



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Environment Board

Date	8 February 2018
Report title	Update on Developing a Low Emissions Strategy - Air Quality and Carbon Emissions
Portfolio Lead	Councillor Qadar Zada – Environment
Accountable Chief Executive	Jan Britton, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council email: jan_britton@sandwell.gov.uk
Accountable Employee	Simon Slater, Head of Environment email: simon.slater@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	WMCA Overview and Scrutiny – 16/1/2019

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Environment Board is recommended to:

- (1) To note the progress on the development of the strategy and action plan.
- (2) Comment on additional region wide actions to be considered by the strategy development workshop with stakeholders in March.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This paper is linked to the Environment Board priorities of Clean Growth and Air Quality. It updates the Board on progress, prior to them reviewing draft recommendation to approve at the June Board. It also provides an opportunity for additional ideas to be fed into to be considered at a stakeholder workshop in March.

2.0 Progress to date

- 2.1 The WMCA Board approved the production of the West Midlands Low Emission Strategy and Action Plan in July 2018 and delegated the draft scope to the WMCA Environment Board to approve in September 2018. Comments on this draft scope at the Environment Board meeting and from the steering group members of TfWM, the Local Authority air quality officers' network and the WMCA Environment Board advisory group, were then incorporated into the final scope. This has included a re-emphasis on local 'added value', sharing of good practice, and local ownership raised previously by the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 To raise awareness and further ownership in November and December the WMCA Environment Team have presented to officers and councillors as part of regional public health and transport events on air quality and the West Midlands Environment Pollution officers network.
- 2.3 The Environment Team also presented progress to the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16th January 2018. They raised the following additional issues for consideration:
- Focus on longer term health outcomes and roadmap to drive change and certainty for investors, rather than just short-term targets.
 - Coordination and scaling up of good local practice.
 - Focus on a selection of region wide actions that will accelerate local action e.g. region wide policy and rollout by local authorities and TfWM sites on charging points.
 - Have clear annual success factors
- 2.4 A steering group has been appointed which met on 21st January to finalise the development and implementation plan. This group is made up of representatives from the WMCA constituent councils covering air quality and low emission issues, who will also liaise with non-constituent councils. The group also includes representatives from industry, public health, and Transport for West Midlands, and is led by the new WMCA Environment team. The group has finalised the scope and development plan for the strategy which is available on request.
- 2.5 The original timescales have changed to allow time required for the approval process by the Environment Committee and Board and feedback from partners. The latest indicative timescales are:

- March – Regional Stakeholder Workshop
- April / May – Meeting of Steering Group to finalise draft actions / recommendations
- June 7th – WMCA Environment Board agree final actions and recommendations within strategy for adoption by WMCA Board.
- July – WMCA Board approval of strategy
- August/September – formal launch of strategy and action plan.

3.0 Wider WMCA Implications

This activity helps strengthen the WMCA delivery of the environment and the delivery of key Manifesto, SEP, and annual plan commitments.

4.0 Financial Implications

The WMCA will provide support to the production of the Strategy and Action Plan.

5.0 Legal Implications

None at this stage.

6.0 Equalities Implications

Part of the WMCA sustainability review and benchmarking focused on the health inequalities agenda between the gap between the worst and best performing areas with the WMCA SEP area, and by gender. This work will support partners improving air quality and the creation of jobs which help begin to address these inequalities.

7.0 Inclusive Growth Implications

See above.

8.0 Geographic Implications

This covers the WMCA geography covered by the SEP.