

## **CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2023  
IN WELLINGTON HOUSE, WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS LS1 2DE**

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### **A G E N D A**

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.

- 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 4 OCTOBER 2022**  
(Pages 1 - 6)
- 5. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT MONITORING INDICATORS AND RESPONSE TO THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS**  
(Pages 7 - 46)
- 6. WEST YORKSHIRE PLAN**  
(Pages 47 - 60)
- 7. BETTER HOMES HUB**  
(Pages 61 - 94)
- 8. ZERO EMISSION TRANSPORT**  
(Pages 95 - 102)

**9. GREEN JOBS TASKFORCE UPDATE**

(Pages 103 - 154)

**10. PLEDGE DELIVERY UPDATE**

(Pages 155 - 160)

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BOEM", with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Chief Executive  
West Yorkshire Combined Authority**



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2022 AT MEETING ROOM 1,  
WELLINGTON HOUSE, WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS LS1 2DE**

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**Present:**

Mark Roberts (Deputy Chair)	Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Council
Councillor Katie Dye	Leeds City Council
Councillor Sarah Ferriby	Bradford Council
Councillor Jack Hemingway	Wakefield Council
Councillor Scott Patient	Calderdale Council
Councillor Paula Widdowson	York City Council
John Clark	Private Sector Representative
William Firth	Private Sector Representative
Richard Goodfellow	Private Sector Representative
David Owumi	Private Sector Representative
Gideon Richards	Private Sector Representative
Leah Stuart	Private Sector Representative
Ben Tongue	Private Sector Representative

**In attendance:**

Noel Collings	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Peter Glover	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alan Reiss	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Henry Rigg	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Janette Woodcock	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**12. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Tim Swift, Natasha Luther-Jones, Simon Pringle, Jim Cardwell, Adrian Gill and Melanie Taylor.

**13. Declaration of Disposable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

**14. Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public**

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

## **15. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2022**

Subject to the following amendments requested at the informal meeting on 19 July 2022 which was held remotely due to the extreme weather conditions, the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2022 be approved,

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 the Committee felt it was difficult sometimes to quantify the progress in terms of carbon alone.

## **16. Notes of the Informal Meeting held on 19 July 2022**

That the notes of the informal meeting held on Tuesday 19 July 2022 be noted.

## **17. Chair's Update**

In his update the Chair said that since the last meeting of the Committee in July we have seen a significant increase in activity focussed on the mayoral pledge of addressing the climate emergency. Activity has also seen progress being made on establishing the mechanisms and processes which will allow the region to make strides towards its 2038 net-zero carbon ambition. The Chair thanked all involved in moving this important agenda forward and for all the hard work.

The Pledge Delivery Update paper provides an excellent opportunity for us to take stock and understand the volume of activity that is currently progressing across a wide range of thematic areas. Some highlights include:

- Establishing the structures, governance and mechanisms that will enable a pipeline of net-zero projects to be identified, supported, and ultimately funded via the Net Zero Region Accelerator programme.
- Working with district partners and key stakeholders to establish the building blocks that will form the basis on a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy for West Yorkshire and ensuring the greatest value can be derived for the region from Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Over 900 jobs have currently been pledged by businesses in West Yorkshire in response to the mayor's pledge to create 1,000 green jobs.
- Installing retrofit measures in 335 homes as part of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 1, of which 1,316 homes will be upgraded.
- Support for nearly 600 businesses through the ReBiz programme allowing SMEs in West Yorkshire to reduce the environmental impact.
- Delivering a programme to rollout 111 electric buses across West Yorkshire as part of the Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme.

This is good progress, but we must continue to move forward with our plans if we are to deliver against our ambitions and this Committee has an integral part to play in ensuring we do this.

This is especially true in the context of recent announcements relating to energy, of which there is more on in the next item on the agenda.

However, since the papers were published, we've also had the announcement of the Skidmore Review inviting evidence on the Government's approach to the delivery of its net-zero target as part of its independent review of net-zero. This is something that as a committee we should help to inform as part of a wider West Yorkshire response.

We should also be alive to the potential opportunities that Investment Zones might provide in speeding up the deployment of technologies that contribute to meeting net-zero. However, we also need to be aware of the risks that relaxing planning rules in designated areas may present in undermining our ambitions, particularly around the natural environment and nature recovery.

## **18. Climate and Environment Monitoring Indicators and Response to Crisis**

The Committee considered a report and verbal presentation on the latest position of the State of the Region monitoring indicators relating to Climate and the Environment initiating discussion and included:-

An update on performance against the previously agreed indicators was set out in an appendix to the report and key updates included:

- Emissions indicators have been revised to reflect emissions of a fuller range of greenhouse gases rather than carbon dioxide only.
- Trends in greenhouse gas emissions tracked against the Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways have been added.
- Forecasted prevalence in fuel poverty has been added in the context of the government's energy price cap.
- Analysis of local natural greenspace has been added.

The Appendix also set out emission trends in the context of the required rate of emission reduction to meet net-zero carbon by 2038 and supplementary analysis on renewable energy generation. Both were requested by the Committee at the last meeting.

The Director of Strategy Communications and Policing spoke to the Committee about the paper appended to the report which set out the latest economic and business intelligence on the cost of living / doing business crisis in West Yorkshire with updated analysis considering the announcements of 7 September specifically in the context of businesses and reflected the conversation had at LEP Board on 21 September. Key points from the LEP Board discussion included influencing central government to:

- Increase energy efficiency grants / interventions at a national level for business and consumers.
- Create the conditions to incentivise investment in renewable energy

generation and the adoption of sustainable technologies.

- Decouple the link between gas and electricity prices to stimulate the consumer market for low carbon electricity.

In addition to these influencing points two projects are being progressed swiftly to respond to the crisis and will be considered by the Combined Authority on 21 October.

- SME Voucher Scheme – open to SMEs to assist with energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Booster – targeted at social housing in areas of high deprivation and low incomes to install energy efficiency measures.

The SME Voucher Scheme was approved by internal assurance on 28 September 2022. The Social Housing Decarbonisation Booster will be considered by internal assurance on 10 October 2022.

Members discussed the cost of living / doing business crisis and the identification of activities that should be prioritised to address the crisis and provided comments which have been noted.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report and the headline analysis of the indicators be noted.
- (ii) That feedback from the Committee on the proposed schemes identified to address the cost of living and doing business crisis be noted.
- (iii) That additional measures / schemes that could be implemented quickly or brought forward to address the crisis be noted.
- (iv) That initial reflections provided by the Committee on how the Combined Authority should engage with the Government's review of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme be noted.

**19. Carbon Budgets**

The Committee considered a report to provide information on the development of carbon budgets to assist with the monitoring of progress against the regional net-zero carbon target.

The paper presented the rationale for taking a carbon budgeting approach and the process for developing them for West Yorkshire. It related to the calculated budgets to the pathways developed through the Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways.

Based on the most recent information West Yorkshire is currently 1MtCO<sub>2e</sub> below the carbon budget for 2019 and 2020. Expectation that future years exceed the budget due to the rebound effect from the pandemic.

Members of the Committee discussed, provided comments and feedback and officers responded to questions.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.

## **20. Climate and Environment Plan Wave 1 - Strategic Outline Case**

The Committee considered a report to provide an update on progress to develop the Wave 1 programmes from the Climate and Environment Plan and to gain their endorsement for what is proposed.

The report set out the scope and value of each of the individual programmes as documented in the Strategic Outline Case that was considered by internal assurance on 28 September. Internal assurance supported the allocation of development funding for the next stage of project development activity and for programmes to progress with the development of more detailed business cases.

Future decisions relating to the Wave 1 programmes will be delegated to this Committee. Several of these will be presented to the January and March 2023 Committee meetings for consideration. The timescales for the development of Wave 2 programmes were also covered by the paper. The intention is for the scope of each programme is brought to the March 2023 Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the contents of the report provided by the Head of Energy and Environment and provided feedback which have been noted by officers,

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the programmes set out in the report be endorsed.

## **21. Forward Plan**

The Committee considered a report to provide a draft outline of the items to be discussed at meetings over the coming 12 months and to seek Committee input on potential guest items and priorities for discussion.

Members discussed and provided input and comments for discussion at future meetings of the Committee which officers have noted

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Committee provided potential items for discussion at future meetings of the Committee.

## 22. Pledge Delivery Update

The Committee considered a report to provide an overview of selected ongoing activity to deliver against the mayoral pledge to tackle the climate emergency.

The report summarised selected activity that is currently taking place against the pledge. It represented activity from across the eight themes on which the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan is framed.

The report included an overview and progress to date of the Net Zero Region Accelerator Green Smart Community Integrated Energy Schemes, Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain, Green skills and jobs, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Community Renewal Fund Retrofit Hub, Resource efficient business, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, Zero Emission Buses, and Flood Risk Management.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.



**Report to:** Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

**Date:** 10 January 2022

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

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**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 respond to requests from Committee members for further information relating to State of the Region indicators and additional indicators.
- 1.3 To update the Committee on latest developments on cost-of-living 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 (ktCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)
- Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO<sub>2</sub> 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 is unchanged from that presented at the October meeting.

### **Requests for Additional Information and Suggested Additional Indicators**

2.5 During the last meeting of the Committee on October 4th there were requests from members of the Committee for further information on the indicators presented at that meeting. These are detailed below:

- **Why are per capita greenhouse gas emissions in West Yorkshire lower than the national average?** Figure 3 in the appendix shows the sectoral differences in per capita emissions between West Yorkshire and England. It indicates that West Yorkshire has lower per capita emissions for Agriculture and Industry. These differences explain West Yorkshire's lower overall per capita emissions.
- **What are the trends in renewable electricity generation in West Yorkshire?** At the last meeting figures were presented to show the changes in generation between 2014 and 2020. The Committee asked to see the trend data between these two points. Local authority level data for 2021 has now been published and Figures 10 to 14 of the appendix show the full trend between 2014 and 2021 by source and by local authority. It should be noted that the latest figures include significant downward revisions for renewable electricity generation in Leeds and Kirklees in 2019 and 2020 compared with those shared at the last meeting. Some of the trend data appears to be anomalous and we are following this issue up with BEIS.
- **What are the sources of electricity generation from Plant Biomass in West Yorkshire?** The Committee queried whether the Plant Biomass generation figures for West Yorkshire included Drax. It was confirmed that these were not included and were instead assigned to North Yorkshire in the statistics. BEIS' paper [Regional renewable](#)

[electricity in 2021](#) indicates that the Ferrybridge Multifuel Power Station in Knottingley is a major source of bioenergy capacity on a national scale and it seems likely that this facility is the main contributor to biomass generation in West Yorkshire, although there are a total of 9 biomass generation sites in the region.

2.6 Additional indicators were also suggested by the Committee, and it was agreed that these would be investigated to ascertain whether data is available to enable measurement at West Yorkshire level. The suggested indicators and available data sources are detailed below.

Indicators suggested by the Committee in October	Potential sources	Comment
Renewable heat  See figures 20 to 22 of appendix	Non-Domestic and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) monthly deployment data.  Energy Efficiency of Housing, England and Wales - Percentage of dwellings by main fuel type or method of heating used in central heating.	Unlikely that RHI deployment covers all renewable heat activity. More importantly this scheme is now closed to new applicants – data becoming out of date.  The second source (based on Energy Performance Certificate data) provides better coverage of installed base of domestic heating including renewables.
% local electricity demand met by renewables See figure 23	Subnational electricity consumption, Great Britain, 2020 - Total consumption (GWh)  Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 – 2021 – generation figures in MWh	It is possible to present ratio of renewable electricity generation to total electricity consumption in local area. This gives a broad indication of the extent to which renewables contribute to meeting demand.  Major caveat is that renewable electricity generated locally is not exclusively consumed locally and local needs are partially met by electricity generated outside the area.
Public vs private sector renewables generation	This breakdown does not seem to be available.	
Biodiversity	Local level data do not seem to be available.	

Indicators suggested by the Committee in October	Potential sources	Comment
Food security / self-sufficiency, Food poverty	Data relating to food security are available at <a href="#">national</a> level and <a href="#">international</a> level but our understanding is that they are not available for sub-national geographies.	University of Sheffield have modelled local food insecurity based on national survey data from Food Foundation. <a href="#">New map shows where millions of UK residents struggle to access food   News   The University of Sheffield</a>
Sectoral breakdown / contributions – emissions pathways	Officers are exploring potential to commission additional analysis / modelling in this area	

### **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 presented to the Combined Authority meeting on 8 December. The paper summarizes the latest economic and business intelligence, key headlines from the Autumn Statement and regional activity to support businesses and households and to influence Government decisions. It is provided as appendix 2 to this report. Key points relating to the challenge around cost of living include:

- It is estimated that around 30% of households in West Yorkshire or 300,000 in total are currently in fuel poverty, with the potential for this to increase further as the threshold for the Energy Price Guarantee is raised next spring (see Figures 10 and 11 of appendix 1).
- West Yorkshire’s fuel poverty situation is partially due to its relatively poor performance on energy efficiency of dwellings, making them more expensive to heat.
- Research commissioned by the Combined Authority shows that 67% of businesses are concerned about the survival of their business as a result of the cost-of-living crisis.
- There are 1,751 firms in West Yorkshire that are both energy intensive and operating in internationally competitive markets, accounting for an estimated 57,000 employees and £8 billion in turnover.

### **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.

## **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 There are no legal 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 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.
- 10.2 Considers the analysis provided for suggested additional indicators and its potential value to the Committee in terms of future monitoring.
- 10.3 Notes the latest intelligence, discusses the implications of the current economic situation for businesses within the region, notes the action taken so far by the Combined Authority, and notes the next steps following the Autumn Statement.

## **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: Indicator Report

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**Climate and Environment Committee, 10 January  
2023**

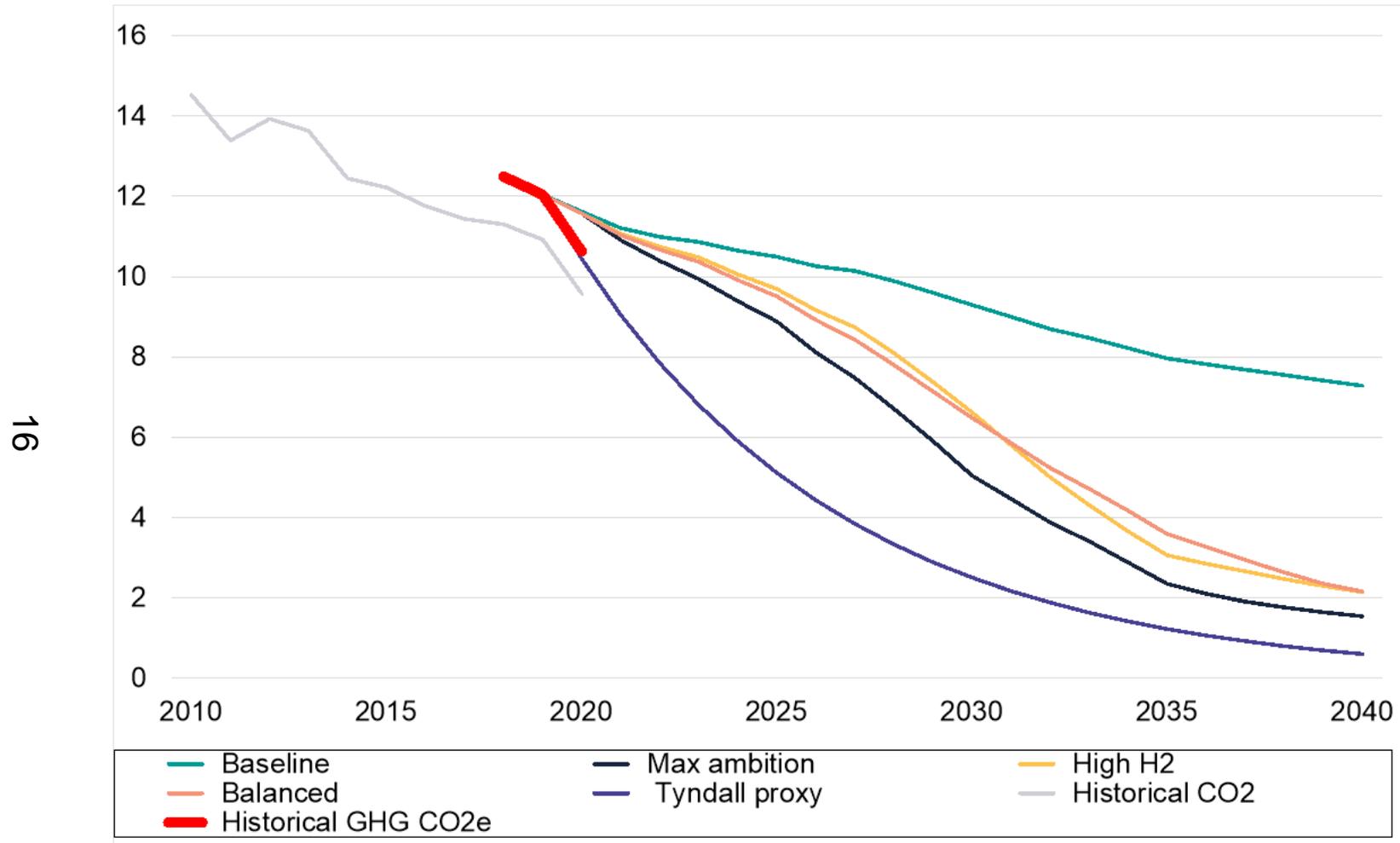
# Introduction

- The following slides provide an overview of West Yorkshire's performance and progress against the headline indicators for State of the Region
- A subset of indicators has been presented, reflecting those most directly relevant to the Employment and Skills agenda.
- For some indicators there has been no change in the available data but the latest figures are contained in the pack for consistency.
- The pack also contains an update based on more timely labour market indicators, including payrolled employees, claimant count and vacancies (online job postings).

# State of the Region indicators

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

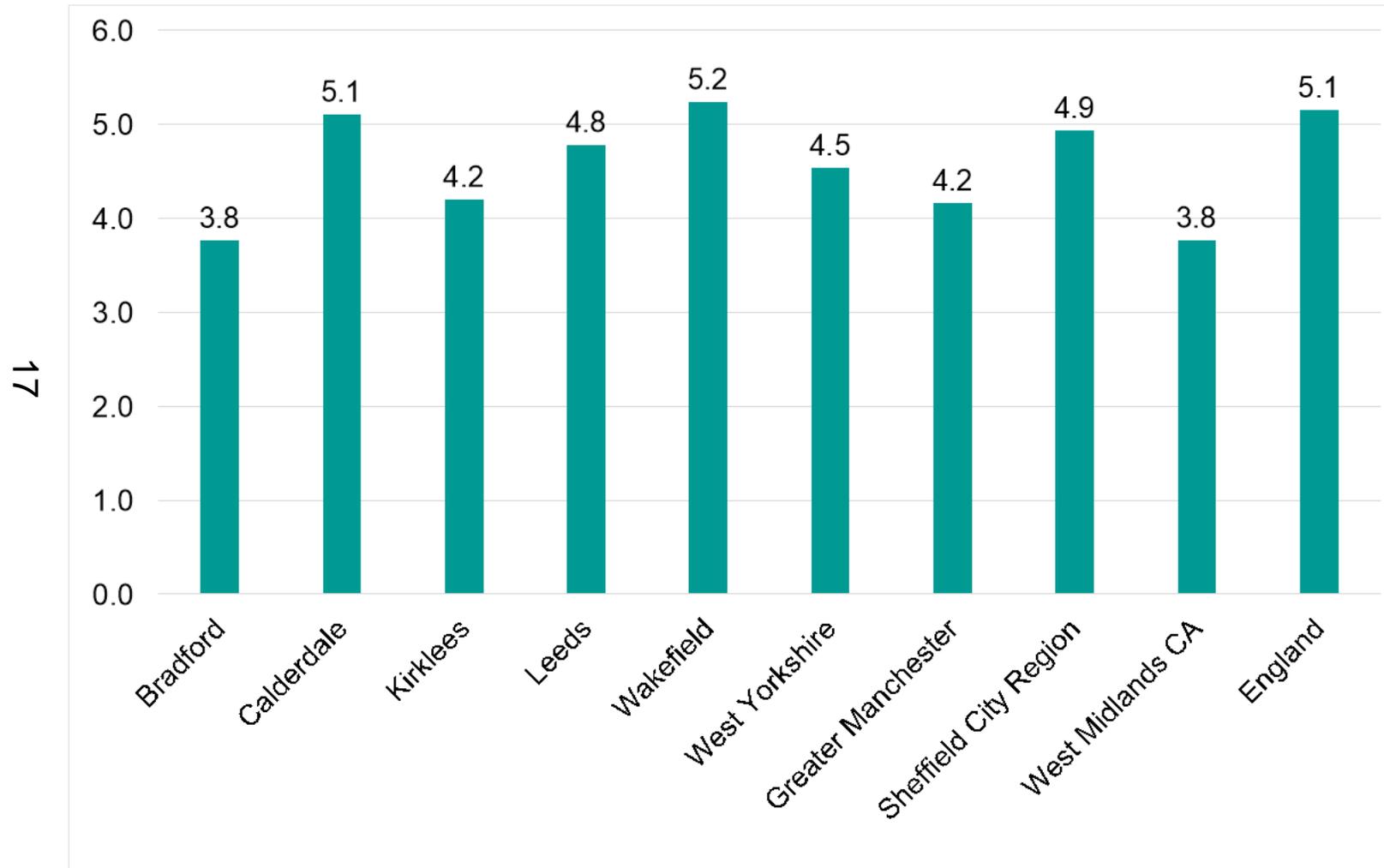
Figure 1: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions vs carbon reduction pathways (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e)



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



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

# West Yorkshire has lower emissions per capita in respect of Agriculture and Industry

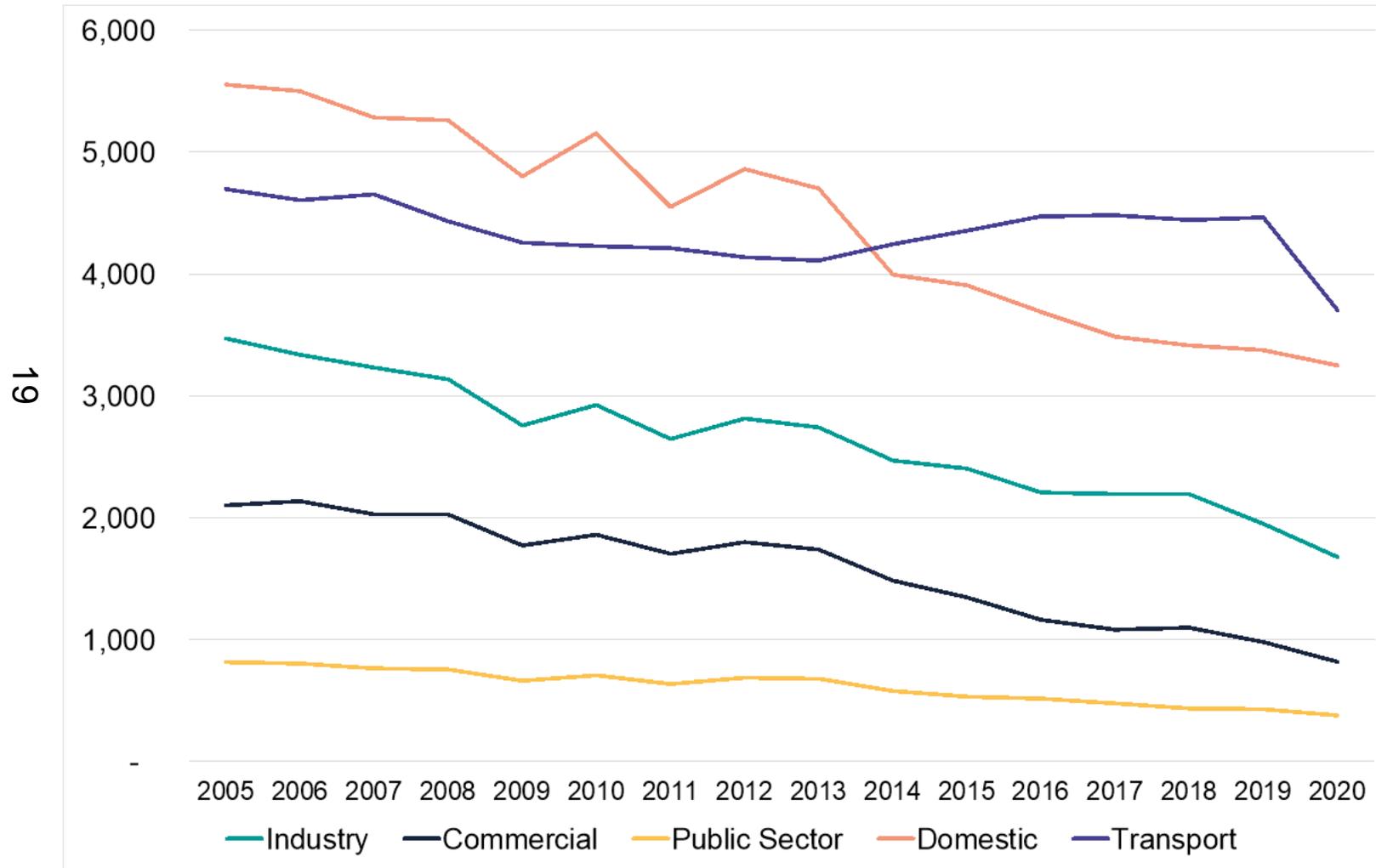
Figure 3: Per capita greenhouse gas emissions by sector (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per resident), 2020 – differences between West Yorkshire and national average



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

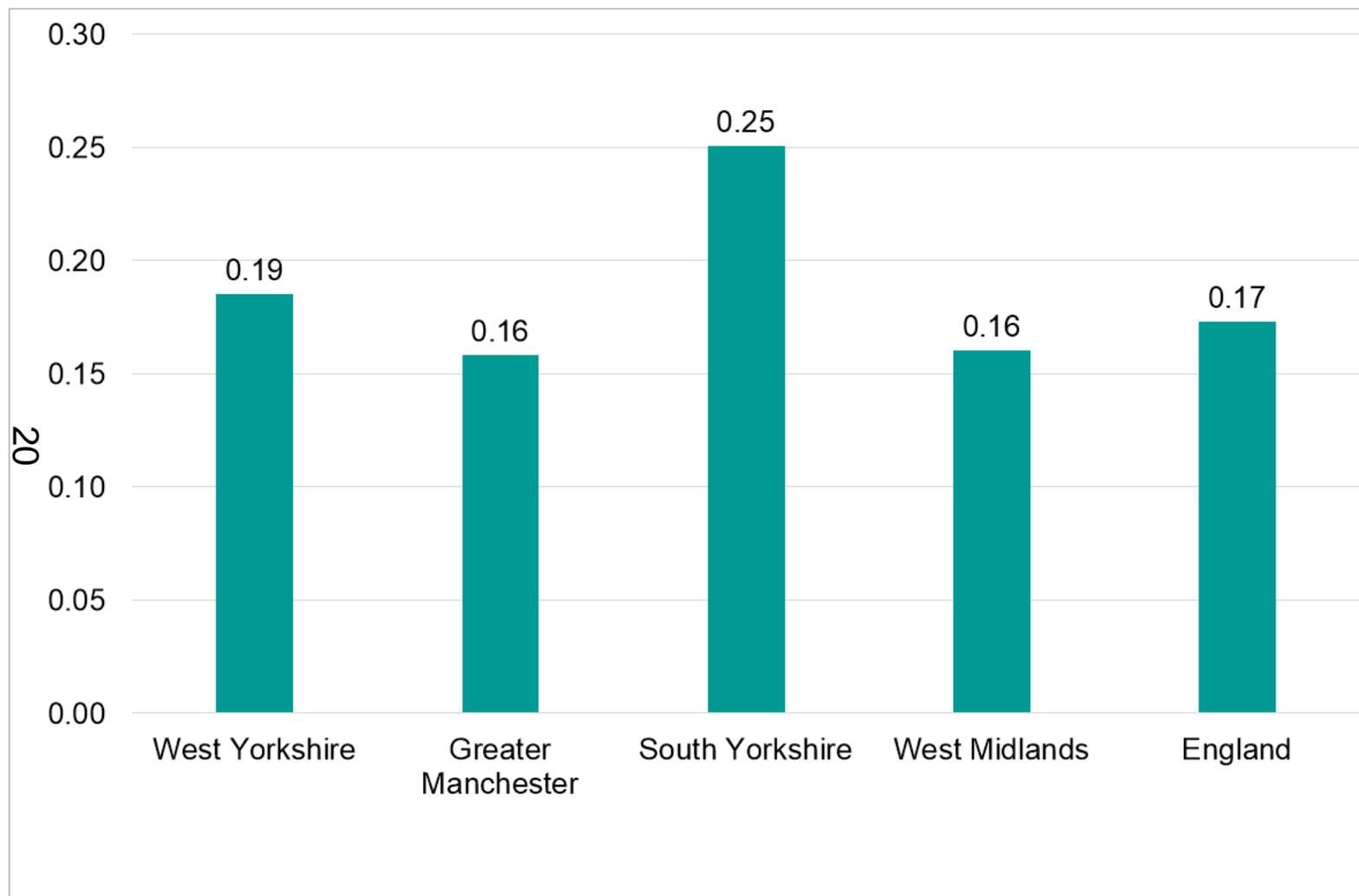
Figure 4: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions by sector, (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e), West Yorkshire



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

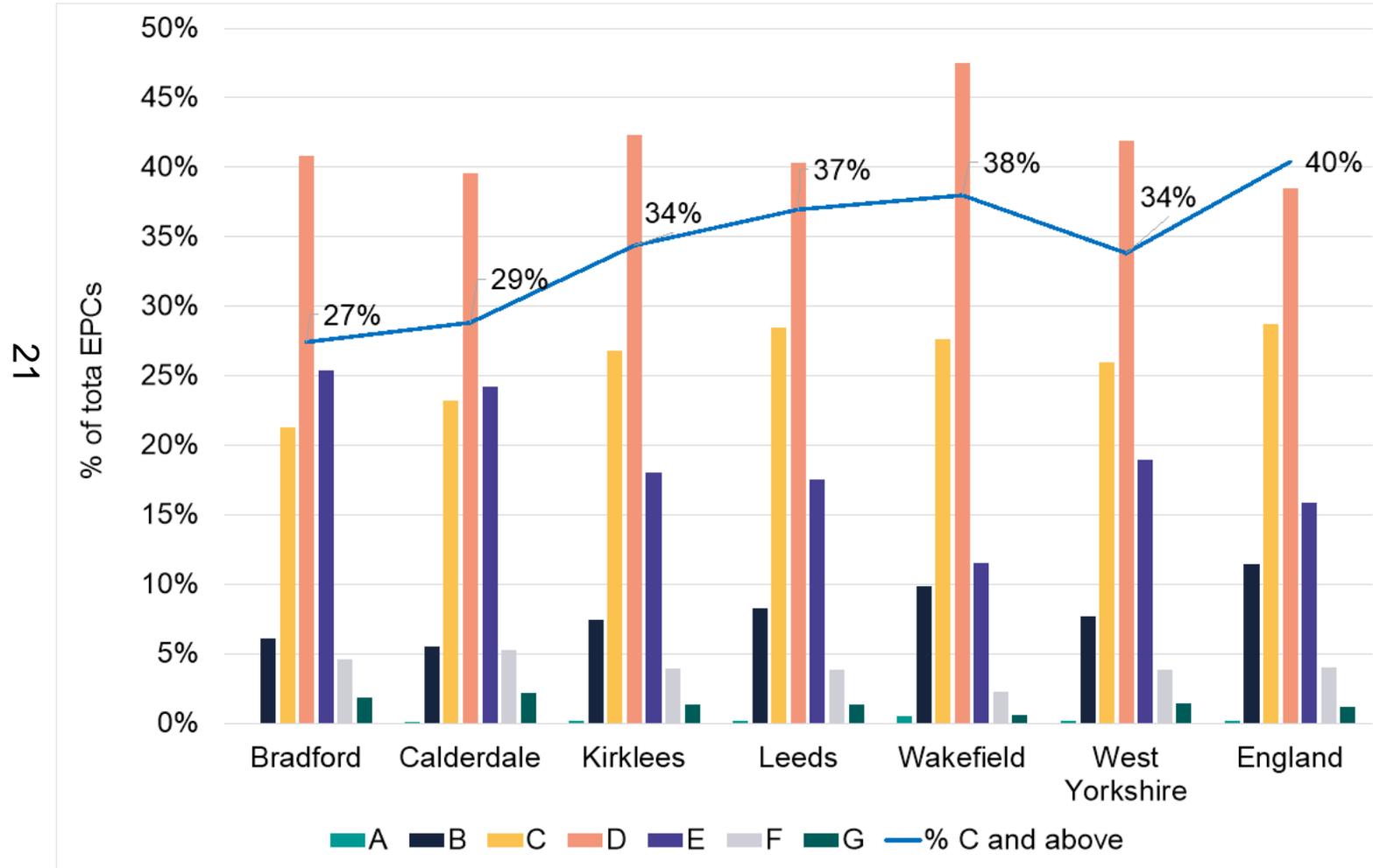
Figure 5: Greenhouse gas emissions intensity (ktCO2e per £m gross value added)



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

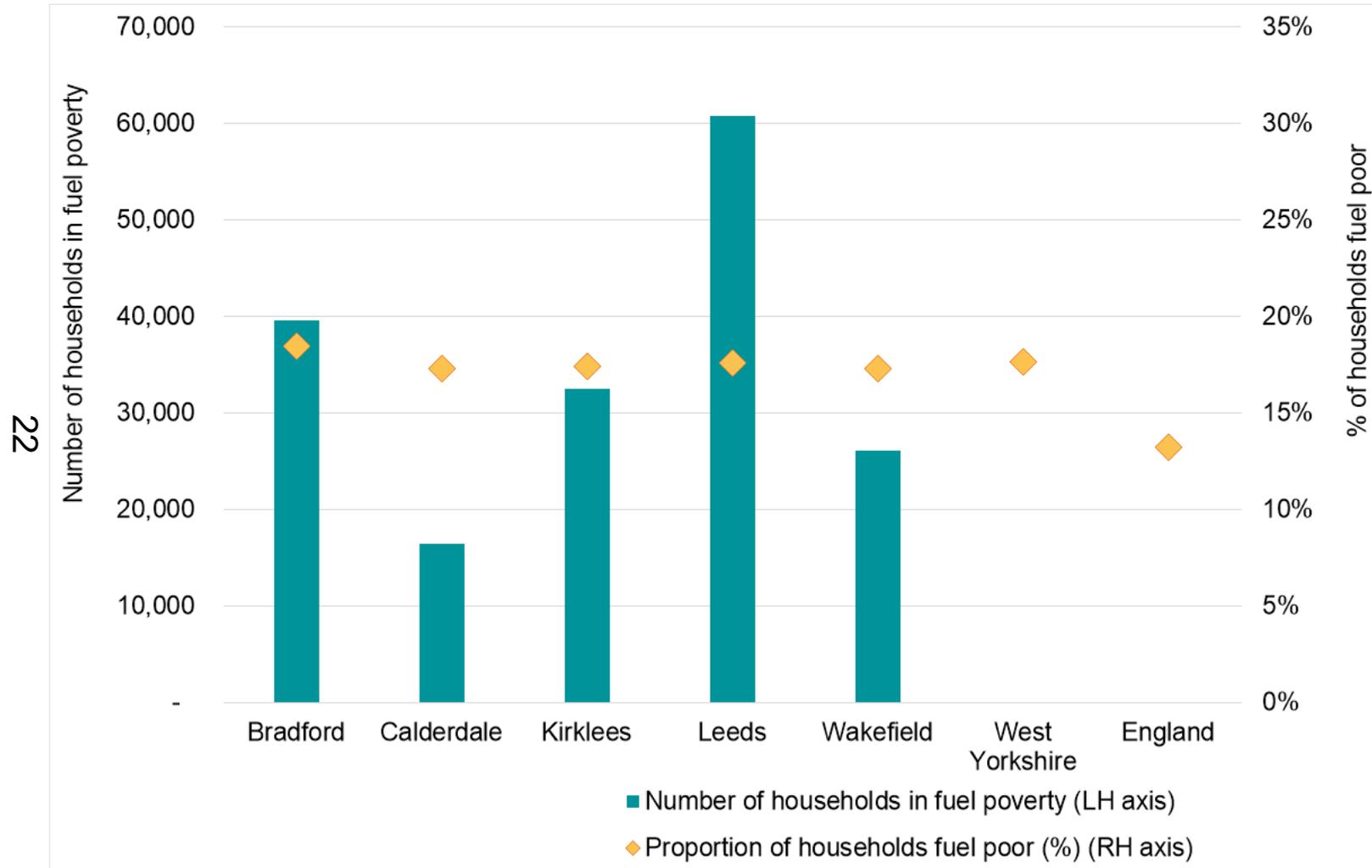
Figure 6: Profile of Energy Performance Certificates by local authority and Energy Efficiency Rating



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

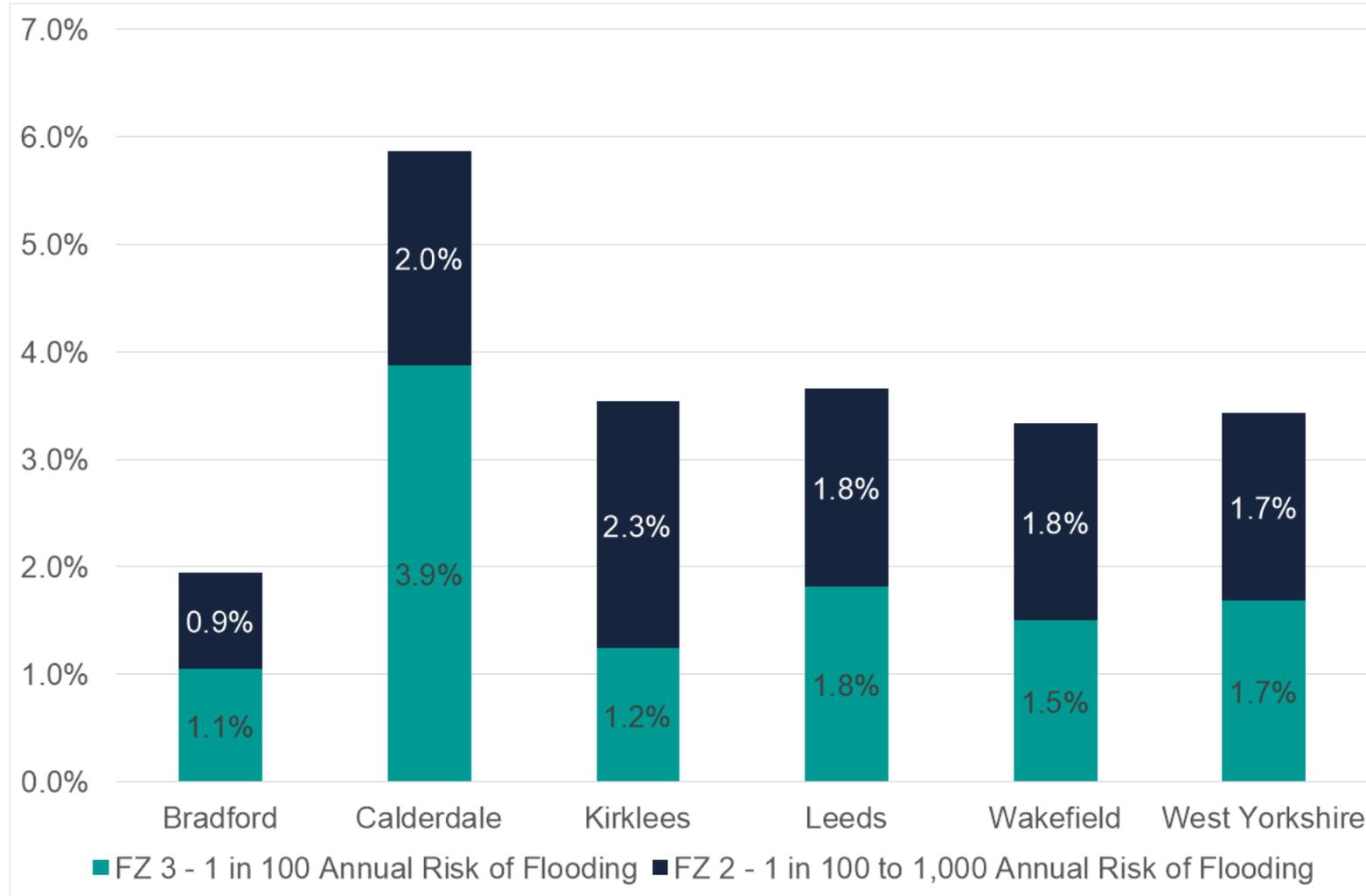
Figure 7: Number and proportion of households in fuel poverty, 2020



Source: Sub-regional fuel poverty statistics, BEIS

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

Figure 8: Proportion of residential properties in flood zones

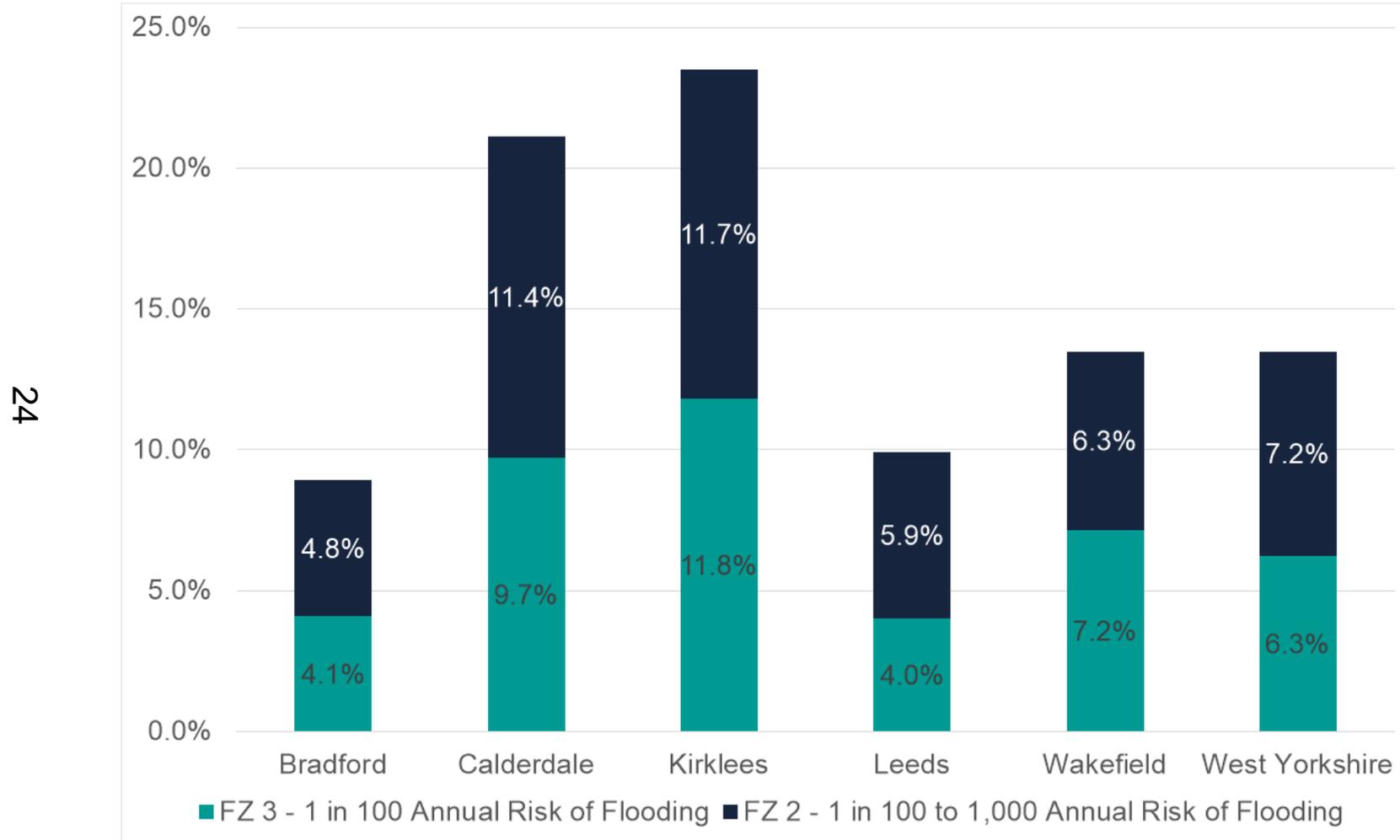


Source: Environmental Agency, ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

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

Figure 9: Proportion of commercial properties in flood zones

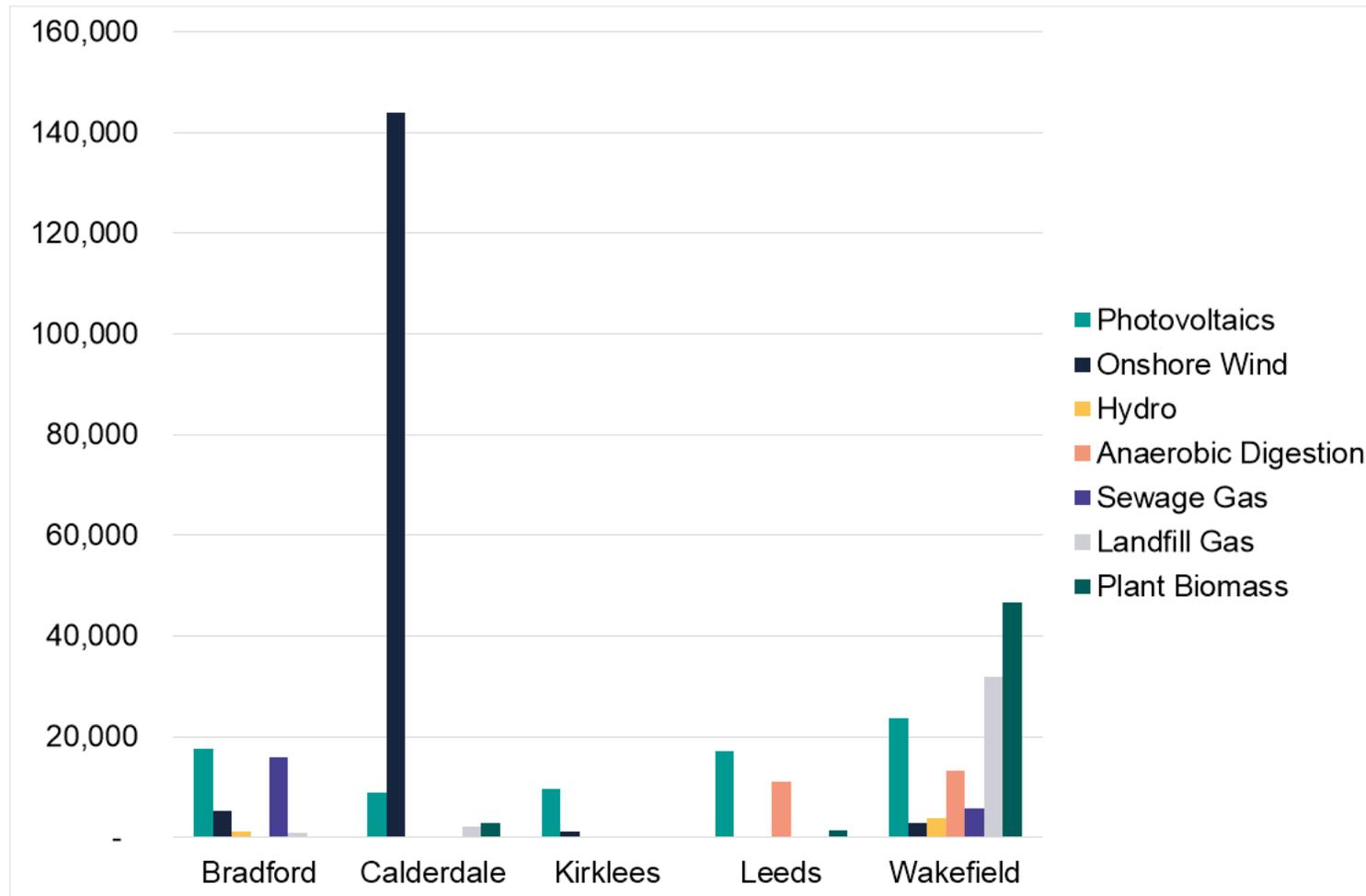


Source: Environmental Agency, ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

# Further analysis of renewable electricity generation

# Onshore wind in Calderdale accounts for 39% of total renewable electricity generated in West Yorkshire, according to latest figures

Figure 10: Renewable electricity generation (MWh) by source and local authority, 2021

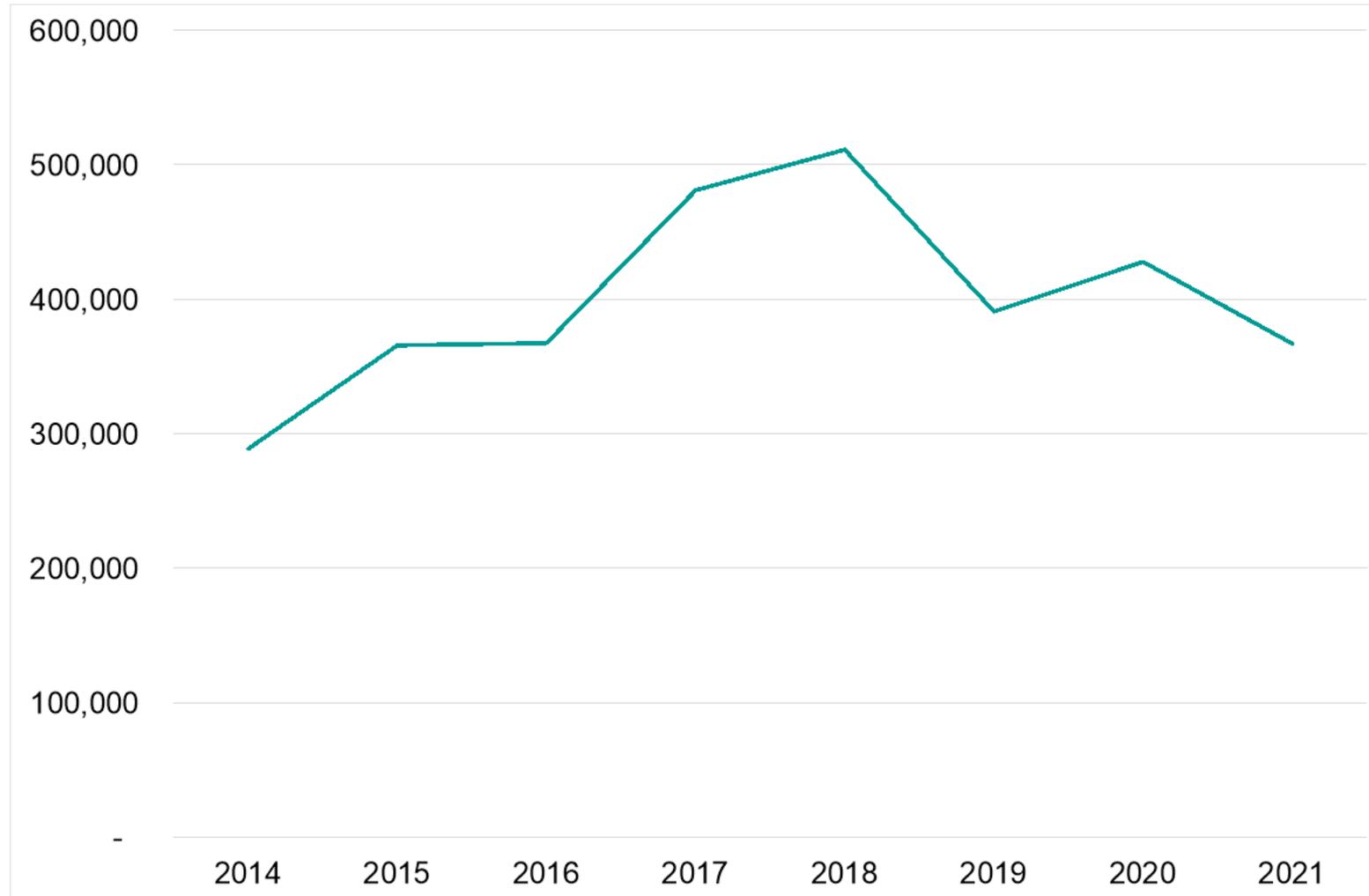


Source: Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 - 2021, BEIS

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# Renewable electricity generation in 2021 was 21% higher than in 2014 but 28% below its peak in 2018

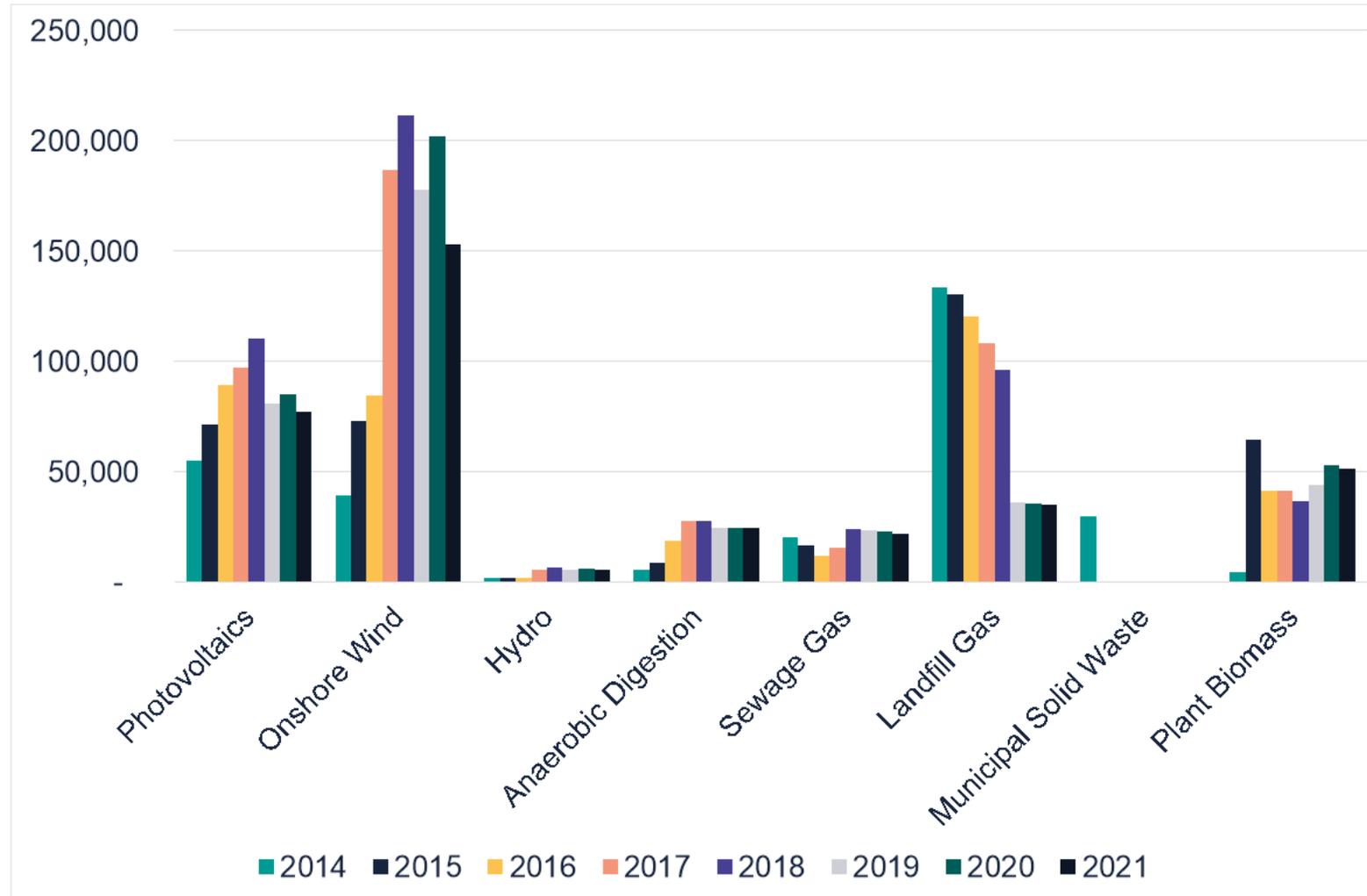
Figure 11: Trend in renewable electricity generation (MWh), West Yorkshire



Source: Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 - 2021, BEIS

# Onshore wind is the largest source of renewable electricity generation in West Yorkshire but has followed an erratic trend over time

Figure 12: Renewable electricity generation (MWh) by source and local authority, 2021



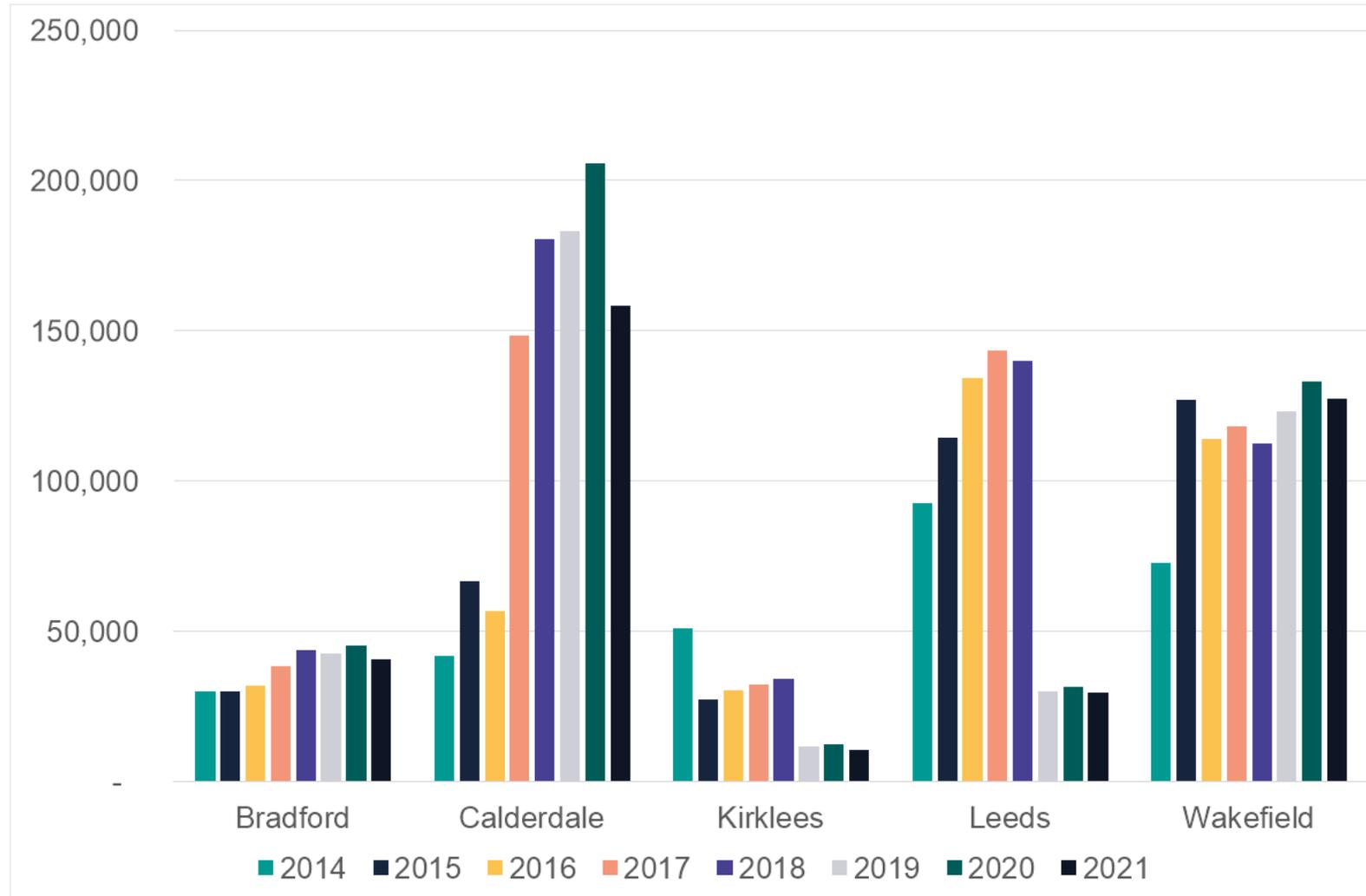
Electricity generated using landfill gas fell substantially from 2019 onwards

28

Source: Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 - 2021, BEIS

# Kirklees and Leeds both experienced big falls in renewable electricity generation from 2019 onwards

Figure 13: Renewable electricity generation (MWh) by local authority, 2021

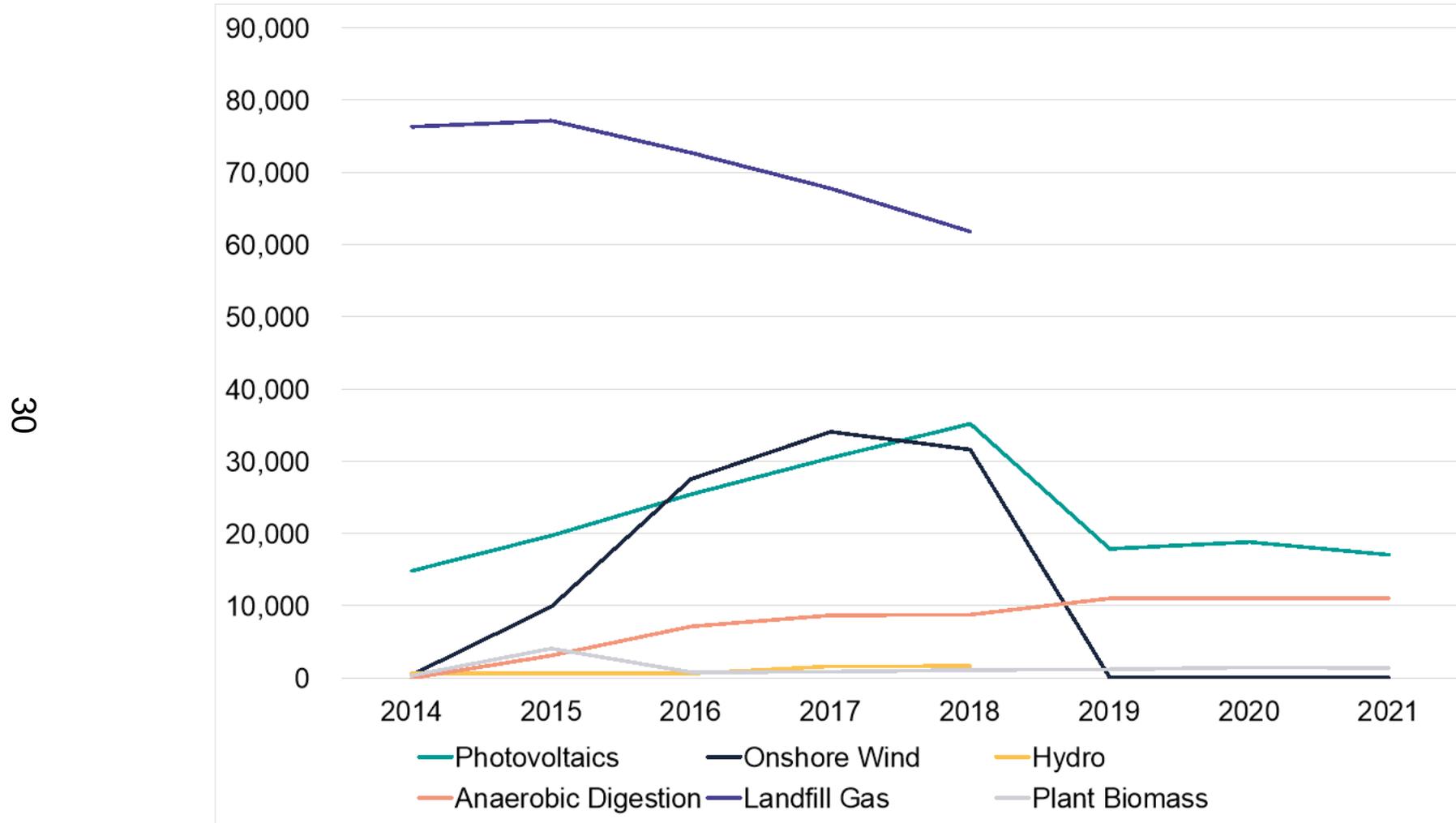


Source: Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 - 2021, BEIS

29

# In Leeds no generation is recorded for Landfill Gas from 2019 onwards and there was a sharp fall in generation from Onshore Wind at same time

Figure 14: Renewable electricity generation (MWh) by local authority, 2021

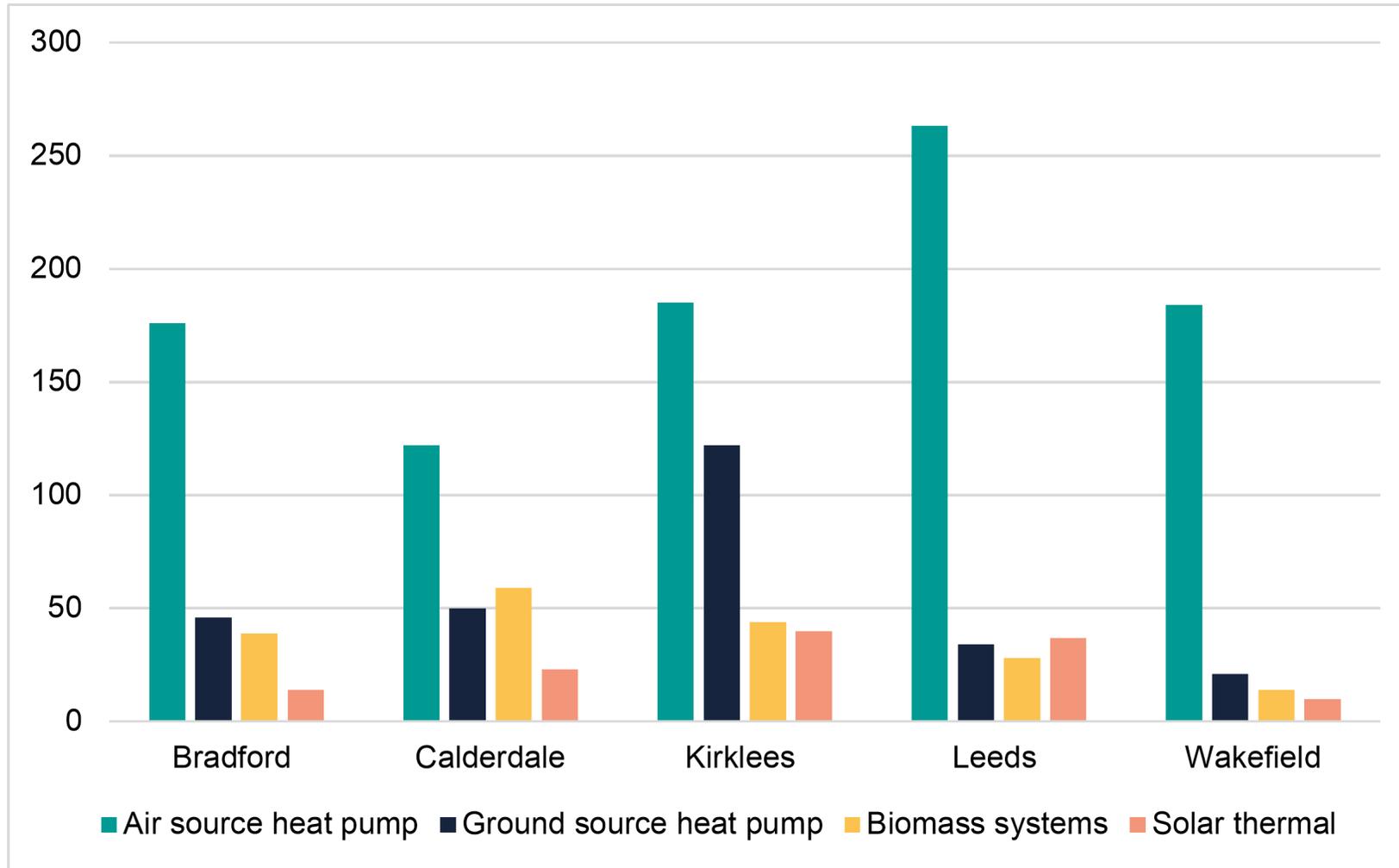


Source: Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 - 2021, BEIS

# Suggested additional indicators

# There were just over 3,000 Renewable Heat Incentive accreditations in West Yorkshire (2014 to 2021), 62% of them for air source heat pumps

Figure 15: Number of RHI accreditations by local authority by technology, April 2014 to December 2021



Renewable Heat

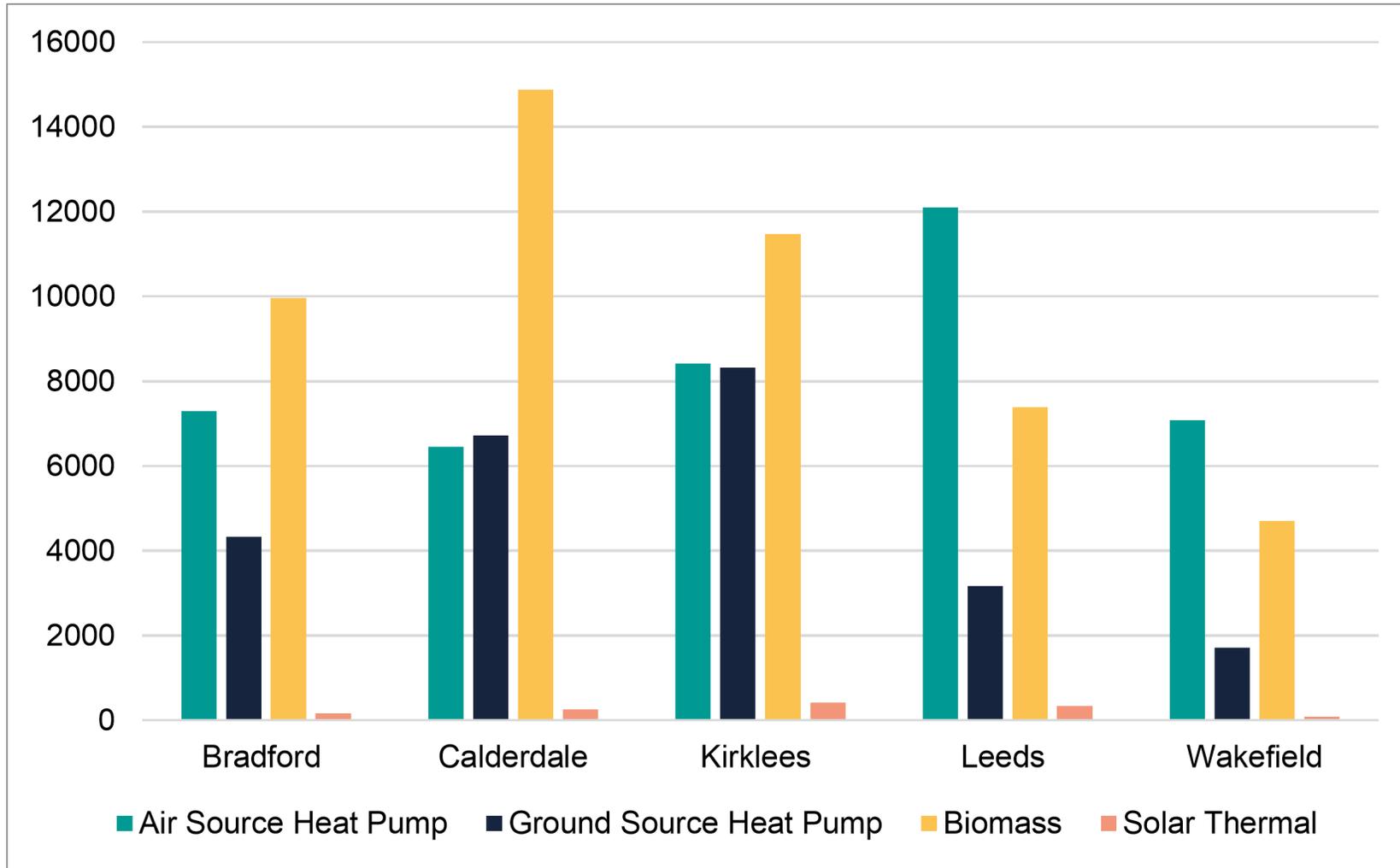
32

Source: Non-Domestic and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) monthly deployment data : September 2022

# Around 115,000 MWh of heat was paid for in West Yorkshire via RHI, with Biomass the biggest source (42% of total)

Figure 16: Amount of heat paid for by local authority by technology (MWh), April 2014 to December 2021

33

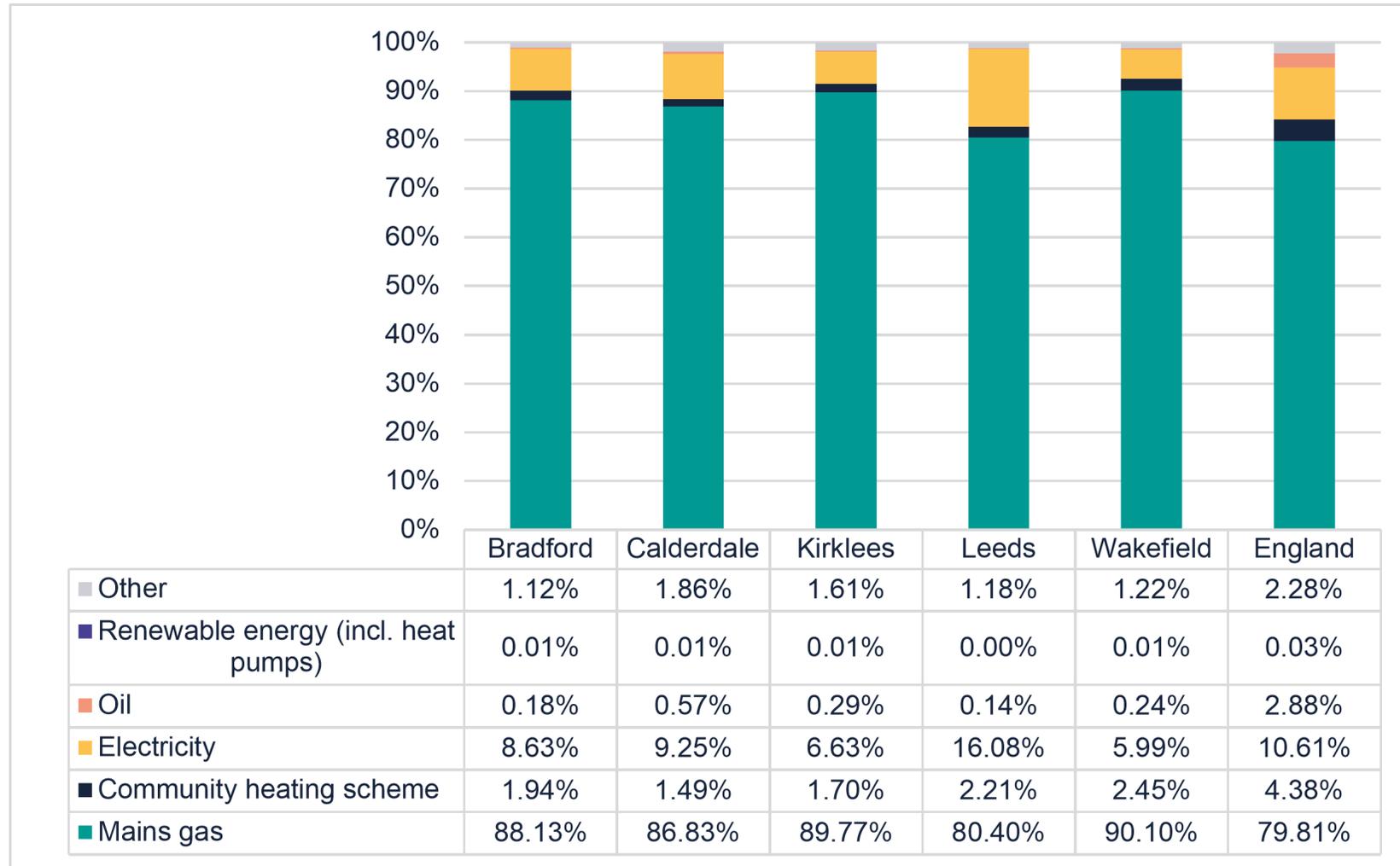


Renewable Heat

Source: Non-Domestic and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) monthly deployment data : September 2022

# Renewables account for a very small proportion of the installed base of domestic heating systems

Figure 17: Percentage of dwellings by main fuel type or method of heating used in central heating for all dwellings



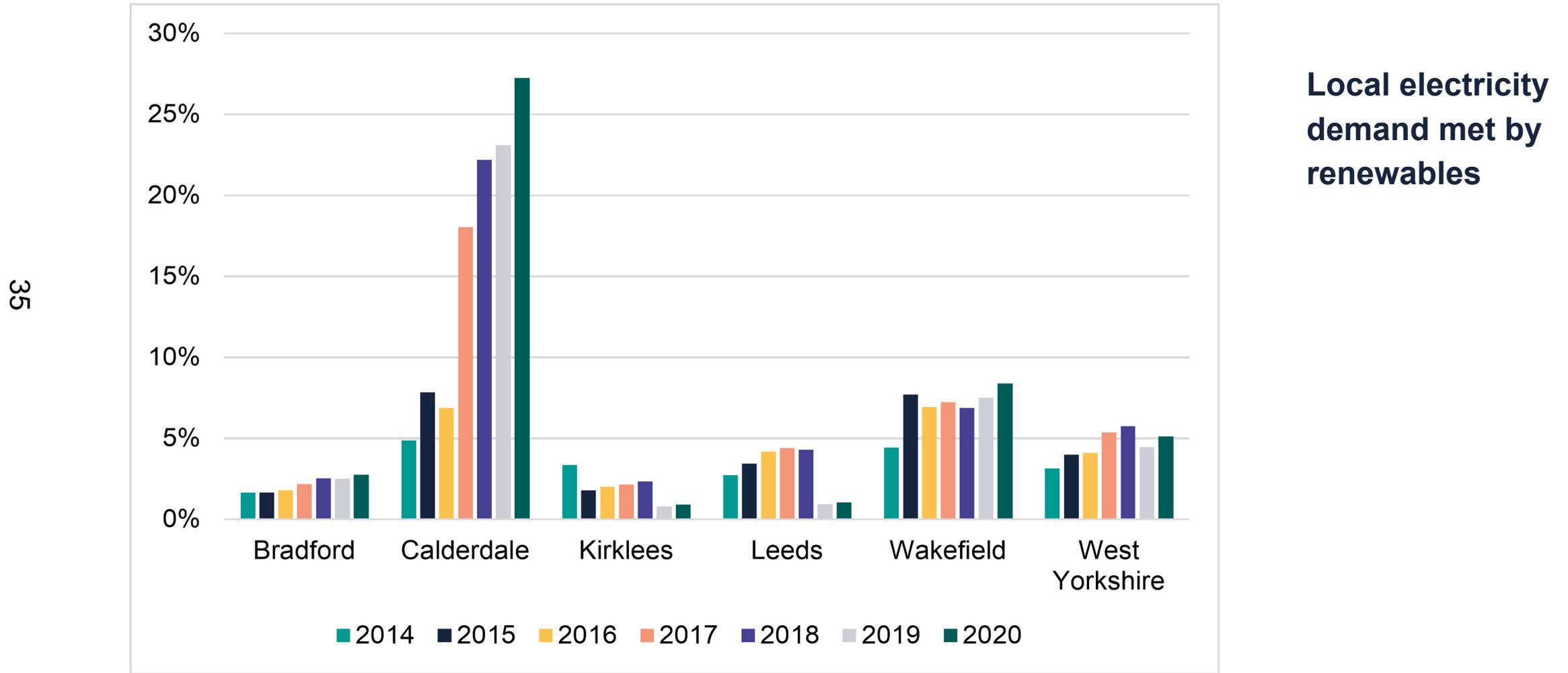
Renewable Heat

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Source: Energy Efficiency of Housing, England and Wales, local authority districts, ONS

# Calderdale has the highest ratio of renewables electricity generation to overall electricity consumption

Figure 18: Ratio of total electricity consumption to renewable electricity generation by local authority



Source: Subnational electricity consumption and Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 - 2021, BEIS

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**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 8 December 2022

**Subject:** **Crisis in the Cost of Living and Doing Business**

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

**Author:** 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## 1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To provide an update on:

- 1.1.1 the latest economic and business intelligence, particularly relating to the cost of living and doing business
- 1.1.2 key headlines from the Autumn Statement
- 1.1.3 regional activity to support businesses and households and to influence Government decisions

## 2 Information

2.1 The data below is correct at time of publication.

### Macroeconomy

2.2 At the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on 3 November 2022, it was decided by a margin of 7-2 to **increase the Bank Rate by 0.75 percentage points to 3%**. This decision was taken in response to the persistent economic pressures within the economy, which are forecast to remain throughout 2023. This rise is the largest single increase in 33 years, and is the eighth consecutive rise since December 2021. The MPC also published forecasts, which show that consumer spending is likely to fall in 2023. The forecast also predicted that UK economy will enter a recession in Q4 2022, and will not emerge from the recession until the second half of 2024.

- 2.3 **Consumer Price Index inflation rose by 11.1% in the 12 months to October, the highest rate for over 40 years.** The key price rises came in the costs of energy and food and non-alcoholic beverages, which rose by 16.4% in the year to October 2022. Anecdotal evidence suggests that people are substituting out branded food items for supermarket own brand goods, in order to reduce the impact of inflation. However, experimental statistics from the ONS show that the average price of the 30 cheapest grocery items has risen by 17% in the past year, and for nine of these 30 items, prices have risen by more than 20%. This means that those who were already buying the cheapest food items are facing higher rates of inflation on food prices than average. The lowest-cost items that saw the biggest price increases over the past year were vegetable oil (65%) and pasta (60%).

### **Autumn Statement**

- 2.4 The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered the Autumn Statement on 17 November, outlining the Government's fiscal plans. For households, the key headlines were:
- The threshold for the additional rate of Income Tax (45%) will be reduced from £150,000 to £125,140, increasing taxes for higher earners.
  - Tax-free allowances, including the Personal Allowance of £12,570, will remain constant in nominal terms until April 2028, meaning that all employees who earn enough to pay tax, including lower earners, will also pay more tax over the coming years.
  - The National Living Wage will rise by 9.7% to £10.42, which will boost a full-time employee's wages by £1,600 per year where this is applied
  - Benefits and pensions will be uprated by 10.1%, and the pensions triple lock guarantee will remain, offering some protection to the most vulnerable in society.
  - The Energy Price Guarantee will rise from the current level, which holds average household energy bills at £2,500 per year, to £3,000 per year, whilst support for people using alternative fuels to heat their homes will double from £100 to £200. It should be noted that the Energy Bill Support Scheme of £400 will also end, meaning that average energy bills will effectively rise by £900 from April.
  - There will be additional cost-of-living payments of £900 for people on means-tested benefits, £300 for pensioners and £150 for people receiving disability benefits.
- 2.5 Ultimately, the levels of support through the cost-of-living crisis will fall, but they will be more targeted. Two-thirds of the support offered throughout 2023/24 will go to those in the bottom half of the income distribution, compared with just over half in 2022/23.
- 2.6 For businesses, the key headlines were:
- The threshold at which businesses begin to pay VAT will be frozen until March 2026.

- There will be a re-evaluation of business rates, anticipated to bring about a tax reduction of £14 billion over the next five years. This will mean that two in three businesses will not pay any more than they currently do.
- A HM Treasury-led review of the EBRs will determine support for non-domestic energy consumers, excluding public sector organisations, beyond 31 March 2023. While the government recognises that some businesses may continue to require support beyond March 2023, the overall scale of support the government can offer will be significantly lower, and targeted at those most affected to ensure fiscal sustainability and value for money for the taxpayer.
- Supporting research and development by increasing public funding to £20 billion in 2024-25.
- Investment Zones will now focus on leveraging research strengths from universities in 'left behind areas', and current applications will no longer be taken forward

2.7 The announcement was also accompanied by forecasts from the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) on the state of the UK macroeconomy. The key headlines were:

- The UK is currently in a recession that is expected to last into 2024. Higher energy costs are the main cause of the current downturn in economic growth, and one-third of the world is also currently in a recession.
- CPI inflation will average 9.1% throughout 2022, falling to 7.4% in 2023, supporting the Bank of England's statement that we are currently around the peak of the current inflationary period.
- Nominal earnings will increase by 5.9% in 2022 and 4.2% in 2023, but after accounting for inflation, this is a real terms drop in earnings.
- Real Household Disposable Income, a measure of living standards, is projected to fall by 7.1% between 2022 and 2024 – the largest drop since before the 1950s, and will take living standards back to levels last seen in 2013/14. This will recover slightly over the following years, but by 2027/28, living standards will still be below pre-pandemic levels.

2.8 The Autumn Statement also included announcements about infrastructure:

- The second round of the Levelling Up Fund will allocate at least £1.7 billion to priority local infrastructure projects. Successful bids will be announced before the end of the year.
- Capital budgets not cut for next two years and maintained in cash terms for the next 3 years
- Recommitment to plans for railways, including Northern Powerhouse Rail, and High Speed 2 to Manchester.
- There was no mention of mass transit or other aspects of transport. However, it sets out that government will seek to accelerate delivery of projects across its infrastructure portfolio and through reforms to the planning system, including through updating National Policy Statements for transport, energy and water resources during 2023.

- 2.9 Following the Autumn Statement, the Mayor and LEP Chair issued public responses.

### **Regional Data**

#### Households

- 2.10 In order to help with the rising cost of energy, the Government announced the Energy Price Guarantee for households, capping unit costs of electricity and gas at 34.04p per kWh and 10.33p per kWh respectively. This brings average household energy bills to £2,500 per year until April 2023, at which point the average household energy bill will rise to £3,000. It should be noted that this Energy Price Guarantee still represents a doubling of household energy bills on Winter 2021. Furthermore, households using more than the average amount of energy will still face bills of more than £2,500, and this is likely to disproportionately affect the elderly.
- 2.11 Fuel poverty in West Yorkshire was greater than the national average prior to the pandemic (**17% of West Yorkshire households, compared with 13% nationally**). With standing charges in Yorkshire among the highest in the UK, **simply using less power will not solve the problem for many**. Households in West Yorkshire pay on average 15p per day more in standing charges than those in London. Reducing standing charges to the levels seen in London would save West Yorkshire households a combined £4.5 million per month.
- 2.12 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**.
- 2.13 Data from the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, a campaign group including trade union and think tank members, estimates that as many as 300,000 West Yorkshire households, or 30%, of homes will be in fuel poverty on 1 October 2022. By 1 April 2023, forecasts suggest that this figure may have risen to 330,000, or 1 in 3, West Yorkshire homes. Following the recent announcement that the Energy Price Guarantee will rise to £3,000 in April 2023, this figure is an underestimate of the scale challenge faced by West Yorkshire.
- 2.14 Government consulted with Housing Association sector partners to apply a cap on increase in social rents below the CPI+1% formula agreed with the sector in 2019. Government is seeking to control costs through the benefit system and protect tenants from the shock of significant rent increases. In the Autumn Statement it was announced increases to social rent will be capped at 7% for the next year, which the sector has accepted was a reasonable response. The sector also extended the 7% cap to the rental element of shared ownership homes. However, the Government has also continued the freeze on Local Housing Allowances, the maximum rent housing benefit can support tenants. In the private sector where rents continue to increase and are not capped, tenants will have to fund any additional rent over and above any housing benefit received.

## Businesses

- 2.15 The Combined Authority has also commissioned research on the cost of doing business from Yonder, who carried out fieldwork between 21 and 27 October 2022, showing that **67% of businesses are concerned about the survival of their business** as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. This concern was most greatly felt among small and micro businesses. Other key findings include:
- Around half (44%) of businesses feel that the current Government support package, the Business Energy Relief Scheme, makes no difference to them in trying to ease the financial challenge of the energy crisis.
  - 56% of businesses said that they were not planning on increasing wages over the next 6 to 12 months. With inflation expected to remain high throughout 2023, this poses a significant threat to the quality of life in Yorkshire.
- 2.16 The Government's Business Energy Relief Scheme caps the unit cost of gas and electricity for businesses at the same rates faced by households, and will run until the end of March 2023, though this will be reviewed by the end of 2022. It could then be extended for vulnerable businesses such as the hospitality sector. The support announced for businesses is unclear with significant uncertainty for businesses and other organisations (e.g. councils) beyond the six months support confirmed.
- 2.17 There are 1,751 firms in West Yorkshire that are both energy intensive and operating in internationally competitive markets. Most of these are operating in the manufacturing sector. Due to the requirements around data reporting for businesses, it is not possible to provide accurate employee numbers or turnover, but a conservative estimate for these businesses most at risk are 57,000 employees and £8 billion in turnover.
- 2.18 For those at an enhanced risk of rising energy prices, those who are exposed to internationally competitive markets but do not meet intensity thresholds, there are an additional 6,266 firms in West Yorkshire, again covering much of the manufacturing sector. The same data restrictions apply to employee counts and turnover figures, but conservative estimates place these at 147,000 employees and over £20 billion in turnover.

## Regional response

- 2.19 At the October meeting the Combined Authority approved a package of support to help with the cost of living crisis. Progress on delivery is as follows:
- 2.20 **Support for businesses with energy efficiency** is progressing through the launch of an emergency grants package which will provide grant support of up to £5,000 at 50% of project costs for small businesses (less than 50 employees) to implement energy efficiency measures. Procurement of a delivery partner has been undertaken and the CA is expecting to launch the scheme in the week commencing 5 December. The support is open to all sectors and will run until the

end of March 2023. A broader net zero and climate readiness support programme will be considered later for approval later on the agenda for launch in April 2023.

## 2.21 **Mayoral Combined Authority emergency support for vulnerable communities**

It is estimated that one in 5 of our region's 2.3m residents is spending nearly all of their available income on essential things, including energy and food. Prices generally have continued to rise rapidly, so placing further economic pressure on our most vulnerable communities. **A new £3m Mayor's Cost of Living fund** was agreed by the Combined Authority in October to directly respond to the cost of living crisis. Via Local Authority partners, the fund is enabling local Voluntary and Community organisations to directly help those who are being failed by the labour market, in terms of access to good, well-paid work, in particular those in workless households and those experiencing in-work poverty. The fund is being used to help more households and individuals in these financially vulnerable communities pay for essential things during the cost of living crisis such as food and warmth, and to receive support such as on mental health and debt, the absence of which would present immediate and complex barriers to connecting into economic opportunity, increasing risk of economic exclusion and longer term economic scarring. The CA is aiming to have funding agreements in place with each LA by 1 December.

## 2.22 **Employment West Yorkshire** (name TBC) will be delivered by Local Authorities and will support 7,700 people towards and within work. The universal service will provide bespoke support to individuals across West Yorkshire to gain employment support advice and support for re-training, upskilling, and secure or progress in employment. The service will ensure continuity from Employment Hubs which have supported over 10,000 people over the last few years, and will commence from April 2023. It will also include two new pilots to develop pathways to support individuals gain valuable digital skills and into sustainable 'green' jobs in most areas of West Yorkshire.

This service will complement and signpost to existing skills and employment support offers, for example: **Skills Connect** – adult skills training with 30 courses available online either for individuals to sign up to, or to register their interest. The courses are across a number of sectors including health and care sector, digital and construction, and **Employment West Yorkshire** a £6m programme including pre-start up support 'Exploring Enterprise' workshops for support individuals options to start up in business.

## 2.23 The **Combined Authority and the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership Board** have developed a **joint statement and action plan** to support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of people across West Yorkshire. The actions focus on:

- Reducing costs to households and providing support to employees in financial hardship
- Supporting voluntary and community sector organisations

- Ensuring mental health and suicide prevention services are providing the appropriate support
- Ensuring that services are proactively responding to the impact of the cost of living crisis

2.24 This action plan will be considered by the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board Partnership Board on 6<sup>th</sup> December, and includes reference to the Mayor's Cost of Living Fund.

### **Asks of Government**

2.25 In early October the CA submitted views to Government as part of the Energy Price Cap review. The letter which was sent to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy from the Mayor and LEP Chair is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

2.26 The asks of Government included:

- Commit to supporting energy-intensive and enhanced risk businesses, the hospitality sector and wider supply chain businesses post-March 2023 with the EBRs. Many investment decisions are not being undertaken due to difficulty in forecasting energy and input costs. Businesses want reassurance during their longer-term business planning. The CA looks forward to the Review of the EBRs on December 31<sup>st</sup> and how the aforementioned businesses will be supported post-March 2023.
- Deliver a more structured approach to the delivery of energy efficiency and low carbon heating for businesses backed by funding. This could be through new tax incentive schemes that support businesses to make energy efficiency improvements. The Review of the EBRs Terms of Reference states business should "identify measures that protect themselves from the impact of high energy costs". The CA would welcome further support from Government to help businesses identify these measures and further support locally funded schemes.
- Progress plans around investing in energy generation as outlined in the UK Energy Security Strategy. This could include plans to ramp up solar photovoltaics, wind power and developing commercially viable hydrogen generation. The Autumn budget introduced a new temporary 45% levy on electricity producers from 1 January. Experts have warned that the introduction of the new levy in the UK could curb investment in new renewable energy projects. Introducing a windfall tax on renewable energy generation profits sends muddled signals to investors at a time when the government wants to see a step change of investment in low carbon generation (Ronan Lambe, Pinsent Masons).

2.27 Furthermore, prior to the Autumn Statement the Mayor sent a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which is attached as Appendix 2 of this report.

The letter called for the following:

- Help for businesses to bring down their energy bills through a reconsideration of the six-month cap on energy prices and more support for energy efficiency measures.
- Delivery of long-promised investment in the North, including Northern Powerhouse Rail in full with a new station in Bradford.
- Assurance of the Government's continued commitment to building a mass transit system in West Yorkshire, and funding to make it happen.
- More devolved funding to Mayors to end bidding contests for pots of money such as the recent Levelling Up Fund.
- A fair and long-term funding deal for local councils including adult social care and children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Greater commitment from the Government on net zero along with the devolved powers and funding needed to make real progress.
- Investment in low-carbon energy to bring down household bills and reduce emissions.
- Proper funding for local police and the criminal justice system to reduce the backlog of cases in our courts.

#### **Further comments following the Autumn Statement**

- 2.28 The CA acknowledges that Government has changed its policy on Investment Zones. As Government refreshes this policy, the CA is planning to engage with Government to explore the opportunities for West Yorkshire going forward.
- 2.29 The Government announced there will be consideration of eligibility for single departmental-style settlements at the next Spending Review to be extended to other Combined Authorities following the outcome of negotiations with Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. West Yorkshire has previously called for this, and will be proactively seeking engagement with Government in order to shape the proposals, especially given the CA and LEP's long track record of delivery including the Leeds City Region Growth Deal.
- 2.30 The CA acknowledges the 7% social rent cap announced in the Autumn Statement will protect tenants to a degree; however, more work must be done to understand the longer term effects of the social rent cap on Housing Association business planning, and the sector's ability to raise capital for development programmes delivering much needed additional affordable homes. If the cap affects the ability of the sector to borrow at reasonable rates, this will impact development pipelines and supply of new homes, as well as decarbonisation and improvement programmes for existing stock. There is no equivalent cap on privately rented homes and a continuing freeze on Local Housing Allowance means private rented tenants will have to fund any gap between housing benefit and rising rents.

- 2.31 The CA welcomes the commitment of Government to the national R&D budget but would support further information as to how this investment could be used to support and incentivise businesses to address current global challenges.

### **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 rating of 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.
- 3.2 The grant programme for businesses to support with energy efficiency measures will help to reduce energy consumption, and hence reduce carbon emissions, as well as reducing businesses' energy bills.

### **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 1 November, 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%).
- 4.3 Whilst some households have been able to substitute towards cheaper food items to combat inflation, those who were already buying the cheaper items face either the inflation rate of these cheaper items (which is higher than inflation across the economy), or the need to reduce their food consumption.

### **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 The cap also remains on unit costs, so those who use more energy will pay more than the £3,000 average. This will disproportionately affect the elderly, the unemployed and those living in energy-inefficient homes. Analysis shows that one in four UK homes will face energy bills of over £4,000 in 2022/23.

5.3 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 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 Combined Authority note the latest intelligence, discuss the implications of the current economic situation for businesses within the region, note the action taken so far by the Combined Authority, and note the next steps following the Autumn Statement.

## **11. Background Documents**

11.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

12.1 Appendix 1 – Letter from the Chair of the LEP and the Mayor of West Yorkshire to Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

12.2 Appendix 2 – Letter from the Mayor of West Yorkshire to Jeremy Hunt, Chancellor of the Exchequer



**Report to:** Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

**Date:** 10 January 2023

**Subject:** West Yorkshire Plan

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

**Author:** Emma Longbottom, Head of Policy and Strategy Coordination

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## 1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To provide members of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee with an overview of progress on the development of a West Yorkshire Plan and its fit with the wider policy framework of the Combined Authority.

## 2. Information

### Background to the Plan

- 2.1 The West Yorkshire Plan will provide an overarching strategic framework for the region. The plan will reflect major changes including, the devolution deal and election of the first Mayor of West Yorkshire, ongoing impact of the cost of living and doing business crisis, and the new government's priorities. The primary audience for the plan is government and regional partners, residents are a secondary audience.

- 2.2 The purpose of the West Yorkshire Plan is to:

- Explain who West Yorkshire is and what we want to do.
- Set the trajectory for the longer-term up to 2040.
- Ensure that government and wider local and national stakeholders are clear on the priorities and ambitions of the region and how these align with the government's plans for economic growth.
- Ensure that all regional partners speak with one strong voice.

2.3 The first stage of this work has been to draft a vision and narrative. Research was undertaken to look places that have historically been better at telling a collective story than West Yorkshire, have produced. Initial ideas for the content were generated during in-depth strategic planning sessions. Building on this work, a draft of the plan's narrative was completed. The draft has had input by nominated representatives from each local authority and has been shared with chief executives, leaders and the mayor. Wider engagement with key stakeholders and partners is now being undertaken with Combined Authority committees. The first draft of the vision and narrative is included in **Appendix 1**.

### **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

3.1 Tackling the climate emergency is one of the proposed regional priorities and will be a key driver of activity arising from this work. Our ambition to be net-zero economy by 2038 remains as a key target for the region and will act as a driver for our work. Sustainability is part of the plan's vision for 2040.

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

4.1 Growing an Inclusive Economy is one of the proposed regional priorities and will be a key driver of activity arising from this work.

### **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

5.1 Enabling Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is one of the proposed regional priorities and will be a key driver of activity arising from this work.

### **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 The draft vision and narrative have been produced in partnership with a grouping of local authority colleagues and has been discussed by chief executives, political leaders and the mayor. Consultation is now underway with colleagues across the Combined Authority including attendance at all senior management meetings and directorate sessions. All committees will receive a presentation with request for comments along with members of the LEP Board, and the Business Communications Group. Following feedback, a

further draft of the narrative will be produced for sign-off by the Combined Authority in March.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1 That the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee consider the draft of the vision and narrative of the plan and agree the proposed next steps, with a particular focus on:

- Content – in particular on highlighting our strengths in relation to tackling the Climate Emergency.
- Language used.
- Anything missing / needs to be removed.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Draft West Yorkshire Vision and Narrative

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## DRAFT WEST YORKSHIRE: CREATING A FUTURE THAT WORKS FOR ALL OUR PLAN FOR CHANGE

### **Purpose** (section may not be required in final version)

The West Yorkshire Plan sets out an overarching vision for the region. The narrative brings together the shared objectives that we as a region must deliver.

The purpose of the document is to:

- Set the trajectory for the longer term.
- Ensure that government and wider local, national and international stakeholders are clear on the priorities and ambitions of the region.
- Ensure that all regional partners speak with one strong voice to government.
- Develop shared endeavour between the Combined Authority and the local authorities and clarify priorities building on the ongoing partnership work.

The primary audience is regional and national partners including government. Residents are a secondary audience. A separate narrative linked to investment has been developed.

The document is designed to be modular, with different elements used for different purposes, but enabling consistent messages to be used and heard by a range of partners.

### **West Yorkshire 2040 Vision**

**To be finalised once narrative has been agreed.**

West Yorkshire, the heart of the North, an engine room of ideas and creativity.

Together, we will grow a resilient, inclusive, sustainable West Yorkshire, that works for all. A place anyone can make home.

Our vision for the future is rooted in our region's extraordinary story.....

### **West Yorkshire Story**

Understanding who we are, and the pathway forward is the key to our future success.

We're already achieving so much; at this historic moment for our region we now, finally, have powers and money to implement the things we know will make a difference. Now is our chance to continue to work together to tell our story and make our vision a reality.

Here in West Yorkshire, we are pioneers, we're determined, full of ideas and not afraid to take on challenges. Traits that put us at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution making us the manufacturing powerhouse of the world.

We embrace our industrial heritage to innovate and collaborate, paving the way for the emergence of new industries at the cutting edge of health and technology, ideas and innovations that will tackle the climate emergency and help people live fulfilled lives.

Our brilliant universities mean our region has attracted talent from around the world and international businesses have flocked to our region to pioneer methods in transportation, health, and manufacturing to answer the challenges facing the world today.

**Add Infographic/map**

West Yorkshire is made up of five local authority areas: Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, and Wakefield.

**Add Infographic**

Our region is home to over 2.3 million people, a workforce of 1.1 million, around 95,000 businesses, and an economic output larger than nine European Union countries.

We're proud to be one of the most diverse parts of the UK with people representing many ethnicities, backgrounds, and lifestyles, connecting us to communities across the world.

The diversity of our region extends to our places. The globally competitive city of Leeds, the economic centre of the Pennines sits alongside lively towns and stunning countryside. West Yorkshire boasts an array of attractions from areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Kirklees, and

world class cultural assets such as the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield, to vibrant market towns in Calderdale, and a World Heritage site in Bradford. Our countryside provides an asset for climate adaption as we tackle the Climate Emergency.

As a dynamic place to live, at the heart of the North, we attract highly skilled, knowledge-intensive businesses and workers. We celebrate our collection of cities, towns and villages, each community with its own story to tell, unique and magical.

This interconnected network of separate urban centres makes West Yorkshire genuinely distinctive. Our success is dependent on all places being supported to thrive, be recognised, championed, and celebrated.

And we're building on solid foundations. West Yorkshire has a long history of innovation and industry delivering economic success alongside social progress. Industrialists such as Sir Titus Salt had the vision and drive to support the people of our region out of poverty and into a skilled workforce. Benjamin Gott revolutionised the production of woollen cloth, investing large amounts in the cultural and civic life of Leeds, founding the City's Philosophical and Literary Society. We need to ensure that a new generation of diverse entrepreneurs continues that legacy with their ideas benefitting all communities creating a legacy of prosperity and business success.

Today, we gain strength from our success not being aligned to one or two sectors. We are blessed to have many and varied industries and businesses. This diversity means our resilient economy has weathered the economic crosswinds of the past and can drive prosperity for the future.

As a perfect representative of the UK's economy, we are poised to be a test bed of innovation and new ways of working. An idea can spark here, develop then cascaded to the rest of the country. We are perfectly positioned to be the key driver of economic growth not just in the North of England but for the whole of the UK.

#### Add Infographic

##### Key features of our economy include:

- Being a global leader in healthcare technology with six government health headquarters (including NHS Digital) and high levels of employment in the health-tech sector
- Advanced manufacturing - specialisms in textiles, furniture, and wearing apparel
- A fast-growing digital sector
- The UK's largest regional finance centre.

We have a history of ground-breaking discoveries and transformative practices. From firsts in the world of film and transportation, to the production of world-renowned video games and pioneering medical technologies such as Paxman Coolers work on cancer treatment. It was in our region that the invention of Cat's Eye technology transformed road safety across the world.

As innovators and makers, we also know culture and creativity is not just a nice to have, but a powerful driver of job creation, regeneration, skills and better wellbeing. And while we are admired across the UK and globally for our creativity, we know there's always more we can do. Towering figures across the arts

have been inspired by our places, from the Brontë sisters, the Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, to David Hockney and Barbara Hepworth, from the countercultural post-punk movement to the biggest pop groups in the world. Sporting success runs through our region, from unsung pioneers such as Beryl Burton, to world-beating Olympians like Nicola Adams, the Brownlee brothers, and Kadeena Cox achieving sporting firsts. These inspirational figures show the grit and determination of folk from West Yorkshire. With their eyes on the prize, they just don't give up. We know that the world can be our stage through the festivals and sporting successes showcased here. The region will rise to the occasion again when Bradford becomes the UK's national city of culture with opportunities spanning across all our communities.

Add Infographic – our top culture and creative strengths

Add Infographic – our top innovation strengths

Ideas and innovation are our bread and butter, powering the region's success. Pioneering textile technologies during the Industrial Revolution have developed to become cutting-edge techniques using recycled and recovered plastics. Weaving technology has been adapted to make super-strength jet engine parts. Our knowledge-based clusters and expertise in medical technologies and medical equipment manufacturers are some of the best in the world

The diversity of education assets in the region attracts international talent. It was at the University of Leeds that William Bragg's revolutionary research on X-ray crystallography changed the face of modern science. Today, the Centre for Precision Technologies, Nexus and the 3M Buckley Innovation Centre build on that legacy, innovating and collaborating in energy, transport, health tech, medicines, medical devices, diagnostics, data and manufacturing.

But we won't deepen our understanding about what we're doing well or where we could improve without the data.

Luckily, our region is home to a vast array of internationally recognised research such as Born in Bradford bringing new insights into childhood health while empowering young people to control their own data. The Space Hub is a respected new initiative driving new satellite and geospatial data markets, bringing new collaborations for industry opportunities.

Over time, industries have evolved, and new ways of working have developed; the challenges we've faced have been tough, but we have weathered these storms and emerged stronger. When a global pandemic hit, our businesses had the strength and resilience to adapt, bringing new approaches and innovation to weather a uniquely challenging time.

Our region continues to grow and adapt. Our historic past is woven into our present. The Piece Hall in Halifax played a pivotal role as a centre of trade for the textile mills of West Yorkshire, today it attracts new visitors to the area with its mix of independent bars, restaurants, shops, music acts and cafés. When the Grade Two listed Majestic building in the centre of Leeds was almost destroyed by a fire, it wasn't left to decay, it was rebuilt and now hosts the national headquarters of C4. The decaying mills next to the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield will now be home to one of the best recording studios and music engineer training facilities in Europe and the stunning but abandoned Templeworks building in Leeds is soon to be home to the British Library North.

As a region, working together as the West Yorkshire family, we have built new infrastructure, connected our towns and cities, attracted investment, developed land,

Add infographic

West Yorkshire is home to a cluster of seven higher education institutions hosting around 91,000 students and 30,000 graduates each year.

Along with excellent Further Education Colleges.

supported businesses to start-up, innovate and grow, brokered skills and training to power us through the tough times, ready for the exciting opportunities ahead.

Now is our opportunity to use all that knowledge to move to establish us as the go-to place for business, entrepreneurs, investors, developers and creative. To seize the opportunities to tackle the challenges we face, from the climate emergency to deprivation, fuel poverty and poor health outcomes that blight parts of our region.

As a partnership, we will lead the way, learning lessons from our industrial past to build an inclusive, fair, sustainable future. We have the knowledge, the expertise, and the will to build on these achievements, backed up by our evidence-based policy development that helped us ensure we have the right strategies in place for a brighter future.

We build on our past and celebrate our diversity to create a better future. We are home to the best and the brightest, in lockstep across the region to deliver a future-focussed West Yorkshire. The best place to live, raise a family, start a business and grow old.

A place to do well and be well.

**FOLLOWING SECTIONS TO BE FINALISED ONCE NARRATIVE HAS BEEN AGREED**

## Regional Priorities

West Yorkshire is key to growing and re-balancing the national economy and enabling the north of England to contribute fully to, and benefit from, national economic growth and prosperity.

In West Yorkshire we are a family with a long history of collaboration borne out of our shared priorities and strong partnerships. We recognise the value of working together and the benefits this brings. We know that we can't realise our vision in isolation and will continue to work in partnership to bring our ambitious proposals to life.

Working together to deliver our vision, we share **three regional priorities** that will inform all our work:

- Growing an inclusive economy
- Enabling equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Tackling the climate emergency

**These priorities represent a regional consensus on what is needed to realise the vision across key areas of public policy where collectively we have the ability, powers, and funding to act. They are core to everything we do.**

Using the powers and funding at our disposal we will work collaboratively to deliver projects to support these priorities.

## Our Aims

We will ensure that all people make the most of the opportunities our region has to offer. We will reflect the rich diversity of our region with equality at the forefront of our work. We will create an environment where people in deprived communities can access the skills they need to secure good work and lead healthy lives. We will ensure that housing needs are met in an affordable and sustainable way making the most of clean technologies of the future.

### **Productivity is above the national average**

We will create the right conditions to boost the economy in our region so we can see highly skilled people working in well paid jobs, able to access opportunities in a sustainable, carbon-free future and a great quality of life. An environment where entrepreneurial activity can flourish, where it is easy for businesses to start-up, grow, innovate, trade and invest. Where integrated infrastructure attracts the investment to create jobs in well-connected places with affordable homes.

### **A strong transport system founded on active travel and public modes**

We will develop an integrated, sustainable, transport system that connects all parts of our region, so everyone can access the places they need to live fulfilled lives. We will promote sustainable travel so that walking, cycling, and public transport are the easiest choice, where everyone can enjoy the benefits of good health, protecting the environment for future generations.

### **A zero-net Carbon economy by 2038**

We will deliver a net-zero economy where people have the skills and opportunities to access green jobs. Where transport is sustainable, and energy efficient homes ensure fuel poverty is abolished. Where businesses and industry use the resources they need to operate efficiently reducing energy consumption and boosting regional productivity.

Culture will be available to all We will put culture at the heart of our economy where creative businesses start-up and thrive. We will make sure that whatever your background, entry to the creative sector relies on your talent alone. We will ensure everyone in West Yorkshire can make the most of our world class cultural assets and enjoy the benefits of cultural engagement.

We will continue to be happy place to live where the wellbeing of our citizens is a priority. We will ensure that where you live helps to promote good health and wellbeing, that life expectancy in West Yorkshire aligns with the national average. We want to be at the heart of global health innovation with the significant health assets and the strength of the health technology sector of our region renowned.

Our region will be one of the safest places to live and work in the UK. We will do everything in our power to make West Yorkshire the safest place to be, ensure that our

streets are safe so our communities can thrive making the most of the opportunities our region has to offer. This involves responding to a range of complex needs and supporting victims of crime.

## **FOLLOWING SECTIONS TO BE FINALISED ONCE NARRATIVE HAS BEEN AGREED**

### **Draft Ambitions**

#### **Add graphs/infographics to this section**

To measure success, a series of ambitions have been developed these ambitions are aspirational, representing the ultimate vision for our region:

- No child grows up in poverty
- A net-zero Carbon economy by 2038
- Productivity is highest in the north
- A strong transport system founded on active travel and public modes
- All jobs paying at least the real living wage
- Skills levels exceed the national average
- Healthy life expectancy equalling the national average
- West Yorkshire's employment rate will be the highest in the north
- Neighbourhood crime is sustainably below the national average.
- **Place inc culture, heritage, tourism**
- **Investment in Research and Development**

The annual State of the Region report, provides a suite of indicators that map to the ambitions setting out progress against our vision for 2040.

### **What we need to achieve our vision**

Local Authorities play a significant role in driving economic growth and levelling up, yet core services continue to be under significant and increasing pressure, having lost nearly £15 billion of core government funding over the last decade. **Government must recognise the crucial role of councils play in growth and provide sufficient funding and certainty for councils in the long term.** This should include a long-term solution for funding adult social care and support for SEND. To ensure we can all work effectively to deliver our vision we require **greater certainty of secure, stable, and fair local government funding and public sector resourcing**, that enables confidence, long term planning, flexibility, and innovation.

The scale of the opportunities for our region, and the challenges we must seek to overcome will require additional funding and powers. Significant fiscal devolution would give our region greater freedom, certainty, and surety, with responsibility to ourselves and our partners to ensure our vision becomes a reality. This will empower our region to enact tailored solutions to boost productivity, tackle inequalities and drive inclusive growth. Levelling up will require systemic change, radical intervention, and significant investment to address poverty and inequality. It should aim to improve opportunities for all. This means we must:

- Have much greater cross-government engagement with West Yorkshire to shape understanding of local needs.
- Be able to deliver over the long-term and base our actions on robust evidence and clear accountability with sustained funding.

To level up West Yorkshire we need to:

- Enable disadvantaged groups and communities within the region to reach their potential and access opportunity; and
- For the region overall to increase its economic contribution (in terms of higher income, employment, and productivity) and close the gap with more prosperous regions.

Greater cross-government engagement with our region is needed to shape understanding of local needs. Further powers to delivery our vision include:

- **New powers and multi-year sustainable funding and incentives for achieving net zero and nature recovery at regional and local levels.** Without these freedoms and flexibilities local areas will find it increasingly difficult to deliver against their locally defined targets and to contribute to Government's own ambitions.
- We want government to **support an Innovation Deal** for our region that will enable us to prioritise investment in innovation that aligns to our regional challenges.
- Securing continued commitment to a West Yorkshire Mass Transit System.
- **100% Business Rate Retention** to reinvest in our town and city centres, strengthen our relationships with employers and businesses in all sectors.
- **Full devolution of all adult skills and careers funding** so people can gain the right skills needed for good quality work. We want a devolved system that can support local labour markets and accelerate inclusive growth with our local leadership accountable for ensuring investment provides for our communities.
- Greater investment in **transport** and **devolution of control of our rail stations** in partnership with Great British Railways.
- **Increase powers and funding to give greater regional control over rail** that facilitates the electrification of existing routes and progression of new rail schemes.

Our region has much to offer with abundant opportunities for growth. Through our strong partnerships we will harness our assets to realise these opportunities for the people and the places of West Yorkshire, the heart of the North and the best of all worlds.

DRAFT

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**Report to:** Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

**Date:** 10 January 2023

**Subject:** Better Homes Hub

**Director:** Liz Hunter, Director of Place, Environment & Policing

**Author:** Sara Brook, Programme 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 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 an update on the Better Homes Hub Programme and learnings from elements already in delivery: the Community Renewal Fund Retrofit Hub Pilot and the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF).

## 2. Information

- 2.1 The Mayor of West Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Leaders have declared a climate emergency and set a target for the region to be net zero carbon by 2038, with significant progress by 2030.
- 2.2 Modelling estimates that 680,000 homes will need retrofitting in order to achieve our net zero targets. 11.1 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are emitted in West Yorkshire each year (Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways study, 2021). Of this, domestic buildings are responsible for over 26% (2.9 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> per year). The majority of these emissions come from burning fossil fuels for heat.
- 2.3 If West Yorkshire, and indeed the country, is to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and meet climate targets, the installation of thermal efficiency measures coupled with low carbon heating and generation sources will be crucial.

### Better Homes Hub Programme

- 2.4 The Better Homes Hub (the Hub) is an umbrella programme which encompasses all our West Yorkshire activity on domestic energy efficiency

retrofit. It incorporates our overarching strategy and the projects that will deliver it (both those currently in delivery and those still in programme development phases).

- 2.5 The projects that are currently in delivery offer an opportunity for learning to be incorporated into future design of the Hub. **Appendix 1** provides an overview of the Hub.
- 2.6 The remainder of the paper provides an update on two of the retrofit programmes currently in delivery and the lessons learnt from these programmes to date.

### **Community Renewal Fund: Retrofit Hub Pilot**

- 2.7 The UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF) was launched by the Government to support communities most in need across the UK, to pilot programmes and test new approaches towards increasing local economic growth. In November 2021, the Combined Authority was successful in securing funding for the Retrofit Hub pilot scheme, the objectives of the scheme were to:
  - Test a neighbourhood approach to address the social and technical challenges facing communities in Bradford retrofitting ‘hard to treat’ pre-1919 stone built terraced houses using PAS 2035 quality standards.
  - Provide adult skills training focussed on the skills, technical knowledge and experience needed to work in the growing green sector.
- 2.8 Project delivery commenced in January 2022 and completed in November 2022. The key output of the Retrofit Hub scheme was to deliver at least 100 whole house retrofit assessments to householders living in hard to treat, pre-1919s stone built terraced properties in the Manningham and Toller Ward areas in Bradford. The majority of households in these wards are of low income, and in receipt of benefits, and most likely to be in fuel poverty. Householders were also provided with energy efficiency advice on what changes could be made to properties to improve the thermal performance of their homes. 150 whole house surveys were completed within the timeframe, i.e. above target.
- 2.9 The project also delivered adult skills training, together with additional information, advice and guidance (IAG) and a clear line of sight to further progression and potential employment in the green economy and online resources to encourage West Yorkshire residents to upskill, reskill or prepare for a future career in the green economy.
- 2.10 A summary of the key successes and challenges of the pilot can be found in **Appendix 2**. Learnings from the CRF Retrofit Hub scheme will increase the Authority’s understanding of the barriers and challenges present in low-income communities such as Bradford and what support and intervention would be needed to help homes built using traditional construction methods to become more energy efficient.

### **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF)**

- 2.11 The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund is funded through the Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF); a £3.8 billion commitment over a 10-year period to improve the energy performance of social rented homes, on the pathway to Net Zero. It is supplemented by match funding provided by the social landlords / Registered Providers.
- 2.12 This programme aims to support an improvement in social housing stock that is currently below an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C; delivering warm, energy-efficient homes, reducing carbon emissions and fuel bills, tackling fuel poverty, and supporting green jobs.
- 2.13 To date three distinct programmes have been brought forward under the SHDF banner and further information is contained within the following sections. If all three programmes are delivered in full, the whole SHDF programme stands to improve the energy efficiency of over 4,000 properties across West Yorkshire.

### **SHDF Wave 1**

- 2.14 Wave 1 of the SHDF was approved in January 2022 to deliver £10.38m of retrofit improvements to 1,316 social housing properties across West Yorkshire. The consortium delivering Wave 1 is a combination of nine Registered Providers of social housing from across West Yorkshire, varying in size and retrofit experience, and the consortium is led by the Combined Authority.
- 2.15 The scheme commenced delivery in March 2022 with a grant funding deadline of end March 2023. Match funding from the Registered Providers of 30% was a pre-requisite by BEIS, however the Providers successfully raised 50% match funding for Wave 1.
- 2.16 Payment of the grant by BEIS is subject to each property achieving a minimum level of energy efficiency (EPC Grade C) and the works are installed to a required quality level within the industry, known as "PAS 2035". Measures installed to date include cavity wall insulation, solid wall insulation and low carbon heating technologies such as air source heat pumps.

### Progress to date

- 2.17 Since the last meeting, and in discussion with the Deputy Chair of the Committee and as advised to Committee members by email, officers have submitted change requests to BEIS in respect of programme time extensions and minor changes to the measures being undertaken by some of the providers. A time extension will be progressed through the internal Assurance Framework in due course:
- a) Minor changes have already been approved by BEIS which will allow programme extensions for two providers to complete their programme no later than 30 June 2023 and to enable two providers to deliver different measures, whilst still achieving EPC C.

- b) A second change request is awaiting approval from BEIS for a reduction in total properties achieved by two providers; this is a risk to the programme of 440 properties out of the original 1316. This is predominantly due to inaccurate surveying identifying Cavity Wall Insulation appropriate properties and challenges in applying Cavity Wall Insulation to blocks of flats. This change request seeks approval to amend the measures, extend the programme and reduce the overall outputs.

2.18 By the end December 2022, 615 properties will have had measures installed. This leaves a further 701 properties to have measures implemented by the end of November 2023 (subject to BEIS approval of the second change request).

### Key Challenges

- 2.19 Several key challenges have been experienced in the delivery of Wave 1, including:
- The BEIS grant is only payable on properties that have achieved EPC C even though the works have been completed.
  - The focus on achieving EPC C has prioritised properties with certain technical attributes rather than worse case properties or those with residents in most need.
  - Distribution network operator ((DNO) the company that owns and operates the power lines and infrastructure that connect the utility network to properties) works required for external wall insulation and installation of air source heat pumps has delayed delivery for some properties.
  - Supply chain is at near capacity resulting in delayed procurement and programme extensions.

### Key Learnings

2.20 Wave 1 has presented a steep learning curve for all stakeholders, and this has been reiterated by other participating Local Authorities throughout the country through the UK Green Building Council. The learning has been incorporated into the design of Wave 2.1 and includes:

- Undertaking property surveys pre-submission to verify modelling and reduce risk of grant not being paid.
- Establish a reserve list of properties in the event of initial properties being removed from the programme due to unforeseen reasons e.g. resident refusal.
- Incorporate additional minor measures such as LED lighting to ensure EPC C is achieved.

- Early engagement with local authority Planning Department even for permitted development.
- Inclusion of a contingency budget and schedule flexibility to account for unforeseen issues with measures being installed e.g. additional roofing works, render removal activity.
- Meeting the PAS specification requires additional time and cost and suppliers' understanding of PAS has been variable.

### **SHDF Wave 2.1**

2.21 A bid for SHDF Wave 2.1 was successfully co-ordinated and submitted by the Combined Authority on 18 November 2022 on behalf of a social housing consortium of nine providers. Six of the providers are original members from Wave 1 with 3 new additional members.

2.22 Despite the challenges of Wave 1, the bid is more ambitious and consists of the following:

- 2,428 properties;
- Measures are predominantly focussed on fabric first – underfloor, loft, in roof and external wall insulation;
- Total Funding Requirement of £31.6m (53% co-funded by the housing providers);
- An additional, innovative Digitalisation submission in partnership with the University of Huddersfield. The aim is to develop software solutions to enhance retrofit design, resident engagement and facilitate technical solutions in the planning process for standard and heritage properties.

2.23 The results of the bid are due to be announced in February 2023 with works to be complete by 30 September 2025.

### **SHDF Booster**

2.24 The SHDF Booster programme is a response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis, caused by rising inflation and significant increases to energy prices and incorporates a reflection of the delivery constraints in SHDF Wave 1.

2.25 This additional investment of £5.195m Mayoral Gainshare and £2m match funding will focus on measures such as loft, cavity and underfloor insulation, and while the works will impact on the EPC grade for properties, the programme is not constrained to deliver specific EPC outputs but focuses on enhancing the warmth and comfort of residents in social housing. These works will be delivered through the Wave 1 consortium of Social Housing Providers and focus on the lower income households that will be impacted by the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

- 2.26 Energy efficiency measures will be installed in approximately 1,786 properties in areas of high deprivation, with works commencing December 2022 through to Winter 2023/24.

### **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

- 3.1 The projects and programmes within the Better Homes Hub respond to the Combined Authority's ambition for West Yorkshire to be a net-zero region by 2038. The scheme fits with the Strategic Economic Framework Priority 3: Tackling the climate emergency: Growing our economy while cutting emissions and caring for our environment and, Mayoral Pledge: to tackle the climate emergency and protect our environment.

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1 The various schemes within the Better Homes Hub will contribute to the Combined Authority's inclusive growth agenda. Fuel poverty affects around 18% of homes in West Yorkshire, higher than the national average, and is a contributing factor of excess winter deaths and affects the ability of people to participate in meaningful and well-paid work. In deprived areas the picture is more acute, owing to income deprivation and poor quality, often older housing.

### **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 The current SHDF schemes work with the social housing sector to support tenants and communities which tend to have a greater diversity than other tenures. A larger proportion of tenants are from a BME background, more social tenant households are headed by women and half of social rented households have a member with a long-term illness. A key focus of the scheme is to tackle fuel poverty by increasing a low-income homes' energy efficiency rating, reducing energy bills and enabling healthier more comfortable homes. Meeting this essential need then supports people to engage in work and the benefits of economic growth.

### **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 The Committee notes progress to date on the Better Homes Hub including the specific programmes in delivery and discusses the overall scope of the Hub programme and the opportunities for demonstrator projects and One Stop Shop.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

- 12.1 Appendix 1 – Better Homes Hub Overview
- 12.2 Appendix 2 – Retrofit Hub Key Learnings

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# 68 **Better Homes Hub**

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**10 January 2023**

# Aim of the session

- Context
- Better Homes Hub
  - Vision
  - Objectives
  - Activities

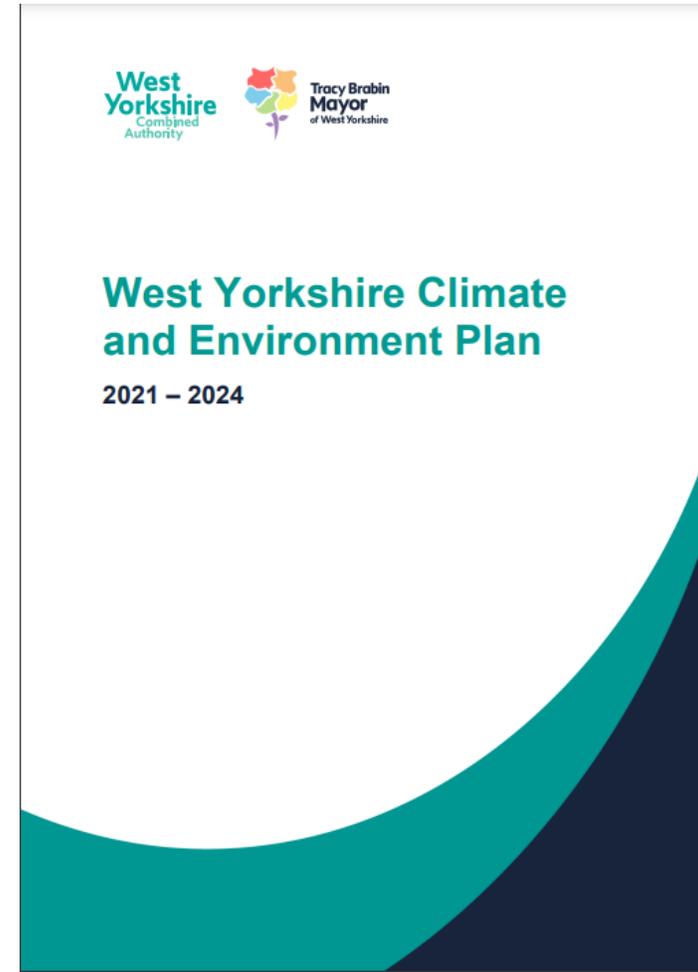
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# Better Homes Hub

- A regional programme to scale-up domestic retrofit:
  - Deliver climate emergency commitments
  - Tackle fuel poverty
  - Stimulate the market
  - Secure quality green jobs

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# Challenges

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- Domestic buildings responsible for over 26% of regional carbon emissions
- Majority of this due to burning fossil fuels for heat
- Higher than national proportion of very old (pre-1919) homes
- Only 32% of homes are EPC C or better
- 95% of homes connected to the gas network
- 18% of the region experiencing fuel poverty
- Current energy crisis further compounding this issue
- Insufficient funding from Government to support local ambition
  - Competitive and short delivery windows

# Challenges

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- Limited supply chain and training provision
- Households face multiple barriers
  - Lack of knowledge
  - Unsure how to access trusted advice
  - High upfront capital costs
  - Disruption during the works
  - Slow return on investment
- Particular challenges with the Private Rented Sector

# Opportunities

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- Scaling up retrofit can:
  - Enable reduction of 1.8 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> per year by 2030
  - Address fuel poverty and the cost of living crisis
  - Create 30,000 well paid jobs
  - Improve the quality of housing stock and health outcomes of residents
- Energy savings compared to EPC Band C<sub>1</sub>
  - D: £680
  - E: £1,249
  - F: £1,765

74

*1 The Northern Housing Monitor - Northern Housing Consortium (2022)*

# Why now?

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- Delaying retrofit locks residents into higher energy costs long term.
- Carbon budget
- 680,000 retrofits by 2038
  - 16 years
  - 42,500 retrofits a year
- Supply chain
  - Set the regional commitment to retrofit
  - Give them confidence to create green jobs, train new staff and up-skill existing staff

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# Evidence base

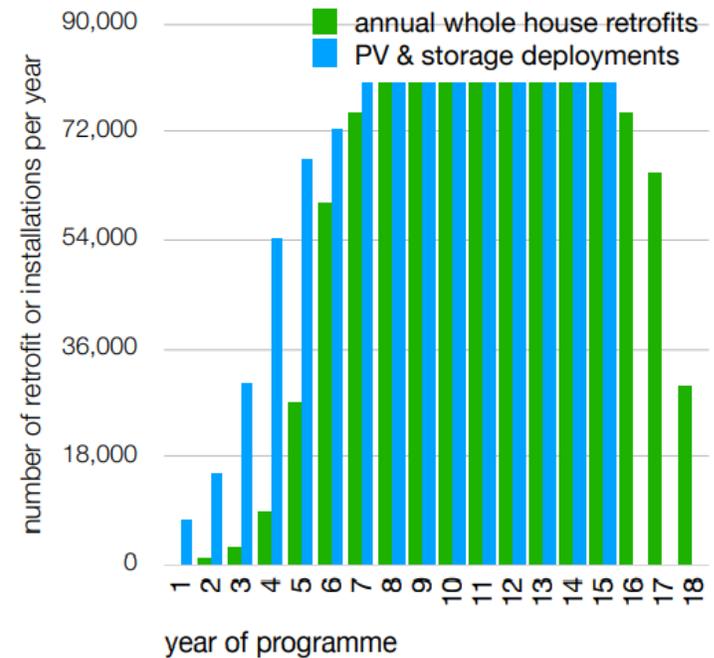
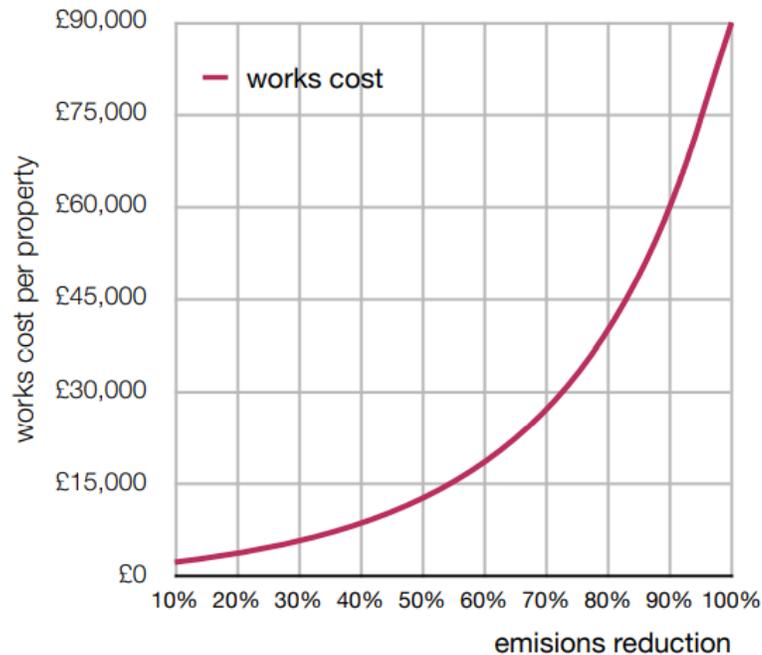
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- Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways
  - Blend of thermal efficiency measures, low carbon heat and solar PV will be critical.
  - 680,000 homes need to be retrofitted to an EPC C or better by 2038.
  - 665,000 heat pumps
  - 171,000 solar PV systems

# Evidence base

- Scaling up Better Homes Yorkshire
  - £2.4 bn finance required per year at peak
  - Whole house approach is fundamental

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# Story so far

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Funding stream	No of homes
ECO (Jan 2013 – March 2022)	132,849
Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 1	658
LAD2	994
Getting Building Fund	637
ERDF	3,000
Green Homes Grant voucher scheme	2,204
SHDF Demonstrator	200
Total	140,542
SHDF Wave 1	1,316 + 700 (Leeds) – in delivery
SHDF Wave 1 booster	1,786 (in delivery)
SHDF Wave 2	2,411 + 300 (Leeds) - not secured
Total	147,055

# Better Homes Yorkshire framework

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- Existing framework was established in 2014
- In the first 5 years, it:
  - Delivered over 5,500 domestic property retrofits
  - Saving around 200,000 lifetime tonnes of carbon
  - At a value of over £23 million
- Runs out in March 2023, procurement opportunity being drafted and will go live in January 2023.
- Gaps in existing framework
  - Single supplier
  - No mechanism to deliver advice

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# What is the Better Homes Hub?

- Regional retrofit capacity building programme.
- Vision:

*Everyone in West Yorkshire can live in a warm, comfortable and low carbon home.*

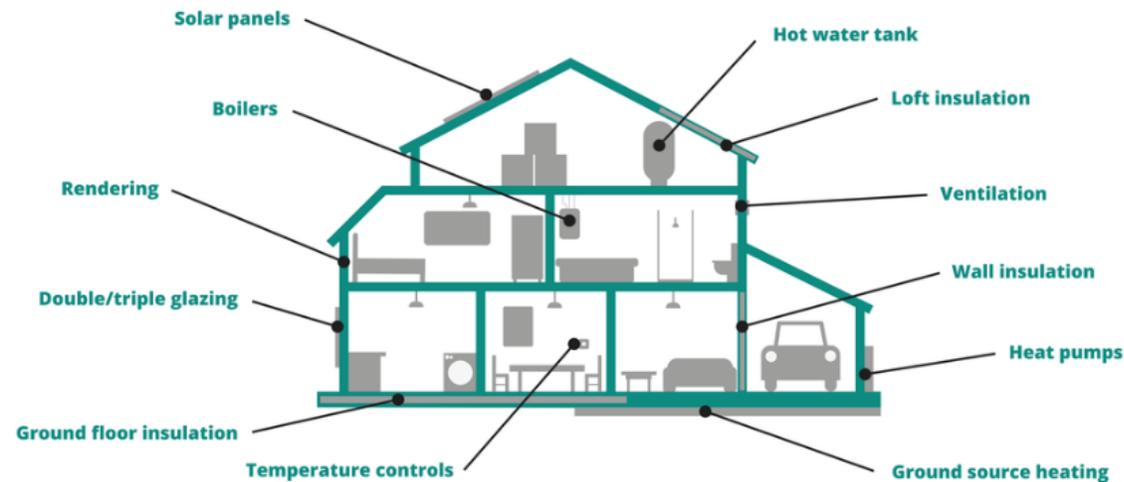


# What do we mean by Retrofit?

1. Improving thermal efficiency and air tightness.
2. Installing renewable technologies where appropriate.

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## Retrofit Your Home



# 82 Objectives of the Better Homes Hub

1. Build consensus within West Yorkshire on priorities for retrofit and energy efficiency of homes.
2. Deliver retrofit projects in West Yorkshire that build momentum, strengthen the supply chains and create new delivery models.
3. Establish BHH as a trusted organisation for all residents to access advice and information on retrofit and energy efficiency of homes in West Yorkshire.

# What will it do?

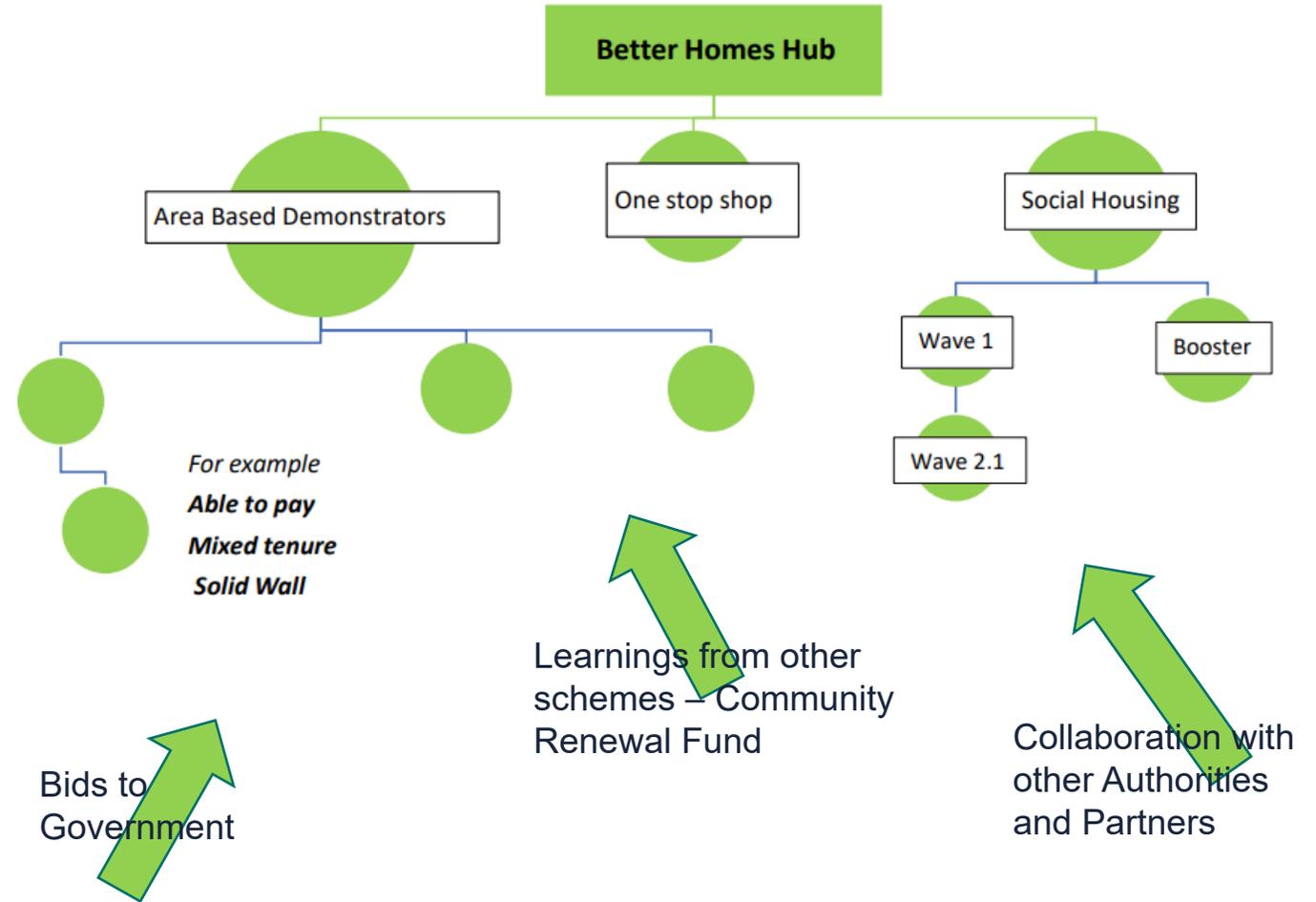
- Deliver area-based demonstrator projects across different tenures and economic situations.
- Mobilise sufficient resource to secure public funding for domestic retrofit projects.
- Establish a One Stop Shop to provide high quality retrofit information and advice.
- Set up a multi-supplier single lot Framework.



# 84 Programme Foundations

- Strategic Narrative / Governance
  - Establish a steering group to help shape the programme.
  - Build delivery partnership.
  - Develop and resource a communications and engagement strategy.
- Evidence Base
  - Commission housing stock data and energy modelling for Kirklees and Leeds.
  - Commission an updatable model of market intelligence for West Yorkshire.

85  
Component programmes / linkages



# Progress to date and ongoing work

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- CEAP Wave 1 SOC submitted
- Project Team fully resourced - Dec 2022
- CRF/Manningham scheme completed
- Social Housing Retrofits (SHDF)
  - Wave 1: 580 properties completed, a further 736 by March 2023 (note circa 300 at risk)
  - Wave 2: submission for £31.6m to deliver over 2400 properties completed (announcement due Feb 2023)
  - Booster: £5m to deliver retrofits in over 1780 properties focusing on residents fuel poverty; works have commenced.
- New Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Framework
- Scoping area-based demonstrator projects

8

# Leeds Prime Minister's Business Council

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- Partnership between Leeds City Council, Arup, Lloyds Bank, Octopus Energy, UKIB, Otley Energy & others.
- Demonstrator project to deliver domestic retrofit for homeowners in the able-to-pay market in Leeds.
- Seeks to address three core challenges:
  - A complex customer journey
  - Fractured supply chain
  - An unattractive financial proposition
- Ensuring alignment with Better Homes Hub and exploring potential funding as one of the demonstrators.

# Timescales



- Social Housing in delivery until Sept 2025 (assumes Wave 2.1 bid successful)
- BHH One Stop Shop Programme Development (of all tenures) to September 2023
- BHH Demonstrator Trials with Local Authority Partners; Programme Development to September 2023
- Underpinning workstreams on Finance, Supply Chain, Engagement, Data Communications and Customer Journey ongoing

# Any Questions?



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## Appendix 2 – Retrofit Hub Key Learnings

### Successes

Project delivery commenced in January 2022 and was scheduled to deliver all outputs and spend by 30 June 2022. The project end date was extended to November 2022, to deliver further technical outputs.

The key successes seen from the delivery of the scheme are summarised below:

Description	Success
Whole house surveys delivered	150 whole house plans delivered
Number of residents engaged	MHA engaged with 1429 households.
Carbon savings potentially identified	The estimated cost of measures (in current prices) to retrofit all 150 homes is £4,758,800, whilst the estimated value of fuel bills savings that arise is £2,874,675 over a 30 year period. This is estimated to yield an annual carbon savings of 16,650 tonnes over 30 years (555 tonnes/yr).
Strong partnership working	With MHA and all delivery partners.
Architectural Toolkit of designs, drawings, and plans	9 properties included in the architectural toolkit. Some of these buildings have very technical junctions, with conservation, heritage features in addition to having a unique design
Technical Workshop delivered with Historic England, and Bradford Council Planning and Conservation Team	Highlighted the need for greater coordination of work between Planners and Policy to better understand conditions of properties that could benefit from retrofitting and the identification of properties that would benefit from installation of retrofit measures.
Adult Learners supported	5 adult learners completed an introductory Retrofit module with additional information, advice and guidance (IAG) support, providing learners with employment-ready skills
Number of volunteers engaged	8 local volunteers were engaged, who were provided with training and skills needed to

	delivery knock-door engagement with residents across the two target areas. 2 volunteers were subsequently hired as sessional workers on the scheme.
Engagement of FutureGoals online assets	Since the launch of the interactive, online resources on the FutureGoals webpage, the webpage has logged 4284 page views
Stakeholder Engagement	With colleagues from Historic England and Bradford Council Conservation and Planning Teams

### Project Challenges

A summary of the challenges encountered during delivery are summarised in the table below:

Description	Challenges
Procurement of Technical Supplier	Limited pool of suppliers available to deliver retrofit plans
Short Delivery Timescales	6 months to deliver the scheme which included mobilisation and evaluation of project.
Delayed Government Announcement	Delivery timescales shifted into Ramadhan, and period of local elections which impacted resident engagement
Resident Engagement	Only 9 residents engaged with follow-on calls with the Technical Supplier following the receipt of their whole house plans.
Recruitment of adult learners	Expressions of interests were received on the course, but these did not convert into registration.
Marketing and Comms	Local elections purdah period in May 2022, and national mourning period in September 2022 impacted the ability to advertise the availability of free training to residents across West Yorkshire.
Barriers in planning constraints	Reduces the measures that can be installed onto properties in Conservation areas,

	limiting the impact of retrofit and reducing residents fuel bills.
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## Key CRF Learnings

### Retrofit Hub

- The importance of early resident engagement and the need to maintain engagement throughout the delivery of the scheme and to carefully manage expectations.
- Resident engagement must include tools to increase awareness of the climate emergency and to help empower householders to improving the conditions of their properties.
- Traditionally stone built properties are difficult to retrofit due to their construction requiring internal or external insulation which impacts space or volume.
- Greater consideration is needed when balancing the costs of measures against their lifecycle (Insulation measures have the longest lifecycle and easy to retrofit e.g., Loft & Cavity Wall Insulation) against balancing current efficient gas boilers and the cost of investing in other more carbon efficient heating systems.
- The impact these investment costs have on low-income residents, as well as private landlords who are less likely to invest into these measures, when they do not directly benefit from works is another factor.
- There is potential for the learnings of this scheme to start influencing Local Authorities to consider the impact retrofit installations can have in their region, and what options are available to help balance the need for sustainable measures and maintaining heritage features whilst having a building stock that is liveable, and healthy for its residents.
- Greater coordination is needed between Planners and Policy to understand conditions of properties that could benefit from retrofitting and the better identification of properties that would benefit from installation of retrofit measures.
- Retrofitting properties within a Conservation Area has highlighted the challenge of the benefits of sustainability against the preservation of heritage features whilst having a housing stock that is fit for purpose (liveable).
- Allow engagement with Historic England, and Planning and Conservation Team in Bradford Council.

## Adult Skills Training

- There is a lack of appetite within the community in taking up the free offer of skills training and a lack of understanding what roles/positions are available in the Green economy.
- Retrofit is a term not widely understood outside the construction sector, and further work is needed to sell the benefits of training to SMEs, and what potential roles exist in the Retrofit/Green economy to encourage potential learners to invest their skills into this emerging field.
- Steering groups to engage with of extended partners (such as Historic England and Bradford Council) are needed to encourage input into the delivery of the programme, and regular sharing of lessons and learnings.

## Next Steps

- Consider creative ways to engage with communities, that utilises translation services, community champions, social media and interactive software that demonstrates to communities what impact they can help make towards reducing their carbon footprint and their energy consumption and bills.
- Consistency of retrofit work is needed across West Yorkshire so that all residents benefit from installation works, as well as maintaining heritage features. There is a need to bring together Planning Authorities to agree a Retrofit Approach and design a Retrofit Design Guide for West Yorkshire to explain what permissions will or will not be needed when homeowners look to retrofit properties, outlining the benefits of retrofit to communities and dealing with traditional stone-built properties.
- There is a need for a national skills campaign to promote an understanding of retrofit and to sell the benefits of training to SMEs with a robust business case for employers to upskill their workforce.
- The findings and learnings that have arisen from the Retrofit Hub will be used to help inform future retrofit schemes such as the Better Homes Hub programme, to inform the scope and activities arising from the emerging new programmes.



**Report to:** Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

**Date:** 10 January 2023

**Subject:** **Zero Emission Transport**

**Director:** Liz Hunter, Director of Place, Environment & Policing

**Author:** Roseanna Brett-Davis, Transport Decarbonisation Policy 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 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 the zero-emission transport activity and work programme being undertaken by the Combined Authority.

## 2. Information

- 2.1 Transport is the highest emitting sector in the region, accounting for 44% of all CO2 emitted. These emissions are dominated by road transport which accounts for 89% of transport related emissions in West Yorkshire.

- 2.2 Work has commenced on the Mayor’s West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, anticipated for adoption in 2024. The new Local Transport Plan will deliver on the Mayor’s ambition for transport across West Yorkshire, as well as help deliver on the Mayoral pledge to tackle the climate emergency and protect the environment. The new plan will facilitate the scale of change needed to decarbonise the transport sector and deliver the ambitions contained within the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan, the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), and our Mass Transit Vision.

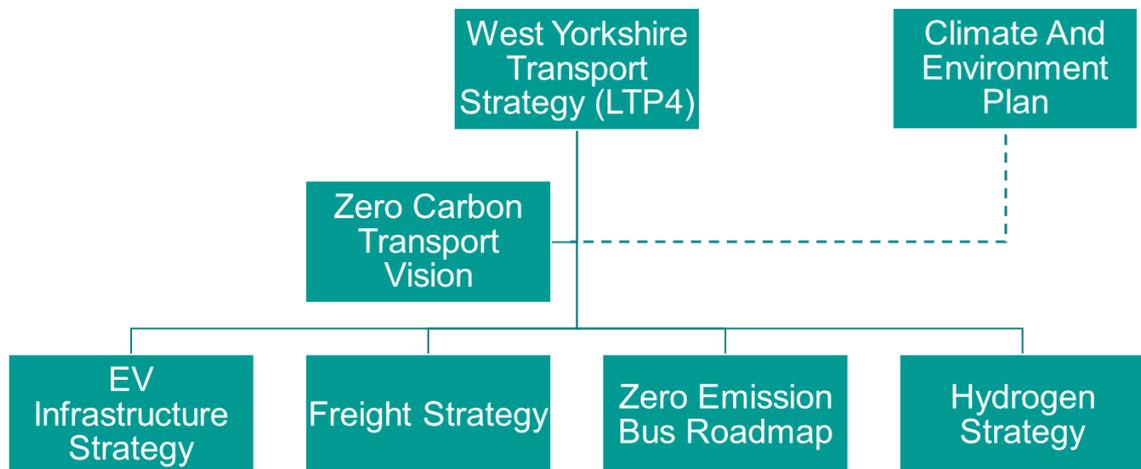
- 2.3 The new Local Transport Plans are expected to become the focus of engagement between central and local government about future funding decisions. Updating our LTP will set out the scale of change and investment needed to decarbonise transport across the West Yorkshire in a way which is fair and inclusive, supporting West Yorkshire’s consistent call on government

to address the historical underinvestment in transport across the North, and level up the United Kingdom.

- 2.4 A range of zero emission transport work is underway to support the development of the new Local Transport Plan as well as enable the delivery of the [West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan 2021-2024](#) (CEP).

**Zero Carbon Transport Vision**

- 2.5 A zero-emission transport vision is in development setting out the actions we will need to take to decarbonise road transport in West Yorkshire. This document considers the need to decarbonise all vehicles on our roads, include private and shared cars, taxis, public transport and freight, and considers the best technology options available to do so (e.g. electrification, hydrogen).
- 2.6 The ambition of the zero-emission transport vision will be to enable and accelerate decarbonisation of road transport whilst support the modal shift away from private car use needed if we are to realise our commitment to achieving net-zero carbon by 2038.
- 2.7 Building a comprehensive, accessible and inclusive alternative fuel network ahead of predicted zero emission vehicle uptake is vital to accelerate facilitate transition to decarbonisation if we are to meet our climate change and zero carbon goals. A set of policy documents and action plans will sit beneath the zero-emission transport vision to help realise our ambitions, as outlined by the indicative diagram below:



**Hydrogen Strategy**

- 2.8 The UK released its hydrogen strategy in 2021 setting out the approach and roadmap to scale up hydrogen production and develop a thriving low carbon hydrogen sector. Alongside industry, local and regional governments have a crucial role in ensuring the uptake and development of hydrogen technologies with the view of achieving regional net zero targets.

- 2.9 Exploring all alternative fuel options as part of our decarbonisation strategy is vital to ensure we can meet our climate ambitions effectively and as efficiently as possible. The carbon emission reduction pathway study for West Yorkshire set out a role for hydrogen in all major pathways to achieve net zero emission in West Yorkshire by 2038, including for transport. Developing a hydrogen strategy will allow us to identify key opportunities, maximise potential utilisation and deployment as part of the energy mix in west Yorkshire for transport and beyond.
- 2.10 The strategy will set out a coherent, formally established policy on hydrogen in West Yorkshire, looking at all sectors, with the view of understanding its use case and timeline for deployment. The strategy will also detail an action plan for hydrogen deployment in West Yorkshire, taking into consideration stakeholder engagement, requirements for inter-regional collaboration as well as driving investments and infrastructural development in West Yorkshire. Of key importance for transport is the crucial role hydrogen could play to accelerate decarbonisation of heavy vehicles, such as buses and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).
- 2.11 There are a range of hydrogen aspirations in the region looking at opportunities for buses and HGVs alongside possible industrial uses which the strategy will look to build on and support. This includes the work Bradford Council are doing with Northern Gas Network and the Bamford Group to develop a scalable hydrogen production facility at the old Gas Works on Bowling Back Lane in Bradford. The facility would look to include a hydrogen refuelling station supported by solar photovoltaics which could be used to fuel a range of vehicles including buses serving more challenging locations with hilly terrain that are less suitable for electric buses.

### **Electric Vehicle Strategy**

- 2.12 The UK Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, published in March 2022, sets out a requirement for combined authorities to develop local charge point strategies, setting out policies to remove charging infrastructure barriers and accelerate the pace of adoption.
- 2.13 West Yorkshire has made great progress in recent years to increase the number of publicly accessible chargepoints and has more rapid chargers than of any city region outside of London. There are currently 792 publicly accessible chargepoints in West Yorkshire, with 268 of these rapid chargers. However, a government figures predicting over 10,000 may be needed by 2030 to meet demand.
- 2.14 The emerging West Yorkshire strategy has been developed in collaboration with District Partners and will establish the objectives for public electric vehicle infrastructure roll out as well as principles for investment and action plan for accelerating deployment. The purpose of the document is to guide investment decisions for future funding opportunities as well as provide design guidance for chargepoints to ensure provision meets the needs of those who live and work in West Yorkshire and ensure equity of access across region.

2.15 Draft strategic principles have been developed to guide the future expansion of publicly accessible electric vehicle chargepoints in West Yorkshire. These are designed to support investment decision making on the development of a public funded network, as well as set out our requirements for private investment into the network:

- **Enable & accelerate EV charging network:** Build charging network ahead of predicted EV uptake to facilitate transition, support climate agenda and improve air quality, with an emphasis on strategic priorities and 'close to home' charging.
- **Reduce inequalities and ensure good coverage of the West Yorkshire network:** Strive for equality of access in EV charging, levelling up coverage across West Yorkshire, reducing inequalities and transport related social exclusion (TRSE), ensuring no areas are left behind.
- **Ensure right chargers in the right places:** Ensure EV charging infrastructure meets the needs of local communities that continues to contribute positively to our local areas and streets.
- **Ensure easy to use, fair and accessible to all:** Promoting competition and proper regulation to ensure a healthy market with fair prices, good levels of service and supporting a good customer experience for all.
- **Ensure the West Yorkshire network is resilient, reliable, safe and well maintained:** Work to ensure chargepoints are well maintained, reliable, safe and secure to maximise the use of the network and increase user confidence in electric vehicle charging.
- **Support wider transport decarbonisation goals:** Help to reduce the environmental impact of travel & transport but encouraging modal shift & enable alternatives to private car use, supporting electrification of buses and shared transport, and ensuring the use of renewable energy is prioritised to supply chargepoints.

2.16 A number of workstreams support the work of a West Yorkshire strategy:

- 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, charging at mobility hubs, and electrification of the West Yorkshire car clubs.

- 2.17 This work compliments other workstreams by the Combined Authority and district partners to advance sustainable vehicle uptake. A range of public EV charging infrastructure schemes have already been delivered, including 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.
- 2.18 In June 2022, a West Yorkshire bid was submitted to the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot fund to accelerate the rollout of electric vehicle charging for residents without access to off-street parking. Unfortunately, the West Yorkshire bid was not successful, however positive feedback was received from funders and further rounds of funding are expected in 2023. We are also exploring opportunities for private investment chargepoints in West Yorkshire.

### **Zero Emission Bus Programme**

- 2.19 The Combined Authority submitted its Bus Service Improvement Plan to the Department for Transport (DfT) in October 2021. The development of the Bus Service Improvement Plan, which sets out our ambitious vision and plan for improving local bus services, was a requirement of the 'Bus Back Better: The National Bus Strategy for England' (2021).
- 2.20 Along with modal shift to public transport, a green, zero-emission bus system is a core element of the Combined Authority's long-term vision for buses - the Bus Services Improvement Plan sets out our ambition to have a fully zero emission fleet by 2036. The scale of this ambition is significant, with only around 2% of the current West Yorkshire bus fleet zero emission. A number of electric buses projects have already been delivered, including the all-electric Stourton Park and Ride scheme.
- 2.21 The Zero Emission Bus Programme currently in delivery will help to increase this to closer to between 14% and 19%. This programme includes:
- Phase 1: £56.2million project to introduce 111 zero emission buses and charging on routes in Bradford, Leeds, and Wakefield districts funded through Department for Transport's Zero Emission Bus Regional Area funding.
  - Phase 2: £4 million project to introduce 8 zero emission buses and charging to routes in Calderdale and Kirklees funded through Gain Share, with a focus on exploring the impact of hilly landscape on the running of electric buses, and how the Combined Authority can work with smaller operators running tendered services to encourage a switch to zero emission buses.

- Phase 3: £21million project to introduce between 60 and 126 zero emission buses and charging (number of vehicles subject to delivery model). This will be funded through City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS).

Work is underway to plan for transition the remaining fleet to zero emission vehicles, looking at delivery models and funding approaches alongside our franchising work.

### **Freight Strategy**

- 2.22 A West Yorkshire Freight Strategy is planned as part of our zero-emission transport programme to support the development of our new Local Transport Plan and the delivery of the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan 2021-2024.
- 2.23 Initial work has started on the strategy which will be designed to support accelerated decarbonisation of freight and logistics within West Yorkshire while enabling inclusive economic growth. This strategy will be developed in tandem with the work to develop the West Yorkshire hydrogen strategy to help ensure we support the best alternative fuel mix for the region and identify opportunities for collaboration to accelerate decarbonisation of heavy vehicles with cross sector hydrogen aspirations of the Combined Authority and our partners.
- 2.24 The strategy will be developed with partners to help identify opportunities for the CA and partners to be part of potential trials, pilots and schemes for sustainable freight and logistics in West Yorkshire and will set out a framework for how we will work with industry partners to ensure that freight is part our wider decarbonisation and economic ambitions.

### **Air Quality Strategy**

- 2.25 The West Yorkshire Low Emission Strategy (WYLES) was developed through a collaboration between the West Yorkshire District Partners, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Public Health England. The strategy was adopted in 2016 by all District Partners and by the Combined Authority in 2017. The purpose of the strategy was to provide a regional framework to support policy and action for air quality improvements, improve cross-boundary cooperation at a local level, and enable the compliance of air quality legal targets at the shortest time possible.
- 2.26 WYLES focused specifically on emissions from transport as a primary source of poor air quality in the region. There are currently 36 Air Quality Management Areas in West Yorkshire and a Clean Air Zone in Bradford, all of these are areas in which nitrogen dioxide emissions exceed the annual/hourly statutory limits as direct result of road traffic pollution.
- 2.27 The Environment Act 2021 provides the Government with powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste

reduction. This includes new targets for more stringent air quality targets on fine particulate matter (PM2.5).

- 2.28 Work is now underway through the WYLES Delivery Group on a new air quality strategy for the region. The new strategy will look to build on the foundations of the WYLES, updating the strategy to reflect the introduction of the Clean Air Zone in Bradford and the increased emphasis on particulate matter alongside nitrogen dioxide as a result of the Environment Act 2021. This work is being led by West Yorkshire Combined Authority in collaboration with air quality officers from all five partner councils, and representatives from public health. A new strategy is anticipated Spring/Summer 2023.

### **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

- 3.1 The zero-emission transport vision, strategies and work programme all aim to significantly contribute to tackling the climate emergency and meeting the net-zero carbon by 2038 target. All policy documents highlighted by this report are being designed to reduce transport related carbon emissions as well as improve emissions and air quality more widely.

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1 In the transition to a net zero carbon economy there are important considerations to be made to ensure that decarbonisation does not reinforce existing social inequalities but rather enhances social equity for the residents of our region. All policy documents look to foster inclusive growth addressing the interconnected nature of decarbonisation and deprivation to ensure that the actions and solutions outlined in this report leave no one behind.

### **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. For example, the EV strategy is being designed to ensure that all charging infrastructure is easy to use, fair and accessible to all, with equality of access in EV charging, levelling up coverage across West Yorkshire, reducing inequalities and transport related social exclusion, ensuring no areas are left behind.

### **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 Climate, Energy and Environment Committee note the update on the zero-emission transport activity and work programme being undertaken by the Combined Authority.

**11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

**12. Appendices**

None.



**Report to:** Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

**Date:** 10 January 2023

**Subject:** **Green Jobs Taskforce Update**

**Director:** Phil Witcherley, Interim Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture

**Author:** Michelle Hunter, Programme Development Lead Employment & Skills

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 overview and update on the work and findings of the Mayor’s Green Jobs Taskforce to date, including the Taskforce’s emerging recommendations to develop a pipeline of skills required for the workforce to support the Combined Authority achieve its climate ambitions and the Mayoral pledge of 1,000 jobs for young people.
- 1.2 The Committee is invited to comment and support the shaping of the emerging recommendations proposed by the Taskforce, ahead of the Taskforce’s final meeting in January 2023.

## 2. Information

### Background

- 2.1 The Mayor of West Yorkshire and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority have declared a climate emergency and pledged to make West Yorkshire a net zero carbon economy by 2038.
- 2.2 In line with the national Green Jobs Taskforce, West Yorkshire Combined Authority uses the governments definition of green employment: ‘employment in an activity that directly contributes to - or indirectly supports - the achievement of the UK’s net zero emissions target and other environmental goals, such as nature restoration and mitigation against climate risks’.

- 2.3 The region has an important role to play in driving the structural changes needed to transition to a net zero carbon economy and deliver inclusive, sustainable growth.
- 2.4 Whilst skills are integral to the delivery of this strategic aim, there are currently a wide range of forecasts predicting the current and future demand for green skills and jobs. Although varied, each forecast shares the view that there will be tens of thousands of opportunities in West Yorkshire in the next decade with the right policy interventions and support in place.
- 2.5 In line with the priorities and net zero carbon cross cutting theme of the Combined Authority's Employment and Skills Framework, and its overarching ambition to create a diverse, inclusive and highly skilled workforce with good jobs, there is an opportunity to address the skills needs now so that young people have the pathways to secure skilled green jobs in the future and so that the existing workforce, in those sectors most at risk from the transition towards a net zero economy, have the ability to upskill or retrain.
- 2.6 In August 2021, Mayor Tracy Brabin announced early action to ensure West Yorkshire is well placed to capitalise on the opportunity with the creation of a Green Jobs Taskforce, convening key partners from business, education and training and the third and public sectors to work together to overcome barriers to progress in West Yorkshire. The aim of the Taskforce is to position West Yorkshire as a leader and set out recommendations, underpinned by evidence, to deliver the skills and jobs needed to address the climate emergency and achieve the mayoral pledge to create 1,000 well-paid (real living wage), green jobs for young people (aged 18-30).
- 2.7 The Green Jobs Taskforce is convened for 12 months and has met in January, March and October 2022 with the last meeting scheduled for late January 2023. In addition, a number of online task and finish group meetings were held to deep dive into key themes and refine emerging recommendations.

#### Research Findings

- 2.8 The Taskforce has also commissioned research with employers and young people. WPI Economics undertook research with employers and Ahead Partnership were commissioned to develop a 'Green Skills Youth Programme' to engage young people.
- 2.9 **WPI Economics**, are an economics, data insight and public policy consultancy and were commissioned to undertake research to gain a clear picture of West Yorkshire's green economy, including its jobs, skills requirements and relevant supply chains, with a forward look to future needs in these areas.

## 2.10 The headline research findings are:

- In 2020, 2% of online job postings were green, in 2022, that has increased to 6.9% and estimated jobs in West Yorkshire are expected to grow by 9,270 by 2030.
- Currently, the largest green policy areas are climate adaptation, green and professional research services and homes and buildings.
- West Yorkshire has 98,275 jobs in carbon intensive sectors (9.2% of WY employment) that will need to change substantially due to the transition.
- Equality, diversity and inclusion:
  - 13% of people in employment in West Yorkshire in the sectors highly exposed to transition are non-White versus 11% nationally.
  - National data suggests that the carbon intensive industries have relatively more male employees, with female workers accounting for only 23% of the employees and the ratio is similar for West Yorkshire.
- Under a central scenario, total employment in the green economy is expected to double between 2020 and 2030, with net growth across all the sectoral categories.

2.11 **Ahead Partnership**, who specialise in social value projects that overcome inequality, led a 'Green Skills Youth Programme' engaging with young people on green skills to gain insight into their understanding and inspire them about the opportunities within the green economy.

## 2.12 The key findings are:

- West Yorkshire Green Skills Youth Programme engaged with 174 young people from across Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Kirklees and Calderdale, aged 4-17 years old.
- Overall, the young people participating in this programme improved their understanding of the range of green jobs available across the region. The number of students that rated their understanding as excellent increased more than ten times between the start and end of the programme.
- The young participants also showed an increase in interest of pursuing a green job after the events with 82% more students stating they are interested in a green job.

- The students involved in this programme perceived green jobs as low paying, hard jobs. As well as this perception, the young people participating also acknowledged that a lack of knowledge around the range of green jobs available would be a barrier for applying to one.
- The most popular methods of getting this information out to young people are via lessons, events, and talks within schools, as well as advertisements across a range of platforms including websites, social media and TV.
- According to the participating students, the positive environmental and social impact they could have in these roles would be key aspects to focus on to inspire and attract young people to green jobs, other than monetary incentives.

- 2.13 The Taskforce considered the research findings at their meeting in October. They also heard from a range of projects including two Community Renewal Fund projects; 'Go Green Curriculum' in Wakefield and Retrofit Hub as well as others that are taking place across the Region.
- 2.14 The Taskforce's discussion based on the evidence, learnings and findings from the research and projects informed emerging areas for recommendations for West Yorkshire which has in turn been used to inform the next stage of wider consultation with key stakeholders through focus group sessions held during November and December.

#### Emerging Areas of Recommendations across both areas of research

- 2.15 The Taskforce's work gives West Yorkshire the opportunity to position itself as a leader in green skills and employment, enabling stakeholders to identify their role, helping to fulfil the Mayoral pledge to support green employment in the region.
- 2.16 The position created will allow West Yorkshire to capitalise in areas of growth and demand, stimulating opportunities in different areas and industries.
- 2.17 The findings of the commissioned research, as well as discussions at the Green Jobs Taskforce have been used to define emerging areas of recommendations, and are summarised below:

#### Individuals:

- There is a requirement around career inspiration and information around opportunities in and pathways for the green economy.
- There is also a requirement for the existing workforce to learn about upskilling / reskilling opportunities while businesses transition towards net-zero.

#### Educators:

- Education and training providers require support to review and update their course offer and curricula to respond to the needs of the growing green economy, especially where demand is slow to build up.
- Support recruitment and retention of expert staff.

#### Businesses:

- Businesses require support to develop and upskill their workforce to support decarbonisation of the business, mitigate risk from a transitioning economy and maximise future opportunities.
- Some sectors, such as retrofit, manufacturing and green finance may require / warrant specific support to realise opportunities, reflect strengths or counter risk.

#### Draft Recommendations

2.18 These emerging areas of recommendations have been widely consulted on including via two online stakeholder workshops, attended by Local Authority representatives, private businesses, educators and training providers and union representatives to develop a set of draft recommendations that will be considered by the Taskforce at its last meeting in late January. They are:

- Inspire and inform young people as the next generation of talent (from key stage 1 & 2 onwards) about opportunities and career pathways within the green economy.
- Facilitate easy access to green skills and job information, career pathways and job opportunities for young people and adults to make informed decisions.
- Embed engagement of the target group when designing initiatives (e.g. young people for development of CEIAG, workforce for reskilling/upskilling initiatives to support decarbonisation).
- Support education and training providers to build a curriculum that responds effectively to the needs of businesses in, and transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy; including building capacity to attract, develop and retain expert staff.
- Enable businesses to access support to decarbonise and attract, develop and retain talent to enable a just transition.

- Strengthen current and potential West Yorkshire specialisms to stimulate demand and create green jobs, exploring opportunities in manufacturing, green finance and retrofit in the first instance.
- Any interventions put forward must have ambitious targets addressing concerns around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; in particular around attracting more women and people from BAME backgrounds towards careers within the green economy and the workforce most exposed by a transition to net-zero.

2.19 Additional key feedback from the workshops included:

- As well as having a standalone recommendation around the specific EDI challenges highlighted by the research, it should be a key feature across all recommendations and activities derived from them.
- The need for an ambitious delivery plan, taking account of existing or planned activity, needs to sit underneath the high-level recommendations.
- Further research, as required, to develop understanding of cluster of green jobs activities and demand for skills.

2.20 The Committee is asked to comment on the emerging recommendations:

- The Committee is invited to share their views on the proposed recommendations.
- Does the Committee think the recommendations are reflective of West Yorkshires commitment to green jobs and skills?
- Are there any gaps or opportunities that we could capture in the recommendations or delivery plan?

Next Steps

- 2.21 A further workshop with a diverse range of young people to test emerging recommendations will take place in January to enable them to test and comment on the recommendations.
- 2.22 A report will be submitted to Skills & Employment Committee on 23 January. The committee will be asked to endorse the recommendations and agree to take ownership of any follow-on activity.
- 2.23 The emerging recommendations will be discussed with Taskforce members at the final Green Jobs Taskforce meeting on 31 January, ahead of the launch of the Taskforce's final report and its recommendations for action in West Yorkshire. Details for the launch are to be confirmed.

### **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

- 3.1 The report outlines proposed interventions that will develop the skills and employment needs of individuals and businesses in West Yorkshire to tackle the climate emergency.
- 3.2 Recommendations will support the mayoral pledge to create 1,000 well paid, green jobs in West Yorkshire that will support the ambition to achieve net zero by 2038.

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1 The work of the Green Jobs Taskforce and the recommendations are directly linked to inclusive growth in that they contribute to readying West Yorkshire's business base and workforce for a transition towards a net zero economy and delivering on the Mayor's pledge to create 1,000 good, green jobs. Prioritising future ready skills and supporting businesses to decarbonise and benefit from the opportunities the green economy brings are vital to achieving a fair and just transition for the region.
- 4.2 Any specific activity considered in response to the high-level recommendations will take inclusive growth implications into account.
- 4.3 The Green Skills Youth Programme worked with a diverse range of over 170 young people. Participating schools were chosen to form a representative sample from across West Yorkshire and to provide insight from students from different backgrounds, both socio-economic and ethnic, and age groups.
- 4.4 A further workshop to engage young people on the final recommendations will engage young people from communities representative of the population of West Yorkshire.

### **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 Generally, the skills and workforce pipeline work will consider the impacts of people in everything it does. By its nature, we are seeking to ensure that the skills offer the region has will enable everyone in the region, regardless of their background to have a thriving future. As we develop programmes for delivery, we will work to be explicit in targeting equality and diversity.
- 5.2 For green skills and jobs there is not currently a definite demographic picture for West Yorkshire. However, the research conducted by WPI Economics did find that green jobs are much more male dominated than the economy as a whole. The six occupations that have the greatest demand for green skills (construction project manager, civil engineer, electrician, electrical engineer, mechanical engineer & maintenance technician), 10% are female and 8% are ethnic minorities (compared to 13% of employment across all occupations).
- 5.3 In addition, 98,275 jobs in West Yorkshire are in sectors at risk of decarbonisation, that's 9.2% of total employment in 2020 (compared to 10.5% nationally). 13% of people in employment in those sectors highly exposed to

transition are non-White versus 11% nationally. The ratio is the highest in Bradford (19%) and lowest in Wakefield (6%). While the green economy presents significant economic opportunities, some sectors and jobs will undergo significant change and may be at risk due to the transition towards net zero.

- 5.4 The final report by the Green Jobs Task Force will have a specific recommendation and actions addressing specific challenges around EDI.

## **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 Small, medium and large business organisations, Local Authority senior officers, independent training providers, colleges and universities and young people.

## **10. Recommendations**

- 10.1 That the Committee note the update on the work of the Green Jobs Taskforce.
- 10.2 That the Committee provides a steer on the emerging recommendations.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – WPI Economics Research Findings

Appendix 2 – West Yorkshires Green Skills Youth Programme

Please note, the research findings are not necessarily reflective of the Combined Authority's position.



# Green Jobs and Skills in West Yorkshire

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022

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Prepared by WPI Economics on behalf of WYCA

# Green Jobs and Skills in West Yorkshire

## Research questions

1. What is a green job?
2. How many green jobs are there in West Yorkshire now and will there be in the future?
3. What skills are in demand for these jobs, and what related further education / apprenticeship qualifications are being achieved in West Yorkshire?
4. What jobs are at most at risk from decarbonisation?
5. Implications / recommendations for employment and skills provision and wider green economy strategy

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# Green jobs in West Yorkshire now

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# What is the green economy / green jobs

- Range of definitions of the *environmental* or *low-carbon* sectors available; what definition should be used depends on the purpose:
  - i. Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS)
  - ii. Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Economy (LCREE)
  - iii. Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) Sector
  - iv. Task-based approaches.
  - v. International Labor Organisation definition.
  - vi. “Mission-based” definition following Green Jobs Taskforce
- The terms *green jobs* and *green economy* are directly linked to policy goals
- We therefore recommended a practical “mission-based” definition:

***Green jobs are those jobs that facilitate meeting net zero and broader environmental goals***
- For analytical purposes we split this into policy areas such as “Homes and Buildings” and “Green Professional and Research services”

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# Quantifying green jobs



We calculate the number of green jobs using the Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector dataset produced by kMatrix and commissioned regularly for London by the Greater London Authority. This dataset:

- includes a broader set of activities than official definitions and includes the supply chain for green activities
  - e.g. wind sector includes those companies which develop and install the systems integration software enabling the power generated through turbines to be integrated into the National Grid)
- includes all green jobs, including in firms that are not wholly part of the green economy
  - e.g. activity within large companies seeking to identify ways to reduce environmental impact, even where the company's activity itself is not part of the green economy)

We identify the top occupations in the green economy by combining a green economy taxonomy developed by WPI and The Data City with the Lightcast staffing matrix, based on official ONS data sources

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# Estimated green jobs in West Yorkshire, 2021

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Green policy area	Number of jobs in West Yorkshire (2021)	Proportion of green jobs in West Yorkshire	Proportion of all jobs in West Yorkshire	Proportion of all jobs in England
Climate adaptation	2,300	3%	0.2%	0.2%
Green professional and research services	9,500	13%	0.9%	0.8%
Homes and buildings	20,800	28%	1.9%	1.7%
Industrial decarbonisation	8,500	12%	0.8%	0.7%
Low carbon transport	5,200	7%	0.5%	0.4%
Natural environment	700	1%	0.1%	0.1%
Power	21,100	29%	2.0%	1.8%
Reduce, reuse, recycle and repair	5,300	7%	0.5%	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,400</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>

Source: WPI Economics calculations based on data supplied by kMatrix on their Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services methodology, and ONS Business Register and Employment Survey for total employment local authority area

# Green occupations and skills – key findings

- Our occupational analysis suggests a broad spectrum of occupations are represented in the green economy in West Yorkshire. Many jobs are greening as the economy transitions – the trend is not solely focused on particular sectors.

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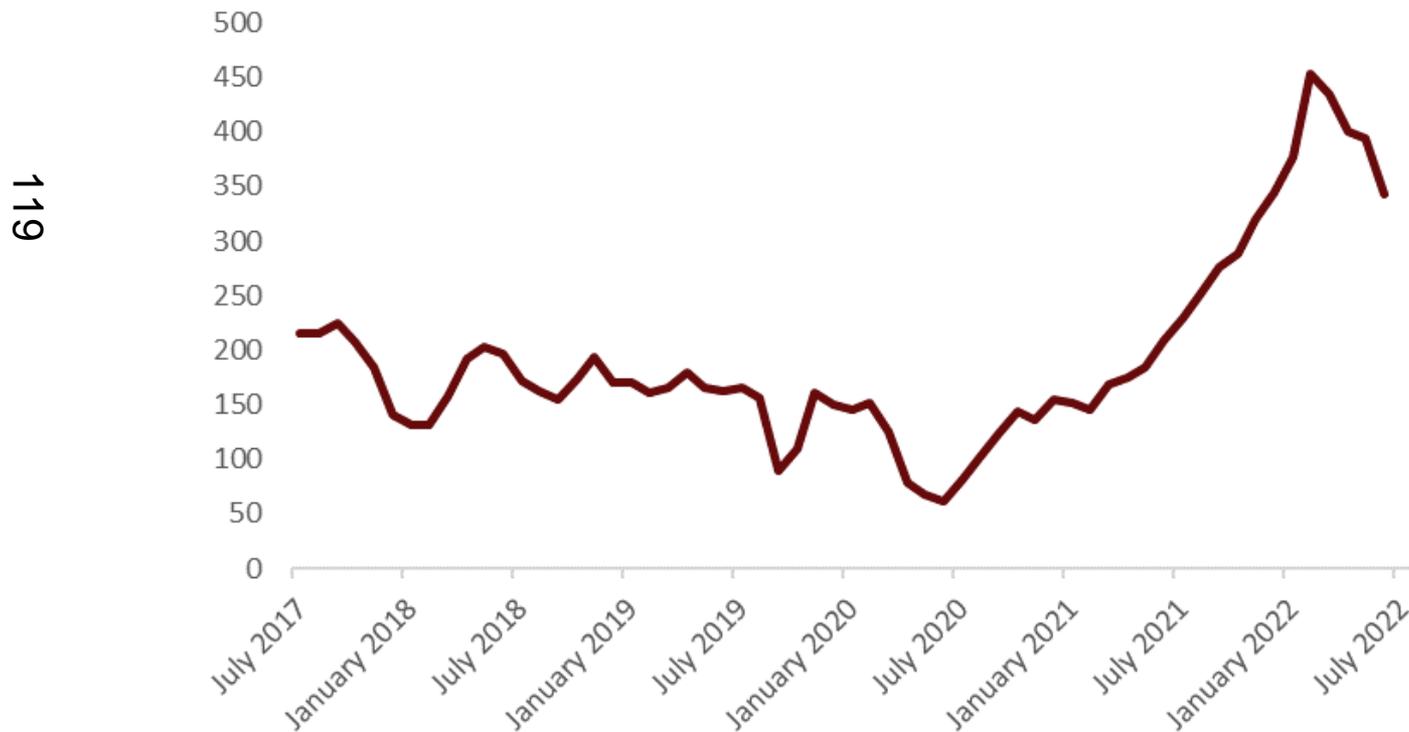
# Occupations with highest shares of green jobs within the West Yorkshire green economy – top 10

	Occupation	Proportion of jobs that are green in each occupation	Number of green jobs in West Yorkshire
1	Conservation professionals	100%	426
2	Environment professionals	100%	1285
3	Conservation and environmental associate professionals	100%	410
4	Waste disposal and environmental services managers	62%	175
5	Refuse and salvage occupations	44%	874
6	Quality assurance technicians	15%	146
7	Scaffolders, staggers and riggers	12%	124
8	Chemical scientists	10%	69
9	Other skilled trades not elsewhere classified	8%	90
10	Printers	7%	107

# Substantial growth in green job postings through pandemic

Total green job postings per month in West Yorkshire (based on Lightcast green job titles)

Unique job postings in month



# Green occupations and skills – key findings

- Our occupational analysis suggests a broad spectrum of occupations are represented in the green economy in West Yorkshire. Many jobs are greening as the economy transitions – the trend is not solely focused on particular sectors.
- These green occupations tend to have a lower proportion of workers from BAME groups relative to other occupations – 7% versus 14% (although data only available at UK level)
- Our analysis of specialised, technical skills reveals that green jobs require a wide range of skills that go beyond and complement green skills, reflecting the broad nature of the green economy:
  - We find that environmental engineering and consulting are some of the most prominent “green skills” required in green jobs.
  - However, a wide range of other specialised skills feature prominently among green jobs, such as civil engineering, marketing and procurement.
- 5% of further education achievements in 2021 in West Yorkshire were directly related to the top 20 green occupations, with the majority of achievements in a range of construction, engineering, electrical and science-based courses.
- We identified a list of 147 apprenticeship courses registered in the UK that fall within our definition of the green economy, of which there was least one achievement in West Yorkshire for 22 of those courses last year.

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# Green jobs in West Yorkshire in the future

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# Projections for growth in jobs

Wide range of sources for anticipated growth rates. Key sources:

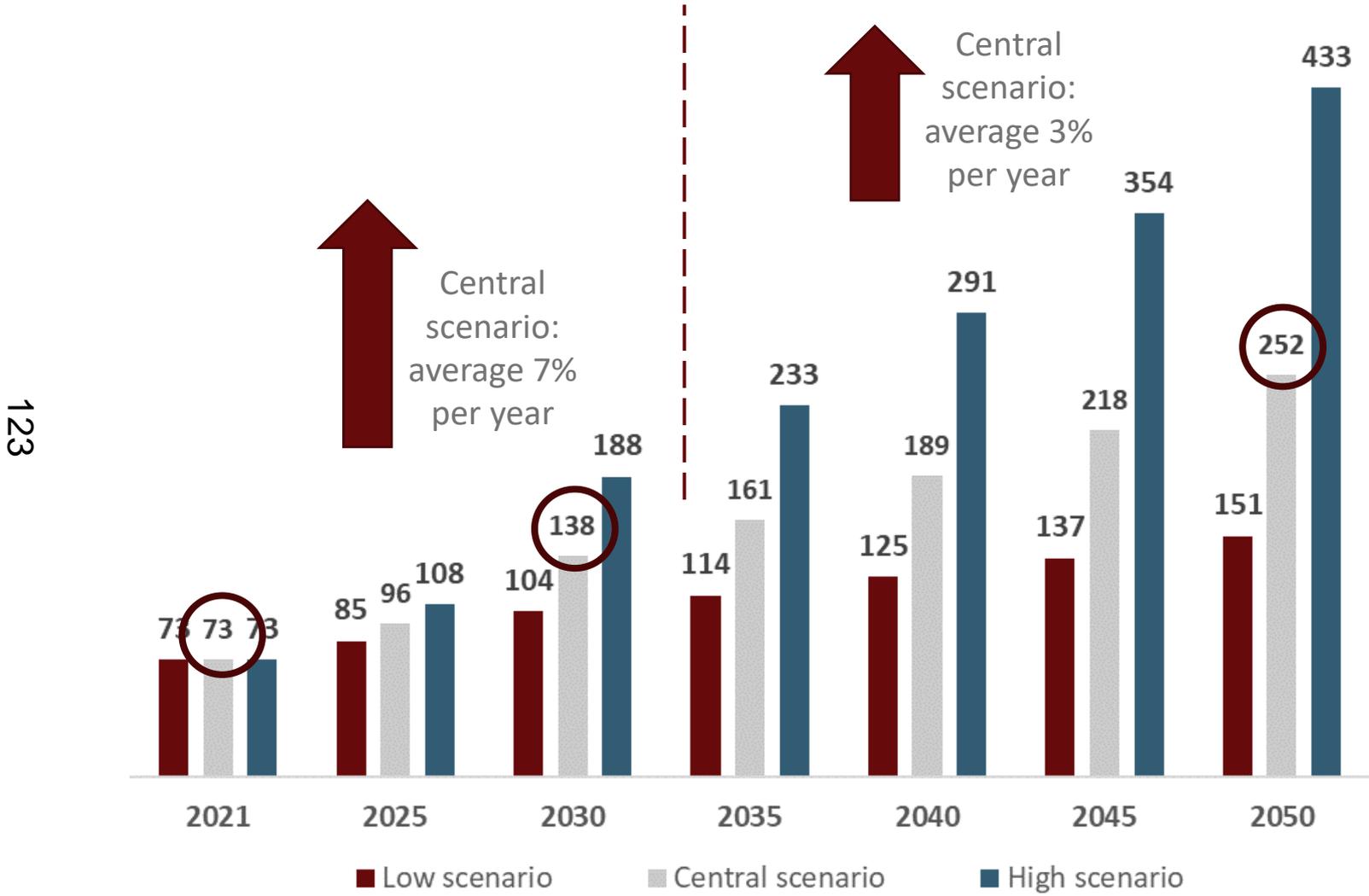
- **CCC (2017):** UK business opportunities of moving to a low carbon economy
- **LGA / Ecuity (2020):** Local green jobs - accelerating a sustainable economic recovery (Modelling based on National Grid Future Energy Scenarios)
- **National Grid (2020):** Building the net zero energy workforce

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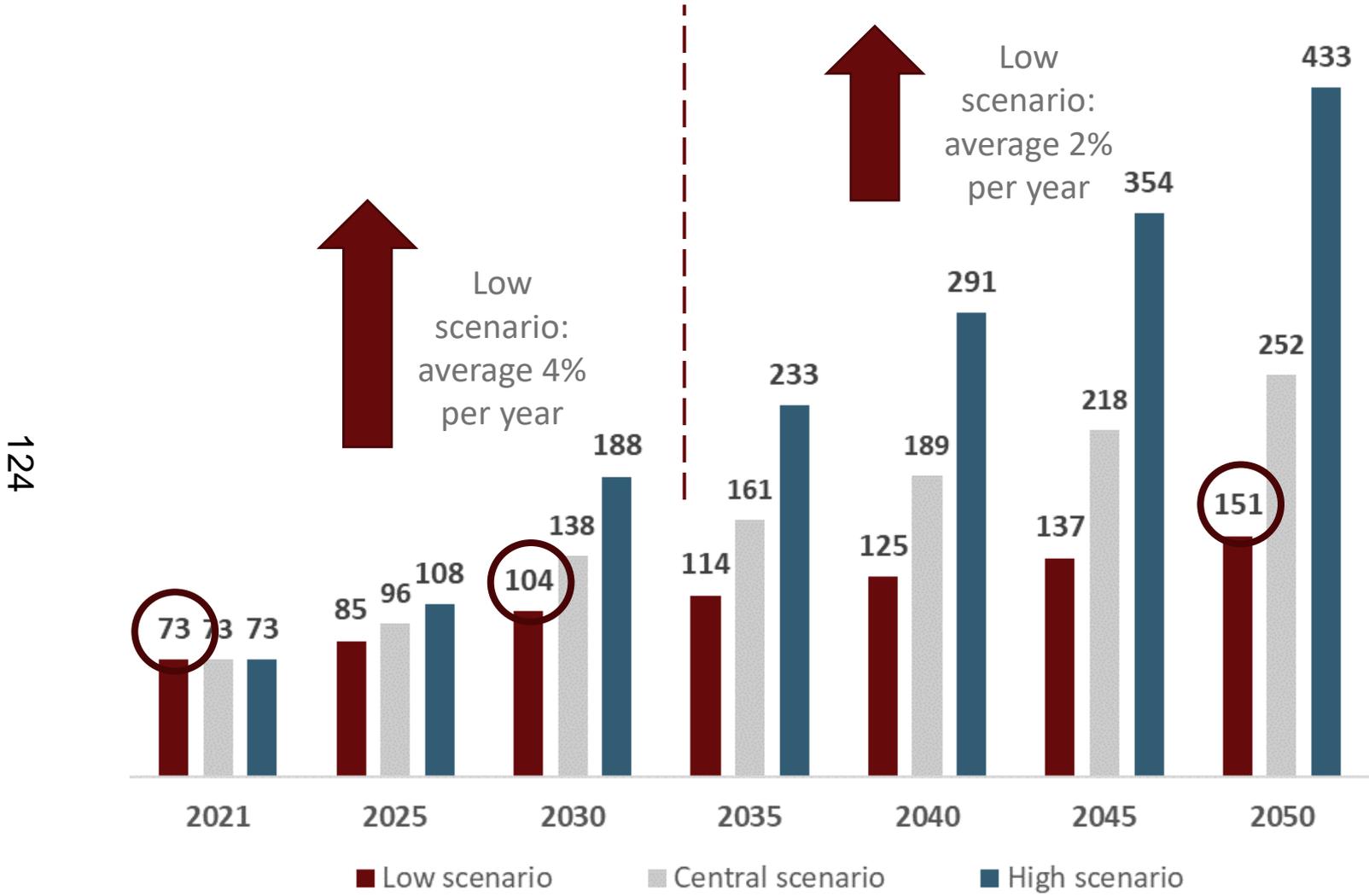
Three scenarios – central scenario and a low and high representing issues such as:

- **Low:** Skills shortages, lower uptake rates, less effective policy
- **High:** West Yorkshire capturing greater shares of domestic market for all sectors and international market for exportable green services

# Scenarios for projections of total green jobs in West Yorkshire (thousands)



# Scenarios for projections of total green jobs in West Yorkshire (thousands)



# Impact on net jobs / jobs at risk from decarbonisation

# Estimated impact of net zero policies on net employment in West Yorkshire

As well as additional jobs, non green jobs will become green jobs, while others will cease to exist; how will overall employment be affected?

		Total employments, 2020	Estimated jobs in West Yorkshire, 2030		
126	Area	Latest data	<i>Based on current policies</i>	<i>With net zero policies</i>	<i>Change due to net zero policies</i>
		<b>West Yorkshire</b>	1,067,000	1,090,770	1,100,040

# Jobs in carbon intensive sectors, West Yorkshire

- We find that West Yorkshire has **98,275 jobs in carbon intensive sectors** that will need to change substantially due to the transition. NB/ we define carbon intensive sectors as ones that either have emissions over 100tCO<sub>2</sub>e per job or which contribute more than 2% of annual total UK emissions.
- This represents **9.2% of employment** in West Yorkshire, and is lower than the national average of 10.5%
- **Construction, land transport and carbon intensive manufacturing** account for over 8 in 10 of these jobs.
- 13% of people in employment in West Yorkshire in the sectors highly exposed to transition are non-White versus 11% nationally.
- National data suggests that the carbon intensive industries have relatively more male employees, with female workers accounting for only 23% of the employees and the ratio is similar for West Yorkshire

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# Conclusions

# Conclusions / Recommendations

In order to realise the potential of the green economy in West Yorkshire, we worked with a range of stakeholders to develop a series of practical recommendations designed to deliver positive labour market outcomes for West Yorkshire residents through the transition.

These recommendations fall under three key areas:

- **Strengthening current and potential West Yorkshire specialisms** – particularly around low carbon manufacturing, retrofit/construction and green finance.
- **Delivering a just transition** – supporting those currently in high carbon industries to prosper through the transition.
- **Supporting skills development and career promotion** – for both those leaving education as well as the current workforce.

# Strengthening current and potential West Yorkshire specialisms

A thriving green workforce means we need *demand*, as well as *supply*, of green skills. Achieving this means **growing green industries in West Yorks**. This includes:

- **Manufacturing** – the Combined Authority should look to support a thriving green manufacturing sector in West Yorkshire through its business support services, driving greater innovation and adoption of technologies to reduce emissions.
- **Green finance** - the Combined Authority could leverage its existing strength here to bring more financial flows into other transition activities locally, particularly retrofit.
- **Retrofit** – local and sub national government have an important delivery and convening role to support retrofit at scale, if adequately funded by Government.

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# Developing the skills supply side

In addition to getting demand signals right, our stakeholder engagement also highlighted **the need for policy to help develop the skills supply side**, in order to **boost the supply of qualified individuals** across the sectors identified.

- **Adult Education Budget (AEB)** - Ensure green skills are addressed through commissioning of AEB and Free Courses for Jobs and are treated as a priority for responsiveness funds.
- 131 **Better flexibility around capital and revenue spending** – to allow FE institutions to invest in the equipment they feel they require.
- **Local Skills Improvement Plans** – these need to adequately consider the importance of green skills.
- **Be flexible in face of fluid situation regarding national skills policy** - and lobby for greater stability and commitment to green skills at national level
- **Support integration and retention of required higher level skills in local businesses** - e.g. Yorkshire Universities, Mayoral SME Graduate Programme pilot

# Just Transition

Supporting those currently in high carbon industries to prosper through the transition requires an increased level of **social partnership** and joining up of **local government, business, training providers and trade unions** and other civil society groups. We recommend the Combined Authority:

- **Support the establishment of local alliance groups within each of West Yorkshire's local areas** - to report and develop action on place-specific challenges.
- **Consider the establishment of a Just Transition Fund** – managed by the Green Jobs Taskforce – that would provide funding and standardisation for transitional training.
- **Coordinate with the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission** – an advisory body that supports regional climate action funded through the ESRC's Place-Based Climate Action Network

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# CONTACT US



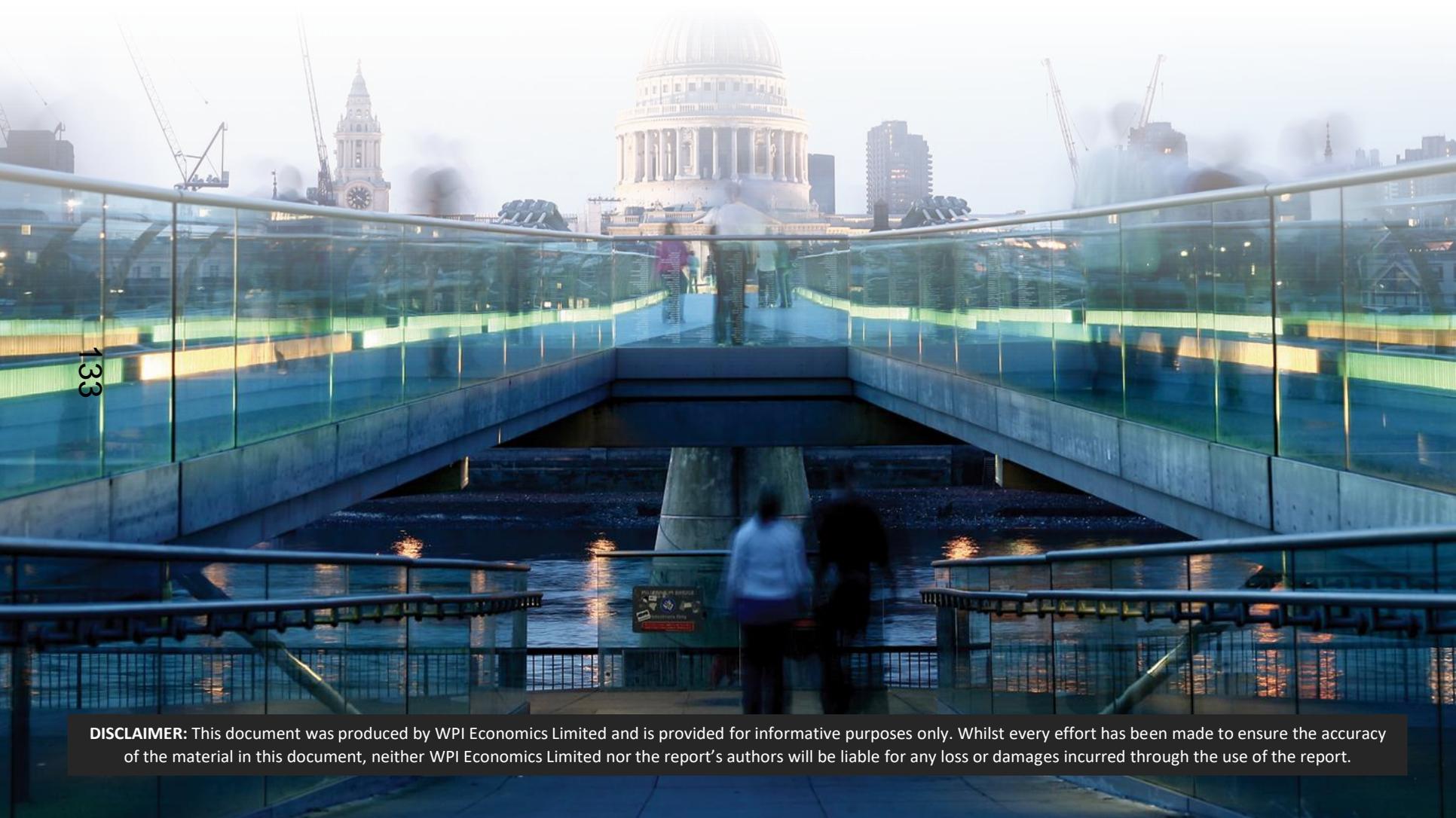
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# WEST YORKSHIRE GREEN SKILLS YOUTH PROGRAMME

West  
Yorkshire  
Combined  
Authority



Tracy Brabin  
Mayor  
of West Yorkshire



Ahead Partnership  
Unlocking social and economic potential

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The West Yorkshire Green Skills Youth Programme has engaged with **174** young people from across Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Kirklees and Calderdale, aged 4 to 17 years old. The schedule of activity has allowed young people to learn about what we mean by green skills, and given a platform to voice their ideas through youth consultation activities.

The objectives of the West Yorkshire Green Skills Youth Programme were to:

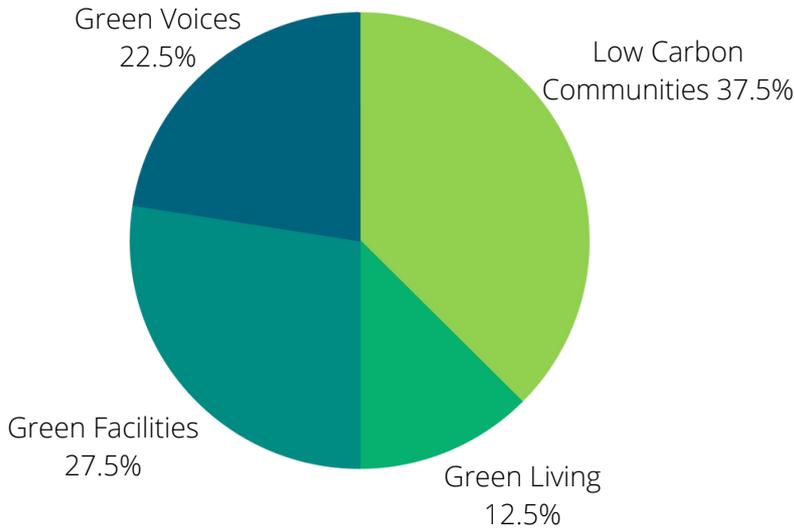
- Understand what a green job means to young people and to understand young people's appetite to work in a green role.
- Increase young people's understanding about the range of green jobs currently available.
- Identify the actions required to support more young people, their parents and carers to understand the career opportunities linked to the green economy in West Yorkshire, in terms of types of jobs in scope, skills required, entry routes, and career pathways.
- Identify equality and diversity issues for young people in relation to green jobs and the world of work.
- Understand how to attract and inspire young talent.

To achieve these objectives, we ran a summer and autumn activity programme including:

- Green Roles Q&A session.
- Funding allocation task.
- Green Project investment activity.
- Green Roles development task.
- Youth Consultation on accessibility and appeal of green careers.



## Green Funding Allocation



**Green Living** - "People get sick breathing in air full of smoke and other bad stuff."

"Stop driving short journeys such as the corner shop which is minutes away"

**Low Carbon Communities** - "I know that it's good teaching kids and adults because if they don't learn they don't know anything."

### How would you like to find out about the planet-friendly jobs you could do in future?

- School.
- Online.
- Google.
- I think there should be more environmental activities and events.

### What might put you (or other young people) off doing a green job?

- Don't know what it is.
- I would want to be a teacher because I can help people how to help the world.
- I think there could be more information about what a green job is, how someone can get a green job, and what sort of opportunities there are.

### What might inspire you to want to do a green job?

- To make the world better.
- Planting flowers.
- Saving animals.
- Gardener, to provide oxygen.
- Planting trees.
- Is it an easy job?
- I would like to take care of animals and the environment, because people are destroying their habitats.



# AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

## Student Profile

School	Area	Year Group	EAL*	SEND**	Pupil Premium*** (school average)
Brighouse High School	Calderdale	Various Years	2.4%	15.5%	19.3%
Oulton Academy	Leeds	Various Years	5%	0.0%	20.0%
Castleford Academy	Wakefield	Year 9	6.6%	0.0%	21.9%
New College Bradford	Bradford	Post 16	-	-	Unavailable
Netherhall School	Kirklees	Year 10	11.2%	14.2%	47.9%

The participating schools were chosen to form a representative sample from across West Yorkshire, with each located in a different area of the county.

These schools were also selected to provide insight from students from different backgrounds, both socio-economic and ethnic. A mix of year groups were involved to ensure the results of this programme were taken from a diverse range of ages.

\*Average % of students with English as an additional Language is 17.2% across mainstream secondary schools in England

\*\*Average % of students receiving support for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities is 11.5% across mainstream secondary schools in England

\*\*\*Has students considered disadvantaged and as such receiving further government funding

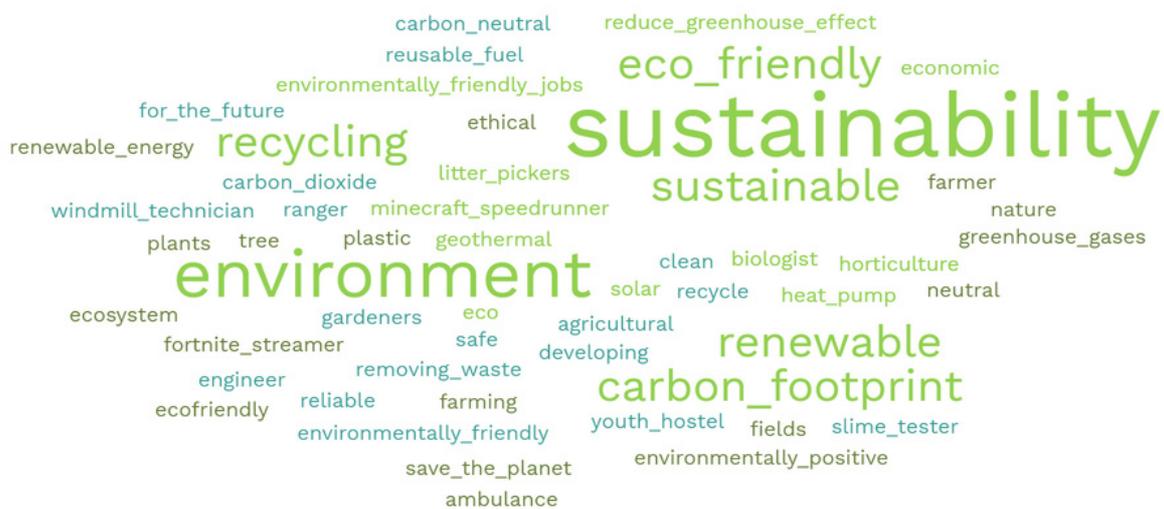
# LAUNCH EVENT - SPEED NETWORKING

During the launch event, students from across the five participating schools engaged virtually in a session with five employers. The aim of the session was to improve the young people's knowledge of green jobs and the variety of roles available. To measure any increase in knowledge, the students answered the question 'What does a green job mean to young people?' both before and after the launch event. These responses can be seen below as wordclouds.

## What does a green job mean to young people?

*Words that are larger on the word cloud have been mentioned multiple times.*

### Before the event



### After the event

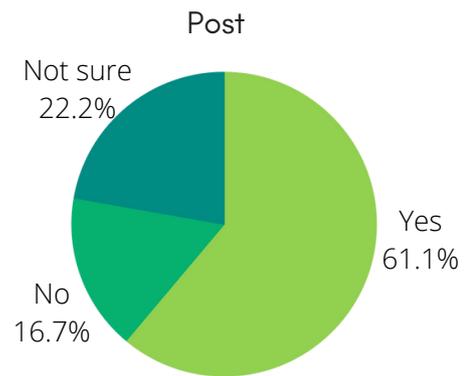
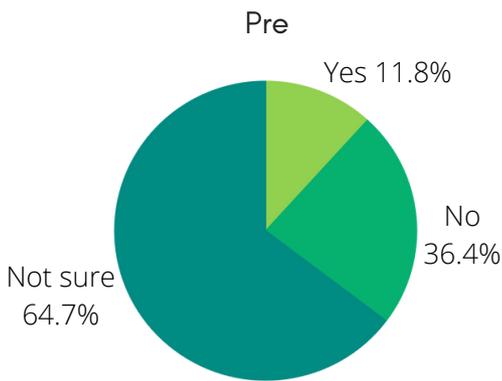




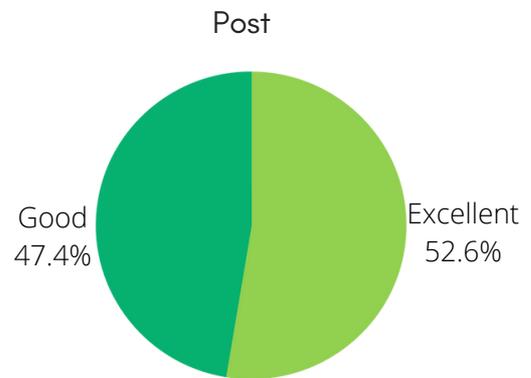
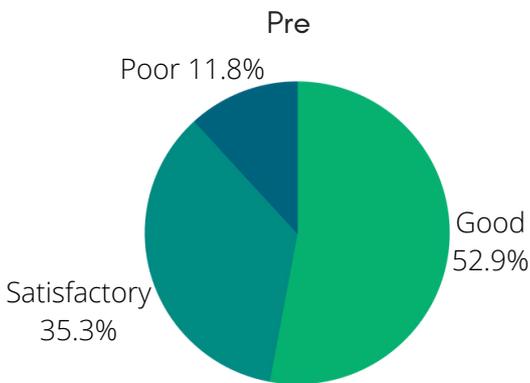


# CALDERDALE YOUTH CONSULTATION

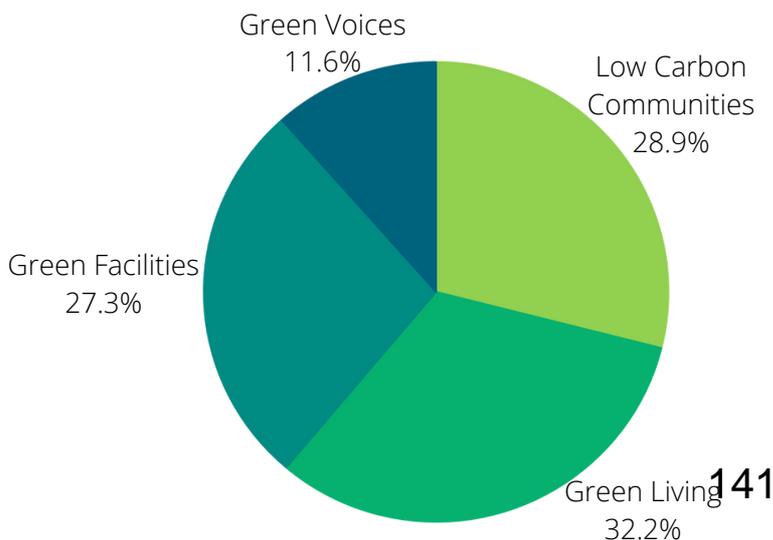
Are you interested in a green career?



How would you rate your understanding of the range of green jobs available?



## Green Funding Allocation



## Green Projects

- Sustainable Housing** - "Sustainable materials not only outside the house but also inside."
- Electric Vehicles** - "Make green cars more durable so that it's an investment for life."
- Public Transport** - "It will encourage more people to cycle if they have right of way."
- Solar Schools** - "Solar panels are a one time investment as surely they pay for themselves."
- Urban Greening** - "We'd use Oak trees: they absorb the most carbon."

## How can we support more young people, as well as their parents and carers, to find out more about the green jobs available locally?

Across all the responses from Brighthouse High School students, learning more about green jobs in an education setting was deemed most important. The students suggested a variety of other ways to get information out to their age group, including digital platforms such as websites, youtube, and social media, as well as more traditional methods such as letters and the news.

"Give more information in classes/assembly"

"Dedicated online websites"

## Are there any barriers preventing young people from pursuing a green job?

The vast majority of student responses referenced low pay as a barrier that may prevent young people from pursuing a green job. A lack of passion, education, and availability of jobs were also all cited multiple times.

"Other jobs might pay better"

"Not many green jobs"

## What would attract and inspire you, as a young person, to consider a green job?

Similarly as students felt low pay to be a barrier to entering into a green job, high pay was the most mentioned aspect that would attract young people to pursue a green job. This was very closely followed by the positive environmental impact they could make. Rewards, acting morally, and social impact were also noted as aspects that might inspire young people to enter into green jobs.

"The impact you could make upon the environment"

"Large Salary"

## Dream Green Job

The image displays three student worksheets for the 'Dream Green Job' activity. Each worksheet is divided into four columns: 'WRITE ABOUT AND/OR DRAW YOUR DREAM GREEN JOB HERE:', 'SKILLS & QUALITIES', 'KNOWLEDGE', and 'TASKS & RESPONSIBILITIES'. The first student has drawn a 'Zoo-ologist' and listed skills like 'Analytical thinking' and 'Teamwork', and knowledge like 'Biology' and 'Environmental science'. The second student has drawn an 'Electric Bus Designer' and listed skills like 'Problem solving' and 'Focus', and knowledge like 'Physics' and 'Engineering'. The third student has drawn a 'Microbiologist' and listed skills like 'Analytical thinking' and 'Teamwork', and knowledge like 'Biology' and 'Environmental science'.

## Knowledge and Skills

Knowledge and skills identified multiple times by young people during this task

### Skills

- Analytical thinking
- Creativity
- Focus
- Patience
- Problem solving
- Teamwork

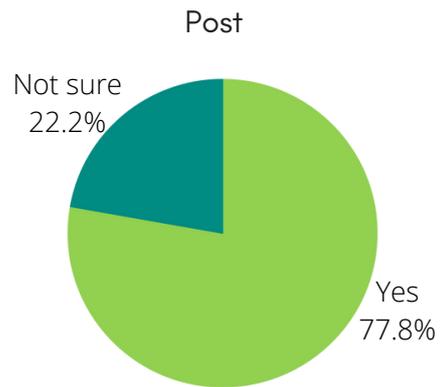
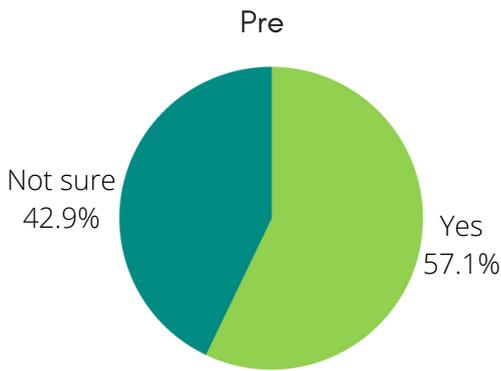
### Knowledge

- Biology
- Business
- Digital
- Environmental science
- Numeracy
- Physics
- Trade skills

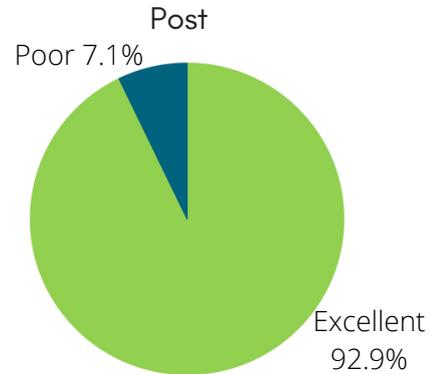
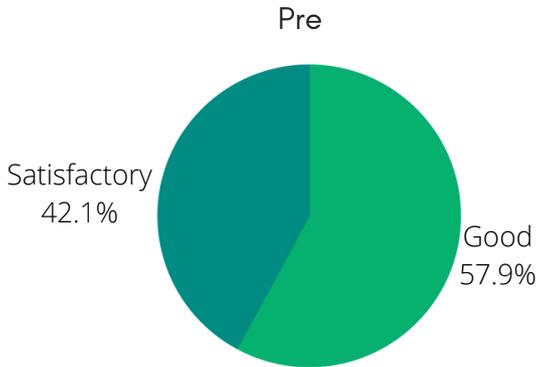


# LEEDS YOUTH CONSULTATION

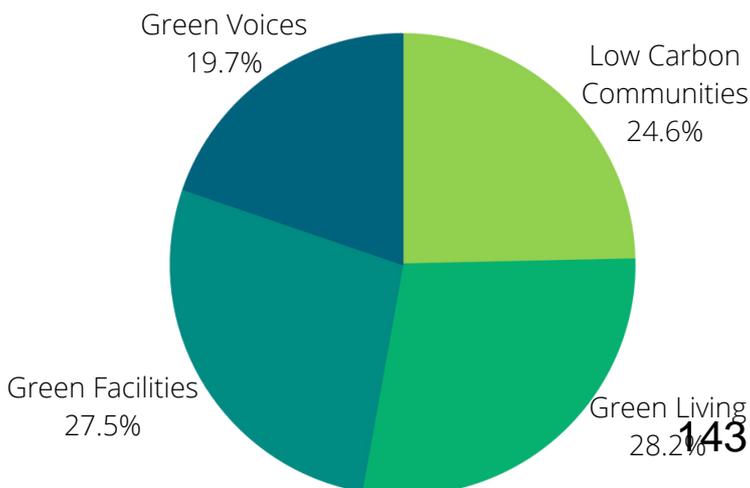
Are you interested in a green career?



How would you rate your understanding of the range of green jobs available?



## Green Funding Allocation



## Green Projects

**Green Facilities** - "Add more electric car chargers."  
 "Give people statistics so that they are aware that electric charging prices are cheaper than petrol prices."  
 "Simpler, more affordable models persuade people that fancier is not always better."  
 "Adding a new 'no fossil fuel' zone."

**Green Living** - "Green living is the most important because it makes a long term difference to everyone. Green voices is important but isn't making an immediate change, which we need."

## How can we support more young people, as well as their parents and carers, to find out more about the green jobs available locally?

Promoting green jobs via adverts was the most popular suggestion from Oulton Academy students, alongside learning about green jobs in lessons and through workshops. The suggested methods of advertisement included TV, leaflets, and online platforms. Students also mentioned that getting information to parents and family members would be a good way to pass on that information to students.

"School, TV Programmes, and Adverts"

"Have careers as a lesson"

## Are there any barriers preventing young people from pursuing a green job?

The most popular response was that low pay is a barrier preventing young people from pursuing green jobs. A lack of awareness of green jobs was also noted as a reason young people might not actively seek green jobs. Other responses included potential issues with transportation, inaccessibility due to qualification requirements, and parents not being informed about green jobs and thus not being supportive of the endeavor.

"The amount of money it offers"

"Unaware, not enough education or money"

## What would attract and inspire you, as a young person, to consider a green job?

Increased awareness and knowledge of green jobs was the most common theme among responses. High pay, positive environmental impact, and encouragement were also mentioned multiple times as aspects that might interest more young people to get into green jobs.

"Learning more about the jobs and knowing what you have to do"

"It helps the environment and has a positive impact on everyone"

## Dream Green Job

The image displays three student worksheets for the 'Dream Green Job' activity. Each worksheet is divided into three columns: Skills & Qualities, Knowledge, and Tasks & Responsibilities. The first student has drawn a person with a magnifying glass and labeled 'marine biologist'. The second student has drawn a person in a lab coat with a stethoscope and labeled 'career scientist'. The third student has drawn a person with arms raised and labeled 'Environmental activist'. Handwritten responses include 'Research', 'Teamwork', 'Swimming', 'Conservation', 'Environmental Science', 'Testing Research', 'Focus', 'Numeracy', 'Marketing', 'Analytical Thinking', 'Knowledge of environment', 'Writing articles', 'Logic', 'Environmental Science', 'Policy and research', 'Thinking and analyzing', 'Business', 'Meeting people', 'Digital', and 'Testing'.

## Knowledge and Skills

Knowledge and skills identified multiple times by young people during this task

### Skills

- Analytical thinking
- Creativity
- Driving
- Focus
- Problem solving
- Teamwork

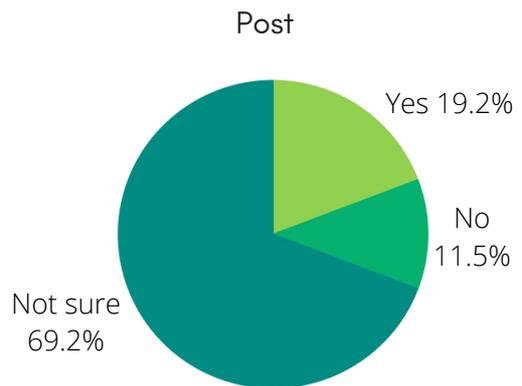
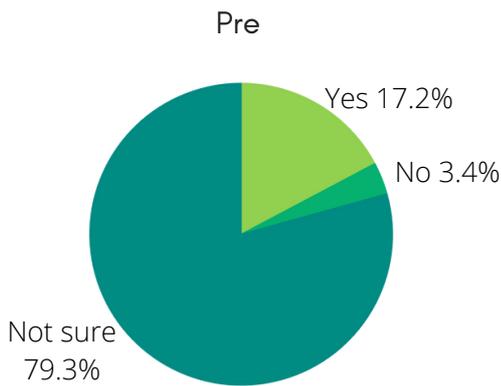
### Knowledge

- Biology
- Business
- Digital
- Environmental science
- Numeracy
- Planning

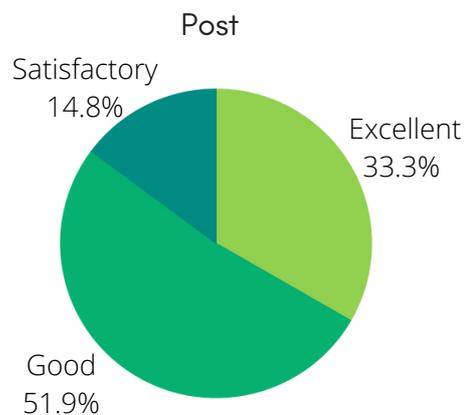
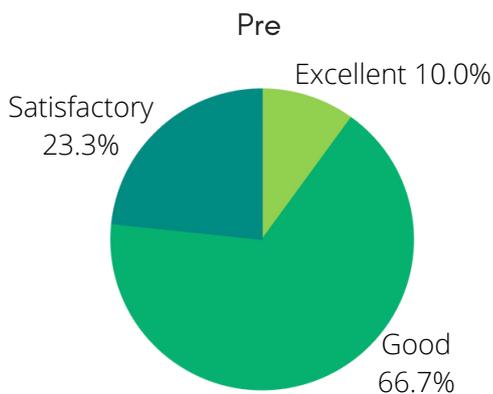


# WAKEFIELD YOUTH CONSULTATION

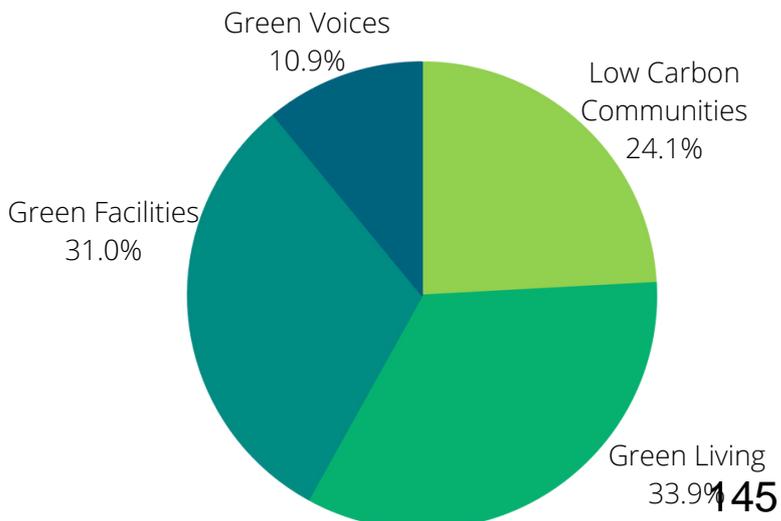
Are you interested in a green career?



How would you rate your understanding of the range of green jobs available?



## Green Funding Allocation



## Green Projects

- Green Living** - "Recycled materials for houses."  
"Turning food waste into compost or energy."
- Lower carbon emissions** - "Seed bomb - plant many seeds over a large area (provides habitats for animals)."
- Hydro** - "Water can be used and separated into hydrogen and oxygen via an electrolyser. Then it is consumed into a fuel cell and converted into energy. This only produces water that can be collected and used again to fuel the car."

## How can we support more young people, as well as their parents and carers, to find out more about the green jobs available locally?

The students that took part from Castleford Academy focussed their suggestions on advertisement, and more specifically websites. There was also plenty of suggestions that school would be a good place for young people to find out more about the range of green jobs available; these varied from learning more in lessons, online resources, and people coming into schools to conduct workshops or speeches about green jobs.

"Advertise more green jobs in everyday life"

"More lessons in school and advertisements"

## Are there any barriers preventing young people from pursuing a green job?

Low pay was the most frequent topic of responses regarding barriers for young people pursuing green jobs. The idea that green jobs are hard and that more experienced people will have a better chance of taking those roles were also voiced several times.

"Getting dirty and low pay"

"Large competition for the job"

## What would attract and inspire you, as a young person, to consider a green job?

The vast majority of responses centred around high pay and having a positive environmental impact as reasons green jobs could be attractive to young people. The social impact and potential future opportunities were also cited as factors that might appeal to people in their age range.

"To preserve the environment"

"Helping the future generations"

## Dream Green Job

The image shows three student worksheets for 'Dream Green Job'. Each worksheet has a drawing of a person and a grid for Skills & Qualities, Knowledge, and Tasks & Responsibilities. The first student has drawn a person with a speech bubble saying 'I'm going to be a CEO' and 'I'm going to be a CEO'. The second student has drawn a person with a speech bubble saying 'I'm going to be a CEO' and 'I'm going to be a CEO'. The third student has drawn a person with a speech bubble saying 'I'm going to be a CEO' and 'I'm going to be a CEO'.

## Knowledge and Skills

Knowledge and skills identified multiple times by young people during this task

### Skills

- Analytical thinking
- Creativity
- Focus
- Problem solving
- Public speaking
- Strength
- Teamwork

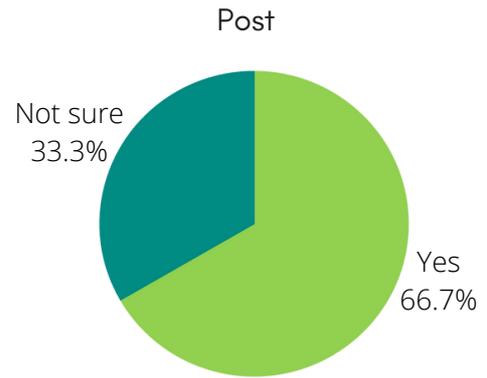
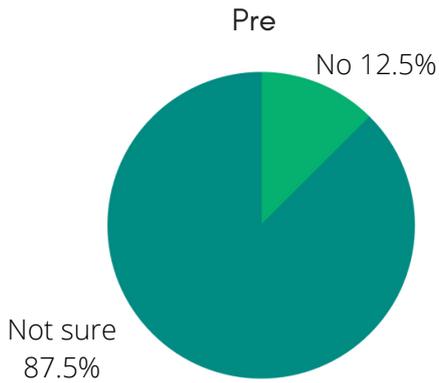
### Knowledge

- Biology
- Business
- Computing
- Digital
- Engineering
- Environmental science
- Geography
- Language
- Numeracy

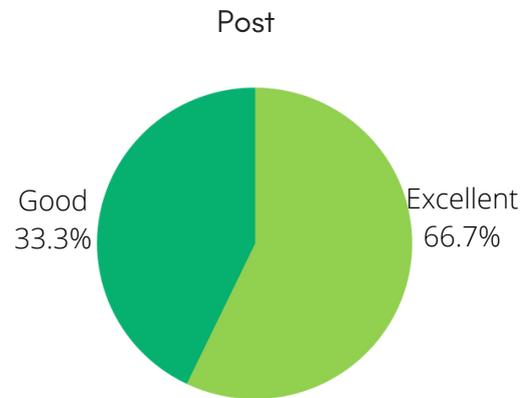
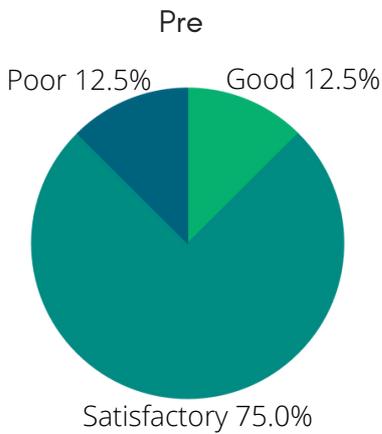


# BRADFORD YOUTH CONSULTATION

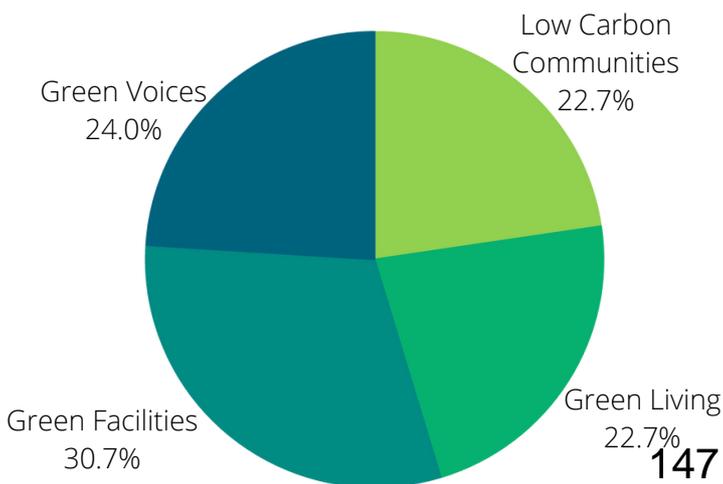
## Are you interested in a green career?



## How would you rate your understanding of the range of green jobs available?



## Green Funding Allocation



## Green Projects

**Low carbon communities** - "Government needs to be more stable and give good investment to communities to be green."  
**Green facilities** - "Easier to invest in and reducing cars on the road which are petrol/diesel would have a great impact on emissions."  
 "Invest more money in scheduling of buses (Bigger buses for peak times)."  
 "Bring bikes hires and trial with the community - healthier, environmentally and physically."  
**Green living** - "Solar panels on schools, colleges, and offices."

## How can we support more young people, as well as their parents and carers, to find out more about the green jobs available locally?

Bradford New College students suggested that the best ways to get more information about green jobs to young people and their parents/carers was via events and school activities, in the form of workshops and talks. There were also several responses that mentioned social media campaigns on platforms such as TikTok, as well as through news and websites.

"Events and educate people with talks at schools"

"Have local events and be told about it in school"

## Are there any barriers preventing young people from pursuing a green job?

Lack of opportunities and lack of knowledge around green jobs were the main points made regarding the barriers to pursuing green jobs for young people. One student also raised the concern that people who cannot speak English very well may have additional barriers to being fully informed about green jobs.

"Some areas may not have opportunities"

"Lack of knowledge of green jobs for young people"

## What would attract and inspire you, as a young person, to consider a green job?

Improving the environment, as well as the situation for future generations, were factors mentioned that may compel young people to look into green jobs. There were also several references to high pay as a factor that could attract young people to green jobs. Experiencing what people in a green job do on a daily basis was another suggestion from a student.

"Keeping our planet alive"

"To help the environment/future generations, money"

## Dream Green Job

The image shows three hand-drawn cards for 'Dream Green Job'. Each card has a central figure and a grid of categories: Skills & Qualities, Knowledge, and Tasks & Responsibilities. The first card is for a 'Social Media Activist', the second for an 'Engineer', and the third for a 'Commercial Manager'. Each card includes handwritten notes and a grid of categories.

## Knowledge and Skills

Knowledge and skills identified multiple times by young people during this task

### Skills

- Analytical thinking
- Creativity
- Focus
- Problem solving
- Teamwork

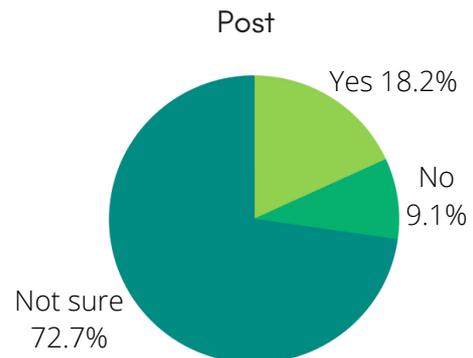
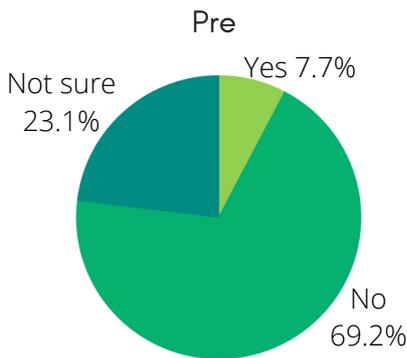
### Knowledge

- Business
- Digital
- Environmental science
- Numeracy

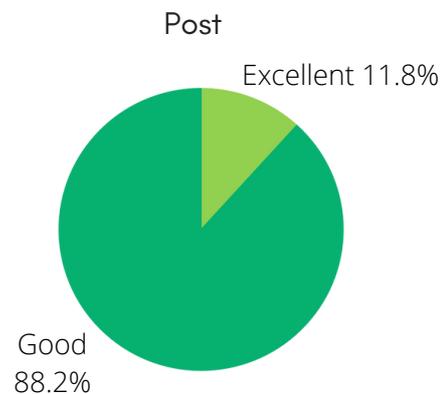
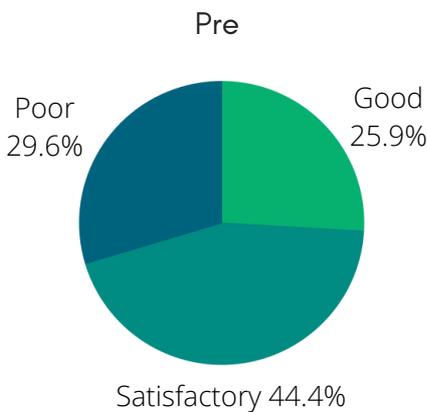


# KIRKLEES YOUTH CONSULTATION

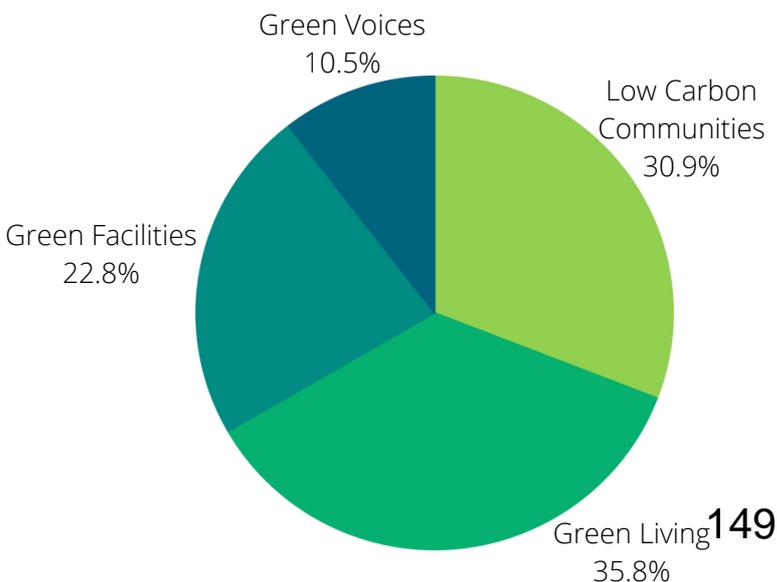
Are you interested in a green career?



How would you rate your understanding of the range of green jobs available?



## Green Funding Allocation



## Green Projects

**Low carbon communities** - "Encourage walking/cycling to work and school."  
 "Recycling in schools."  
 "We increase plants production - takes out carbon dioxide from atmosphere."  
**Green living** - "Houses: Eco building materials, solar panels, electric car chargers in garages."  
 "Parks: Make walking a more accessible way of travelling, more bins, pick up litter."  
**Green facilities** - "Low carbon emission zones, cheaper electric cars, electric buses, more electric charging points."

## How can we support more young people, as well as their parents and carers, to find out more about the green jobs available locally?

Netherhall High School students thought that the best way to get information about green jobs to young people is via social media. They also suggested a variety of other platforms to advertise on such as websites, TV, news, leaflets, posters, and radio.

"Social Media and TV advertisements"

"A website that compiles all green jobs available"

## Are there any barriers preventing young people from pursuing a green job?

A large focus of the barriers faced by young people going into green jobs was not knowing enough about the range of jobs available. There were also several concerns about the places young people would have to travel to for a green job. Students mentioned that working outside and low pay are two further barriers.

"Not knowing enough about it"

"Places I have to go/travel"

## What would attract and inspire you, as a young person, to consider a green job?

The enjoyability of green jobs is paramount to attracting young people, based on this set of student responses. A good salary and the positive environmental impact are two other aspects that would inspire young people to consider a green job.

"If the job is fun and I genuinely enjoy it"

"Interesting, creative, good salary"

## Dream Green Job

The image shows three student worksheets for the 'Dream Green Job' activity. Each worksheet has a drawing and handwritten notes. The first student, 'Hanna', drew a person holding a book and wrote 'International Teacher'. The second student, 'Lila', drew a person with a crown and wrote 'Queen of Green'. The third student, 'Lila', drew a person with a crown and wrote 'Queen of Green'. Each worksheet has a grid for 'Skills & Qualities', 'Knowledge', and 'Tasks & Responsibilities' with handwritten entries.

## Knowledge and Skills

Knowledge and skills identified multiple times by young people during this task

### Skills

- Analytical thinking
- Communication
- Confidence
- Creativity
- Determination
- Focus
- Patience
- Problem solving
- Teamwork

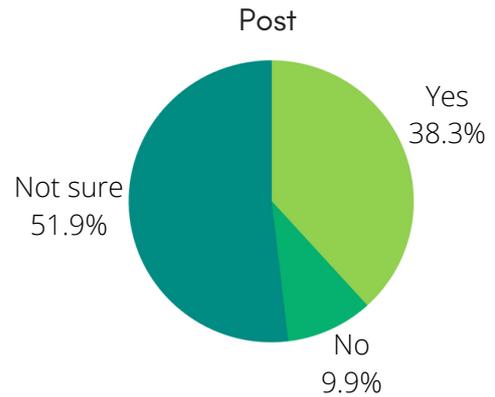
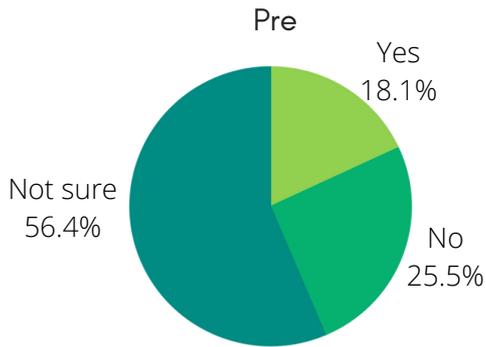
### Knowledge

- Biology
- Business
- Digital
- Environmental science
- Numeracy
- Trade skills

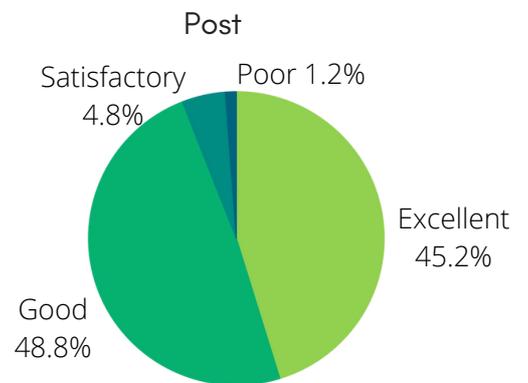
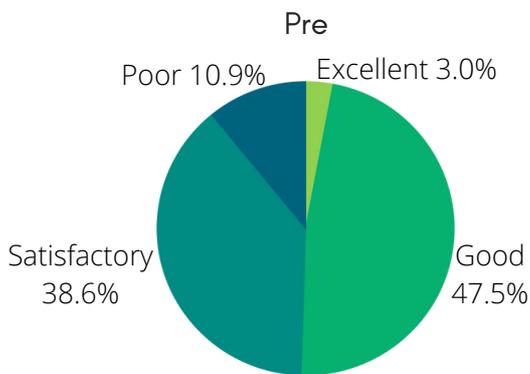


# OVERALL FINDINGS

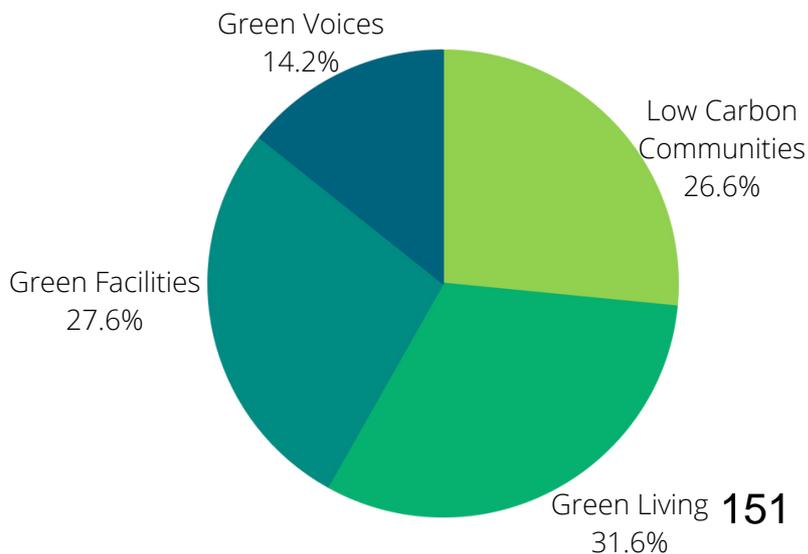
## Are you interested in a green career?



## How would you rate your understanding of the range of green jobs available?

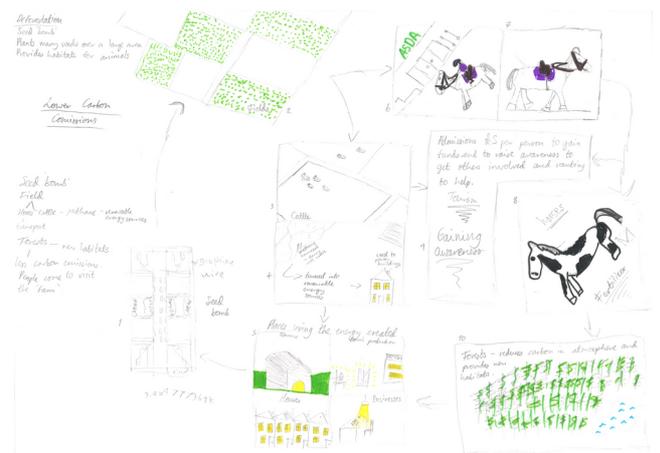


## Green Funding Allocation



## Green Projects

Lower carbon emissions project planning by Castleford Academy students



## How can we support more young people, as well as their parents and carers, to find out more about the green jobs available locally?

Across all participating schools, advertisements and learning more about green jobs in school were the most popular responses. There were also a significant amount of mentions of websites for either advertising green jobs, or being a place for information regarding green jobs. Holding events, either in an education setting or involving the local community, was also a commonly suggested method of supporting young people to find out about green jobs.

"Advertise more green jobs in everyday life"

"Have local events and be told about it in school"

## Are there any barriers preventing young people from pursuing a green job?

By far the most noted barrier that would deter young people from pursuing a green job was low pay. A lack of knowledge around green jobs, and the variety of them that exist, was also mentioned. Other barriers that were voiced include green jobs being hard, a lack of education and accessibility to enter into green jobs, and travel.

"Other jobs might pay better"

"Lack of knowledge of green jobs for young people"

## What would attract and inspire you, as a young person, to consider a green job?

Two aspects that would attract young people to green jobs were repeated more than the rest; high pay and the positive environmental impact made as a result of the job. In addition, having a positive social impact, the green jobs being fun, and learning more about green jobs, were all stated as qualities that would attract and inspire young people to consider pursuing a green job.

"The impact you could make upon the environment"

"Interesting, creative, good salary"

## Dream Green Job

The image displays three hand-drawn 'Dream Green Job' cards. Each card features a central illustration and a table with three columns: Skills & Qualities, Knowledge, and Tasks & Responsibilities. The first card, titled 'Zoo-ologist', shows a person with a monkey and a dog. The second card, titled 'Solar power', shows a person with a wind turbine and a sun. The third card, titled 'marine biologist', shows a person with a microscope and a globe. Each table contains handwritten notes and icons related to the job.

## Knowledge and Skills

Knowledge and skills identified at multiple schools, multiple times by young people during this task

### Skills

- Analytical thinking
- Creativity
- Focus
- Patience
- Problem solving
- Teamwork

### Knowledge

- Biology
- Business
- Digital
- Environmental science
- 152 Numeracy
- Trade skills



## WHAT DID STUDENTS LIKE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?

"The inclusivity and interactive nature, as well as the advice given to us."

*Castleford Academy Student*

"It was quite different to what I usually do and it showed a lot of things I didn't previously know."

*Castleford Academy Student*

"It was a fun and informative session that has opened my eyes to green living."

*New College Bradford Student*

"I learnt a lot about green jobs and got multiple opportunities to share my ideas and opinions on the subject."

*Netherhall High School Student*

In a UK study in 2022, 62% of young people say they're passionate about sustainability but 63% have never heard of green jobs.



## SUMMARY

Overall, the young people participating in this programme improved their understanding of the range of green jobs available across the region. The number of students that rated their understanding as excellent increased **more than ten times** between the start and end of the programme, as well as responses of satisfactory and poor decreasing significantly. They also showed an increase in interest of pursuing a green job after the events with **82%** more students stating they are interested in a green job, alongside a decrease of 67% in students who said they aren't.

The students involved in this programme perceived green jobs as low paying, hard jobs. As well as this perception, the young people participating also acknowledged that a lack of knowledge around the range of green jobs available would be a barrier for applying to one. The most popular methods of getting this information out to young people are via lessons, events, and talks within schools, as well as advertisements across a range of platforms including websites, social media and TV. According to the participating students, the positive environmental and social impact they could have in these roles would be key aspects to focus on to inspire and attract young people to green jobs, other than monetary incentives.

Overall, students decided that the best green investment areas to fund, in priority order, would be Green Living, Green Facilities, Low Carbon Communities, and lastly Green Voices. Four out of five schools ranked Green Living as the most important and Green Voices as the least important.

## CONTACT US



**Megan Lipp**  
Head of Development



**Georgina Johnson**  
Programme Manager



**Report to:** Climate, Energy & Environment Committee

**Date:** 10 January 2022

**Subject:** **Pledge Delivery Update**

**Director:** Liz Hunter, Director Policing, Environment and Place.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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. Where updates have been provided as part of other agenda items this information has not been duplicated.

## 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

#### Progress to date

- 1.3 Review meetings with several, but not all of the districts have taken place, this has generated renewed interest and several potential projects have been

added to the provisional pipeline with one application for funding received and a further two being worked up.

- 1.4 A procurement exercise for a supplier to develop the WYCA Net Zero Prospectus was undertaken; this received 7 bids. However, upon assessment none of the submitted bids were suitable to award. A new procurement exercise is underway with the aim of appointing a supplier early in Q1.

### **Green Smart Community Integrated Energy Systems**

#### Progress to date

- 1.5 Two study sites have been selected from within West Yorkshire, one in Wakefield and one on the border with Calderdale and Kirklees. Both schemes are progressing well with multiple opportunities being identified and modelling currently underway. Reports for the two feasibility studies should be available in Q1.

### **Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain**

#### Overview

- 1.6 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).
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 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.

- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 DEFRA continues to develop the national policy framework with the aim to begin roll out of LNRS in April 2023. A vital part of that framework are the LNRS Regulations and Guidance, which are not yet available. Natural England LNRS regional training for responsible authorities is scheduled for early 2023.
- 1.12 A further £32,500 Local Capacity Seed Funding Grant is being made available to support capacity-building.

#### Progress to date

- 1.13 Ahead of the publication of the Regulations and Guidance and to prepare WY's approach, governance options are being developed in collaboration with Natural England and will be presented at a future meeting.

### **Resource Efficient Business**

#### Progress to date

- 1.14 REBiz has engaged with c550 SMEs, providing resource efficiency audits to 272 by the end of October. At 31 October, 217 businesses had received a grant or at least 12 hours support, and progress is on target. Carbon saving targets have already been exceeded with nearly 2,400 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per annum, and this is on course to exceed 3,000 t.
- 1.15 The business sustainability programme that will replace REBiz was approved at the Combined Authority on 8 December 2022, and work is commencing on implementation.
- 1.16 As part of this programme, the Energy Price Emergency Grants fund launched on 8 December and will provide £1 million of grant support to 250-350 businesses with less than 50 staff to implement energy saving measures to address the cost of doing business crisis.

### **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy**

- 1.17 Update included as part of Low Emission Vehicle Strategy Item.

### **Zero Emission Buses**

#### Progress to date

- 1.18 The Zero Emission Bus Programme currently in delivery will help to increase this to closer to between 14% and 19%. This programme includes:

- Phase 1: £56.2million project to introduce 111 zero emission buses and charging on routes in Bradford, Leeds, and Wakefield districts funded through Department for Transport's Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) funding.
  - Phase 2: £4 million project to introduce 8 zero emission buses and charging to routes in Calderdale and Kirklees funded through Gain Share, with a focus on exploring the impact of hilly landscape on the running of electric buses, and how the Combined Authority can work with smaller operators running tendered services to encourage a switch to zero emission buses.
  - Phase 3: £21million project to introduce between 60 and 126 zero emission buses and charging (number of vehicles subject to delivery model). This will be funded through City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS).
- 1.19 Delivery of Phase 1, the ZEBRA scheme, is now underway with bus operators, planned for completion in 2024. Additionally, work is ongoing to plan for transition the remaining fleet to zero emission vehicles, looking at delivery models and funding approaches alongside our franchising work.

### **Flood Risk Management**

#### Progress to date

- 1.20 Natural Flood Management (NFM) Programme: A £7.1m programme comprising 9 schemes has been agreed with partners and was approved for CEP Wave 1 funding.
- 1.21 The programme has potential to deliver over 4,000 NFM interventions including leaky dams, storage ponds and remaindering (naturalising) watercourses. The schemes will support wider work to deliver flood resilience at a catchment scale alongside capital flood infrastructure schemes. The programme will also align with work to enhance biodiversity and support carbon sequestration.
- 1.22 Partners are now developing the project businesses cases. It is anticipated that these will be approved on a rolling basis from Spring 2023 onwards with delivery commencing thereafter.
- 1.23 Capital infrastructure Flood Programme: A £250m programme including 24 infrastructure schemes. The package of schemes have the potential to provide enhanced flood protection to 3,600 homes and 2,800 businesses. Additional investment of £61m is needed to deliver the full programme across all phases.
- 1.24 The programme received approval at Strategic Assessment stage in November 2022. Work is now ongoing with partners to consider how additional funding for the programme can be identified.

## **Solar PV & Storage Programme**

### **Overview**

- 1.25 This Programme forms part of the Wave 1 Actions to tackle the Climate and Environment Plan. The Combined Authority is working with the District partners and the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership to develop an array of solar PV and storage initiatives.

### **Progress to date**

- 1.26 Several Schemes have been developed through the solar and storage task and finish group following established green book long to short listing processes. The following schemes have been moved forward into development.
- Install 233 kW of solar on eight of the Combined Authority's bus stations by July 2023.
  - 50 x Solar on Schools (or other community buildings) installations by December 2023.
  - West Yorkshire Housing Partnership 1,000 – 2,000 solar and battery systems by December 2024.
  - Launch a collective group-buying scheme for West Yorkshire residents by March 2024.
  - Establish a funding pot to support feasibility studies and business case development, with the aim of developing a pipeline of medium to large-scale solar projects in the region by March 2024.

## **Hydrogen Strategy**

- 1.27 Update included as part of Low Emission Vehicle Strategy Item.

### **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.