

Environment & Energy Board

Date	9 December 2020
Report title	WM2041 Programme Update
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Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Environment & Energy Board is recommended to:

- (1) Review the WM2041 programme update and provide comment/ insight into the work being taken forward.
- (2) Identify areas of particular interest where there could be potential for specific collaboration with other work and stakeholders.
- (3) Provide feedback on how members would like to be engaged or informed on specific areas as the programme develops, outside of any Board meetings.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The WM2041 programme, approved at the WMCA Board on 25th June, is delivering on a number of priority areas to help the WMCA region achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2041. The projects that comprise this programme are at different stages of maturity, although ultimately there will need to be delivery across all of them to deliver the system changes required to address climate change. This report gives a high-level overview of those projects, most of which will come to future Environment and Energy Board meetings.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 25 June the WMCA Board approved the paper: *WM2041: a programme for implementing an environmental recovery*. This paper outlined the projects and programmes that we would begin to deliver immediately, and that could support the regional recovery from Covid-19; priorities for the next 12 months; as well as those actions that would require medium-term planning.
- 2.2 The paper attached to this report outlines the progress that the WMCA is making across these priority areas that include: mobility (including active travel and electric mobility), circular economy, the energy transition, the built environment (both new build and retrofit) and natural capital. We also touch on the Five Year Plans, although this has been covered more extensively in the relevant agenda item.
- 2.3 In addition to the work on specific projects and programmes, the WMCA Environment Team is also working to develop relationships with a wide range of stakeholders that will be essential to the success of WM2041. Examples of these initiatives include:
 - Programmes to support behaviour change; this was something that people asked for support with as part of the WM2041 consultation. We recently ran a '5 top tips' campaign linked to Zero Emissions Day and we are signing up to the Count Us In initiative, a global behaviour change campaign around climate change.
 - Work with business, particularly the development of a business pledge and associated action plan to support and work with businesses of all sizes on their climate change plans.
- 2.4 The delivery of the WM2041 programme also relies on working closely with the local authorities and their climate change action plans. The WMCA Environment Team works closely with the officers supporting climate change and carbon reduction in each of the constituent local authorities, through a Low Carbon Officers Group, to maximise the potential for collaboration and shared learning around the work being undertaken.
- 2.5 The Single Assurance Framework references the need for thematic boards to have a 'Portfolio Project Pipeline'. The programme overview presented here is that pipeline of projects and programmes that the WMCA Environment Team and partners will be working on over the next 12 months to support progress towards the WM2041 net zero carbon emissions target date.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The financial implications will emerge on a project-by-project basis. It is the aim of the Five Year Plans to understand the financing required for delivery.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no specific legal implications for the programme as a whole. Legal implications will be understood as part of the programme delivery for each project.

5. Equalities Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific equalities implications from this report – these will be assessed as project plans are progressed in more detail.

6. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 6.1 We see the delivery of WM2041 as being very closely tied to the WMCA inclusive growth agenda and it will form a key part of the projects and programmes developed. Ensuring the climate change transition is fair and provides opportunities and improvements in quality of life for people across the West Midlands is a fundamental part of our approach to delivery.

7. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

- 7.1 The WM2041 target was produced on a 3 LEP geography. The focus of much of the work will be on the 7 constituent authorities, but there will be some programmes where we will make links with non-constituent members.

8. Other Implications

None.

9. Schedule of Background Papers

Appendix - Programme update