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ACCOMPANYING REGIONAL NOTE TO "BEYOND THE DOME"

WEST MIDLANDS

The research presented in "Beyond the Dome" represents the **first systematic attempt** to evaluate the official record of public sector capital projects, both large and small, over the last two years. (For the full figures, sources and methodology, please see the main report.)

Nationally, 305 projects were examined, including **21 projects** in the **West Midlands**. Below we present the regional figures for the West Midlands:

- The **total net overrun** for the 21 projects was **£707 million** above initial estimates.
- The **average overrun** in the West Midlands was **44.9 per cent**, higher than the national average overrun of 33.7 per cent and making the West Midlands the second worst performing region in the country.
- **76 per cent of projects overran**, compared with just **5 per cent that were under-budget**.

The full list of public sector capital projects in the West Midlands, ranked by the size of the overrun, can be found on the following pages.

Corin Taylor, Research Director at the TaxPayers' Alliance, said:

"Public sector capital projects in the West Midlands, such as the University Hospitals Birmingham project, are routinely over-budget, costing taxpayers millions of pounds, because the politicians, civil servants and regional officials in charge lack the management experience and subject knowledge to run them effectively. The Government needs to get a grip to give West Midlands taxpayers better value for money."

APPENDIX

Table A1: The full list of public sector capital projects in the West Midlands

	Project name	Department responsible	Initial announced costs, £ million	Actual cost/ Latest estimate, £ million	Cost overrun, £ million	Cost overrun, %
1	University Hospitals Birmingham	Health	291.0	627.0	336.0	115.5%
2	Royal Wolverhampton	Health	110.0	317.0	207.0	188.2%
3	Walsall Hospitals	Health	43.0	140.9	97.9	227.7%
4	University Hospital of North Staffordshire	Health	224.0	272.0	48.0	21.4%
5	The Public: Still unopened art gallery in Sandwell	Culture, Media and Sport	40.0	70.0	30.0	75.0%
6	A500 City Road & Stoke	Transport	34.0	55.0	21.0	61.8%
7	Selly Oak Relief Road	Transport	36.1	49.6	13.5	37.4%
8	A5 Weeford-Fazeley Improvement	Transport	30.6	41.0	10.4	34.0%
9	Owen Street Level Crossing Relief Road	Transport	8.8	17.1	8.3	94.1%
10	A38 - Northfield Regeneration	Transport	12.1	19.4	7.3	60.7%
11	Rugeley Eastern Bypass - Stage 2	Transport	17.5	22.8	5.4	30.9%
12	Cradley Heath Town Centre Strategy	Transport	6.3	10.8	4.4	69.9%
13	A429 - Barford Bypass	Transport	6.9	10.1	3.2	46.3%
14	Oakham Bypass	Transport	8.6	11.7	3.0	35.4%
15	A66 Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank Improvement	Transport	8.0	10.0	2.0	25.0%
16	Tunstall Northern Bypass	Transport	6.7	7.6	0.8	12.3%



	Project name	Department responsible	Initial announced costs, £ million	Actual cost/ Latest estimate, £ million	Cost overrun, £ million	Cost overrun, %
17	Brierley Hill Access Network	Transport	24.3	24.4	0.0	0.2%
18	M40 Junction 15 (Longbridge)	Transport	57.0	57.0	0.0	0.0%
19	A4123/A461 Junction Improvement Burnt Tree	Transport	10.3	10.3	0.0	0.0%
20	Darlaston Strategic Development Area	Transport	10.1	10.1	0.0	0.0%
21	Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals	Health	591.0	500.0	-91.0	-15.4%
		Total	1,576.3	2,283.7	707.4	44.9%
Percentage of projects over-budget:		76.2%				
Percentage of projects under-budget:		4.8%				