



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Environment & Energy Board

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Date | 9 December 2020 |
| Report title | Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution |
| Portfolio Lead | Environment, Energy & HS2 - Councillor Ian Courts |
| Accountable Chief Executive | Deborah Cadman, West Midlands Combined Authority email: deborah.cadman@wmca.org.uk tel: (0121) 214 7200 |
| Accountable Employee | Ed Cox, Director of Public Service Reform email: ed.cox@wmca.org.uk tel: 07788 224719 Jackie Homan, Head of Environment email: jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk 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 6th carbon budget, due for announcement on 9th 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