

9 October 2020

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

**REGIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE & RECOVERY PLAN AND CLIMATE
EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

Purpose

To provide the committees with the West of England Covid-19 Recovery Plan and the related Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Summary

This report includes the following key information:

- These plans set out how the West of England intends to work towards rebuilding the economy of the region following the Covid-19 pandemic, and how addressing the Climate Emergency is at the heart of the region's ambition for a clean and inclusive recovery.
- This agenda item covers two separate plans which are related but independent of each other - the Covid-19 Recovery Plan is attached at annex 1 of this paper and the Climate Emergency Action Plan including a cover paper is attached at annex 2.
- The Regional Economic Recovery Taskforce was established in May to lead work across the West of England to drive economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and to feed into the Government's national recovery planning. The Taskforce is a partnership between the West of England Combined Authority, the Local Enterprise Partnership, business, universities and the region's councils. The Taskforce has consulted widely with representatives of the business community, voluntary and community sector and academia to develop an action plan for the region's recovery. This plan is attached at annex 1 and sets out the actions required to drive a clean and inclusive recovery in the short to medium term.
- This Recovery Plan sets out strategic actions to support rebuilding of the region's economy across 5 pillars:
 - Rebuild business** to help new and existing businesses to survive and thrive in order to safeguard existing and create new jobs.
 - Get residents back to work** in jobs which pay above the living wage and offer security of employment through targeted training and brokerage to available opportunities.
 - Strengthening inclusion** to prevent further widening of inequalities and build an inclusive economy where everyone has the opportunity to achieve their potential,

reducing inequality gaps.

Green recovery to use the changes in behaviour brought about by the pandemic to accelerate our transition to net zero carbon.

Renew places to re-think our approach to 'place' creating greener, healthier, more vibrant places to live and work and so continuing to attract people from across the world.

- The recovery plan should be considered as an initial approach to address the immediate impacts of the crisis. Whilst the pandemic has already had a significant impact on the region, the situation continues to evolve and the full extent of the long term implications are not yet clear. Work to respond to the impacts of the pandemic will continue over the coming months.
- This report also sets out the Climate Emergency Action Plan for approval at annex 2. The plan has been developed with input from representatives from our unitary authority partners, who have given their time, knowledge, expertise and skills to inform its content through a series of workshops. This co-production approach will continue in implementing the actions in the plan.
- There has also been close working with businesses to understand their needs and how WECA can help foster green innovation and invest in the skills needed to make sure the region takes advantage of the economic benefits of clean growth.
- Each year, a report on progress against actions set out in the 5 challenge areas will be produced in line with WECA's monitoring and evaluation framework. As actions are developed to the business case stage, estimated carbon reductions will be monitored and evaluated.

Recommendations

The Combined Authority Committee and the Joint Committee are asked to:

1. Endorse the regional Covid-19 Recovery Plan and support the next stages of the Taskforce's work.
2. Approve the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

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