

**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 13 December 2018

**Subject:** **Policy Developments**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	N/A

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the Combined Authority with an update on the development of the Leeds City Region policy framework and recommend adoption of the following strategies:
- Leeds City Region Digital Framework;
  - Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy & Delivery Plan; and
  - Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan.

## 2. Information

### Policy Framework

- 2.1 As previously reported, work is progressing to replace the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) with a broader, long-term policy framework and Local, Inclusive Industrial Strategy (LIIS) aimed at driving growth, boosting productivity and earning power for a post-2030 economy (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 Establishing a long term framework will enable bold and innovative thinking alongside long-term planning to meet entrenched challenges. Designed to enable a more flexible and agile approach to policy development, it will also provide the framework for investment, including the future UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

- 2.3 The policy framework extends across the full spectrum of activity delivered by the LEP, Combined Authority and partners. Embedded within the framework are a set of key principles, including the importance of ensuring that all Combined Authority and LEP strategies are aligned with a clear focus on:
- meeting our vision to be “*a globally recognised economy where good growth delivers high levels of prosperity, jobs and quality of life for everyone*”
  - contributing to the 2035 ambition for the City Region to have a £100bn plus economy, becoming a positive, above average contributor to the UK economy;
  - tackling four challenges and delivering inclusive growth outcomes:
    - the City Region’s productivity gap with national and international peers is too large and growing;
    - investment, particularly private sector investment in research and development is too low; and
    - living standards in the City Region have stalled; and
    - stubborn deprivation persists.
  - decarbonising all sectors of the economy through the 2020s and contributing to national commitments on climate change.
- 2.4 The longer-term intention for the policy framework and supporting strategies is for a digital platform displaying key strategies and supporting documentation aligned against the building blocks of the policy framework (Appendix 1).

### **Overview of the strategies recommended for adoption**

#### *Digital Framework (Appendix 2)*

- 2.5 Digital technologies and data can play a key role in addressing some of region’s biggest challenges. This is the City Region’s framework for making sure people across the region see maximum economic and social benefit from digital technologies.
- 2.6 The framework focuses on five inter-connected outcomes that will enable our public, private and community partners across the region to achieve one core aim: lives transformed by digital tech. The strategy has been formally endorsed by the Business Innovation and Growth Panel [27th November] and the LEP Board [22 November 2018], following wide consultation.
- 2.7 Working groups will be established to develop and own action plans to ensure the aspirations in the framework are realised, building on existing activity taking place across the City Region. Each of the five outcomes of the framework will be owned by various existing Panels and Boards. Working groups will report directly to Panels. More detailed papers are available [here](#).

#### *Energy Strategy & Delivery Plan (Appendix 3)*

- 2.8 The Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan is the response of City Region partners to the global challenge of providing a secure, affordable energy supply for our residents and businesses, while also lowering carbon emissions

to help the UK meet its national (Climate Change Act) and international (Paris Climate Change Agreement) carbon reduction targets.

- 2.9 The Strategy sets out how investment will be targeted across five priority actions areas to meet the ambition of becoming *a zero-carbon energy economy*. The Strategy also sets the carbon emission reduction trajectory that the City Region would need to deliver against to comply with the Paris Climate Change Agreement and seeks feedback from the Board on the setting of a City Region carbon reduction target in line with Paris.

The Strategy has been endorsed by the Green Economy Panel [23 October 2018] and adopted by the LEP Board [22 November 2018]. More detailed papers are available [here](#).

#### *Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy & Delivery Plan (Appendix 4)*

- 2.10 This strategy and delivery plan sets out how we will make the most of the region's amazing natural assets to help the economy prosper, enable people to enjoy a great quality of life, and combat the effects of climate change.
- 2.11 The strategy focuses on seven priorities to achieve the following vision: *"Everybody in the City Region is within easy reach of an outstanding and well used network of green and blue infrastructure that reduces flood risks and supports health, the economy, the environment and a superb quality of life"*. A shortlist of 12 projects have been identified from a long list of over 160 for delivery over the next 5 years. The Strategy has been endorsed by the Green Economy Panel [23 October 2018] and adopted by the LEP Board [22 November 2018]. More detailed papers are available [here](#).

### **3. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 3.1 Inclusive growth will underpin everything that we do and will be used as a principle against which we will test, judge and measure success.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Digital Framework - There are no financial implications in endorsing this strategy. Specific activities which arise through the working groups may require future funding but these will be considered as separate requests, as required.
- 4.2 Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan - Given the scale of the projects identified in the ESDP there are likely to be financial implications for the Combined Authority. Further work will be undertaken to understand the scale of the financial ask, and this will be reported at a future Combined Authority meeting.
- 4.3 Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan - There will be financial implications for the Combined Authority of both contributing to a shared resource and delivering the projects identified. Further work will be undertaken to understand the scale of the financial ask. An initial contribution from the Combined Authority for a shared resource has been included in the

2019/20 budget planning process. This will be further refined as more details are developed around the shared resource.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

## **6. Staffing Implications**

- 6.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

## **7. External Consultees**

- 7.1 Further information on the engagement activities undertaken to inform the development of the strategies seeking endorsement in this paper is provided in the links above.
- 7.2 Further engagement to inform the development of the City Region Policy Framework and LIIS will commence in early 2019.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1 That the Combined Authority adopts the following strategies:
- Leeds City Region Digital Framework;
  - Leeds City Region Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy & Delivery Plan;
  - Leeds City Region Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan

## **9. Background Documents**

The background documents are referenced in the links above. More detailed papers on each of the strategies have been taken to, and endorsed by, other Panels and the LEP Board.

## **10. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Leeds City Region Policy Framework  
Appendix 2 - Digital Framework  
Appendix 3 - Energy Strategy & Delivery Plan  
Appendix 4 – Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy & Delivery Plan