Dear Reader

The world is changing around us more quickly than ever before with significant risks and opportunities for our business and for those of our clients. While changes in technology have been rapid and highly impactful and attracted considerable Board focus, there have also been rapid changes in the area of ESG and sustainability.

The WPP Sustainability Committee has been formed to give increased focus in this area for the Board and the Group, to strive to meet the expectations of our stakeholders (from our clients, investors and people to NGOs, consumers and society at large), as well as to ensure we are managing our risks and taking advantage of the opportunities.

We held our first meeting in December 2019 at which we adopted the terms of reference and agreed the scope of work for the Committee for 2020. The Sustainability Committee will first gain an understanding of the breadth of sustainability work already in progress across the business and then identify what is material in forming WPP’s sustainability strategy and review the KPIs to help measure effectiveness of delivery. That workstream has already begun with an in-depth review of the workstreams in January 2020. The environment section on pages 35-42 sets out the new carbon and renewable targets the Group has set this year, which are net zero carbon emissions in our Campuses by 2025 and 100% renewable electricity by 2025, as well as the target, set in 2017, of 0.41 tonnes CO₂e per employee by 2030.

At our meeting in December we also reviewed the single-use plastics policy launched by the Group in 2019, to phase out plastics that cannot be renewed, recycled or composted across all the Group’s 3000+ offices and Campuses by the end of 2020. In addition to the policy, the Committee also reviewed the seven-step action plan produced by the Company, a playbook to embed the policy and audit plan to be adopted by the Group companies to support the policy.

The Committee members all bring a great depth of knowledge and experience in the area of ESG and sustainability and we are very much looking forward to our new role for the Company.

Sally Susman
Keith Weed
Co-Chairs of the Sustainability Committee

29 April 2020