

WMCA Environment Board: Action Plan September 2018-19 (version progress update- 23.1.19)

This reflects feedback from 10th September 2018 WMCA Environment Board and WMCA Environment Delivery and Advisory Group and the subsequent Sustainability West Midlands annual national benchmarking of sustainability of the WMCA and update of Portfolio and Mayor priorities. This was approved by the November 2018 meeting of the WMCA Board.

The work plan provides a series of objectives and milestones that inform the high level progress reports to the Environment Board over the next 10 months. For more information contact simon.slater@wmca.org.uk

Objectives and Actions from WMCA 18/19 Annual Plan	Milestones and WMCA Environment Board Meetings Sept 2018-19 (...) = Progress to date * = recommended improvement actions from annual benchmarking # = Mayor/Portfolio holder priorities		
	10 th Sept 2018 Board	8 th Feb 2019 Board	7 th June 2019 Board
(1.) Produce plan to improve WMCA overall organisational performance on external and internal sustainability impact			
(1.a) The Environment Board will publish an action plan and report progress on moving the WMCA to become 'best in class' within two years (Score of 83% or higher on national CA sustainability benchmark by September 2020).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up of new Environment Board supported by Advisory and Delivery Group (Completed #) Agreement of WMCA overall environment strategy, and implementation by WMCA Environment Board annual action plan, WMCA internal environment strategy, and alignment with other internal strategies (In progress*) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results from annual national sustainability activities benchmark of CAs to inform future priorities and programmes to meet September 2020 target. (Completed – currently scoring 66% recommended improvement actions marked *) 	
(1.b) The WMCA will address capacity gaps identified within the organisation and partners to deliver the plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Head of Environment role to ensure sustainability commitments within WMCA Single Economic Plan, Mayoral Manifesto are delivered by WMCA corporate plan and Environment Board action plan (Completed *#) Business case submitted to secure core resources to deliver plan with partners (Completed#) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree how Environment Board has influence on other Portfolio / Board work plans*# (* In progress) Agree how to use office of the Mayor and role of Portfolio holder to endorse and support sustainability across a range of WMCA activities*# (* In progress) Update on WMCA securing internal budget with partners to help deliver work programme over next 2 years – linked to corporate plan# (Completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore potential future devolution opportunity 'asks' around air quality, climate change, the environment , and energy. Also ensure sustainability is built into any other future devolution deals *#
(2.) Reporting on WMCA area sustainability performance			

<p>(2.a) Reporting of WMCA area performance by SEP sustainability indicators against 2030 targets – carbon, air quality, health inequality.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stocktake on existing WMCA sustainability targets and indicators from SEP and Mayors Renewal Plan and the programmes and activities that will deliver these* (Report to Environment Board) • Agree additional targets for new indicators for clean growth (productivity vs emissions), fuel poverty, renewable energy, waste, and natural environment* (Report to Environment Board) • Development of new indicator around climate risk e.g. areas of flood risk* (Report to Environment Board) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results from annual sustainability metrics and indicators monitoring report to inform next year WMCA Environment Board action plan priorities and programmes.
<p>(3.) Ensure sustainability standards built into WMCA external funding and buildings.</p>			
<p>(3a) The WMCA will promote key sustainability opportunities within WMCA key investment sites to lever local partners' expertise and innovation opportunities to maximise benefits.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of WMCA and partners key investment sites sustainability standards e.g. Commonwealth Games. Agree any future standards required.* # (Report to Environment Board) 	
<p>(3b) The WMCA will review, and if required, update current sustainability criteria within WMCA funding and monitoring system and building standards.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key WMCA projects that have greatest environmental risk / opportunities to ensure they have an environmental champion as part of delivery team and prioritise internal WMCA support for them. # (Report to Environment Board) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of WMCA funding system and criteria for non-building projects e.g. skills, transport, business support. Agree any future standards required.* • Clear cycle of reporting of progress by WMCA projects, suppliers and partners gathered and reported and promoted annually e.g. metro alliance, HS2 • Explore building in Environmental criteria summary into WMCA Board decision papers.
<p>(4) WMCA internal estates, operations, and communications</p>			

<p>(4.a) Develop and implement a new internal Environmental Strategy and support WMCA's delivery of the SEP environmental technologies objective.</p> <p>(4.b) As part of park and ride and other WMCA / TfWM owned sites - support the rollout of the Electric Vehicle Charging across the region, ensuring that sustainable vehicles are promoted to tackle air pollution.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of WMCA internal environment strategy that is delivered by the existing Environment Management System (EMS) and aligned with WMCA Environment Strategy priorities. (* In progress) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on internal environment strategy, internal communications, performance of own estates and impact of accredited EMS.
<p>(5.) Improve external and internal communications, awards, and campaigns to promote scaling up of good local practice.</p>			
<p>(5.a) The WMCA will improve internal and external communication on WMCA activities around sustainability to help staff and partners to engage and work together more effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External environment section for the WMCA website. (Completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of WMCA external communications and recommendations on how to integrate key sustainability messages within existing activities e.g. transport, construction, policy etc #(in progress) • Review of WMCA internal communications and training on sustainability as part of internal environmental strategy (in progress) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the environment section of the WMCA website so that it has flow of relevant targets , strategies and projects to deliver these, and latest progress. Consider the use of infographics to highlight key achievements e.g. see Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire.* # • Ensure the WMCA Annual Review / Plan for 2019/20 contains overall sustainability progress - economic, social and environment.*
<p>(5.b) Identify and promote good practice, and enable constructive challenge to drive improvements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas for key campaigns for Mayor and Portfolio holder to support over next 12 months. (Completed – priorities incorporated into this plan as #) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with Sustainability West Midlands and partners good practice networks, events and awards plan to help scale up existing good practice within WMCA constituent and non-constituent councils to promote with partners for next 2 years. (in progress) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on progress identifying good local practice by business, NHS, universities, and councils that could be pilots or scaled up and inform next year priorities and programmes. #
<p>(6) Development of UK's first Clean and Inclusive Growth Local Industrial Strategy with partners</p>			
<p>(6.a) The WMCA will work to ensure local strengths in clean</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into draft strategy from WM Natural Capital Group, Sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review potential risks and opportunities from sustainability and resilience review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to develop Foresight / Horizon scanning capacity

<p>growth sectors of transport, buildings and energy, as well as the importance of the natural environment, form a key part of the new Local Industrial Strategy, with the ambition to become the UK's first Combined Authority Clean Growth Industrial Strategy.</p>	<p>West Midlands (SWM), Workshop with other Combined Authorities, GB Green Week Event with Green Alliance, SWM and WMCA staff and external partners. (Completed)</p>	<p>of strategy – e.g. climate risk, and potential new programmes and activities flowing from the new strategy including waste, housing retrofit and green business support. (in progress)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve coordination of business support offer around 'clean growth' # • Develop clean growth business challenge around procurement need on waste / energy issues, explore linking to local council campaigns #. (in progress) • Build in improved natural capital commitment, circular economy programme within strategy #. (in progress) 	<p>to help align business support to existing industrial strategy 'grand challenges' such as clean growth and other longer-term issues relevant for the region.*</p>
<p>(7) Development of WMCA area low emissions strategy to support local action as part of partnership with TfWM, local councils and partners</p>			
<p>(7.a) The WMCA will work towards a longer-term roadmap supported by business and local partners to tackle overall air quality issues within the next 10 years, while working with local authority partners on shorter-term priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into development of strategy. (Completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on progress (in progress) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of draft strategy and recommendation for adoption by WMCA Board. # (Moved from Feb Board) • Hand over of implementation to agreed cross-sector and partner unit or partnership. #
<p>(8) Development of Natural Environment approach as part of partnership with West Midlands Natural Capital Roundtable</p>			
<p>(8.a) The WMCA will work with natural environment partners, businesses, and Government to develop a long-term natural capital investment strategy to help coordinate and attract investment to improve the state and use of natural assets</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review progress on approach and progress on developing supporting investment in natural assets and local priorities. (in progress) • Work with TfWM, NGOs, Corporates and other existing infrastructure partners to deliver parts of plan e.g. West Midlands urban connected park (local version of Lea valley regeneration model) , highline, canals network, station wildlife gardens, offices greenspace for staff, temporary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a climate change risk assessment analysing the threats and opportunities posed by increasing extreme weather on, health, infrastructure and the natural environment. Develop an understanding on how green infrastructure can help tackle these issues.*

		use of brownfield land etc. (# in progress)	
(9) Development of Green Energy investments as part of partnership with Energy Capital			
(9a) The WMCA will consider recommendations from Energy Capital and the Regional Energy Commission on innovation zones.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress update from Energy Capital on progress and any future support required. #