



## ITEM 7

**REPORT TO: WECA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 29 JANUARY 2020**

**REPORT TITLE: UPDATE ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLANNING**

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### **Purpose of Report**

In July 2019, the WECA Committee declared a climate emergency, committing the West of England to carbon neutrality by 2030. As part of the emergency declaration, WECA are required to report back to committee every six months on progress.

### **Recommendation**

**The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the update report on climate emergency planning in advance of the 31 January joint meeting of the WECA Committee and West of England Joint Committee.**

### **Background / Issues for Consideration**

The report (appended to this document) includes the following key information:

- An update on the collaborative work that has taken place following the Combined Authority's declaration of a climate emergency.
- A high-level review of regional climate emergency evidence.
- Details of action already taken to address the climate emergency.
- Details of next steps, including the development, in liaison with West of England unitary authorities, of a Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- Details of steps being taken to embed action on climate emergency as part of the Combined Authority's governance arrangements.

### **Consultation**

No statutory consultation is required as part of this work.

### **Climate Change Implications (in relation to this report):**

On 19 July 2019, the West of England Combined Authority declared a climate emergency, recognising the huge significance of climate change and its impact on the health, safety and wellbeing of the region's residents. The Combined Authority is committed to taking climate change considerations fully into account as an integral part of its governance and decision-making process.

Each report/proposal submitted for Combined Authority / Joint Committee approval is assessed in terms of the following:

Will the proposal impact positively or negatively on:

- \* The emission of climate changing gases?
- \* The region's resilience to the effects of climate change?
- \* Consumption of non-renewable resources?
- \* Pollution to land, water or air?

Particular projects will also be subject to more detailed environmental assessment / consideration as necessary as part of their detailed project-specific management arrangements

The appended report provides an overview of WECA's developing response to the climate emergency declaration and ambition for carbon neutrality by 2030. It summarises the evidence available on the main causes of emissions and recognises that climate change poses a real and credible threat affecting the future of the environment and the prosperity of the region.

### **Finance Implications, including economic impact assessment where appropriate:**

*The appended committee report includes financial implications and comments.*

### **Legal Implications:**

*The appended committee report includes legal implications and comments.*

### **Land/property implications**

*The appended committee report includes land/property implications and comments.*

### **Human Resources Implications:**

*The appended committee report includes Human Resources implications and comments.*

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Update on climate emergency planning (report being submitted to the 31 January 2020 meetings of the WECA Committee and West of England Joint Committee)