

Environment Board

Date	25 June 2020
Report title	WM2041: Introduction to Circular Economy Project
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Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Environment Board is recommended to:

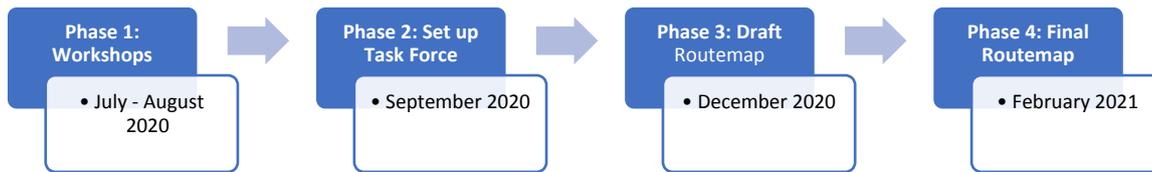
- (1) Agree to the next steps in the production of the WM Circular Economy Routemap as detailed within the report.
- (2) Identify any stakeholders critical to include in the workshops and Taskforce.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper provides an overview of the upcoming work on holding workshops with key stakeholders, forming a Task Force and producing a Circular Economy Routemap for the WM.

2. Background

- 2.1 In June 2019, WMCA declared a climate emergency. In July 2019, the CA Board received a paper from the Tyndall Centre 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 rapid transition towards a zero-carbon future where action must be 'front-loaded'. The report also indicated that if urgent action is not taken, the WMCA will use up its entire carbon budget within 6 years.
- 2.2 In June 2020, WMCA approved "WM2041: A Programme for Implementing an Environmental Recovery" which sets out the urgent activity and need for the WMCA and stakeholders to produce five-year delivery plans (four in total) with targets, to include interim carbon budgets and other metrics in support of delivering the zero carbon target for the West Midlands by 2041.
- 2.3 The urgent activity included the need to establish a Circular Economy Taskforce for the West Midlands and produce a Routemap to identify the possible benefits from a circular economy approach for the region, as well as the priorities to begin a local movement across different sectors and how this can be scaled up over time.
- 2.4 Rather than depend on linear and extractive processes, circular economy encourages repair, reuse and regeneration. As resource productivity is maximised, waste streams are redirected, pushing the economy towards a closed-loop, zero waste system. This is further coupled with a transition to renewable energy, allowing the circular economy concept to redefine growth and build economic, natural, and social capital.
- 2.5 A Routemap would enable us to explore alternative business models such as incentivised return, leasing and sharing. A similar Routemap completed for the London Waste and Recycling Board indicates that by 2036, the circular economy could provide London with net benefits of at least £7bn every year and 40,000 new jobs (12,000 net additional jobs) in the areas of re-use, remanufacturing and materials innovation.
- 2.6 We do not know what and where the current opportunities are in the West Midlands, but there is likely economic advantage and potential to create jobs. The Routemap would help us understand this better.
- 2.7 In order to produce the Routemap it is proposed to hold an online stakeholder workshop and bring together a Task Force.
- 2.8 A briefing note will be shared ahead of an online workshop with stakeholders (July-August 2020) to help form the Task Force (September 2020) that will oversee the completion of a draft (December 2020) and launch of the WM Circular Economy Routemap (Jan/Feb 2021).



3. Outputs and Scope

3.1 A series of outputs will be produced during the completion of this project which will conclude with the publication of the Routemap in early 2021.

- **Workshop Findings Report**
- **Memorandum of Understanding for a WM Circular Economy Task Force**
- **WM Circular Economy Routemap**, including but not limited to:
 - City Scans – what resources flow in and out of cities and the region
 - Live circular economy case studies
 - Cross sector approaches
 - Public sector vs private sector approaches
 - Different approaches within e.g. SME, corporates
 - Circular Economy Principles that LA's can adopt
 - Alignment with local waste strategies, procurement plans, business programmes
 - A phased approach to scaling the circular economy – e.g.:
 - Phase 1 – Getting started – engagement and demonstrators
 - Phase 2 - Ensuring continuity – platforms / knowledge share / direct business engagement and delivery
 - Phase 3 - Mainstreaming the circular economy at scale
 - Networks and ambassadors
 - Communications plan

3.2 The report will also outline the criteria that will help to determine the delivery and maturity of the circular economy in the overall WM economy, including:

- Financial impact
- Jobs created in different sectors
- Tonnes of waste prevented/repair/reused/recycled/recovered/treated
- Carbon saved
- Business to business engagement – levels of communications, interactions, collaborations.
- New policy and project alignment, e.g. with energy from waste projects

4. Project Development

4.1 Lead Responsibility

- a. The production of the Routemap will be managed by the WMCA Environment Team. The local authority Low Carbon Officers Group will also have a key role to play.

- b. The work will require externally commissioned consultancy support to produce the outputs listed above. It is envisaged that this could cost between £40-50,000 but this will be confirmed in the full project plan. We will be seeking resource and contributions from Task Force members to minimise WMCA spend on completion of the Routemap.

4.2 Stakeholder engagement

Successful delivery will depend on the engagement of stakeholders with an interest in the circular economy and close collaboration with local authorities and their existing networks.

- *Lead* – WMCA. We are in dialogue with the West Midlands Circular Economy Club to understand the potential for collaboration given their existing network.
- *Supporting* – local authorities, local businesses from a range of sectors, Chambers of Commerce, LEPs, national government (DEFRA), waste management groups, universities.
- Sectors - construction, manufacturing, fashion, engineering, waste (closed loop waste management), food and drink.

5. Governance

- 5.1 The circular economy work will report to the Energy and Environment Board and any recommendations from the report including future governance that need to be in place to make us effective, in terms of democratic legitimacy, regional collaboration and overall pace and delivery, will be subject to their approval.

6. Cost to Deliver

- 6.1 The production of the Circular Economy Routemap including the workshops and Task Force is envisaged to cost approximately £40,000 including consultancy support to produce the outputs detailed above. We will be seeking resource and contributions from Task Force members to minimise WMCA spend on completion of the Routemap.

7. Tasks and Milestones

- 7.1 The stages and timescales for the work are outlined below. A full delivery plan will be produced as part of project scoping. Estimated target dates have been included below and will be updated as part of the formal Project Plan.

Project Stage	Includes	Estimated Target Date
Project Scoping	Produce full project plan	End June 2020
Workshops	Online briefing, workshop with breakout sessions.	July – August 2020
	Produce brief report that outlines the findings of the workshop to lead into the Task Force and Routemap.	August 2020
Task Force	Establish a Memorandum of Understanding and confirm Task Force members, Chair, and hold the first meeting.	September 2020

Consultancy Support specification and tender(s)	Produce specification of support required with relevant internal and external stakeholder input	September 2020 (for Task Force input)
	Appoint consultants to provide support	October 2020
Stakeholder Engagement	Stakeholder mapping (part of project plan and ongoing)	June 2020 – October 2020
	Local Authority Working Group	Ongoing
Draft	Produce draft Routemap	November 2020
Final Document	Produce final Routemap	January - February 2021
Briefings and Approvals	Briefing to Environment Board for update	June 2020 September 2020
	Environment Board for approval	Jan/Feb 2021
Launch and Comms	Plan for launch	December 2020
	Launch Routemap	February 2021 - potential alignment with FYP launch

8. Risks

8.1 The current risks in completing the project are currently defined at a high level as:

Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Lack of stakeholder engagement and buy-in results in poor and disjointed Routemap	Low	High	A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan will be produced which will use established networks
Routemap not finished by start of 2021 due to complexity and amount of work required	Medium	Medium	Project plan will break down tasks, ownership and timescales required. It will be monitored and risks reported.
Budget is insufficient to deliver outputs of Routemap	Low	High	Specification will be developed and shared for views internally before publishing. We will seek input and contributions from key stakeholders

9. Financial Implications

9.1 It is envisaged that the production of the Circular Economy Routemap including the workshops and Task Force will cost between £40-50,000.

10. Legal Implications

10.1 There are no legal implications as part of the production of the Routemap. Any legal implications will be presented as part of the approval of the Routemap.

11. Equalities Implications

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

12. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 12.1 There are no inclusive growth implications as a result of the production of the Routemap. Any inclusive growth implications will be presented as part of the approval of the Routemap.

13. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

- 13.1 The core work of the FYP 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 geography.

14. Other Implications

None.

15. Schedule of Background Papers

WM2041: A Programme for Implementing an Environmental Recovery