

READ-OUT FROM OSC TDD WORKING GROUP – MONDAY 25th AUGUST 2022

OSC COMMENT	IN-MEETING RESPONSE	ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY <i>(italics - out of meeting comment)</i>
INDUSTRIAL DECARBONISATION		
One key element of decarbonisation is energy 'recovery'.	Energy recovery is one of the aspects addressed by advisers supporting companies – which is why it's so important to maintain that level of support as recommended in the proposals.	
Skills and behaviour change are important in transitioning to a decarbonised future.	Skills proposals (see below) will be geared towards ensuring the requirements and opportunities are met. Advice on in-work guidance is provided by support advisers as above.	<i>As well as the existing support networks, it's also worth noting the 'WM Net Zero Business Pledge' which encourages and helps businesses transition.</i>
The balance between devolved powers and funding requests.	These proposals do make the case for direct funding, but will also incorporate a blend of underwriting of interventions, coordination of land assembly, and in some instances accepted derogation of regulations.	<i>This 'blend' reflects the approaches proposed through the Housing & Regeneration asks for 'zoning'.</i>
ECONOMY		
Important to recognise the importance of education to underpin business support and growth.	This relationship is fully recognised and will inform the development of LSIP (local skills improvement plan).	
Important to learn from investment opportunities that have been lost to WM.	The TDD proposals seek to address the areas where WM is disadvantaged as a result of WMGC review and monitoring.	Important to note the crucial aspect of decreasing or challenged export opportunities and support.
R&D and innovation should be key mitigators of carbon and energy costs.	Aim behind innovation proposals is to build on existing R&D strengths, such as low carbon, and broaden new technologies.	
SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT		
Challenges over a 'WM Careers Service' when national contract just awarded.	Developing the TDD offer over the next 5 years, in collaboration with NCS, should position the region well for review at contract renewal.	
ESIF – UKSPF funding gaps.	WMCA will try to cover gaps where there is funding and remit to do so, but equally important to represent these issues in HMG fiscal events.	
Issue for long-term unemployed and confidence levels.	TDD proposals will enable the region to take a 'whole life' approach to upskilling including access to mentoring, wellbeing, and other advice.	
Concern over focus on formal Level 3 qualifications.	National targets on Level 3 – but TDD approach enables wider prioritisation,	

	including skills pathways to and beyond Level 3.	
DIGITAL INCLUSION		
Access to devices key challenge for many communities.	Funding will be targeted on areas of greatest need.	Work through the Coalition for Digital Inclusion is providing considerable insights into this area.
'Pay once' for data seems an ideal opportunity for tackling exclusion.	Would be a positive step, which needs a holistic approach to develop; some conversations already between HMG and data providers.	
Older generation at risk from exclusion & lack of confidence.	Certainly a priority for many LAs in the region and will be incorporated into the delivery aspects of the TDD.	Confidence and addressing the fear of crime has been picked up by partners in the Coalition (see above) whose work has underpinned TDD.
TDD: powers or funding.	Largely, in this instance, the proposals focus on funding as any powers would require national perspective.	
DIGITAL INCLUSION		
Disappointing that GMCA attracted greater Local Full Fibre Network funding.	Reinforces the strong collaborative approach evinced through TDD development.	
Ideal would be to install key infrastructure at point of build (housing and commercial).	Strongly encouraged – uncertainty over powers held by planning authorities to insist.	A: Clarify planning powers for requirement to install ducting as part of new development.
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS		
<p>Another extremely useful discussion that illustrated some of the challenges faced by communities in the region.</p> <p>Discussions also highlighted the necessity for TDD proposals to be 'cross-cutting' and integrate across particular themes: eg skills and addressing decarbonisation; access to employment and digital inclusion. This is recognised by officers who meet regularly and frequently to ensure complementarity.</p>		