

## Environment Board

<b>Date</b>	25 June 2020
<b>Report title</b>	WM2041 - Five Year Plans
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**Recommendation(s) for action or decision:**

**The Environment Board is recommended to:**

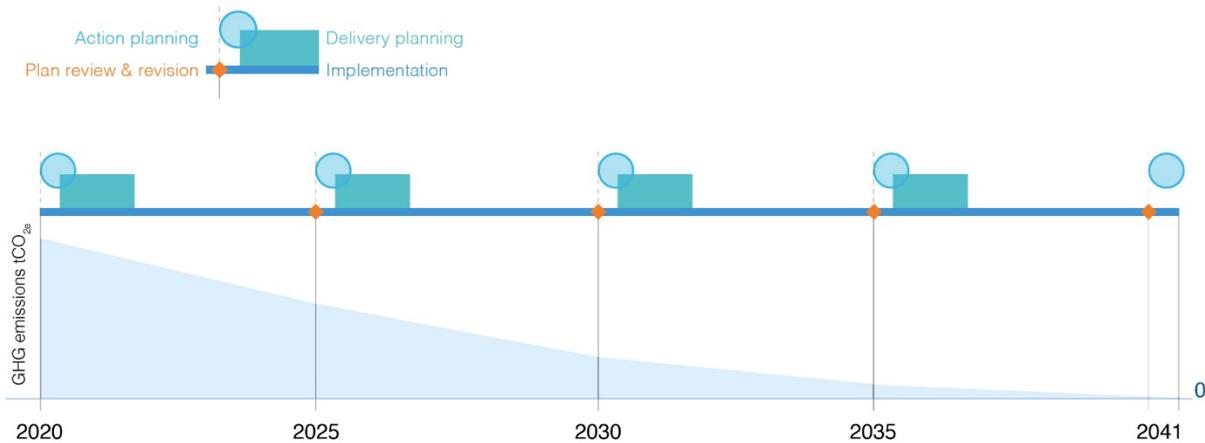
- (1) Approve the next steps as detailed within paragraph 6.
- (2) Agree the timetable for the Five-Year Plans

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper provides an overview of the upcoming work on a Five Year Plan (FYP) to begin to deliver on the WM2041 ambitions for the West Midlands.

## 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 first Five Year Plan (FYP) will:
- (a) Provide an **evidence based spatial plan**, linking up potential delivery projects and investments and group them into type / location across the WM region to ensure an efficient, cost-effective and prioritised approach to WM2041 delivery;
  - (b) Create a **common vision for stakeholders** with a strategic plan, policies and outline practical devolution opportunities;
  - (c) Outline **different routes to delivery** and where this will be led by communities, local authorities, the combined authority, the private sector, or a mixture;
  - (d) Outline the **funding sources, financing and investment** to deliver the FYP;
  - (e) 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.
- 2.4 The cycle of Five-Year Plans to support delivery of WM2041 carbon target of zero carbon by 2041 are covered below with carbon emissions reduction targets as follows, based on a 2016 baseline:
- 36% reduction by 2022
  - 69% carbon reduction by 2027



2.5 The FYP will need to build on the previous Tyndall Centre work in WM2041 to estimate the impact that actions will have on the carbon emissions of the WM region, factoring in efforts at the local, regional and national levels.

- **FYP Outputs and Scope**

The WM2041 Five Year Plan (2021-26) will include:

- A technical and spatial evidence base of existing activity.** This will build on the work of local authority carbon plans, the existing Tyndall centre work for WM2041. We are not beginning from a standing start and there is already much happening on tackling climate change across the region. There will be significant value in gaining an holistic view of similar project types and place-based solutions already in either concept or delivery phases as this will enable a more co-ordinated approach to delivery.
- Priority actions and investment opportunities.** These will emerge from the above evidence base and existing activities. This will build on the current WM2041 work and inform the critical part of the FYP around financing and delivery. It will also provide, for the first time, the scale of investment required in different sectors, technologies and/or delivery opportunities, on a region-wide basis. The projects will cover projects related to housing (e.g. retrofit and standards for new builds); transport (e.g. active travel); energy (e.g. electric vehicle charging infrastructure); resource efficiency (e.g. delivering circular economy projects); and communications and behaviour change campaigns.
- Finance and resource delivery overview.** How much do the actions in the FYP cost? How will the delivery be financed? What are the delivery functions – do they exist or do new ones need to be established? What level of maturity are the existing functions to take on the FYP pace and scale of delivery? How could delivery be done most efficiently and cost-effectively across the WMCA region?
- Carbon budget accounting.** What will be the impact of the delivery of the FYP on the carbon budget that the WMCA has set to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2041?
- Stakeholders and governance.** How will the WM2041 FYP be managed and delivered, what governance and reporting will ensure it is held to account by WMCA and partners?
- Communications Plan.** The FYP will have an overall communications plan and each programme of work will require specific communications for different audiences depending

on their required input or participation to ensure delivery. Behaviour change campaigns will also form an important part of this work.



### 3. Writing the FYP

#### 3.1 Lead Responsibility

- The production of the FYP will be managed by the WMCA Environment Team, with input and support from an internal WMCA cross-Directorate Working Group. The local authority Low Carbon Officers Group will also have a key role to play.
- The FYP will require externally commissioned consultancy support to produce the outputs listed below. It is envisaged that this could cost around £80,000, but this will be confirmed in the full project plan.

#### 3.2 Stakeholder engagement

Successful delivery will depend on the engagement of all stakeholders and 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. There will need to be a clear understanding of where the line is drawn at WMCA and local authority delivery responsibilities to avoid duplication and confusion. The FYPs should also be co-owned by local authorities and other regional partners.
- A facilitated meeting with Leaders and Chief Executives will take place as part of building collaboration and coordination around strategy and delivery. We need to make sure that everyone is on board with the delivery of WM2041 as a joint effort. This is particularly important given the shared nature of the actions. How much collaboration do local authorities want to pursue? How joined up should the delivery approaches need to be? What efficiencies could be realised through joined up delivery?

3.3 Wider engagement will also be required to build an ongoing programme with the people of the region. Early indications from the WM2041 consultation are that this will need to include both intensive involvement in shaping the agenda and around particular programmes of activity, but also ongoing information, advice and guidance relating to the overall agenda and specific projects within that. External engagement will include:

- 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

#### 4. Governance

- 4.1 The FYP will put forward proposals for the governance arrangements that need to be in place to make us effective, in terms of democratic legitimacy, regional collaboration and overall pace and delivery.
- 4.2 It is envisaged that delivery of the activity in the FYP will be the responsibility of existing and new groups and delivery functions. Transport and mobility projects already have mature governance and delivery arrangements, whereas delivery functions for the type of energy and retrofit actions that are required. New ways of working and delivering are therefore required.

#### 5. Cost to Deliver

- 5.1 The production of the FYP will cost approximately £80,000 including consultancy support to produce the outputs detailed above. Other strands of work already underway will feed into this.

#### 6. Delivery Plan for the FYP - Tasks and Milestones

- 6.1 The below areas will make up the delivery of the FYP. 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
	Sign off Project Plan from internal WMCA Group	Early July 2020
FYP support specification and tender(s)	Produce specification of support required with relevant internal and external stakeholder input	July 2020
	Appoint consultants to provide support	August 2020
Stakeholder Engagement	Stakeholder mapping (part of project plan)	Mid-June 2020
	Local Authority Working Group	Ongoing
	LA CX and Leaders Forum	October 2020
	External engagement	October 2020
Draft	Produce draft FYP	November 2020
Final Document	Produce final FYP	January /February 2021
Briefings and Approvals	Internal Cross-Directorate Working Group	Ongoing
	Briefing to Environment Board for update	September 2020
	Environment Board for update	November 2020

	Environment Board for	January/ February 2021
Launch and Comms	approval	
	Plan for launch	December 2020
	Launch FYP	January / February 2021

## 7. Risks

7.1 The current risks in completing the FYP are currently defined at a high level as:

Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Lack of stakeholder engagement and buy-in results in poor and disjointed FYP	Low	High	A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan will be produced which will use established networks
FYP 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 FYP	Low	High	Specification will be developed and shared for views internally before publishing.

## 8. Financial Implications

8.1 It is envisaged that the production of the first Five Year Plan will cost approximately £80,000.

## 9. Legal Implications

9.1 There are no legal implications as part of the production of the first FYP. Any legal implications will be presented as part of the approval of the FYP.

## 10. Equalities Implications

10.1 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.

## 11. Inclusive Growth Implications

11.1 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.

## 12. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

12.1 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.

## 13. Other Implications

None.

**14. Schedule of Background Papers**

WM2041: A Programme for Implementing an Environmental Recovery