Andy's promises were to:

- Agree action plans with each Mayoral team on transport, housing and jobs
- Launch quick congestion busting measures, such as reviewing traffic light timings and roadwork plans on the M6 and other key routes
- Find Mayor's Mentors for 1,000 young people across the West Midlands
- Meet the Prime Minister at Downing Street to discuss how

the government can help deliver priorities for the West Midlands

- Lead West Midlands businesses on a trade mission to a leading overseas market
- Bring Brexit cabinet ministers to the West Midlands to meet businesses and members of the public in a Brexit summit
- Hold Mayoral Ask Andy sessions where members of the public can ask the Mayor any questions they like
- Set the date of the first Mayor's Community Day of charity activities across the West Midlands
- Convene a West Midlands Faith Leaders' Summit to agree priorities for the Mayor in community relations and integration
- Build Mayoral leadership team by appointing executives to key roles

Andy said: 'By working together we've been able to fulfil the promises we made for the first 100 days. Many of these promises are about laying the foundations for success over the next three years.'

'What is particularly encouraging from my perspective is the sense of purpose and collaboration between everybody involved at the WMCA and its regional partners, business and government.'

'This is underlined by the fact we are the only region currently in negotiation over devolution of further powers and funding ahead of the autumn budget.'

PEOPLE AND PROJECTS

IMPACT OF HS2 WILL BE FELT FOR DECADES



The region's two HS2 stations will drive new jobs and investment as well as unlock more than £4 billion of further public transport improvements to ensure everyone benefits from increased connectivity.

The principal of the new National College for High Speed Rail in Aston has spoken of her ambition for the college to be around for many decades as it opens its doors to its first students next month.

Jackie Grubb leads the largest of the government's five employer-led national colleges. She says she wants to not just educate but inspire a whole generation of young people to become rail and transport engineers, designers and managers.

The National College for High Speed Rail occupies a brand new state of the art building in an accessible part of the city surrounded by other high tech and learning facilities including both Aston and Birmingham City universities and Birmingham Science Park Aston.

The college's vision is to pioneer technical excellence and produce a new generation of highly skilled professionals to lead the future of Britain's rail industry including a world-leading high speed rail network.

HS2 has now begun its initial construction work and phase one will link London Euston to Birmingham Curzon by 2026,

cutting journey times from an hour and a half to just 50 minutes.

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Jackie Grubb says: 'With the college launching this September and producing a new generation of highly skilled professionals who will lead Britain's rail industry, this is a great time to be part of an exciting sector working at the heart of our economy.

'I'm looking forward to building a new, diverse workforce for the rail sector and I'm absolutely committed to working with our growing network of employers to offer cutting edge technical and professional courses which produce the talented young people they need.'

'The college is set to create a new generation of highly proficient workers based across the country who will help make Britain's infrastructure stronger.'

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TRAM EXTENSIONS ON TRACK

The Midland Metro Alliance is busy this autumn carrying out the groundworks for the new tram extension to Centenary Square and onwards to Five Ways and Edgbaston.

Through its transport arm TfWM, the WMCA is now partnering with contractors to build a series of extensions while operating the trams itself from 2018 onwards. The alliance is a team of planning, design and construction specialists working in partnership with the WMCA.

The extensions will help deliver a lasting economic and social legacy, aiding connectivity and regeneration across the region. A decade of tram expansion will help to revolutionise the way people move around the West Midlands by providing a step change in the size and quality of the tram network.

The new two kilometre Edgbaston extension will be built in two stages with new stops at Town Hall and

Centenary Square opening in 2019 and Brindleyplace, Five Ways and Edgbaston stops following by 2021.

Almost eight million passengers used Midland Metro last year, up from 4.5 million in 2014 and underlining the huge growth potential as the network begins to spread beyond the original route one between Wolverhampton and Snow Hill.

The alliance is currently planning to construct new lines valued at more than £1 billion to Brierley Hill and into Birmingham Eastside and Digbeth as the first stage of a new line out to Birmingham Airport.

An extension of the current line through Wolverhampton city centre terminating at the city's regenerated railway station is also due to open in 2019.

MORE FOR YOU

RENEWAL PLANS UNDER SPOTLIGHT

New renewal plans for the West Midlands have been launched covering some of the authority's key policy areas around transport & congestion, housing and jobs & skills.

We are also currently updating a number of key policy plans around clean air zones, developing key transport projects and tackling issues like homelessness and public service reform. Our groundbreaking Mental Health Commission reported in January, with the launch of [‘Thrive West Midlands’](#), and work is under way in line with this action plan to improve mental health and wellbeing in the region.

As part of the Mayor's promises for his first 100 days, action plans with the key regional teams on transport, housing and jobs were formally produced and published over the summer.

For more background on this, go to wmca.org.uk/who-we-are/meet-the-mayor/mayors-100-days/



DEBORAH CADMAN FIRST CHIEF EXEC



Deborah Cadman joins us in September as the very first permanent Chief Executive of the WMCA.

Deborah, a born and bred Brummie, has a wealth of experience from leading positions in a number of large public sector organisations, including chief executive of the East of England Development Agency and chief executive of St. Edmundsbury Borough Council in Suffolk.

Deborah attended the University Birmingham and has a degree in politics as well as a master's degree in economics. She was awarded an OBE for services to local government in 2006.

Deborah says: ‘This is such a fabulous moment in time for the West Midlands and an irresistible opportunity to work alongside our newly-elected mayor to bring greater prosperity to a region I know so well.

‘I will be taking the reins over from Martin Reeves, who has been amazing as interim chief executive whilst maintaining the same post at Coventry City Council.

‘Martin is an incredibly hard act to follow and I am indebted to him for all his visionary work to date.’

Andy Street adds: ‘Deborah has a strong track record in developing and maintaining relationships with a range of partners and stakeholders and will bring a great energy to the role as well as a natural enthusiasm for the region.’

Meanwhile, Sean Pearce has been named as director of finance for the combined authority. He comes from his role as chief financial officer at Worcestershire County Council, where he led the finance team for six years, working on the delivery of major transformation and change management.