

WECA Expansion timeline of events

Date	Event
30/04/20	Letter: Mayor Rees writes to Mayor Bowles with concerns regarding delivery and management of Investment Fund.
13/07/20	Letter: WECA Mayors and Leaders write to Local Government Minister Simon Clarke to request an exploratory meeting to consider the benefits of expanding the West of England Combined Authority to include North Somerset Council.
16/07/20	Meeting: WECA CEOs, Bristol's CEO Mike Jackson restates Bristol's position that the minister would need to be able to make a clear commitment to significant additional resource and commit to changes to WECA Governance model if we were to want to take WECA expansion any further.
28/07/20	Meeting: WECA Mayors and Leaders meet with Minister Simon Clarke MP. Deputy Mayor Craig Cheney represents Bristol at the meeting. Cllr Cheney makes the following points at the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek a commitment from Government for significant additional resource, if we were to take this any further. • Any offer from Government would need to include a funding commitment for Mass Transit. It would also need to commit to funding the delivery of Temple Quarter masterplan objectives as well as a commitment to secure HIF funding for house building in Hengrove. • As the major city within this combined authority, representing around 2/3rds of the region's economy, Bristol's role is essential to driving the economy, jobs and opportunities for the whole region – and this needs to be reflected in how resources are allocated within the Combined Authority. • Any new settlement must recognise Bristol's status as core city in WECA decision making and shovel ready projects, which have the greatest impact on regional growth and deprivation, should form the basis on how funding is allocated going forward. • We share many of ambitions and goals of regional partners and we will continue to work closely with North Somerset, but without a significant financial offer from Government which would support the delivery of regional projects in Bristol, we won't be able to recommend the proposals to the people of Bristol.
29/07/20	Letter: Mayor Rees writes to Mayor Bowles regarding concerns about the delivery of major capital projects in the region.
03/08/20	Letter: Simon Clarke MP writes to West of England Mayors and leaders regarding WECA expansion – confirming "In parallel with the processes outlined above I will, as I have said, have discussions with my Treasury and other colleagues about your asks for the wider area."
05/08/20	Event: Meeting with MHCLG and Treasury Officials with West of England CEOs to discuss additional investment to enable WECA expansion confirmed by WECA to take place on 24 th August 2020
11/08/20	Letter: West of England Mayors and Leaders write to Minister Simon Clarke MP confirming that "Your promise, to take these opportunities forward with colleagues in HM Treasury to ensure we can agree the very best deal possible, is absolutely vital for us. We need to be able to clearly demonstrate to our populations how this administrative expansion will make a practical difference to their lives. We need certainty on the level of government investment that will be put into these schemes and the benefits they will unlock if we are going to be able to convince our populations of the value of such change."
20/08/20	Event: Meeting between MHCLG & Treasury Officials with West of England CEOs on 24 th August is cancelled.
24/08/20	Letter: from Minister Simon Clarke to West of England Mayors and Leaders stating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be helpful if to have a clearer understanding of the overall level of additional investment you are seeking and further detail of the specific projects you referenced in your letter.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister no longer agrees that the statutory consultation about the proposed order to affect the WECA expansion can only proceed if there is prior agreement on the level of government investment.
25/08/20	Letter: Mayor Rees writes to Mayor Bowles regarding key regional projects that require new or additional funding from the Investment Fund.
27/08/20	Letter: Mayor Bowles replies to Mayor Rees regarding the management of investment fund work.
07/09/20	Letter: West of England Mayors and Leaders write to Minister Simon Clarke seeking a meeting with ministers/officials in HM Treasury to discuss the bold ambitions for the region and to understand the scale of the Government's appetite for further investment. The letter restates the need an understanding of the scope of the deal before we engage the public in a consultation.
08/09/20	Event: MP Simon Clarke resigns from government for personal reasons. Luke Hall MP appointed as new Local Government Minister.
30/09/20	Event: Government confirms that Plans for further English devolution are to be shelved until further notice.
05/10/20	Letter: Mayor Rees writes to Mayor Bowles regarding concerns about the management of WECA Investment fund and lack of deliver of major projects. The letter includes concerns that expanding the boundary of WECA to accommodate North Somerset would only compound WECA's inability to have the needs of the city and its economic opportunity properly reflected in strategy and resource allocations.
14/10/20	Letter: New Local Government Minister, Luke Hall, writes to the West of England Mayors and Leaders regarding WECA expansion. The Minister urges West of England Leaders to proceed to consultation. The Minister states that if there is to be any possibility of making the legislation in time we must receive this summary of responses by Friday 27 November 2020 to the Secretary of State.
15/10/20	email: Mayor Rees write to West of England Mayors and Leaders expressing concern regarding the Minister's letter which does not acknowledged the request we sent in September for a meeting with MHCLG and Treasury Officials to discuss the additional investment that WECA expansion would bring from Government.
04/11/20	Meeting: West of England Mayors and Leaders meet to discuss WECA expansion. Mayor Rees reiterates Bristol's concerns regarding the Government's approach.
05/11/20	Email: Mayor Rees writes to West of England Mayor and Leaders outlining some of the concerns he has raised over the last two years regarding WECA expansion.
06/11/20	<p>Meeting: West of England Mayors, Leaders and CEOs meet to discuss WECA expansion. Mayor Marvin Rees reconfirmed his position that he was unable to agree to a consultation until Government provided certainty prior to consultation on the level of government investment that will be put into key regional schemes and the benefits that will be unlocked.</p> <p>Mayor of Bristol states concern that Government could not even commit to the minimum uplift required in WECA funding to maintain the current rate of investment per head of the population to reflect North Somerset.</p>
06/11/20	Letter: WECA Mayor and Leaders of South Glos, BANES, North Somerset confirming that there is not consensus to proceed to consultation.
10/11/20	Letter: Mayor Bowles writes to Mayor Rees regarding WECA expansion, the management of WECA Investment Fund.
11/11/20	Email: Mayor Rees writes to Minister Luke Hall regarding offering a meeting to discuss WECA expansion.