

## Environment Board

<b>Date</b>	25 June 2020
<b>Report title</b>	Environment Board Terms of Reference
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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Environment Board is recommended to:

- (1) Consider the future focus of the Environment Board, including agreeing the change of name to the Energy & Environment Board and reviewing Board membership.
- (2) Note workstreams of Single Assurance Framework Project that have implications for Environment Board Terms of Reference

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the focus of the Environment Board as part of its annual review of its terms of reference.
- 1.2 To consider amendments to the terms of reference to ensure the Board is best able to fulfil its role.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The terms of reference for the Environment Board were last considered in September 2018, a copy of the existing terms of reference agreed then is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2 It has become clear that the synergies between the work on environment and energy mean that the Environment Board should now become the Energy and Environment Board, receiving updates and making decisions on the work on WM2041 (the WMCA's climate change plan) as well as work undertaken by Energy Capital. Up until now, Energy Capital has only reported into the WMCA's SED Board but much of their work aligns with WM2041, for example on retrofit, electric vehicle charging infrastructure and the regional energy transition.
- 2.3 There is also opportunity to consider the membership on the Environment Board going forwards, considering other key stakeholders that should be part of the governance arrangements. There has been a request by the Environment Agency to join the Board, for example.
- 2.4 The discussion on the Terms of Reference needs to be had in the context of the ongoing work the WMCA is doing to develop a Single Assurance Framework (SAF). The SAF will provide a single set of systems, processes and protocols designed to provide an evidence-based and independent assessment of the governance, risk management, and control processes of the WMCA.
- 2.5 As part of this work, core roles for all Thematic Boards are being developed. The intention is to provide a consistent role, purpose and approach across all the Boards 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.
- 2.6 The proposed SAF Core Roles are as follows:
  1. **Play a key role in developing and approve the Portfolio Annual Business Plan** - ensuring that it demonstrates a clear 'golden thread' to the WMCA Annual Plan and strategic objectives, highlighting prioritisation considerations where appropriate and then supporting and challenging delivery.
  2. **Provide oversight of the Portfolio Project Pipeline** - taking ownership of supporting and challenging the Lead Member on the pipeline and monitoring its content, providing feedback to Business Areas (but not instruction) and performance managing bids and project development.

**3. Advise on major policy change within Portfolio** - Consider and advise upon major policy change within their thematic area, delivering expert stakeholder engagement and ensuring ownership and accountability.

**4. Performance manage Portfolio project delivery** - at thematic level (below strategic), ensuring effective and appropriate challenge

2.7 The SAF proposals also propose that the Thematic Board fulfils the following functions:

- Lead in developing an approach to future devolution of powers from Government to the region.
- Provide co-ordination and direction on strategic matters relating to the portfolio needs of the region.
- Provide the forum for facilitating strategic conversations between the local authorities, stakeholders and WMCA

2.8 In addition the work being developed through SAF is also proposing that Thematic Boards provide clear support and challenge to the WMCA Portfolio Lead through the following functions:

Support Portfolio Holders by:

- Providing advice and support to WMCA activity
- Helping engage with wider stakeholder networks and activity
- Identify and scale up existing good practice within the WMCA area
- Identify and secure resources to deliver new opportunities

2.9 Officers will be present at the Environment Board meeting to answer any questions regarding the SAF Project and implications for the Thematic Boards.

2.10 The SAF Project is due to report to WMCA Board on the 24 July with an enhanced Assurance Framework document and accompanying recommendations for improvements that will include Thematic Board proposals.

### **3. Financial Implications**

3.1 The cost of supporting the Environment Board will come from within the WMCA.

### **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 None directly arising from this report.

### **5. Equalities Implications**

5.1 None directly arising from this report

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

6.1 None directly arising from this report

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

7.1 None directly arising from this report

**8. Other Implications**

8.1 None directly arising from this report

**9. Schedule of Background Papers**

9.1 Appendix A – Existing Terms of Reference