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## **West London Sustainability and Climate Change Commission**

### Terms of Reference

#### *Purpose*

The Commission will investigate new models of sustainable consumption and production and how to encourage their adoption in the sub-region, as well as how to tackle environmental problems in West London, in particular air quality and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

#### *Context*

Finding new models of sustainable consumption and production through models such as The Circular Economy will be vital for the future of the sub-region's economy and an important catalyst for innovation. Today's linear economic model relies on large quantities of cheap, easily accessible materials and energy. However, resource scarcity means that this model is reaching its physical limits.<sup>i</sup> This is why cities are increasingly embracing the circular economy, adapting policies and encouraging innovation for less wasteful systems.<sup>ii</sup>

According to the City of London, air quality in the capital is the worse in the country and among the worse in Europe.<sup>iii</sup> The major sources of air pollution come from combustion as a direct result of transportation and heating. A sustained focus on this problem would also potentially benefit Carbon reduction objectives both in the area of energy and food production and consumption.

#### *Core issues*

The commission will focus on the following key areas:

- Transition from a linear into a circular economy in West London<sup>iv</sup>
  - o What are the benefits of a circular economy approach? What businesses in West London are already circular economy leaders?
  - o What are the challenges to its implementation in West London?
  - o How could businesses in West London move towards a circular economy approach?

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- How could West London lead the way in coupling smart cities technologies with a circular economy approach?
- Improving air quality
  - What are businesses already doing to reduce their footprint in terms of air quality? How can these initiatives be shared and scaled up?
  - What are local councils' strategies to improve air quality in their boroughs and how effective is the implementation of these strategies? What collaboration across the sub-region is already taking place and might be scaled up?
  - How is Heathrow contributing to improving air quality in the sub-region? How will this change in future if permission is granted for a third runway?
- Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: energy and food
  - How do we accelerate improvements to the energy efficiency of homes, public and business buildings?
  - How do we ensure security of energy supply and reduced carbon emission in West London?
  - What is the contribution of food consumption and production by West London businesses to our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions? How can these impacts be reduced?

### ***Membership***

We envisage about 10 panel members with a chair (or co-chairs). Members will be a mix of WLB members supported by external subject experts.

### ***Meetings***

The commission will meet at least once every three months.

- Step 1: Gathering of evidence
- Step 2: Examination of evidence
- Step 3: Identifying options available and recommendations
- Step 4: Conclusions

Steps 1 to 3 will be supported by WLB's wider events programme, as well as group email lists for the panel members and secretariat.

### ***Reporting***

The commission will keep the WLB board updated on the progress of their investigations at quarterly intervals. These will also be available on the internet.

The commission's final report will be presented first to the board of WLB for endorsement in Q1/Q2 2017. It will provide critical input to shaping WLB's future public policy voice. The report will then be presented to the West London Alliance (WLA), local MPs, the Mayor of London and other key decision-makers.

### ***Resources and budget***

The commissions will be supported by the WLB staff team who will provide the secretariat. Meetings will be hosted by member companies. Additional expenses from hosting meetings to travel and design/print of publications will be underpinned by sponsorship.

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## Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the WLB and wider stakeholder community during February 2016. They will be approved and finalised by the end of March 2016 at the first meeting of the commission panel.

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<sup>i</sup> Mayor of London: *London Infrastructure 2050* (2014). Page 57-60 - <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/business-and-economy/better-infrastructure/london-infrastructure-plan-2050> [Accessed 4 Feb 2016]

<sup>ii</sup> Stokes, R. (2015). How cities are innovating towards a circular economy. The Guardian. [online] Available at: <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/aug/05/how-cities-are-innovating-towards-a-circular-economy> [Accessed 5 Feb 2016]

<sup>iii</sup> City of London: *Improving Air Quality in the City of London. A practical procurement guide to reduce the emission profile of the business* - <http://www.cleanerairforlondon.org.uk/sites/default/files/business/CA4B%20Air%20Quality%20-%20Supply%20Chain.pdf> [Accessed 5 Feb 2016]

<sup>iv</sup> See work of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation at <http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org>

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