

CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2023
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON
STREET, LEEDS, LS1 2DE**

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 21 MARCH 2023**
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- 5. CHAIR'S UPDATE**
- 6. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**
Lead Director: Alan Reiss, Lead Author: Caroline Allen
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- 7. MONITORING INDICATORS**
Lead Director: Alan Reiss, Lead Author: Peter Glover
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9. PROJECT APPROVALS

Lead Director: Liz Hunter, Lead Author: Craig Taylor
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10. BETTER HOMES HUB

Lead Director: Liz Hunter, Lead Author: Nadia McPherson

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11. GREEN SKILLS

Lead Director: Phil Witcherley, Lead Author: Michelle Hunter

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12. CLIMATE PLEDGE UPDATE

Lead Director: Liz Hunter, Lead Author: Noel Collings
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For Information

13. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 24th October 2023.

Signed:



**Managing Director
West Yorkshire Combined Authority**



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2023 AT MEETING ROOM 1
WELLINGTON HOUSE, WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS LS1 1DE**

Present:

Councillor Tim Swift MBE (Chair)	Calderdale Council
Mark Roberts (Deputy Chair)	Private Sector (LEP Board)
Councillor Sarah Ferriby	Bradford Council
Councillor Scott Patient	Calderdale Council
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Council
Councillor Katie Dye	Leeds City Council
Councillor Jack Hemingway	Wakefield Council
John Clark	Private Sector Representative
William Firth	Private Sector Representative
Richard Goodfellow	Private Sector Representative
Gideon Richards	Private Sector Representative
Leah Stuart	Private Sector Representative
Martyn Broadest	Advisory Representative (West Yorkshire Housing Partnership)
Jim Cardwell	Advisory Representative (Northern Powergrid)
Heather Sheffield	Advisory Representative (Northern Gas Networks)

In attendance:

Liz Hunter (Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Sophie Collins (Officer)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Noel Collings (Officer)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Tamsin Constable (Officer)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Owen Gilroy (Officer)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Myles Larrington (Officer)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Janette Woodcock (Officer)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paula Widdowson (City of York Council), private sector representative, Ben Tongue and advisory representative, Gregg Dodd (Northern Gas Networks).

2. Declaration of Disposable Pecuniary Interests

Richard Goodfellow declared an interest in Item 10, he advised the committee that he worked with Octopus Energy.

3. Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no agenda items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 January 2023

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee held on 10 January 2023 be approved.

5. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting by observing that, since the last meeting in January, the committee had been notified of a successful funding bid from North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub of £100,000 to support the production of a hydrogen use case for West Yorkshire. This work would assist in delivering a clear policy position for future hydrogen developments in West Yorkshire.

The Chair also thanked Simon Pringle, as his term of office as a member of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee and the LEP Board was coming to an end. The Chair acknowledged his contribution to the committee and its predecessor the Green Economy Panel and wished him all the best in the future.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The Committee considered a report about a monitoring and evaluation framework that was in development.

The Chair introduced the item, officers then presented the report to members and explained that the framework provided a flexible way for the Combined Authority to monitor progress towards the commitments in the Climate and Environment Plan. This framework sought to enhance the Combined Authority's ability to monitor the impact that projects and programmes had on the current climate ambitions, which included:

- A monitoring and evaluation framework which provided a detailed insight into how the impact of these policies would be understood.
- A bank of indicators and appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches would be identified to ensure that the impact of actions could demonstrate collective impact against the Combined Authority's climate emergency ambitions.
- The framework's dashboard would demonstrate the factual, counterfactual, and achieved pathways.
- Updates on the outputs derived from the framework would be provided to future meetings of the Committee alongside regular programme development and delivery updates, as appropriate.

Members made the following observations:

- They expressed a desire to see the actual framework to better understand the modelling and assumptions within it. Officers indicated that a copy of the framework would be shared with members.
- Comment was made that the equality and diversity implications should capture the fact that there are some groups who are significant carbon emitters. The view was taken that these groups should not be treated equally and that carbon reduction plans should emphasise measures which are at the expense of such groups.
- Members expressed the opinion that this was not the collective view of the committee as others wished to see as many stakeholders involved in this process as possible and commented that different groups should all be engaged with equally.

Resolved: That the contents of the report and feedback provided from members on the detail presented to support the shaping of the monitoring and evaluation framework be noted.

7. Project Approvals

The Committee considered a report which summarised proposals for the progression of and funding for projects under Investment Priority 4 (Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability Investment within the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS)), that had been considered at stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Combined Authority's assurance process.

It was noted that the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee had been authorised as a delegated decision-making authority at the Combined Authority meeting held on 24 June 2021.

The Better Neighbourhoods Programme

The Better Neighbourhoods programme forms part of the wider Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) Wave 1 portfolio. The programme would work with the five West Yorkshire local authority partners, to provide grants of £5,000 to £50,000, to local communities, with a particular focus on those communities considered disadvantaged, to fund projects that would support the transition to net zero carbon.

Members discussed the project and made the following observations:

- It was observed that no benefit cost ratio was outlined in the submitted report. Members enquired how the plan would demonstrate that this funding delivered value for money (VfM) when the projects were examined at the end. Officers indicated that VfM will involve aggregating what could be a really diverse set of outputs and that might hide some pockets of really low or really high VfM. VfM will be assessed as part of the programme evaluation, planned to be completed by March 2025. Officers also said that members would be updated as this

- project progressed.
- It was indicated that benchmarking was vital to ensure healthy competition between local authorities was positive and that unified communication between these partners and the Combined Authority was delivered. Officers indicated that processes were in place to ensure that this would be the case.
 - Members expressed a desire that the application process remained as straightforward as possible to ensure that funding was targeted at the groups who required it most and to ensure these projects benefitted as many people within West Yorkshire as possible.
 - It was noted that the report interchangeably used the phrases CO₂ and CO₂e and, in future, it should be made clear which term was being applied and in what context.
 - Members expressed a desire that more external organisations should be involved with these projects.

Resolved: The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, subject to the conditions set by the Programme Appraisal Team, approved the following.

- i. That the Better Neighbourhoods programme proceeded through to decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and decision point 4 (full business case) and that work commence on activity 5 (delivery).
- ii. Approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £2,060,000. The total scheme value is £2,060,000.
- iii. That the Combined Authority enter into a Funding Agreement with each of the West Yorkshire local authorities for expenditure up to the amounts indicated in the submitted report, which was £397,324 for Bradford, £155,475 for Calderdale, £310,950 for Kirklees, £604,624 for Leeds and £259,125 for Wakefield.
- iv. That future approvals be made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the submitted report. This would be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in the report.

The Combined Authority Assets Solar Project – Bus Stations

The Combined Authority's Assets Solar Project – Bus Stations formed part of the wider Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) Wave 1 portfolio. The scheme would deliver 233 Kilowatt Peak (kWp) of solar panels to seven West Yorkshire bus stations, located in Batley, Bradford (Interchange), Brighouse, Castleford, Cleckheaton, Keighley and Ossett. The scheme's objectives aimed to reduce carbon emissions by a gross figure of 393 tonnes over a 25- year period and reduce energy consumption from the national grid, reducing energy costs by £1,700,000, based on current energy prices, over the same time period.

Members discussed the project and made the following observations.

- It was questioned whether implementing solar panels at bus stations represented the most optimal use of the funding available, while acknowledging the beneficial visual impact this policy would have on the public. Officers confirmed that it was good practice to utilise the assets available to the Combined Authority, as the savings yielded could be directly spent in ways beneficial to the people of West Yorkshire.
- Members enquired if energy efficiency was being considered as part of the proposals. Officers responded that they were examining the possibility of savings being made on public holidays and less travel intensive days. It was indicated that some bus stations could generate more power than they consume if additional solar panels were installed where the appropriate load bearing capacity was available.
- A query was made about how the initiative would impact Wakefield Bus Station which was owned by the bus operator, Arriva. Similar enquires were made about Huddersfield Bus Station and officers indicated that they would investigate and provide feedback in due course.
- Members expressed a desire for the project to have strong ambitions given the Combined Authority's scale and influence in relation to partner councils.
- It was questioned whether this project could be delivered in the timescales provided in view of the ongoing impact of price inflation. Officers indicated that, due to extensive discussions with the project consultants, they had strong confidence the project would be completed within the expected timeframe. It was noted that the solar panels would also be subject to a 25 year warranty in case future maintenance was required.
- Members enquired whether rain harvesting measures had been considered which could be useful in relation to roof installation. Officers reported that rain harvesting would definitely be suggested for other schemes.

Resolved: The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, subject to the conditions set by the Programme Appraisal Team, approved that:

- i. That the Combined Authority Assets Solar Project – Bus Stations scheme proceed through to decision point 2 to 4 (business justification) and that work commence on activity 5 (delivery)
- ii. Approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £366,310. The total scheme value is £476,203.

8. Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Committee considered an update report on the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy and sought feedback from members. The report outlined the following.

- The Environment Act 2021 enacted a commitment to a Nature Recovery Network made in the Government's 2018 25 year Environment Plan to create a national network of nature-rich places.

- Key to this was the Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) – a new mandatory system of spatial strategies for nature. This initiative would map where local habitat improvement and restoration could enhance ecological networks on the ground, establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature’s recovery.
- This would also identify opportunities for wider environmental benefits. LNRSs would have no status in planning or delivery but would instead be ‘opportunity maps’ that would help identify what action would be most likely to help nature to recover and deliver wider environment benefits in specific places.

Members made the following observations.

- It was observed that it would be better if the strategy had an enhanced status in design and delivery, as members took the view that developments should be linked with the design strategy.
- It was vital that the strategy made use of local knowledge and that the main focus was on long-term investments in relation to project management. Local communities should also be widely consulted before the strategy was implemented.
- Further clarification was sought on how the expert panel would interact with the proposed steering group.

Resolved:

- i. That the Committee noted the work done to prepare for the launch of the LNRS.
- ii. That the Committee advised on the governance proposal and its own role.
- iii. That the Committee suggested experts and stakeholders from their own areas of expertise.
- iv. That the Committee was asked whether they wished to suggest a representative to join the LNRS ‘Expert Panel’ and members decided to consult further before making any nominations.

9. Flooding Update

Members of the Committee considered an update report on the Combined Authority’s Flood Risk Management (FRM) Programme, which sought endorsement of the proposed programme prior to progression into the Combined Authority’s Assurance Process. The report outlined the following:

- In West Yorkshire approximately 39,000 residential properties and 13,000 commercial properties fell within a flood zone.
- The Combined Authority had declared a climate emergency and committed the region to be net zero carbon by 2038 at the latest, with significant progress by 2030.
- The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan (CEP), which had

been approved by the Combined Authority in October 2021, was the Mayor and Combined Authority's response to tackling the climate emergency, protecting the environment and achieving a net zero West Yorkshire.

- The Committee on 19 July 2022 received an update on the Combined Authority's Capital Flood Infrastructure Programme. The Committee endorsed the programme prior to progression into the Combined Authority's assurance process. The programme comprised of 24 flood schemes with a total capital value of £245m and a funding gap of £51m, with over 3,700 residential properties and 2,700 business premises benefitting from enhanced protection.
- The Programme was granted approval to proceed through to Decision Point 1 (Strategic Assessment) of the Assurance Process by the Combined Authority at its Meeting on 2 February 2023, this included approval of £113,735 development costs to commence work on the development of individual business cases.
- Additional approvals by the Combined Authority in relation to the Programme included the principal that £10,000,000 of Combined Authority funding would be utilised as 'match funding' in order to engage and leverage funding from other funding sources and that work commenced on the development of individual business cases, which would seek approval through the assurance process.
- The Combined Authority would work with partners to refresh the Capital Flood Infrastructure Programme leading to a Strategic Outline Case later in the year.

Members expressed the importance of ensuring that flooding activities were linked with water companies to ensure that co-ordinated risk management was taking place. They also discussed the matter of households receiving retrofitting measures and suggested that efforts should be made to increase capacity in terms of advancing the pace of the roll outs.

Resolved:

- i. The Committee noted the work undertaken with partners to drive delivery of the Combined Authority's flood risk management programme.
- ii. The Committee considered the proposed methods of engagement with government to address the remaining funding gap in the programme.

10. Better Homes Hub Update

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the emerging programme of work for the Better Homes Hub. The report outlined the following.

- The Combined Authority declared a climate emergency in 2019 and had set an ambitious target to be net zero carbon by 2038. Officers had commissioned research to understand the different pathways and interventions that would enable this target to be reached.

- The research suggested that to meet net zero carbon 680,000 of West Yorkshire's homes would need to be upgraded to a good level of thermal efficiency (EPC C level or higher) with a similar number requiring some form of low carbon heating system eg air source heat pump to be installed.
- The results of this research underpinned the Combined Authority's Climate and Environment Plan (CEP). A key area of delivery reflecting the scale of the challenge in decarbonising the regions homes related to the Better Homes Hub (BHH). This was an umbrella programme which encompasses all activity on domestic energy efficiency, both on existing properties and new builds.
- The submitted report followed on from the update provided to the Committee at their last meeting. Whilst that report focussed on summarising the retrofit activity that had taken place in the region to date and provided a high-level overview of the BHH, the submitted report provided more detail on the activities that would be progressed through the programme over the next three years and beyond.

Members made the following observations.

- It was observed that much of the research on which the report was based originated from 2020. As a significant amount of thought evolution had occurred in this area since that time, it was considered necessary to revisit some of the research to ensure that it was up to date.
- There was a collective desire from members to see the scheme move faster where possible. It was also noted that Energy Performance Certificates (ECPs) were not an optimal way to measure energy performance and that the Combined Authority should use more appropriate measures to evaluate the outcome of the scheme.
- It was pointed out that a new home standard was due to be published in the near future, alongside a consultation on ECPs which could have an impact on this and other proposed schemes.
- Members also expressed a desire to see more partnerships with the private sector, where this was possible, to expand the opportunity range of these schemes, especially where new potential innovations were concerned.

Resolved:

- i. That the Committee noted the contents of the submitted report and its associated appendix, including the intention to bring several funding approvals to the Committee's July 2023 meeting.
- ii. The Committee endorsed the overarching approach to the delivery of the programme and its vision and objectives.

11. Pledge Delivery Update

The Committee considered a report which provided an overview of selected activity to deliver against the Mayoral pledge to tackle the climate emergency.

Members were presented with the progress on the 8 delivery areas, including Net Zero Regional Accelerator, Resource Efficient Business, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, Zero Emission Buses, Local Transport Plan, Solar PV and Storage Programme, Hydrogen Strategy and Green Skills. Officers advised the Committee on how these programmes would continue to be developed.

Members made the following observations.

- Regional charging infrastructure should be further explored in the future as part of the carbon strategy, with a focus on where resources could be maximised.
- The levy funding that had been introduced was welcomed, but members observed that it should be mirrored strategically at district level where possible. Furthermore, the focus should not only be on domestic charging of electric cars, but also where councils were considering upgrading their fleet.

Resolved: That the Committee noted the contents of the report.

12. Monitoring Indicators

The Committee considered a report which set out the latest position on the State of the Region monitoring indicators relating to Climate and Environment. The report outlined that:

- The Committee had previously agreed seven core indicators which had been updated since the last meeting of the Committee on 10 January 2023. Members were presented with the latest data on the outline of these indicators in the submitted report.
- For building energy efficiency, the proportion of all Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for dwellings in West Yorkshire with a rating of C or higher had increased and was now 35%, a small increase on the 34% that had been recorded in the most recent State of the Region report.
- For households in fuel poverty, the proportion of households affected in West Yorkshire was projected to increase to 33% in April 2023. This assumed that the level of the Energy Price Guarantee increased to £3,000 in April, as was currently expected.

Resolved: That the Committee noted the headline analysis of the indicators.

13. Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair closed the meeting with a note of thanks on behalf of the committee to Janette Woodcock, Governance Services Officer, who was shortly to retire after 4 years working with the Combined Authority. The Chair thanked Janette for her tireless work in supporting the committee over the years and wished her well in her forthcoming retirement.

14. Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee was scheduled to be held on 11 July 2023. This was subject to the approval of the proposed Calendar of Meetings 2023-24 at the Combined Authority's Annual Meeting in June.



Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 11 July 2023

Subject: **Governance Arrangements**

Director: Alan Reiss, Chief Operating Officer

Author: Caroline Allen, Head of Legal and Governance Services

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 advise the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee of the governance arrangements approved by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (the Combined Authority) at the Annual Meeting on 22 June 2023 in respect of the committee.

2. Information

- 2.1 At the Annual Meeting on 22 June 2023 the Combined Authority resolved to appoint the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee on the **terms of reference** attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 2.2 The **quorum** of the Committee is 3 voting members to include 2 Combined Authority members or Local Authority co-optees.
- 2.3 The Combined Authority also appointed Councillor Jane Scullion as Chair of the Committee. The Deputy Chair position is ordinarily held by a LEP Board member, but is currently vacant. However, a recruitment exercise is underway for LEP Board members following which it is anticipated one or more appointments will be made onto this Committee.

2.4. A table showing the Committee's membership is attached as **Appendix 2**. The table also sets out the voting arrangements across the different sectors of membership.

2.5. The Combined Authority agreed meeting dates for the Committee as follows:

- 11 July 2023
- 24 October 2023
- 13 February 2024
- 28 May 2024

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1 The terms of reference require this, and all committees, to promote tackling the climate emergency implications in its actions.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 The terms of reference require this, and all committees, to promote inclusive growth in its actions.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

5.1 The terms of reference require this, and all other committees, to consider equality and diversity in its actions and decision making.

5.2 The diversity of the committee will be kept under review and steps will be taken, in future recruitment campaigns, to ensure as far as possible that the membership is representative of the population we serve.

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 Climate, Energy and Environment Committee note the governance arrangements approved by the Combined Authority at the Annual Meeting on 22 June 2023.

11. Background Documents

- 11.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference for the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Appendix 2: Membership Table

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Part 3

Section 2.3 - Terms of Reference

Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee is authorised:

1. To carry out any Non-Mayoral Function¹ of the Combined Authority relating to the **climate, energy and the environment**² including:³
 - a) progressing the elements of the vision and policy framework of the Combined Authority that fall within the remit of this committee, by:
 - approving, amending or revoking any policy, investment priorities, strategy or plan⁴, and
 - delivering, monitoring and reviewing the outcomes and impact of any policy, investment priorities, strategy or plan,
 - b) progressing those elements of the Mayor's pledges that fall within the remit of this committee, ensuring alignment with the vision and policy framework of the Combined Authority where appropriate,
 - c) submitting bids for devolved and other funding,
 - d) working with key partners to develop and promote a shared understanding, approach and coherent strategies and policies, and

¹ Functions in this context are to be construed in a broad and inclusive fashion, and as including the exercise of the ancillary powers under Section 113A of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

² Including functions relating to green and blue infrastructure, local nature recovery, climate resilience, tackling fuel poverty, White Rose Forest, emission reduction, energy efficiency, energy supply, flood risk management and flood resilience.

³ Including any regional flood resilience plan.

⁴ With the exception of any major policy, investment priorities, strategy or plan reserved to the Combined Authority - see further Section 2.2 of Part 3 of the Constitution - and subject to any direction by the Mayor that any decision on a policy, investment priorities, strategy or plan be referred to the Combined Authority for determination.

- e) delivering and overseeing any project or programme⁵ in accordance with the Leeds City Region Assurance Framework⁶, including the following where authorised by a bespoke approval pathway and approval route for a scheme (after decision-point 2 only):
- making a decision to progress the scheme^{7, 8} or
 - making any recommendation to the Combined Authority⁹ or the Mayor¹⁰ about progressing the scheme, and
 - reviewing the scheme's impact.

with the **exception** of

- any function which requires a Statutory Consent¹¹ where that consent has yet to be given¹²,
 - any matter related to a Non-Mayoral Function conferred by the 2021 Order, which the Mayor has directed should be referred to the Combined Authority for determination¹³, or
 - any function which is reserved to the Combined Authority¹⁴.
2. To advise the Combined Authority in respect of any Non-Mayoral Function which relates to, or impacts on, the climate, energy and the environment.

⁵ Including any flood risk management programme

⁶ Or otherwise, where the project or programme does not fall to be considered under the Assurance Framework

⁷ including determining change requests

⁸ with the exception of any decision which would result in a revised financial approval which exceeds the cumulative total of the financial approval and tolerance threshold agreed by the Combined Authority at decision point 2 (or decision point 3) by more than 25%, in which case the decision must be referred to the Combined Authority

⁹ or to any other committee or relevant officer with delegated authority to make the decision.

¹⁰ The Mayor will determine any aspect of a scheme which is a Mayoral Function.

¹¹ These are specified functions conferred by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2021 - see further the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution

¹² In relation to any function in respect of which a Statutory Consent has been given, the Committee must exercise their authority in accordance with the terms of any Statutory Consent.

¹³ The 2021 Order provides that these matters require the support of the Mayor.

¹⁴ The functions reserved to the Combined Authority are set out in Section 2.2 of Part 3 of the Constitution.

3. To advise the Mayor in respect of any Mayoral General Function¹⁵ which relates to, or impacts on, the climate, energy and the environment.
4. To liaise with the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee and the Transport Committee to secure the decarbonisation of infrastructure including planning for sustainable development and delivery of retrofit, solar photovoltaic and flood risk management schemes.
5. To promote, in collaboration with other committees,
 - equality and diversity,
 - inclusive growth,
 - tackling the climate emergency, and
 - the strategic alignment of the Combined Authority’s policies, investment priorities, strategies and plans.
6. To respond to any report or recommendation from an overview and scrutiny committee¹⁶.

Document version control	
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Version:	1 – 23/24
Document approved by:	The Combined Authority
Date:	22 June 2023
To be of effect from:	22 June 2023

¹⁵ Mayoral General Functions are the functions of the Combined Authority which are exercisable only by the Mayor, other than PCC Functions. These are conferred by the 2021 Order (see further Table D in Section 3.1.1 of Part 3 of the Constitution), or other legislation.

¹⁶ That is, any overview and scrutiny committee of the Combined Authority (in accordance with Scrutiny Standing Orders in Part 4 of the Constitution) or of any Constituent Council

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APPENDIX 2 – Table of Members

	CA Members (Voting)	Local Authority Co-optees (Voting except for York co-optee)	LEP Board Members (Non-voting except where Deputy Chair)	Private Sector Representatives (Non-Voting)	Advisory Representatives – ex-officio (Non-Voting)
Climate, Energy & Environment Committee	Jane Scullion (Portfolio Holder)	Bradford: Sarah Ferriby (L) Calderdale: Scott Patient (L) Kirklees: Andrew Cooper (G) Leeds: Katie Dye (L) Wakefield: Jack Hemingway (L) York: Jenny Kent (L)	To be confirmed	John Clark (Engineering) Richard Goodfellow (Legal) David Owumi (Circular Economy) Gideon Richards (Professional Services) Leah Stuart (Engineering)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Powergrid; Rep (Jim Cardwell) Yorkshire Water; Rep (tbc) Northern Gas Networks; Rep (Greg Dodd) The Environment Agency; Rep (Adrian Gill) West Yorkshire Housing Partnership (Martyn Broadest)
Chair: Jane Scullion Deputy Chair: tbc					

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Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 11 July 2023

Subject: **Monitoring Indicators**

Director: Alan Reiss, Chief Operating Officer

Author: Peter Glover, Economic Evidence Manager

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 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 present an updated comparison of the outturn carbon emissions with the carbon reduction pathways derived by the Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways (CERP) study.

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 will be reported on in detail in the State of the Region 2023 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.
- Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent)
 - Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent) by sector
 - Greenhouse gas emissions intensity ratio
 - Building energy efficiency
 - Premises at risk of flooding
 - Households in fuel poverty
 - Access to greenspace
- 2.4 The following indicators have been updated with the new data since the last meeting of the Committee in March:
- Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent)
 - Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent) by sector
 - Greenhouse gas emissions intensity ratio

Key messages

- 2.5 The headline messages from the updated analysis of these indicators are as follows. It should be noted that this information was only released a couple of days before this paper was published, so there is still further consideration to be done on the consequences of the numbers. It should also be emphasised that the new figures relate to 2021 and do not provide a fully up to date picture.
- Total greenhouse gas emissions in West Yorkshire increased by 6% in 2021 compared with the previous year. This follows a decline in emissions in 2020 linked to the pandemic. However, 2021 emissions were 5% below their pre-pandemic 2019 level. This pattern of change is very similar to that seen at national level.
 - UK data indicate that the increase in emissions in 2021 was largely due to the COVID-19 restrictions easing and more heating use due to colder weather.
 - Emissions increased in all five West Yorkshire local authorities as it did across 96% of UK local authority areas. Emissions grew fastest in Bradford, Wakefield and Kirklees in 2021 (with an 8% increase in each case). Emissions grew by 6% in Calderdale and by 3% in Leeds.
 - Per capita emissions also increased in West Yorkshire in 2021 but remain lower than the England average at 4.4 versus 5.5 ktCO₂ equivalent respectively. Per capita emissions range from 3.9 ktCO₂ equivalent in Bradford to 5.7 in Wakefield.
 - All broad sectors of the West Yorkshire economy experienced an increase in emissions in 2020-21.
 - Transport is the biggest source of emissions in West Yorkshire. There was growth of 3% in transport emissions between 2020 and 2021, leaving emissions 14% below their 2019 pre-pandemic level.

- The biggest contributors to the overall net increase in emissions in West Yorkshire were the Industry sector (+201 ktCO₂e; +10%) and the Commercial sector (+138 ktCO₂e; +29%).
- West Yorkshire has a slightly higher emissions intensity than the national average. Emissions intensity fell in West Yorkshire and nationally in 2020-21 as output grew faster than emissions.
- Turning to the potential future trend, [provisional data](#) indicates that, in spite of the continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, total UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions were 2.2% lower in 2022 than in 2021 following warmer weather in 2022 and higher energy costs linked to the war in Ukraine limiting energy demand.

Comparison with carbon reduction pathways

- 2.6 A report to the meeting of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee on 4 October 2022 compared the outturn carbon emissions with the carbon reduction pathways derived by the [Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways \(CERP\) study](#). This analysis has been repeated with the updated data reported above.
- 2.7 The more recent figures have involved an adjustment to the 2019 (historical) emissions figures which means that the CERP pathways (which were matched to the previous 2019 figures) are now slightly out of alignment with the 2019 data. This means that comparison with carbon pathways can only be regarded as approximate.
- 2.8 The expected upturn in carbon emissions in 2021 returned carbon emissions to somewhere between the 'Baseline' (business as usual) and the three carbon reduction pathways in the CERP report but now well above the Tyndall proxy reduction pathway. All four of these lines are still close together at this early point in the series. More detailed analysis is provided in appendix 1 to this report (figure 3).
- 2.9 It is likely that, once published, data for 2022 will show a reduction in emissions in West Yorkshire compared with 2021, reflecting the UK position. But this may prove to be consistent with a reversion to the pre-pandemic baseline trend.

Policy Context

- 2.9 The monitoring indicators show that in 2021, the regions carbon emissions were between the business-as-usual scenario and the three modelled reduction pathways. As it is very early in the series, it is hard to distinguish between the three pathways to confirm which pathway we are on track with.
- 2.10 It is evident that a significant challenge lies ahead, and great efforts must be made, at an accelerated pace, in order to fulfil our net-zero commitments.
- 2.11 The recent [2023 Progress Report to Parliament](#) by the Climate Change Committee highlights a concerning decline in confidence regarding the UK's

ability to achieve its goals from 2030 onward compared to the previous assessment. The report emphasises the need to prioritise speed of action over striving for perfection. In particular, urgent progress is required in the buildings sector, as the implementation of fabric energy efficiency measures has drastically declined since 2012 and is far from reaching the necessary levels to meet climate targets.

2.12 Our local ambition is set out in the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan. Please see Item 12 on the agenda for an update on the actions we are prioritising and the progress we are making towards delivery of these actions.

2.14 As the CERP was completed in 2020, the Combined Authority is looking to undertake a refresh of the study. A procurement specification for this will be drafted shortly.

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. The latest analysis shows that greenhouse gas emissions grew in 2021 (the latest data available).

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 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 notes the headline analysis of the indicators and the carbon reduction pathway analysis.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1: Indicator report

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Appendix 1: Indicator Report

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**Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, 11
July 2023**

Introduction

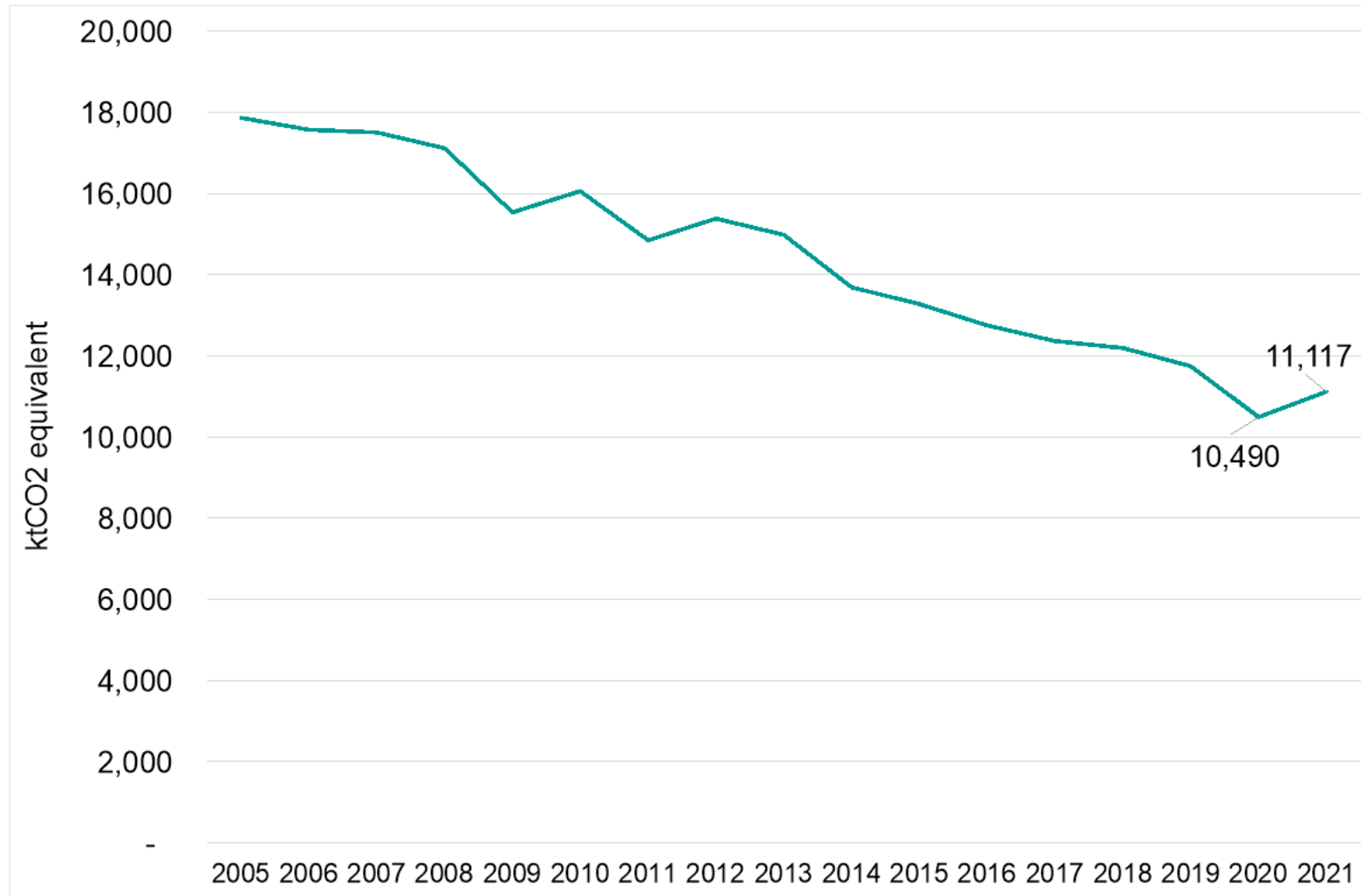
- The following slides provide an overview of West Yorkshire's performance and progress against the headline indicators for State of the Region
- A subset of indicators has been presented, reflecting those most directly relevant to the Climate, Energy and Environment agenda.
- For some indicators there has been no change in the available data but the latest figures are contained in the pack to maintain the overall picture.

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State of the Region indicators

Emissions increased in West Yorkshire in 2021 following the pandemic-related reduction in 2020 but remain below the 2019 level

Figure 1: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions, West Yorkshire (ktCO₂e)

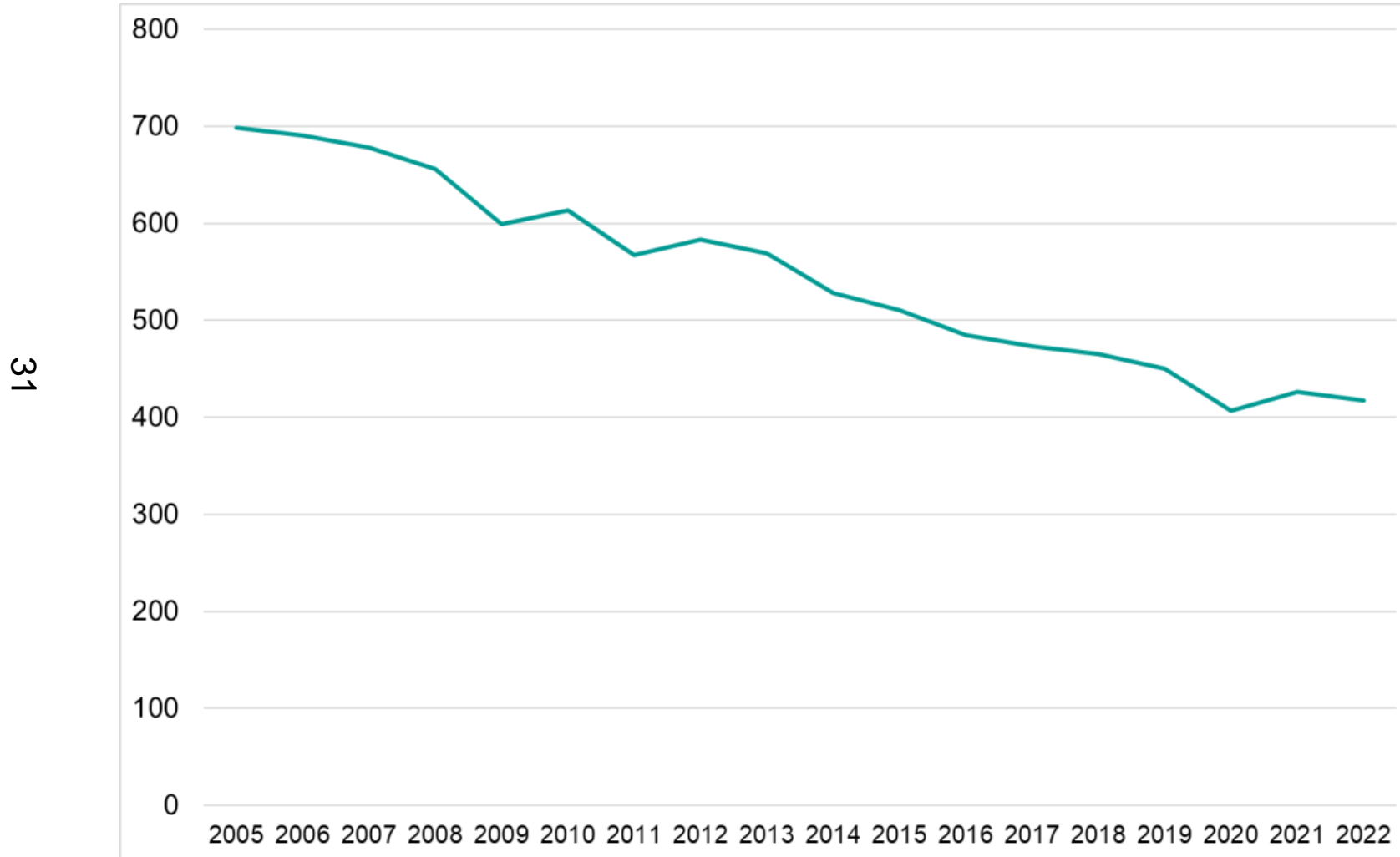


Emissions increased by 6% in 2021 but remain 5% below their 2019 level. This reflects the national picture.

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021

Provisional figures show that UK emissions fell in 2022

Figure 2: UK annual territorial greenhouse gas emissions by million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e)

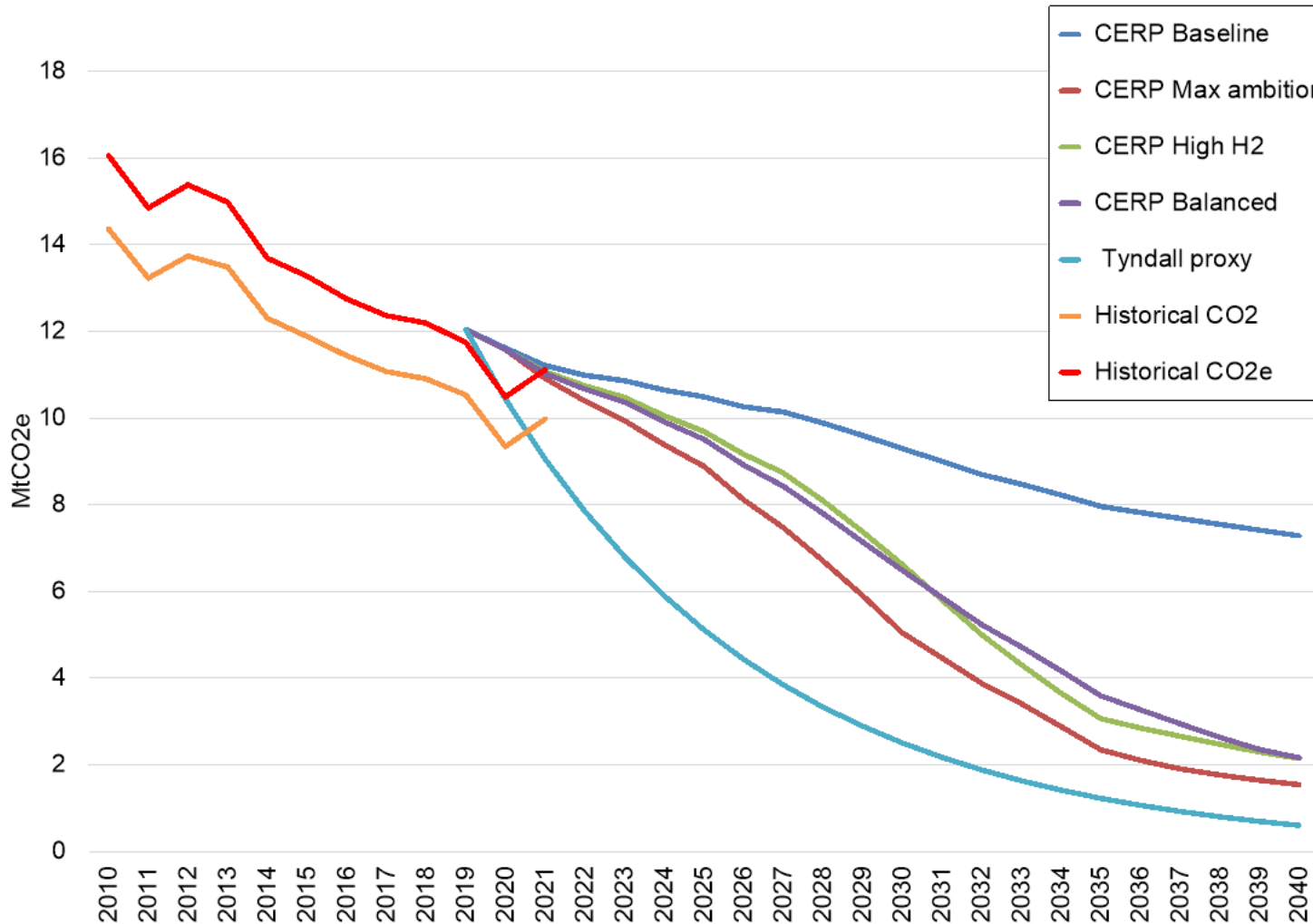


UK figures for 2022 point to a resumption of the pre-Covid trend. This is also likely to be the case for West Yorkshire when local figures are made available for 2022

Source: Provisional UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2022

The upturn in 2021 returned West Yorkshire carbon emissions to somewhere between the 'Baseline' (business as usual) and the three reduction pathways

Figure 3: Trend in West Yorkshire greenhouse gas emissions vs carbon reduction pathways (MtCO₂e)



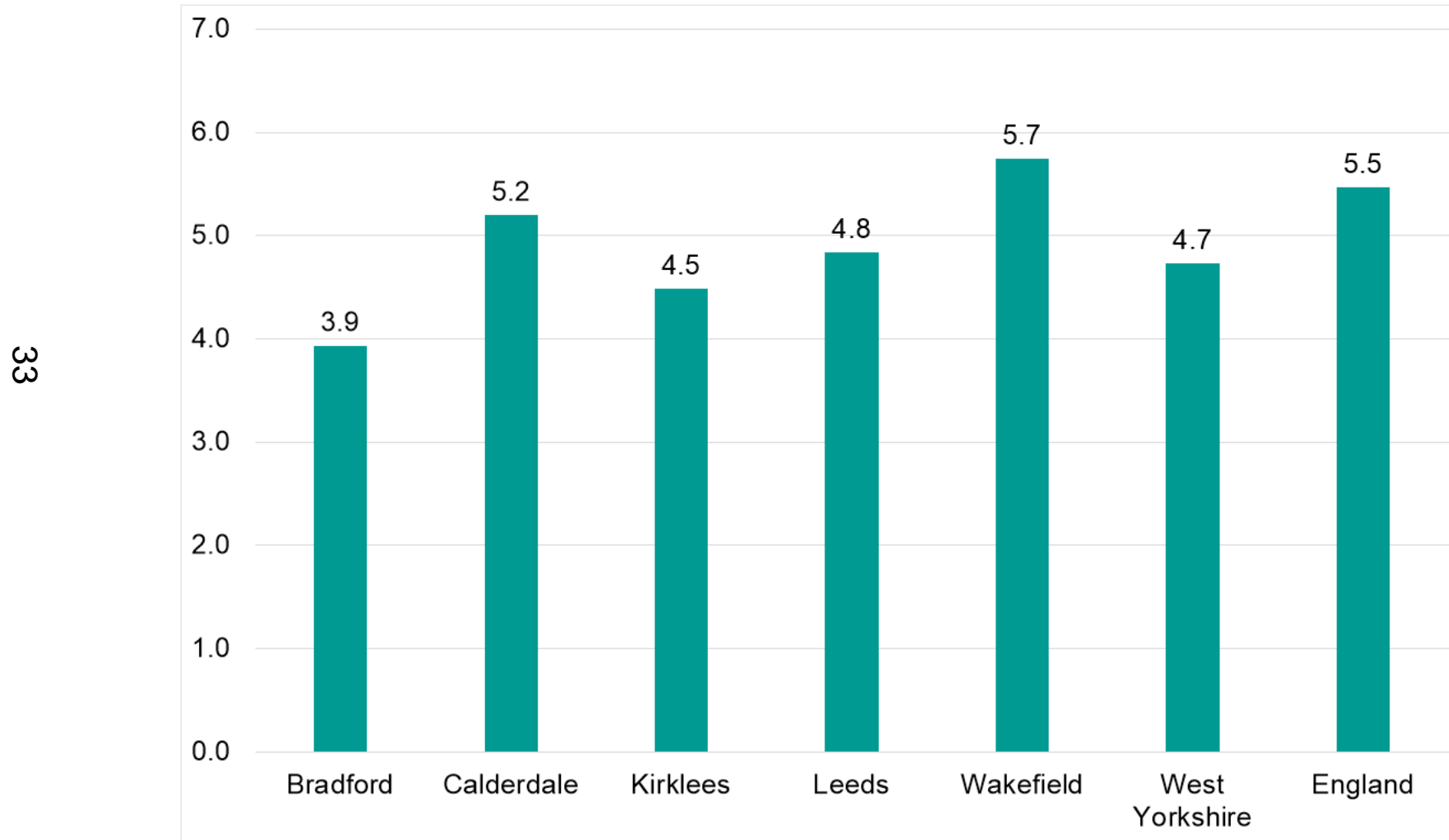
Scenarios

- Baseline - the likely levels of greenhouse gas emissions if no new action to reduce them is taken
- Max Ambition –Assumes significant electrification of heat, transport and industry supported by enabling technologies such as demand-side response and energy storage.
- High Hydrogen (High H2) - Promotes large-scale hydrogen use and carbon capture and storage roll-out.
- Balanced – Encompasses a balanced mix of technology across all sectors with contributions from hydrogen, electrification, bioenergy, carbon capture and storage, and decentralised energy production.
- Tyndall proxy - suggests what the implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement are in terms of reductions of emissions.

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021

West Yorkshire has lower emissions per capita than the national average but the position varies by local authority

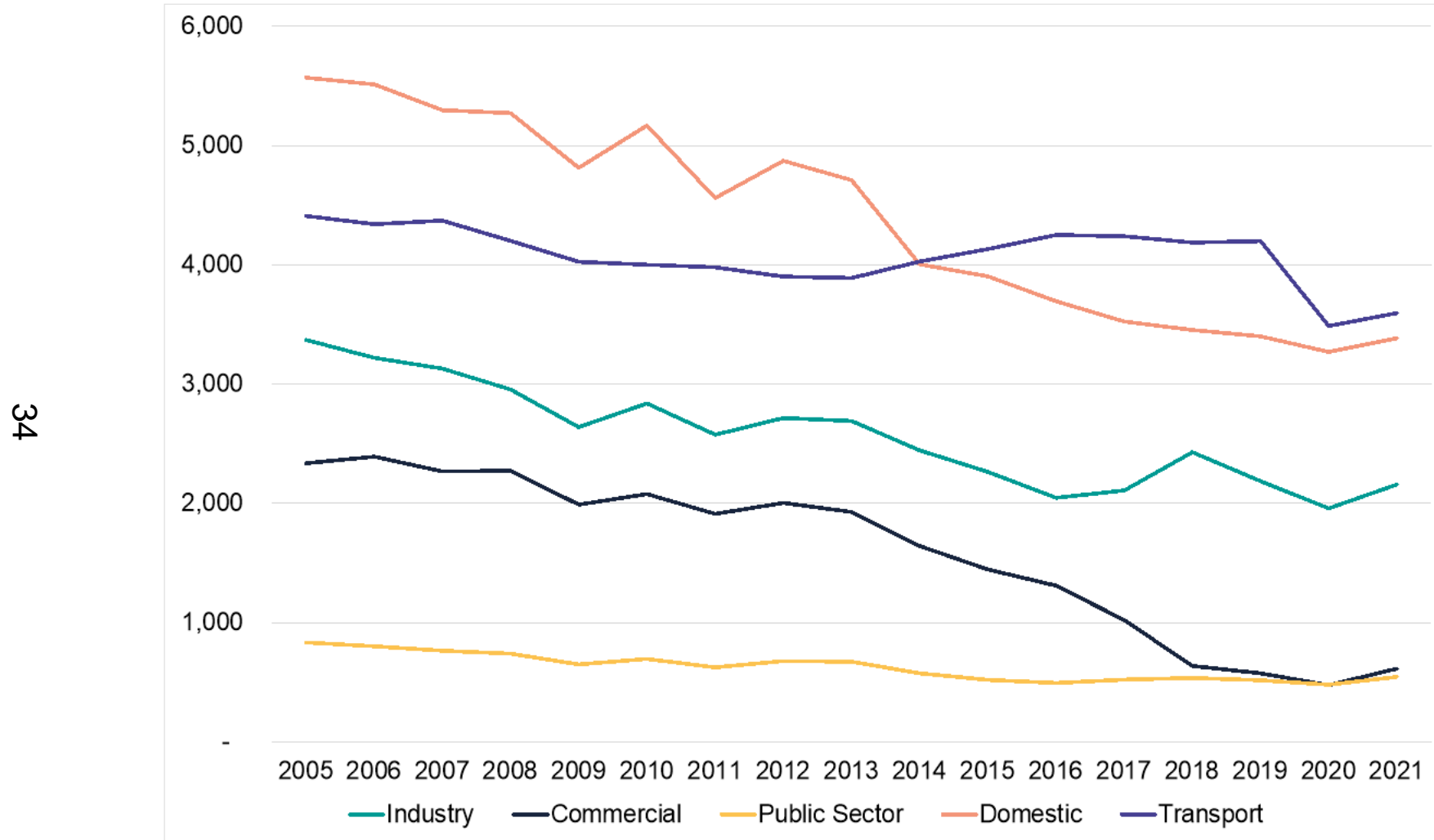
Figure 4: Per capita greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO2e per resident)



Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021

All of the main sectors of the West Yorkshire economy saw an increase in emissions during 2021

Figure 5: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions by sector, (ktCO₂e), West Yorkshire

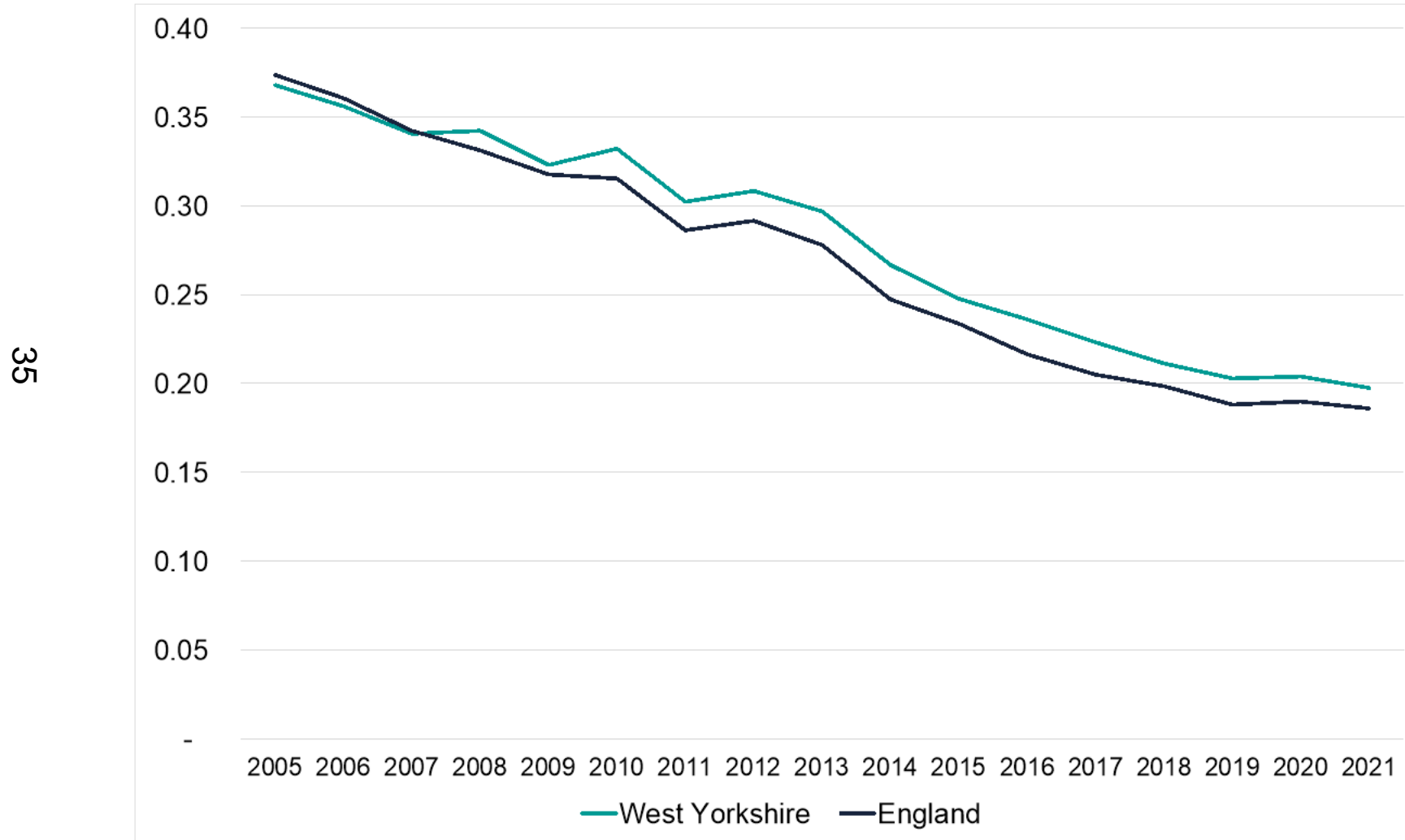


Although all sectors saw growth in 2021 most remain below their 2019 levels

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021

West Yorkshire's emissions intensity ratio fell in 2021 as an increase in GVA offset the rise in emissions

Figure 6: Greenhouse gas emissions intensity (ktCO2e per £m gross value added)

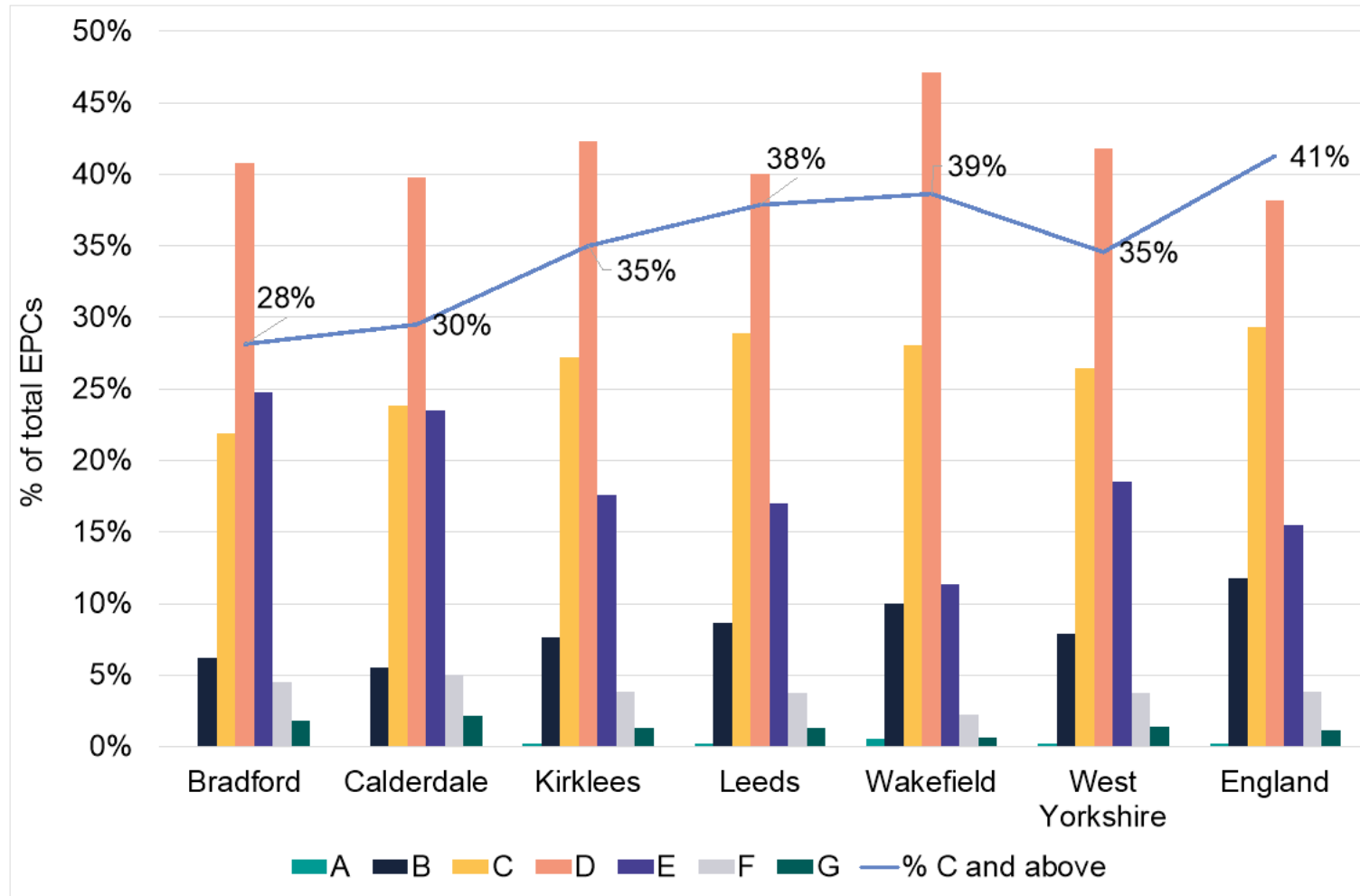


Emissions intensity remains slightly above the national average

Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021

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

Figure 7: Profile of Energy Performance Certificates by local authority and Energy Efficiency Rating, as of Q4 2022



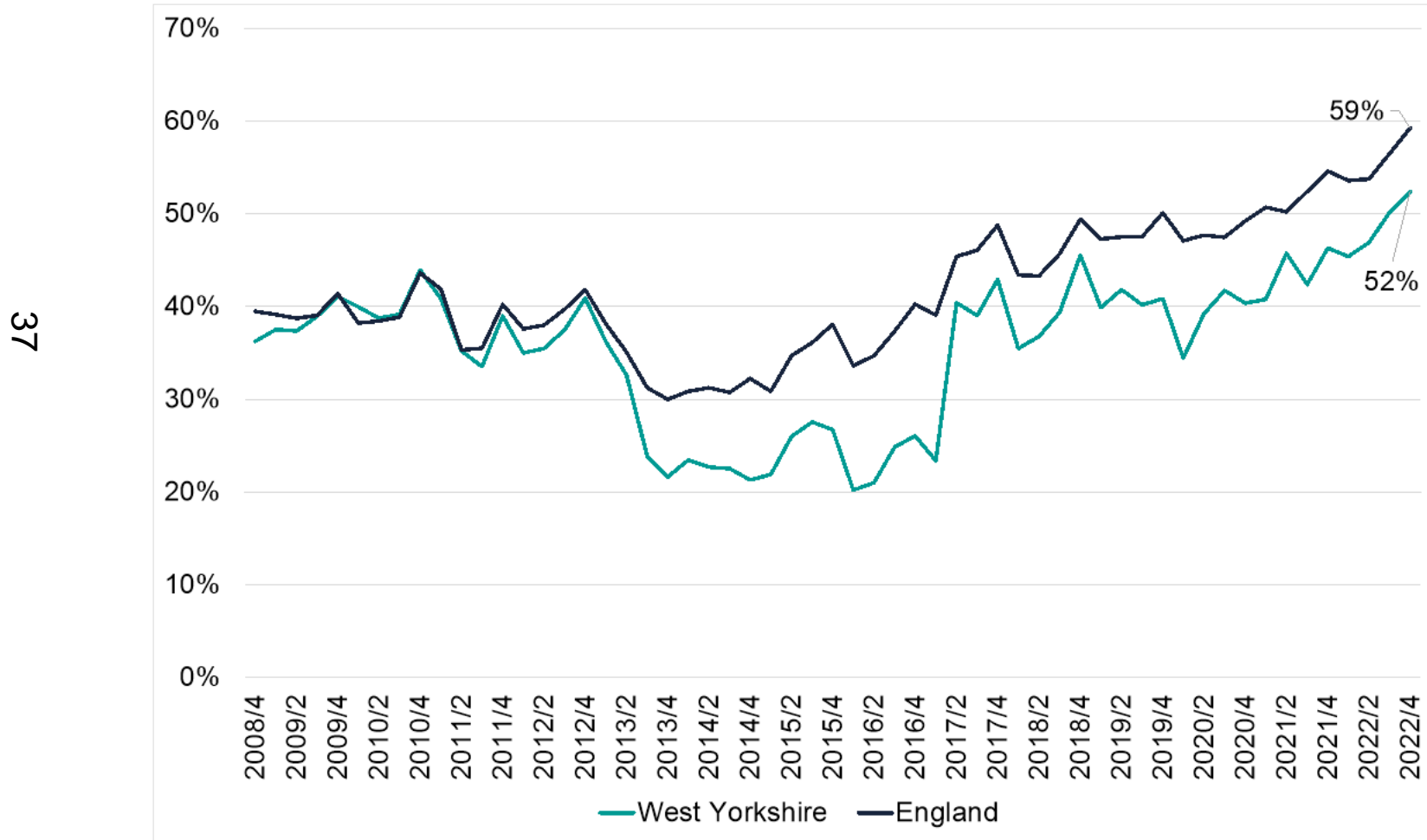
These figures relate to the total stock of EPCs lodged since Q4 2008 up to Q4 2022.

The figure for the cumulative proportion of dwellings with an EPC rating of C and above has increased slightly, according to latest figures, to 35% (from 34% reported in State of the Region)

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

The proportion of EPCs with a rating of C and above in WY is increasing over time, reaching 52% in Q4's lodgements

Figure 8: Trend in proportion of Energy Performance Certificates with Energy Efficiency Rating of C and above based on each quarter's EPC lodgements



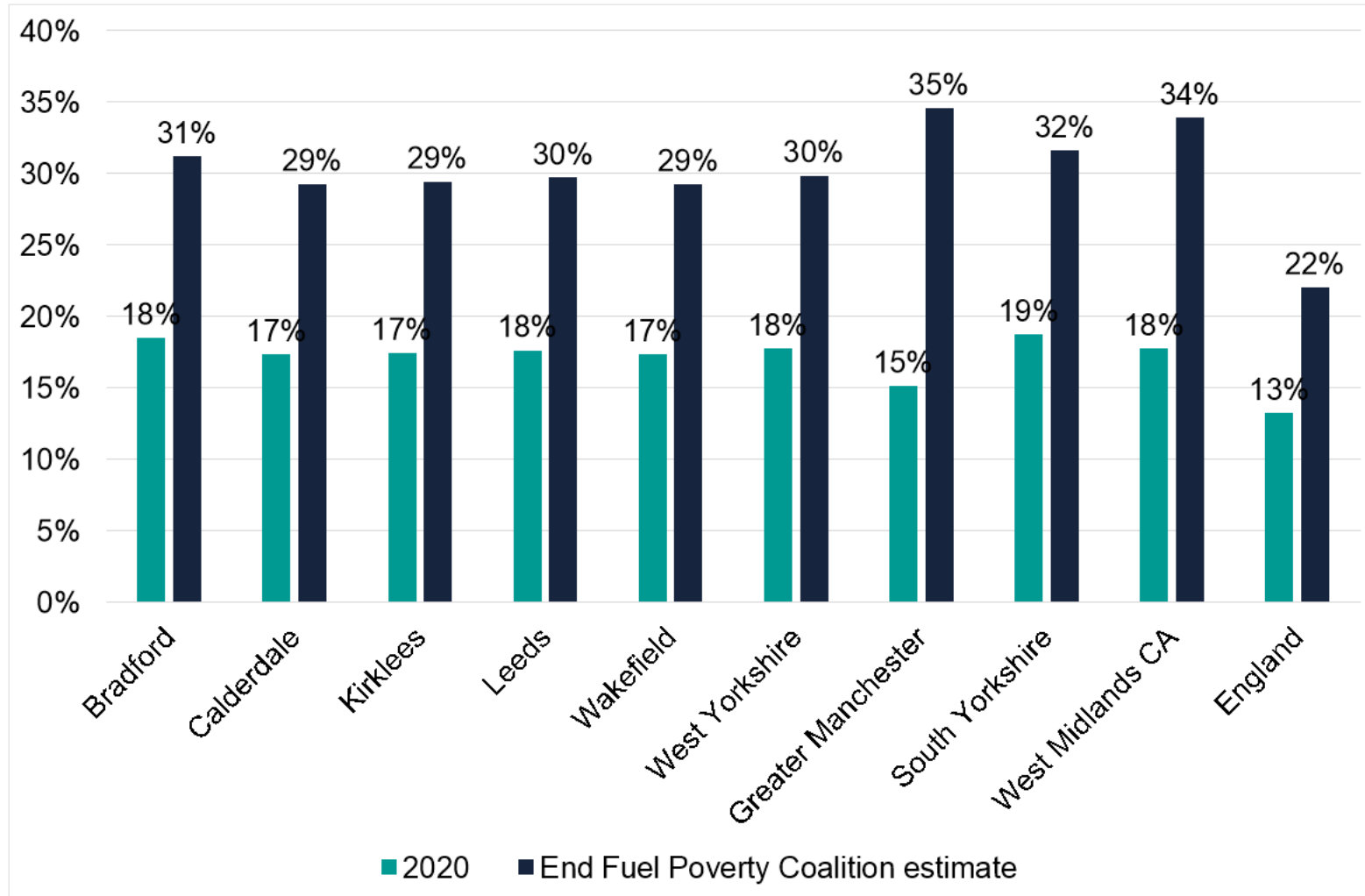
These figures relate to EPC lodgements in each quarter.

Although the proportion of EPC's with a rating of C and above in West Yorkshire is increasing, suggesting an ongoing improvement in energy efficiency performance, it is still lower than the national average.

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

West Yorkshire has a high rate of fuel poverty relative to the national average but broadly in line with comparator areas

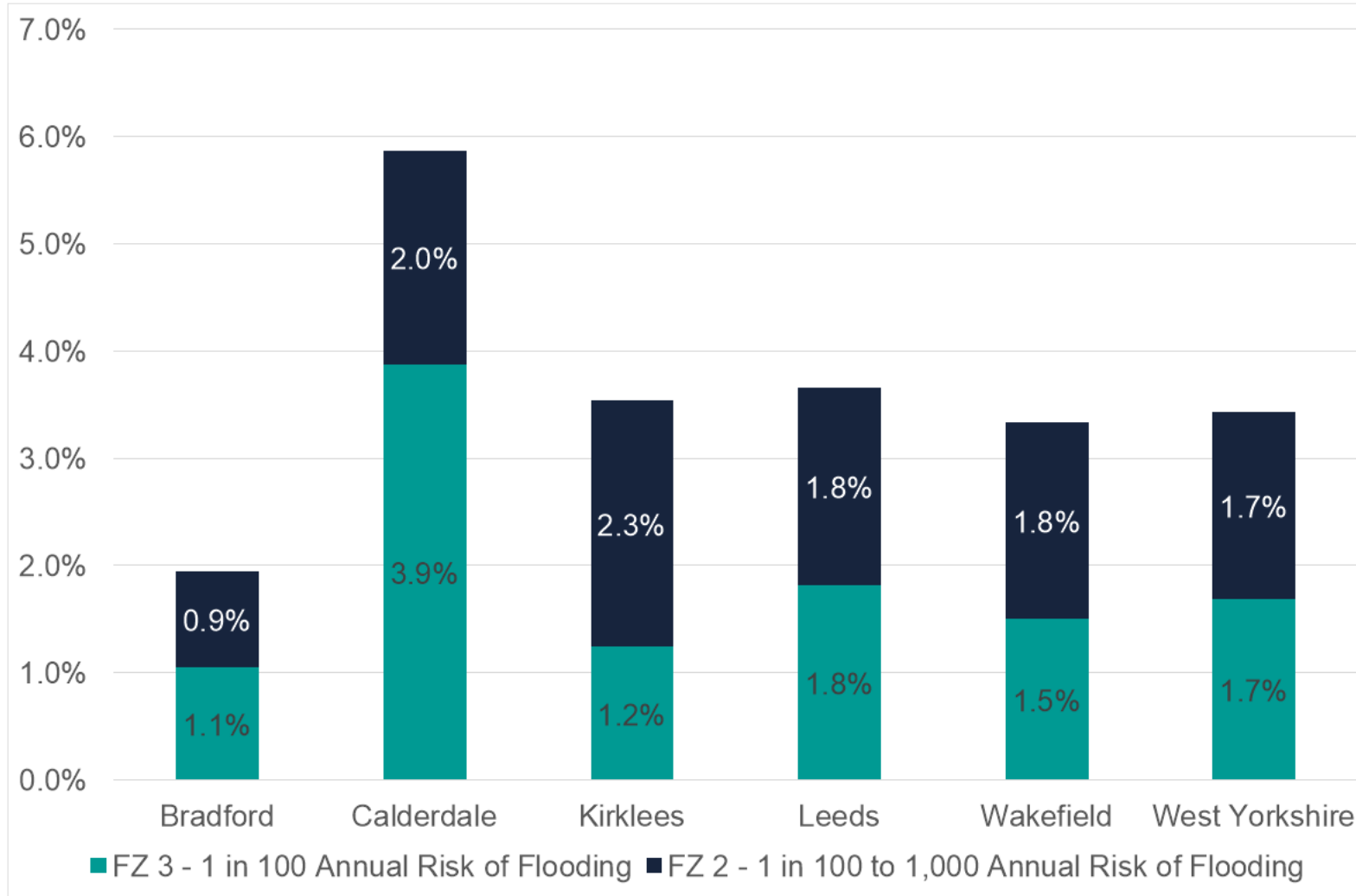
Figure 9: Proportion of households in fuel poverty



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

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

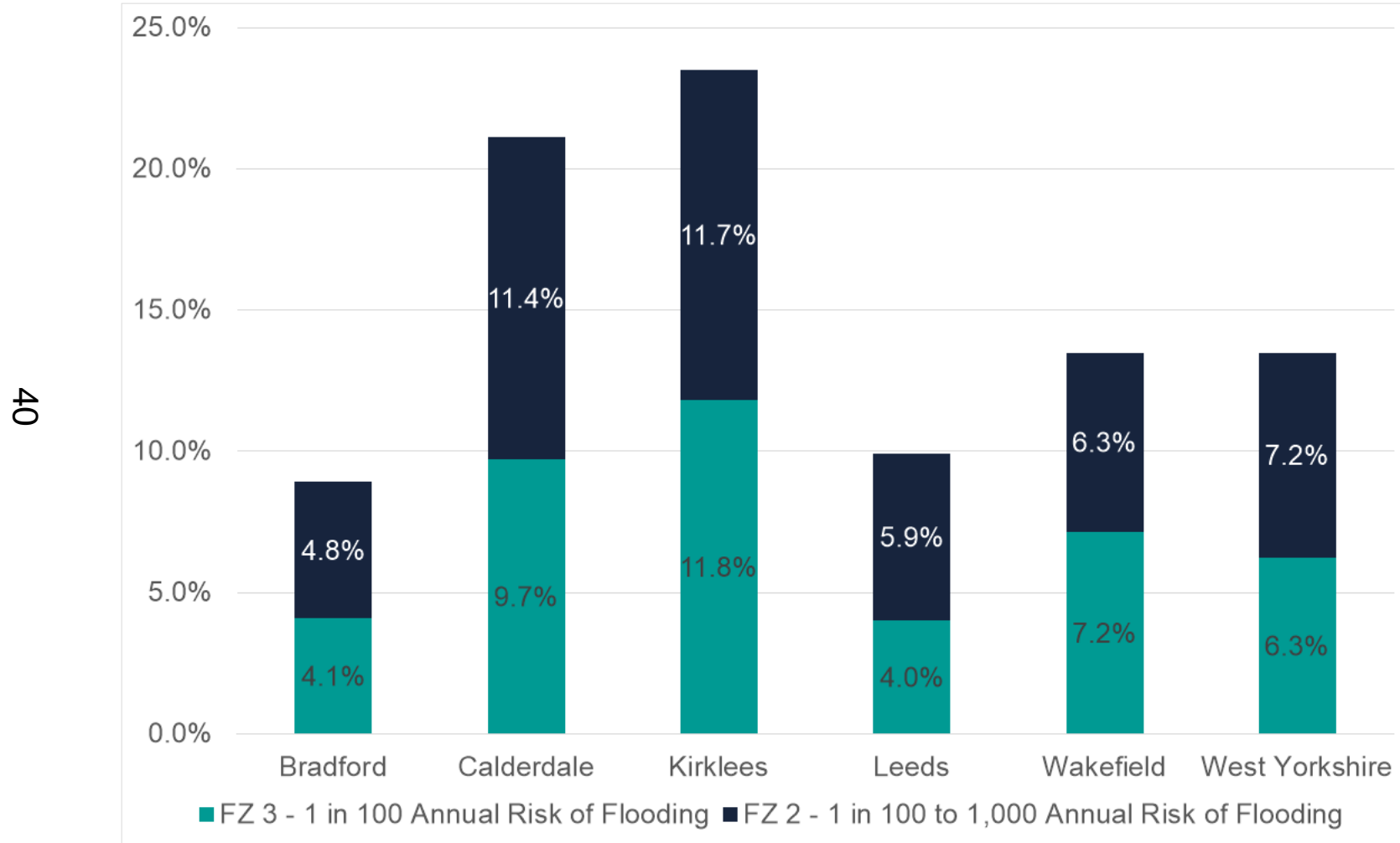
Figure 10: Proportion of residential properties in flood zones



Source: Environmental Agency, ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

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

Figure 11: Proportion of commercial properties in flood zones



Source: Environmental Agency, ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates



Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 11 July 2023

Subject: Local Energy

Director: Liz Hunter, Director Policing, Environment and Place

Author: Noel Collings, Head of Net Zero and Energy

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 update the Committee and seek their input on two key workstreams that progress the region’s understanding of how the energy system in West Yorkshire needs to change to meet the 2038 net zero target.

2. Information

- 2.1. West Yorkshire has set a target to be net zero by 2038. Meeting this target will be challenging and necessitate a change in the way in which energy is generated, supplied, and used by businesses and residents across West Yorkshire.
- 2.2. It is likely that the future energy system will be fundamentally different from the present day. Renewables (predominantly intermittent wind and solar) are likely to be the dominant source of power generation, with the electrification of heating, transport and some industrial processes resulting in electricity consumption being double current levels by 2050¹.
- 2.3. This transition is already being seen, with coal-fired power stations closing and the proportion of renewables generating electricity increasing to the point

¹ AFRY Management Consulting, (2023), Net Zero Power and Hydrogen: Capacity Requirements for Flexibility. Available online at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-power-and-hydrogen-capacity-requirements-for-flexibility-afry/>

where in 2022 41.4% of UK electricity was generated from renewable sources² (onshore and offshore wind; hydro; solar; bioenergy). Heating for homes and businesses is still dominated by the consumption of natural gas.

- 2.4. Alongside the widescale electrification of the economy, the use of hydrogen is likely to be required in some form. For example, in applications such as high temperature industrial processes and long duration energy storage. Reflecting the importance of the role of hydrogen in the future energy system the government has set an ambitious target to deploy 10 gigawatts (GW) of hydrogen by 2030³.
- 2.5. This view is consistent with the findings of the Combined Authority's [Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways](#) (CERP) which identifies significant deployment of heat pumps, solar, hydrogen, and electric vehicles across the West Yorkshire economy if its net zero target is to be met.
- 2.6. Given the need to deploy different technologies at scale it is important that an understanding of the future energy system that meets net zero by 2038 is developed.
- 2.7. The Combined Authority is currently progressing two workstreams; Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) and the Hydrogen Use Case, that will develop this understanding and the remainder of this paper is focused on providing an update on these key pieces of work.

Local Area Energy Plans

- 2.8. LAEPs were identified as a key intervention for delivery within the West Yorkshire [Climate and Environment Plan](#) (CEP). They aim to identify the location and type of infrastructure required to meet local / national net zero targets, recognising that every place is different, including the people, housing stock and geography.
- 2.9. LAEPs consist of a two-stage process:
 - **Local Energy Asset Representation (LEAR):** baseline data collection on generation, storage, and distribution assets.
 - **Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP):** technical and spatial analysis of different options e.g. EV infrastructure, heat pumps, for decarbonising local energy systems.

² HM Government, (2023), EnergyTrends: UK Electricity, Fuel used in electricity generation and electricity supplied (ET 5.1 – quarterly). Available online at: https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F1147117%2FET_5.1_MAR_23.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

³ HM Government, (2022), British Energy Security Strategy: Secure, Clean and Affordable British Energy for the Long Term. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy>

- 2.9. In depth stakeholder engagement is carried out at both stages and is key in ensuring robust and usable outputs are derived from the process.
- 2.10. The major deliverable of the LAEP process is a fully costed spatial plan that identifies the changes needed in the local energy system and built environment to meet local and regional net zero targets. The spatial nature of the plan also means that dedicated programmes can be implemented that target the deployment of specific technologies in specific areas of the region.
- 2.11. LAEPs are gaining traction across the UK among Combined Authorities and local authorities. This is being driven in part by support provided by Ofgem and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) for the process, but also recognising that regional and local government will need to have a greater say in how the future energy system evolves to ensure their net zero targets can be met.
- 2.12. The widescale adoption of LAEPs is seen as an opportunity to mobilise Ofgem to ensure that government support for this forward-thinking, future proofed energy infrastructure offers the political framework and financial resources necessary to proceed to large-scale implementation and help meet the national 2050 net zero target.
- 2.13. Ofgem is already gearing up for this change as evidenced by their recent consultation (now closed), Future of Local Energy Institutions and Governance⁴. The consultation focussed on a whole system vision (energy, heat, transport etc.) and addressed institutional and governance arrangements at a sub-national level to support the delivery of net zero at least cost.
- 2.14. In Ofgem’s view. “local and regional government would remain responsible for local spatial planning and local area energy planning activities”. It does not prescribe the use of LAEPs by all regional and local authorities. It also does not indicate how new Regional System Planners (RSPs) as advocated in the consultation document would interface with LAEPs, especially when the role of RSPs would be to oversee energy system planning for a specific region.
- 2.15. In developing LAEPs for all of West Yorkshire the region is well placed to inform regional energy system planning activities that would be undertaken by the RSP (if put into place). Indeed, close alignment of the two processes would need to occur to ensure both processes are not at odds with each other and create confusion for stakeholders.
- 2.16. Furthermore, Ofgem advocate in the consultation the development and ownership of a regional whole system strategic plan that is coherent with national and local net zero ambitions. With minimal tweaks the LAEPs could act as this regional whole system strategic plan, avoiding duplication of effort, discrepancies and stakeholder confusion.

⁴ Ofgem, (2023), Consultation: Future of local energy institutions and governance. Available online at: [Consultation: Future of local energy institutions and governance | Ofgem](#)

- 2.17. As referenced in 2.8. above the CEP identifies the production of LAEPs as a key action. In recognition of this the Combined Authority have allocated ([February 2023](#)) an indicative £500,000 to support the production of LAEPs across the region.
- 2.18. The funding will support the production of four LAEPs across West Yorkshire⁵; one for each district except Calderdale, which is progressing with its own LAEP, acting as a pilot for the process in West Yorkshire.
- 2.19. The funding will also support the production of an overarching strategic LAEP overview for the whole West Yorkshire region, pulling together the outputs of each LAEP to identify cross-boundary opportunities and synergies.
- 2.20. To unlock the funding to progress with LAEPs a detailed business justification case is being developed. This will be submitted to this Committee for approval at its October meeting.
- 2.21. A procurement process will be run in parallel with the development of the business justification case to ensure (subject to Committee approval) that production of the LAEPs can be progressed without delay.
- 2.22. It is anticipated that the production of the LAEPs for West Yorkshire will take between 12 to 18 months to complete once approval has been granted.
- 2.23. Regular updates will be provided to this Committee as the development of LAEPs are progressed.

Hydrogen Use Case

- 2.24. As referenced above hydrogen will have some part to play in the energy system of the future. The exact nature of its application is still unclear, and this is likely to remain the case until government makes clear policy decisions on the role they foresee hydrogen to play in achieving net zero.
- 2.25. In the meantime, the Combined Authority is looking to fill this gap by understanding the use case for hydrogen in West Yorkshire and developing a clear policy position off the back of this evidence base.
- 2.26. We want to better understand the role and requirement for hydrogen within West Yorkshire across key sectors such as transport, domestic heating, industry, and power generation.
- 2.27. Compared to other parts of the North East and Yorkshire (NEY) such as Teesside and the Humber, there are few assets and little infrastructure such as hydrogen storage and production facilities which might act as the catalyst for the development of hydrogen in West Yorkshire.

⁵ Based on Energy System Catapult guidance that LAEPs are best implemented at local district scales for a maximum of 300,000 households.

- 2.28. To address this evidence gap, the Combined Authority has successfully secured match funding from the NEY Net Zero Hub (the Hub) to progress with a Hydrogen Use Case Study (the Study).
- 2.29. The aim of the Study is to develop an evidence-based understanding of the role of hydrogen in the NEY and the routes by which it can be developed and deployed efficiently.
- 2.30. The Study will be broken down into two distinct workstreams:
- **Assessment of hydrogen deployment and demand in the NEY region:** aiming to bring about stakeholder cohesion, establish clarity and a defined structure with regards to the deployment of hydrogen in the NEY region.
 - **West Yorkshire Local Area Analysis:** aiming to undertake a detailed local area analysis for West Yorkshire of the use case for hydrogen deployment.
- 2.31. A contractor will be procured to undertake the Study and work is estimated to take up to 6 to 9 months to complete.
- 2.32. As with LAEPs the Committee will be updated at regular intervals on progress to develop the Study.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. The workstreams referenced in this paper directly contribute to furthering the Combined Authority's and regional understanding of how the energy system needs to evolve to meet net zero.
- 3.2. In addition, the outcomes from both the LAEPs and Hydrogen Use Case Study will enable the Combined Authority and its stakeholders and partners to target more efficiently regional programmes that address the climate emergency and to deliver these at scale.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. The production of the LAEPs and the Hydrogen Use Case Study will help us better understand the benefits to individuals and communities of the green transition, for example for good quality jobs. Production of the LAEPs runs in parallel to - and supports - ongoing CEP initiatives such as housing retrofit and heat pump installation. These result in improved living standards and lower levels of inequality for some of the most excluded and deprived groups and communities.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. As part of the procurement of external contractors for both workstreams social value will be an integral part of evaluating submissions having an influence over the contractor that is selected to undertake the work.

- 5.2. In addition, in the process of developing the outcomes of both the LAEPs and Hydrogen Use Case Study, an equality and diversity lens will be applied to emerging findings to ensure proposals do not adversely affect those who may have protected characteristics.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. A business justification case is currently being developed for the LAEPs with the aim of releasing a minimum of £500,000 of gainshare funding to support their production. This is progressing through internal assurance and will be presented to this Committee in October for approval.
- 6.2. £150,000 has been secured for the delivery of the Hydrogen Use Case Study, with funding coming from the NEY Net Zero Hub and Combined Authority.

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 notes the contents of the report.
- 10.2. That the Committee provide an indication of how they would like to be involved in the development of the LAEP and Hydrogen Use Case Study, both as a collective and individually.
- 10.3. That the Committee provide an indication of what success looks like for them in terms of the outcome of both the LAEP and Hydrogen Use Case Study.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.

Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 11 July 2023

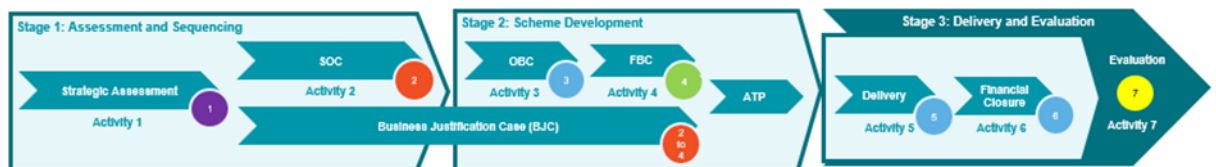
Subject: Project Approvals

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

Author: Craig Taylor, Head of Portfolio Management and Appraisal

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To report on proposals for the progression of, and funding for projects under Investment Priority 4 – Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability Investment within the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS), that have been considered at stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Combined Authority’s assurance process.



- 1.2 The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee has delegated decision making authority approved by the Combined Authority on 23 June 2022. Where the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee is asked to make an approval decision this will be highlighted in the summary table and made clear in the recommendations.
- 1.3 The recommendations can be found in Section 12 of this report.

2 Report

- 2.1 This report presents proposals for the progression of schemes through the Combined Authority’s assurance process in line with the Combined Authority’s Assurance Framework. Further details on the schemes summarised below can be found as part of this report.

3 Investment Priority 4 (IP4) - Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability

- 3.1 The West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS) sets out the Investment Priorities for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2024 across six areas. In each, a number of priority project / programme areas have been identified that are the focus for intervention.
- 3.2 West Yorkshire declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has a target to be net zero carbon by 2038. Investment Priority 4 will deliver a range of programmes under Wave 1 of the Climate and Environment Plan, which will contribute to the achievement of the net zero carbon target, with the following programmes:
- Better Homes Hub
 - Better neighbourhoods
 - Business sustainability
 - Flooding and drainage
 - Green skills and training
 - Solar panels and battery storage.

Background to the Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) Wave 1

- 3.3 The Climate and Environment Plan includes partnerships and programmes that help enable carbon reduction in future years. The plan focuses on enabling actions that maximise emissions reduction, improve nature, and prepare for a changing climate in line with the 2038 target and will be delivered in waves.
- 3.4 Approvals are being sought through this report for the funding for the Capital Flood Risk Management Programme which is being delivered as part of the CEP – Wave 1 portfolio. This has been prioritised with other programmes at various stages of development, which will reduce West Yorkshire's carbon footprint, support climate resilience and contribute towards a transition to net-zero and climate emergencies.
- 3.5 The CEP Wave 1 portfolio gained decision point 1 (strategic assessment) approval from the Combined Authority on 22 July 2022.
- 3.6 The Capital Flood Risk Management Programme gained decision point 1 (strategic assessment) approval on 2 February 2023. Future approvals of Capital Flood Risk Management Programme were delegated to the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.
- 3.7 Approval is being sought through this report for the Capital Flood Risk Management Programme, which is funded through the Single Investment Fund (SIF).

Programme / scheme	Approval sought	Total programme / scheme value
Capital Flood Risk Management Programme	£2,255,561	£168,000,000

Context to Flood Risk Management and the West Yorkshire Programme

- 3.8 In West Yorkshire approximately 39,000 residential properties and 13,000 commercial properties fall within a flood zone and as a result of climate change flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence.
- 3.9 The 2015 Boxing Day Floods affected approximately 6,000 premises with an economic cost to the Leeds City Region of over half a billion pounds, £100 million of which was direct damage to key infrastructure such as bridges, roads, and Yorkshire Water assets. In February 2020 the heavy rainfall accompanying Storm Ciara led to a number of floods throughout West Yorkshire affecting homes, businesses, schools, and other vital infrastructure. The heavy rainfall caused flooding to properties from a combination of sources, including surface water and river water.
- 3.10 There is now a consistent pattern of wet winter periods, with saturated land and consistently high river levels making our communities increasingly vulnerable to a higher number of intense storms. Many communities, particularly in small towns, are struggling to recover, and businesses are unable to plan for sustainable growth. These ongoing flood incidents have reinforced the need to secure capital investment to allow communities to be more resilient to flooding and avoid both the human suffering and economic cost that comes with these events.
- 3.11 The Combined Authority has a positive track record in supporting delivery of flood schemes in the region – with just under £20,000,000 of Growth Deal 3 funding and European funding having been used to support flood risk management interventions in recent years.
- 3.12 The proposed programme has been developed following extensive partnerships working and engagement. This includes collaborative working with the Environment Agency (EA), partner councils, the Combined Authority Committee and this Committee. The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee (19 July 2022 and 21 March 2023) have previously been invited to consider the scope and priorities for the programme and endorse the emerging flood programme prior to it entering the Combined Authority's Assurance Process.
- 3.13 The proposed schemes have been selected on the basis of a broad criteria looking their potential to support business areas, deliver flood innovation, and align with, and leverage national funding pots. The Combined Authority's programme has been designed to complement work going on across the wider flood partnership and to reduce the impact of flood events in our region.

Scheme summaries

<p>Capital Flood Risk Management Programme West Yorkshire</p>	<p><u>Scheme description</u></p> <p>Across West Yorkshire approximately 39,000 residential properties and 13,000 commercial properties are within a flood zone and, as a result of climate change, flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence.</p> <p>The Capital Flood Risk Management Programme will deliver new flood resilience schemes alongside the refurbishment and improvement of existing measures to increase protection for homes and business throughout the region.</p> <p>This programme aligns with the Combined Authority's Investment Priority 3 – Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure and Investment Priority 4</p> <p>The scheme is to be supported through the Combined Authority's Single Investment Fund, IP3 gainshare allocation.</p> <p><u>Impact</u></p> <p>The programme has the potential to lead to a reduction in the social and economic cost of flooding, such as the avoidance of repair costs to residential and commercial assets, reducing the flood recovery costs associated with infrastructure, improved business confidence to remain and/or invest in areas of flood risk, resulting and improved mental health and wellbeing for those living and working within the affected area.</p> <p>All businesses and homes within the flood benefit areas for the proposed schemes will receive enhanced flood protection. This will be the best deliverable Standard of Protection (SoP) based on economic viability and environmental impact, which will take account of future climate change. The resultant level of protection will be based on HMT Green Book principles and the EA Partnership Funding policy.</p> <p><u>Decision sought</u></p> <p>Approval to proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and work commences on the individual business cases.</p> <p>Total value of the scheme - £168,000,000</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding - £10,000,000</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought - £2,255,561</p> <p>A decision by the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee using the delegated authority from the Combined Authority is sought as part of this report</p>
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Other decisions relevant to the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

3.14 Since the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee meeting on 21 March 2023, the following decision points and change requests have been assessed in line with the Combined Authority’s assurance process and approved through the agreed delegations to:

Combined Authority’s Chief Executive

<p>Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2 West Yorkshire</p>	<p>Approval of outline business case and for work to commence on delivery</p> <p>Funding approved - £14,705,089</p> <p>Total indicative value of the scheme - £31,500,212</p> <p>Total indicative value of Combined Authority funding - £14,705,089</p>
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3.15 Under the delegation £14,705,089 was approved. The decisions were made by the Chief Executive following a recommendation from the Combined Authority’s Programme Appraisal Team.

4 Information

4.1 The Combined Authority’s assurance framework requires that formal approval is given to the following elements of a scheme as part of its development:

- The progression of a scheme through a decision point to the next activity.
- Indicative or full approval to the total value of the scheme funding requested.
- The Combined Authority’s entry into a funding agreement with the scheme’s promoter.
- The assurance pathway and approval route for future decision points.
- The scheme’s approval tolerances.

4.2 This report provides information required to enable the Combined Authority to approve each of the above elements.

Projects in Stage 1: Assessment and Sequencing

Project Title	Capital Flood Risk Management Programme
Stage	1 (assessment and sequencing)
Decision Point	2 (strategic outline case)

Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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

Background

- 4.3 This scheme will be funded from the Combined Authority's Single Investment Fund (SIF), IP3 gainshare allocation.
- 4.4 The Capital Flood Risk Management Programme consists of 23 identified schemes that aim to enhance flood protection and climate resilience for homes and businesses across parts of all districts within West Yorkshire. The programme will deliver new flood protection as well as the refurbishment and improvement of existing flood protection in addition to new natural flood management measures.
- 4.5 The objectives are the programme are to:
- Improve flood protection to properties including 2,560 homes and 2,271 businesses in West Yorkshire through delivery of 23 schemes with construction commencing between 2024 and 2029.
 - To contribute towards the Combined Authority's net zero carbon economy ambition by 2038 and climate resilience through the implementation of flood risk management schemes.
 - To ensure that the flood risk management schemes are designed and delivered in an efficient manner, maximising the use of available resources.
 - To collaborate with key stakeholders to ensure that the flood risk management schemes meet the needs of local residents and businesses.
- 4.6 To achieve these objectives the Capital Flood Risk Management Programme has developed a pipeline of schemes that have been split into three phases

based on the anticipated delivery timeframe. The programme team routinely review all schemes within the pipeline to ensure that all projects undertaken will deliver the maximum protection and benefits as the climate continues to change. The total scheme costs are £168,000,000.

- 4.7 To fund the full programme, the Combined Authority's contribution would be £73,000,000. However, at this time, the decision has been taken to progress an initial package of short term deliverable and developed schemes to provide enhanced protection to vulnerable communities now. This will be initiated alongside engagement with partners to accelerate delivery of the remainder of the programme.
- 4.8 Phase 1 and 2a have a total delivery cost of £50,686,450 with the Combined Authority contributing £10,000,000, which was approved in principle by the Combined Authority at its meeting on 2 February 2023. This is being utilised to leverage funding from other funding sources and enable delivery of an initial package of 8 schemes (as listed below across phases 1 and 2a). The delivery of these initial 8 schemes will be used to stimulate investment interest in the remainder of the programme.
- 4.9 The schemes identified for initial Combined Authority funding in phases 1 and 2a are:

Phase 1

- **Sheepscar Beck Refurbishment (Leeds)** - This scheme is expected to provide protection to an estimated 54 residential properties and 135 businesses. Construction will begin in 2023 and will be managed by Leeds City Council. The objective of this project is to reduce flood risk to properties in the Sheepscar Beck area. The preferred option is to refurbish and improve the channel bed and walls to reduce the risk of future blockage within the heavily engineered and culverted channel. The total scheme cost is £760,000, and the Combined Authority's contribution is £350,000.
- **Stubbing Holme Road Flood Alleviation Scheme (Calderdale)** - This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 33 residential properties and 3 businesses. Construction will start in December 2023 and will be managed by the Environment Agency. The scheme will increase the standard of protection to residential properties by strengthening and raising the existing riverside wall. Total scheme cost £7,275,500, and the Combined Authority's contribution is £500,000.
- **Brighouse Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 1 (Calderdale)** - This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 39 residential properties and 519 businesses. Construction will begin in February 2024 and will be managed by the Environment Agency. The objective of this scheme is to reduce flood risk to properties in the town of Brighouse from all sources of flood risk. The total scheme cost is £25,000,000 and the Combined Authority's contribution is £4,499,000.
- **Albert Street Flood Alleviation Scheme (Kirklees)** - This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 28 businesses. Construction will begin in February 2024 and will be managed by Kirklees Council. The objective

of this project is to reduce flood risk to properties in the Albert Street area of Huddersfield. The total scheme cost is £250,000 which will be fully funded by the Combined Authority.

Phase 2a

- **Wyke Beck Improvement Phase 2 (Leeds)** - This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 146 residential properties and 10 businesses. Construction will begin in May 2024 and will be managed by Leeds City Council. This scheme addresses the residual flood risk that will remain following completion of the first phase of the work along Wyke Beck. The preferred option for this scheme is in development but natural flood management (NFM) is being considered alongside upstream storage and walls / conveyance improvements pending model improvements. The total scheme cost is £580,000 and the Combined Authority's contribution is £150,000.
- **Wortley Beck Improvements (Leeds)**- This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 72 residential properties and 20 businesses. Construction will begin in June 2024 and will be managed by Leeds City Council. The objective of this scheme is to reduce flood risk to properties in the Wortley Beck area of Leeds. The preferred option is a combination of upstream storage with natural flood management elements, changes to the outfall structure of Farnley Balancing Lake (pending negotiations with the owner Yorkshire Water) and downstream channel conveyance improvements. The total scheme cost is £9,500,619 and the Combined Authority's contribution is £155,619.
- **Meanwood Beck (Leeds)** - This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 63 residential properties and 63 businesses. Construction will begin in October 2024 and will be managed by Leeds City Council. The objective of this project is to reduce flood risk to properties in the Meanwood Beck area of Leeds. Options are currently being explored but are likely to be a combination of containment, storage and natural flood management measures. The total scheme cost is £3,970,000 and the Combined Authority's contribution is £60,000.
- **Callis Bridge scheme - Replacement of Wall (Calderdale)** - This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 32 residential properties and 10 businesses. Construction will begin in March 2025 and will be managed by the Environment Agency. The project will review and replace an existing flood risk management scheme as it comes to the end of its design life. The total scheme cost is £1,094,770 and the Combined Authority's contribution is £867,061.

4.10 The remaining schemes identified for delivery in phases 2b and 3 have a total delivery cost of £60,152,075. Funding is still being sought to deliver these projects by engaging with potential investment partners and government departments/agencies:

Phase 2b

- **Walsden Flood Alleviation Scheme (Calderdale)** – This project is being developed with Network Rail who are working in partnership to

reduce flood risk to the railway line and also the properties and businesses in the area. It is currently estimated that the scheme would increase protection to 147 existing homes and 40 businesses.

Phase 3

- **Reservoir Storage (Calderdale)** – This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 180 businesses and will be delivered in partnership with Yorkshire Water. This project will increase storage capacity for future flooding events and has potential to provide additional benefits to areas downstream such as Mytholmroyd.
- **Haworth (Bradford)** – This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 7 homes and 12 businesses, in addition to key tourist attractions that are an essential part of the local economy. This project will achieve this through natural flood management and other flood risk management enhancements.
- **Park Road, Elland (Calderdale)**– This scheme provide protection to an estimated 12 homes, 26 businesses, and better protect the A6025. This project will address multiple sources of flooding and will be delivered in partnership with Calderdale Council and Yorkshire Water.
- **Brighouse Flood Alleviation System, phase 3 (surface water) (Calderdale)** – This scheme will provide protection to Brighouse Town Centre, including an estimated 57 homes and 258 businesses. This project will be delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency and Calderdale Council.
- **Sowerby Bridge Flood Alleviation Scheme (Calderdale)** – This scheme will increase protection to an estimated 46 homes and 40 businesses. The project will likely combine containment, reservoir management and natural flood management measures and will be delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency.
- **South Elmsall Flood Alleviation Scheme (Wakefield)** – This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 242 homes and 20 businesses and will be delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency and Wakefield Council.
- **Bradford Beck Flood Alleviation Study** - This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 77 homes and 158 businesses. This project will reduce surface water runoff and will be delivered in partnership with Bradford Council and the Environment Agency.
- **Mirfield and Ravensthorpe Improvements (Kirklees)** – This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 53 homes and 63 businesses and will add resilience to the Mirfield Railway Station Park and Ride. This project will be delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency.
- **Batley Beck Scheme Replacement (Kirklees)** – This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 460 homes and 290 businesses. This project will include natural flood management alongside localised interventions including such as retrofitted SuDS and wetlands. This project will be delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency.

- **Spennings Flood Alleviation Scheme (Kirkstall)** – This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 59 homes and 34 businesses, including businesses in the Spennings Valley Industrial Estate. This project will be delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency.
 - **Horbury Flood Alleviation Scheme (Wakefield)** – This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 95 homes and 46 businesses. This project will include natural flood management and will be delivered in partnership with Wakefield Council and the Environment Agency.
 - **Todmorden Phase 1 Scheme Replacement (Calderdale)** – This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 661 homes and 133 businesses and will be delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency.
 - **Mytholmroyd Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 (Calderdale)** – This scheme will provide protection to an estimated 184 homes and 120 businesses by increasing the standard of protection of the Mytholmroyd Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 1. This project will be delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency.
- 4.11 This programme contributes to the delivery of the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS) Investment Priority 3 – Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure, which identifies increasing flood resilience as a desired outcome and accelerating the delivery of the Capital Flood Risk Management schemes, as part of a wider approach to climate change mitigation, resilience and carbon sequestration, the capturing, removal and storage of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, as a priority area for investment.
- 4.12 The scheme also contributes to the Mayoral Pledge of tackling the climate emergency through managing flood risk and resilience. This programme complements the Natural Flood Management Programme that is being funded as part of Investment Priority 4. Together these programmes deliver a comprehensive catchment level approach to flood risk management.
- 4.13 A summary of the scheme’s business case and location map is included in **Appendix 1**.

Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 4.14 The Combined Authority is working towards the challenging ambition of being a net zero carbon economy by 2038, and to have made significant progress by 2030. Climate change and the increased frequency and intensity of weather patterns are making the risks associated with flooding more acute. This programme contributes to this ambition and to tackling the implications of the climate emergency by delivering enhanced flood protection and climate resilience to communities, homes, and businesses across West Yorkshire.
- 4.15 The programme may experience a short/medium term increase in carbon impact via construction materials. However, this will be mitigated as much as possible during the construction phase and will be balanced against the longer-term positive carbon impact via the reduced frequency and severity of flooding e.g., by the carbon impact of rebuilding/restoring flood damage.

- 4.16 A Stage 1 Carbon Impact Assessment has been completed. The subsequent project business cases will be required to complete a Stage 2 Carbon Impact Assessment.

Outputs and Benefits

- 4.17 The programme has the potential to lead to a reduction in the social and economic cost of flooding, such as the avoidance of repair costs to residential and commercial assets, reducing the flood recovery costs associated with infrastructure, improved business confidence to remain and/or invest in areas of flood risk, resulting and improved mental health and wellbeing for those living and working within the affected area.
- 4.18 All businesses and homes within the flood benefit areas for the proposed schemes will receive enhanced flood protection. This will be the best deliverable Standard of Protection (SoP) based on economic viability and environmental impact, which will take account of future climate change. The resultant level of protection will be based on HMT Green Book principles and the EA Partnership Funding policy.
- 4.19 The programme outputs and benefits are:
- Improved climate resilience and flood defences.
 - Creation of new flood alleviation schemes.
 - Refurbishing existing flood alleviation schemes.
 - Enhanced flood protection to approximately 2,560 homes and 2,271 businesses employment approximately 28,952 FTE jobs.
 - The provision of flood protection to vulnerable and deprived areas.
 - The delivery of innovative schemes incorporating new methods that will be transferable to other areas.
 - Reduced impact upon transport and utilities infrastructure, such as roads closed due to flooding.
 - Improved mental health outcomes by reducing frequency and scale of flooding in communities and its negative impacts to residents.
- 4.20 No value for money assessment has been undertaken at this stage. A value for money assessment will be completed as part of project development for each of the individual business cases before they are brought forward for approval.

Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.21 The scheme inclusive growth implications are:
- The programme will provide flood protection to vulnerable and deprived areas, including those defined as the top 10-20% most deprived by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).
 - Research undertaken by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has found that many socially deprived neighbourhoods are also socially

vulnerable to climate events. Low income households are less able to make their property resilient, and to respond to and recover from the impacts of floods. The ability to relocate is affected by wealth, as is the ability to take out insurance against flood damage. Furthermore, Yorkshire and Humberside is estimated to be the most flood disadvantaged region in England.

- The Programme will also contribute towards improving individual knowledge of flood risk to homes and businesses, improving knowledge of climate change mitigation measures, and improving mental health outcomes by reducing frequency and scale of flooding in communities.

Equality and Diversity Implications

4.22 The scheme equality and diversity implications are:

- Research from Age UK has shown that people with disabilities, older age groups and pregnancy may affect the ability to evacuate quickly from an area at risk of flooding. The Flood Programme has the potential to positively impact protected characteristics through the reduction of flooding risk to properties.

4.23 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken for the scheme and equality and diversity impacts taken account of as part of the development of the scheme and the business case development. Each project within the programme will undertake a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment.

Risks

4.24 The key scheme risks and mitigations are:

- Inflationary and cost increases leading to an increased funding gap. This will be mitigated by undertaking robust cost profiling and inclusion of contingency.
- Prolonged periods of adverse weather leading to delays across the programme. This will be mitigated by allowing for seasonal delays within project delivery timeframes.
- Constraints on labour availability leading to delays and a risk of undeliverability. This will be mitigated by robust cost profiling and early engagement with the market.
- The development of the business cases may not progress as anticipated leading to delays in delivery. This will be mitigated by allowing for business case developing in the project delivery timeframes.

Costs

4.25 The total scheme costs are £168,000,000.

4.26 To fund the full programme, the Combined Authority's contribution would be £73,000,000. However, at this time, the decision has been taken to progress an initial package of short term deliverable and developed schemes to provide enhanced protection to vulnerable communities now. This will be initiated

alongside engagement with partners to accelerate delivery of the remainder of the programme.

- 4.27 In February 2023, the Combined Authority approved the principal use of £10,000,000 of SIF.
- 4.28 The remaining funding will be from the following sources: DEFRA Grant-in-Aid (GiA), Local Levy (Local Authorities), indicative allocation from Other Government Department funding, Asset Replacement Allowance and other funding sources including Central Government, Local Authority and private sector contributions.
- 4.29 At decision point 1 (strategic assessment) £113,735 of development costs were approved for Combined Authority resources.
- 4.30 This SOC is requesting £2,255,561 to be approved for resources, communications, inflation, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Inflation: £553,217
 - Pan programme costs: £221,546
 - Staffing: £1,430,798
 - Communications: £25,000
 - Monitoring & Evaluation: £25,000
 - **Total: £2,255,561**
- 4.31 This report is requesting approval to commence delivery of the pipeline, with progression of the Phase 1 and 2a schemes due to their stage of development and proposed delivery timeframes. The schemes initially funded have a total cost of £50,686,450 of which, £10,000,000 will be funded by the Combined Authority.
- 4.32 Phase 1 has a total delivery cost of £33,285,500 and Phase 2a has a total delivery cost of £15,145,389.

Assurance Pathway and Approval Route

Capital Flood Risk Management Programme

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
1 (strategic assessment)	Recommendation: Strategic Assessment Priority (SAP) Group Decision: Director of strategy, Communications and Policing and Director of Delivery	03/02/2022
2 (strategic outline case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team	Q2 2023/24

	Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	
7 (evaluation)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Combined Authority Director	Q1 2031/32

Sheepscar Beck Refurbishment

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
2-4 (business justification case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	Q3 2023/24
5 (delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Combined Authority's Chief Operating Officer	Q1 2024/25

Stubbing Holme Road

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
2-4 (business justification case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	Q3 2023/24
5 (delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Combined Authority's Chief Operating Officer	Q1 2025/26

Brighouse Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 1

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
4 (full business case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	Q4 2023/24
5 (delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Combined Authority's Chief Operating Officer	Q3 2025/26

Albert Street Flood Alleviation Scheme

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
2-4 (business justification case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	Q4 2023/24
5 (delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Combined Authority's Chief Operating Officer	Q1 2025/26

Wyke Beck Improvement Phase 2

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
2-4 (business justification case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	Q4 2023/24
5 (delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Combined Authority's Chief Operating Officer	Q1 2025/26

Wortley Beck Improvements, Leeds

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
2-4 (business justification case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	Q1 2024/25
5 (delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Combined Authority's Chief Operating Officer	Q2 2025/26

Meanwood Beck

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
2-4 (business justification case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team	Q1 2024/25

	Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	
5 (delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Combined Authority's Chief Operating Officer	Q1 2026/27

Callis Bridge Scheme- Replacement of Wall

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
2-4 (business justification case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	Q4 2023/24
5 (delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Combined Authority's Chief Operating Officer	Q4 2025/26

Walsden Flood Alleviation Scheme, Phase 2 & Phase 3 Projects

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
2-4 (business justification case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	To be confirmed
5 (delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Combined Authority's Chief Operating Officer	To be confirmed

Assurance Tolerances

Assurance tolerances
Cost: Combined Authority costs remain within +10% of those outlined in this report Programme: Delivery (DP5) timescales remain within 6 months of those outlined in this report. Outputs: Remain within -10% of those outlined in this report

Appraisal Summary

- 4.33 The business case states alignment with the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy specifically to Investment Priority 3- Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure. It is highlighted that West Yorkshire has numerous

residential, commercial, and industrial properties located near various bodies of water which along with the West Yorkshire landscape, make places vulnerable to flooding.

- 4.34 The business case also states socially deprived neighbourhoods are more likely to be impacted from flood events which is backed up by research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. A link to the research (from 2011) is included in the business case. The programme will deliver flood alleviation measures across deprived areas in West Yorkshire. A map has been provided in the business case which shows the scheme locations mapped against the areas of deprivation.

Recommendations

- 4.35 The Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee approves that:
- (i) The Capital Flood Risk Management Programme proceeds through decision point 2 and work commences on the individual business cases.
 - (ii) Conditions have been set by Programme Appraisal Team. These are to be discharged within 3 months of this approval.
 - (iii) Indicative approval is given to the Combined Authority's contribution of £10,000,000 for Phases 1 and 2a. Funding is being sought for Phase 2b and 3. The total programme value is £168,000,000.
 - (iv) Development costs of £2,255,561 are approved in order to progress the individual project business case submissions. This takes the total approved to £2,369,296.
 - (v) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway, approval route and tolerances outlined in this report.

Projects in Stage 2: Scheme development

- 4.36 There are no schemes to review at this stage.

Projects in Stage 3: Delivery and Evaluation

- 4.37 There are no schemes to review at this stage.

5 Tackling the Climate Emergency implications

- 5.1 The Climate Emergency implications have been considered on all projects included in this report as part of their business case development.

6 Inclusive Growth implications

- 6.1 The inclusive growth implications have been considered on all projects included in this report as part of their business case development.

7 Equality and Diversity implications

- 7.1 Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) have been undertaken on all projects included in this report as part of their business case development.

8 Financial implications

- 8.1 The report seeks endorsement to expenditure from the available Combined Authority funding as set out in this report.

9 Legal implications

- 9.1 The payment of funding to any recipient will be subject to a funding agreement being in place between the Combined Authority and the organisation in question.

10 Staffing implications

- 10.1 A combination of Combined Authority and local partner council project, programme and portfolio management resources are, or are in the process of, being identified and costed for within the scheme in this report.

11 External consultees

- 11.1 Where applicable scheme promoters have been consulted on the content of this report.

12 Recommendations (Summary)

Scheme name

- 12.1 The Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee approves that:
- (i) The Capital Flood Risk Management Programme proceeds through decision point 2 and work commences on the individual business cases.
 - (ii) Conditions have been set by Programme Appraisal Team. These are to be discharged within 3 months of this approval.
 - (iii) Indicative approval is given to the Combined Authority's contribution of £10,000,000 for Phases 1 and 2a. Funding is being sought for Phase 2b and 3. The total programme value is £168,000,000.
 - (iv) Development costs of £2,255,561 are approved in order to progress the individual project business case submissions. This takes the total approved to £2,369,296.
 - (v) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway, approval route and tolerances outlined in this report.

13 Background Documents

- 13.1 None as part of this report.

14 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Capital Flood Risk Management Programme – Business Case Summary

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Project Overview

Project Title	Capital Flood Risk Management Programme
Main Funding Programme	Single Investment Fund
Current Forecast Project cost	£168,000,000
Funding Applied from the Combined Authority now	£10,000,000
Other public sector funding amounts and sources	<p>£95m of levered funds from a combination of five sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £33.1m from DEFRA Grant-in-Aid (GiA) • £1.4m from the Local Levy (local authorities) • £31.9m indicative allocation from other Government department funding • £5.2m allocation from the Asset Replacement Allowance • £23.3m from other funding sources including central Government, local authority, and private sector contributions.
Private sector funding amounts and sources	£23.3m from other funding sources including central Government, local authority, and private sector contributions.

Scheme Description

The Capital Flood Risk Management Programme will enhance flood protection and climate resilience for homes and businesses across West Yorkshire and consists of 23 identified schemes. The programme will deliver new flood protection as well as refurbishing/ improving existing arrangements. The programme will also deliver some natural flood management measures.

Business Case Summary

Strategic Case

The Capital Flood Risk Management Programme contributes to the delivery of the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS) Investment Priority 3 (IP3) – Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure. The WYIS identifies ‘increasing flood resilience’ as a desired outcome and ‘accelerating flood risk management schemes’ as part of a wider approach to climate change mitigation, resilience and carbon sequestration’ as a priority area for investment under IP3. The programme will achieve this through the delivery of 23 schemes which have the potential to:

- Enhance flood protection to approximately 2,560 homes and 2,271 businesses employing approximately 28,952 FTE jobs.

In addition the programme will also support the delivery of the following Investment Priorities (IP) and mayoral pledges:

- IP 1: Good Jobs and Resilient Businesses and the Mayor's pledge to support local businesses and be a champion for our local economy. It is estimated that the construction phase of the Capital Flood Risk Management Programme equates to 1,539 FTE jobs, primarily in the construction sector. However, a number of these are also likely to be within the environment and green jobs sectors.
- IP 2: Skills and Training for People and the Mayor's pledge to create 1,000 well paid, skilled, green jobs for young people. The investment and delivery of flood schemes will also align with this pledge.
- IP 4: Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability and the Mayor's pledge to tackle the climate emergency and protect our environment. Carbon reduction is a target for all projects in the programme.

The Combined Authority declared a climate emergency in 2019, supported by our five local authorities, and established a target to be net zero carbon by 2038, 12 years ahead of the national net zero target. In support of this target, the Combined Authority's 2022-23 Corporate Plan has committed the organisation to 'building a sustainable, nature rich and carbon neutral region'. The Capital Flood Risk Management Programme will contribute towards delivering this objective, through ensuring our communities are resilient to the risks of climate change, demonstrating the strong alignment between the Combined Authority's corporate objectives and this programme.

The programme will also contribute to the delivery of various national and regional strategies, including the National Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England, the Leeds City Region Flood Review, the Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Framework, and West Yorkshire Authorities Local Plans.

Economic Case

The programme has assessed a long list of options against the strategic objectives and critical success factors via a RAG rating, resulting in the identification of a short list of options, and a Preferred Way Forward which provides the optimal option in delivering the 23 schemes. The subsequent business cases will provide a more in-depth economic assessment.

Commercial Case

Procurement of suppliers to deliver the various elements of the schemes will be undertaken as part of the project business cases.

Financial Case

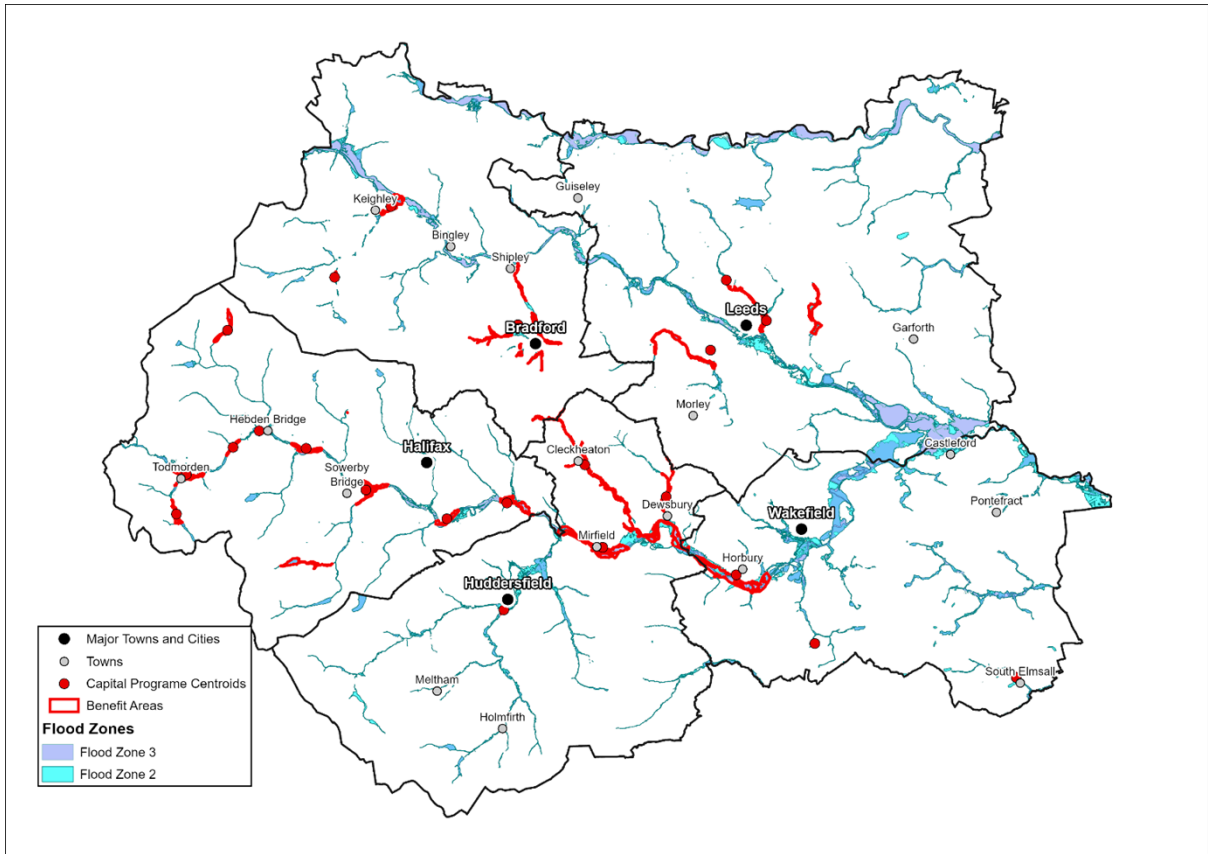
The total full programme costs is £168,000,000. This will be funded through various public and private sector funding.

Management Case

The programme will be managed by the Combined Authority.

Location Map

The following map shows the areas that will benefit from the flood protection measures in this programme.



Please note, depending on the level of scheme development, the location and scope of the schemes indicated here are indicative only. For further information on Combined Authority schemes across the Leeds City Region, please refer to: [Leeds City Region Infrastructure Map - West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)

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Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 11 July 2023

Subject: **Better Homes Hub update**

Director: Liz Hunter, Director Policing, Environment and Place

Author: Nadia McPherson, Programme Lead

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 update on the Better Homes Hub programme and to seek Committee members views on what success looks like to them and how they'd like to be involved as the programme progresses.

2. Information

- 2.1. Housing is responsible for 2.9 million tonnes (around 26%) of carbon dioxide each year in West Yorkshire, the majority of which arise from using fossil fuels for heating¹. In order to achieve our net zero targets, we need to retrofit 680,000 homes to a good level of thermal efficiency. As well as improving the thermal efficiency of buildings, installing low carbon heating and solar PV will be critical.
- 2.2. While good progress has been made with over 145,000 homes in the region receiving some form of energy efficiency measure, meeting the net zero target will require a significant scaling up of activity over the next 15 years. This is challenging and will require a step change in the scale of delivery activity being brought forward. Instead of interventions that allow tens to hundreds of

¹ [West Yorkshire Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways report](#)

homes to upgrade their properties, schemes will need to deliver interventions for thousands, if not tens of thousands of homes.

- 2.3. The Better Homes Hub (BHH) is the Combined Authority's regional programme to scale-up domestic retrofit to:
- Deliver against our climate emergency commitments.
 - Alleviate fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis for residents in the region.
 - Improve the quality of housing stock and health outcomes of residents.
 - Stimulate the market and secure quality green jobs.
- 2.4. It is a complex long-term programme that encompasses all the Combined Authority's activity on domestic retrofit, with a vision that 'Everyone in West Yorkshire can live in a warm, comfortable and low carbon home'.
- 2.5. The BHH has three overarching objectives which are to:
- Build consensus within West Yorkshire on priorities for retrofit and energy efficiency of homes.
 - Deliver retrofit projects in West Yorkshire that build momentum, strengthen the supply chains, and create new delivery models.
 - Establish the BHH as a trusted entity for all residents to access advice and information on retrofit and energy efficiency of homes in West Yorkshire.
- 2.6. Proposed activity for the BHH includes:
- Delivering area-based schemes across different tenures and socio-economic situations, that test approaches and delivery models.
 - Establishing a One Stop Shop to provide high quality retrofit advice and support.
 - Developing the supply chain and skills infrastructure to tackle retrofit shortages.
 - Mobilising sufficient resource to secure funding for delivery of retrofit projects.
 - Developing innovative funding models to support delivery of retrofit projects.
 - Developing and implementing a communications and engagement strategy that mainstreams retrofit.
 - Creating a plan for scale up and roll out across the region.

Delivery

- 2.7. Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 1 is forecasted to complete 924 properties against the original bid of 1,316 properties, reflecting the challenges experienced in delivery and the technical challenges in meeting the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) funding criteria, as detailed in previous reports to the Committee.

- 2.8. Two lessons learned workshops have taken place on Wave 1 delivery and the findings have been shared with the consortium of housing associations involved with SHDF Wave 2.1. The lessons were generally on a practical basis: the importance of surveys in advance of submitting a bid, early contact with District Network Operators is critical and there is a need for contingency funding to cover enabling works.
- 2.9. The legal agreement with DESNZ to enable Wave 2.1 delivery to commence was signed on 25 May 2023. The project will deliver retrofit measures to 2,411 properties.
- 2.10. In addition, £5 million of Gainshare funding has been invested in the SHDF Booster. This scheme will focus on measures such as loft, cavity, underfloor insulation, and Solar PV and while they would impact on the EPC grade for properties, the scheme is not constrained to deliver specific EPC outputs. The scheme commenced delivery in November 2022, and will improve the energy efficiency of at least 1,786 homes by March 2024.

Development work

- 2.11. The programme team has held several meetings with district partners to discuss potential area-based schemes and proposals are beginning to take shape. The next step is to collate these and assess each area-based scheme against a series of Critical Success Factors to ensure they are deliverable, innovative and provide crucial learnings to accelerate domestic retrofit in the future.
- 2.12. A funding agreement has been issued to Leeds City Council to the value of £100,000 to support the Better Home Leeds project (previously referred to as Leeds Retrofit Accelerator). The funding will allow Leeds City Council to develop the detailed blueprint and deliver focus groups to test customer reaction to the prototype, customer journey, messaging and financial products. The project has been developed with partners through the Prime Minister's Business Council and has secured over £500,000 in match funding from Lloyds Bank, government competitions and the MCS Charitable Foundation.
- 2.13. The Energy Saving Trust have started work on the housing stock data and energy modelling project for Leeds and Kirklees. This work is already complete for Bradford, Calderdale and Wakefield, so a full regional set of data will be available once this work is completed (September 2023).
- 2.14. The Combined Authority will be running a Tell Tracy public engagement campaign on the climate agenda. This will involve face to face engagement with groups and a digital survey. This is an excellent opportunity to seek views of the public on topics like the barriers to retrofitting their home and utilise the learnings to feed into the design of the One Stop Shop.
- 2.15. Better Homes Leeds will develop and test a business model for a local authority led area-based One Stop Shop targeting the 'able to invest' market.

This activity will provide valuable learnings for the planned regional One Stop Shop. There is also potential scope for the Better Homes Leeds project to scale-up to service the region. This will be explored with the support of the client-side support consultant.

- 2.16. The Combined Authority submitted a £1.6 million regional bid to the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub's Local Energy Advice Demonstrator to test approaches to delivering in-person energy advice targeting hard to reach and digitally excluded groups.
- 2.17. Previous programmes, such as the UKCRF Retrofit Hub, have demonstrated the need for a tailored approach to different groups of residents, considering the range of challenges they may face. This proposal seeks to build on this learning to understand appropriate and effective methods of engagement with some of those most hard to reach residents. A decision is expected imminently. If successful, the regional Local Energy Advice project will run from July 2023 to March 2025 and the learnings will be used to enhance the reach of the One Stop Shop.
- 2.18. We recognise the scale of the challenge across all housing tenures and the need to scale up. We also recognise that the private sector is launching its own initiatives and programmes and want to find ways to work in partnership where that is required.

Procurement activity

- 2.19. An open-tender procurement exercise has been completed to secure a supplier, or consortium of suppliers, to support the development of the Better Homes Hub. This will include acting as a strategic advisor to the Combined Authority on the programme, developing a 10-year delivery plan (including how the region will deliver the scale of home upgrades required to meet the net zero target), completing an options assessment and designing a regional One Stop Shop. The Statement of Requirements was written in collaboration with district domestic retrofit leads.
- 2.20. £200k is currently secured for delivery of the initial outputs outlined in the Statement of Requirements. However, as this is a long-term priority for the organisation, the value of the contract is up to £1 million across three years, subject to securing further funding. The target date to enter into contract with the successful tenderer at the beginning of August 2023.

Business case

- 2.21. The Strategic Outline Case for the Better Homes Hub programme was approved by the Combined Authority on 22 June 2023. An indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of up to £18,425,000 was given. With the development costs of up to £2,585,000 are approved to secure staffing resources, consultancy support, undertake research work, develop individual scheme business cases, and deliver the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator element of the programme, taking the total programme

approval to £3,303,293.

- 2.22. Next steps are for the programme team to continue work on the business cases for the individual workstreams including area-based schemes, One Stop Shop, financial packages and supply chain engagement.

Discussion points

- 2.23. The team would welcome feedback from Committee members on the following questions related to the BHH programme:
- We think it is important to design and deliver pilots to demonstrate deliverability and build confidence. We also need to scale up, what are the Committee members' views on doing that?
 - What does success for the programme look like for you in the short, medium and long term? What do you expect to see delivered in the next year, 3 years and 5 years?
 - How can the programme team best tap into the experience and knowledge of Committee members? How can you help progress this agenda and how would you like to be involved?

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. The programmes and projects within the Better Homes Hub respond to the ambition for West Yorkshire to be net zero carbon by 2038 and the Mayoral pledge to tackle the climate emergency.
- 3.2. The Better Homes Hub programme will directly contribute to our net zero ambitions by progressing achievement of the 680,000 homes to be retrofitted in the region, either through direct delivery or through support provided for residents, homeowners and landlords.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. The various schemes within the Better Homes Hub will contribute to the inclusive growth agenda. Fuel poverty affects around 18% of homes in West Yorkshire, higher than the national average, and is a contributing factor in 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. Equality and diversity considerations will be integrated and embedded within all the schemes progressed as part of Better Homes Hub and a programme level Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and will be updated as the programme develops.
- 5.2. If successful, the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator project will enable the testing of approaches to deliver in-person advice on domestic energy efficiency retrofit for hard-to-reach and digitally excluded groups. The learning

from this project will then be used to inform the development of the West Yorkshire One Stop Shop and ensure that all West Yorkshire residents can access and benefit from the available information and advice.

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. An internal team has been established to oversee the development and delivery of the Better Homes Hub programme. This is comprised of 4.6 full time equivalents across the Place and Environment and Economic Implementation teams.

9. External Consultees

9.1. The Better Homes Hub programme is a partnership across several stakeholders and organisations. The development and delivery of the programme has and will continue to be undertaken with stakeholders.

9.2. A Tell Tracy public consultation and engagement event on climate is being planned.

10. Recommendations

10.1. That the Committee members note the contents of the report and provide their views on the discussion points outlined in section 2.23.

11. Background Documents

11.1. There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

12.1. There are no appendices in this report.



Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 11 July 2023

Subject: **Green Skills and Employment Update**

Director: Interim Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills and Culture, Phil Witcherley

Author: Michelle Hunter, Employment and Skills Development Lead

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 Committee members with an update on green employment and skills interventions as part of the pipeline of programmes developed for employment and skills and to support tackling climate emergency in West Yorkshire.
- 1.2 To seek the view of the Committee and their interest in further developing the green skills interventions.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1 The Employment and Skills Committee have overseen the development of the future pipeline and have prioritised investment in skills and training on digital and green skills, and employer support. This includes interventions that will reduce levels of digital exclusion, provide businesses with support to become more sustainable, support individuals with digital and green skills, support employers with talent acquisition, and people of all ages with a greater understanding of employment opportunities.

- 2.2 In January 2023 Climate, Energy and Environment Committee Members were supportive of the Green Jobs Taskforce recommendations but recognised the scale of the demand for skills across West Yorkshire.
- 2.3 Evidence and findings from the Green Jobs Taskforce (Appendix 1) detail the need to inspire and attract people to green jobs. Reaching young people through a range of educators is key to bringing learning to life through the curriculum and bridging the gap between education and employment. Enabling businesses to have access to talent and skills programmes that upskill their workforce will support them to become more sustainable.
- 2.4 Meeting the Government's net zero target by 2050 could result in over 71,000 jobs in the low carbon renewable energy economy in West Yorkshire. Across West Yorkshire, 235,000 jobs could be affected by the transition to a net zero carbon economy, with around 119,000 workers in high demand because of their skills and experience, and 116,000 workers requiring upskilling and support.
- 2.4 Ensuring a skilled workforce and clarity around the existing skills landscape also helps to attract and retain investment from employers that can strengthen our regional economy. Employers must be supported to retrain, retain, and attract talent for in-demand skills, ensuring businesses can implement digital and green solutions and transition to net zero. As such, a robust skills support package is an essential intervention.
- 2.5 Evidence from this committee and the Green Jobs Taskforce have been used to develop interventions and skills packages.

Skills Packages

- 2.6 A £7.5m package of employment and skills interventions have been prioritised for development, the funding is made up of £6.5m of gainshare funding from Investment Priority 2 - skills and training for people and £1.5m decommitted from the existing employment and skills budget.
- 2.7 Skills packages developed aim to offer complementary activity to existing skills offers in the region with a focus on supporting individuals to acquire skills needed to gain employment in the digital sector and sectors requiring green skills. Skills packages build on the success of previous programmes and support employers to create talent pipelines and access retraining and upskilling opportunities for their existing workforce as well as attracting new talent needed to meet ambitious net zero targets.
- 2.8 Creating skills programmes that can be scaled up and respond to changes within the labour market provides greater opportunities to address the long-term green skills needs and growing demands.

2.9 The following green employment and skills interventions were approved at the Combined Authority meeting in June.

Workforce Development and Growth

- **Digital and green skills offers for businesses** - including support for job creation, aligned to the mayoral pledge to create 1,000 green jobs for young people.
- **Mayor's SME graduate pilot programme** – a programme designed to increase the uptake of employment within employers by graduates in West Yorkshire.
- **Regional skills support for employers** – including a skills funding offer to support businesses to digitise and become more sustainable.

Workforce for the Future

- **Digital inclusion** – ensuring all those across the region are supported in the acquisition of digital skills.
- **Regional careers campaigns** – aimed at key areas like Digital & Green
- **Green skills engagement with young people from primary age** – in order to encourage the development of understanding and aspirations around green careers.
- **A further education development fund** - including test and learn pilots for green skills.
- **Digital Workforce for the Future** - employer led inspiration activity aimed at young people to promote the take up of digital skills with a focus on engaging underrepresented groups.

2.10 Data and intelligence clearly illustrates that demand for skilled workers is impacting quality recruitment, staff retainment and productivity (state of the region 2022). The Combined Authority have responded by creating a Digital Skills, Green Skills and Skill Support for Business Programme that will:

- Engage 10,000 businesses to interact with and skills and training opportunities through marketing campaigns and partnerships.
- Work with 50 SMEs to create graduate opportunities.
- Engage 1,000 businesses to access skills support and create workforce development plans.
- Support a minimum of 150 and a maximum of 600 SMEs to access skills funding to develop skills and training for their workforce.
- Encourage SMEs to create 1,000 well paid green jobs for young people.
- Support businesses to create green and digital jobs.
- Alignment and enhancement of business support programmes e.g. Business Sustainability West Yorkshire.

- 2.11 The programme was approved at the Combined Authority Board on 22nd June and will be further developed in partnership with local, internal, and external stakeholders on the design throughout summer with delivery from September 2023.
- 2.12 As a cross-cutting theme on the Climate, Energy and Environment agenda, this programme could support the progress on other programmes such as the delivery of the Better Homes and Business Sustainability West Yorkshire.
- 2.13 Putting the right policy interventions in place now will allow our regional organisations and education providers to establish the right provision to meet future demand. Skills packages can be scaled up should additional funding become available. They provide a responsive and flexible approach giving confidence to businesses, supporting them to attract and retain talent and support individuals to transition to a net zero economy.

Next Steps

- 2.14 We would like committee's steers on how to develop and deliver the proposed skills packages.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 The interventions in this report are designed to address the employment and skills needs identified to address climate emergency implications.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 All delivery linked to programmes will be aligned to inclusive growth, procured suppliers commissioned to delivery activity through the programme will be required to demonstrate a commitment to implementing social value objectives throughout the life of the programme and projects.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 The programmes will use existing business support, enterprise programmes and skills programmes to benchmark and develop EDI targets.

6. Financial Implications

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

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Ethical and legal considerations, rules and regulations, and timescales within which the project must be delivered have all been considered and deliberated upon.

8. Staffing Implications

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

9. External Consultees

9.1 Employment and Skills Committee, local authority and wider stakeholders have been consulted on the proposals in this paper

10. Recommendations

10.1 Committee members are asked to share views and comment on the outlined approach.

10.2 Committee members are asked to express their interest in further consultation on the refinement of the delivery plan for the green skills offer for business.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Green Jobs Taskforce Recommendations

Appendix 2 – [Programme Breakdown](#)

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Inspire

To inspire and inform young people, from key stages 1 & 2 onwards, about opportunities and career pathways within the green economy.



Support

Support education and training providers to build a curriculum that responds effectively to the needs of businesses transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy; including building capacity to attract, develop and retain expert staff.



Facilitate

Facilitate easy access to green skills and job information, career pathways and job opportunities for young people and adults to make informed decisions.



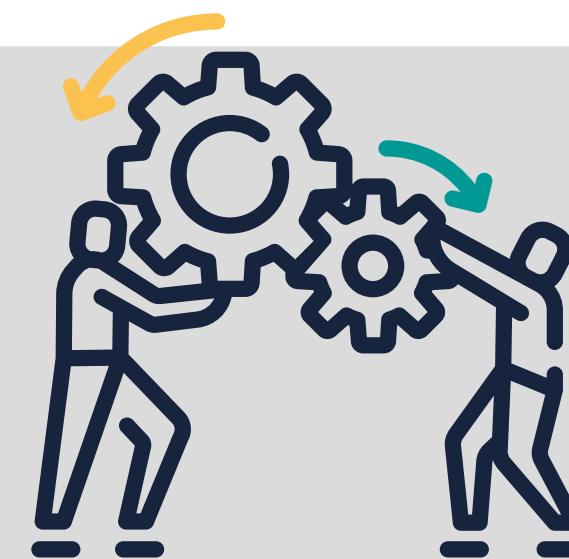
Embed

Embed engagement of the target group when designing initiatives e.g. young people for the development of careers, education, information advice and guidance (CEIAG); workforce for reskilling/upskilling initiatives to support decarbonisation.



Equality, diversity and inclusion

Any interventions put forward must have ambitious targets addressing Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI); particularly around attracting more women and people from Black, Asian ethnic minority (BAME) backgrounds towards careers within the green economy and the workforce most exposed by a transition to net-zero.

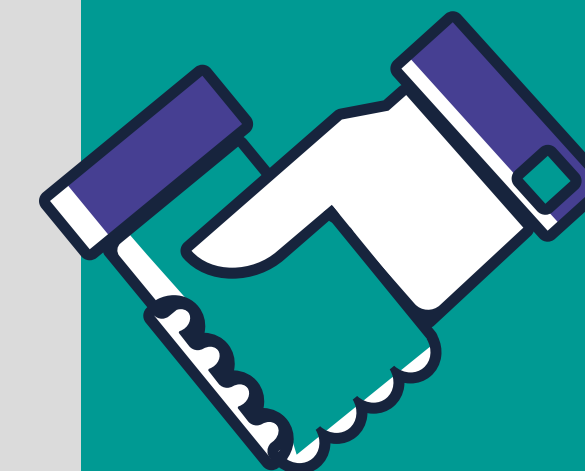


Enable

Enable businesses to access support to decarbonise and attract, develop and retain talent to enable a just transition.

Strengthen

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.



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Digital Skills, Green Skills and Skills Support for Business

Programme

Workforce Development and Growth

Workforce for the Future

Skills Packages

Digital and green skills offers for businesses

Mayors SME graduate pilot programme

Regional Skills Support for Employers

Digital Inclusion

Regional Careers Engagement and Inspiration for people of all ages

Green Skills Further Education Development Fund

Projects

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Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 11 July 2023

Subject: **Climate Pledge Update**

Director: Liz Hunter, Director Policing, Environment and Place

Author: Noel Collings, Head of Net Zero and Energy

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 activity delivering against the mayoral pledge to tackle the climate emergency¹.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1. This report summarises selected activity that is currently taking place to deliver against the pledge to be net zero by 2038. It represents activity from across the eight themes on which the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) is framed.

Net Zero Region Accelerator

Overview

- 2.2. The Net Zero Region Accelerator (NZRA) programme addresses an identified barrier to the progression of net zero projects, principally the ability for project sponsors to create robust business cases and investment models that address issues of scale, longevity and confidence that can attract private finance. It

¹ Where information is not provided as part of a separate agenda item discussed at the meeting.

also aims to address the issue that there are insufficient investment ready projects in a single coordinated pipeline.

Progress to date

- 2.3. The NZRA Investment Prospectus was published in May 2023 and launched at the UK Real Estate, Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiIF). The purpose of the Prospectus is to showcase the net zero investment opportunities in West Yorkshire. The Prospectus will constantly evolve as schemes gain investment, with others taking their place as they are developed.
- 2.4. The Prospectus can be viewed online [here](#).
- 2.5. In addition to the prospectus four projects are being supported with funding from the NZRA. The projects are:
 - Calderdale Garden Communities Smart Local Energy System Feasibility Study (Calderdale and Kirklees Districts)
 - Victoria Theatre, Heath Campus and Halifax Borough Market Decarbonisation Feasibility Study (Calderdale District)
 - Sphagnum Moss Blanket Bog Restoration Project (Calderdale District)
 - Kirklees Renewable Energy Feasibility Study and Options Appraisal (Kirklees District)

Business Sustainability

Overview

- 2.6. REBiz provides energy and resource efficiency audit and grant funding support to Small & Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) across the Leeds City Region footprint. It also provides consultancy support to SMEs investigating circular economy business opportunities. It is funded in part through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and ran from January 2020 to June 2023.
- 2.7. An interim Energy Price Emergency Grants (EPEG) scheme introduced as a response to the cost of doing business crisis to cover the gap in grant funding between REBiz and the successor support which was approved by the Combined Authority on 8 December 2022. EPEG will run to the end of June 2023.
- 2.8. The new business sustainability support service will expand the support for businesses to include business to consumer (e.g. retail, hospitality& leisure), and will support businesses to tackle a wider range of environmental impacts from net zero to climate readiness. Funding has been approved for this support until 31 March 2026.

Progress to date

- 2.9. In terms of resource efficiency, REBiz has engaged with 557 SMEs and commissioned 319 audits as of 31 March 2023. In the same time period, 89 businesses have engaged on the circular economy and 47 businesses have received at least the first stage of support.
- 2.10. The key ERDF targets for the programme are businesses receiving a minimum of 12 hours non-financial support or a grant of at least £1,000 (237), and annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction (2,064 tCO₂e).
- 2.11. At 31 March 2023, the project had met or exceeded these targets with 250 businesses assisted and 3,455 tCO₂e saved. Activity has stopped on REBiz so these figures are close to the final figures.
- 2.12. The new business sustainability support service has commenced a soft launch and is experiencing strong demand with 4 – 6 enquiries a week. The full launch will take place in July 2023.
- 2.13. The interim EPEG scheme has received over 650 expressions of interest resulting in 328 applications for support. It is likely that more than £700,000 of grants will be provided to around 185 small businesses, 50% of which are in retail, hospitality and leisure sectors critically affected by the rising costs of energy.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy

Overview

- 2.14. 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.
- 2.15. West Yorkshire has made great progress in recent years to increase the number of publicly accessible charge points and has more rapid chargers than of any city region outside of London. There are currently 841 publicly accessible charge points in West Yorkshire, with 286 of these rapid chargers. However, government figures predict over 10,000 may be needed by 2030 to meet demand.
- 2.16. A West Yorkshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy is planned, developed in collaboration with District Partners to 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 charge points to ensure provision meets the needs of those who live and work in West Yorkshire and ensure equity of access across region.

Progress to date

- 2.17. The government announced the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (LEVI) fund in Spring 2022, a £450 million fund to ‘accelerate commercialisation of local, close to home charging’. This funding is intended to be used by Local Authorities to leverage private investment in chargepoints locally to significantly advance and accelerate chargepoint delivery, targeted at residential areas without access to off-street parking.
- 2.18. From this fund, the following was awarded to West Yorkshire in February 2023:
- £1,500,000 Pilot Funding – capital funding to deliver EV infrastructure, focused on residential areas without access to off-street parking.
 - £236,880 Capability Funding – for resources to support EV infrastructure coordination and delivery.
- 2.19. In addition to this, the following was allocated to West Yorkshire in March 2023 (subject to Office for Zero Emission Vehicle approval of suitable proposal):
- £14,326,000 Capital Funding - to delivery EV chargepoint infrastructure, focused on residential areas without access to off-street parking.
 - £1,079,120 additional Capability Funding – to increase local authority capacity and capability for the planning and delivery of EV infrastructure.
- 2.20. The full value of the West Yorkshire LEVI programme could be £15,826,000 capital grant funding supported by £1,316,000 resource funding, taking the programme total to over £17,000,000. However, the project is also required to leverage private investment in EV chargepoints so the total value for West Yorkshire will be higher.
- 2.21. Outline proposals for the Capital and Capability Funding were submitted as an Expression of Interest submission on 26th May 2023. The Combined Authority will continue to work with District Partner officers to develop full proposals for the Capital Funding, with an expected submission deadline of November 2023.
- 2.22. Work is also progressing on a West Yorkshire electric vehicle chargepoint strategy. The West Yorkshire proposal for the LEVI Fund will be developed based on the emerging strategic principles set out in the draft strategy:
- **Enable & accelerate EV charging network:** Build charging network ahead of predicted EV uptake to facilitate transition, 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 ensuring no areas are left behind.
 - **Ensure right chargers in the right places:** Ensure EV charging infrastructure meets the needs of local communities that contribute positively to our local areas and streets, whether on-street chargers or via charging hubs.

- **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, high accessibility standards 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 usable of the network and increase user confidents in electric vehicle charging.
- **Support wider transport decarbonisation goals:** Help to reduce the environmental impact of travel & transport by encouraging modal shift & enable alternatives to private car use, supporting electrification of buses and shared transport, and ensuring the use renewable energy is prioritised to supply chargepoints.

Zero Emission Buses

Overview

- 2.23. The Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Programme currently in delivery will help to increase the number of ZEBs as a proportion of the total bus fleet 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 eight 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).

Progress to date

- 2.24. Delivery of Phase 1, the ZEBRA scheme, is now underway working in partnership with three West Yorkshire bus operators. The first zero emission buses delivered under this scheme are expected to be operating on routes in Leeds by March 2024, with ambitions for more to follow on routes in Bradford and Wakefield.
- 2.25. Progress on Phase 2 has focussed on assessing the options of zero emission buses available on the market to meet the challenges of hilly, rural routes identified for electrification. Current information indicates that there are limited

options for smaller 'midi' sized, long range electric buses available to the UK bus market. However, the project team is continuing to investigate the market, which is ever evolving and whatever option is procured, future zero emission bus schemes on similar routes will be able to learn from this pioneering scheme.

- 2.26. Phase 3 is currently being explored and work to plans for the transition of the remaining bus fleet is underway.

Local Transport Plan

Overview

- 2.27. A Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a transport strategy for an area, setting out a vision, policies, a delivery programme as well as metrics to gauge success and overall performance in the delivery of its objectives. The West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040 is our current LTP adopted by the Combined Authority in August 2017. As the Local Transport Authority for West Yorkshire, the Combined Authority has a statutory duty to produce and keep under review a LTP on behalf of West Yorkshire.
- 2.28. In addition to discharging the Combined Authority's statutory duties, an updated LTP is also required to deliver on the objectives of our Corporate Plan and facilitate the scale of change needed to decarbonise the transport sector and deliver the ambition contained within the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan, the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), and our Mass Transit Vision.
- 2.29. LTPs are also used to bid for, prioritise and allocate funds, and provide the strategic narrative and rationale for specific schemes and interventions. The Mayor's WYLTP will form the basis for future delivery programmes including future City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) plus other funding bids.

Progress to date

- 2.30. As outlined at February Transport Committee a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) for West Yorkshire is currently being developed. [Item 7 - The Mayors West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Update.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#) In advance of the anticipated Government's new guidance and the need to update our LTP, building on the Combined Authority's extensive evidence base and the technical work undertaken as part of the development of the draft Connectivity Infrastructure Plan, BSIP, Mass Transit Vision, Rail Strategy, Climate and Environment Plan and other supporting work, an overarching transport strategy narrative has been developed as outlined below. This will continue to evolve as the detail of the Mayor's WYLTP is prepared:

- 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. Mass Transit is key to unlocking the productivity of our polycentric region.
- Almost all journeys begin and end on the local road network, local connectivity must be transformed through significant investment in an integrated, safe and sustainable transport system that connects all parts of our region. A focus on making space for buses and active travel on our roads will make journeys by public transport quicker, with less time spent stuck in traffic.
- Transport will play a crucial role in delivering a net-zero economy by 2038. The LTP must tackle the climate emergency through the fair and inclusive decarbonisation of our transport network, delivering the right choice of transport, in the right place, at the right time.
- Transport has an enabling role in addressing many of the challenges we face across West Yorkshire. Reflecting the rich diversity of our region, equality will be at the forefront of our LTP. We will invest in transport to create an environment where everyone can access opportunities for education, employment, and leisure, regardless of income, geography or background.
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2.31. This will require the Combined Authority and its partners to:

- Focus on transport integration; delivering bus reform, unlocking the benefits of mass transit, customer focussed rail, making active travel the natural choice for shorter journeys and shared transport solutions which empower local communities.
- Move at pace to decarbonise the transport sector to deliver the local sustainable transport infrastructure and services that will transform connectivity, and deliver affordable and competitive public transport options, particularly to meet the requirement to achieve net-zero carbon target of 2038.
- Explore the policy options that can make the space needed on our roads to prioritise low carbon sustainable transport modes, deliver on bus reform and make walking and cycling safer.
- Work to greater align investment in transport with future housing and employment growth across West Yorkshire through the local plan process with a focus on the role of transport in boosting productivity through high density, low carbon sustainable development.
- Secure an increase in the total investment made in West Yorkshire's Transport Infrastructure, with greater flexibility in funding from government.

- Continue to work with the private sector to maximise the leverage achievable through public sector investment, in addition to exploring options to raise revenue locally.

Solar Programme

Overview

- 2.32. This programme forms part of the Wave 1 Actions to tackle the Climate and Environment Plan. The Combined Authority is working with District partners and the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership to develop several solar PV and storage initiatives including the installation of solar panels on schools, community buildings and homes and the Combined Authority's own assets.

Progress to date

- 2.33. The Business Justification Case for the Solar on Schools and Community Buildings workstream is currently being developed in partnership with our five local authority partners. Work on the scheme of late has been focused on the development of an effective Equality Impact Assessment for the scheme, including the development of effective potential EDI targets.
- 2.34. The residential collective buying scheme project development is in progress. Supplier engagement events have been held to identify potential suppliers who will be able to deliver the project. Also under consideration is how to ensure that the scheme is equitable, and fairly takes into account the diverse communities we serve in the region.
- 2.35. The West Yorkshire Housing Partnership Solar Assets scheme is ongoing, with work recently focusing on mitigating the use of forced labour in the solar industry. In addition, work is ongoing to ascertain the best way to make the investment into the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership Solar Assets scheme, particularly in relation to how any income that is generated as a result of the scheme (mainly through selling generated electricity back to the grid) is managed and invested into the Combined Authority's priorities.
- 2.36. The Combined Authority Solar Assets project was approved at the 21st March 2023 Climate, Energy and Environment Committee. Work is to take place imminently upon the appointment of a sub-contractor to deliver the project. The scheme will deliver 233 Kilowatt Peak (kWp) of solar panels across seven West Yorkshire bus stations, located in Batley, Bradford (interchange), Brighouse, Castleford, Cleckheaton, Keighley and Ossett.

Better Neighbourhoods Programme

Overview

- 2.37. This programme forms part of the Wave 1 Actions to tackle the Climate and Environment Plan. The Combined Authority is working with the five West Yorkshire local authority partners, to provide grants of £5,000 to £50,000 to

local communities, with a particular focus on those communities considered disadvantaged, to fund projects that will support the transition to net zero carbon.

- 2.38. The programme will provide community level funding to educate and implement climate improvement projects. These projects will increase climate knowledge, accelerate behaviour changes, and deliver infrastructure to improve wellbeing and building efficiency, with a long-term aim of reducing carbon emissions.

Progress to date

- 2.39. The programme was given approval at the Climate, Energy and Environment meeting on the 21st March 2023. Funding agreements have been issued to our five local authority partners, which will provide the basis for them to design and deliver the funding locally.
- 2.40. The Combined Authority and Local Authority partners are working towards a coordinated launch, in order to ensure that the scheme gains good publicity. The agreed launch date is to be on the week commencing the 17th July 2023.

Air Quality

Overview

- 2.41. 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.
- 2.42. 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 Autumn/Winter 2023.

Progress to date

- 2.43. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has announced that the West Yorkshire air quality scheme proposal was one of the 44 projects to be awarded air quality grants for delivery over the next two years. The Defra funding grant opportunity looked for proposals to improve understand and awareness of particulate matter.

- 2.44. The West Yorkshire Public Particulate Information Improvement (PIIP) Project was developed in partnership with the West Yorkshire Low Emission Strategy (WYLES) Delivery Group, which includes air quality representatives from each of the five partner councils alongside public health professionals. The project is also supported by partnerships with Leeds Beckett University and the University of Leeds.
- 2.45. The project comprises four work packages which include enhancing the West Yorkshire particulate matter monitoring network, a particulate dashboard and regional air quality public information page, and research projects by university partners.
- 2.46. The scheme will significantly improve knowledge and understanding of particulate matter, improving awareness and bridging the knowledge gap surrounding regional particulate matter data. This will provide a better understanding of which sources are having greatest impacts on our communities, enable interventions to be targeted most effectively, and support the development of a new air quality strategy for West Yorkshire.

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. Indicators which support the monitoring and evaluation of equity, participation and inclusiveness of programmes and policies resulting from Climate and Environment Plan will be included in the final framework.

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.

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