

Roadmap 2020 – Sustainable development priorities and partnerships for the West Midlands

Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) External Project Summary (9/3/10)

1. Introduction

This note has been prepared following the SWM Board Meeting on 29th January 2010 which discussed and agreed the approach for this project.

2. Project Background and Aims

SWM has secured Defra and Advantage West Midlands funding to help with a policy programme to use the Low Carbon Vision 2020 for the West Midlands to identify key regional SD priorities to inform the Single Integrated Regional Strategy (SIRS) and where partners and partnerships should focus their efforts.

The aim of SWM is to set out a positive vision for 2020 and the steps to get there, so by 2013 the region's leaders are aware of the vision, steps and are making strong progress. To achieve this we already have the Low Carbon Vision 2020 work, but do not have a baseline in one place of where the region currently is, and the steps required to achieve progress towards the 2020 goal. The Defra funding is to support this policy work and also help SWM work with the SIRS and Joint Strategic Investment Board (JSIB) team to develop a fewer number of SD priorities than the current 40 in the Regional Sustainable Development Framework so we can provide focused support for emerging regional priorities, such as the Impact Investment Location work.

During the scoping of this work with stakeholders it has become apparent that it is not just SD policy priorities, but partnerships and delivery that also need examining. For example:

- Business futures work has revealed that large businesses are willing to work more collaboratively if a more focused partnership is provided rather than the current proliferation of groups and networks.
- The internal DECC review, Climate Change Office and City Region work has identified weak capacity at local authority and regional level resulting in resources being spread too thinly.
- Review of competitor regions and cities and our work with institutional investors has revealed more focus and in depth partnership working is delivering results quicker and creating the certainty for attracting national public and private funding. For example the North West Climate Change Unit, and Greater

Manchester Climate Change Agency have levered in around £2 billion of funding over the last six months.

Aims of the Review - Within this context, the project aims to address the following questions:

- What should the region's SD priorities be to achieve the Low Carbon 2020 Vision?
- Where is the region currently positioned, in terms of baseline data, against these SD priorities?
- What are the key steps that are needed to move from the current position to the 2020 Vision?
- What partnerships does the region need to deliver and make these steps happen?

The work will build on initial scoping work and finish in April/early May with a final report to the Board in May. If this approach is successful then it could be used for other SD topic areas in the future.

Scope of the Review – The review will not seek to address the whole scope of sustainable development, but focus on the key themes to deliver a low carbon economy as set out in Vision 2020, the WMES and RSS and will include topic areas under the WMES themes of business, people and place such as:

- **Climate adaptation** – where are the key areas we need to build resilience?
- **Housing and buildings** – how do we roll out the retrofit agenda?
- **Transport** – how do we manage the networks we have?
- **Energy and waste** – how do we improve our energy security and resource use?
- **Low carbon jobs** – how do we create the markets for these and therefore influence the skills suppliers?
- **Environmental assets** – how do we manage our land resource for food, carbon storage, and recreation?

Box 1 shows elements of the Vision 2020 under these 6 topic areas. The review of regional strategic documents will also incorporate objectives and targets contained in the West Midlands Economic Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy.

Box 1 Elements of the Low Carbon Vision 2020 for the West Midlands

Climate adaptation – where are the key areas we need to build resilience?

- Agriculture, building design, greenspace, flood defences, sustainable drainage
- Organic, 'low input' farming, local food production

Housing and buildings – how do we roll out the retrofit agenda?

- Low carbon architecture and construction
- Extensive housing retrofit for energy efficiency, improved insulation etc
- Micro-generation on many buildings – such as wind turbines, solar panels and ground-source heat pumps
- Smart metering
- Low carbon commercial buildings, offices etc

- Development of low carbon communities

Energy and waste – how do we improve our energy security and resource use?

- Using less energy (20% lower than in 2004), lower heating and power bills
- 20% of all energy coming from renewable sources
- Community renewable energy
- Decentralised energy network
- CHP
- Biomass / biofuel crop production
- Carbon capture and storage technology on coal fired power stations
- Using less resource and generating less waste, improved resource efficiency in businesses
- Widespread behavioural change to reduce carbon emissions and resource use

Transport – how do we manage the networks we have?

- Reduced reliance on cars. Reduced number of cars on roads and motorways - Traffic volumes have decreased 20% in the urban rush hour in 2020 compared with 2010
- Electric vehicles and vehicle charging network
- Freight transport switched from road to rail, and more efficient road freight transport
- Improved air quality in urban areas due to reduced emissions from vehicles
- Congestion charging in central Birmingham
- Significant increase in cycling and bike sharing schemes
- Significant increase in the use of public transport. Better, smarter public transport
- Increased car sharing
- Use of ICT to increase teleworking, video conferencing and reduce demand for travel
- Green motoring innovation in the region's automotive sector

Low carbon jobs – how do we create the markets for these and therefore influence the skills suppliers?

- Significant scale and strengths in the region's low carbon businesses – low carbon products and innovation
- High skills in low carbon technologies, retrofit, low carbon automotives, renewable energy etc

Environmental assets

- Greenspace and trees as carbon sinks
- A high quality environment capable of adapting to climate change and underpinning a high quality of life

To download the Low carbon vision 2020 go to

<http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/presentations/?/A+low+carbon+vision+for+the+West+Midlands+in+2020/712>

3. Methodology

The planned methodology involves the following tasks, which are described below:

- Task 1 - Steering Group
- Task 2 - Desk Based Review and Stakeholder Discussions
- Task 3 - Stakeholder Workshop
- Task 4 – Assessment of Partnerships and Recommendations for the Future
- Task 5 - Draft Reporting
- Task 6 - Final Report and Presentation to the SWM Board

Task 1: Steering Group

SWM will establish the steering group with appropriate policy representation from AWM, Government Office, and the West Midlands Leaders Board. The group will help:

- identify consultees to contact during the review work;
- identify strategic documents and data sources to draw upon;
- agree arrangements for communicating the project to stakeholders and ensuring that stakeholders have opportunities to be effectively involved (see below);
- discuss plans for mapping and assessing partnerships, including a set of criteria or principles which will underlie recommendations for future partnerships to deliver the steps needed to reach the 2020 Vision.

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement: Actions to achieve the 2020 Vision need to be owned by the region, and have strong buy-in from a broad range of partners and stakeholders. It is therefore essential that the Review involves a transparent process, which is well communicated to stakeholders and which provides opportunities for meaningful engagement for stakeholders at the workshop and through other means.

Task 2 - Desk Based Review and Stakeholder Discussions

The desk based work will review current strategies and evidence base around Vision 2020 topics to establish SD priorities and the baseline for the region's current performance. It will:

- Collate data on the current baseline performance in the region across SD priorities identified in Vision 2020. We will draw on a range of data sets to provide a robust baseline, involving discussions with partners such as WMRO, SWM, AWM, GOWM, the Carbon Trust, Energy Savings Trust, WM Leaders Board and SWM Associates.
- Draw on existing work to identify the likely key steps for moving to the 2020 Vision.
- Provide initial mapping of existing partnerships covering the likely priority areas for achieving Vision 2020 and identify strengths, weaknesses, gaps and partnerships which could potentially be built upon.

This review work will provide the basis for discussions at the stakeholder workshop. As well as the desk based review work, we will also hold discussions at this stage with a number of key consultees, including selected SWM Board members as identified at the SWM January Board meeting.

Task 3 – Stakeholder Workshop

The stakeholder workshop will be held on 30th March. It will aim to: confirm the region's SD priorities for achieving the Low Carbon 2020 Vision; and establish the key steps required from moving from the current situation to Vision 2020. The workshop will also be used to obtain stakeholder views on partnerships required to deliver the necessary actions, views on existing partnerships, their strengths and weaknesses, gaps, overlaps and areas requiring more effective partnerships.

Facilitation of the workshop will be led by Peter Woodward (SWM Associate/Quest Associates), supported by Steve Owen (URSUS), Anna MacGillivray (URSUS) and SWM staff.

In advance of the workshop, we will provide a concise workshop briefing paper which sets out the workshop aims and provides a summary of potential SD priorities, the current baseline for the region's performance and actions for achieving Vision 2020. This is intended to inform the workshop discussions rather than pre-empt their conclusions.

Task 4 – Assessment of Partnerships and Recommendations for the Future

Following the workshop, we will confirm our understanding with SWM of the SD priorities and key steps identified by stakeholders. Across these priorities and steps, Task 4 will then review current regional partnerships in terms of focus, governance and resources and make recommendations for future partnerships to deliver the required steps to 2020 Vision.

This work will draw on discussions at the workshop, the earlier review work in Task 2 and is likely to involve further discussions with key stakeholders, partnerships and funders. We will provide analysis of the strengths, weaknesses and gaps of existing partnerships in the different SD priority areas and develop recommendations for future partnerships. Analysis and recommendations for partnerships in each of the SD priority areas will include consideration of:

- Building on previous partnership review by regional partners
- The ability of partnerships to make things happen and to lead to the delivery of actions required to reach the 2020 Vision.
- What the partnerships would need to do and how they would add value to progress in the region across the SD priorities for Vision 2020.
- Focus and alignment of partnerships with SD priorities associated with Vision 2020.
- Clarity of purpose, roles and responsibilities and the need to avoid duplication with other partnerships and organisations.
- The need to ensure that partnerships represent and involve key partners needed for delivering actions in different areas (including public, private and voluntary sector organisations).
- The required level of expertise, influence and authority.
- Linkages between partnerships and other bodies such as the JSIB, AWM, SWM et al.

- Resourcing.
- Value for money provided.
- Governance arrangements.

The work will lead to a clear set of recommendations for future partnerships to deliver the required actions associated with Vision 2020. The recommendations will aim to ensure:

- a strategic and coordinated approach to covering all the SD priority areas;
- clear roles and responsibilities for taking actions forward;
- clear inter-relationships between partnerships and the JSIB – including JSIB responsibilities for supporting and working with the partnerships;
- clear links and arrangements for coordination between the partnerships, including potential roles for SWM;
- involvement of the right range of interests and stakeholders in partnerships (including public, private and voluntary sectors as appropriate);
- the required levels of expertise and influence;
- effective governance arrangements;
- the required resources, at the same time as providing value for money.

Task 5 – Draft Reporting

Findings, analysis and recommendations from the preceding steps will feed into the preparation of the Draft Report, which will include:

- key SD priority areas for achieving Vision 2020;
- baseline of current situation across these priority areas;
- steps required to move towards Vision 2020;
- recommendations for partnerships to deliver these steps.

Task 6 – Final Report and Presentation to the SWM Board

Taking into account comments from the Steering Group and other stakeholders , we will provide the Final Report in advance of presenting the findings and recommendations to the SWM Board meeting in May. The SWM Board will in turn report to the JSIB.

For more information about this project contact:

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