



West Midlands  
Combined Authority

## Environment & Energy Board

<b>Date</b>	9 December 2020
<b>Report title</b>	Young Combined Authority Update
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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

#### The Environment & Energy Board is recommended to:

- (1) Receive the report on the environment work from the Young Combined Authority.
- (2) Agree to supporting the shaping and delivery of outcomes with the YCA Board Environment Co-Leads

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This paper provides an update to the environment work of the Young Combined Authority and will outline the areas of work that they will be focusing on as well as their response to the *Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution*.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Young Combined Authority (YCA) brings together a diverse board of young people, aged 16 to 25, from across the West Midlands to help guide and challenge the WMCA when making decisions that will shape the future of the region.
- 2.2 It was established in 2019 and remains a key Inclusive Communities portfolio deliverable.
- 2.3 The 'Inclusive Communities Portfolio Update' report endorsed by WMCA Board on 18 September 2020 set out changes to strengthen how the YCA operates. This involved moving the YCA forward as two distinct but complimentary forums:
- A smaller and more focused YCA Board, to bring insight and challenge to WMCA policy making and build closer relationships with Portfolio Lead Members.
  - A diverse YCA Community, which will have a much wider reach for gathering the views of young people, primarily through online surveys and discussions.

## **3. The YCA Board - structure**

- 3.1 The YCA Board is now operating in its new structure and keen to make a greater impact on WMCA policy development. As part of this, the YCA Board has established 'Lead' roles based on their priorities. These roles are to help facilitate better connections with WMCA portfolio areas, on the basis that YCA Board representatives can be more easily engaged in portfolio work and build relationships with WMCA Portfolio Lead Members.
- 3.2 The different lead roles cover:
- Board co-chairs
  - Environment
  - Skills and Digital
  - Transport
  - Housing and Regeneration
  - Inclusive Communities and Wellbeing
  - Culture and Major Events
- 3.3 The YCA Board 'Lead' members for Environment are: Lily Eaves and Ibrahim Sohail.

## **4. The YCA Board – developing a report for WMCA Board**

- 4.1 The YCA Board is currently focusing on repurposing the "manifesto" which it drafted in March 2020, to create a post-COVID-19 vision document for the region. This will be structured around the YCA Board's priority areas. The ambition is to bring this to WMCA Board in January 2021 and use it as a springboard for future discussions and collaboration with the region's decision makers.

4.2 The current (draft) priorities for the environment portfolio are:

**1. Campaigning for low carbon and carbon neutral transport**

- a. Pushing for more charging points for electric vehicles
- b. Supporting the WMCA in promoting public transportation
- c. Campaigning for active transport where possible

**2. Sufficient environmental awareness education available for young people across the region**

- a. Holding virtual workshops and information evenings
- b. Launching campaigns for sustainable alternatives

**3. Direct access to green careers for young people. Through workshops, talks and presentations from companies, universities and other organisations.**

**4. The YCA making a Count Me in Pledge, pledging active transport. "The YCA Board will make our own 'Count Us In' pledge for tackling climate change. We've decided to focus on walking and cycling more, and will challenge the WMCA and its partners to invest in active travel while posting about our own active travel journeys on social media."**

**5. Improved quality of green spaces in low-income areas** to improve mental health and biodiversity

**6. Response to the UK Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution**

4.3 The Young Combined Authority have also put out a recent statement on the Ten Point Plan, which has been posted on social media:

We, the Young Combined Authority Board, will be supportive of any and all progressive climate policy.

We therefore welcome the Government's new 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution because, by bringing forward the ban on fossil fuel vehicles and pushing for clean energy, the policy offers a step in the right direction. However, on its own, this plan is not enough to even begin to tackle the climate crisis we are facing.

As national leaders, the UK Government needs to ensure that change is made timely and effectively, that green technologies are affordable and viable, and that national policies translate into and support change on regional and local levels.

As youth representatives, the Young Combined Authority Board will recognise how the efforts of young leaders has not only been inspiring but essential for demanding that governments across the globe do more for climate change. And we will play our part in calling for change too.



Response to the UK Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (November 2020)

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications for the environment work with the YCA Board.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

## **7. Equalities Implications**

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications from this report.

## **8. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 8.1 We see the involvement of the Young Combined Authority as a central part of delivering on the WM2041 agenda. We have worked with the YCA from the development of the original WM2041 strategy, through its launch and consultation and now into delivery. We also welcome the opportunity to work with the

## **9. Geographical Area of Report's Implications**

- 9.1 The core work of the YCA Board will cover the constituent local authorities of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

**10. Other Implications**

None.

**Schedule of Background Papers**

None