

**Regional Planning and Environment Executive
30th January 2009.**

**Environment and Climate Change
Information Report**

1. Purpose

To update the Executive on Environment and Climate Change matters for information.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the report be **noted**.

3. Items for Information:-

Consultation on the draft Severn River Basin Management Plan

The Environment Agency has issued the first Severn Region Management Plan for consultation by the 22nd June 2009. The Severn Region covers most of the west and south of the West Midlands Region and large parts of Wales and the northern most part of the South West Region. The report is available at:

<http://wfdconsultation.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfdcms/en/severn/Intro.aspx>

The Regional Environment Group working with affected local authorities will be preparing a draft response for the Planning and Environment Executive to consider.

West Midlands Regional Aggregate Working Party Annual Report 2006

This report is prepared for Government each year and includes the results of the annual monitoring survey of aggregates sales in the Region for 2006. This is provided by the minerals industry and collated by individual minerals planning authorities. Hard copies will be available at the meeting.

Environment Agency Wales the draft Wye and Usk Catchment Flood Management Plan(CFMP)

The main part of the south west of the region and Herefordshire forms part of the wider CFMP for the Welsh Water area. The draft consultation includes the preferred policies and actions for the area.

The draft CFMP is available at:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/100164.aspx>

4. West Midlands Climate Change Action Plan - Regional Minister Report

4.1 The attached report (Appendix A) sets out the progress in the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan that was approved by the Assembly in January 2007.

4.2 The Climate Change Panel chaired by the GOWM leads the implementation of the Action Plan. Over the next 12 months the challenge will be to extend the ownership of the Action Plan across the region to include different spatial scales and sectors.

4.3 A range of new legislation and the creation of the Department for Energy and Climate change will increase the national priority on addressing climate change and this will need an effective response at a regional and local level.

4.4 In 2009 it is proposed to develop closer working together of the local government sector on climate change matters.

4.5 A further report on progress will be reported to the Executive in the summer.

5. Green Infrastructure Strategies-Natural England and Forestry Commission

5.1 Natural England and the Forestry Commission have published a introductory leaflet for local authority's and other partners on the production of green infrastructure strategies.

- 5.2 It sets out what is green infrastructure and why it is important and the role of the production of green infrastructure strategies in providing the framework for exemplar environmentally sustainable development where all the green space of a town or city connect with each other and with the wider countryside.
- 5.3 Copies of the leaflet will be available at the meeting.

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