



## Environment & Energy Board

**Date:** Wednesday 9 December 2020

**Time:** 10.00 am                      **Public meeting**                      Yes

**Venue:** This meeting will be conducted virtually using Microsoft Teams  
[Click here to view the meeting](#)

### Membership

Councillor Ian Courts (Chair)	Portfolio Lead for Environment, Energy & HS2
Councillor Oliver Butler	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Maria Crompton	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Ian Kettle	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Andy Mackiewicz	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Barbara McGarrity	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor Jim O'Boyle	Coventry City Council
Councillor Waseem Zaffar	Birmingham City Council

Quorum for this meeting shall be the Portfolio Lead for the Environment, Energy & HS2 *and* at least three other members.

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact:

<b>Contact</b>	Dan Essex, Governance Services Manager
<b>Telephone</b>	(0121) 214 7505
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:dan.essex@wmca.org.uk">dan.essex@wmca.org.uk</a>

# AGENDA

No.	Item	Presenting	Pages
<b>Items of Public Business</b>			
1.	Apologies for Absence	Chair	None
2.	Declarations of Interest Members are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they have in an item being discussed during the course of the meeting. In addition, the receipt of any gift or hospitality should be declared where the value of it was thought to have exceeded £25 (gifts) or £40 (hospitality).	Chair	None
3.	Chair's Remarks (if any)	Chair	None
4.	Minutes - 15 October 2020	Chair	1 - 6
5.	Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution	Jackie Homan	7 - 18
6.	Young Combined Authority Update	Lily Eaves / Ibrahim Sohail	19 - 24
7.	WM2041 - Five Year Plans	Jackie Homan	25 - 30
8.	WM2041 Net Zero Business Pledge	Jackie Homan	31 - 34
9.	Natural Capital: Update on Solutions	Jackie Homan / Maggie Fennell	35 - 48
10.	WM2041 Programme Update	Chair	49 - 60
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>			
11.	Wednesday 10 March 2020 at 10.00am	Chair	None



**West Midlands  
Combined Authority**

## **Environment & Energy Board**

**Thursday 15 October 2020 at 10.00am**

### **Minutes**

#### **Present**

Councillor Ian Courts (Chair)  
Councillor Oliver Butler  
Councillor Maria Crompton  
Councillor Ian Kettle  
Marc Lidderth  
Councillor Andy Mackiewicz  
Councillor Waseem Zaffar

Portfolio Lead for Environment, Energy & HS2  
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council  
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Environment Agency  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Birmingham City Council

#### **In Attendance**

Alan Bowley  
Alex Chapman  
Jim Coleman  
Ross Cook  
Ed Cox  
Barry Evans  
Robin Daniels  
Maria Dunn  
Councillor Peter Fowler  
David Harris  
Jackie Homan  
Nicola Jones  
Jo Miskin  
Kathryn Moore  
Eve Peverley  
Richard Rees  
Callum Ringer  
Aqeel Rizvi  
Sabbir Sidat  
Coral Tilling  
Jodie Townsend  
Bret Willers

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council  
New Economics Foundation  
WSP  
City of Wolverhampton Council  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
WSP  
Redpill Group  
Birmingham City Council  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
Transport for West Midlands  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council  
Birmingham City University  
WSP  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
WSP  
City of Wolverhampton Council  
West Midlands Combined Authority  
Coventry City Council

#### **19. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barbara McGarrity (Wolverhampton), Councillor Jim O'Boyle (Coventry) and Matthew Rhodes (Energy Capital).

**20. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

**21. WM2041: Five Year Plans**

The board considered a report from the Director of Public Service Reform on an overview of the first Five Year Plan that was currently being produced to outline the priority activity for 2021-26 to set the region on course to deliver on the net zero carbon ambitions for the West Midlands by 2041. The board also received a presentation from Barny Evans on the principles underpinning the WM2041 programme, the aims of the Five Year Plan and the key priority areas for delivery.

Councillor Waseem Zaffar welcomed the report but stressed the importance of working in partnership with constituent authorities and making best use of expertise where it was available. The Head of Environment supported these comments and undertook to meet with Councillor Waseem Zaffar and the Chair to discuss further how the WMCA could work more closely with local authority partners and other key stakeholders.

The Chair stressed the importance of ensuring messaging was communicated effectively to maintain public support for initiatives. The Head of Environment confirmed that there was a regional communications group overseeing the messaging linked to this work.

Resolved:

- (1) The preferred approach to engagement as the Five Year Plan project progressed be noted.
- (2) The appropriate engagement with key local authority contacts be noted.

**22. WM2041: Natural Capital Projects and Programmes**

The board considered a report from the Director of Public Service Reform on three proposals designed to help improve public access to natural capital resources, which were recognised as having an important role in physical and emotional wellbeing, as well as mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. These proposals related to a study on access to green space undertaken by the New Economics Foundation, the West Midlands National Park and the Virtual Forest.

The board received presentations from Alex Chapman on the work that had been undertaken to study the access to green space within the region, from Kathryn Moore on the proposals for a urban national park across the West Midlands, and from Callum Ringer the online platform that was logging all of the new trees that were being planted across the region.

In respect of the study into green space accessibility, Councillor Andy Mackiewicz noted the degree of biodiversity that existed within 'rough' open space and cautioned against automatically seeking to over-manage these spaces. The Chair welcomed the initiative and requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the board with a list of actions to take this initiative forward.

In respect of the West Midlands National Park, Councillor Waseem Zaffar welcomed the proposals and indicated that it would be something Birmingham City Council would be keen to engage with. He was particularly keen to explore how the region's 'blue' and 'green' open spaces could be better linked together. Councillor Maria Crompton noted that each local authority was undertaking environmental projects within its own area, and that this project could help map those and look to build on the work already being done locally. The Chair requested a further update to a future meeting of the board that suggested how these proposals could be progressed.

In respect of the Virtual Forest, the Chair stressed the importance of ensuring that every new tree was logged. He also encouraged engagement with landowners, who were often significant planters of trees.

Resolved:

- (1) The draft access to green space report produced by New Economics Foundation be noted.
- (2) The search for funding for community green grants and their implementation be supported.
- (3) Engagement be undertaken with local authorities on the proposed West Midlands National Park.
- (4) Links to key programmes of activity/ influential stakeholders that should be engaged with the West Midlands National Park programme be provided.
- (5) The Virtual Forest website be promoted and members of the board engage with the project.
- (6) Members engage colleagues within their organisations to retrospectively add any tree planting to the total from January 2020.
- (7) Tree planting plans for the 2020/21 season be shared so they could be supported through the Virtual Forest platform.
- (8) A target for tree planting up until the end of 2021 be identified for each local authority.

**23. Single Assurance Framework - Impact on Thematic Board Terms of Reference and Role**

The board considered a report from the Director of Public Service Reform, the Director of Strategy and the Head of Governance & Monitoring Officer on how the new Single Assurance Framework would ensure the WMCA would use public money responsibly, both openly and transparently, and achieve best value for money.

The Single Assurance Framework required each thematic board, including the Environment & Energy Board, to undertake a set of core roles to ensure that they were applying the appropriate oversight, support and portfolio development roles required to support the key principles and application of the framework. In addition, the Single Assurance Framework project had been tasked with developing proposals for a consistent role, purpose and approach to each thematic board to help drive effective, clear and accountable decision-making, ensure appropriate political oversight and support for Portfolio Leads and to support the intent to deliver a 'golden thread' from strategic objective through initiation, development, delivery and evaluation within the WMCA. An updated terms of reference for this board were therefore proposed that took account of this work.

Resolved:

- (1) The Single Assurance Framework requirements for thematic boards be noted.
- (2) The proposed portfolio improvements for the Environment & Energy Board be noted.
- (3) The amended terms of reference for the Environment & Energy Board be endorsed.

#### **24. WM2041: Programme Update**

The board considered a report from the Director of Public Service Reform on an overview of the WM2041 programme, approved by the WMCA Board on 5 June 2020, to help the region achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2041. The projects that comprised this programme were at different stages of maturity, although ultimately there would need to be delivery across all of them to achieve the system changes required to address climate change.

The report outlined the progress that the WMCA was making across these priority areas that included mobility (including active travel and electric mobility), the circular economy, energy transition, the built environment (both new build and retrofit) and natural capital. The delivery of the WM2041 programme relied on working closely with the local authorities and their climate change action plans. The WMCA was working with the officers supporting climate change and carbon reduction in each of the constituent local authorities, through a Low Carbon Officers Group, to maximise the potential for collaboration and shared learning around the work being undertaken.

Resolved:

- (1) The WM2041 programme update be noted.
- (2) Areas of particular interest where there could be potential for specific collaboration with other work and stakeholders be noted.
- (3) The scope of work, which would form the work programme for the Environment & Energy Board, be agreed.

- (4) Members of the board remain engaged and informed on specific areas as the programme develops, outside of any board meetings.

**25. Forward Plan**

The board noted items of business that would be considered at its future meetings.

The meeting ended at 12.00pm.

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## Environment & Energy Board

<b>Date</b>	9 December 2020
<b>Report title</b>	Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution
<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	Environment, Energy & HS2 - Councillor Ian Courts
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Deborah Cadman, West Midlands Combined Authority email: <a href="mailto:deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk">deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: (0121) 214 7200
<b>Accountable Employee</b>	Ed Cox, Director of Public Service Reform email: <a href="mailto:ed.cox@wmca.org.uk">ed.cox@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: 07788 224719  Jackie Homan, Head of Environment email: <a href="mailto:jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk">jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: 07584 449339

**Recommendation(s) for action or decision:**

**The Environment & Energy Board is recommended to:**

- (1) Review the briefing note on the Ten Point Plan (attached).
- (2) Add any further reflections to the potential for the WMCA's response to it

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This paper provides an introduction to the UK government's *Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution*, published on 18 November. A briefing note has been attached to the document, outlining some of the key opportunities for the WMCA and partners.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 On 18 November 2020, the UK government set out a ten-point plan for a green industrial revolution, which could create and support up to 250,000 British jobs and mobilise £12billion of government investment with over three times as much private sector investment by 2030. We welcome the clarity and direction that this will give to industry to invest in green technology and innovation.

- 2.2 The ten areas identified in the plan are as follows:

- Point 1: Advancing offshore wind
- Point 2: Driving the growth of low carbon hydrogen
- Point 3: Delivering new and advanced nuclear power
- Point 4: Accelerating the shift to zero emission vehicles
- Point 5: Green public transport, cycling and walking
- Point 6: Jet zero and green ships
- Point 7: Greener buildings
- Point 8: Investing in carbon capture, usage and storage
- Point 9: Protecting our natural environment
- Point 10: Green finance and innovation

- 2.3 The WMCA, through the WM2041 plan, is already addressing a number of these areas through current activity (addressed in the briefing note). Importantly, we are also creating the conditions to maximise the local and regional opportunities around these plans through partnership work, as well as identifying the necessary powers and resources that need to sit regionally and locally for delivery. This will be clearly outlined through the Five Year Plan that is currently in development.

- 2.4 Key points of note and opportunity:

- The £500m commitment to the development and mass-scale production of electric vehicle batteries and associated EV supply chain and explicit reference to Midlands capabilities and Gigafactory.
- The £950m investment in EV charging hubs but importance of local charging infrastructure including the WM Transit Hub scheme for which we have a clear business case.
- Support for investment in active travel and public transport.
- Recognition of the need to invest in the natural environment, which links to a number of our WM2041 objectives around tree planting and support for the West Midlands National Park.

- 2.5 However, there remain some concerns, for example:

- the concentration of investment on coastal regions and technologies where there is less competitive advantage (offshore wind, hydrogen) compared with industrial opportunities (eg industrial decarbonisation in Black Country), innovation and technological developments through business-academic partnerships (eg National Centre for the Decarbonisation of Heat) and industrial clusters around smart grids, smart transport and smart energy networks.
  - the constraint on local and regional government to drive green industrial opportunities through greater control over local energy infrastructure and programmes such as the Green Voucher Scheme.
- 2.6 We will continue to work with national government, as well as with local and regional stakeholders, to maximise the opportunities coming from the plan. This will undoubtedly be given even more urgency through the Climate Change Committee's announcement on the UK's 6<sup>th</sup> carbon budget, due for announcement on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

### **3. Financial Implications**

None.

### **4. Legal Implications**

None

### **5. Equalities Implications**

None.

### **6. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 6.1 WM2041 has a clear statement that the transition to a net zero economy should provide an opportunity for everyone across the region and leaves no one behind. Investment in green infrastructure and technologies, of the kind outlined in the *Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution*, must translate into jobs and skills for the people across the West Midlands, in addition to providing economic and environmental benefit.

### **7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

- 7.1 The implications will cover the WMCA local authorities (constituent and non-constituent) and LEPs.

### **8. Other Implications**

None.

## **Schedule of Background Papers**

Appendix1: Briefing note on the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution

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## UK Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution – November 2020

### Background

The Prime Minister has set out a ten-point plan for a green industrial revolution, which will create and support up to 250,000 British jobs and mobilise £12billion of government investment with over three times as much private sector investment by 2030.

This marks the beginning of the UK's path to net zero, with further plans to reduce emissions whilst creating jobs to follow over the next year in the run up to the international COP26 climate summit in Glasgow next year.

In addition, we are expecting the Climate Change Committee to produce the UK's 6<sup>th</sup> carbon budget on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Lord Deben (Chair of the Climate Change Committee) has said of the government's latest announcement:

*Today, the Prime Minister has laid out his vision for a net-zero UK. I am delighted to see the breadth of the Prime Minister's commitment. This must now be turned into a detailed road map – so we all know what's coming down the track in the years ahead. Our homes, the way we travel, our industries, our land, and all of us individually have a role to play as we strive to lead the world in tackling climate change. The good news is that we can also reap the rewards – improved health, a stronger economy, a boost for UK jobs and the ability to tell our children and grandchildren that the UK acted in time.*

### Our response

- This overall approach links well to the work we are currently undertaking in tackling climate change as a West Midlands Combined Authority in the production of our five year plan, which will give us a clear idea of the projects, programmes and investment required to get us to net zero, as well as the opportunities that this will create, and the additional jobs and skills.
- This is welcomed as a significant stimulus to investment in nationwide solutions to support the transition to net zero. Particularly important to our region is the transition to zero emission transport solutions and investment in battery technologies.
- We are also pleased to see national action on buildings through the implementation of the Future Home Standard and increased standards for non-domestic buildings, as we recognise that every building that is not built to zero carbon standards today, will require costly retrofit measures in the future.
- However, we also recognise that this huge *national* programme of activity will still not be enough. We also need to see measures in place to drive *local and regional action*:
  - Nationally funded innovation programmes (though Innovate UK) are leading to viable smart local energy system solutions and we need a mechanism for these to become integrated into business as usual in localities - the current plan makes no mention of smart local energy systems
  - The West Midlands offer to Government on how we can support decarbonisation locally, submitted to Alok Sharma this month, sets out the additional support and powers we feel are needed to support this transition in localities.

# Briefing note – UK Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution

Updated 20.11.20

## Measures announced

The points from the Ten Point Plan have been reordered to reflect the priorities for the West Midlands.

### ***Point 7: Greener Buildings***

- Making our homes, schools and hospitals greener, warmer and more energy efficient, whilst creating 50,000 jobs by 2030, and a target to install 600,000 heat pumps every year by 2028.
- £1 billion next year into making new and existing homes and public buildings more efficient, extending the Green Homes Grant voucher scheme by a year and making public sector buildings greener and cutting bills for hospitals and schools, as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

The opportunity for the West Midlands:

- The regional fuel poverty and retrofit programme is providing answers to how to address the continuing problem of fuel poverty in the region and how to scale up retrofit to create local jobs. The solutions will require government funding, so increased funding for programmes of work in this area could be accessed to support this work in the region.
- The plan states that heat pumps should be manufactured in the UK. There is an opportunity for the WM manufacturing and installation sector around green technology. Our FYP will outline further details.
- There is also the issue of the displacement of gas boilers not being installed which should form part of the WM plan as we transition.

### ***Point 5: Green public transport, cycling and walking***

Making cycling and walking more attractive ways to travel and investing in zero-emission public transport of the future.

The opportunity for the West Midlands:

- TfWM are refreshing the West Midlands Local Transport Plan, in order to meet #WM2041 goals.
- We are already delivering a number of significant improvements to the West Midlands transport system. To build on this the WMCA has also submitted plans, as part of its CSR submission, to work collaboratively with Government to develop and deliver a rolling five-year infrastructure programme. The WMCA stands ready to open discussions with Government to bring forward a number of enabling infrastructure programmes. These would allow transformational schemes with transport improvements alongside the reimagining of local centres and neighbourhoods e.g. 20-minute city concepts - providing people better local access to opportunities and services and reducing the need to travel.
- TfWM and Local Authority partners have also adopted plans to boost investment in zero emission public transport vehicles and infrastructure programmes. Our submitted £50m All-Electric Bus Town bid to DfT can be accelerated; and deliver more than 250 fully electric buses in Coventry - reducing carbon, cleaning air and cutting operating costs. This would be a way of resetting our transport system and builds on the recent Devo Next submission.
- TfWM and Local Authority partners have secured £16.85m from DfT's Active Travel Fund to deliver new and improved walking and cycling routes and conditions in the region. This builds on the £23.5m already allocated from our devolved Transforming Cities Fund to help deliver the Starley cycle network.

- The refresh of the Local Transport Plan is considering the ways of urgently reducing the energy used for transport to make up for the fact that a transition to ULEVs will not reduce carbon emissions at sufficient pace for either the Climate Change Act 2008 obligations or WM2041 carbon reduction targets. In addition to mode shift to public transport and active travel, changes to private vehicles used for personal mobility will be important. We are already conducting e-scooter trials across the West Midlands. We will continue to collaborate with Government on how micromobility can be further developed and deployed – this would be conducted through a Transport Regulatory Sandbox.
- A West Midlands Clean and Intelligent Freight & Logistics programme is being developed to explore how we mitigate against: Road freight has 2x carbon impact of other road transport, No Electric Vehicle technology solution for Heavy Good Vehicles (HGVs) and not enough EV charging points for Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs).
- It is important to note that making these modes attractive as alternatives to the car will require measures to further support behaviour change, Options that will need to be considered will be a set of both physical (roadspace reallocation, traffic management) as well as fiscal measures such as road user charges, fuel tax and workplace parking levies. This will need to be an ongoing discussion with Government. Spatial planning and digital technology also have a critical role in maintaining and improving accessibility whilst reducing the overall need to travel.

#### ***Point 4: Accelerating the shift to zero emission vehicles***

Backing our world-leading car manufacturing bases including in the West Midlands, North East and North Wales to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles, and transforming our national infrastructure to better support electric vehicles. Specific measures include:

- The sale of hybrid cars and vans that can drive a significant distance with no carbon coming out of the tailpipe is allowed until 2035.
- £1.3 billion to accelerate the rollout of chargepoints for electric vehicles in homes, streets and on motorways across England, so people can more easily and conveniently charge their cars.
- £582 million in grants for those buying zero or ultra-low emission vehicles to make them cheaper to buy and incentivise more people to make the transition.
- Nearly £500 million to be spent in the next four years for the development and mass-scale production of electric vehicle batteries, as part of our commitment to provide up to £1 billion, boosting international investment into our strong manufacturing bases including in the Midlands and North East.

The opportunity for the West Midlands:

- The West Midlands currently leads on the Industrial Strategy's Future of Mobility grand challenge building on its existing strengths in automotive innovation (e.g. the UK Battery Industrialisation Centre), and connected supply chains in rail, automotive and aerospace. Cementing this position will attract new investment and create and sustain highly-skilled jobs while boosting the international competitiveness of the region. These productivity benefits are complemented by inclusivity benefits when new technologies are applied to reduce fuel poverty and improve household energy conservation.
- This presents a significant opportunity for a Gigafactory in the West Midlands to develop state-of-the-art batteries linked closely to the work of the UKBIC based in Coventry. There is no mention of the support for jobs and skills which will be key to realise this opportunity or the route to secure sufficient power supply to meet the needs of the factory itself.
- The CCC has already advised Government that a transition to ULEVs will not be sufficient to decarbonise transport in line with the Climate Change Act 2008; more needs to be done to manage demand. For this reason, a decarbonising transport strategy that focusses resources on

and encourages a like for like swap out of petrol/diesel cars for EV cars risks undermining achievement of the aims of the Paris Agreement (avoiding catastrophic climate change). There is an urgent need for clarity on the policy position on the need for managing overall levels of travel and the actions that will be needed to achieve this.

- The WMCA, Energy Capital and TfWM are working together to produce strategies and action plans to support the region's transition to electric vehicles. This work will take into account the urgent need to reduce transport energy consumption and the implications that will have for the vehicles people will be using. This work will be linked to the refresh of the Local Transport Plan as well as the WM2041 5 Year Plan(s). Greater political focus on these issues going forward will facilitate regional investment to take this work forward.
- The region is considering the equitability of access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure with our constituent and non-constituent members and the WMCA has developed an investment model to provide a spine of electric vehicle charge points across the region to support the transition to EVs. Increased funding for the provision of charging infrastructure may increase the chances of this programme securing investment.
- The Mayor is seeking powers and funding to undertake the groundwork necessary to ensure the electricity network is able to deliver affordable connections to support the transition. This involves undertaking local area energy planning, developing integrated smart local energy systems and working closely with the Distribution Network Operator to feed into Distributed future energy scenario planning and the price control mechanisms processes through the Energy Capital partnership. The need to deliver at a local scale to support this national programme may provide a useful context for lobbying for these powers.

### ***Point 8: Investing in carbon capture usage and storage***

Becoming a world-leader in technology to capture and store harmful emissions away from the atmosphere, with a target to remove 10MT of carbon dioxide by 2030, equivalent to all emissions of the industrial Humber today.

The opportunity for the West Midlands:

- The government specifically say there will be four industrial sites in NW England, Scotland, Wales and the NE but this might also include the funding stream for industrial cluster decarbonisation being accessed by the Repowering the Black Country programme..

### ***Point 9: Protecting our natural environment***

Protecting and restoring our natural environment, planting 30,000 hectares of trees every year, whilst creating and retaining thousands of jobs.

The opportunity for the West Midlands:

- The West Midlands Virtual Forest is a platform that is bringing tree planting groups together with tree suppliers and landowners (ultimately) to plant 4 million trees as part of our plans to reach net zero. We would want to seek clarity on how Government plans can work alongside our efforts with local partners.
- We are working to develop the delivery programme for the West Midlands National Park (led by Birmingham City University) in order to expand access to green space for people across the West Midlands.
- We have done some work with the New Economics Foundation to identify where there is currently deficit of access to green space by people across the West Midlands based on a number of



socio-economic characteristics (household income, age and ethnicity) with a view to putting a programme of community grants in place to help deliver better outcomes.

- Jobs and skills form a key part of our work on the delivery of 2041. We are looking to understand what types of jobs are needed and in what timeframes. In this sector particularly, there has traditionally been an over-reliance on volunteers and we are exploring the potential for things like natural capital apprenticeships to begin to redress this.
- We are working with Defra to explore the possibility of being a sixth pilot area for a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

### ***Point 10: Green finance and innovation***

Developing the cutting-edge technologies needed to reach these new energy ambitions and make the City of London the global centre of green finance.

The opportunity for the West Midlands:

- There is quite a lot here that would be relevant to WM although the London centric focus here ignores the opportunity for levelling up and bringing green finance skills to the WM.
  - £1bn for Net Zero innovation Portfolio – Ten areas, some of which WM will be well-placed for.
  - £222m for nuclear fusion – Repowering the Black Country link
  - Accessing finance through the UK's first green bond in 2021
  - Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure reporting mandatory from 2025
  - Green Jobs Taskforce – detail is vague, but the analysis from our FYP should feed into this

### ***Point 2: Driving the growth of low carbon hydrogen***

Working with industry aiming to generate 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030 for industry, transport, power and homes, and aiming to develop the first town heated entirely by hydrogen by the end of the decade.

The opportunity for the West Midlands:

- Energy Capital are working with TfWM and Midlands Connect on a strategy for alternative fuels in the region, particularly for use in transport. It is recognised that alternative fuels will have an important role to play particularly in the decarbonisation of larger transport vehicles such as HGVs. As logistics form an integral part of the West Midlands economy, employing ~100,000 and generating ~£9.5B GVA then a strong focus on developing appropriate infrastructure to support this industry should be considered.
- National Express are deploying 20 hydrogen buses in Birmingham in a world's first for zero-emission hydrogen fuel-cell double deckers. The buses will be introduced to the West Midlands from April 2021 taking hydrogen from a new refuelling hub in Tyseley. With the spotlight on hydrogen, there may be opportunities to build new programmes off this world first.

### ***Point 3: Delivering new and advanced nuclear power***

Advancing nuclear as a clean energy source, across large scale nuclear and developing the next generation of small and advanced reactors, which could support 10,000 jobs.

The opportunity for the West Midlands:

- The Repowering the Black Country project is technology-neutral and will support adoption of all and any clean technologies (including modular nuclear) which deliver competitive clean power for industry, provided they are appropriate to the application and cost-effective.
- The Black Country LEP Board has also expressed interest in hosting the next pilot stage of the UK's nuclear fusion programme, working in partnership with Staffordshire.

### ***Point 1: Advancing offshore wind***

Producing enough offshore wind to power every home, quadrupling how much we produce to 40GW by 2030, supporting up to 60,000 jobs.

The opportunity for the West Midlands:

- This commitment to the decarbonisation of the national electricity grid through increased offshore wind generation ensures that electrification will remain one of the quickest and easiest options for certain aspects of regional decarbonisation. The implications of this option from a running cost perspective and consideration of the rising issue of fuel poverty in the region must however also be addressed. The WMCA are developing a regional fuel poverty programme to demonstrate how this can be achieved and how the redirection of ECO funding in round 4 to regions, could support the alleviation of fuel poverty.
- Offshore wind expertise is likely to be one of the UK's key export strengths in the energy sector over the coming decades, in addition to the opportunities in the UK that this programme presents. This is clearly recognised by the grid partners in their skills plans, something which local skills providers are aware of, however, unfortunately the West Midlands is not one of the key locations where offshore wind skills are being developed, but we remain focused on core/multi skills that will support the wider decarbonisation transition.

### ***Point 6: Jet Zero and green ships***

Supporting difficult-to-decarbonise industries to become greener through research projects for zero-emission planes and ships.

The opportunity for the West Midlands:

- Sonihull based in Coventry is a leading green tech business in marine biofouling, reducing shipping emissions by up to 30%. Their Director Darren Jones chairs the IMO/UN Marine GloFouling project.

### ***Other key parts of the plan***

Other key parts of the plan will be driven forward by significant investment set out over the last year, including the £1 billion energy innovation fund to stay ahead of the latest technologies needed to reach new energy targets, £5 billion for alternative greener ways of travel including cycling, walking, and buses, and £5.2 billion to create for new flood and coastal defences in England by 2027.

Opportunities for the West Midlands:

- We are working to develop a regional climate change adaptation plan to ensure the region is resilient to climate change.

## Others who openly take a similar position

### UK100

The Prime Minister outlines his Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution for 250,000 jobs. While the plan answers the calls for ambition and action from local leaders across the UK – the litmus test will be in whether additional long-term funding, policies and powers needed to support delivery on-the-ground locally will come in the anticipated UK Government Spending Review.

<https://www.uk100.org/the-pms-ten-point-plan-why-additional-long-term-funding-policies-and-powers-are-vital/>

### Regen, energy transition experts

Regen have four key policy asks to deliver the goals in the 10 point plan:

- publish the Energy White Paper as soon as possible, setting out a vision for a smart, flexible, decentralised energy system. This should include commitments to annual CfD rounds to support solar, offshore and onshore wind
- introduce a long-term support mechanism to underpin energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation, with funding coordinated at a local level
- provide incentives to switch to low carbon heating and upgrade energy efficiency, starting with redistributing distorted carbon levies between electricity and gas bills
- ensure price controls and local energy planning allow energy network operators to invest in infrastructure to enable net zero, including increased demand from electric vehicles and heating

<https://www.regen.co.uk/regen-responds-to-the-10-point-plan/>

### Dr Jeffrey Hardy, Senior Research Fellow, Grantham Institute – Climate Change and the Environment at Imperial College London, said:

“The 10-point plan is welcome and ambitious. Many of the elements (electric vehicles, warm homes, etc) are inherently local. Our work in the Energy Revolution Research Consortium suggests adopting a smart, local energy systems approach could unlock more benefits, deliver faster and in a way that suits the needs of different places in the UK.”

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/208933/imperial-experts-react-plan-green-industrial/>

### Lord Deben, chairman, Climate Change Committee

*“Today, the Prime Minister has laid out his vision for a net-zero UK. I am delighted to see the breadth of the Prime Minister’s commitment. This must now be turned into a detailed road map – so we all know what’s coming down the track in the years ahead.”*

*“Our homes, the way we travel, our industries, our land, and all of us individually have a role to play as we strive to lead the world in tackling climate change. The good news is that we can also reap the rewards – improved health, a stronger economy, a boost for UK jobs and the ability to tell our children and grandchildren that the UK acted in time.”*

<https://www.edie.net/registration/regwall.asp?mid=153875&origin=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eedie%2Enet%2Fnews%2F11%2F%2DAn%2Dambitious%2Dplan%2Dfor%2Da%2Dgreen%2Dindustrial%2Drevolution%2D%2D%2DGreen%2Dgroups%2Dreact%2Dto%2DGovernment%2Ds%2DTen%2Dpoint%2Dnet%2Dzero%2Dplan%2F&title=%27An+ambitious+plan+for+a+green+industrial+revolution%27%3A+Reaction+to+Bo+ris+Johnson%27s+Ten+Point+net%2Dzero+plan>

### Further information

Details on the Ten Point Plan are available at -

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/936567/10\\_POINT\\_PLAN\\_BOOKLET.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936567/10_POINT_PLAN_BOOKLET.pdf)

#### Further Information

##### Lead Officer

Jackie Homan, Head of Environment  
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## Environment & Energy Board

<b>Date</b>	9 December 2020
<b>Report title</b>	Young Combined Authority Update
<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	Environment, Energy & HS2 - Councillor Ian Courts
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Deborah Cadman, West Midlands Combined Authority email: <a href="mailto:deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk">deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: (0121) 214 7200
<b>Accountable Employee</b>	Ed Cox, Director of Public Service Reform email: <a href="mailto:ed.cox@wmca.org.uk">ed.cox@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: 07788 224719  Jackie Homan, Head of Environment email: <a href="mailto:jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk">jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: 07584 449339

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

#### The Environment & Energy Board is recommended to:

- (1) Receive the report on the environment work from the Young Combined Authority.
- (2) Agree to supporting the shaping and delivery of outcomes with the YCA Board Environment Co-Leads

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This paper provides an update to the environment work of the Young Combined Authority and will outline the areas of work that they will be focusing on as well as their response to the *Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution*.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Young Combined Authority (YCA) brings together a diverse board of young people, aged 16 to 25, from across the West Midlands to help guide and challenge the WMCA when making decisions that will shape the future of the region.
- 2.2 It was established in 2019 and remains a key Inclusive Communities portfolio deliverable.
- 2.3 The 'Inclusive Communities Portfolio Update' report endorsed by WMCA Board on 18 September 2020 set out changes to strengthen how the YCA operates. This involved moving the YCA forward as two distinct but complimentary forums:
- A smaller and more focused YCA Board, to bring insight and challenge to WMCA policy making and build closer relationships with Portfolio Lead Members.
  - A diverse YCA Community, which will have a much wider reach for gathering the views of young people, primarily through online surveys and discussions.

## **3. The YCA Board - structure**

- 3.1 The YCA Board is now operating in its new structure and keen to make a greater impact on WMCA policy development. As part of this, the YCA Board has established 'Lead' roles based on their priorities. These roles are to help facilitate better connections with WMCA portfolio areas, on the basis that YCA Board representatives can be more easily engaged in portfolio work and build relationships with WMCA Portfolio Lead Members.
- 3.2 The different lead roles cover:
- Board co-chairs
  - Environment
  - Skills and Digital
  - Transport
  - Housing and Regeneration
  - Inclusive Communities and Wellbeing
  - Culture and Major Events
- 3.3 The YCA Board 'Lead' members for Environment are: Lily Eaves and Ibrahim Sohail.

## **4. The YCA Board – developing a report for WMCA Board**

- 4.1 The YCA Board is currently focusing on repurposing the “manifesto” which it drafted in March 2020, to create a post-COVID-19 vision document for the region. This will be structured around the YCA Board’s priority areas. The ambition is to bring this to WMCA Board in January 2021 and use it as a springboard for future discussions and collaboration with the region’s decision makers.

4.2 The current (draft) priorities for the environment portfolio are:

**1. Campaigning for low carbon and carbon neutral transport**

- a. Pushing for more charging points for electric vehicles
- b. Supporting the WMCA in promoting public transportation
- c. Campaigning for active transport where possible

**2. Sufficient environmental awareness education available for young people across the region**

- a. Holding virtual workshops and information evenings
- b. Launching campaigns for sustainable alternatives

**3. Direct access to green careers for young people. Through workshops, talks and presentations from companies, universities and other organisations.**

**4. The YCA making a Count Me in Pledge, pledging active transport. "The YCA Board will make our own 'Count Us In' pledge for tackling climate change. We've decided to focus on walking and cycling more, and will challenge the WMCA and its partners to invest in active travel while posting about our own active travel journeys on social media."**

**5. Improved quality of green spaces in low-income areas** to improve mental health and biodiversity

**6. Response to the UK Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution**

4.3 The Young Combined Authority have also put out a recent statement on the Ten Point Plan, which has been posted on social media:

We, the Young Combined Authority Board, will be supportive of any and all progressive climate policy.

We therefore welcome the Government's new 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution because, by bringing forward the ban on fossil fuel vehicles and pushing for clean energy, the policy offers a step in the right direction. However, on its own, this plan is not enough to even begin to tackle the climate crisis we are facing.

As national leaders, the UK Government needs to ensure that change is made timely and effectively, that green technologies are affordable and viable, and that national policies translate into and support change on regional and local levels.

As youth representatives, the Young Combined Authority Board will recognise how the efforts of young leaders has not only been inspiring but essential for demanding that governments across the globe do more for climate change. And we will play our part in calling for change too.



Response to the UK Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (November 2020)

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications for the environment work with the YCA Board.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

## **7. Equalities Implications**

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications from this report.

## **8. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 8.1 We see the involvement of the Young Combined Authority as a central part of delivering on the WM2041 agenda. We have worked with the YCA from the development of the original WM2041 strategy, through its launch and consultation and now into delivery. We also welcome the opportunity to work with the

## **9. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

- 9.1 The core work of the YCA Board will cover the constituent local authorities of the West Midlands Combined Authority.



**10. Other Implications**

None.

**Schedule of Background Papers**

None

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## Environment & Energy Board

<b>Date</b>	9 December 2020
<b>Report title</b>	WM2041 - Five Year Plans
<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	Environment, Energy & HS2 - Councillor Ian Courts
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Deborah Cadman, West Midlands Combined Authority email: <a href="mailto:deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk">deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: (0121) 214 7200
<b>Accountable Employee</b>	Ed Cox, Director of Public Service Reform email: <a href="mailto:ed.cox@wmca.org.uk">ed.cox@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: 07788 224719  Jackie Homan, Head of Environment email: <a href="mailto:jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk">jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: 07584 449339

**Recommendation(s) for action or decision:**

**The Environment & Energy Board is recommended to:**

- (1) Review and input into the progress on the Five Year Plan work to date.
- (2) Agree on the recommendation to hold an additional Board meeting in January 2021 to approve the final Five Year Plan.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper provides an update on the progress of preparing the first Five Year Plan (FYP) that is currently being produced to outline the priority activity for 2021-26 to set the region on course to deliver on the net zero carbon ambitions for the West Midlands by 2041.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Following the approval of 'WM2041: A Programme for Implementing an Environmental Recovery' in June 2020, the WMCA and stakeholders now need to produce five-year delivery plans (four in total) with interim carbon budgets and other metrics in support of delivering the net zero carbon target for the West Midlands by 2041. A full overview of the Five Year Plans, and their aim, was presented to the Environment and Energy Board in October. A summary overview is included below.
- 2.2 The aim of the Five Year Plans will be to provide clear guidance on the types of measures that will need to be implemented to reach net zero by 2041. As a regional authority, and working with our stakeholders, we want to understand where and how we need to invest in programmes of delivery and develop policy to support the 2041 target. We also want to understand how this should be sequenced and the combination of approaches that will need to be taken to get us to a position of net zero carbon emissions.
- 2.3 We want the Five Year Plans to create the right conditions for accelerating delivery and raising ambition to position the West Midlands as a leader in addressing climate change and futureproofing the region, generating excitement about the potential to invest in our region's future, creating jobs; better social outcomes; and, healthier and happier places to live.
- 2.4 The Plans need to give confidence in making the right decisions for people, place and economy, following the principles of WM2041 that:
  1. We will change our economy without leaving anyone behind
  2. We will invest in the resilience of our places
  3. We will use our industrial past to create a new future
  4. We will create places and connections that help us to meet the climate challenge
  5. We will decouple prosperity from the consumption of energy and resources
- 2.5 The first Five Year Plan (FYP) will set the pace and tone of the WMCA engagement with constituent local authorities and wider stakeholders. We aim to:
  1. Provide an **evidence based spatial plan**, linking up WM2041 and local authority delivery plans, projects and investment programmes and grouping them into type / location across the WM region to ensure an efficient, cost-effective and prioritised approach to delivery.
  2. Create a **common vision for stakeholders** across the WM with a strategic plan, policies and outline of practical devolution opportunities to deliver WM2041.

3. Outline **different existing and potential new routes to delivery** and where this is best led by communities, local authorities, the WMCA, the private sector, or a mixture.
4. Outline the **funding sources, financing and investment** to deliver the FYP, based on a and c above.
5. Represent **a step change** in the way the region works together to deliver against environmental priorities for an inclusive, prosperous and fair transition to a net zero carbon emissions society and economy.

### 3. Five Year Plan Update

- 3.1 The Environment & Energy Board will be receiving a verbal update from WSP, the consultants appointed to deliver this piece of work. The update will cover the following areas:

1. Update on process and engagement and analysis.
2. The sectors for decarbonisation and what we have done for each one:
  - a. Domestic
  - b. Commercial
  - c. Industrial
  - d. Transport
  - e. Land Use
3. Results of the modelling to 2026
  - a. Contribution of each sector
  - b. Headlines of the main assumptions for each medium outcome
  - c. Low/ medium/ high options (in terms of the scale of the interventions)
  - d. Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (which will indicate the scale of the investment required against the potential carbon saved from a particular intervention).
4. Costs: additional cost and thoughts on routes to finance
5. Delivery
  - a. Feedback from stakeholders
  - b. Initial Thoughts
  - c. Most work on this in December
6. Jobs and Skills: an update on analysis and draft headlines / thoughts
7. Summary and next steps

#### **4. Delivery Plan for the FYP - Tasks and Milestones**

- 4.1 The aim is for the Five Year Plan to be signed off by CA Board in February. The progress for the plan is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Project stage</b>
December 2020	WSP presenting to: Energy Capital Board (2 December) Strategic Transport Board (4 December) Energy and Environment Board (9 December)
End December 2020	First draft available for review
January 2021	Exceptional meeting of Environment and Energy Board to review draft
January 2021	Progress towards WMCA Board, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SLT reports sent out – 18 January 2021</li><li>• SLT meeting – 20 January 2021</li><li>• Programme Board draft reports sent out – 22 January 2021</li><li>• Programme Board virtual meeting – 29 January 2021</li><li>• WMCA Board final reports sent out – 4 February 2021</li><li>• WMCA Board meeting – 12 February 2021</li></ul>
February 2021	Five Year Plan approved and taken forward through delivery programmes.
February 2022	Annual review of progress

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The production of the first Five Year Plan will cost £105,000 including consultancy support. Financial implications for delivery will be made clear in the plan itself.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications as part of the production of the first FYP. Any legal implications will be presented as part of the recommendations for approval of the FYP.

#### **7. Equalities Implications**

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications as a result of the production of the FYP. Any equalities implications will be presented as part of the approval of the FYP.

#### **8. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 8.1 We see the delivery of WM2041 as being very closely tied to the WMCA inclusive growth agenda; it will form a key part of the projects and programmes developed as part of the FYP. There are no inclusive growth implications as a result of the production of the FYP per se.

**9. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

- 9.1 The core work of the FYP will cover the constituent local authorities of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

**10. Other Implications**

None.

**11. Schedule of Background Papers**

None

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## Environment & Energy Board

<b>Date</b>	9 December 2020
<b>Report title</b>	WM2041 Net Zero Business Pledge
<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	Environment, Energy & HS2 - Councillor Ian Courts
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Deborah Cadman, West Midlands Combined Authority email: <a href="mailto:deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk">deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: (0121) 214 7200
<b>Accountable Employee</b>	Ed Cox, Director of Public Service Reform email: <a href="mailto:ed.cox@wmca.org.uk">ed.cox@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: 07788 224719  Jackie Homan, Head of Environment email: <a href="mailto:jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk">jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: 07584 449339

**Recommendation(s) for action or decision:**

**The Environment & Energy Board is recommended to:**

- (1) Support the development of the WM2041 Net Zero Business Pledge.
- (2) Actively engage in its promotion (once it has gone live) to local businesses.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper outlines the WM2041 Net Zero Business Pledge, including how we are working with businesses and the timetable for the next steps.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Achieving net zero by 2041 will require significant collaboration between a wide range of stakeholders. The business pledge is one of the ways that we are working to build relationships with the private sector. The concept came from discussions on the economic recovery from Covid-19 at the Economic Impact Group chaired by the Mayor. A number of businesses/ business organisations came forward and offered to work with the WMCA Environment Team in developing the pledge.
- 2.2 Throughout July and August, we held 1:1 conversations with everyone that had shown an interest in the pledge. These included large businesses (BT, Severn Trent); businesses organisations (Sutton Coldfield and Solihull branches of the Chambers of Commerce; Federation of Small Businesses); Make UK; Wylde Connections; Lloyds Bank Centre for Sustainable Business at the University of Birmingham and Coventry City Council (from the green business programme). This culminated in a workshop to think through the different elements of the pledge and how we will collaborate on it. This group of organisations will become our 'founding partners'.
- 2.3 We want every business in the West Midlands to help us tackle climate change and position the region as a leader in the net zero carbon economy.
- 2.4 For businesses, commitment to the WM2041 Net Zero Business Pledge will:
1. Position your business as a leader in the net zero carbon economy
  2. Reduce your environmental impact and cut costs
  3. Prepare your business for climate change impacts
- 2.5 The format for the pledge will be:

Pledge commitment	Commit to reduce your carbon emissions to net zero by 2041
	Work with others to unlock the region's commercial potential
Pledge opportunity	Act as a net zero ambassador for the West Midlands
	Highlight challenges to delivering net zero so we can tackle them together

2.6 In addition, the WMCA will commit to:

- Set environmental emissions targets for WMCA Operations
- Use our purchasing power to drive improvements in our supply chain
- Continue to work with partners and support the delivery of programmes to catalyse low carbon activity such as our work on the [Circular Economy](#), the [Low Carbon Homes Charter](#), our [Virtual Forest](#), and the [West Midlands Innovation Programme](#)
- Use our [Five Year Plans](#) as an opportunity to engage with business and develop effective partnerships for delivery in specific areas
- Support the development of new and innovative collaboration on environmental activity and the Net Zero Business Pledge
- Develop strong links with existing business networks and trade associations in order to provide the best support possible and drive activity against the Net Zero Business Pledge.

2.7 The pledge will be hosted on the WMCA website and will provide information on the actions that business can take to work towards being carbon light and, ultimately, move towards net zero. These actions will enable both small and large businesses to be able to demonstrate a commitment to achieving net zero by 2041. We are in the process of developing a logo that will be awarded to businesses making the pledge for use in their publicity.

2.8 The WMCA Environment Team will be working with Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) on running the administration, development and marketing of the pledge. SWM have extensive experience in working with businesses of all sizes to support them on their carbon reduction transition.

2.9 The plan is to launch the pledge in January 2021. We are continuing to work with our founding partners on exact wording and design of the pledge document as well as on the webpages that will host the final version. As interest in the pledge grows it is anticipated that there will be an accompanying events programme that will sit alongside it for which we will seek additional funding/ sponsorship.

### **3. Financial Implications**

3.1 We intend to have a service level agreement in place for SWM to support the roll out and administration of the pledge. We will be seeking funding from organisations to contribute to the activities that will accompany the pledge.

### **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications as part of the production of the business pledge.

### **5. Equalities Implications**

5.1 There are no equalities implications as a result of the production of the business pledge.

## **6. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 6.1 The aim of the business pledge is to increase awareness and opportunities around carbon reduction to all businesses across the West Midlands. The production of the WM2041 Net Zero Business Pledge has taken views from a wide range of organisations to ensure that it is relevant and useful for both large and small businesses. We have worked hard to ensure that the language we are using in the pledge is accessible to non-experts so that they are able to get involved.

## **7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

- 7.1 The business pledge will cover the all local authorities (constituent and non-constituent) and LEPs of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

## **8. Other Implications**

None.

## **9. Schedule of Background Papers**

None.



## Environment & Energy Board

<b>Date</b>	9 December 2020
<b>Report title</b>	Natural Capital: Update on Solutions
<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	Environment, Energy & HS2 - Councillor Ian Courts
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Deborah Cadman, West Midlands Combined Authority email: <a href="mailto:deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk">deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: (0121) 215 7200
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### Recommendations for action or decision:

#### The Environment & Energy Board is recommended to:

- (1) Agree the next steps for the work on natural capital.
- (2) Support the work on developing a clear action plan on solutions to be agreed at the March 2020 Board.
- (3) Support collaboration around project implementation that will be concurrent with development of the action plan.

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 At the October 2020 Environment & Energy Board meeting, three presentations were given on natural capital projects. The Board asked the WMCA Environment Team to consider the solutions that could be implemented to address some of the challenges emerging. This paper outlines the next steps to developing a comprehensive plan, which will be presented to the Board in March 2020.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The work on WM2041, including indications coming through the modelling for the Five Year Plan, places significant importance on natural capital to both supporting mitigation of climate change as well as adaptation and resilience. At the October Environment and Energy Board meeting, three projects were highlighted in the natural capital space:

- The Virtual Forest
- West Midlands National Park
- New Economics Foundation report on access to green space

- 2.2 The Virtual Forest work has been progressing well, with the new site formally launching on 4 December as part of National Tree Planting Week. A guide to using the site has also been developed and is attached to this update note. This has been circulated to all local authorities, as well as tree planting groups, where we have contacts.

- 2.3 The West Midlands National Park (WMNP) engagement continues, with the first Foundation Board planned for December. The Environment Team is continuing to work with Birmingham City University, and other partners involved with the WMNP, on the delivery plan and project accreditation criteria.

- 2.4 The New Economics Foundation (NEF) report has identified a number of areas on which our action plan will focus. These actions are not mutually exclusive to the work of the Virtual Forest or the WMNP but will set out some of the additional areas of work that we might establish through grant funding. This work is being taken forward in response to the action from the last Environment and Energy Board: 'The Chair welcomed the initiative and requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the board with a list of actions to take this initiative forward'.

- 2.5 The proposal for this is a number of steps to move this agenda forward:

1. Feedback has now been given to the New Economics Foundation on the report, which will more clearly provide recommendations to the WMCA on next steps/ interventions. These may include understanding how we integrate natural capital into planning and development; identifying partners (including landowners) for tree planting; or working to understand how we attract residents to parks and open spaces (providing them is just one consideration).
2. A final report for this piece of work will be issued and will be circulated to the Environment and Energy Board members.

3. Data sharing. We will identify a way that we can start to share data from this report, and more widely, around natural capital. This will include providing access to the maps used by the NEF study.
4. Including other data. As the report has been shared, it has become increasingly clear that we could explore additional layers to the maps, for example health data. This could be particularly important in terms of targeting types of interventions. We will work with partners to explore which data is accessible and could be incorporated and helpful.
5. Stakeholder engagement. In order to develop conversations further around natural capital, we need to work with a wide range of stakeholders. These include local authorities; other public sector bodies (e.g. the Environment Agency); environmental NGOs (including local organisations as well as national organisations with a local presence); and private sector organisations also involved in this work. We will establish a task and finish working group to support the development of the action plan.
6. Funding. Natural capital formed a significant part of the WMCA's Comprehensive Spending Review submission. This was a total ask of £97.2m to cover projects including: community green grants; water quality and security; biodiversity net gain; wildlife corridors; and, natural capital as carbon sinks. We are also working with Defra to explore the possibility for the West Midlands to be a Local Nature Recovery Strategy pathfinder (in addition to the five that have currently been identified) as an important way to unlocking further funding. In addition, we are engaged in conversations with regional and national partners about the routes to providing funding for delivery of projects. Scoping all funding sources will form a key part of the next steps for the action plan.
7. Project identification. We will start to coordinate a pipeline of projects, working with data and potential funding routes, with a focus on supporting delivery through our stakeholders. Where we can, we will start implementation, particularly if funding becomes available. We will also work with infrastructure projects like HS2 and the Commonwealth Games to support delivery.
8. A fully developed action plan will be brought to the March 2021 Environment and Energy Board for sign-off.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 None from this report.

### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 None from this report.

### **5. Equalities Implications**

- 5.1 None from this report.

## **6. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 6.1 WM2041 recognises the importance of social and economic co-benefits of addressing climate change, as well as how to achieve carbon reduction in a way that does not leave anyone behind. Widening access to natural capital for physical and mental health benefits, as well as improving the resilience of our communities with regard to climate change, will be a key part of this programme of activity. We will also be mindful of some of the unintended consequences of this work, for example increasing house prices through localised increase in provision of green space.

## **7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

- 7.1 The core work of the natural capital work will cover constituent local authorities of the West Midlands Combined Authority. However, parts of the programme will also encompass other parts of the WMCA/ West Midlands/ Midlands geography.

## **8. Other Implications**

None.

## **9. Schedule of Background Papers**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Virtual Forest Guide



# West Midlands Virtual Forest

## Guide Booklet

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## What is the Virtual Forest?

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The West Midlands Virtual Forest plays an important role in supporting our efforts to tackle climate change and improving the environment. The website will help chart the combined efforts of our region to plant a tree for every resident, which equates to more than 4 million trees being planted across the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) area.

The scale of the climate emergency that we face requires equally ambitious acts to halt the decline. It requires support from all parts of society, including community groups, charities, businesses and local authorities as well as individuals, land owners and residents. The Virtual Forest will be an online space for mapping and tracking where trees are planted. The analytics will also help local authorities and tree planting organisations to measure their own success, whilst contributing to the wider WMCA target.

# Why a Virtual Forest?

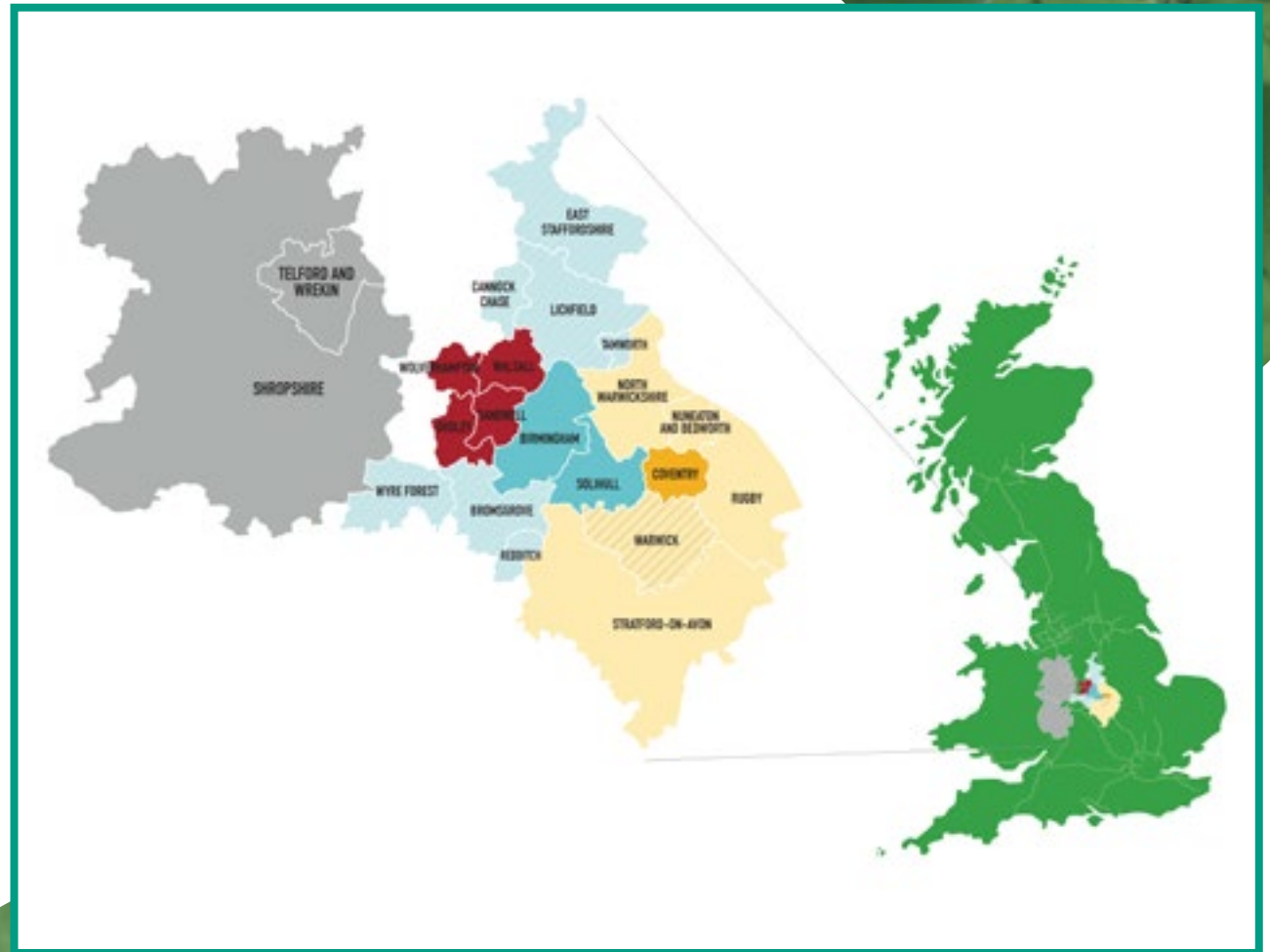
The WMCA developed the Virtual Forest to help bring people who wish to plant trees closer to organisations with trees to plant. This collaborative approach will help deliver the goal of reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2041 and the planting and tracking of 4 million trees by 2035.

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*\*Remember, the Virtual Forest launched officially in January 2020. We would encourage all groups to retrospectively register any tree planting that took place from January 1st 2020\**

## Where is it?

The Virtual Forest will cover the three West Midlands Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP - Black Country, Greater Birmingham & Solihull, and Coventry and Warwickshire), as well as the WMCA non-constituent members.







## What will the WMCA do to lead by example?

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The WMCA itself will be involved in planting some of these trees, however we know that many organisations are already well established across the region doing great tree planting work. Rather than reinvent the wheel, the WMCA will work together with these groups so that all tree planting counts.

## Why is planting trees good for the West Midlands?

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Tree planting is beneficial in many ways:

- Trees are great for the environment; they absorb carbon from the atmosphere, they help clean the air we breathe, trees provide shade on the hottest days and pathways for water to be absorbed into the surface on the wettest days, alleviating flooding.
- Trees help maintain and enhance the structure of the soil, preventing it eroding and degrading which is also good for locking up carbon and preventing our rivers silting up.
- Trees provide habitats for a multitude of other species, especially if, once they die, they are left for insects and other wildlife to take up residence.
- Trees are also good for us. Just being out and about walking, or cycling, in the woods is good for our physical and mental health, and so is planting them.





## Who can get involved in the Virtual Forest?

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The Virtual Forest is for everyone. The website has pages for different groups to get involved as follows:

- **Local Residents:** We want to **encourage** local residents to get involved in tree planting in a number of different ways. If they have the space and relevant permissions, this can include planting a tree in a garden. We know that this is not possible for everyone, and so we would like to **connect** anyone who wants to plant a tree with one of our partner tree planting organisations, or a local tree planting event.
- **Community Groups:** This encompasses a wide range of organisations from clubs and charities, to faith groups and parish councils. Some of these groups may have their own land on which to plant, but many may not. The website **signposts** community groups to the appropriate channels. Some, for instance, may be eligible to apply for free trees from The Woodland Trust. Other groups may wish to connect with a local tree planting session as a group activity or fundraiser/ sponsor some tree planting in their local area. Our aim here is to connect groups with the right people, and encourage them to record their trees on the website.



- Schools:** Schools are eligible to apply for trees from The Woodland Trust, and in this instance the Virtual Forest website will encourage schools to do just that. The website also aims to signpost educators to tree planting sessions and external educational speakers/educational resources – subject to this information being available. Schools can then record their planting on the Virtual Forest website as an activity for children.
- Corporate:** Businesses in the West Midlands, big or small, can get involved in tree planting. Some may have sites on their own land that is appropriate for tree planting, but many may not. For those that do not, the website signposts businesses to organisations and sites for them to sponsor trees to be planted, perhaps as part of their carbon offsetting strategies or CSR obligations. Businesses can also get involved by holding a corporate responsibility day. This is where employees are given a days paid leave to give something back to the community. Tree planting is an ideal avenue for this, and the Virtual Forest website signposts volunteers to relevant organisations and events.
- Landowners:** Landowners, particularly in more rural areas, have significant potential for increasing tree planting; be this planting new woods, or re-instating previously grubbed out hedging. The Woodland Trust part fund several initiatives in this area and the website signposts landowners to these schemes. There are also other funding opportunities available. Landowners may just want some additional advice on what to plant and where, and the website provides signposting to sound guidance. It may also be possible to connect landowners with groups who have trees and volunteers to plant them.

# The Virtual Forest and Local Authorities

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Another key group of partners are local authorities (LA). Many of the authorities undertake tree planting themselves and have associated targets. In addition, as the local planning and highways authorities, they may mandate the planting of trees as part of individual projects and developments. It is essential that we familiarise all relevant employees in local authorities with the Virtual Forest, to ensure that all tree planting is recorded.

Some LAs also host public tree planting sessions, and the Virtual Forest website can be an important tool in linking up local residents who wish to get involved with an appropriate session. We hope to keep in regular contact with the appropriate officers at each LA.

*\*Remember, the Virtual Forest launched officially in January 2020. We want all groups to retrospectively register any tree planting that took place from January 1st, 2020 to reflect real progress.\**



# Registering Tree Planting

The registration of tree planting using the Virtual Forest should be a straightforward process. Here's how to do it:

1 Go to [www.wmvirtualforest.co.uk](http://www.wmvirtualforest.co.uk).

2 Click onto the 'Register your tree' page.

3 Take a moment to read the instructions on the right hand side of the mapping tool.

4 Select the appropriate tool from the right hand side:

a Single tree: For those who have just planted one tree, this is just a pin drop.

b Hedgerow: For those who are planting hedging, this is a straight line tool.

c Area of trees: For those who have planted multiple trees over an area.

5 Find your location on the map and mark on the map where you have carried out tree planting using the appropriate tool.

6 Complete the form on the right, whether registering on behalf of an organisation, or as an individual, number of trees and types of species (if known).

7 If you want to record trees, but do not want them to appear on the map (because they are in a private garden, for example) then you can tick the option for them to not appear. They will still be counted.

8 Upload a picture of your day (optional).

One issue that has been raised is that it can be difficult to register a large number of trees planted in one space, for example along a footpath, canal or roadside. It is suggested that you either:

- a) register the trees as you go, in real-time, using the website on a mobile device, or
- b) you can mark a small area on the map, and record all of the trees planted within that area of trees (say, 50, for example) and then tick for that area to not be included on the map.

This will ensure that the trees are still included in the total but that the map will not be misleading.

Feel free to contact [wmvirtualforest@wmca.org.uk](mailto:wmvirtualforest@wmca.org.uk) with any difficulties you experience registering your activity.



# Our Progress

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In the 'Our Progress' section, you can get a more detailed breakdown of all the tree planting activity that has taken place across the region. This is updated every 24 hours rather than 'live'.

The following details are displayed:

- Total number of trees planted
- Total area of trees planted (hectares)
- Total distance of hedging planted
- Top 10 species planted
- Number of trees planted by organisation

It will also be possible to request a further breakdown of the number of species planted, and a breakdown of activity by local authority area.

# Our Partners:

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This section will help to promote the groups which are planting trees in the West Midlands. This includes local and national charities, local authorities, tree planting groups and others. Each of these groups will be able to include their logo and a link to their own website for people to find out more. We also hope that partners will send us through plans for the forthcoming tree planting season, any photos of events, and feedback on how we can improve and develop the Virtual Forest website.

The more we know about the services offered by each organisation, the better prepared we are to be able to connect potential volunteers/sponsors in your direction.

To find out more contact [wmvirtualforest@wmca.org.uk](mailto:wmvirtualforest@wmca.org.uk)



**West Midlands**  
Combined Authority



## Environment & Energy Board

<b>Date</b>	9 December 2020
<b>Report title</b>	WM2041 Programme Update
<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	Environment, Energy & HS2 - Councillor Ian Courts
<b>Accountable Chief Executive</b>	Deborah Cadman, West Midlands Combined Authority email: <a href="mailto:deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk">deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: (0121) 214 7200
<b>Accountable Employee</b>	Ed Cox, Director of Public Service Reform email: <a href="mailto:ed.cox@wmca.org.uk">ed.cox@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: 07788 224719  Jackie Homan, Head of Environment email: <a href="mailto:jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk">jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk</a> tel: 07584 449339

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

### The Environment & Energy Board is recommended to:

- (1) Review the WM2041 programme update and provide comment/ insight into the work being taken forward.
- (2) Identify areas of particular interest where there could be potential for specific collaboration with other work and stakeholders.
- (3) Provide feedback on how members would like to be engaged or informed on specific areas as the programme develops, outside of any Board meetings.

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The WM2041 programme, approved at the WMCA Board on 25<sup>th</sup> June, is delivering on a number of priority areas to help the WMCA region achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2041. The projects that comprise this programme are at different stages of maturity, although ultimately there will need to be delivery across all of them to deliver the system changes required to address climate change. This report gives a high-level overview of those projects, most of which will come to future Environment and Energy Board meetings.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 On 25 June the WMCA Board approved the paper: *WM2041: a programme for implementing an environmental recovery*. This paper outlined the projects and programmes that we would begin to deliver immediately, and that could support the regional recovery from Covid-19; priorities for the next 12 months; as well as those actions that would require medium-term planning.
- 2.2 The paper attached to this report outlines the progress that the WMCA is making across these priority areas that include: mobility (including active travel and electric mobility), circular economy, the energy transition, the built environment (both new build and retrofit) and natural capital. We also touch on the Five Year Plans, although this has been covered more extensively in the relevant agenda item.
- 2.3 In addition to the work on specific projects and programmes, the WMCA Environment Team is also working to develop relationships with a wide range of stakeholders that will be essential to the success of WM2041. Examples of these initiatives include:
- Programmes to support behaviour change; this was something that people asked for support with as part of the WM2041 consultation. We recently ran a '5 top tips' campaign linked to Zero Emissions Day and we are signing up to the Count Us In initiative, a global behaviour change campaign around climate change.
  - Work with business, particularly the development of a business pledge and associated action plan to support and work with businesses of all sizes on their climate change plans.
- 2.4 The delivery of the WM2041 programme also relies on working closely with the local authorities and their climate change action plans. The WMCA Environment Team works closely with the officers supporting climate change and carbon reduction in each of the constituent local authorities, through a Low Carbon Officers Group, to maximise the potential for collaboration and shared learning around the work being undertaken.
- 2.5 The Single Assurance Framework references the need for thematic boards to have a 'Portfolio Project Pipeline'. The programme overview presented here is that pipeline of projects and programmes that the WMCA Environment Team and partners will be working on over the next 12 months to support progress towards the WM2041 net zero carbon emissions target date.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The financial implications will emerge on a project-by-project basis. It is the aim of the Five Year Plans to understand the financing required for delivery.

### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are no specific legal implications for the programme as a whole. Legal implications will be understood as part of the programme delivery for each project.

### **5. Equalities Implications**

- 5.1 There are no specific equalities implications from this report – these will be assessed as project plans are progressed in more detail.

### **6. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 6.1 We see the delivery of WM2041 as being very closely tied to the WMCA inclusive growth agenda and it will form a key part of the projects and programmes developed. Ensuring the climate change transition is fair and provides opportunities and improvements in quality of life for people across the West Midlands is a fundamental part of our approach to delivery.

### **7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

- 7.1 The WM2041 target was produced on a 3 LEP geography. The focus of much of the work will be on the 7 constituent authorities, but there will be some programmes where we will make links with non-constituent members.

### **8. Other Implications**

None.

### **9. Schedule of Background Papers**

Appendix - Programme update

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## WM2041 – Programme update

### December 2020

This WM2041 programme update provides the latest progress on activity since the approval of 'WM2041: a programme for implementing an environmental recovery', which was approved by the West Midlands Combined Authority Board in June 2020.

### Background

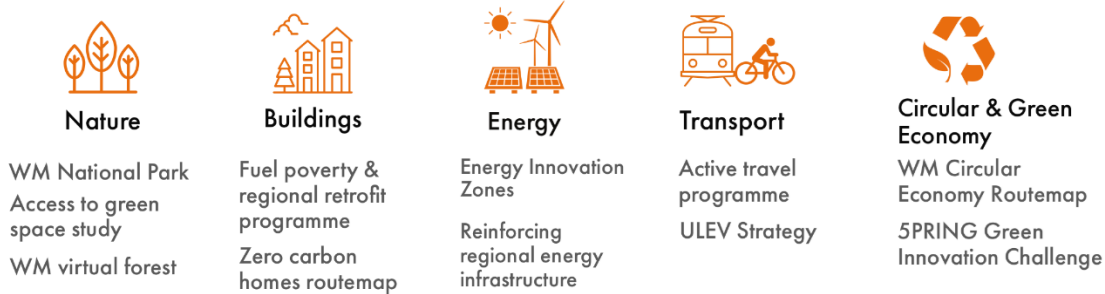
1. In June 2019, the WMCA declared a climate emergency and the Combined Authority Board received a paper from the Tyndall Centre in July, outlining the trajectory that would be necessary in order to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2041. This work includes two interim carbon budgets of 36% reduction by 2022 and 69% reduction by 2027. The focus is on a rapid transition towards a zero-carbon future where action must be 'front-loaded' – we will need to meet year-on-year carbon emissions reductions of 13% to reach that target.
2. Following the production of the target, a 'green paper' was written to indicate how the region could take action in order to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2041, with 73 actions of varying scale, complexity and investment. This was approved by the Combined Authority Board on 17th January 2020 and formally launched at an event on 23rd January 2020, with a period of consultation until 12th March 2020.
3. The unfolding events of the pandemic resulted in the feedback from the consultation being combined into priority actions for a 'green recovery' from Covid-19; *WM2041: a programme for implementing an environmental recovery*, which was approved by the CA Board in June 2020. The paper proposed three categories for action:
  1. **Urgent action for 2020:** activities that will have immediate impact and/or set a clear direction of travel for the kind of recovery we expect in the West Midlands.
  2. **12-month priorities:** activities that need to be pursued over the next 12 months as key priorities within the wider recovery programme.
  3. **Five year plan 2021-26 priorities:** the mid-long term programmes that need to be developed to ensure we are on track to deliver our net zero carbon target.

Updates for each of the three categories are provided below.

# WM2041 Programme





## 2 2020 Activity



## 3 WM2041 Five Year Plan 2021-26



### 1. Urgent action 2020

<p><b>West Midlands Green Innovation Challenge</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This WM Green Innovation Challenge will support the work of innovative SMEs across the region, particularly in finding solutions to some of our most pressing challenges. WMCA Environment Team are working with the 5G Accelerator and have identified a range of challenges relating to WM2041 that will be addressed by SMEs through the 5SPRING programme (touching on energy, natural capital, circular economy, build environment and behaviour change). We are finalising arrangements with several private sector partners who also share an interest in the solutions to these challenges. The programme was launched for applications in late September 2020 and will begin in January 2021.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WM Circular Economy</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circular economy and resource efficiency has the potential to create jobs and economic growth across the region. WMCA Environment Team workshop with 40 regional stakeholders took place in early September and an online survey received 54 responses. The results of these engagements has shaped the formation of a regional Taskforce that will oversee the completion of a routemap by mid-2021 (also see section in 12 month priorities).</li> </ul>



### Active Travel



Active travel came out as most popular approach for tackling climate change in the WM2041 consultation process that took place Jan – March 2020. This is a TfWM-led programme which has recently received a large investment from Department for Transport via the Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 1) and the Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2). Tranche 1 awarded the West Midlands a total of £3.45 million which has delivered:

- 50 infrastructure schemes across all LA's for pop up cycle lanes, pavement widening, cycle parking schemes and road closures.
- To support this infrastructure TfWM have delivered a package of 8 supporting measures including:
  - Cycle parking to approximately 250 organisations with free cycle parking measures (in conjunction with Park that Bike).
  - Love to Ride, an online engagement platform encouraging more people to cycle and walk.
  - Social prescribing pilot in the Black Country looking at using cycling and walking as an incentive for recovery for patients at doctor's surgeries.
- Expansion of the Active Travel Partnerships including a new British Cycling Recreation Officer, a third Living Streets Officer to deliver the Little Feet programme encouraging parents to walk children to nurseries and early years and a third Cycling UK Officer to cover Coventry and Solihull.
- Roll & Stroll, a regional campaign launched to promote Cycling and walking.


Tranche 2 was announced in November 2020 awarding the West Midlands a total of £13.1 million. The funding will be used to deliver schemes across the region.

- 39 Infrastructure schemes including making permanent many of the pop-up cycle lanes and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods delivered in Tranche 1.
- Delivery of the Supporting Measures works in a targeted approach. Aiming to work in priority areas near to new infrastructure as it is delivered. Some projects will be expanded:
  - Expansion of Social Prescribing with Active Travel to 8 CCG's in Birmingham building on the success in the Black Country
  - Continuation of the Cycle Parking for Organisations project adding two new parking options for larger cycles.
  - Promoting the use of the love exploring app across the Black Country


### Reinforcing the region's energy infrastructure to support green growth








- One of Energy Capital's main priorities is to ensure that the cost of connecting to energy infrastructure does not inhibit economic growth across the region. In August, the SED Board endorsed Energy Capital's proposed approach to engaging with the regional energy network operators (DNOs), both with and on behalf of, the constituent members, to get a better outcome for the region from current and future energy infrastructure price control negotiations.
- This process recognises that Local Authorities will still need to lead the engagement for their areas and liaise with the DNOs, particularly the spatial planners. Energy Capital will support this process and provide the specialist technical and commercial expertise in energy infrastructure to make sure we get engagement at the right levels and that the data and information provided to

	<p>local stakeholders is discernible and meaningful. They are now engaging with the DNO, Local Authorities and LEPS to formalise this approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the 11th Sept, Energy Capital also presented to the Devolution Sub-Group and obtained support for seeking statutory recognition for the role of local government in this space, through the devolution process.</li> <li>Our Devolution ask was submitted to BEIS by Andy Street via the minister Alok Sharma in November.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Green Grants pilot</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WMCA Environment Team commissioned the New Economics Foundation to identify where there is currently deficit of access to green space across the West Midlands region, and how this overlaps with socio-economic characteristics (age, BAME groups and indices of multiple deprivation). The next steps for this work will be used to develop a programme for targeting green grants that reduce the deficit. Defra have expressed interest in this work and it was included in the CSR asks. There has been interest from NGOs to collaborate through funding routes they are able to access, as well as local authority officers. The action plan for taking this work forward has been brought to this meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Communications and behaviour change</b> <b>#WM2041</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The WM2041 Communications Plan ensures that progress across WM2041 programmes translates into press releases and engagement with the public and relevant stakeholders to inspire, engage and inform them. A soft market testing exercise is underway to understand how WMCA can most effectively engage people in climate change issues and actions.</li> <li>WMCA was also a founding partner for the global pledge initiative, Count Us In, that launched on 10th October and seeks to mobilise 1 billion people to take practical steps that when aggregated, will make a significant impact in reducing carbon pollution and challenge leaders to act boldly to deliver global systems change.</li> </ul>
<b>West Midlands Green Financing</b>	<p>The Five Year Plans (outlined below) will provide the high level programmes, scale of investment and carbon saved. This will provide us with a better understanding of the financing routes required to deliver on the outcomes.</p>

## 2. 12-month priorities: acceleration and embedding phase

<b>A regional retrofit programme</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having secured funding from the WMCA Innovation Board, Energy Capital are building a programme across the West Midlands with partners that looks at both the immediate need to tackle regional fuel poverty, and how we scale up retrofit across the region. As part of this collaboration, six working groups have been established to cover these two key work areas, as well as the cross-programme issues of customer engagement, green finance, skills and training, and governance.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The partnership has already been successful in bringing new funding into the region to fill gaps in fuel poverty support provision and invest in scaling up retrofit. The partnership is working on how best to support local authorities to access funding streams which have recently been announced by Government and had submitted one consortium bid to date. Energy Capital is also engaging with central Government regarding alternative regional delivery mechanisms through this partnership.</li> </ul>
<b>Zero carbon homes charter and routemap</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In April 2020, Housing &amp; Land Delivery Board agreed a programme of work to deliver zero carbon homes by 2025. This included three key outputs: a baseline performance gap analysis, zero carbon homes charter and routemap. Useful Projects have been appointed to develop and co-ordinate WMCA's Zero Carbon Homes programme. Additionally, WMCA assembled a Zero Carbon Homes Taskforce and Officer Working Group to oversee, steer and review the programme as it developed.</li> <li>The baseline gap analysis was completed in October 2020 and identified two routes to delivering zero carbon homes in the region. The short term focus (to 2025) will be reducing operational emissions to net zero, followed by embodied carbon and whole life carbon.</li> <li>Using the baseline gap analysis and input from both the Taskforce and the Officer Working Group, a Zero Carbon Homes Charter has been produced and will be discussed by Housing and Land Delivery Board in December 2020. The charter frames WMCA's commitment to, and objectives for, net-zero carbon homes in the region. In this regard, the document will be vision-setting with a focus on delivering co-benefits such as whole life cost savings, supply chain opportunities and social value.</li> <li>The Zero Carbon Homes Routemap is also in progress. This document will provide an implementation plan for the charter as well as other short and medium term actions to deliver the 2025 net-zero operational emissions target, with consideration to meeting net zero whole life emissions in the longer term. Following conversations with both the Taskforce and Officer Working Group, five enablers necessary to deliver WMCA's aspirations to 2025 and beyond were identified and will form the 'skeleton' of the routemap with actions identified across the timeline for each; 1) Policy and Lobbying, 2) Governance and Delivery Processes, 3) Financial Capital, 4) Human Capital and 5) Infrastructure, Innovation and Technology.</li> </ul>
<b>WM Circular Economy routemap and action plan</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building on the early engagement and formation of a Taskforce, the WM Circular Economy Routemap will outline the opportunities for new job creation and business development in the region, whilst preventing unnecessary waste products and materials. WMCA Environment Team will be commissioning consultants to work with the Taskforce to identify waste flows and new processes to understand the common barriers, opportunities and approaches that create the conditions for collaboration that a circular economy relies upon.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Green neighbourhoods, natural capital and a WM National Park</b></p> 	<p>There are three different projects within this area of work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community green grants (covered above) – this will begin with a pilot, but we would hope to sustain the work into the longer-term if we can identify a funding source.</li> <li>2. WM Virtual Forest – the website will be relaunched this autumn to support efforts to reach 4m trees planted across the WMCA geography and help to co-ordinate the work of regional tree planting groups. A soft launch took place with local stakeholders on 24<sup>th</sup> September and will be formally launched to the public on 4th December. The guide on how to use the site has been included as an item under the natural capital solutions.</li> <li>3. West Midlands National Park - we have continued to work with BCU to identify a full project pipeline to begin to deliver on the WMNP activity and the governance arrangements around it. A funding ask has been included in the CSR request.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Electric mobility</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) programme being led by Energy Capital and TfWM is developing along two themes; mass roll out and strategic/rapid charging stations. At a strategic level Energy Capital are working with National Grid to position for funding expected to be released by OLEV shortly (Project Rapid). We hope to influence national funding to support schemes in the region such as the strategic/rapid charging station being developed in Ansty, Coventry. Here a number of transport and energy projects are being co-located to maximise benefit to both the system and the locality. Funding to develop the Strategic Outline Case has been obtained through Midlands Energy Hub and a draft report will inform the wider regional strategy.</li> <li>• Energy Capital held a workshop with TfWM on 11 Sept, which mapped all transport transition programmes across the region with the aim of understanding the future impact on the underlying energy system of these projects. This is part of a process to ensure integration of workstreams and cohesion of strategy across Energy Capital, TfWM and #WM2041.</li> <li>• Energy Capital have also been working closely with the data insights team and have compiled the energy and transport data which we have access to, into an online portal, which will showcase the work being undertaken on local energy systems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reviewing the West Midlands Transport Plan</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In July 2020 WMCA Board approved the approach and timescale to update the statutory transport plan for the West Midlands in order to reflect the objectives of WM2041 and the regional economic recovery strategy. As part of this Board approved the development and publication for consultation of a transport green paper, which will form part of an on-going dialogue to explore how the transport system can continue to be developed towards an inclusive, de-carbonised and integrated system, connecting lives and livelihoods cleanly and safely.</li> <li>• To support this TfWM have undertaken a programme of market research and engagement to establish the appetite for travel behaviour change, new transport technology adoption, flexible working and uptake of consumer, freight and logistics behaviours in the West Midlands in a post COVID world.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Transport Board are due to consider the Green Paper in January ahead of publication and engagement in January and February 2021. A draft new West Midlands Local Transport Plan is slated for consultation in autumn 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Disclosing carbon emissions to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a global initiative, which includes private and public sector organisations reporting on their activities to address carbon emissions, as well as their progress towards reduction targets. WMCA Environment Team submitted the report in August and were recently awarded a B.</li> </ul>
<b>WM2041 Business Pledge</b>  <b>#WM2041</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The idea of a WM2041 business pledge came through the Mayor's Economic Impact Group (EIG) in summer 2020.</li> <li>• The Environment Team subsequently held an online workshop with ten EIG businesses and business network leaders of different sizes and sectors in September, to help shape the scope of a pledge and to propose actions that would support its delivery. Sustainability West Midlands are now engaged in the finalising the pledge and action plan, to ensure it aligns with other regional business networks and provides real value to businesses in the region, whilst supporting delivery of WM2041.</li> <li>• The Pledge will launch in early 2021.</li> </ul>

### 3. Five Year Plan 2021-26

#### Background

The five-year delivery plans (four in total) will provide targets, interim carbon budgets and other metrics in support of delivering the zero carbon target for the West Midlands by 2041. The first Five Year Plan (FYP) will provide:



#### Project Delivery

The Environment Team has commissioned WSP to help produce the FYP. In addition to the above, the work will also include a detailed study of the jobs and skills that will be required to deliver WM2041 and identify the routes to ensure they are in place.

Successful delivery will depend on the engagement of stakeholders in the region. This will include:

- Close collaboration with local authorities. Most local authorities in the region now have their own carbon reduction plans that will form an essential part of understanding the activity across the West Midlands and the FYP will group it into delivery activity.
- We are looking to engage with Leaders and Chief Executives to ensure coordination around strategy and delivery and how WMCA and LAs work together where appropriate.
- Wider engagement will also be required to build an ongoing programme with the people of the region. External engagement will take place largely through existing networks and includes:
  - Delivery organisations – e.g. utilities, other public bodies, private sector
  - Active participants and allies – e.g. those already engaged on environment agenda and working with WMCA
  - Passive / opposers – e.g. those not yet engaged but important to delivery
- WSP have costed the option of running a public assembly to get wider input into the FYPs.

#### Timescales

Project Stage	Includes	Estimated Target Date
Project start	Kick-off meeting with consultants	September 2020
Stakeholder Engagement	Stakeholder mapping	September 2020
	WM Local Authority Working Group	Ongoing
	Internal Cross-Directorate Working Group	Ongoing
	External engagement	October/ November 2020
Draft	Produce draft FYP	November December 2020
Final Document	Produce final FYP	December 2020
Briefings and Approvals	Briefing to Environment Board for update	September 2020
	Environment Board for update	November 2020
	Environment Board for update	December 2020
	CA Board	February 2021