

## Environment & Energy Board

<b>Date</b>	10 March 2021
<b>Report title</b>	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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 first WM2041 Five Year Plan has now also been produced as an independent report by WSP. This is due to be presented to the 19<sup>th</sup> March CA Board. Alongside this report is a paper on how the recommendations made in the FYP could be translated into action (some of which is already in place). In total, there are 17 proposed programmes of work/routes for delivery identified; these will form the basis for the WM2041 work programme into the future.
- 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. The WMCA has just appointed the Behavioural Insights Team to support his work around behaviour change and net zero communications. The work also links into the Commonwealth Games.
  - 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. The WMCA Net Zero Business Pledge will be launching mid-March, with a dedicated space on the WMCA website for organisations to sign up to the pledge. We are working with Sustainability West Midlands to roll this work out.
- 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 are working on. If approved, the priority programmes from the FYP will shape the Portfolio Project Pipeline and enable us to monitor progress towards the WM2041 net zero carbon emissions target date as well as the wide programme.
- 3. Financial Implications**  
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 and separate business cases will now be developed for delivery.
- 4. Legal Implications**  
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**  
There are no specific equalities implications from this report – these will be assessed as project plans and business cases are progressed in more detail.
- 6. Inclusive Growth Implications**  
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**  
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, for example, around natural capital.
- 8. Other Implications**  
None.
- 9. Schedule of Background Papers**  
Appendix – Item 6 – Programme update