

CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2022
IN WELLINGTON HOUSE, WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS LS1 2DE**

Please note that this meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Combined Authority's internet site. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed. Generally, the public seating areas will not be filmed; however by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Governance Services on 0113 251 7220

A G E N D A

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATION OF DISPOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**
- 3. EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**
- 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 MARCH 2022**
(Pages 1 - 8)
- 5. NOTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2022**
(Pages 9 - 14)
- 6. CHAIR'S UPDATE**
- 7. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT MONITORING INDICATORS AND RESPONSE TO CRISIS**
Led by: Peter Glover
(Pages 15 - 52)
- 8. CARBON BUDGETS**
Led by: Matthew Page
(Pages 53 - 60)

**9. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT PLAN WAVE 1 - STRATEGIC
OUTLINE CASE**

Led by: Noel Collings
(Pages 61 - 70)

10. FORWARD PLAN

Led by: Noel Collings
(Pages 71 - 74)

11. PLEDGE DELIVERY UPDATE

Led by: Noel Collings
(Pages 75 - 86)

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Collings', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Chief Executive
West Yorkshire Combined Authority**



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2022 AT

Present:

Councillor Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Council
Councillor Sarah Ferriby	Bradford Council
Adrian Gill (Advisory Representative)	Environment Agency
Mark Roberts (Deputy Chair)	Beer Hawk Ltd
Leah Stuart	Civic Engineers
Melanie Taylor (Advisory Representative)	Northern Gas Networks
Councillor Neil Walshaw	Leeds City Council

In attendance:

Sophie Collins	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alison Gillespie	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Peter Glover	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Dominic Martin	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Mathew Page	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Ian Parr	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alan Reiss	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Justin Wilson	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

22. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Tim Swift, Councillor Jack Hemingway, Councillor Scott Patient, Councillor Andrew Waller, Jim Cardwell, Gaynor Craigie, William Firth, Richard Goodfellow, Natasha Luther-Jones, Ben Tongue.

The meeting was chaired by the deputy chair Mark Roberts.

23. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

24. Exempt information possible exclusion of the press and public

There was no exempt information requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

25. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2021

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2021 be approved.

26. Notes of the informal consultative meeting held on 11 January 2021

That the notes of the informal meeting held on 11 January 2022 be noted.

27. Chair's Update

The Deputy Chair gave an update to members and said that the agreed plan for the Committee was approved by the Combined Authority at the October meeting. At the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee meeting in January the Forward Agenda was discussed which has shaped the meeting agenda today. At the February Combined Authority meeting we were told of an indicative announcement of £40 million gainshare funds which is revenue for this plan and an excellent start, and we are looking forward to discussing further.

There is no specific allocated funding for climate policies as it is crosscutting everything and gives the flexibility to start implementing the plan. The theme today is 'are we focussing on the right things first, and how can we accelerate our plans to reach delivery more quickly.

The indicatively allocated £40 million over the next few years. This will help the delivery now and help us build up lists of future schemes for future use of the gainshare and other funding. Capital borrowing is still part of the mix once we have a set of deliverable schemes.

The Chair also wanted to note that members of the Committee have received some information from Friends of the Earth and other organisations and welcomed the offers of information and support from private groups saying that we all had to work together in partnership to achieve our goal.

28. West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan - Prioritisation

The Committee was provided with a report and presentation to update on the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan and was asked for views on the work to prioritise delivery of the Plan's proposals based on the indicative allocation of £40m Gainshare funding identified to deliver against Investment Priority 4: Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability.

Following the presentation, the Committee was asked to discuss and comment on what should we doing first with the £40 million of Gainshare funding, the approach for prioritisation, the emerging outcomes and also to ask do we believe these are the right things and what is missing.

Members agreed the following proposals would be prioritised for Gainshare funding and advised on their relative importance to assist with sequencing which will be undertaken in three waves:

- **Wave 1**

- Better Homes Hub
- Solar PV and storage
- Flood risk and drainage
- Business sustainability, energy efficiency, renewables and circular economy
- Better neighbourhoods
- Green skills and training
- Communications, engagement and marketing campaigns
- **Waves 2/3**
 - Local area energy planning and delivery
 - Community energy
 - Heat decarbonisation
 - Shared mobility
 - Green infrastructure and access for health and regenerative nature recovery

Members discussed at length and comments and feedback have been noted.

In summary, the Committee agreed to focus on retrofitting houses.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That members discussed the proposed prioritisation approach and emerging outcomes and that the views of the Committee be noted.

29. Transport Decarbonisation

The Committee considered an update on selected transport carbonisation activity and was asked to note the contents of the report.

The Combined Authority declared a climate emergency and committed to strengthen the West Yorkshire emission reduction target in June 2019. The Combined Authority's target is to be net zero carbon by 2038 at the latest, with significant progress by 2030. The task is extremely challenging and will require significant, swift, and collaborative action to decarbonise all sectors.

At the October and January meetings members discussed that Transport is a significant component of our CO2 emissions, and the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee wanted to have sufficient oversight of the approach being taken to decarbonise transport.

The presentation to the Committee summarised what the plan is doing in terms of transport. There are outstanding funding bids, if successful this would support 110-120 buses across the five districts. There is also funding identified within the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and the Transport Cities Fund

The Rail Strategy is looking at how the rail fleet can be decarbonised (including the potential role of hydrogen). In terms of local cycling and walking plans this is a mix of infrastructure and other measures to encourage people to walk and cycle more. Also summarised in the presentation was Transport for North's (TfN) plans for its decarbonisation strategy. The next steps will be to scale up activity and make sure that resource meets the challenge identified and can deliver what is needed.

Members discussed and provided comments which have been noted.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be noted.

30. Carbon Impact Assessment,

The Committee considered a report and verbal presentation to provide an update on the progress on the carbon impact assessment project.

To develop programmes and schemes that will support the journey towards becoming a net zero carbon economy by 2038, it was identified that an improved methodology to assess the carbon impact of schemes is required, given the shortfalls in current methodologies. The aims of the carbon impact assessment project were therefore to:

- Develop methodologies for assessing the carbon impact of proposals at the different stages of the assurance process
- Incorporate these methodologies onto the assurance process so that decision makers are informed about the carbon impact of proposals.
- Use these methodologies to carry out an assessment of the carbon impact of a selection of existing projects which are currently going through the assurance process

It was noted how important this work is. If we can't measure, we cannot be certain we are doing the right things. As this is complicated, a follow up meeting was offered to members to ask specific questions, or to go through the methodologies.

The presentation focussed on the aim of the project to develop methodologies for developing the carbon impact of schemes as they progress through the assurance process. These methodologies have been incorporated into the process. As a third strand schemes currently going through the assurance process are also being assessed

The paper focussed on the first two parts of that – these methodologies and incorporating them. It described the methodologies (Appendices) and described the work being undertaken now to incorporate those. It provided technical guidance for promoters to ensure they are assisted; also, some more prescriptive guidance will be provided that bridges the gap between what's done at the moment and what would like to be done.

Assessment has also been carried out on a range of different schemes which are going through the assurance process currently. A lot has been learned from these and it has informed the development of the methodologies and the guidance.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be noted.

31. Green Skills and Jobs

The Committee considered a report and was asked to note the establishment of the West Yorkshire Green Jobs Taskforce in support of the delivery of the mayor's pledge to create 1,000 well paid, skilled green jobs, and asked to comment on the progress made so far.

In summary there is a need to accelerate the transition to greener skills and jobs. Only 2% of job postings in West Yorkshire in 2021 link to Green Skills.

Employers have been encouraged to pledge new roles that are well paid and skilled for young people. Employers pledge through the portal on the Combined Authority website and have follow up conversations to help them fill the roles. The task force may consider the further development of this gateway if it is found that employers would like more support in getting young people into those jobs.

Members discussed and their comments have been noted.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That members comments on the progress so far be noted.

32. Better Homes Hub

The Committee considered a report to update on the Better Homes Hub, a key workstream of the Climate and Environment Plan and was asked to note and approve the progress of the Better Homes Hub

The Combined Authority declared a climate emergency in June 2019 and set a net zero ambition by 2038. The modelling undertaken to understand how to achieve this showed how 1.8MTCO₂ per year can be removed from the CO₂ emissions of the region's homes by 2030. To help support the reduction of carbon required in housing stock the Scaling Up Better Homes report was produced in October 2020.

A verbal update was provided. At the last committee meeting approval was given to 1300 homes to be retrofit but is a fraction of the amount of housing stock in the region. The paper touched on some of the structural issues affecting that scaling up activity. Research shows some of the barriers – the funding skills shortage and the lack of trusted information and advice.

The following principles were discussed. First is a trusted offer to ensure the retrofit's done to a high standard. Second is building the market. Third is that it's fit for purpose. Fourth is that there's ways of paying for it that makes it affordable and availability of finance and delivery of an effective supply chain, including skills and training that's so important. The better homes hub will focus on these themes and will put in place a programme of delivery and ensure we can coordinate and deliver it together, across each district. It is also planned to develop a one-stop shop for residents to raise awareness and provide trusted information and advice.

Since the last Climate, Energy and Environment Committee meeting a further £5 million has been secured bringing the estimated total investment in retrofit programmes across the next financial year to £22-23 million, of which the £5 million is matched by contributions from Leeds (£9.6 million) and other sources.

The Committee was also provided with a presentation from Martyn Broadest from Connect Housing – West Yorkshire Housing Association a founding member of the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership.

Members discussed the presentation and thanked Martyn.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the progress of the Better Homes Hub be approved.

33. Climate and Environment Monitoring Indicators

The Committee considered a report and verbal update to set out the plans for future monitoring indicators and reporting arrangements to the Committee and was asked to review the proposed indicators with a view to approving them and / or amending them or suggesting additional indicators.

The paper set out proposals for monitoring arrangements and indicators and approval was sought for the approach. The approach proposed was agreed at the December Combined Authority meeting in that there is a regular item on the agenda around these monitoring indicators. Also, the indicator relating to the green economy/employment, is being looked at as part of the green jobs task force programme.

The Committee discussed and was asked to review the proposed indicators with a view to approving and provided comments which have been noted.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the views and suggestions of the Committee with a view to approving the proposed indicators be noted.

34. Climate Adaption and Resilience

Adrian Gill of the Environment Agency gave a presentation to the Committee and updated on the Environment Agency's response to the Climate Emergency.

The presentation consisted of three key themes, Enabling UK Net Zero, Preparing for Climate Impacts, and being seen to be an exemplar/walking the walk

Adrian was thanked for his presentation.

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NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY ON TUESDAY, 19 JULY 2022

Present:

Councillor Tim Swift MBE (Chair)	Calderdale Council
Mark Roberts (Deputy Chair)	LEP
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Council
Councillor Sarah Ferriby	Bradford Council
Councillor Scott Patient	Calderdale Council
Councillor Paula Widdowson	City of York Council
Professor Simon Pringle	LEP
David Owumi	Private Sector Representative
Gideon Richards	Private Sector Representative
Leah Stuart	Private Sector Representative
Ben Tongue	Private Sector Representative
Jim Cardwell (Advisory Representative)	Northern Powergrid
Adrian Gill (Advisory Representative)	Environment Agency

In attendance:

Jennifer Armstrong	University of Leeds
Jonathan Moxon	Leeds City Council
Noel Collings	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Peter Glover	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Ben Kearns	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Myles Larrington	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Mathew Page	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Justin Wilson	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Katie Dye, Councillor Jack Hemingway Jim Cardwell, John Clark, Melanie Taylor, William Firth, Richard Goodfellow and Natasha Luther-Jones.

2. Declaration of Disposable Pecuniary Interests

There were no items of disclosable pecuniary interests.

3. Exempt Information - Possible exemption of the press and public

There was no exempt information requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2022

Item 29, it was noted that transport carbonisation should be transport decarbonisation.

Item 33 it was noted that under climate and environment monitoring the adoption of a headline indicator on the progress to our 2038 commitment was not included in the minutes. The Committee felt it was difficult sometimes to quantify the progress in terms of carbon alone

The amendments will be made to the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2022 and taken to the next formal meeting for approval.

5. Chair's Update

The Chair welcomed members and new members, Gideon Richards, David Owumi and John M Clark to this informal meeting of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee which, in light of Met Office advice on limiting travel during extreme weather conditions, was held virtually as an informal meeting, and livestreamed to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority YouTube channel for public access purposes. As the meeting was held informally only recommendations were made.

6. Governance Arrangements

The Committee considered a report to advise of the governance arrangements approved by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (the Combined Authority) at the Annual Meeting on 23 June 2022 in respect of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.

Resolved: That the governance arrangements approved by the Combined Authority at the Annual Meeting on 23 June 2022 be noted.

7. Climate and Environment Monitoring Indicators

The Committee considered a report and presentation to update them on the latest position on the State of the Region monitoring indicators relating to Climate and the Environment. Provided in the paper was Interim analysis for emissions, flood risk, energy efficiency and fuel poverty.

The presentation provided the latest available data and set out next steps in the process highlighting that the purpose of the paper was to provide an interim update. In terms of the emissions data the latest local information was published in June with a headline analysis on carbon dioxide emissions, reflecting the kind of design of the existing state of the region indicators. It is proposed to make some changes to the approach for the forthcoming state of the region report so in the latest release of data, for the first time it has been

possible to access local level data for a wider range of greenhouse gases in addition to co2. It is proposed to broaden the analysis for the headline indicator to include those additional gases because they make a substantial difference to the picture and the second point to note responding to a question from a committee member is that at the last meeting the Committee asked that it was made clear in the analysis the required rate of progress for emissions reduction to achieve substantial difference to the picture. The State of the Region report will be published in September.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the headline analysis of the indicators and members feedback be noted.

8. West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan Programme Development

The Committee considered a report and an update on the scope and activity of the seven prioritised programmes and the associated assurance process. and was asked to provide feedback on the initial scope of activity being prioritised against the indicative £40m Gainshare funding allocation for *Investment Priority 4: Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability*, in order to contribute towards delivery of the Climate and Environment Plan which sets out the first three years of activity required to make progress towards becoming a net zero carbon region by 2038.

The Climate and Environment Plan was agreed in October 2021, it sets out our regions' response to the climate emergency and protecting our environment. The actions in the Plan are informed by research to identify the different pathways and interventions that could be implemented to meet net zero carbon¹. There are 39 actions in the Plan which are being taken forward in partnership and using multiple funding streams to maximise our impact. As part of our response the Combined Authority has made an indicative allocation of £40m gainshare funding to accelerate our activity aligned to the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (Investment Priority 4 Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability).

The £40m gainshare is part of a much bigger package of work to tackle the climate emergency and compliments programmes of work proposed on transport through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) and Zero Emission Bus Region Area Fund (ZEBRA).

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (II) That feedback on the initial scope of the Wave 1 actions be noted.

9. West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme

The Committee considered a report and presentation by Jennifer Armstrong

and Jonathan Moxon to introduce the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme (FLIP) and to outline its alignment with the Climate and Environment Plan (CEP).

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the work of the West Yorkshire Flood Risk Innovation Programme be noted.
- (iii) That how the work on the West Yorkshire Flood Risk Innovation Project aligns with the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan be considered and noted.

10. West Yorkshire Flood Programme (Capital Schemes)

The Committee considered a report and verbal update on the Combined Authority Flood Risk Management (FRM) Programme and to seek endorsement of the proposed programme prior to progression into the Combined Authority's Assurance Process.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the work done with partners to refresh the proposed Combined Authority flood programme be noted.
- (iii) That the proposed programme prior to progression into the Combined Authority's Assurance Process be considered and recommended.

11. Carbon Impact Assessment

The Committee considered a report to provide an update about progress on the carbon impact assessment project and was asked to note and provide questions.

Since the meeting held on the 22 March 2022, when the Committee considered and endorsed the Combined Authority carbon toolkit, significant progress has been made in implementing the new guidance into the assurance framework and supporting training for members, partners and Combined Authority staff.

A presentation was delivered to the Committee to summarise the detailed carbon impact assessments that were undertaken to help develop and calibrate the new Assurance Framework Toolkit and the Committee was informed that these results will be formally presented at the Combined Authority meeting to be held on 22 July 2022.

The publication of the project assessments is the last substantive deliverable

from the Carbon Impact Assessment Project before moving to full implementation of the new approach to carbon assessment in business case development and appraisal.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the presentation on the carbon impact assessments carried out be noted.

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Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 4 October 2022

Subject: **Climate and Environment Monitoring Indicators and Response to Crisis**

Director: Alan Reiss, Director of Strategy, Communications and Policing

Author: Peter Glover, Economic Evidence Manager

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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To present the latest position on the State of the Region monitoring indicators relating to Climate and the Environment.
- 1.2 To initiate a discussion on the crisis in the cost of living and doing business and the identification of activities that should be prioritised to address the crisis.

2. Information

Monitoring Arrangements

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 27 March 2022, the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee agreed a new approach to monitoring and reporting. The Committee approved a set of indicators relevant to its remit and agreed to receive regular reporting against these indicators, with this topic becoming a standard item on the Committee's agenda. These are the key regional indicators that measure the outcomes that the work of the committee is seeking to improve. Indicators will be reported on by exception i.e. when fresh data becomes available for each indicator, allowing the analysis to be updated.

- 2.2 The indicators have been incorporated into State of the Region 2022 report, the Combined Authority's annual stock-take of West Yorkshire's socio-economic performance. The State of the Region indicators are intended to provide a high level, strategic picture of performance against this priority rather than a detailed examination of operational performance of specific projects.

The Indicators

- 2.3 The core indicators agreed by the Committee are set out below. A headline overview of performance against these indicators is provided in Appendix 1:
- Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent)
 - Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent) by sector
 - Greenhouse gas emissions intensity ratio
 - Building energy efficiency
 - Premises at risk of flooding
 - Households in fuel poverty
 - Access to greenspace.
- 2.4 The analysis contained in the appendix has been updated since the July meeting of the Committee with the following changes made.
- The emissions indicators have been revised to reflect emissions of a fuller range of greenhouse gases emissions rather than carbon dioxide only
 - A chart has been added to show trend in greenhouse gas emissions vs carbon reduction pathways
 - A chart has been added to show the forecast prevalence of fuel poverty in October 2022, taking into account the government's energy price cap.
 - An updated analysis of access to local natural greenspace has been added.
- 2.5 As requested by the Committee work has been undertaken to present emissions trends in the context of a clearer picture of the required rate of reduction to achieve West Yorkshire's net zero commitments (carbon reduction pathways). A dedicated paper has been prepared under item 7 of the agenda (Carbon Budgets), covering the approach taken to this analysis and the headline results.
- 2.6 In response to a request raised at the July meeting of the Committee supplementary analysis has been included in the appendix relating to renewable energy generation in West Yorkshire.

Crisis in the Cost of Living and Doing Business

- 2.7 A paper on the crisis in the cost of living and doing business crisis was due to be presented to the Combined Authority meeting on the 9 September 2022. The meeting was subsequently cancelled due to the death of HM the Queen. The paper provides information on the latest economic and business intelligence within West Yorkshire. The paper is attached at Appendix 2. The paper does not take account of the measures announced by the Prime Minister on 7 September 2022, nor any announcements made at the emergency fiscal event. Updates on this are set out below.

- 2.8 The timing of the announcement of the governments energy support package enabled the LEP Board to discuss the measures announced at its meeting of the 21 September within the context of its substantive item on the state of the economy and the cost of living crisis. The Board welcomed the announcement of the Energy Bills Relief Scheme but emphasised the need for the CA to focus its development, advocacy and policy work around interventions which support energy efficiency in West Yorkshire businesses – building on the current high level of demand for business support products such as ReBiz. The board agreed that it was essential that there were no gaps in coverage as we transitioned from the ReBiz programme to the new CA Business Sustainability Program.
- 2.9 The announcement of the Energy Bills Relief Scheme by the government confirms a short-term commitment to provide a discount on wholesale gas and electricity prices for all non-domestic customers (including all UK businesses, the voluntary sector and the public sector such as schools and hospitals) whose current gas and electricity costs have been significantly inflated by current global energy prices. This support will be equivalent to the Energy Price Guarantee put in place for households and will run for a period of 6 months between October 2022 and March 2023. Support will be automatically available to all eligible bills and businesses will not need to take action to apply to the scheme. If businesses are on fixed contracts, the discount applied reflects the difference between the government supported price and the businesses wholesale price for the day the contract was agreed. If businesses are on varied, deemed or all other contracts, the discount reflects the difference between the government supported price and the relevant wholesale price.
- 2.10 In parallel to the announcement of the EBRs the government confirmed its intention to commission a review of the scope of EBRs in January to focus on how best to ostensibly target the most vulnerable business users. The Government set out its position that non energy intensive businesses that are less vulnerable to energy price increases should use the support provided by EBRs up until March 2023 to ensure they take action to become more resilient – presumably through improved energy efficiency measures.
- 2.11 The Board discussion focused on the key next steps the LEP and CA could take in helping businesses to respond to the cost of doing business recognising those levers we have control over and those which we need to influence.
- 2.12 The board agreed that the CA should influence central government to:
- Increase energy efficiency grants/interventions at a national level for business and consumers.
 - Create the conditions - as part of its ongoing work through the Energy Market Review and Skidmore Commission – to incentivise investment into renewable energy generation and the adoption of sustainable technologies such as hydrogen and carbon capture.
 - Decouple the link between gas and electricity prices to stimulate the consumer market for low carbon electricity.

- 2.13 Following on from detail set out in the CA Cost of Living and Doing Business paper and specific to the agenda of this Committee two projects have been identified that could be developed and delivered swiftly to provide some support in response to the crisis. They are a voucher scheme for SMEs and a retrofit booster programme.

SME Voucher Scheme

- 2.14 To assist SMEs in West Yorkshire approval is being sought from the Combined Authority at its 21 October 2022 meeting for £1,100,000 to be allocated to an energy efficiency and renewable energy voucher scheme.
- 2.15 The scheme would offer lower value (between £500 and £5,000) high intervention grants to small businesses across all sectors, supporting them to reduce energy costs.
- 2.16 As the scheme would be open to all sectors it could potentially reach a wider range of businesses than the current ReBiz programme, increasing the volume of grants that are provided and businesses that are supported.
- 2.17 If approved by the Combined Authority it is anticipated that the scheme will be operational by November, and there will be no gap in the availability of support to businesses.

Retrofit Booster Programme

- 2.18 A new programme focussing on the rapid delivery of carbon retrofit projects targeted at social housing provider properties in areas of high deprivation and low incomes. The measures e.g. insulation for floors, walls and lofts, would contribute to reducing tenant energy bills for the coming year and contribute the reduction in carbon emissions from homes in West Yorkshire.
- 2.19 The programme would target the installation of measures in approximately 1,700 properties through West Yorkshire at a cost of £6,696,850. Approval is being sought from the Combined Authority at its 21 October 2022 meeting for £4,834,429 to be allocated to the programme.
- 2.20 If approved by the Combined Authority it is anticipated that the scheme could commence during winter 2022/23 and be delivered in full prior to winter 2023/24.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 The indicators and monitoring arrangements enable us to assess West Yorkshire's progress in tackling the climate emergency.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 The indicators feature several with direct implications for inclusive growth, including those relating to fuel poverty, energy efficiency and access to green space. The growth of the green economy presents potential inclusion issues. Future reporting on the green economy will bring out inclusive growth implications.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 State of the Region report brings out equality and diversity implications across all indicators, where availability of data allows; for example the impact of fuel poverty on different communities.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The necessary financial decisions to enable the programmes to be brought forward will be taken by the Combined Authority at the 22 October 2022 meeting.

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1 The schemes detailed in the report will be delivered or managed by existing teams within the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Committee:
- Notes the headline analysis of the indicators.
 - Provide feedback on the proposed schemes identified to address the crisis in the cost of living and doing business.
 - Identify additional measures / schemes that could be implemented quickly or brought forward to address the crisis.
 - Provide any initial reflections on how the CA should engage with the Government's review of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1: Indicator report

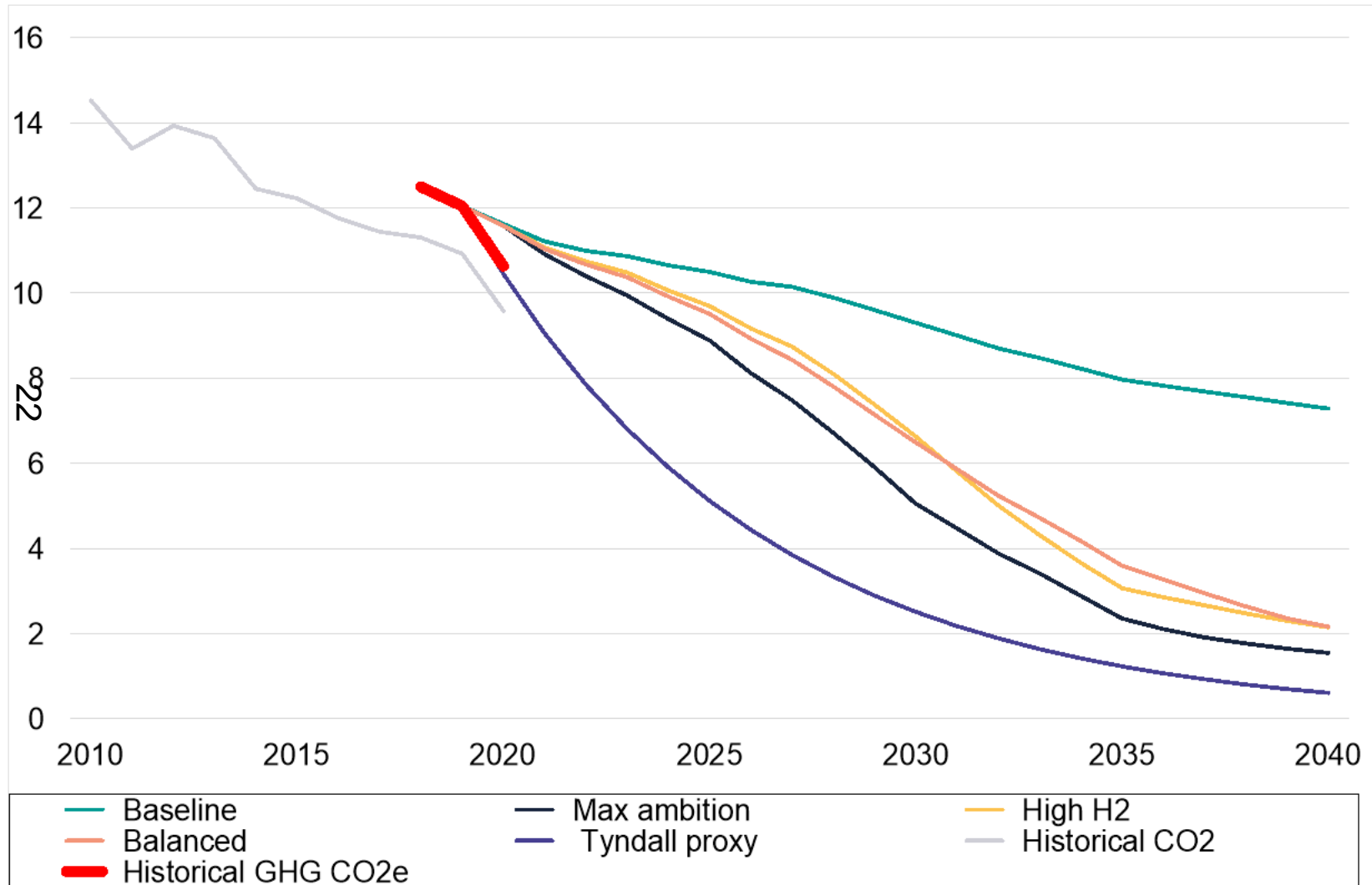
Appendix 2: Combined Authority Cost of Living / Cost of Doing Business Report

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**APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST STATE OF THE
REGION INDICATORS: CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**

Emissions fell sharply during 2020, reflecting the impact of the pandemic but this is unlikely to be sustainable

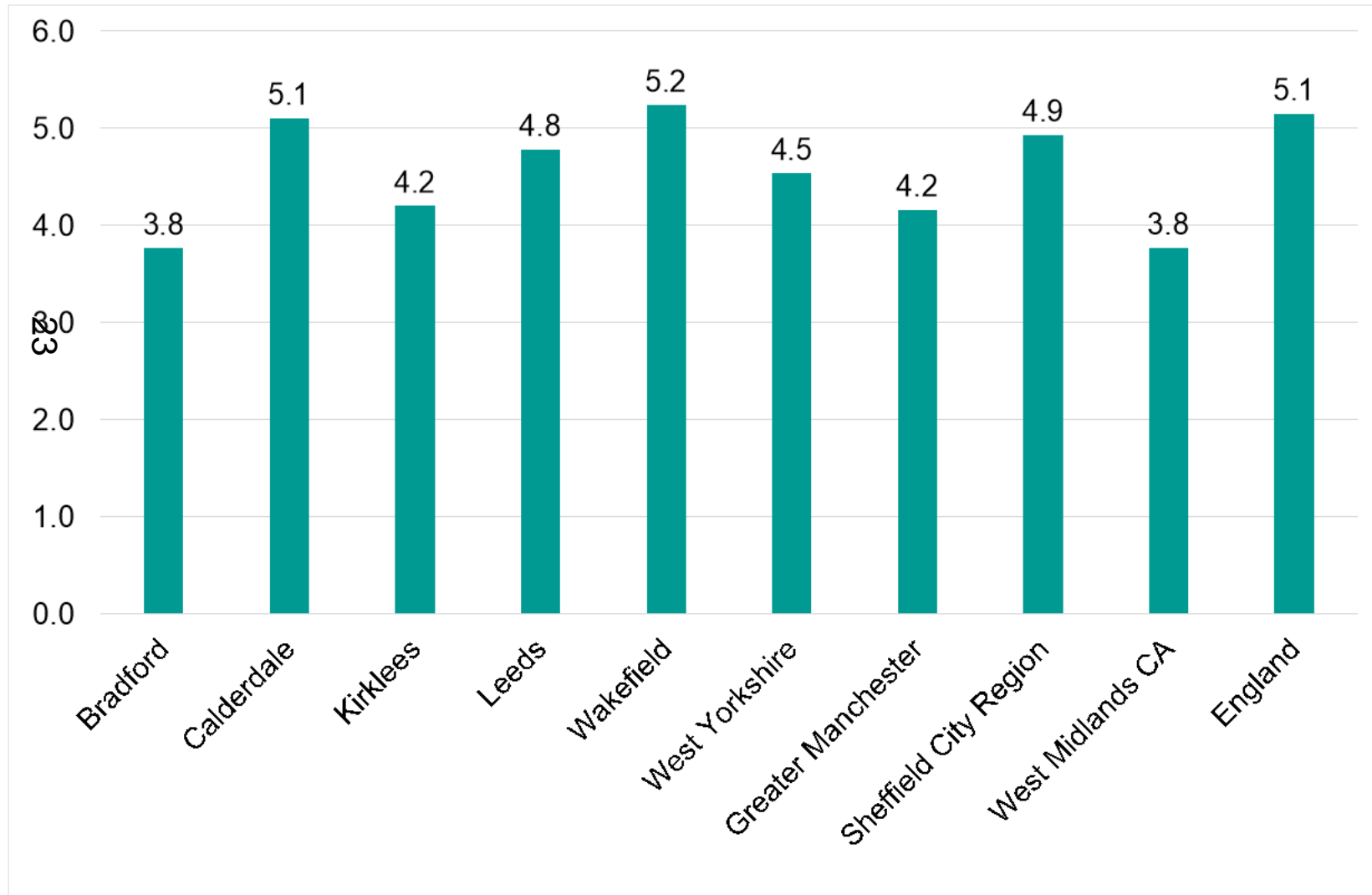
Figure: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions vs carbon reduction pathways (MtCO₂e)



Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2020, BEIS

West Yorkshire has lower emissions per capita than the national average

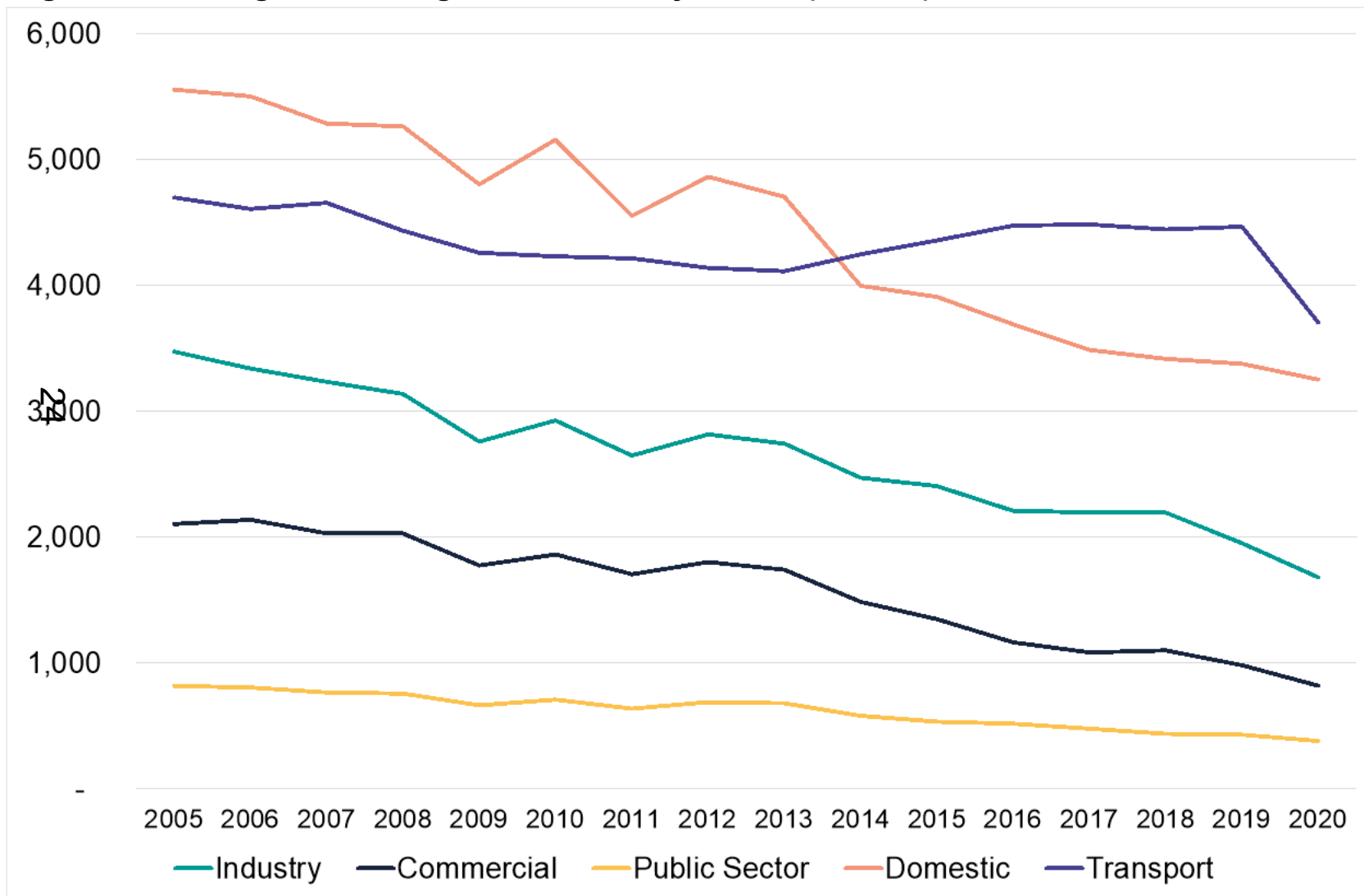
Figure: Per capita greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO₂e per resident)



Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2020, BEIS

All sectors of the economy saw an emissions reduction in 2020, including a sharp fall for transport

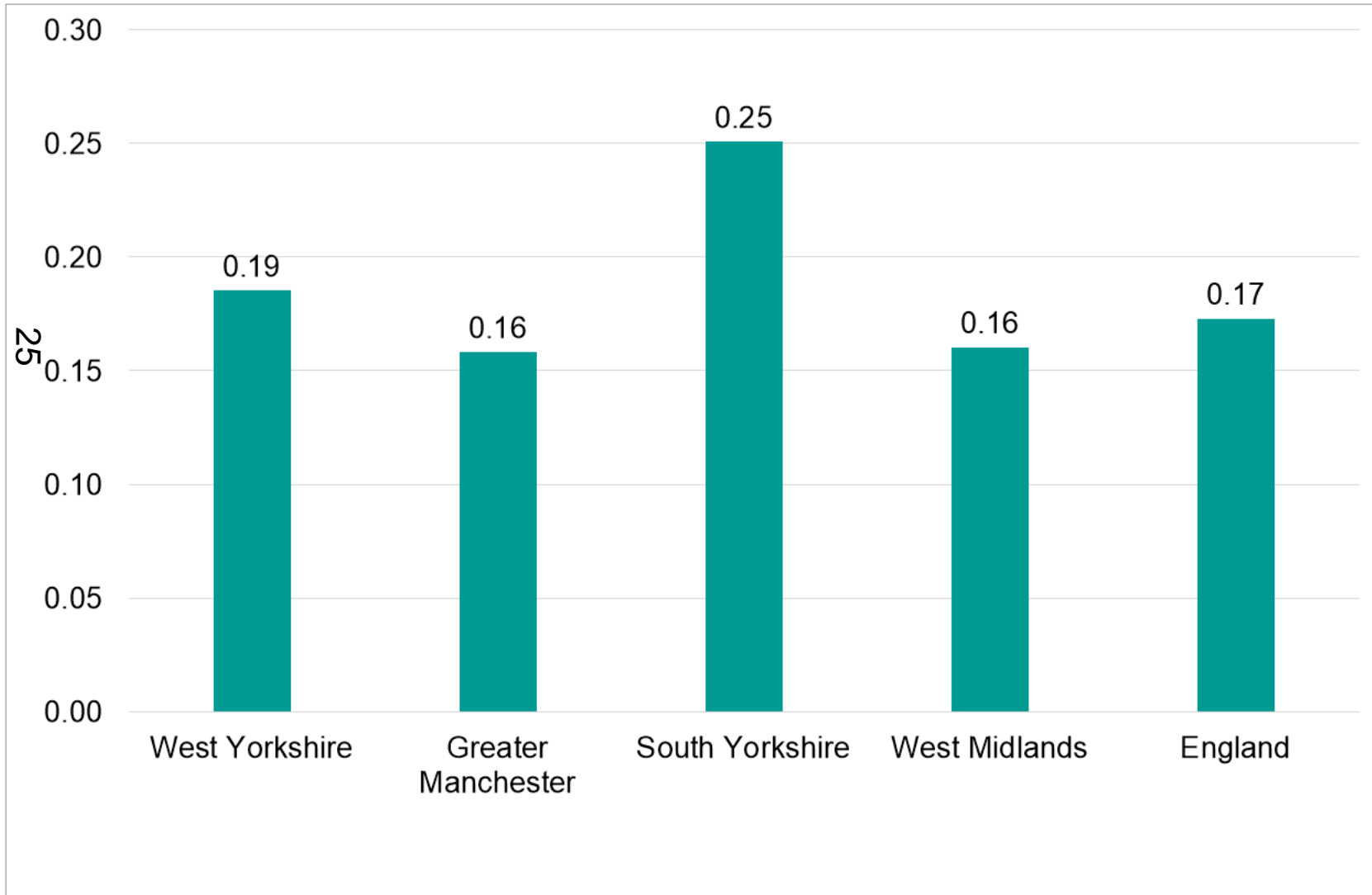
Figure: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions by sector, (ktCO₂e), West Yorkshire



Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2020, BEIS

West Yorkshire's emissions intensity is above the national average

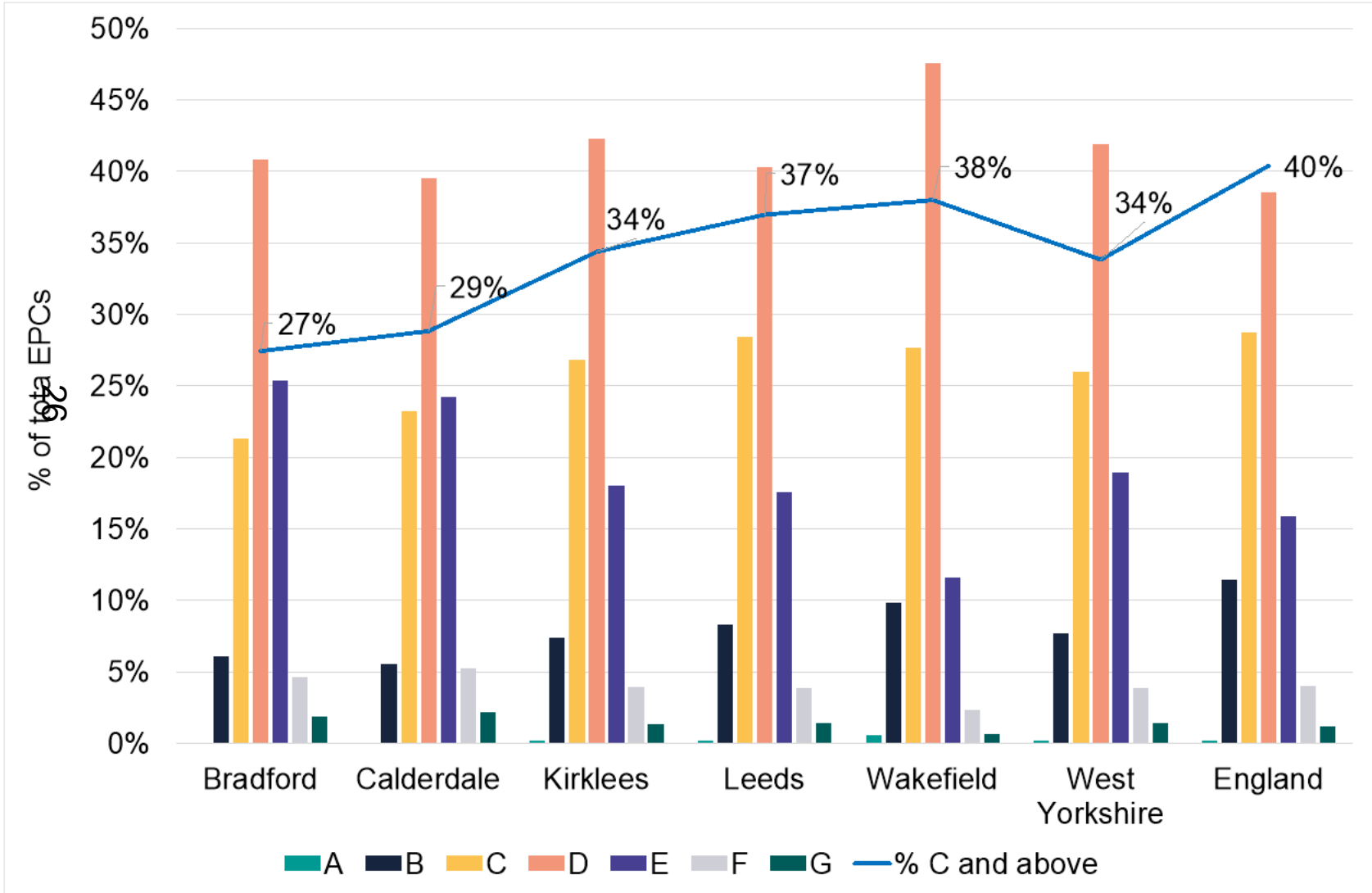
Figure: Greenhouse gas emissions intensity (ktCO₂e per £m gross value added)



Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2020, BEIS

West Yorkshire dwellings with an EPC are less likely to have an energy efficiency rating of C or above compared to national average

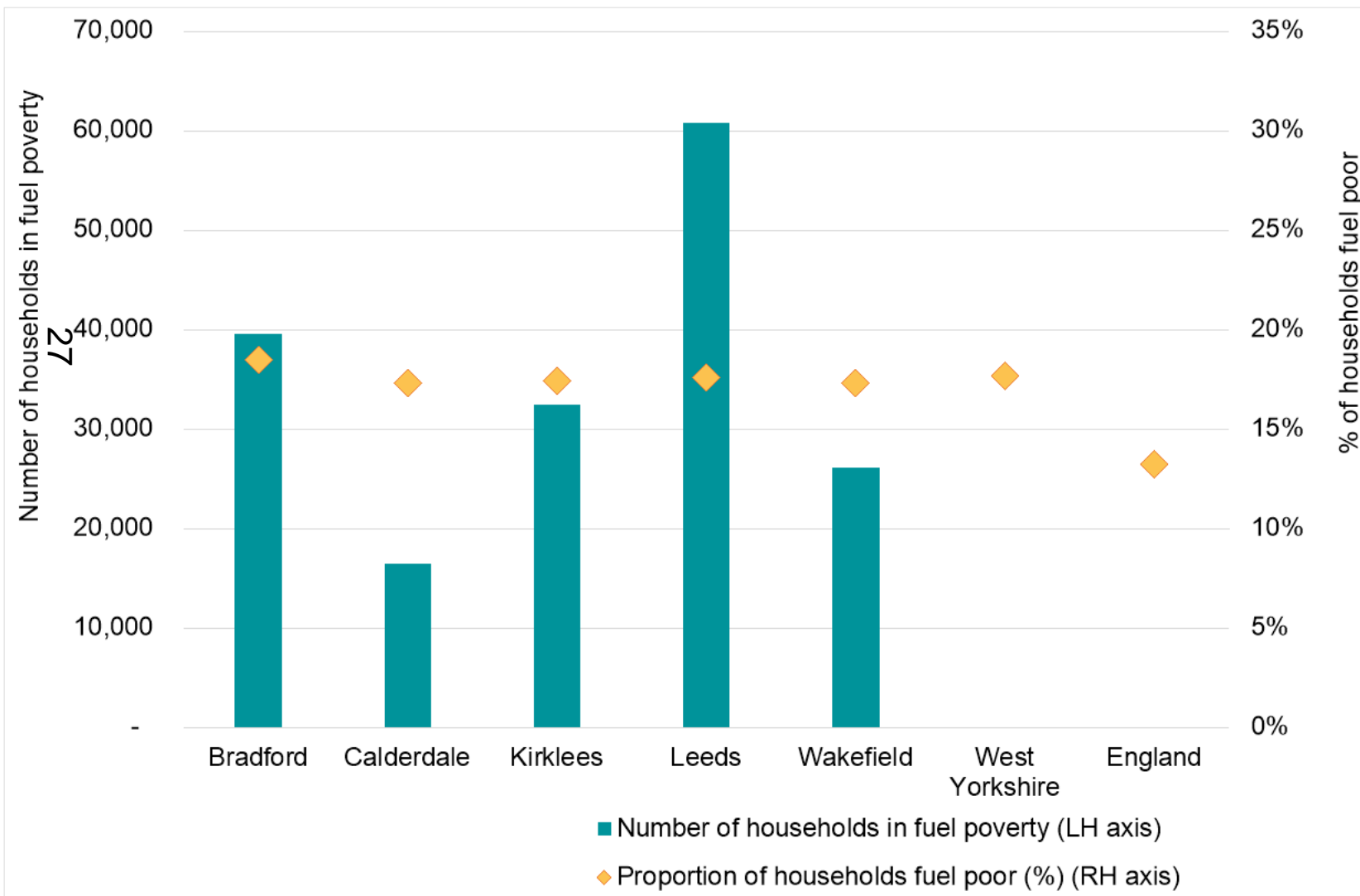
Figure: Profile of Energy Performance Certificates by local authority and Energy Efficiency Rating



Source: Energy Performance Certificate data, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

18% of households in West Yorkshire are in fuel poverty, a slight increase on the previous year

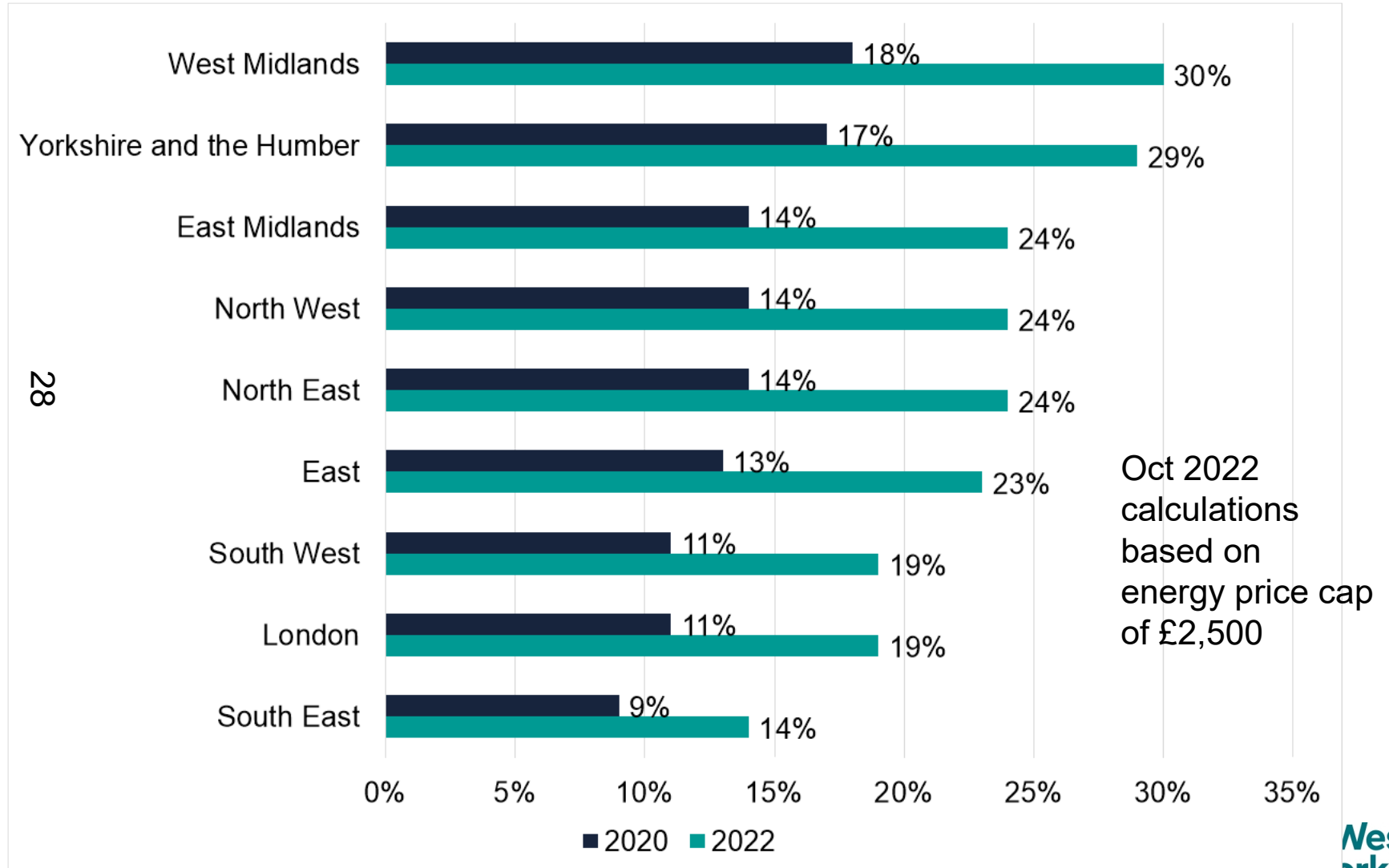
Figure: Number and proportion of households in fuel poverty, 2020



Source: Sub-regional fuel poverty statistics, BEIS

Projections suggest that fuel poverty in West Yorkshire could reach 30% despite govt energy price cap

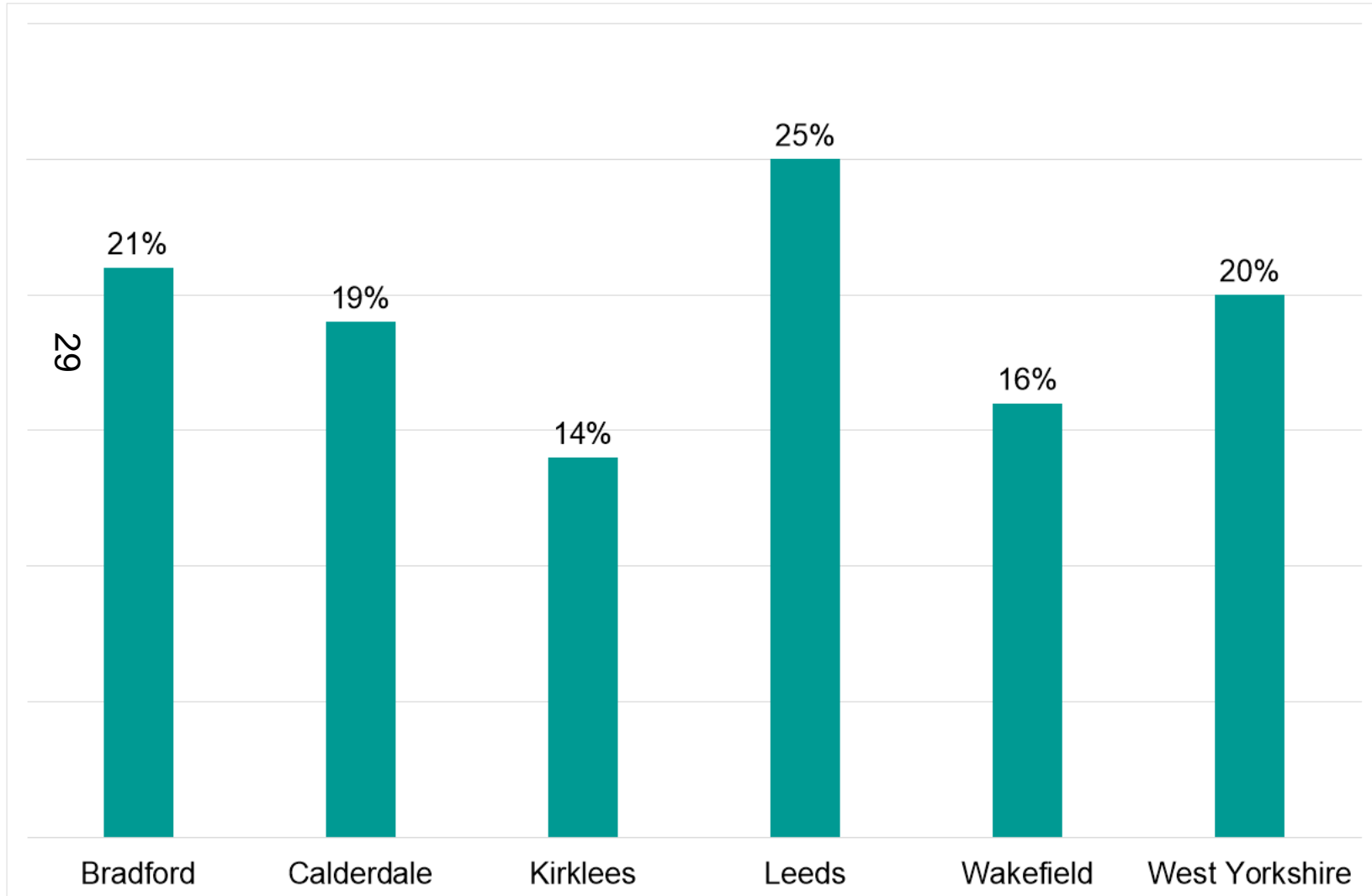
Figure: % of households in fuel poverty 2020 vs Oct 2022 (projected)



Source: Sub-regional fuel poverty statistics, BEIS; End Fuel Poverty Coalition

A fifth of the region's population have easy access to local natural greenspace

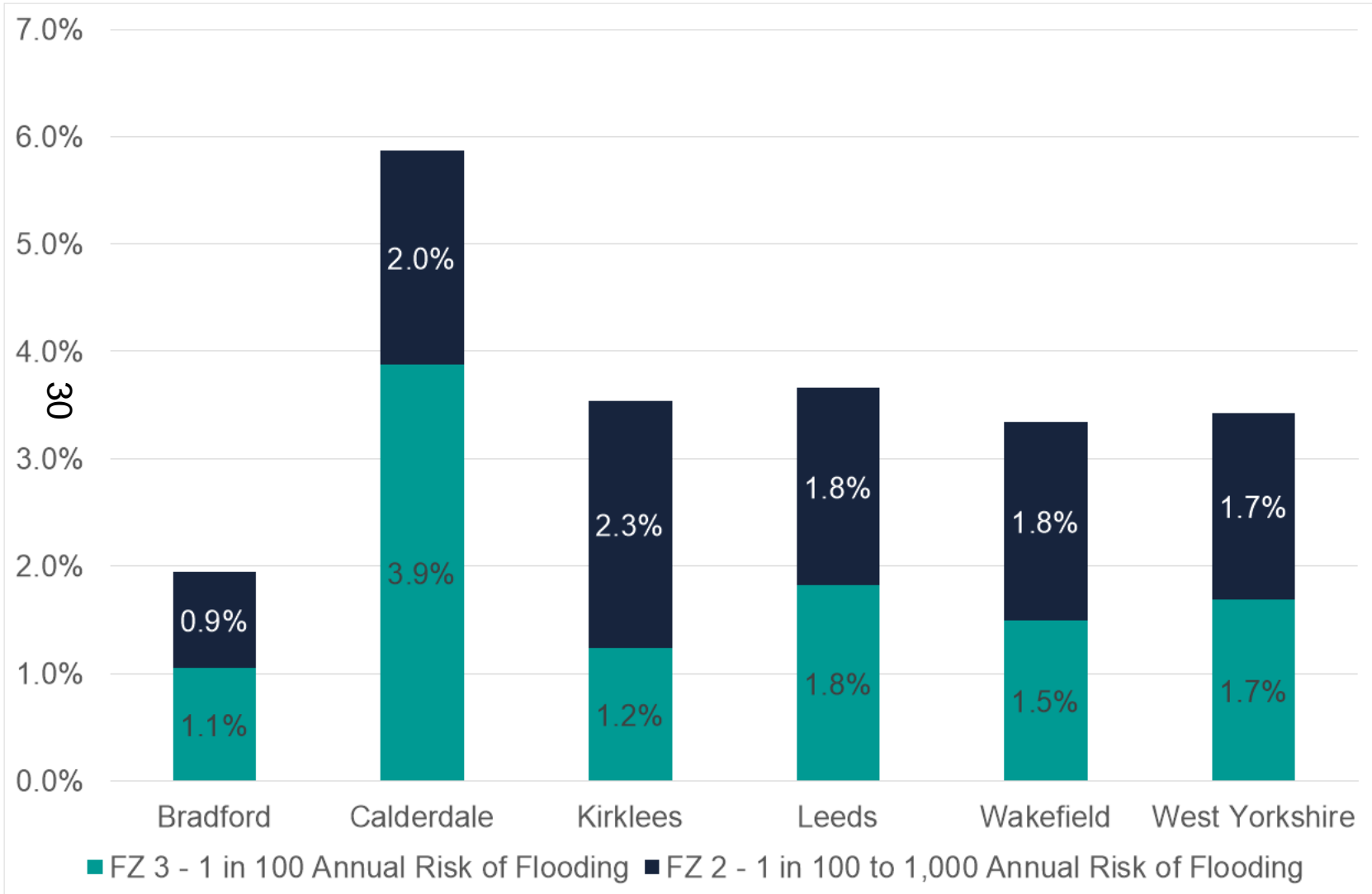
Figure: Proportion of population with easy access to local natural greenspace, 2022



Source: Natural England, ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

3% of residential properties in West Yorkshire fall within a flood zone, rising to more than 6% in Calderdale

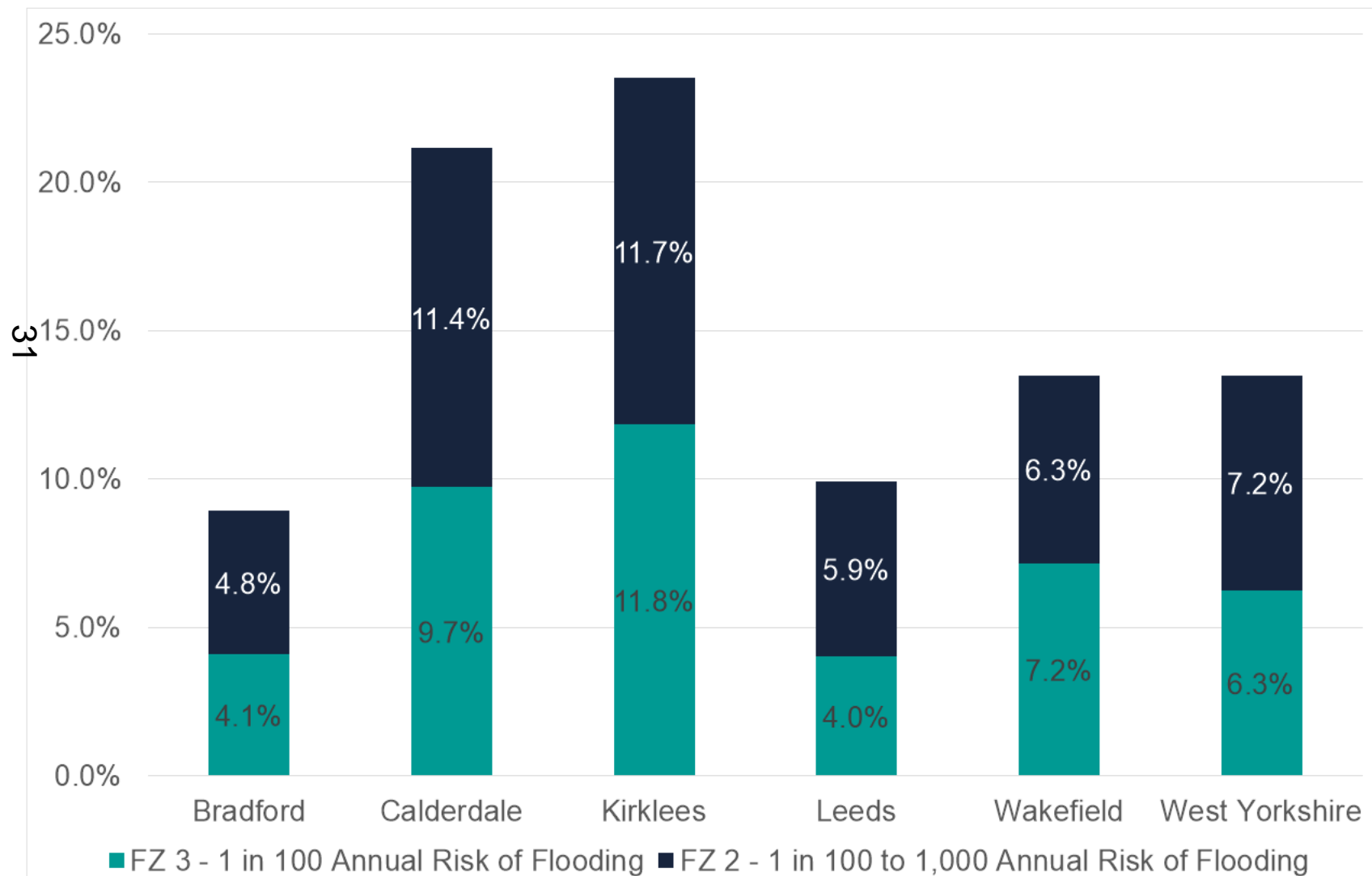
Figure: Proportion of residential properties in flood zones



Source: Environmental Agency, ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

13% of commercial properties in West Yorkshire fall within a flood zone, rising to 24% in Kirklees

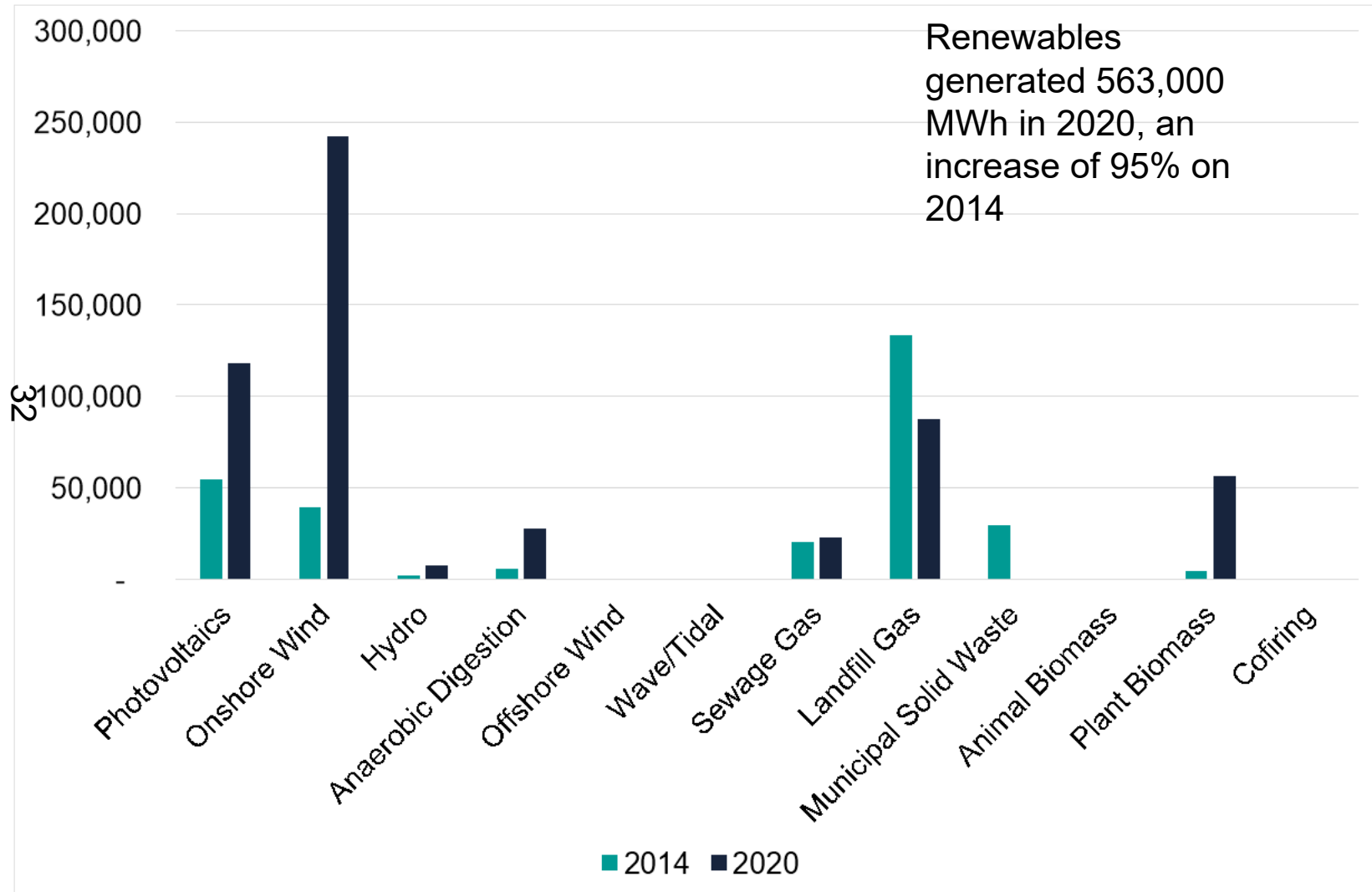
Figure: Proportion of commercial properties in flood zones



Source: Environmental Agency, ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

Onshore wind and photovoltaics are the largest sources of renewable energy in West Yorkshire

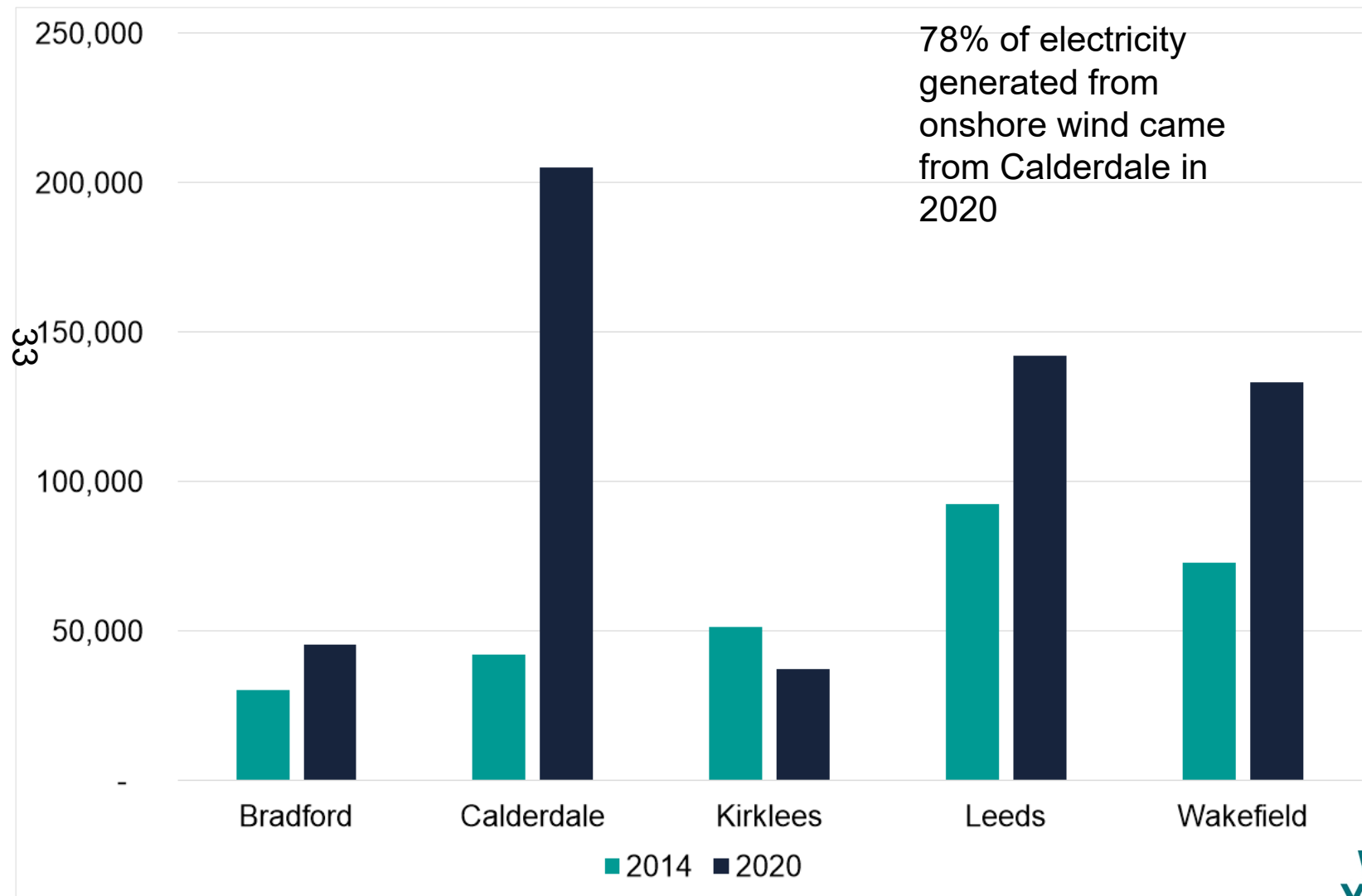
Figure: Renewable electricity generation (MWh) by source, West Yorkshire



Source: Regional Renewable Statistics, BEIS

Sites in Calderdale generated 36% of West Yorkshire's electricity from renewable sources in 2020

Figure: Renewable electricity generation (MWh) by local authority, 2020



Source: Regional Renewable Statistics, BEIS

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Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 9 September 2022

Subject: Crisis in the Cost of Living and Doing Business

Director: Alan Reiss, Director of Strategy, Communications and Policing

Authors: Policy officer

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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides information about the latest economic and business intelligence within West Yorkshire, focussing primarily on the issues relating to the cost-of-living crisis across the economy, and the upcoming increase in energy prices. It sets out current and upcoming work at the regional and local levels to address the crisis, and outlines key asks of the Government.

2. Evidence

National Data

- 2.1 The Bank of England raised interest rates by 50 basis points to 1.75% in August, by a margin of 8-1. As well as announcing an increase in interest rates, the Bank of England released updated forecasts:

- **The Consumer Price Index is expected to increase to over 13% in Q4 2022.** Inflation is expected to remain above 5% until Q1 2024;
- The UK economy is now expected to have five quarters of negative growth across 2023/24;
- **Real wages are expected to decline by 3.5% throughout 2022 and a further 4.25% fall in 2023.**

Regional Data

- 2.2 The Combined Authority has access to a Regional Econometric Model (“REM”), which provides forecasts for the area. We have also commissioned updated forecasts to understand how the current cost of living crisis is impacting the wider West Yorkshire economy. The rate of growth in the updated forecasts is considerably lower than the REM, which was produced earlier in the year, for the years 2022 and 2023. The REM predicted growth of 5.7% and 1.7% for 2022 and 2023 respectively across West Yorkshire. The updated forecasts bring these figures down to 2.5% and 0.5%. The expectation then is that long-run growth will be slightly reduced until 2028, compared to pre-cost-of-living crisis, suggesting there will be some economic scarring from the ongoing economic climate.
- 2.3 It is important to recognise that businesses have been dealing with the impact of energy cost rises since October 2021. This is due to them not being subject to the **energy price cap** that has partially restrained increases in the domestic sector. Businesses who were paying £6,000 for their gas and electricity combined in February 2021 face bills of over £28,000 this Autumn.
- 2.4 The Combined Authority has recently surveyed 1,000 businesses across West Yorkshire to understand business sentiment in the current economic climate. The key results are:
- 43% of businesses expect the business climate to remain as it currently is, whilst 30% expect it to worsen;
 - **30% expect to increase employment levels**, whilst only 5% expect employment levels to decrease;
 - The two main barriers to growth cited by businesses were decline in demand (17%) and availability of skilled labour (16%).
 - **33% of respondents expect their wage bill to remain the same over the next 12 months**. Of the 63% that expect their wage bill to increase, over half anticipate wage increases of less than 10%; and
 - **69% expect the prices they charge to customers to increase over the next 12 months**. Over half (51%) expect that price increase to be between 5 and 10%.
- 2.5 Analysis of enquiries into the Growth Hub service (the central Business Gateway Team and the 16 SME Growth Managers who operate at the district-level across the region) show multiple concerns over the ongoing cost of doing business crisis across West Yorkshire:
- Firstly, **businesses that are reliant on high energy usage are not protected from the increases in the wholesale prices (there is no energy price cap policy for commercial use)**. This is putting pressure on margins and creating viability questions for some businesses. For those businesses that are consumer-facing, there is concern over how much of the increased costs can reasonably be passed on to consumers;

- Secondly, **there is a worry that demand from consumers will be reduced due to overall rising prices across the economy.** At a macro-level, the Bank of England is predicting a similar problem, and this concern is becoming evident at a West Yorkshire level too.
- 2.6 Fuel poverty in West Yorkshire was greater than the national average prior to the pandemic (**17% of West Yorkshire households, compared with 13% nationally**). Ofgem announced that the energy price cap will rise from £1,971 to £3,549 from October - **an increase of 80%**. With standing charges in Yorkshire among the highest in the UK, **simply using less power will not solve the problem for many**. West Yorkshire households are in a worse position to deal with these increased costs for two reasons. Firstly, **dwellings with an EPC rating of C or above are lower in West Yorkshire than nationwide (46.9% compared with 53.8%)**. Secondly, **around 33% of the West Yorkshire population fall within the poorest 20% of neighbourhoods in England**.
- 2.7 Data collected by the University of Sheffield in 2021 shows **four out of the five West Yorkshire districts as having a higher share of food insecurity than the national average**. Nationally, 4% of adults went hungry due to not being able to afford food. In Leeds this figure was 2%, it was 6% in Kirklees, 7% in Wakefield and 8% in both Bradford and Calderdale. A further 8% in Leeds, 10% in Wakefield and 12% in Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees were worried about the cost of food. Since this data was collected, food prices have accelerated significantly, with the cost of wheat-related goods climbing drastically due to the Russia-Ukraine War.
- 2.8 Analysis by the Bank of England in July showed that the poorest 10% of households spent close to all their income on essential goods and services. Cornwall Insight are forecasting average monthly bill reaching £550 a month by 2023 (price cap now is around £300). This would mean the average household paying £100 a month more for their energy bills in the new year than they will pay in Income Tax. **The poorest 10% will need to spend more than their income on essential goods and services, and the poorest 20% will lose most of their remaining disposable income**. Around 30% of the West Yorkshire population fall into the poorest 20% nationally. What this means is that for the poorest people in West Yorkshire, they will have no money left after spending on essential goods and services. In addition to the obvious human cost of this situation, it will also lead to reduced demand for other sectors, causing a knock-on economic effect elsewhere.
- 2.9 **People who use pre-payment meters will pay more than the energy price cap** (105,000 households in West Yorkshire). There is also no price cap on alternative energy sources, such as oil, coal, and LPG gas. **This leaves rural communities more exposed to rising energy costs**. The new price cap means that people no longer have the headroom to pay their energy bills. **In West Yorkshire, we already have 18% of people spending over 90% of their gross income on essential items such as food and fuel**. Yorkshire homes are less energy efficient than the national average.

- 2.10 Employment levels in West Yorkshire have continued to increase. Over the last 12 months, the number of pay rolled employees in West Yorkshire has increased by 3%, in line with national figures. The median wage across West Yorkshire has increased by 7% over the last 12 months from £1,857 to £1,979. Nationwide, the median wage also increased by 7% over the last 12 months. However, **wages have not kept pace with inflation, and this is expected to continue throughout 2023.**
- 2.11 Between Q1 2020 and Q4 2021, **unsecured lending to households in West Yorkshire declined by 18%.** However, low-income households were at greater risk of unemployment and furlough throughout the pandemic, compared to high-income households, suggesting that the reduction has been primarily driven by high-income households paying off debt whilst remaining economically active, with likely reduced commuting costs, throughout the pandemic.
- 2.12 Unlike outstanding personal finance, **outstanding mortgage debt across West Yorkshire increased from Q1 2020 to Q4 2021 by 6%.** Whilst around 75% of this mortgage debt will be on fixed rates, there is a risk for those re-mortgaging or on variable rates, that the increase in interest rates by the Bank of England will put household budgets under pressure when combined with other increases in living costs.
- 2.13 **REBiz**, the CA's resource efficiency support programme (advice and grant investment) for SMEs in the region, has seen **a 50% increase in approved grant applications for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in the first eight months of 2022**, compared to the same period in 2021. It has also seen many businesses recently re-engaging with the support available following initial engagement several months earlier.
- 2.14 For the first time since the launch of the Growth Service in 2015, the number one source of enquiries to the Business Gateway team in the week commencing 15th August 2022, was for REBiz, although the numbers are relatively modest.
- 2.15 The CA's Resource Efficiency Managers report that, on average, the increase in electricity prices is from around 12-15p / kWh to around 40p / kWh (c300%), and for gas from around 2-3p / kWh to around 12p / kWh (c400-600%). There are several examples (mostly from manufacturing companies) of West Yorkshire SMEs experiencing the impact of the price rises. (For further information please see Appendix 1).

Health inequalities

- 2.16 As the cost-of-living increases, more of our population will start to feel the effects of poverty on their health, with the poorest impacted the most. We will therefore observe an even greater difference in health outcomes between

those in the highest and lowest socioeconomic groups, i.e., wider health inequalities.

- 2.17 It should be noted that these effects on health are due to a culmination of factors all influenced by poverty, including unstable or unsafe living environment, poor housing, poor nutrition, and adverse childhood experiences.

Housing

- 2.18 The Northern Housing Consortium report identifies that renters in Yorkshire and the Humber live in the lowest quality housing of any region in England, relying more on the private rented sector than any region outside of London. 54% of those in the private rented sector are at high risk of fuel poverty. The ongoing cost of living crisis will increase bills for those living in poorly insulated, energy inefficient rented property. It is likely that some people will look to other public spaces to keep warm, including libraries.

Policing & Crime

- 2.19 A recent Women's Aid survey (June 2022) found that 96% of victims say that the cost-of-living crisis is making their abuse worse, and 73% of victims say they are scared to leave their abusive homes because of fears over finance. Struggling with financial security can have profound consequences for an individual's mental health. This includes a likely rise in the suicide rate, particularly amongst males who can be excluded from the labour market. WYP deal with 22,000 calls relating to mental health a year, and this is likely to increase demand on police and partner agencies.
- 2.20 During recession it is clear certain types of crime increase such as acquisitive crime, which also involves an increase in levels of violence. Drugs and alcohol use increases in times of recession because unemployment increases psychological distress. This also has consequences for crime types such as serious violence and domestic abuse. Child and Adult exploitation can increase during recessions as offenders will use individuals' or families' financial insecurity to further their own criminal aims.

Local Data

- 2.21 Below is a summary of information showing evidence of increased demand for services by local authorities within West Yorkshire.
- 2.22 Bradford:
- Loughborough University and the End of Child Poverty Coalition found that the child poverty rate in Bradford rose by 2% in 2020/21, whereas nationally it fell by 4%.
 - 2 in 5 children grow up in families in relative poverty after housing costs.
 - 70% of homes are energy inefficient, the 3rd highest rate of UK cities. This means they will spend between £85-115 more than the government energy support measures provided for in May.

- VCS partners are reporting rising demand in foodbanks, new users as the in work poor turn to services and a range of measures being taken by people such as not cooking or using the fridge to save on energy. Evidence from recent focus group research details the struggles many in our District are now facing.

2.23 Calderdale:

- Citizen's Advice Calderdale (CAC) have noted alarming increase in requests for charitable support and food banks for the period of 1st April 2021 to 25th July 2022.
- CAC has reported a notable increase in debt in 2022. Between 1/4/22 and 30/6/22, £502,173 problem debt was present by clients, with the average debt per client amounting to £7846.
- In the 12 months to the 1st of July 2022, the Council supported 1,678 households in housing crisis.
- Rise in clients fleeing domestic abuse, rising from 181 (2020/21) to 335 in the last 12 months.

2.24 Kirklees:

- 33% of households live in poverty.
- 17% of households live in fuel poverty.
- 25% of school children are eligible for free school meals (up from 19% in 2019).
- The removal of £20 additional Universal Credit has resulted in a £36m of lost income to Universal Credit claimants in Kirklees.
- Current requests of support to Local Welfare Provision are at the same levels as they were during the peak of the Covid pandemic.
- VCS partners are reporting increasing demands in terms of crisis support for food/housing and energy costs.
- VCS partners are also reporting increasing challenges in terms of paying for their own organisations running costs.
- Data from the Bread and Butter Thing (TTBT) report that across the 19 weeks that the 2 hubs (collectively) have been operating they have distributed a total of 1449 sets of bags, feeding an average of 66 households each week at each hub. An additional 3 hubs are now in the process of being established.
- At each hub, Kirklees have given out an average of 13kg of food in each set of bags. This is equivalent to 44,677 meals. 78% of this was made up of chilled goods and fruit and veg – delivering maximum nutritional benefit for members.

2.25 Leeds:

- Between 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, 64,636 food parcels in Leeds were given out via Community Care Hubs and Emergency Food Provisions.
- People claiming Universal Credit has more than doubled from pre-pandemic levels (33,715 to 70,722).

- Citizens Advice Leeds estimate that the removal of the £20 resulted in £66m in lost income (per annum) to Universal Credit claimants in Leeds alone.
- In April 2022, benefit levels were updated by 3.1 per cent, well below the March inflation level of 7%.

2.26 Wakefield:

- ONS shows Wakefield workers to have the lowest median average wages of all West Yorkshire Districts (£528.90 per week). As such a higher percentage of low paid Wakefield working residents are likely to be more significantly impacted in terms of the percentage impact on their incomes than other West Yorkshire Districts.
- 14.3% of working age adults are claiming some form of benefit. This is the 2nd highest percentage figure for West Yorkshire behind Bradford. Risk levels for the impact of cost-of-living inflation will fall disproportionately on Wakefield residents.
- Centre for Cities cost-of-living tracker current local estimate for inflation is 10.6% in Wakefield. The average worker in Wakefield was £86 per month worse off in real terms in July 2022 from July 2021 due to inflation rise.
- Friends of the Earth estimate Wakefield is the 30th most impacted local authority area in the UK in terms of energy price rises, given the need to improve energy efficiency in the district housing stock:
 - 1 in 3 houses are in areas identified as being in 'energy crisis hotspots'.
 - 10,500 houses in these hotspots need cavity wall insulation
 - 8,900 houses need loft insulation.
 - Average energy bill forecast to rise from £2,073 (pre-October 2022) to £3,003 in October – with more rises in the new year.
- 653 Wakefield residents have their benefits sanctioned in some way out of 31,298 claimants.

Mayoral Combined Authority and Local Authority partners activity

2.27 Activity is focused around three areas for action: Relief, Prevention and Resilience:

- **Relief** aims for immediate action targeted at supporting people already in crisis and ramping up existing activity/programmes.
- **Prevention** aims for immediate action targeted to stop more people falling into crisis in the future.
- **Resilience** aims to act now to address medium- and long-term challenges.

Mayoral Combined Authority

Bus Fare Affordability

- 2.28 As part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan the Combined Authority set out a proposal to reduce the daily cap on the MCard ticket to £4.50 from £5.50 and setting the maximum single day fare to £2. The “Mayor’s Fares” apply from the 4th of September 2022. Given the current cost of living crisis, the mayor felt that it was important that individuals and families obtained the benefit of this as soon as practically possible. Also, the start of the academic year is an opportune time to promote new fares as many people review and change travel habits at this time. More information is provided in Item 7.

Mayoral Combined Authority support for the VCSE sector

- 2.29 The West Yorkshire Inclusive Growth Framework recognises the key role of the third sector in delivering economic inclusion, for example by supporting our most disadvantaged communities, and within these communities, those who are the furthest away from accessing Good Work. It is understood that the sector is seeing a significant reduction in philanthropic funding and donations at a time when demand for its support and services, such as food banks, provision of warm spaces in the Winter, and for those with mental health problems is, or is likely to soon be, increasing. The Mayoral Combined Authority is therefore urgently exploring options, working with Councils, to support and sustain the sector in delivering in its economic inclusion activities and services during the current crisis and support those most in need.

Support for businesses to innovate

- 2.30 Every crisis breeds innovation because it demands a sharper, shared clarity of purpose. We saw this through COVID-19, with new processes, products and initiatives developed as both a means of business survival and solutions to the pandemic’s biggest challenges. There is a range of support available across West Yorkshire to support businesses and entrepreneurs to drive innovation from the crisis, including the Combined Authority’s Innovative Entrepreneurs Programme, Mayoral Innovation Prize, Connecting Innovation, Digital Enterprise, Made Smarter and the new Business Productivity Programme. These products all contain elements of support related to the better use of digital technology to drive forward productivity and innovation, whilst also reducing energy usage and, hence, operating costs. Opportunities are also available through national products such as Innovate UK’s Regulators’ Pioneer Fund.

Support for businesses with energy efficiency

- 2.31 Given the appetite from businesses for support, the REBiz grant fund is likely to be fully committed by the end of October 2022, which will leave a gap for new applicants to apply until April 2023 when the new **£10.6m Business Sustainability Programme** (currently progressing through the CA’s Assurance Framework process as part of a wider package of investments in response to the climate emergency) is expected to launch.

- 2.32 The new Business Sustainability Programme has been designed to provide a more a holistic package of support to a wider range of businesses, including retail and hospitality, which REBiz has been unable to support due to EU restrictions. Given the energy crisis facing businesses, the Combined Authority is swiftly exploring whether there are possible options to bridge the gap or otherwise bring forward support more quickly.

Investing in activity to enable preparation for improved home efficiency

- 2.33 Working in partnership with nine Registered Providers, the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (Wave 1) is investing £10.3m to improve the energy efficiency rating of over 1300 social homes below EPC Band C, thereby reducing energy bills and numbers of residents in Fuel Poverty. A wave 2 bid is due to be submitted in the autumn.
- 2.34 The Retrofit Hub is completing technical evidence to support a potential capital project at neighbourhood level in the Manningham and Toller wards of Bradford, focusing on pre-1919 terraced housing (some are in conservation areas, but it is ward focused). The project is providing 150 Whole House Retrofit Plans, with advice on energy efficiency and retrofit shared with owners/tenants to increase knowledge and awareness.
- 2.35 The Better Homes Hub will upscale domestic energy efficient retrofits across West Yorkshire, reducing carbon emissions from housing and ensuring our existing homes are fit for 21st Century demands. The programme includes a package of support for landlords and homeowners that will unlock demand for retrofit, build the enabling capacity with our partners, and send a strong signal to the private sector to align with our ambitions. Our proposals include a mix of financial support for homeowners comprising small grants and loans, a campaign to raise awareness and promote the benefits of retrofit, tailored support for residents and landlords, and demonstrator projects to showcase the benefits of a high-impact local approach.
- 2.36 Please see Appendix 2 for full list of current business support.

Delivering affordable homes for sale and/or rent

- 2.37 The Combined Authority has secured £89m through the Government's Brownfield Housing Fund to enable the building of over 5,000 new homes on brownfield land by March 2025. To date, the Combined Authority has approved projects which will deliver over 1700 homes, including 800 affordable and sustainable homes, with further projects subject for Committee review this autumn.

Community Safety

- 2.38 Violence Reduction Unit/Op Jemlock: The overall estimated cost for Serious Violence in West Yorkshire was almost £1 billion between October 2020 to September 2021. The West Yorkshire Violence Reduction unit (VRU), which

launched in early 2020, has a partnership emphasis, with specialists from health, police, local authorities, education, youth justice, prisons, probation, community groups and others. It takes a fundamentally different approach to violence reduction, one where the public sector institutions and communities that make up West Yorkshire act together to help cut violence through early intervention, prevention, education, and joint working.

- 2.39 The VRU has received £5.8m in 22/23 to continue its role to lead and coordinate the local response to serious violence. This is part of a three-year arrangement with indicative funding available during 2023/24 and 2024/25. Between April and December 2021, 5816 young people were supported across 41 VRU funded interventions and helped around 200 people over the age of 25 in 2021/22.
- 2.40 West Yorkshire Combined Authority is also supporting existing activity on address domestic abuse, mental health, acquisitive crime, drug and alcohol use, and child and adult exploitation.

Mayor's Fair Work Charter

- 2.41 The Fair Work Charter for West Yorkshire is a key Mayoral pledge and is being progressed jointly with partners, key stakeholders, and business to develop a way of setting a clear and ambitious standard for good employment practices in our region. The Mayor's aim is to set clear expectations in the workplace around the five key elements of Fair Work, namely: Opportunity, Security (including fair pay and conditions), Wellbeing, Employee Voice, and Fulfilment. Following a public consultation undertaken in the spring, the next phase is to ensure that the Charter is made relevant to all employers, including SMEs ahead of a formal launch later in the year.
- 2.42 Please see Appendix 2 for further information on existing activities/programmes on skills.

Health Partnership role in tackling the impact of poverty

- 2.43 The WY Health and Care Partnership (WYH&CP) is forming an action group on tackling poverty to form a narrative around the effects of poverty on health in WY and produce an action plan on how to minimise the impact of poverty on the population.

Examples of current programmes to support people in the short term:

Wakefield Connecting Care Hubs:

- Jointly funded by WYH&CP and Wakefield Council.
- Health, social care, housing, and voluntary and community organisations working side-by-side.
- Teach people to manage their money better and ensure they are claiming all the benefits for which they are eligible.

Winter warmth programme:

- £1 million funding provided to various programmes around the region to help with fuel payments over 2021/22.

2.44 Discussions are underway around how staff in healthcare organisations around the region can be supported in managing their money, including costs of transport and travel.

2.45 Whilst these programmes may help with mitigation and adaptation to poverty in the short term, there are also longer-term considerations around preventing the drivers of poverty and how the NHS and social care can contribute as an employer, a procurer and as an anchor institution working in partnership with other anchor institutions, the voluntary sector, and local communities.

Local Authority Partners

Existing activity/programmes across all Local Authorities

2.46 Household Support Fund:

- Calderdale are continuing payments of scheme 2 to eligible households. Arrangements are in place for remaining pensioners to collect their payment via the Post Office. Any funds that remain after payments have been made will be shared out in September. A total of £115,509 has been allocated across 17 VCS organisations (£105,509 from HSF and £10,000 from Community Foundation for Calderdale). Guidance for scheme 3 is expected soon.
- In total, Bradford's fund is worth approximately £17m. Bradford is currently delivering the April to September phase of the fund. Some of the funding spend was mandated and focussed on pensioners and low-income families. Current projects include:
 - VCS Funding - £972,000
 - Helping Free School Meal families over summer break - £1,560,000
 - Additional support for foodbanks - £200,000
 - Essential cooking equipment - £12,500
 - Support for Family Carers - £50,000
 - Help with Fuel Costs - £2,900,000
- Kirklees support access to food, fuel and gas/electricity by distributing additional £3.7m HSF by end of September 2022 and a further £3.7m by end of March 2023.
- Leeds City Council received £7.1m to distribute by the end of September 2022. The funding provided direct cash awards to 64,000 people in receipt of Council Tax Support. The funding is also being provided to council services and third sector organisations, to support the target groups with the costs of food, energy, essential items.

2.47 Discretionary Housing Payments

- For discretionary spend, members in Bradford decided to prioritise cash payments to the lowest income households rather than taking an approach which includes a number of specifically targeted schemes.
- The Government has allocated Calderdale £469,050 for the Discretionary Fund, which will be used to support other energy bill payers who cannot get the £150 energy rebate. This can cover those with property bands E to H. The criteria for these funds will be available shortly.
- The full Government contribution of £1,679,527 was awarded to residents in Leeds. Additionally, a further £483,809 was awarded to residents using the contribution from the Leeds HRA. 2022/23 financial year will have a reduced budget of £1.16m (a cut of £513,318 or 30.57%) compared to last year's funding. Further funding may be awarded later this year, but it is not expected to cover the cut in funding.
- DHP in Wakefield for the year ending March 2023 has been reduced from £773,209 (2021/22) to 548,018 (or 29%). Wakefield will continue to support those renting their home to bridge the gap between their rent their rent and the amount of housing benefit they receive. However, the demand on the reducing fund is increasing.

2.48 Council Tax Energy rebate

- Council Tax Energy rebate (£150 per eligible household and equates to circa £25m) to be paid out by end of September 2022 in Kirklees.
- Council Tax Support currently support 63,692 households in Leeds (20,210 of which are pensioners). Currently around 16,000 'protected' working age household receive support covering 100% of the Council Tax Charge, but these protections are lost when residents migrate to Universal Credit. Total cost of support in 2021/22 was £55.4m and expected to rise to £56.1 in 2022/23.
- £12,498,600 has been allocated to Calderdale (equating to 83,325 payments). Halifax Opportunities Trust has helped those who are digitally excluded to get their payments and have translated information about the rebate into Urdu and Czech.
- Wakefield paid the main rebate fund to 144,000 households in bands A-D by the end of July. They also paid 12,000 households discretionary rebate funds (either £150, £70 or £45) in bands E and F. Total fund: £22,534,950.

2.49 Holiday Activities and Food Programme

- The Department of Education has committed funding for 2022, 2023 and 2024. Leeds received £3.5m for programmes over the Easter, Summer, and Christmas holidays in 2022. Over 120 schools, 50 third sector organisations and over 20 council provisions have been funded. The summer programme is estimated to reach 8500 children and young people.

- In Bradford, one of the strands of the programme run in 2021 had 35,000 children take part in holiday clubs during the summer holidays. The Bradford HAF has been nominated for a LGC award.
- Kirklees funded provisions included 4 hours of activities each day and a healthy nutritious meal, delivered at 125 different venues over four weeks. In total, over 30,000 meals have been offered.

Additional local authority activity/programmes

2.50 Bradford:

- £2m funding package has been provided to recommission welfare advice services across the District and reconfigure how such advice and guidance is provided.
- Cost-of-Living Public Information Campaign.
- Bradford Credit Union continues to develop its membership – now at 9,000. 2,500 members would face total financial exclusion without the support of the credit union.
- Poverty Proofing the School Day – project currently running with 18 schools and is developing ways of reducing the costs of schooling for poorest communities.
- Warms Homes/Healthy People supporting 800 people this year with heating costs.
- Support for social supermarkets and foodbanks – support for families increased from 400 food parcels given out per day to 800.
- New Strategy is now near complete and at design for publication stage. This sets out a shared vision for the council and partners across the public, private and voluntary and community sectors based around four focussed goals of prevention, protection, pathways, and participation.

2.51 Calderdale:

- Affordable Warmth Forum:
 - Power Calderdale for fuel vouchers
 - Affordable Warmth and Chronic Ill Health project (£93,000) to commence in September
 - Anti-Poverty Partnership #fuelyour knowledge campaign and events on 22nd September
- Anti-Poverty Plan out for final comment and to be approved by steering group on 11th August.
- Frontline worker factsheet circulated, and Anti-Poverty Dashboard now live and to feed into Anti-Poverty Action.
- Money & Debt forum to look at Money Guiders national Scheme:
 - Financial Education task and finish group set up and will meet in August
 - To discuss affordable credit with Financial Inclusion Centre to develop dataset to identify issues and gaps in provision. Particular focus on payroll saving scheme with the Credit Union and link are being made with local businesses

- Worrying About Money to be published in August.
- Food Poverty Co-ordinate post to be filled in September. Role will co-ordinate the Food Poverty Forum and their aims.
- 12-month communications campaign on cost-of-living crisis to be agreed by Anti-Poverty Steering Group on 11th August.

2.52 Kirklees:

- Facilitating the Tackling Poverty Partnership which has representation from across the VCS, local health providers, business and the university.
- Supporting residents to navigate the system to understand what is available through energy rebate, Universal Credit, Council Tax reduction, and HMRC Tax Credits. This is being done in partnership with VCSE.
- Money Advice Service available for Kirklees Homes and Neighbourhoods residents.
- Continuing funding three food banks.
- Every week, Kirklees reduce the stress of stretched finances. So far Kirklees residents have benefited from a cumulative saving of £38,398.50 by shopping with TBBT.
- Bread and Butter report that when all 5 hubs are fully operational for a year this will deliver:
 - 330 households supported each week
 - 2080 volunteering opportunities
 - 519,792 Meals
 - £482,300 savings delivered for Kirklees resident
- Continuing to deliver Works Better and Better Works programmes.
- Two digital hubs have been created and over 200 devices have been deployed to support people across Kirklees. Around 10,000 devices have now been provided to children across Kirklees.
- Working with employers to make it easier for them to understand the local and training offer and develop their workforce.
- Clear communications campaign outlining sources of support to reach everyone in need and in multiple languages.

2.53 Leeds:

- Maintain own provision of the Local Welfare Support Scheme through internal funding. The council has increased fuel awards via the scheme by 54% in line with recent energy price cap to provide proportionate support to the most vulnerable residents.
- Leeds Food Aid Network, FareShare Yorkshire, Rethink food and Foodwise collaborating with the council, universities, businesses and third sector to tackle food insecurity.
- Insecurity Taskforce established.
- Leeds Money Information Centre for free advice and financial support.
- Times are Hard campaign to promote services available within the Council Community Hubs and Libraries.

- Leeds Inclusive Anchor network cost-of-living event.
- General advice services via the Leeds Advice Service contract.
- Leeds City Council's Welfare Rights Unit to provide advice and support to welfare beneficiaries.
- Financial Inclusion team collaborating with advice providers, Welfare Rights, Leeds Credit Union, the Green Doctor, and food aid providers to provide training and awareness sessions.
- Best City Ambition with three pillars of Health and Wellbeing, Inclusive Growth and Zero Carbon.

2.54 Wakefield:

- Approximately 9,000 families across the district have received 2 x £60 supermarket vouchers, totalling £1.1m.
- Approximately 10,000 pensioners across the district will receive 2 x £50 supermarket vouchers, totalling £1m.
- Approximately 7,000 pensioners across the district will receive 2 x £50 supermarket vouchers, totalling £700,000.
- £100,000 has been allocated to the Council's Money Smart team to enable them to offer direct support to tackle energy debt, with the aim of bringing stability, removing the threat of disconnection, recovery action, pre-payment deductions as well as increases in debit payments.
- Remaining funding in the existing Local Welfare Provision can be accessed by several organisations across the district, acting as 'Trusted Referrers'. It has been used to support with essentials linked to food, energy and water including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, boiler service/repair, purchase of equipment (e.g., fridges, ovens etc.) and to help vulnerable residents suffering hardship in exceptional circumstances, totalling £165,000.
- £214,000 for 2022/23 for the Energy Debt Fund (circa £90,000 already distributed).
- Four Affordable Warmth projects (£153,000 allocated). Strategic Housing working in partnership with Public Health.
- £1m made available by West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership to reduce risk of emergency hospital admissions for those impacted by cold homes.
- Homes Energy Efficiency Improvement Programme
 - Fuel Poverty Fund: £21,000
 - Big Green Heating Scheme: £30,000
 - Energy Savers Scheme: £30,000
 - Energy Saver Loan - £7,000

Ask of UK Government

- 2.55 The new Prime Minister's in-tray must have at the top the cost of living and doing business, and in particular the impact of energy prices on both

households and businesses. The following key asks of Government are proposed:

- A strong local Government settlement to provide a foundation for the delivery of local public services
- Support for energy bills for the least well off and businesses across West Yorkshire, including reversing the £20 cut in Universal Credit
- Certainty on future bus funding to enable local fare reduction plus protection of routes
- Greater flexibility in use of devolved funding, plus a longer-term deal to increase powers and funding of Mayors

Summary of next steps

2.56 The following next steps are proposed for action

- Continue to implement the 'Mayor's Fares' and promote this across West Yorkshire to encourage people to travel by bus
- Develop proposals for a scheme that uses regional funding for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector to support those most in need, for approval at a future meeting
- Explore further steps to be taken to support businesses with energy efficiency measures
- Monitor the evolving evidence and impact on the people and businesses of West Yorkshire
- Press Government for further action on funding of local public services, and support for businesses and households

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1 Fuel use increases over the Winter due to colder temperatures. West Yorkshire homes are less likely to have an EPC C+, meaning that the region is more likely to need to use energy for heating. Analysis by the Resolution Foundation suggests it costs 58% more to heat a home rated as EPC D or lower, than it does C or above.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 According to the Resolution Foundation, lower-income households will have to reduce non-essential spending by three times as much as higher-income households to afford essential bills such as energy. West Yorkshire has a higher share of people in lower-income households, suggesting that spending will be cut significantly more across West Yorkshire than other areas.

4.2 Wages are already struggling to keep pace with inflation (median wages have increased by 7%, meanwhile inflation is above 10%). As of 17 August, the UK Government has not indicated that benefit payments (in and out of work) will be increased in-line with inflation. Therefore, many families will be facing real-term cuts in their household incomes (from wages and benefits). West

Yorkshire has a higher percentage of people claiming out-of-work benefits compared to the national average (4.8% compared to 3.7%). West Yorkshire also has a higher percentage of people claiming in-work benefits compared to the national average (8.6% compared to 7.7%).

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 A recent survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics showed that 89% of adults in Great Britain report concerns over the increase in the cost of living. Within this group, 57% have stated that they are spending less on non-essentials, 51% are trying to reduce their energy consumption at home, and 42% are cutting back on non-essential journeys. 23% are using their savings to cover the increased costs, whilst 13% have stated that they are using more credit than usual. Disabled people are more likely to have reduced their spending on food and essentials, than non-disabled people (42%, compared with 31%). Over 70% of the poorest people have already started to cut spending on food and other essentials. The survey also highlights that older people, particularly those aged between 55 and 74, have already started to reduce their energy consumption. The previous iteration of the survey highlighted that women and Asian people were in a particularly precarious position, relative to the national average.
- 5.2 In August the World Economic Forum reported that the cost-of-living crisis is expected to hit women hardest.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are lots of financial implications in this report, but no financial decisions are required.

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1 Work on the crisis in the cost of living and doing business involves a reprioritisation of additional workloads and an increase in the intensity of work of colleagues both within the Combined Authority and Local Authorities.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken, but the information within this report has been assembled from a range of sources.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 Members are asked to note the latest intelligence around the West Yorkshire economy and comment on the current and proposed activity taking place

locally and nationally, and to note the next steps for action proposed at paragraph 2.56.

- 10.2 Members are asked to approve in principle that the MCA will develop a fund to support the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector to help people through the cost-of-living crisis, with a view to receiving further approvals at a future meeting.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Further Information on energy prices received from businesses

Appendix 2 – Full list of Combined Authority Business and Employment and Skills support and pipelines



Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 4 October 2022

Subject: **Carbon Budgets**

Director: Alan Reiss, Director of Strategy, Communications and Policing

Author: Matthew Page, Modelling Analyst

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input 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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To provide information to the members of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee about the development of proposed carbon budgets for the Combined Authority.

2. Information

Overview

- 2.1 The Combined Authority declared a climate emergency and strengthened the City Region's carbon emission reduction target in July 2019. The strengthened target commits the region to achieve net-zero carbon by 2038, with significant progress by 2030.
- 2.2 The obvious dataset to use for monitoring progress against the target in West Yorkshire is the national level reporting of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions by local authority reported annually in the Combined Authority's State of the Region report. This national dataset has recently been improved to include a wider range of greenhouse gases.
- 2.3 The improved reporting means that the figures are more in line with those used in the model developed by the Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways (CERP) study. This has meant that future greenhouse gas emissions

associated with the different scenarios in the CERP model can be reconciled with the national level LA reporting for West Yorkshire and therefore represented in terms of changes in these figures.

- 2.4 From these datasets, carbon budgets, which are consistent with both the CERP scenario pathways and the national level LA reporting, have been developed. These give the total amount of greenhouse gases (in carbon dioxide equivalent terms) which can be emitted while staying within the CERP carbon reduction pathways. These carbon budgets can therefore be used for monitoring progress against the CERP pathways in the State of the Region reporting.

National level LA reporting

- 2.5 This dataset is compiled by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and published annually in June; the most recent figures included are for the year ending 18 months before. It gives emissions for each local authority, broken down by various sectors and subsectors of the economy and covering 16 years. The most recent dataset includes carbon dioxide emissions for 2005 to 2020 inclusive. Historically only carbon dioxide figures have been reported, but the most recent dataset published in June 2022 also includes emissions of methane and nitrous oxide (in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent) for 2018 to 2020. These more recent figures therefore cover approximately 97% of greenhouse gas emissions in carbon dioxide equivalent terms.

Future carbon reduction pathways

- 2.6 The Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways (CERP) study was produced for the Leeds City Region and York and North Yorkshire local enterprise partnerships. It generated a baseline forecast (the likely levels of greenhouse gas emissions if no new action to reduce them is taken) and three possible scenarios to decarbonise the economy by 2038. The three scenarios are:
- **Max Ambition** – This assumes significant electrification of heat, transport and industry supported by enabling technologies such as demand-side response and energy storage. This also includes significant increases in low carbon power generation with accelerated negative emission technologies and ambitious forest planting rates.
 - **High Hydrogen (High H2)** - Promotes large-scale hydrogen use and carbon capture and storage roll-out. The existing gas network is repurposed for hydrogen, enabling significant hydrogen use in buildings, heating, industry, power and transport. This is supported accelerated forest planting and bioenergy production.
 - **Balanced** – Encompasses a balanced mix of technology across all sectors with contributions from hydrogen, electrification, bioenergy, carbon capture and storage, and decentralised energy production.

These scenarios were modelled in terms of their impacts on reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (expressed as a carbon dioxide equivalent figure or CO₂e).

- 2.7 The scope of the CERP model was slightly different from the national level LA reporting and so the figures generated by the CERP model had to be adjusted to bring them into line. This involved taking account of the omission of aviation from the national dataset as well as some greenhouse gas emissions (F gases, which account for about 3% of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions).
- 2.8 The CERP model covers 2020 to 2040 but it was decided not to use 2020 as the baseline year so the model had to be extended back to 2019. Following the above adjustments, the resulting figures were scaled so that the CERP 2019 total matched the 2019 figure from the national level LA reporting
- 2.9 The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research provides a carbon budget tool on its website which automatically generates a carbon budget report for any local authority or collection of local authorities. This suggests what the implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement are for the relevant local authority in terms of reductions of carbon dioxide emissions only. The actual quantification is relatively simple and, for West Yorkshire, suggests reduction of 13.3% per year from 2019 to the end of the century. While the assessment covers carbon dioxide only (so does not include other greenhouse gases), the implications of the annual percentage reduction is easy to represent by simply applying it to the national level LA carbon dioxide equivalent figure reported for 2019.

Carbon Pathway Results

- 2.10 The results of carrying out the above analyses and adjustments are shown in Figure 1. This shows the three CERP carbon reduction pathways, together with the CERP (business as usual) Baseline. The Tyndall proxy line shown is the result of simply reducing emissions by 13.3% per year from 2019 (as suggested in the Tyndall Centre carbon budget report). The national level LA reporting carbon dioxide equivalent figures are shown for 2018-2020 (these are all the years for which these figures are currently available). The CERP scenarios and the Tyndall proxy line were scaled so that the 2019 (base year) figures matched. Historical carbon dioxide emissions for 2010-2020, also from the national level LA reporting, are shown for comparison.
- 2.11 From the national level LA reporting it is clear that 2020 was an unusual year for obvious reasons. Choosing 2019 rather than 2020 as the baseline year for the CERP scenarios ensures that these are not distorted by the 2020 outturn figure. The effect of the downturn in carbon emissions in 2020 is that carbon budgets dipped below all three of the CERP carbon reduction pathways, however the reduction was not quite enough to achieve the Tyndall proxy reduction pathway (the 2019 to 2020 reduction was slightly less than 13.3%).

Carbon Budget Results

- 2.12 The carbon budgets chosen were generally five-year periods but with adjustments so that progress against the Combined Authority target of net-zero carbon by 2038, with significant progress by 2030 could be assessed. The periods chosen can easily be modified if necessary. The table below shows the carbon budget periods chosen along with the total carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (in MtCO₂e) which can be emitted over these periods while staying within the relevant carbon reduction pathway. Figures for the CERP Baseline scenario are also included for comparison. This information is also shown graphically in Figure 2.

	2019-20	2021-25	2026-30	2031-35	2036-38	2039-40	Total
CERP Baseline	23.7	54.2	49.2	42.4	23.1	14.7	207.2
CERP Max Ambition	23.6	49.5	33.2	17.0	5.8	3.2	132.3
CERP High H2	23.6	52.0	40.0	21.8	8.0	4.4	149.9
CERP Balanced	23.6	51.5	38.8	23.6	8.8	4.5	150.8
Tyndall proxy	22.5	34.7	17.0	8.3	2.8	1.3	86.6

- 2.13 Note that carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from West Yorkshire as reported in the national level LA dataset for 2019 and 2020 were a total of 22.7 MtCO₂e which is about 1 MtCO₂e less than each of the CERP derived carbon budgets for this period. This is because 2019 figures were pegged to the national dataset and 2020 was such an unusual year. Future carbon budgets are likely to be more challenging and carbon emissions for 2021 and 2022 might have bounced back to closer to the Baseline.

Use of Carbon Budgets

- 2.14 The development of carbon budgets allows progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to be monitored against the CERP carbon reduction pathways, predominantly through the State of the Region reporting. Progress can therefore be used to guide policy development and inform the scale of intervention required. Through the development of carbon impact assessment methodologies, the carbon impact assessments of individual proposals under development will be reported in terms of their carbon impact over similar budget periods. These results can then be compared with carbon budget figures, though the effect of any single intervention is likely to be small compared to the overall carbon budget.
- 2.15 It is recognised that responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions and the policies necessary to affect them are spread widely across different sectors and organisations (including national government). Success (or otherwise) in achieving these carbon budgets is therefore not just the responsibility of the Combined Authority.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. The monitoring of carbon emissions and their comparison with carbon budget figures is important to ensure that appropriate progress is being made in tackling the climate emergency. This information can be used to inform future climate policy by giving an indication of success (or otherwise) and whether additional measures are required.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. The evaluation and setting of carbon budgets do not have a direct impact on inclusive growth, but any measures used to address the climate emergency may have impacts of this kind.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. The evaluation and setting of carbon budgets do not have a direct impact on equality and diversity, but any measures used to address the climate emergency may have impacts of this kind.

6. Financial Implications

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

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Staffing Implications

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

9. External Consultees

- 9.1. No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. That the members of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee note the contents of this report.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Graph showing Figure 1 – Carbon Reduction Pathways
Graph showing Figure 2 – Carbon Budgets

Figure 1 Carbon Reduction Pathways

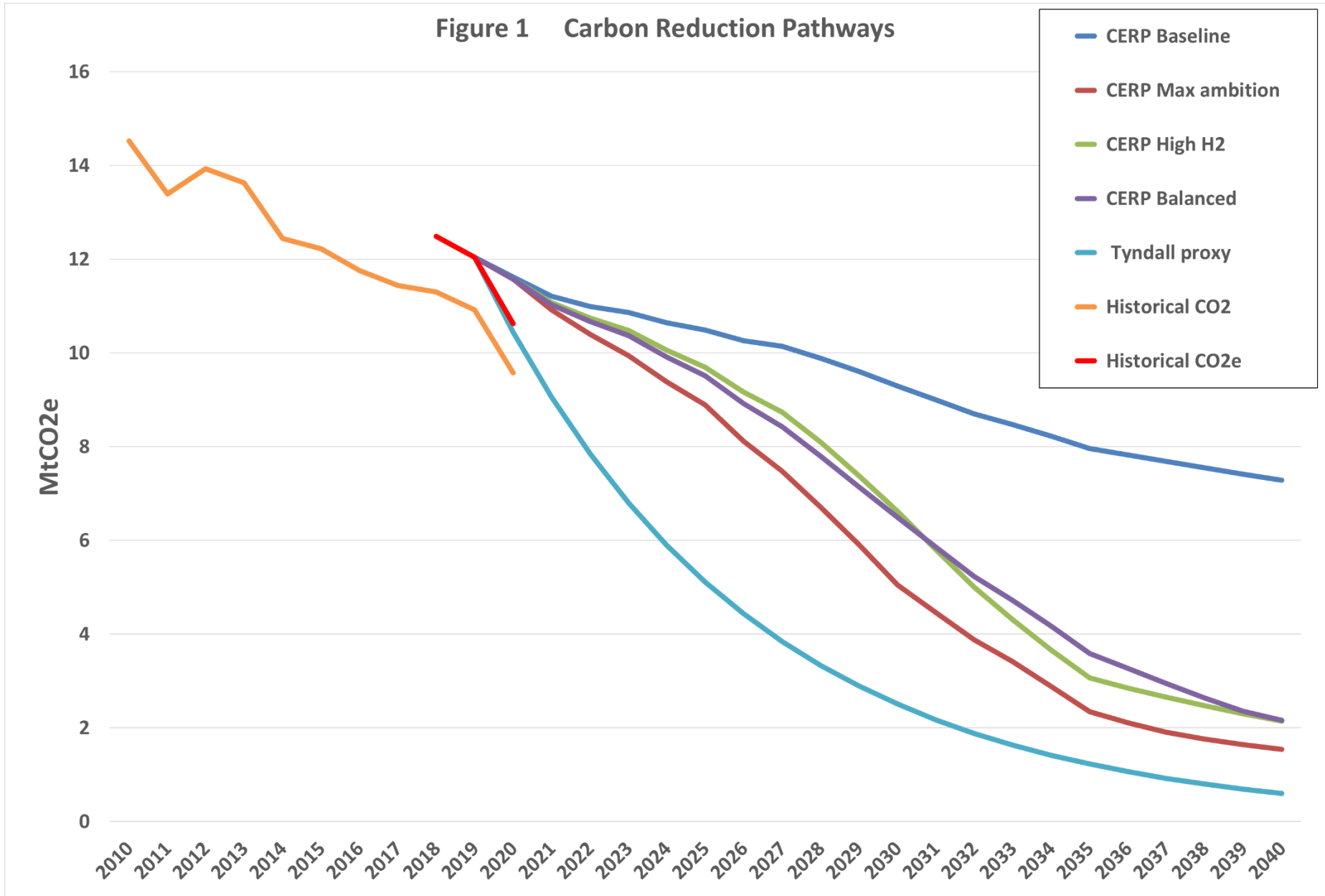
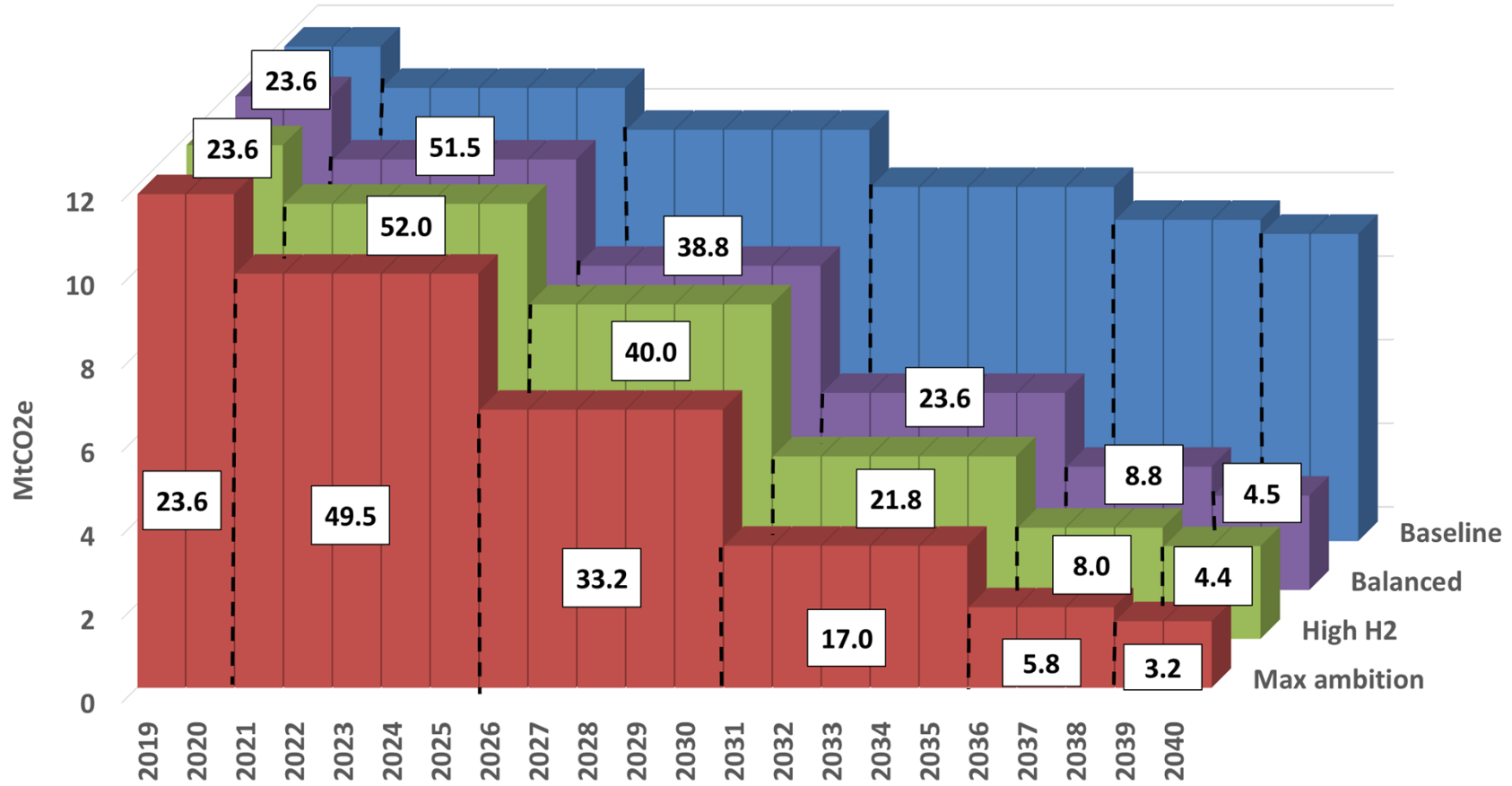


Figure 2 Carbon Budgets

69



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Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 4 October 2022

Subject: **Climate and Environment Plan Wave 1 – Strategic Outline Case**

Director: Liz Hunter, Director, Policy and Development

Author: Noel Collings, Head of Energy and Environment

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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on progress to develop the Wave 1 programmes from the Climate and Environment Plan.
- 1.2 To gain Committee endorsement for the programmes included in Wave 1 prior to approval at the October Combined Authority meeting.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority declared a climate emergency in 2019 and established an emission reduction target for West Yorkshire. The target commits the region to achieving net-zero carbon by 2038.
- 2.2 To understand how West Yorkshire could achieve the target the Combined Authority commissioned research to identify the different pathways and interventions that could be implemented to meet net-zero carbon.
- 2.3 The pathways provided the framework on which the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) is based. The CEP was agreed by the Combined Authority in October 2021 and is focussed on the interventions outlined in the pathways for delivery over the short-term i.e. early 2020s. It is framed around

eight themes and includes 39 interventions that are considered no-regrets given they require implementation regardless of the path to net-zero carbon that is being taken.

- 2.4 The CEP identifies the interventions which West Yorkshire can influence and deliver. It does not include those interventions which are the gift of government to implement e.g. phase-out of gas boilers, aviation policy.
- 2.5 The CEP aims to deliver the following outcomes, all of which contribute to the indicators set out in the State of the Region indicator set:
- Reduction in region emissions across all sectors.
 - Recovery and enhancement of nature and increase in biodiversity, green spaces and trees, and natural environment.
 - Increase in the number of zero carbon and environmental projects.
 - Alignment with complementary jobs and skills programmes.
 - Increase in funding and resources in the net-zero carbon economy.
 - Warm, healthy, affordable and low carbon homes.
 - Adaptation and resilience to a changing climate.
 - Improved productivity.
 - Healthier people.
- 2.6 While the Combined Authority owns the CEP it is not down to the organisation alone to deliver. Delivering the CEP and meeting the net-zero target will require action from all parts of the economy and society in West Yorkshire.
- 2.7 The Combined Authority is showing leadership on tackling climate change through an indicative allocation of £40,000,000 of gainshare to support activity that aims to address the issue. It is also leading the way in delivering other climate related programmes such zero emission buses, natural flood management, and housing energy efficiency retrofit.
- 2.8 Delivering the full range of interventions outlined in the CEP would require funding in excess of £40,000,000. As a result, this Committee was presented with the outputs of a prioritisation exercise of the 39 CEP interventions at its [March 2022](#) meeting and approved the prioritisation of 15 of the 39 interventions across three development waves.
- 2.9 These 15 interventions were prioritised because of their strategic fit with the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS), Mayoral pledges, the pathways work, and the overarching priority of carbon emissions reduction. They were also prioritised according to their deliverability (existing strength of pipeline; funding availability; scalability, resource availability; co-benefits, delivery of inclusive growth and equality, diversity and inclusion).
- 2.10 A first wave of programmes has been under development since April 2022 progressing through the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework. These programmes comprise of:
- Better Homes Hub

- Better Neighbourhoods
 - Business Sustainability
 - Communications, Engagement and Marketing
 - Flooding and Drainage
 - Green Skills and Training
 - Solar PV and Battery Storage
- 2.11 A Strategic Assessment covering the seven programmes above was considered by the Combined Authority’s internal assurance in June 2022. The outcome was for the seven programmes as a collective to progress to the next stage of internal assurance and for development funding of £836,000 to be drawn down from gainshare to support further programme development activities.
- 2.12 The July 2022 informal meeting of this Committee considered the initial scope of each of the seven programmes and provided steer / input. The remainder of this report provides an overview of the final scope of activities for each programme.
- 2.13 The report also provides a timeline for progressing the programmes (both Wave 1 and 2) through the next stages of internal assurance.
- 2.14 While the Wave 1 programmes represent a significant amount of activity to address the climate emergency it is a small and complementary part of both the Combined Authority and regional response (including West Yorkshire local authorities) to addressing the issue. Achieving the regional target will require all of West Yorkshire to come together collectively to play their part in achieving its ambition to be net-zero carbon by 2038.

Better Homes Hub

- 2.15 The Better Homes Hub is a programme of activity that will enable the upscaling of domestic energy efficiency retrofits for households across West Yorkshire. It will tackle fuel poverty, reduce carbon emissions from housing and ensure homes are fit for the future.
- 2.16 The programme will establish a core team to oversee all Hub activity and provide a package of support for landlords and homeowners looking to facilitate demand for retrofit, build confidence and enabling capacity in the supply chain and partners, and demonstrate ambition to the private sector.
- 2.17 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:
- Establishing a Hub team with support of dedicated local authority officers.
 - Funding for area-based demonstrators.
 - Support services for social landlords.
 - A one-stop-shop service for homeowners.
 - A loan pilot scheme for residents to borrow additional funds to install energy saving measures.

2.18 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is between £11.4m and £12.3m.

Better Neighbourhoods

2.19 The Better Neighbourhoods programme aims to establish a grassroots community grants funding programme helping to support net-zero activity across buildings, energy, nature and climate resilience. The programme will inspire behaviour change and educate at the community level, whilst contributing to improved community assets and sense of place.

2.20 The programme is comprised of various packages which look to provide grants of up to £50,000 to community organisations and will also look to fund feasibility studies for the White Rose Forest.

2.21 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Establishing a core Better Neighbourhoods team.
- Grants for community organisations.
- Consultation with neighbourhoods facilitated by community roadshows and outreach activities.
- Targeted bid support.
- Feasibility studies for the White Rose Forest.

2.22 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is between £6.6m and £6.7m.

Business Sustainability

2.23 The Business Sustainability programme aims to provide a simplified, consistent, and impartial source of support to small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) within West Yorkshire to plan for net-zero and become climate ready.

2.24 The ambition is to provide a flexible, universal offer to businesses to help to address the 50% of carbon emissions generated by small businesses, with tailored support based on the continuous principles of: measure carbon impacts and climate readiness; plan improvements in a considered manner; and act on these plans to reduce environmental impact and become more resilient to climate breakdown.

2.25 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Flexible, expanded business support service based on measure-plan-act principles.
- Flood resilience grants for business.
- Voucher scheme to assist businesses with immediate support to respond to rising energy costs.

2.26 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is between £6.7m and £11.7m.

Communications, Engagement and Marketing

2.27 The ambition is to provide communications and marketing support for all programmes covered by Waves 1 and 2 and support local authorities with their communications and marketing activities for projects which support and align to the CEP, this will include a multi-channel behaviour campaign, complimentary to local campaigns to encourage people and businesses to lower carbon emissions and make positive changes. Market research is also part of the programme to gauge perceptions and attitudes on the climate emergency throughout West Yorkshire.

2.28 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Communications campaign supporting Wave 1 and 2 programmes.
- Market research exercise.
- Behaviour change campaigns.

2.29 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is £1.3m.

Flooding and Drainage

2.30 A programme of natural flood management schemes across West Yorkshire to be delivered by a range of partners as part of a catchment level approach to flood risk management. It will deliver outputs in terms of flood protection, carbon sequestration and biodiversity benefits.

2.31 The programme also includes support for the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme (FLIP) which will support flood risk management feasibility studies and capacity building through collaboration and shared learning.

2.32 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Delivery of nine natural flood management projects across West Yorkshire.
- Revenue support and project development funding for the West Yorkshire FLIP.

2.33 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is £6.6m.

Green Skills and Training

2.34 The programme aims to develop a platform to support individuals access green jobs and skills, provide teaching and learning resources with support for KS2 and KS3 networks, provide support for individuals and education and training providers to enhance FE curriculum across colleges and training partners.

2.35 Through the programme a business support programme will be initiated to train 200 people and support will be provided for key stakeholder groups to create green skills through internships and employment support.

2.36 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Platform for green jobs and skills.
- Teaching resources for KS2 and KS3 networks.
- Business support programme.

2.37 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is between £5.6m and £6.2m.

Solar PV and Battery Storage

2.38 This programme aims to provide support for residents, schools and public sector organisations to integrate solar and battery storage. It aims to develop over 11MW of new Solar capacity, saving over 1,750 tonnes of CO₂ annually, delivering £37 million in cash releasing benefits over 25 years leveraging in excess of £13 million in private sector investment.

2.39 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Investment in the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership scheme to install 1,000 to 2,000 solar and battery systems.
- Supporting 50 Solar for Schools installations.
- Launching a Solar Together group-buying scheme for West Yorkshire residents.
- Installation of 233kW of solar on eight of the Combined Authority's bus stations.
- Establishing a funding pot to support feasibility studies and business case development.
- Commissioning of studies to explore development of a finance offer for businesses and residents.

2.40 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is £7.9m.

Summary

2.41 The value of the Wave 1 portfolio has currently been estimated at between £46.1m and £52.7m across the seven programmes. It also includes costs related to activities required to enable programme development to occur and the impact of the portfolio to be measured.

2.42 To ensure a fully funded portfolio can be progressed additional funding will need to be secured. At present funding in addition to the indicative £40,000,000 gainshare allocation for IP4 (Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability) is being sought from the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and £500,000 from the indicative IP3 (Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure) allocation.

- 2.43 Further discussions are ongoing with internal and external stakeholders to secure the additional funding required to deliver the full range of activities covered by the portfolio.

Next Steps

- 2.44 Internal assurance is considering the detailed scope of the programmes on 28 September 2022 with a view to providing assurance approval for proposed activity and recommendations to the Combined Authority. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting on the outcome of this meeting.
- 2.45 Subject to internal assurance approval the Wave 1 portfolio will be considered by the Combined Authority at its 21 October 2022 meeting. The Combined Authority will be asked to approve the progression of the programmes contained within Wave 1 to the next stage of assurance. Drawdown of additional gainshare funding for development activities will also be sought at the meeting along with a recommendation for future decisions relating to the portfolio and its programmes be delegated to this Committee.
- 2.46 Post Combined Authority approval the following programmes, including funding approvals, will be brought to future meetings of this Committee:
- Better Neighbourhoods
 - Communications, Engagement and Marketing
 - Flooding and Drainage (three of the nine projects included in the programme)
 - Green Skills and Training
 - Solar PV and Storage (three of the four projects included in the programme)

Future Waves

- 2.47 As referenced above 15 interventions were prioritised from the CEP. Nine of these are covered by the programmes documented earlier in this report. The remaining six will be developed as part of Wave 2 and for reference these are:
- Local Area Energy Planning
 - Heat Decarbonisation
 - Community Energy
 - Shared Mobility
 - Green Infrastructure and Access for Health
 - Regenerative Nature Recovery Schemes
- 2.48 These interventions will be developed into individual programmes. Early-stage programme development will take place over the next six months with the intention of producing an initial scope and outline of activities for all six by the end of March 2023.

2.49 In parallel to early-stage programme development, discussions will take place internally to explore routes to secure additional funding to deliver the activities documented in the programmes.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1 The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan and the actions highlighted within it will all contribute to tackling the climate emergency and meeting the net-zero carbon by 2038 target. It translates the findings of the West Yorkshire Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways into the tangible actions that need to be implemented in the short-term i.e. next three years, to ensure the region is on a pathway to reaching its climate goals.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 Inclusive growth is embedded across all of the Wave 1 actions to ensure local benefits can be delivered. This will be drawn out in programme development activity for each programme, for example the potential to deliver local carbon savings, social value, and opportunities to support local climate resilience.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

5.1 Meeting net-zero carbon and transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy should be equitable and not be at the expense of any groups or communities. To that extent, equality and diversity implications and solutions will be cross-cutting and integrated across the activity outlined in this report to ensure no one is adversely affected. All Wave 1 actions will have Equality Diversity and Inclusion measures included in their design.

5.2 The principles of inclusivity, diversity and equality are incorporated in all policy areas, with Equality Impacts Assessments being developed at Decision Point 1 and Decision Point 2 of the Assurance Framework and for individual actions.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 As part of the development of Wave 1 detailed cost estimates have been produced for each of the programmes. The total Wave 1 value is £46.1m and £52.7m. This is in excess of the indicative £40,000,000 gainshare allocation, therefore additional funding will need to be secured to allow a fully funded portfolio to progress.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report however some of the actions are likely to need legal advice as they progress through project development activity.

8. Staffing Implications

8.1 To date existing resources have been used to oversee the development of the individual actions and ensure the correct information is included. Additional resources will be required to ensure further project development activities can occur and there is a smooth transition into delivery.

8.2 As part of the development funding approved by the Combined Authority for Wave 1 at its 21 July 2022 meeting four posts were secured to support programme development activity. An additional four programme delivery posts are being requested as part of the development funding ask to the Combined Authority at its 21 October 2022 meeting to ensure a quick transition into delivery.

9. External Consultees

9.1 Wave 1 programmes have been developed in partnership with local authority partners and other key stakeholders. Members of this Committee have also been consulted and provided feedback on the initial scope of each programme.

10. Recommendations

10.1 That the Committee:

- Notes the contents of the report.
- Provide their endorsement for the programmes set out in this report.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.

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Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 4 October 2022

Subject: **Forward Plan**

Director: Liz Hunter, Director, Policy and Development

Author: Noel Collings, Head of Energy and Environment

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a draft outline of the items to be discussed at meetings over the next 12 months.
- 1.2 To seek Committee input on potential guest items and priorities for discussion at future meetings.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1 The purpose of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee is to support, enable and provide scrutiny on progress to tackle the climate emergency and transition to a net-zero carbon region.
- 2.2 Its frame of reference is provided by the eight themes and 39 interventions of West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan. This provides a structure on which to inform future agenda items for the Committee.
- 2.3 This report sets out the draft forward plan of items to be discussed at Committee meetings over the next 12 months.

Forward Plan

2.4 10 January 2023:

- Decisions required on:
 - Wave 1 Climate and Environment Plan programme approvals
 - Flooding Capital Programme approval
- For information / discussions / endorsement on:
 - Cost of living / doing business update
 - Climate resilience thematic discussion
 - Hydrogen Strategy (for information)
 - Electric Vehicle Strategy (for information)
 - Climate and Environment Monitoring Indicators (standing agenda item)
 - Pledge Delivery Update (standing agenda item)

2.5 21 March 2023:

- Decisions required on:
 - Climate and Environment Plan Wave 1 programme approvals (number TBC)
 - Climate and Environment Plan Wave 2 Strategic Assessment (approval of document)
- For information / discussions / endorsement on:
 - Net Zero Region Accelerator Update (Prospectus and Initial Pipeline)
 - Air Quality Strategy (for information)
 - Business and Industry thematic discussion
 - Local Nature Recovery Strategy (scope and work programme)
 - Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways refresh (scope)
 - Climate and Environment Monitoring Indicators (standing agenda item)
 - Pledge Delivery Update (standing agenda item)

2.6 July 2023:

- Decisions required on:
 - Climate and Environment Plan Wave 1 programme approvals (number TBC)
- For information / discussions / endorsement on:
 - Cost of living / doing business update
 - Housing thematic discussion
 - Climate and Environment Monitoring Indicators (standing agenda item)
 - Pledge Delivery Update (standing agenda item)

2.7 October 2023:

- Decisions required on:
 - Local Nature Recovery Strategy (approval of document)

- Climate and Environment Plan Wave 2 programme approvals (number TBC)
- For information / discussions / endorsement on:
 - Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways refresh (update)
 - Transport thematic discussion
 - Climate and Environment Plan – 2 Year Progress Update
 - Climate and Environment Monitoring Indicators (standing agenda item)
 - Pledge Delivery Update (standing agenda item)

2.8 The above is an initial outline of the forward plan, however there is opportunity to include discussion items on specific themes and/or members' specific plans.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1 The forward plan of activity outlined in this report is directly linked to the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan and will assist in addressing the climate emergency and meeting net-zero carbon in the region.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 It is crucial that transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy reduces inequality in West Yorkshire. It cannot be the cause of further inequality for our most excluded and deprived groups and communities. Furthermore, opportunities for better jobs and quality of life need to be embedded within the transition to net-zero carbon and sustainable economy.

4.2 Inclusive growth goals and outcomes will be considered within the items that are included on the forward plan.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

5.1 Meeting net-zero carbon and transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy should be equitable and not be at the expense of any groups or communities. To that extent, equality and diversity implications and solutions will be cross-cutting and integrated across the items outlined in this report to ensure no one is adversely affected.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

8. Staffing Implications

8.1 There are no staffing implications of this report.

9. External Consultees

9.1 No external consultations have taken place.

10. Recommendations

10.1 That the Committee:

- Notes the contents of the report.
- Provide comments on potential items for discussion at the Committee to include on the forward plan.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.



Report to: Climate, Energy & Environment Committee

Date: 4 October 2022

Subject: **Pledge Delivery Update**

Director: Liz Hunter, Interim Director of Policy and Development

Author: Noel Collings, Head of Energy and Environment Policy

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an overview of selected ongoing activity to deliver against the mayoral pledge to tackle the climate emergency.

1. Information

Background

- 1.1 The Mayor has several pledges which she would like to see delivered against during her term in office. One of these pledges is related to tackling the climate emergency.
- 1.2 This report summarises selected activity that is currently taking place to deliver against the pledge. It represents activity from across the eight themes on which the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan is framed.

Net Zero Region Accelerator

Overview

- 1.3 The Net Zero Region Accelerator (NZRA) programme addresses an identified barrier to the progression of net-zero projects, the ability for project sponsors to create robust business cases and investment models that address issues of

scale, longevity and confidence that can attract private finance. It also aims to address the issue that there are insufficient investment-ready projects in a single coordinated pipeline.

1.4 The programme aims to:

- Reduce carbon emissions
- Deliver wider societal benefits
- Increase investment in and funding for net-zero projects
- Grow the green economy
- Demonstrate climate leadership

1.5 To address these barriers the programme will:

- Establish a pipeline of net-zero projects for West Yorkshire.
- Launch a net-zero Investment Prospectus that acts as a 'shop window' to the investment community for net-zero projects in West Yorkshire.

1.6 Where a project requires additional support to progress to a full developed business case, the programme can provide dedicated staff and grant funding for specialist consultancy work.

1.7 The focus of the programme is energy, buildings and nature projects and it is anticipated that projects such as residential and commercial retrofit, renewable energy generation and peatland restoration will be supported.

Progress to date

1.8 The structures for the smooth operation of the programme have been established e.g. Programme Board and officers are currently working with West Yorkshire local authorities and key partners to identify and bring forward projects that could be supported through the programme and included on the pipeline and in the Prospectus.

1.9 In parallel to the identification of projects officers have also begun conversations with potential financiers to ensure there is a strong portfolio of finance solutions to accompany the Prospectus.

1.10 A commission is currently out to the market to procure a web platform to host the Prospectus. It is the intention for a preferred supplier to be in place by October with the Prospectus to be launched in February 2023.

1.11 The programme is currently in early-stage dialogue with several project sponsors to provide support for schemes and through these conversations has already facilitated microgrid and smart local energy system feasibility studies. It is anticipated that this work will lead to the identification of projects for inclusion on the programme pipeline.

Green Smart Community Integrated Energy Systems

Overview

- 1.12 The Green Smart Community Integrated Energy Systems (GreenSCIES) project is funded by Innovate UK. It aims to undertake feasibility for Smart Local Energy Systems (SLES) that integrate the supply, storage and use of multiple forms of energy at the local scale.
- 1.13 The objective of the project is to investigate the practicality, economics, carbonomics and wider benefits of implementing an integrated SLES by:
- Evaluating sites where waste heat could be captured as a source of thermal energy; and
 - Integrating UKIB into project development as an advisor and delivering early financial structuring support to enable rapid deployment of study recommendations.
- 1.14 Taking a SLES approach enables a clean, cost-effective and flexible approach to local energy provision to be delivered. It can also deliver additional benefits in the form of better air quality and improved health and wellbeing for communities.
- 1.15 GreenSCIES has successfully delivered projects in Islington, Barnsley and Smethwick to date and has secured further funding to deliver a further five projects.

Progress to date

- 1.16 The NZRA programme team have been approached to support the identification of sites in West Yorkshire that might be suitable for funding and have worked with West Yorkshire local authorities to identify a shortlist of locations.
- 1.17 Two schemes have been identified in West Yorkshire for progression through GreenSCIES. Both are Spatial Priority Areas (SPAs), one in Wakefield and the other straddling the border between Kirklees and Calderdale.
- 1.18 Feasibility studies in the two locations will take place over a three-to-four-month period with completion expected in February 2023. The works would result in concept design of an integrated low carbon smart local energy system; with the final output consisting of a feasibility report which it is anticipated would include the following:
- Heat maps overlaid by solar PV and EV opportunities.
 - Techno-economic models and assessments of an integrated local energy system.
 - Benefits analysis (carbon, costs and co-benefits).
 - Recommendations for deployment.

- 1.19 The final outputs will be shared with Innovate UK, the Combined Authority and the respective local authorities.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain

Overview

- 1.20 The Environment Act 2021 includes a provision for a new system of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). The Combined Authority has provisionally agreed to act as the responsible authority for the development of the West Yorkshire LNRS, which will include playing a leading role in coordinating resources and existing partnerships (public, private and voluntary sectors).
- 1.21 LNRSs are a new, England-wide system of spatial strategic that will establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature's recovery, and provide wider environmental benefits.
- 1.22 Regarding Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), the Environment Act 2021 requires BNG outcomes from a development to be quantified in the form of Biodiversity Units, with a minimum of 10% BNG being achieved. This can be achieved through the following routes:
- On-site
 - Off-site, including via a habitat bank (an area of land managed to enhance its ecological value, with the purpose of providing Biodiversity Units)
 - A mixture of on and off-site delivery
 - Via purchase of 'biodiversity credits' from the Secretary of State.
- 1.23 BNG delivers measurable improvements for biodiversity by creating or enhancing habitats through the planning process, with a minimum 10% uplift in biodiversity value being achieved. Where off-site biodiversity delivery is required, this is most appropriately achieved via Habitat Banks which fund habitat creation and positive land management intended to compensate for unavoidable environmental impact caused by approved development.
- 1.24 The WY LNRS has potential alignment opportunities with BNG requirements, which is key to ensuring investment from the development sector can be directed to the areas which will benefit the greatest.

Progress to date

- 1.25 Formal appointment of responsible authorities for the development of LNRS's is expected in the coming months following publication of LNRS Regulations and Guidance by DEFRA.
- 1.26 The requirement for a governance structure, including the establishment of a Steering Group, for the development of the WY LNRS has been identified based on the experience from the pilot areas for LNRS. This is likely to utilise

the existing Yorkshire West Local Nature Partnership as the Steering Group, however this is yet to be confirmed.

- 1.27 With regard to BNG, WY Partner Councils commissioned private Consultants WSP to produce a Report to understand the technical and resource implications of implementing new BNG responsibilities through the planning process, including appraising options for the delivery of off-site biodiversity units.
- 1.28 District officers are exploring the option to establish a WY Habitat Bank (a recommendation of the WSP Report), through a more detailed review of the availability and suitability of relevant land. The WY BNG Steering Group are currently considering the most appropriate route to undertake this endorsed approach.

Green skills and jobs

Overview

- 1.29 There are a range of estimates for the number of green jobs required to support West Yorkshire's transition to net-zero by 2038, each in the tens of thousands. Despite seeing growth in demand over time, with a particularly strong upward trend since 2020, only 2% of online job postings in West Yorkshire in the 2021 calendar year had green skills requirements. This is similar to the national average.
- 1.30 The Mayor has pledged to create 1,000 well paid, skilled, green jobs for young people, supporting progress against the Combined Authority's commitment to a net zero carbon economy for West Yorkshire by 2038.

Progress to date

- 1.31 So far, over 900 green jobs have been pledged by businesses in West Yorkshire. Businesses are being supported by existing employment and skills programmes, and work is in progress to explore how support could be furthered or continued by programmes currently in development using Gainshare funding.
- 1.32 The Mayor has established a Green Jobs Task Force which will collectively set out a strategic approach underpinned by deliverable actions that will contribute to the greening of the economy through skills and jobs. The Task Force has commissioned research to support the development of evidence-led recommendations. These are expected to be presented at the next meeting on 4th October.
- 1.33 Whilst young people are passionate about climate change, research by Ahead Partnership suggests that young people have low levels of awareness of how the net zero agenda impacts jobs and career opportunities and have low levels of visibility of the jobs available and the skills required for jobs in industries such as energy, transport, construction, utilities and infrastructure.

- 1.34 The Combined Authority has commissioned a West Yorkshire Green Skills Youth Programme between July and October 2022 to meaningfully engage with young people to gain their views and support them to articulate clear recommendations for action. The programme will consist of:
- An online brief launch with inspirational role models from the green sector.
 - A half-day activity that will train and support young people to understand greening topics such as carbon offsetting, environmental investment and green living, create their own ideas for a local green project and take part in a Youth Voice session to have their say on the future of green jobs in West Yorkshire.
 - An opportunity to share their green project ideas with WYCA.
- 1.35 Young people will be supported to present their experiences back to the Green Jobs Task Force at their meeting on 4th October. Their findings will support the development of recommendations made by the Task Force in January 2023, and the development of the next phase of the Mayoral Green Jobs Gateway.

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) and Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Retrofit Hub

Overview

- 1.36 Research has found that over a million homes in West Yorkshire contribute to nearly a third of carbon emissions related to buildings in the region. Measures are currently being delivered to reduce carbon emissions arising from household properties.
- 1.37 SHDF Wave 1 is targeting properties that have an EPC rating of D or lower (E, F, G) and deliver retrofit improvements to achieve an EPC-C rating. The priority are measures that insulate the property first to reduce energy consumption supported with the installation of renewable energy sources such as solar where appropriate.
- 1.38 Wave 1 of the SHDF was approved in January 2022 to deliver £10.38m of retrofit improvements to Social Housing across West Yorkshire. This would improve 1316 properties working with 9 Registered Social Housing Providers. Match funding by the Providers of 30% was a pre-requisite by BEIS however the Providers successfully raised 50% match funding for Wave 1.
- 1.39 The CRF Retrofit Hub is to deliver 100 whole house retrofit plans which also include providing residents with energy advice and support. This scheme will also result in the creation of an architectural toolkit of retrofit designs and streetscape plans demonstrating what internal and external modifications, that could be made to properties that have been surveyed. In addition to this, up to 40 adult learners will be supported through the offer of free training to provide

them with the skills, technical knowledge and experience needed to work in the growing green sector.

- 1.40 The CRF Retrofit Hub project is focussed on the Manningham and Toller wards of Bradford and aims to understand the challenges there are in retrofitting traditional stone built properties in conservation areas using the CRF funding of £0.46m in a very tight delivery window (originally from 1 December 2021 to 30 June 2022 – see para 2.42 below).

Progress to date

- 1.41 The SHDF Wave 1 programme has currently delivered 335 installations against a forecast at this point in the programme of 165. There is a time lag in getting the properties re-surveyed to confirm the EPC ratings and currently 60 properties have received the required EPC-C certificate against a forecast of 65. Trustmark - who process the assessment and award the certificates - are currently processing an outstanding 275 installations.
- 1.42 The CRF Retrofit Hub has had a delivery extension approval to 31 October 2022. This was due to challenges of completing the community engagement during Ramadan and then purdah for the local elections. As part of the extension the number of whole house retrofit plans was increased to 150.
- 1.43 To date, 122 whole house surveys have been completed, and 75 decarbonisation plans posted to the householders. The Retrofit Coordinator is arranging calls with the residents to discuss the outcomes of the survey that has been undertaken on their properties.
- 1.44 The progress for the CRF Retrofit Hub delivery of adult learners has been very challenging. Currently five learners have completed the course, with the final cohort of students expected to enrol onto the Retrofit module from w/c 26 September 2022 at Harrogate College.
- 1.45 A series of online assets to educate and encourage young learners to consider roles in the green economy, along with resources educating the community on the climate emergency declaration have been published on the FutureGoals webpage and accessed well.

Resource Efficient Business

Overview

- 1.46 The Resource Efficient Business (REBiz) programme supports small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) to identify opportunities to save resources, energy and carbon. The programme launched in January 2020 and, in addition to offering a free resource efficiency audit, provides grant funding of 40% of eligible project costs up to a maximum grant of £40,000. REBiz also offers fully funded consultancy support to SMEs that are interested in developing circular economy products, processes or business models.

- 1.47 REBiz is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund under Investment Priority 4b (Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises) and covers the five West Yorkshire District, Craven, Harrogate, Selby and York. It is primarily focused on carbon emissions reduction. Support activity ends on the programme on 31 March 2023.
- 1.48 The core objective of REBiz is to help SMEs to overcome the barriers to investment in energy and resource efficiency and the circular economy: primarily lack of knowledge and understanding, lack of capacity, and access to finance.
- 1.49 REBiz aims to support at least 237 businesses with a minimum of 12 hours of advice and support or a grant of at least £1,000. The programme is also targeting greenhouse emissions reductions of 2,064t CO₂e per annum.

Progress to date

- 1.50 Despite being severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 600 business have engaged with the REBiz programme (as at 31 August 2022), with 199 receiving 12 hours of support and/or a grant. More than 270 SMEs have received a free audit providing valuable advice on how they can reduce their resource use and costs. Greenhouse gas emissions reductions currently stand at 2,029t CO₂e per annum. 73 businesses have engaged specifically with the circular economy pilot, and 41 of these have had at least 2 days of diagnostic support and advice.
- 1.51 81 grants are pending or have already been approved, with a value of over £1 million. In terms of additional benefits to SMEs this equates to over 4.5 million kWh of electricity and over 2 million kWh of gas savings, saving businesses at least £750,000 per annum (NB with current energy costs this figure is likely to be massively understated). There has been significant interest in heating and LED lighting, and more recently in renewable energy generation through solar PV.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy

Overview

- 1.52 The UK Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy was published in March 2022 setting out the government's approach to delivering charging infrastructure to 2030 to remove charging infrastructure barriers and accelerate the pace of adoption. The strategy sets out a requirement for local authorities to develop local chargepoint strategies.
- 1.53 The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan 2021 – 2024 set a commitment to accelerate the deployment of electric vehicle charging points across the region with a focus on ensuring equity in provision. A range of public EV charging infrastructure schemes have already been delivered by the Combined Authority and our Partners, includes the ULEV taxi scheme, delivering over 100 charging points for taxis and public use, alongside

additional schemes to deliver public charging at sites across the region such as council owned car parks.

- 1.54 The strategy will set out the aims, objectives and principles for investment for electric vehicle infrastructure in West Yorkshire and include an action plan for infrastructure delivery. The purpose of the document is to guide investment decisions for future funding opportunities as well as provide design guidance for electric vehicle chargepoints to ensure provision meets the needs of those who live and work in West Yorkshire, and ensure equity of access across region.
- 1.55 It is vital that the West Yorkshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy aligns with the principles of our Transport Strategy and daughter documents, specifically to support the transition to electric vehicles while also encourage modal shift away from private car use. As such the strategy will include consideration of electric shared transport opportunities alongside charging for private vehicles.

Progress to date

- 1.56 Work is underway with district partners on the development of a West Yorkshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. A number of workstreams support the work of a West Yorkshire strategy:
- An **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy Working Group** has been established which includes officer membership from each of our district partners, and provides a forum for strategy develop, informed by existing district policies, projects and EV aspirations.
 - A **technical study** on the potential for EV charging infrastructure was commissioned by the West Yorkshire Low Emission Strategy Delivery Group. This study focused on demand forecasting, strategic investment priorities and early infrastructure deliverables.
 - **Transport for the North** have developed an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Framework which includes an evidence base and visualisation tool for use by TfN and partners to assess electric vehicle charging infrastructure requirements.
 - **City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement** (CRSTS) contains funding for a number of EV infrastructure schemes, including charging points in residential areas through the decarbonisation pilot programme, and in EV charging for car clubs and e-bike charging through the integrated and shared transport.

Zero Emission Buses

Overview

- 1.57 As part of regional commitments to delivering against the climate emergency, the Combined Authority has established an ambition to have a zero-emission bus fleet by 2036 and to have made significant progress towards this by 2030. Currently only 2% of the bus fleet in West Yorkshire is zero emission.

- 1.58 The Combined Authority submitted a successful business case bid proposal to the Department for Transport for their Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) fund in January 2022. The scheme, as part of the West Yorkshire Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) programme, will reduce emissions from the region's bus fleet, contributing to the regional target to be net-zero carbon by 2038. The scheme supports the delivery of the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040 and the Bus Service Improvement Plan by helping to deliver a comprehensive electric vehicle charging network, working with bus operators to move to a near-to-zero emissions bus fleet, and supporting improvements in bus fleets to attract new customers.
- 1.59 The West Yorkshire Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme is the first phase of three that will introduce electric zero emission buses and necessary charging infrastructure. This scheme will:
- Introduce 111 new electric buses to routes in Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield, to compliment separate planned schemes in Calderdale and Kirklees. This will bring the percentage of zero-emission buses in the fleet from 2% to 10%.
 - Install electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the bus depots where the zero emission buses will be based.

Progress to date

- 1.60 Work is underway with operators and the Department for Transport on the the early stages of scheme delivery. In Bradford and Wakefield districts these will be the first of their type serving passengers in these areas. In Leeds, the zero emission buses will complement those already operating in the district. Phase two will focus on Calderdale and Kirklees and will introduce electric buses onto tendered routes as part of a separate scheme. A final phase 3 project to the ZEB Programme is in the early stages of project planning.

Flood Risk Management

Overview

- 1.61 The Combined Authority is working with partners including the Environment Agency, West and North Yorkshire Local Authorities, Yorkshire Water and the 3rd sector (charities and volunteering groups) to accelerate delivery of flood risk management across the region. This includes developing business cases and programme development for flood schemes and working in partnership to deliver innovation.

Progress to date

- 1.62 The Natural Flood Management Programme (including 9 schemes) is included within the portfolio of proposals seeking CEP Wave 1 funding, as outlined at Item 8 of this agenda.

- 1.63 The Combined Authority is also collaborating with the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme (FLIP) to accelerate and deliver innovation across a range of flood management themes including the acceleration of business cases and feasibility studies. Funding for a package FLIP research and innovation workstreams have been included in the Authority's UK Share Prosperity Fund proposal. Subject to Government approval, they will commence delivery over 2022/23 and 23/24.
- 1.64 The Capital Infrastructure Flood Programme includes 26 schemes with a total capital value of over £250m and a £51m funding gap. The Combined Authority is working with delivery partners to identify how this programme could be funded, phased and identify any 'shovel ready' proposals prior to business case development.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 The activity outlined in this report is directly linked to the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan and will assist in addressing the climate emergency and meeting net-zero carbon in the region.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 It is crucial that transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy reduces inequality in West Yorkshire. It cannot be the cause of further inequality for our most excluded and deprived groups and communities. Furthermore, opportunities for better jobs and quality of life need to be embedded within the transition to net-zero carbon and sustainable economy.
- 4.2 Inclusive growth goals and outcomes are considered within the items that are included in this paper.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 Meeting net-zero carbon and transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy should be equitable and not be at the expense of any groups or communities. To that extent, equality and diversity implications and solutions are cross-cutting and integrated across the items outlined in this report to ensure no one is adversely affected.

6. Financial Implications

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

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Staffing Implications

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

9. External Consultees

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

10.1 That the Committee note the contents of this report.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.