

SWM Board Advice – Independent Sustainability Advisor to WMCA

Updated WMCA Sustainability Support
Programme to reflect SWM Board feedback
on 25 Jan 2018

Dr Simon Slater, Associate Director
Sustainability West Midlands
s.slater@swm.org.uk

Progress since SWM Board October update...

October – New Devolution deal for WMCA to include:

- Regional Energy Commission and Strategy
- Commitment to produce new Local Industrial Strategy to reflect Clean Growth and Industrial Strategy priorities.
- SWM begins Monthly updates for WMCA Portfolio holder and other internal WMCA stakeholders

November 8 – Meeting Cllr Patrick Harley, Leader of Dudley Council, WMCA Portfolio Holder. Agreed:

- Scope and role of Environment Delivery Board
- Members to initially invite
- Securing WMCA support and resource
- Jan Britton, CEO Sandwell and Patrick White WMCA Director of Industrial Strategy appointed to be lead WMCA officers supporting Portfolio holder and SWM

November 28 - annual conference with Mayor and Climate Change Committee

- Commitment from Mayor to come back next year and report progress and also look at need of 'joining up' different activities to become more sustainable
- Stakeholders comments used to help draft WMCA Environment Delivery Board Action Plan



December 21 – WMCA Director Patrick White, on behalf of WMCA leadership team confirm SWM support programme

Oct 2017 to September 2018 Covering:

- Set up of WMCA Environment Delivery Board and Action Plan
- Support for workstreams such as good practice events
- Repeat of annual benchmarking and annual sustainability monitoring
- Providing interim Head of Environment

January/Feb

Meetings with WMCA Director, Lead LA CEO, and Cabinet Member

- Approve draft plan
- Approve Terms of Reference and dates for the Board
- Approach and brief members
- Agree how to support development of local industrial strategy

The WMCA Environment Action Plan currently has 10 work streams and will have a range of priorities for year 1. The Cabinet member wants to focus effort on 5-6 of these in year 1. Which do the SWM Board view as early priorities?

- Environment Programme Board – set up Board and deliver plan
- Annual sustainability review – of WMCA and benchmarking
- Carbon emissions
- Air Quality
- Natural environment
- Brownfield land
- Green business support
- Green building support
- Energy – led by Energy Capital
- Waste - commercial

The delays in agreeing support since September 2017 have slowed progress. Therefore momentum needs to be picked up quickly to build visibility and confidence with stakeholders and build the case for more investment and support during delivery in 2018.

Focus should include:

- Set up of Environment Programme Delivery Board, Action Plan and Monitoring
- Clear communications and reporting with stakeholders on progress to build support and wider engagement through individual workstreams to allow wider challenge and input.
- New workstream to build in WMCA delivery of UK Clean Growth and 25 Year Environment Plan into the heart of the new WMCA Local Industrial Strategy.
- Natural environment – existing good practice and working group to build on, SWM member National Grid willing to contribute learning from natural capital approach to infrastructure investment
- Green business support – existing SWM green business clubs and members network to build on and SWM large business members willing to explore support programme

Continued...

- Green building support – existing SWM member SHAP developing workstream to use in this area
- Air Quality – but let WMCA internally sort out who is leading on this for short-term compliance, and instead focus on building a group to develop a longer-term approach/goal
- Energy – support existing activity led by Energy Capital and in Devolution Deal

To prioritise in later years, unless immediate additional resource

- Carbon emission – annual monitoring at this stage, with new activity emerging from the new WM local industrial strategy
- Brownfield land
- Waste - commercial

SWM Board Advice – Independent Sustainability Advisor to WMCA

Updated WMCA Sustainability Support
Programme to reflect SWM Board feedback
on 25 Jan 2018

Dr Simon Slater, Associate Director
Sustainability West Midlands
s.slater@swm.org.uk