

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

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2024  
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON  
STREET, LEEDS, LS1 2DE**

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

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- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**
- 3. EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**
- 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2023**  
(Pages 1 - 16)
- 5. ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING**  
Lead Member: Councillor Scott Patient
- 6. CHAIR'S UPDATE**  
Lead Member: Councillor Scott Patient
- 7. MONITORING INDICATORS**  
Lead Director: Sarah Eaton, Lead Author: Guilherme Rodrigues, Peter Glover  
(Pages 17 - 42)
- 8. BETTER HOMES HUB - ONE STOP SHOP**  
Lead Director: Liz Hunter, Lead Author: Nadia McPherson

(Pages 43 - 48)

**9. BETTER HOMES HUB – AREA BASED SCHEMES**

Lead Director: Liz Hunter, Lead Author: Bella Mkrtchyan

(Pages 49 - 56)

**10. PROJECT APPROVALS - FLOODING**

Lead Director: Liz Hunter, Lead Author: Craig Taylor

(Pages 57 - 94)

**11. PROJECT APPROVALS - BETTER NEIGHBOURHOODS**

Lead Director: Liz Hunter, Lead Author: Sam Turner

(Pages 95 - 106)

**12. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT AND REFRESH**

Lead Director: Liz Hunter, Lead Author: Noel Collings

(Pages 107 - 122)

**13. CARBON EMISSION REDUCTION PATHWAYS REFRESH**

Lead Director: Liz Hunter, Lead Author: Lara Blake

(Pages 123 - 126)

**14. ENERGY SYSTEM REFORM AND LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLANS**

Lead Director: Liz Hunter, Lead Author: Lara Blake

(Pages 127 - 132)

**15. GREEN JOBS TASKFORCE AND SKILLS**

Lead Director: Felix Kumi-Ampofo, Lead Author: Sonya Midgley

(Pages 133 - 142)

**16. MAYOR'S BIG CLIMATE CHAT UPDATE**

Lead Director: Sarah Eaton, Lead Author: Clare Davies, Victoria Turton

(Pages 143 - 150)

**17. MASS TRANSIT SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

Lead Director: Luke Albanese, Lead Author: Stacey White

(Pages 151 - 160)

## For Information

### 18. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 28 May 2024.

**Signed:**

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**Chief Executive  
West Yorkshire Combined Authority**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2023 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1,  
WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS, LS1 2DE**

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**Present:**

Councillor Jane Scullion (Chair)	Calderdale Council
Councillor Sarah Ferriby	Bradford Council
Councillor Scott Patient	Calderdale Council
Councillor Katie Dye	Leeds City Council
Councillor Jack Hemingway	Wakefield Council
Councillor Jenny Kent	York Council
John Clark	Private Sector Representative
David Owumi	Private Sector Representative
Gideon Richards	Private Sector Representative
Adam Ashman	Advisory Representative (Yorkshire Water)
Martyn Broadest	Advisory Representative (West Yorkshire Housing Partnership)
Jim Cardwell	Advisory Representative (Northern Powergrid)
Neil Whalley	Advisory Representative (Northern Gas Networks)

**In attendance:**

Liz Hunter (Director)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Oliver Harmar (Chief Operating Officer)	Natural England
Sara Brook	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Tamsin Constable	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Paul Duncan (Yorkshire Area Deputy Director)	Natural England
Alison Gillespie	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Peter Glover	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Myles Larrington	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Nadia McPherson	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
James Nutter	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Ariba Rashid	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Stacey White	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Kevin Unwin	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Andrew Cooper (Kirklees Council), Private Sector Representatives, Richard Goodfellow and Leah Stuart, and Advisory Representatives, Jenny Cooke (The Environment Agency), Gregg Dodd (Northern Gas Networks) and Ian Holmes (NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board).

Neil Whalley attended the meeting as the Advisory Representative from Northern Gas Networks in place of Greg Dodd.

## **2. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Gideon Richards declared an interest in Item 8 in relation to the South Pennines Park as his wife is a trustee of River Holme Connections.

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

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

## **4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2023**

Members noted that Item 12 of the Draft Minutes of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee held on 11 July 2023 contained an inaccurate reference to the work of Dr Alan Palmer, when this should have referenced Dr Andy Palmer.

The Governance Services Officer had noted these comments and the record had been corrected accordingly.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting of Climate, Energy and Environment Committee held on 11 July 2023 were approved.

## **5. Chair's Update**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Jenny Cooke, the Advisory Representative from The Environment Agency to the meeting. The Chair noted that it would have been Jenny Cooke's first meeting, but she had given her apologies. The Chair also welcomed Adam Ashman, the Advisory Representative from Yorkshire Water, who had also joined the Committee.

The Chair noted that, following recent inclement weather, the Calderdale district had come dangerously close to potentially catastrophic flooding after experiencing heavy rain. The Chair was happy to report that, despite some homes in the east of the borough experiencing excessive flooding, in overall terms, Calderdale had a near miss thanks to the diligent efforts of numerous environmental and flooding agencies and the excellent preparatory work. The Chair pointed out that Calderdale inhabitants experience the climate emergency firsthand every year, therefore it is not just an abstract concept to them. The Chair emphasised that such examples of the increasingly variable climate demonstrate why the Committee's work is so important.

Regarding the Committee's work in progress, the Chair noted that the Combined Authority has a strong procedure in place to ensure that plans are developed through a robust assurance framework to enable such programmes to be justified to the government and Treasury.

The Chair observed that it takes a lot of work to create the business cases and to progress them through each stage of the quality assurance process. Low-interest retrofit loans, solar panels for community and school buildings, area-based demonstrator retrofit projects, and the development of local area energy planning are all part of the present programmes. Additionally, officers are still developing housing and battery storage initiatives in collaboration with the Yorkshire Housing Partnership.

The Chair noted that, at the last meeting of the Committee, members had agreed to a skills audit being undertaken to enable officers to identify areas in which knowledge upskilling could be offered. Eight responses from the Committee's members had been received to date. The Chair observed that while members already possess a great deal of depth and expertise, it is vital that the Committee identify relevant training opportunities.

Lastly, the Chair informed the Committee that in order to find solutions that involve the public, the Mayor of West Yorkshire and the five constituent authorities will be initiating a public conversation on climate change and the emergency response. The Mayor's Big Bus Chat will serve as the foundation for this effort, the Chair indicated, allowing for a conversation about attitudes and views that will be integrated into in-depth work over an appropriate period of time. The mayor and the leaders of the constituent authorities want to ensure that there are links to webpages about climate emergencies in each of the five council districts. This will then enable the districts and the Combined Authority to facilitate mutual signposting of their activity as a result.

## **6. Committee Governance**

The Committee considered a report of the Director for Policing, Environment and Place which noted the co-opting of a representative of the NHS onto the Committee. It also updated the Committee on the new individuals who will be representing the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water and sought feedback on the ways in which the views of young people could be sought and integrated into the work of the Committee and Combined Authority.

Officers introduced the report and explained that the Partnership Agreement between the Combined Authority and NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) sets out both organisations' shared commitment to work together on factors that affect population health, including climate change. Off the back of the Partnership Agreement, representatives from the ICB will be co-opted onto the Combined Authority's Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee.

The involvement of the NHS / ICB would enable the health outcomes from climate and environment actions to be captured in the Committee's work and to consider the NHS's own carbon footprint. At the Combined Authority

meeting held on 12 October 2023, Ian Holmes was appointed as the advisory representative from the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to the Committee. Due to personnel changes, the Environment Agency will now be represented by Jenny Cooke, and Yorkshire Water by Adam Ashman.

As young people are the ones who will be impacted the most by a changing climate, the Combined Authority needs to involve young people in many areas, not just climate change and net zero.

Members made the following observations:

- A member stated that she thought the report included a good list of activities that would reach a significant number of young people. The member emphasised the need to be aware of what would happen after the engagement had taken place, and what would be done with the information gathered. The member stressed the importance of ensuring that the young people's voices had an impact and that feedback was provided to them about the developments.
- A member discussed the idea of reaching a broader audience through the Scouts, particularly at the squirrel level. He pointed out the opportunity to utilise the Scout network and leadership to engage with young people.
- The Environment Agency's presence at this meeting was appreciated by members. It was mentioned that their concerns extended beyond flooding, and there was a need for a broader understanding of what was the overall remit of Environment Agency.
- Members stressed the importance of researching the right methods of engagement. They suggested having some co-design on this and that it would be beneficial if the Mayor's conversation could specifically ask young people how they wanted the climate emergency to be addressed.

**Resolved:**

- i. That the Committee noted the contents of the report.
- ii. That the Committee noted the appointment by the Combined Authority on 12th October, of an advisory representative from the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to the Committee.
- iii. That the Committee noted the change in members representing the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water on this Committee.
- iv. That the Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the potential methods for engaging with young people.

**7. Monitoring Indicators**



The Committee considered a report of the Chief Operating Officer, which provided a report to members on the State of the Region monitoring indicators pertaining to climate, energy, and the environment.

Officers introduced the report and explained that members receive regular reports on these indicators, reflecting the committee's efforts to improve outcomes. The State of the Region indicators give a high-level strategic picture of performance and will be detailed in the State of the Region 2023 report scheduled for publication in late-October.

The report also covered the energy efficiency of properties, premises at risk of flooding, access to greenspace, fuel poverty, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure in West Yorkshire.

Members made the following observations:

- A member mentioned that 91% of new builds had reached energy performance certificate (EPC) level C or above, with 9% not achieving this, which he found staggering. He suggested that this needed to be addressed.
- A member observed that the Combined Authority was using the same definition of fuel poverty as the government. Living in an EPC property or better meant that individuals were not classified as being in fuel poverty, regardless of their income situation. This was considered as lacking common sense, and it was noted that this skewed the statistics.
- In relation to distances travelled, a member suggested considering metrics like electric miles or zero carbon miles to help people understand their journeys in terms of environmental impact. In addition, he proposed looking into incentives to encourage companies to improve beyond an EPC level C rating, including them potentially earning recognition from the Combined Authority.
- A suggestion was made to create a dashboard to track the indicators for public awareness.
- A member referred to a recent National Grid event. He explained that the National Grid manage the transmission system across Great Britain. He emphasised the importance of electric vehicle charging, the connections for which was within the remit of the Northern Powergrid network. This had prompted discussions with the Combined Authority (CA) about the vital role of Local Area Energy Plans. The member observed that the local grid needs robust capacity to support future green electricity demands.
- A member expressed the value of datasets but raised concerns about charts that compared different authorities. He inquired about the

possibility of breaking down all data to the local authority level, similar to how energy efficiency was presented.

- A member asked if there were forward projections for targets and a plan for achieving them, particularly in terms of green energy in the region.
- A member raised questions about ensuring all greenhouse gases were considered as well as carbon. He also noted that transportation disruption due to flooding could lead to increased vehicle use and asked about strategies to prevent such escalation of climate change.

**Resolved:**

- i. That the Committee noted the contents of the report.
- ii. That the Committee noted the headline analysis of the indicators.

**8. Natural England's Work in the Region**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policing, Environment and Place which outlined the mutual interest between the Combined and Natural England and how this benefited the people of West Yorkshire.

Officers introduced the report which explained that Natural England is a government advisor for the natural environment in England. It is publicly funded to conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment.

West Yorkshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be developed by the Combined Authority and published in 2025. It will help to build a national Nature Recovery Network across England. Natural England senior advisors are working closely with Combined Authority officers to produce and publish the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for West Yorkshire.

Oliver Harmar, Natural England's Chief Operating Officer, was then invited to address the Committee. He began his speech by expressing gratitude for the invitation and commending the Committee for addressing important social challenges. He noted that West Yorkshire was a leader in this regard and mentioned that he would discuss the Local Nature Strategy.

He highlighted that Natural England as an agency comes under the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). They sit alongside other organisations in the form of the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission. He noted that Natural England had recently experienced significant growth. They were seeking to address both the nature emergency and the climate emergency. He stressed the synergy between their national efforts and local initiatives.

He acknowledged the incredible natural environments in Yorkshire but emphasised the unequal access available for residents. He considered both the people and nature aspects as crucial. Natural England's mission was focused on building partnerships for nature recovery, requiring localised

collaborations. He mentioned the insufficiency of merely protecting existing natural areas and stated that Natural England's mission was to explore various tools to integrate the environment and nature into planning, particularly concerning landscapes and well-being. Environmental, health, and water considerations were also essential.

Paul Duncan discussed the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, where they played a facilitative role among fifty such strategies nationwide, stressing the need for a strategic plan. He referenced recent initiatives in Bradford involving the launch of six major nature recovery projects. These efforts aimed to work with local authorities to ensure access to high-quality greenspaces and develop a strategic plan for Local Biodiversity Net Gain. Oliver Harmar also touched on Natural England's efforts to combat water pollution through collaboration with farmers to achieve this goal.

Members made the following observations:

- A member enquired whether the mapping covers the entire region or individual projects. The Yorkshire Area Deputy Director for Natural England, Paul Duncan responded that the Nature Recovery Project focuses on individual projects rather than mapping the entire region.
- Members praised the presentation and stressed the importance of not neglecting areas outside the project, especially in Wakefield and Leeds, and called for projects in those areas.
- A member asked about the use of Section 106 money for biodiversity net gain and requested metrics to measure its effectiveness. He also asked if others could get involved in the West Yorkshire Strategy. Oliver Harmar committed to addressing the concerns about Section 106 and involving more stakeholders in the West Yorkshire Strategy.
- A member pointed out the policy tension between brownfield and greenfield development and the need to address neglected brownfield sites. Oliver Harmar committed to discussing the project and exploring ways to measure biodiversity with the member.

**Resolved:**

- i. That the Committee noted the contents of the report.
- ii. That Committee noted the existing relationship between Natural England and the Combined Authority.
- iii. That Committee endorsed Natural England's approach to the future of this relationship, specifically around the immediate need to publish the first LNRS.

**9. Mass Transit Sustainability Strategy**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Mass Transit which advised members on the development of the Sustainability Strategy for West Yorkshire Mass Transit, which aligns with national and regional legislation and policy, UN Sustainable Development Goals, and provides positive sustainability outcomes and commitments.

Officers introduced the report and explained that the strategy will guide the project through feasibility, development, delivery, and into operation, and will be consulted on with the public as part of the first phase options consultation. Measurable indicators and targets for the full outcome framework will be developed in parallel.

Members made the following observations:

- The Chair referred to the concept and models of mass transit in other parts of Europe to aid the strategy's conceptual and design phases.
- A member referred to the fact that the consultation document on bus franchising is complex, highlighting the need for public accessibility in our approach to future consultations. He also noted that the Combined Authority's progress in the sustainability accreditation area is good. The member enquired if it is possible to take up certain ISO standards in addition to greenhouse gas emissions along with sustainable procurement as well.
- A member asked about the government's involvement in the tram project in Leeds. The Chair responded by emphasising the importance of advocating for further infrastructure development in Yorkshire.
- A member asked whether the Mass Transit Strategy covers commuting out of the region, and officers clarified that the infrastructure will be in West Yorkshire but aims to attract patronage from outside the region.
- The Chair requested regular updates to the Committee on this item.

**Resolved:**

- i. That the Committee noted the contents of the report.
- i. That the Committee endorsed the approach proposed for the development of the Sustainability Strategy for the West Yorkshire Mass Transit, and the Direction of Travel regarding emerging sustainability objectives and priorities.
- ii. That the Committee endorsed the aspiration for the West Yorkshire Mass Transit project to be accredited to appropriate industry sustainability standards.

**10. Better Homes Hub**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policing, Environment and Place which updated members on the Better Homes Hub programme.

Officers introduced the report and explained that the Better Homes Hub (BHH) is the regional programme of the Combined Authority to scale-up domestic retrofit, with a vision to create warm, comfortable, and low carbon homes for everyone in West Yorkshire. The programme has three objectives to build consensus on priorities for retrofitting, delivery of retrofit projects, and establishment of the BHH as a trusted entity for all residents. A consortium led by the Energy Saving Trust has been appointed as client-side support for the BHH programme, and they will provide expert advice and an evidence-base to drive decision-making.

The Energy Efficiency Carbon Reduction Framework has been approved for a 2-year period with the potential for a 2-year extension thereafter. The low-interest loan will be launched in March 2024 to help owner-occupiers and private landlords fund the retrofit of their homes, and it will be part of a menu of finance options. The report also covers the success of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, the Leeds Retrofit Accelerator, and business cases related to the area-based schemes.

Members made the following observations:

- A member inquired about the details of the energy efficiency scheme and whether it included renewable energy. He expressed concerns about whether the loan available would cover the costs of retrofit. Officers explained that the scheme allows people to choose the measures they want based on their specific needs and circumstances.
- A member asked about the potential impact of government grants, specifically the £7,000 for heat pumps. Officers stated that there is no restriction on combining the scheme with government grants. There is a limit for landlords not to receive over £300,000 of state aid in three years.
- A member asked if the loan is interest-free and whether good practices would be encouraged to improve energy efficiency. Officers clarified that the loan has a 3.2% interest rate to allow low repayments and is unsecured with property title restrictions for recovery in case of sale.
- Members expressed concerns about the loan's affordability given the cost-of-living crisis and asked about the repayment period. They also enquired about other finance options alongside the loan and asked about mechanisms for ensuring loan repayment and the possibility of warranty schemes. Officers mentioned that the loan might not cover all needs but is being tested for viability and is focussed at the ability to pay market. They suggested signposting other less able to pay to local authorities for grants, mentioned a standard 10-year loan term,

and discussed innovative finance options like climate bonds. Officers expressed a willingness to discuss warranty schemes with members and emphasised the importance of ensuring quality and creating a trusted supplier list.

- A member expressed satisfaction with the progress of the region's first area-based scheme and mentioned the hope for insights from Innovate UK research projects.
- A member questioned the quality aspect of the installation and suggested support through a local trust or assurance program for improvement works.
- Members highlighted the challenges faced by small companies in the industry and the need to understand and support local businesses in the area.

**Resolved:**

- i. That the Committee noted the contents of the report.
- ii. That the Committee provided feedback on the most suitable method for ensuring quality of install through the low interest loan while not placing a significant burden on residents.
- iii. That the Committee provided feedback on the mechanisms that could be implemented to ensure a seamless offer between the area-based schemes and the low interest loan.

## **11. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Transport Policy and Delivery which provided members with an update on West Yorkshire's electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure strategy.

Officers introduced the report and explained that, in accordance with the government's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, the report highlighted the importance of establishing a reliable and accessible EV charging network. Currently, there are 841 publicly accessible chargepoints in the region, but coverage remains uneven, particularly in rural and lower-income areas. To address this, a draft strategy has been developed with several key principles, including expanding 'close to home' charging, reducing inequalities in access, ensuring affordability and usability, and promoting renewable energy use.

Additionally, the report discusses the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme, which aims to accelerate chargepoint delivery, especially in areas without off-street parking. West Yorkshire has received funding, including pilot and capability funding, with a potential total program value of over £17 million, including private investment. The report anticipates the delivery of 500-1000 chargepoints through this program, focusing on equity of access and social value. A final LEVI Capital scheme proposal is

expected in November 2023 to further enhance the region's EV infrastructure.

Members made the following observations:

- A member expressed endorsement for the direction of the charging infrastructure strategy. He emphasised the need to consider the management and distribution of charging infrastructure within the region, particularly in relation to monitoring indicators.
- A member raised concerns about the absence of information regarding workplace charging stations and their influence on the strategy. He suggested that hub charging might be a more suitable solution, especially in areas with limited on-street parking. He also emphasised the importance of appropriately sized spaces and accessibility for vehicles.
- A member discussed on-street charging and the perspective of people using cables from their homes. He pointed out that the paper did not address this. He highlighted the cost difference, with public charging being more expensive due to higher VAT on commercial energy supplies.
- The Chair noted the challenge of providing charging infrastructure in terrace housing streets, where individuals with mobility difficulties share the same space. She commended experiences in Scotland, particularly in Dundee, where community charging infrastructure within residential streets has been successful.

**Resolved:**

That the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee:

- i. Noted the contents of the report.
- ii. Noted the update on the EV infrastructure work being undertaken by the Combined Authority.

**12. Air Quality**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Transport Policy and Delivery which provided an update on air quality activities and policies in West Yorkshire.

Officers introduced the report and explained that poor air quality is a significant issue, with approximately 1 in 20 deaths in the region attributed to it, costing the UK economy £16 billion annually. The West Yorkshire Low Emission Strategy (WYLES), adopted in 2016, focuses on emissions from transport as a primary source of poor air quality. There are currently 36 Air Quality Management Areas and a Clean Air Zone in Bradford due to excessive nitrogen dioxide emissions from road traffic.

New legislation, like the Environment Act 2021, has set stricter air quality targets, emphasising particulate matter (PM2.5). A new air quality strategy is being developed to reflect these changes and the introduction of the Clean Air Zone in Bradford.

To better understand PM sources, the West Yorkshire Particulate Information Improvement Project (PIIP) is underway, funded by Defra. This project enhances monitoring networks, provides a particulate dashboard, and involves research from university partners. Consultants are also identifying non-transport PM sources. These efforts will inform the development of a comprehensive air quality strategy for West Yorkshire, supporting broader climate and environmental goals.

Members made the following observations:

- A member suggested considering the inclusion of particulate matter in Monitoring Indicators, which was generally supported. The Director of Policing, Environment and Place mentioned that the issue of including particulate matter in Monitoring Indicators would be discussed with the relevant officers.
- A member emphasised that electric vehicles (EVs) alone are not a complete solution for air quality problems. He called for innovative ways to provide alternative options and improve air quality, which could involve planting, biodiversity projects, and road use schemes.
- A member enquired about exploring other emission sources such as small particulates, domestic cooking, and indoor heating quality.
- A member asked about collaboration with the Clean Air Team at Bradford and how particulates might impact young people and children. The Born in Bradford study was mentioned as a useful source of data.
- A member questioned how to address particulates not under local control, like those from the national road network. He suggested cooperation with Highways England for tree planting and mentioned that other areas had seen speed restrictions to enhance air quality.
- A member raised a question about the scope of the work regarding indoor particulates, to which officers committed to finding out and reporting back.

**Resolved:**

That the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee:

- i. Noted the contents of the report.



- ii. Noted the regional air quality strategy work being undertaken by the Combined Authority and district partners.

### 13. 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). The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee had delegated decision making authority approved by the Combined Authority on 23 June 2022 for the project.

#### **The Net Zero Accelerator Programme**

The Net Zero Accelerator programme aims to achieve the region's net zero commitments by implementing high-impact projects that address the climate emergency, restore nature, tackle air pollution, and create green jobs. The program is set to be completed by March 2024, but a change request is seeking further funding to extend the program for three years and incorporate learnings from its progress so far.

The scheme's success will establish the region as a leader in climate and environmental emergency response, making it an attractive place for businesses and individuals. The proposed change request includes revising the scheme's scope, increasing its total cost from £960,000 to £3,020,000, and extending its delivery timeframe from March 2024 to March 2027.

Members discussed the project and brought up the Huddersfield District Energy Network and highlighted the government's requirement for such schemes to incorporate Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology. They noted the need to assess the viability of such projects, especially considering the potential return to gas as an energy source in 2037, while expressing support for the current scheme.

**Resolved:** The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, subject to the conditions set by the Strategic Portfolio Office, approved the following:

- i. That the Committee noted the contents of the report.
- ii. That the Committee approved the change request to revise the scope of the Net Zero Region Accelerator scheme, to change the total scheme costs from £960,000 to £3,020,000 and to extend the schemes delivery timeframe from March 2024 to March 2027.
  - i. That the Committee approved the Combined Authority's contribution of £3,020,000 is given. The total scheme value is £3,020,000.
  - ii. That the Committee endorsed the delegation for the approval for any future grant funding agreements and associated development funding required, in relation to the £3,020,000, was given to the Director of Policing, Environment and Place.

- iii. That future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in the report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report. Where required, any future committee level approvals are delegated to the Transport Committee.

#### **14. Pledge Delivery Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policing, Environment and Place which provided an overview of the efforts being made to achieve the mayoral pledge of achieving net zero by 2038.

Officers introduced the report which covered various themes under which the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) operates. The CEP is a key document for the Combined Authority, and is linked to various policies, strategies, and plans guiding wide-ranging actions. It sets out an evidence base in the form of Carbon Emissions Reductions Pathways (the “Pathways”) and an associated action plan for the period 2021-2024.

The current Pathways have modelled interventions that would result in significant emissions reductions by 2038, but more ambitious measures or systems changes would be needed to reach net-zero. The region is now developing a “Complete Pathway” and a roadmap to demonstrate how net zero can be achieved by 2038.

Members made the following observations:

- A member expressed interest in the green skills topic, emphasising the importance of engaging with young people. She noted that in a video released for schools it featured only white men, which raised concerns about the equality implications. The Chair said this would be looked at.
- A member pointed out the need to address the gap between the stated ambitions for 2038 and the current progress. He mentioned that the figures indicated a 17 to 25% reduction in emissions. Officers explained that the pathways are crucial evidence for updating the Climate and Environment plan, which is set to run until 2024. They proposed considering consultations on the plan and asked if there were specific consultees that the members would like to engage with.
- Members enquired about the consideration of gas all emissions, to which officers confirmed that they were looking at CO<sub>2</sub>e emission targets.

#### **Resolved:**

- i. That the Committee noted the contents of this report.
- ii. In respect of the update of the CEP, the Committee provided its views on the proposed period of the updated CEP, the proposed structure

and content of the CEP, and possible consultees for the development of the CEP.

**15. 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 13 February 2024.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Monitoring Indicators</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Sarah Eaton, Director of Strategy, Communications and Intelligence
<b>Author:</b>	Guilherme Rodrigues, Peter Glover

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 present the latest position on the State of the Region monitoring indicators relating to climate, energy and the environment.
- 1.2. To respond to comments raised at the last meeting of the Committee (24 October 2023).
- 1.3. To alert the Committee to data quality issues relating to Energy Performance Certificate statistics.

## 2. Information

### Monitoring arrangements

- 2.1. As part of agreed monitoring arrangements, the Climate, energy and environment Committee receives regular reports against a set of State of the Region indicators relevant to its remit. These are presented as a standing item on the Committee's agenda. These indicators reflect the outcomes that the work of the committee is seeking to improve. Indicators are reported on by exception i.e. when fresh data becomes available for each indicator, allowing the analysis to be updated.

- 2.2 The indicators are reported on in detail in the latest State of the Region 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 as follows:

- Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)
- Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent) by sector
- Greenhouse gas emissions intensity ratio
- Building energy efficiency
- Premises at risk of flooding
- Households in fuel poverty
- Access to greenspace.

- 2.4 A number of additional indicators relevant to the work of the Committee were identified as part of the development of the West Yorkshire Plan, which was presented in draft to the Committee at its January 2023 meeting. These indicators are as follows:

- Deployment of electric buses
- Deployment of electric charging infrastructure.

### **Key messages**

- 2.5 The latest key messages for indicators for which new data has become available since the last meeting are summarised below and are also visualised in appendix 2 to this paper. Detailed analysis of the emissions-related indicators was provided in the indicator paper presented to the July Committee meeting and can be found [here](#).

#### **Electric vehicle charging infrastructure**

- 2.6. The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan sets a commitment to accelerate the deployment of electric vehicle chargepoints across the region with a focus on ensuring equity. The latest figures show that as of November 2023, there were 42,489 publicly available electric vehicle (EV) charging devices installed in England and 979 in West Yorkshire. The number of charging devices in West Yorkshire has grown rapidly, expanding by 51% in the year to October 2023 alone, although there was no change between July and October 2023, the latest quarter for which figures are available. The ratio of charging devices to population is below the national average in West Yorkshire (42 versus 75 per 100,000 population) and is improving less quickly than nationally; although West Yorkshire outperforms the England average in terms of rapid charging devices per head of population (14 versus 13).

### **Responses to queries from the Committee at the October 2023 meeting**

- 2.7 The following section sets out responses to issues and queries relating to data and monitoring indicators raised by the Committee at the October 2023 meeting.

#### EPC data

- 2.8 During the discussion of building energy efficiency, the Committee noted that a significant proportion of new build dwellings in West Yorkshire were recorded as having an energy efficiency rating below C, based on data supplied by DLHUC. This was felt to be potentially anomalous and further investigation by officers showed that this apparent issue within the data is largely confined to dwellings in Leeds.
- 2.9 Exploration of individual EPC lodgement records within the full open dataset available from DLHUC, upon which the EPC statistics are based, indicates that there are significant data quality issues. Many EPC lodgement records which are classified as relating to new dwellings clearly do not relate to new dwellings. This is apparent from contradictions between the type of transaction recorded, the construction date (at least in some cases the basis for determining whether a dwelling is new) and date of lodgement. These issues are more prevalent in data originating from 2020 and earlier, with an improvement in data quality since then.
- 2.10 A further issue identified in the data is that the EPC records that underpin DLHUC's published statistics seem to contain many duplicates i.e. multiple lodgements for the same dwelling.
- 2.11 To address this issue the Combined Authority has downloaded and cleaned the DLHUC EPC data for West Yorkshire in order to calculate alternative estimates of efficiency ratings for the region and its constituent local authorities using more robust data. The revised estimates are presented in appendix 2.
- 2.12 In future, it is proposed that reporting of EPC analysis should be based on a combination of DLHUC data that has been cleaned and quality checked in-house by the Combined Authority, together with Office for National Statistics analysis of EPC data. The former approach will be used to provide an assessment of trends on a quarterly basis for West Yorkshire and the five local authorities, including for the purposes of monitoring progress against the Mayor's housing pledge. The latter dataset from ONS has been subjected to quality assurance but is much more limited in terms of the range of data it contains and is only published annually. It will be used to look at longer term annual trends and as the basis for benchmarking West Yorkshire with other areas.
- 2.13 The Combined Authority has conferred with relevant officers within the local authorities to raise awareness of this issue and has contacted DLHUC to highlight the data quality deficiencies and to explore the potential for corrective action. The Committee will be updated on any progress at future meetings.

### Access to greenspace

- 2.14 At the October meeting of the Committee members raised queries regarding the Access to Greenspace indicator. It was felt to be counter-intuitive that Calderdale and Kirklees should have relatively low access to greenspace and should rank lower against this indicator than Bradford and Leeds in view of the wealth of greenspace in both of these local authority areas. A detailed explanation of this indicator is provided below which hopefully will allay these concerns. In summary the apparent anomaly arises from the specific nature of the indicator selected to measure access to greenspace, which is taken directly from the work of Natural England.
- 2.15 The headline ‘access to greenspace’ indicator included in the West Yorkshire State of the Region report is defined as the ‘proportion of the population who have access to local greenspace; that is, they live within 300m (as the crow flies) of an area of accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size in which a sense of naturalness prevails over the sense of human made environment’.
- 2.16 The spatial data that defines the locations of natural local greenspace (including the 300m buffer) is Natural England’s ‘Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard’ layer which is available to view on Natural England’s England Green Infrastructure Mapping Database ([Green Infrastructure Map \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk)). Accessible Natural Greenspaces are these sites that meet the definitions of accessible greenspace and natural greenspace. Accessible greenspace is defined as sites that *‘are available for the general public to use free of charge and without time restrictions (although some sites may be closed to the public overnight and there may be fees for parking a vehicle). Accessible greenspaces are available to all, meaning that every reasonable effort is made to comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2020. Accessible Greenspaces are areas of vegetation set within a landscape or townscape, often include blue space (i.e. lakes, rivers and wetlands)’*. Natural greenspace is defined as *‘places where human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate. Natural and semi-natural greenspace exists as a distinct typology but also as discrete areas within the majority of other greenspace typologies’*. Appendix 2 of Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Framework - Principles and Standards for England guide ([Green Infrastructure Standards for England Summary \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk)) provides detail summary of how they have defined these. The headline indicator in the West Yorkshire State of the Region presents this data as the share of the population who live within the 300m buffer zones applied by Natural England, with population data taken from the 2021 Census at neighbourhood level (lower super output area level).

### Electric vehicle miles

- 2.17 The Committee highlighted the need for metrics of environmental impact of electric vehicles such as zero carbon or electric miles travelled. This is not currently available for West Yorkshire but the Combined Authority’s transport monitoring team are currently exploring the potential to use MOT data for this purpose. MoT data is available as



anonymised open data and contains details of vehicle mileage plus fuel type. The Committee will be updated as progress is made on this work.

#### Air quality

- 2.18 At the October meeting during a discussion of air quality the question was raised of whether the Combined Authority monitors particulates. This is an area that is currently development. The West Yorkshire Particulate Information Improvement Project (PIIP), funded by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), has been developed in partnership with Districts, is also supported by partnerships with Leeds Beckett University and the University of Leeds. It has been designed to significantly improve knowledge and understanding of particulate matter locally, 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. 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. Work is underway to develop the specification for the Particulate Matter Information Dashboard as well as identify research areas for our Leeds Beckett University and University of Leeds research partners.

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

- 3.1. The State of the Region indicators provide a picture of the progress that is being made in addressing the Climate Emergency, most notably in terms of emissions reduction.

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

- 4.1. The indicators featured in State of the Region include 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. The main State of the Region report brings out equality and diversity implications across 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

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Indicator analysis

Appendix 2 – Revised analysis of Energy Performance Certificate data



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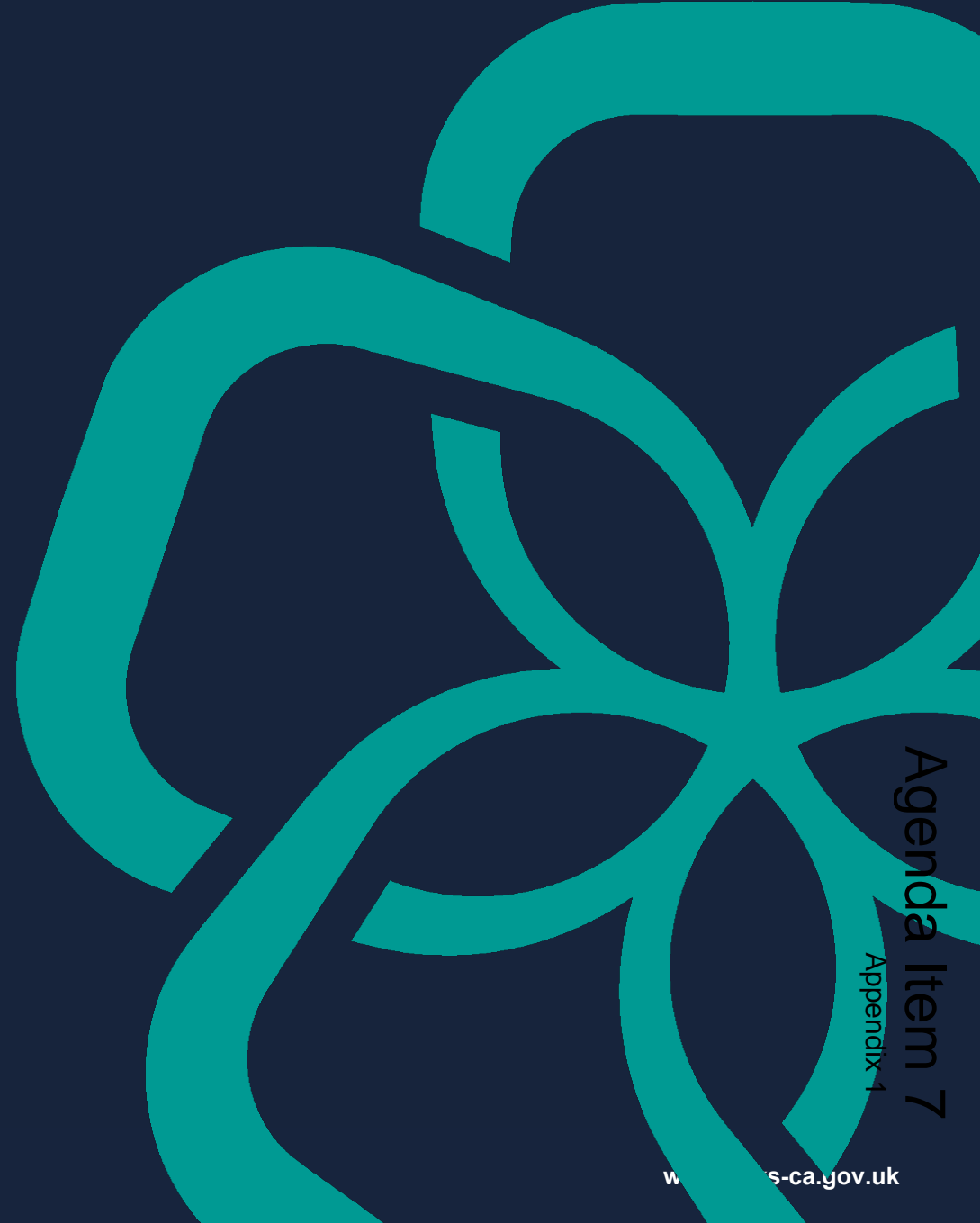
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# Appendix 1: Monitoring Indicators

Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

13 February 2024



Agenda Item 7  
Appendix 1

# Introduction

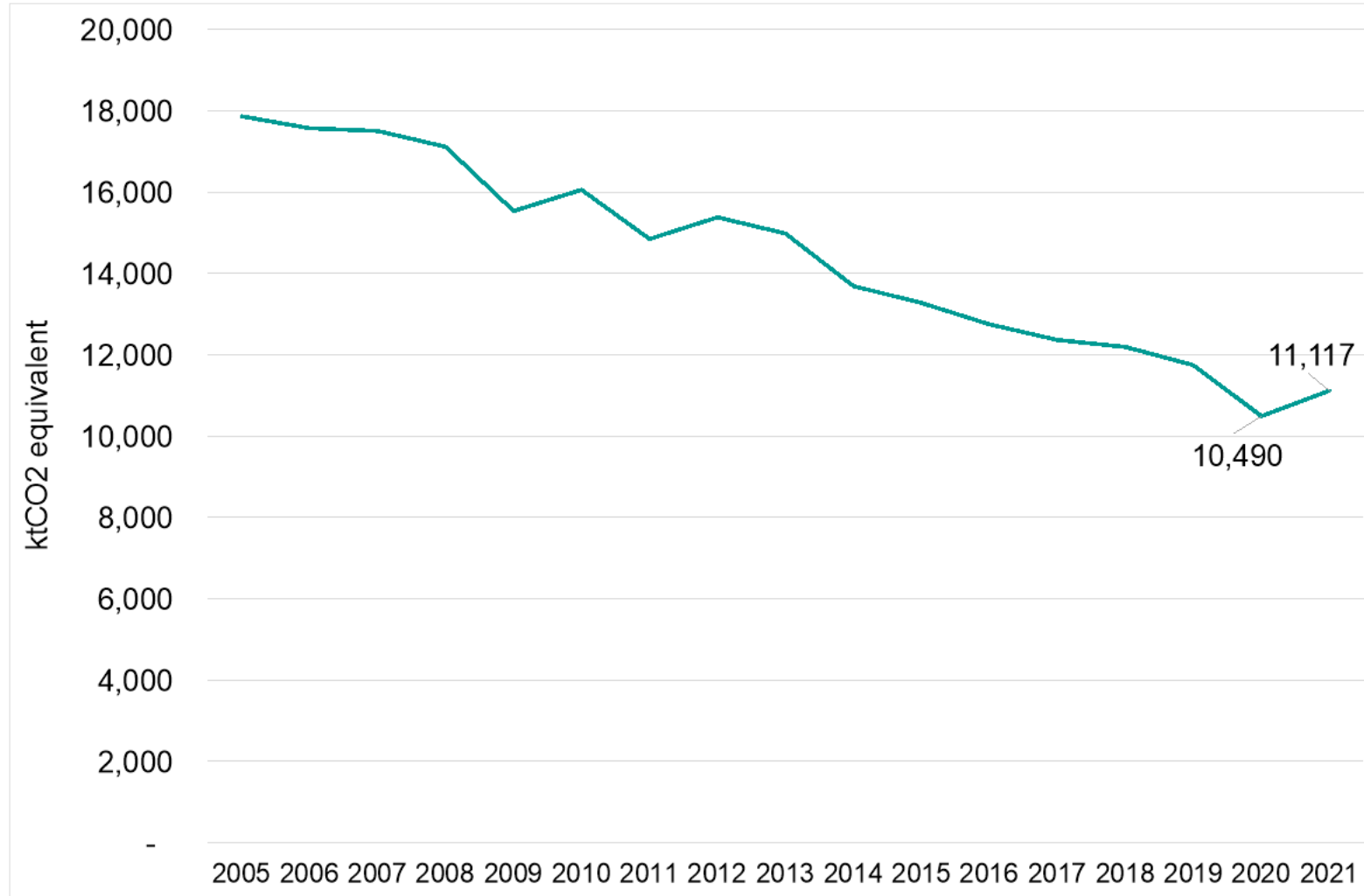
- The following slides provide an overview of West Yorkshire's performance and progress against the headline indicators for State of the Region
- A subset of indicators has been presented, reflecting those most directly relevant to the Climate, Energy and Environment agenda.
- For some indicators there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

24

# 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: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions, West Yorkshire (kilotonnes CO2e)



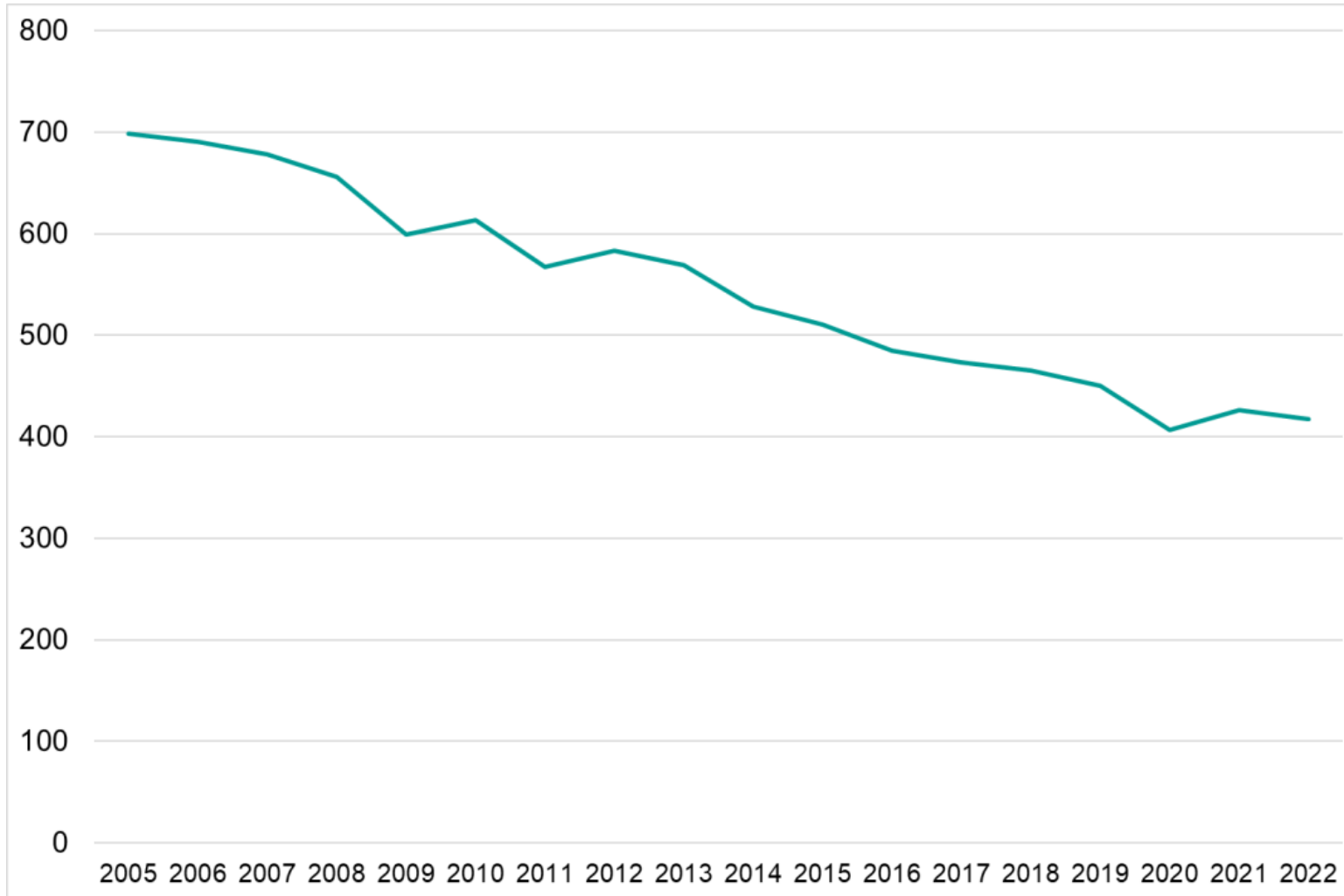
Emissions increased by 6% in 2021 but remain 5% below their 2019 level. This reflects the national picture.

NB: CO2e (CO2 equivalent) units are a measure of greenhouse gas emissions, including methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O) emissions as well as carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. Each of the gases is weighted by its global warming potential - defined as its warming influence in relation to that of carbon dioxide over a 100-year period.

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

# Provisional figures show that UK emissions fell in 2022

Figure: UK annual territorial greenhouse gas emissions by million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e)



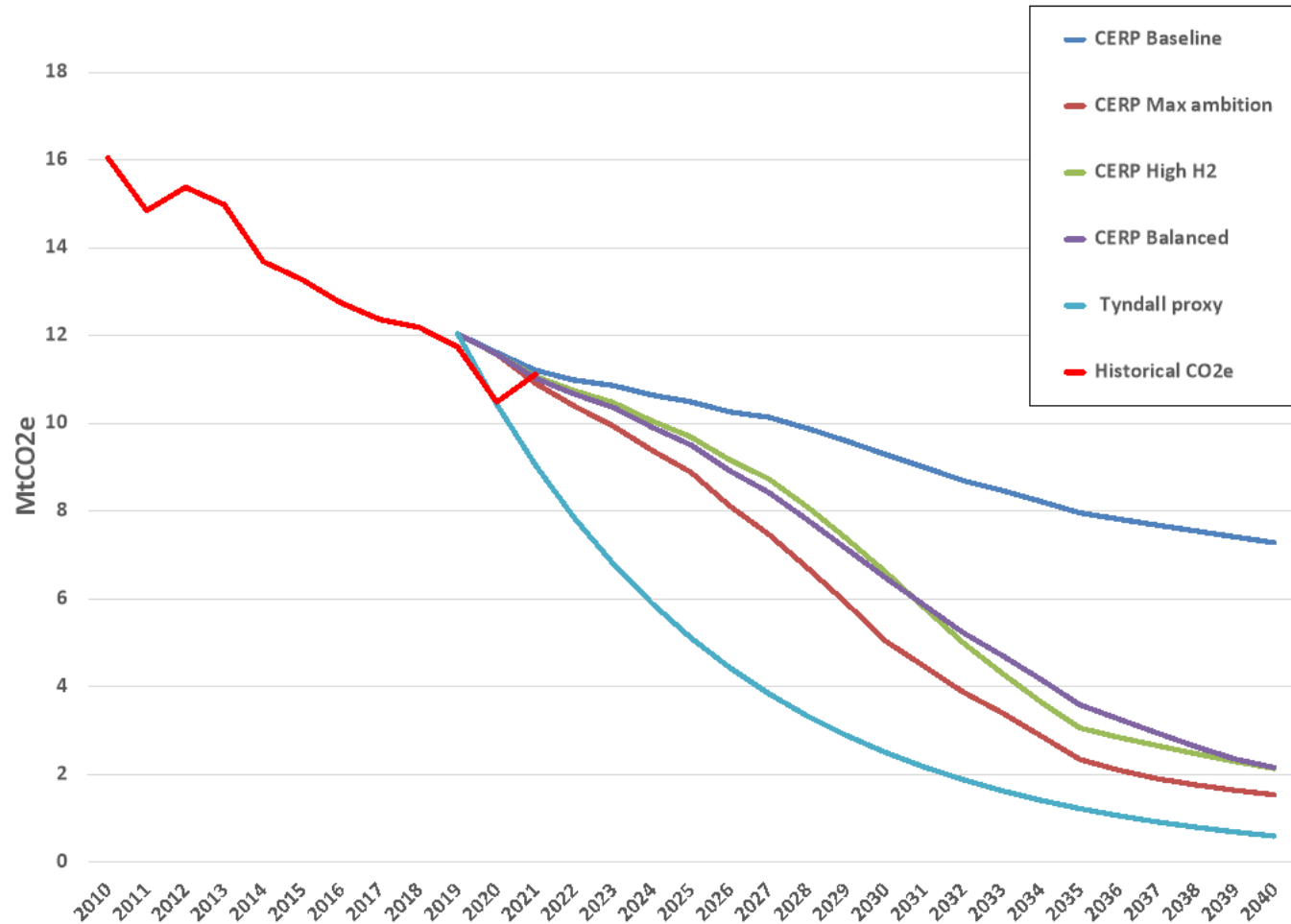
UK figures for 2022 point to a resumption of the pre-Covid trend. This is also likely to be the case for West Yorkshire when local figures are made available for 2022

27

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: Trend in West Yorkshire greenhouse gas emissions vs carbon reduction pathways (by million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e))



## 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 H<sub>2</sub>) - 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.

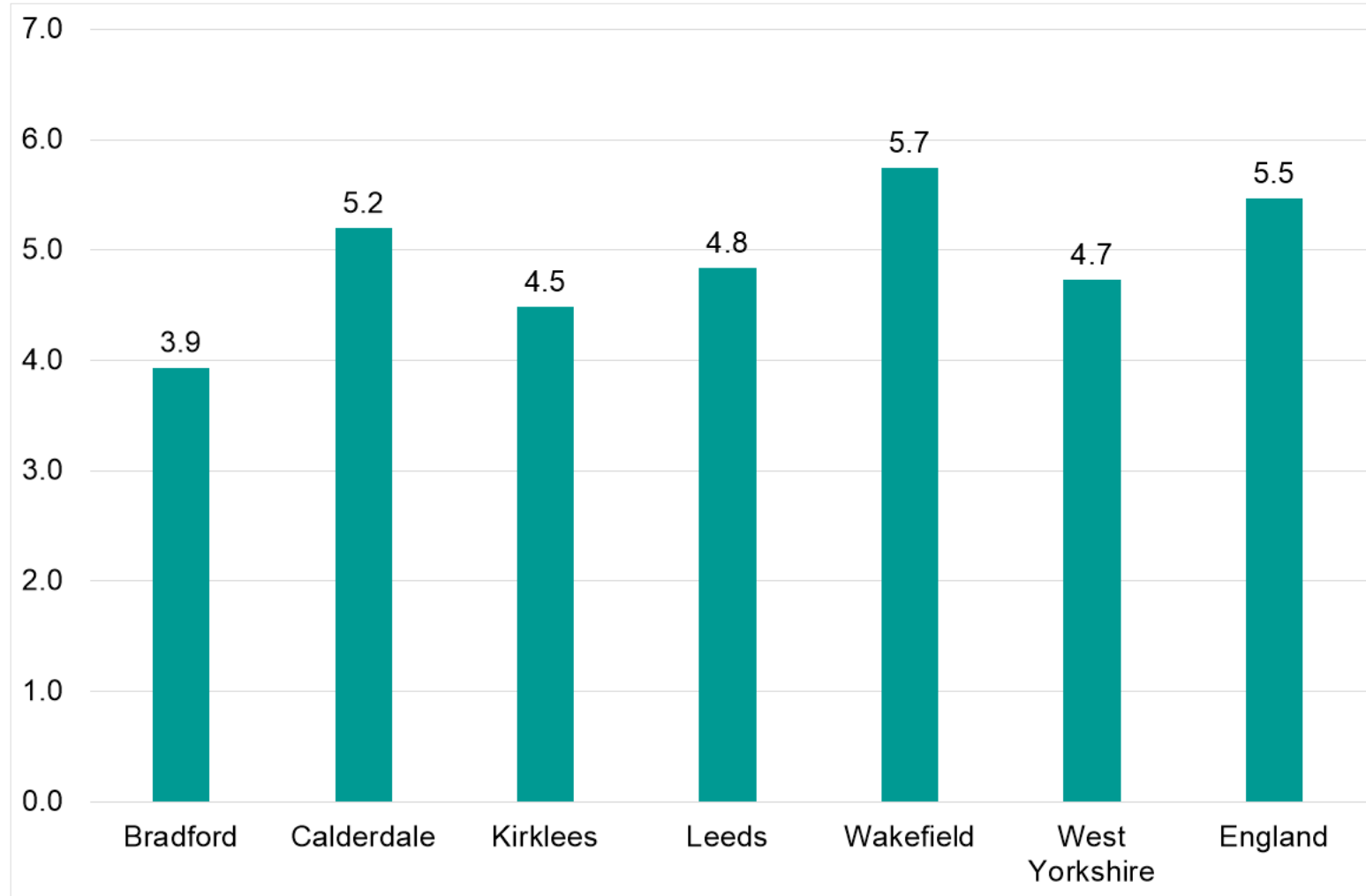
•See page 4 of this appendix for explanation of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) units

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

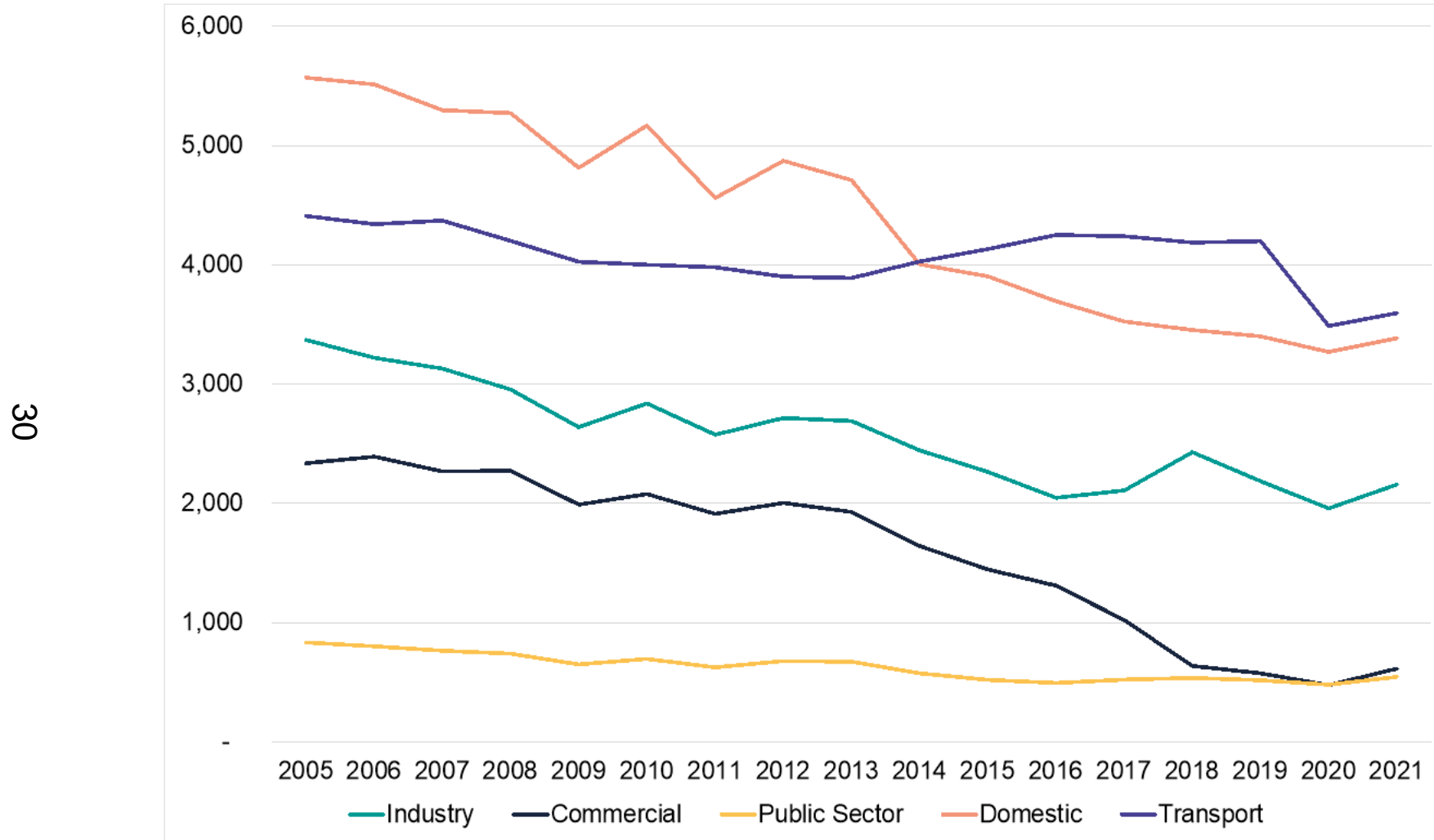
Figure: Per capita greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO2e per resident)



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

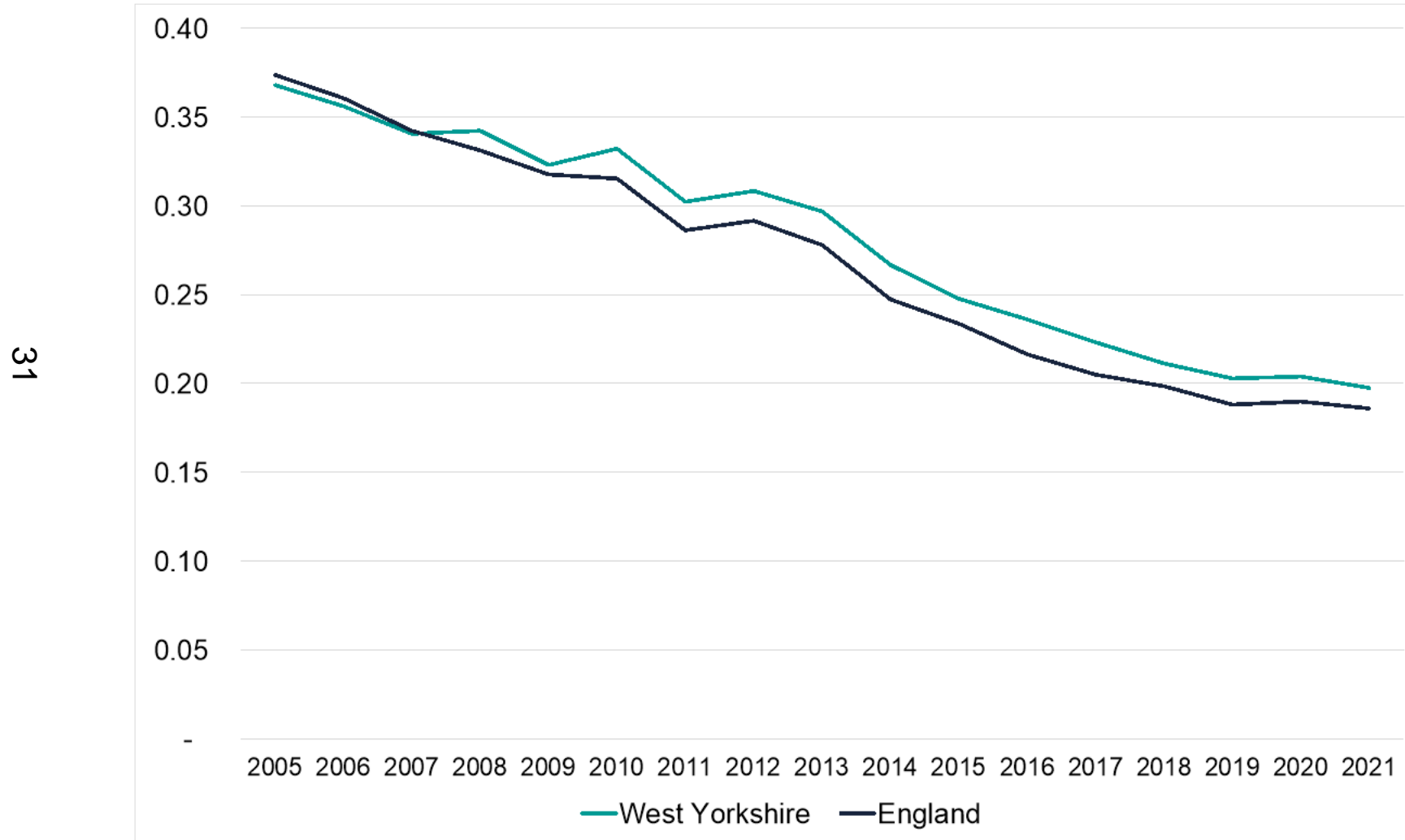


Although all sectors saw growth in 2021 most remain below their 2019 levels

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

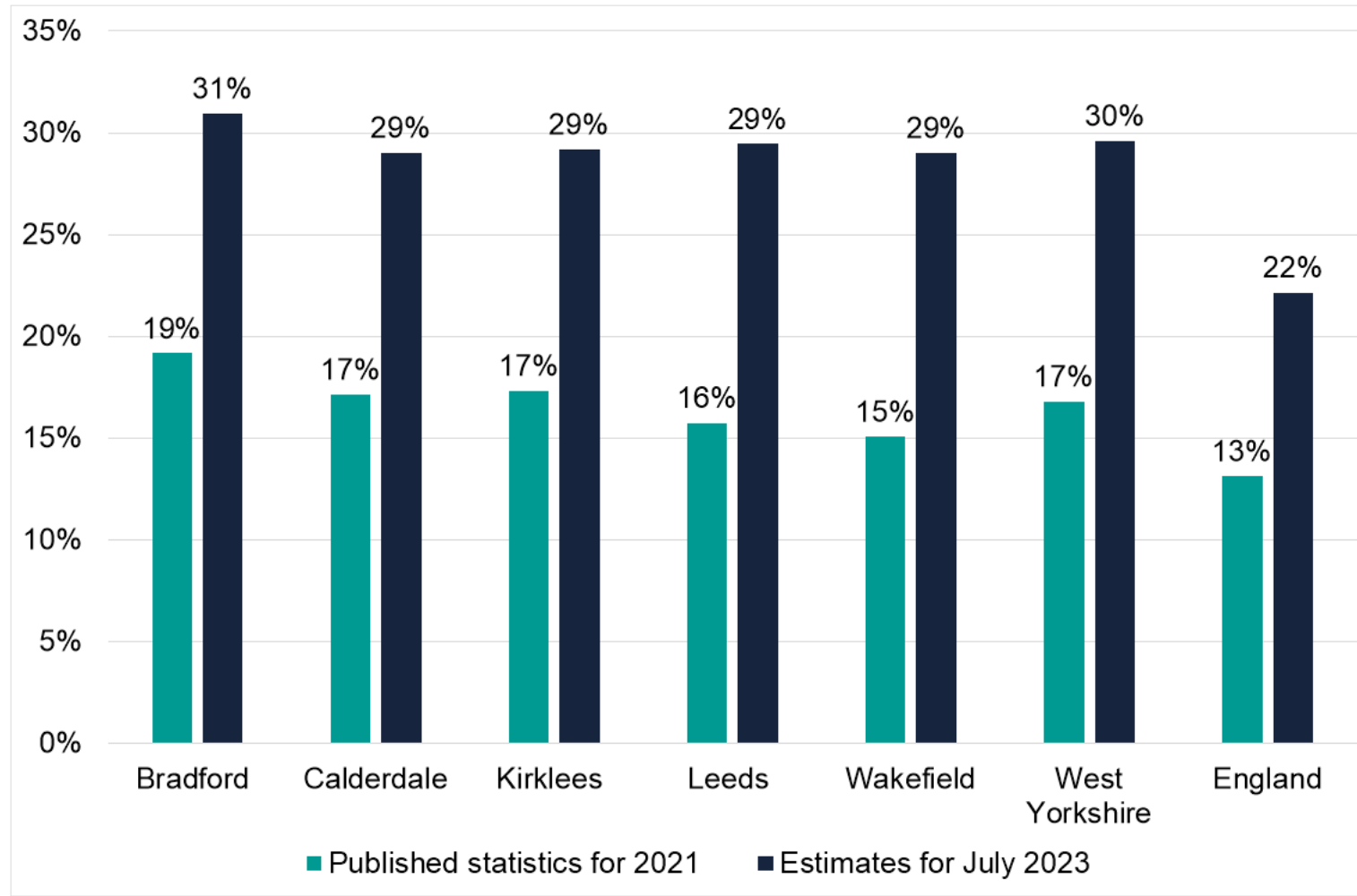


Emissions intensity remains slightly above the national average

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

# Estimates suggest that 30% of West Yorkshire households are in fuel poverty

Figure: Proportion of households in fuel poverty

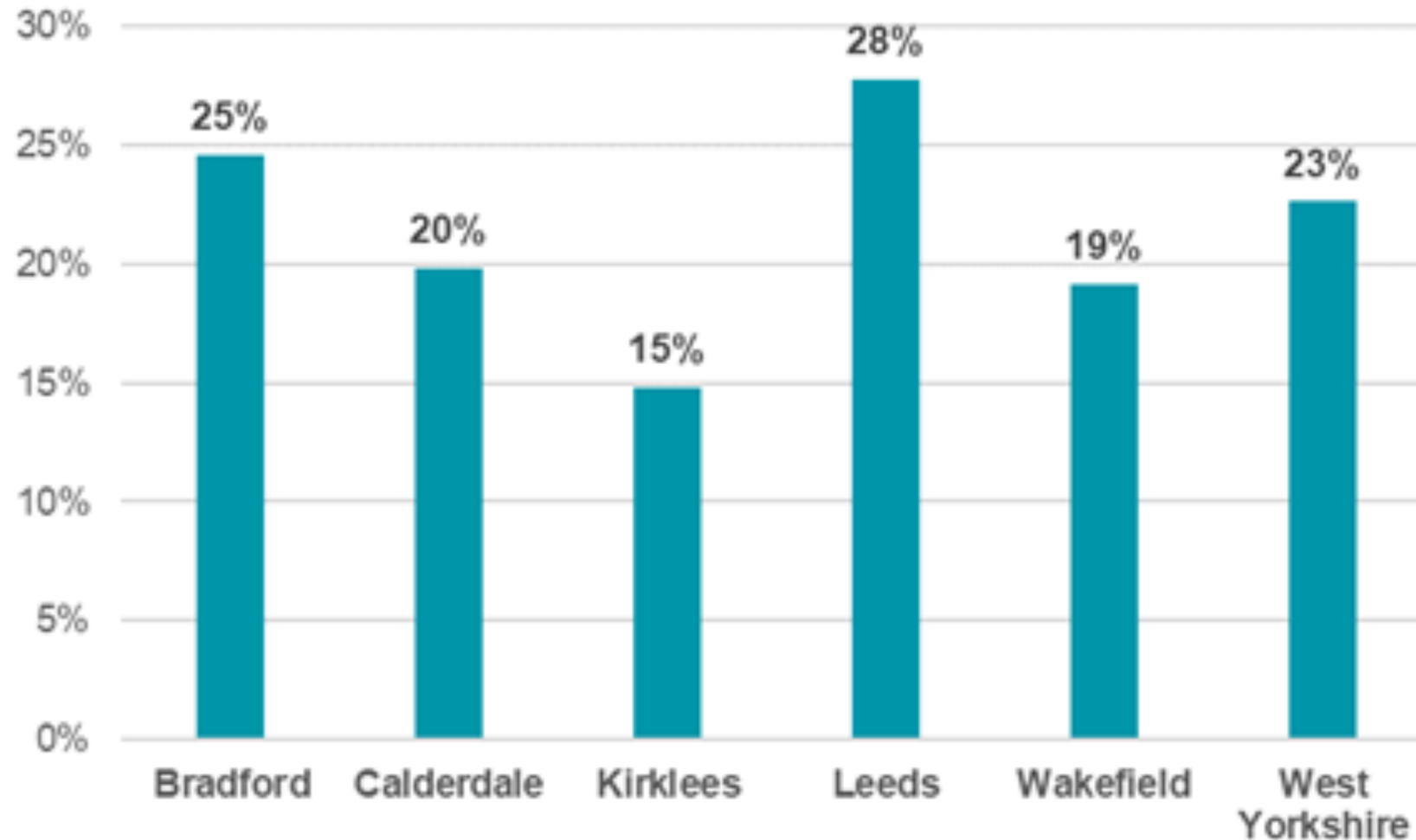


Source: Sub-Regional Fuel Poverty Statistics, BEIS; Combined Authority estimates

32

# Almost a quarter of West Yorkshire's population have easy access to local natural greenspace

Figure: Proportion of the population who have access to local natural greenspace



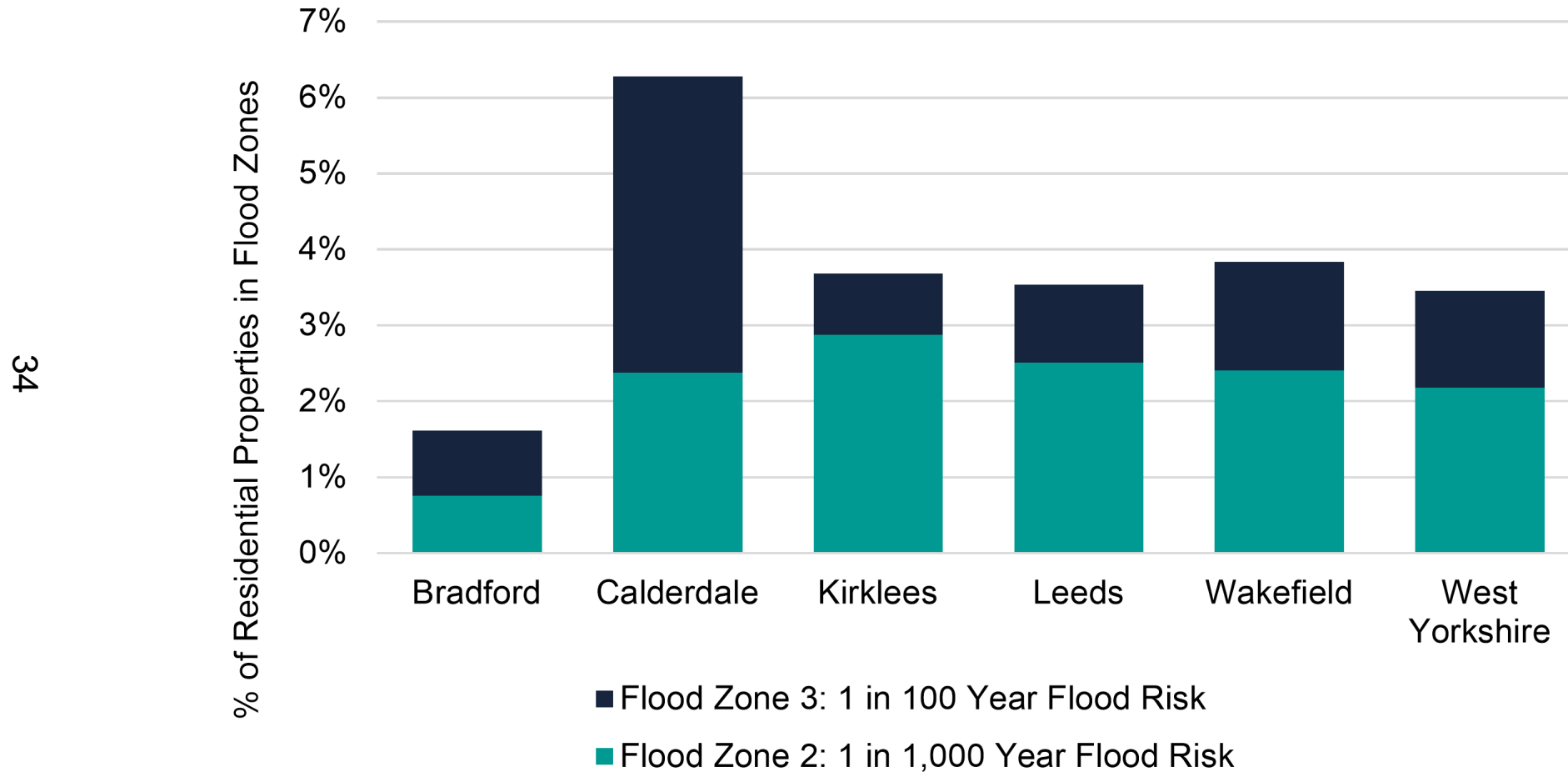
This indicator has been developed by Natural England and relates to the proportion of the population with easy access to local natural greenspace – i.e. live within 300m (as the crow flies) of an area of accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size.

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Source: Environmental Agency, ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates

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

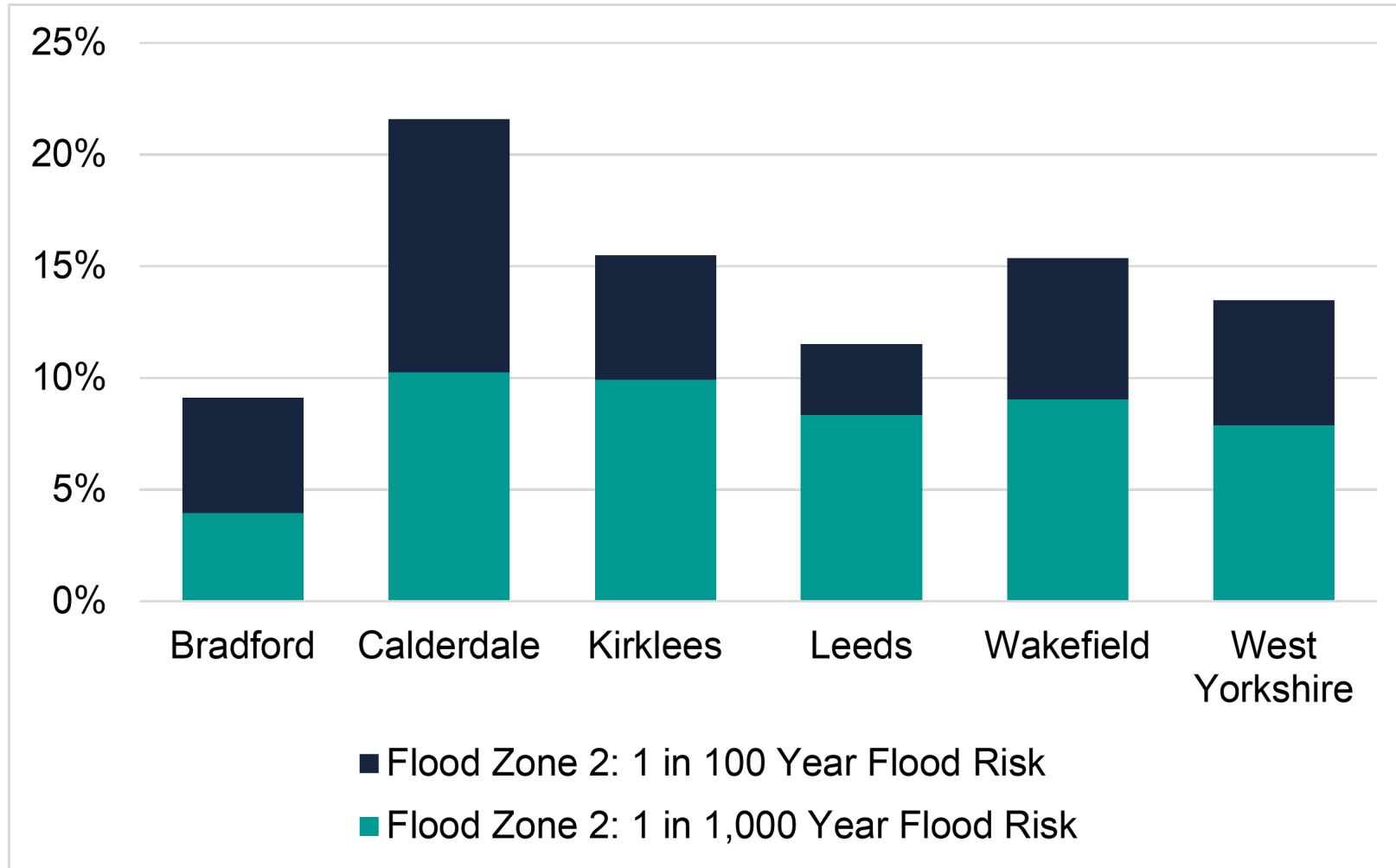
Figure: Proportion of residential properties in flood zones



Source: Environment Agency 2023, Ordnance Survey 2023

# 14% of commercial properties in West Yorkshire fall within a flood zone

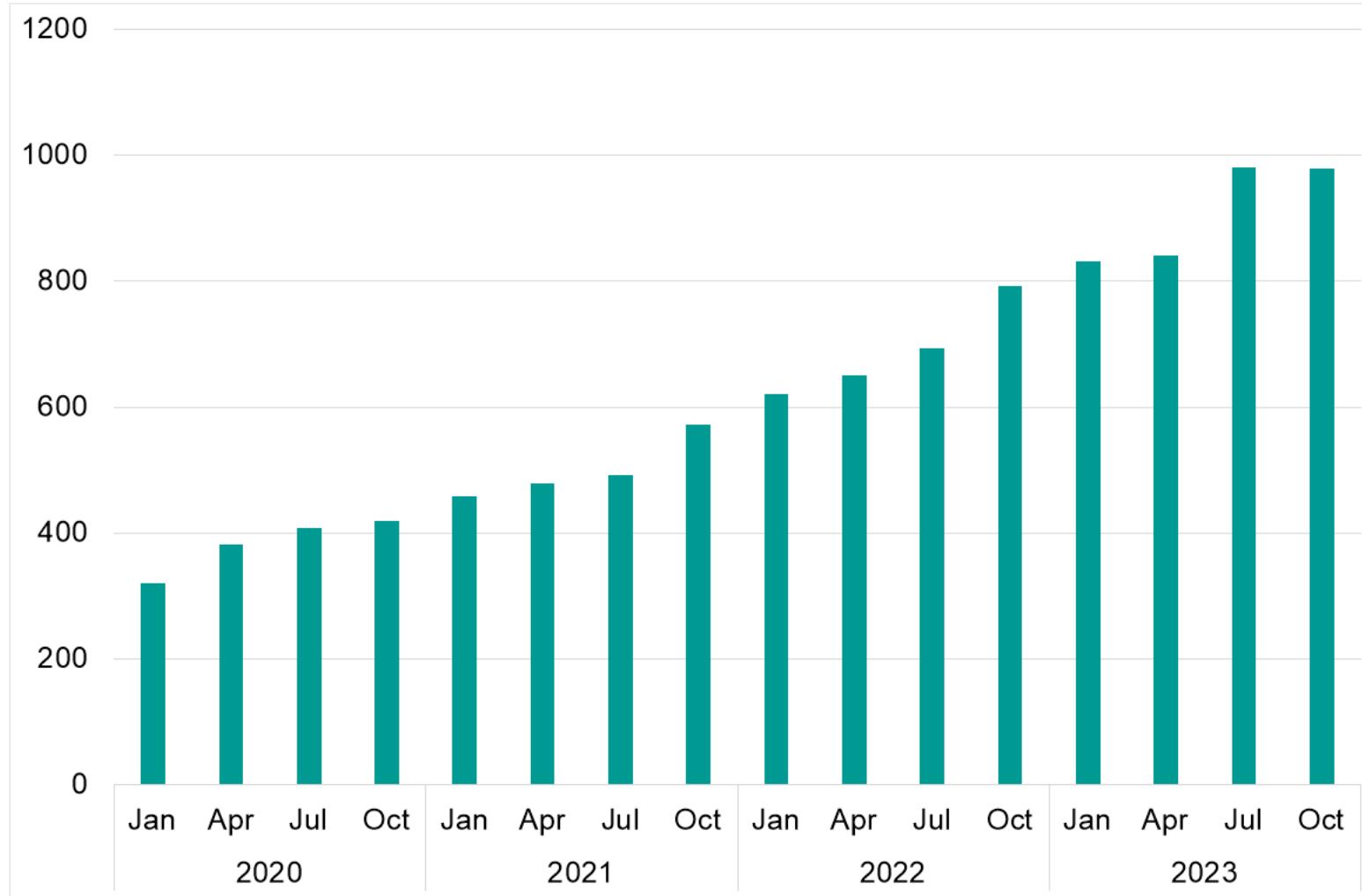
Figure 12: Proportion of commercial properties in flood zones



Source: Environment Agency 2023, Ordnance Survey 2023

# No change in number of public charging devices in final quarter of 2023

Figure: Trend in deployment of publicly-available electric vehicle charging devices, West Yorkshire



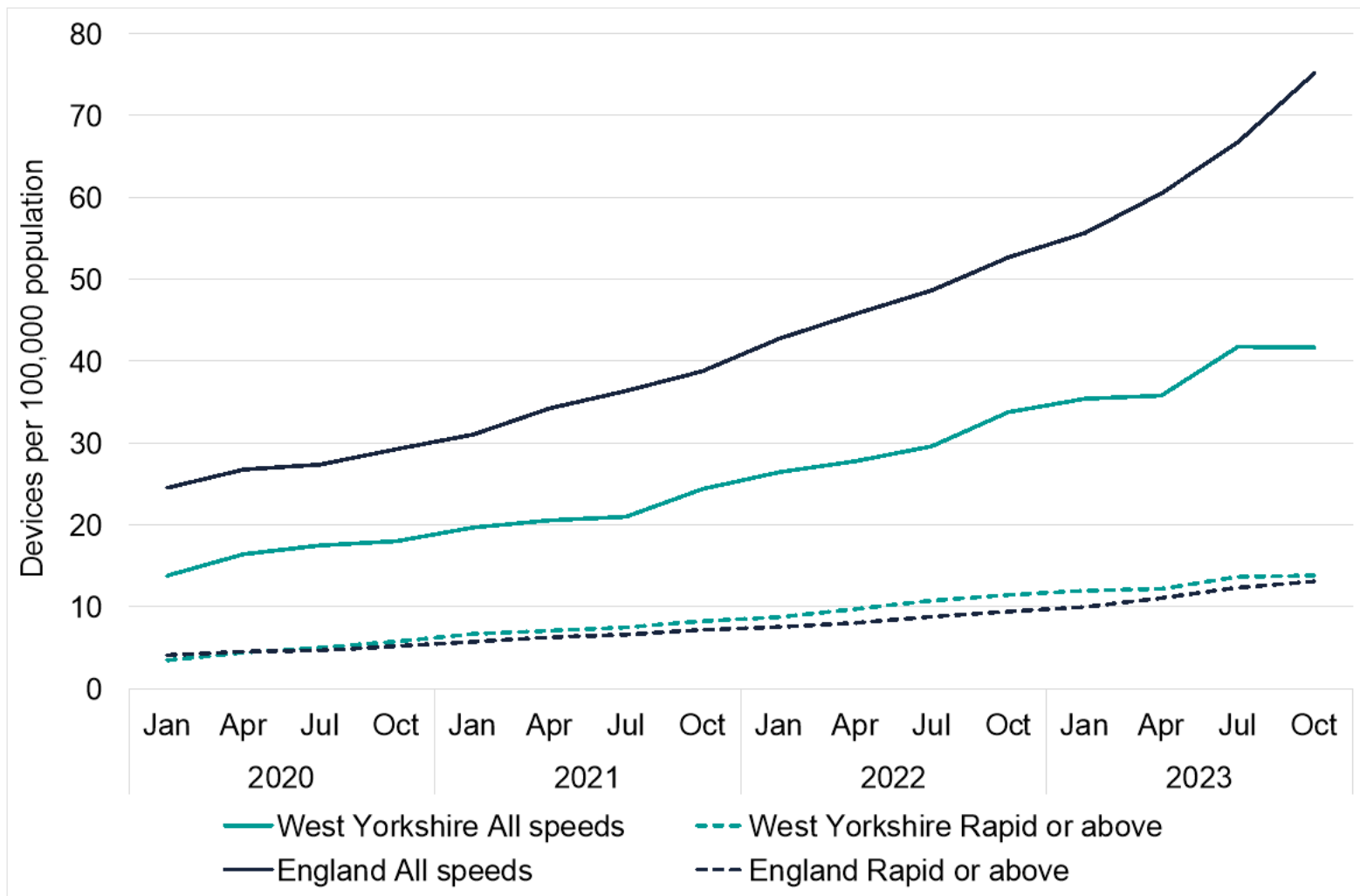
Source: Electric Vehicle Charging Device Statistics: July 2023, Department for Transport



# Although growing rapidly, the gap with the national average is widening in terms of overall charging device availability

Figure: Publicly-available electric vehicle charging devices per 100,000 population, July 2023

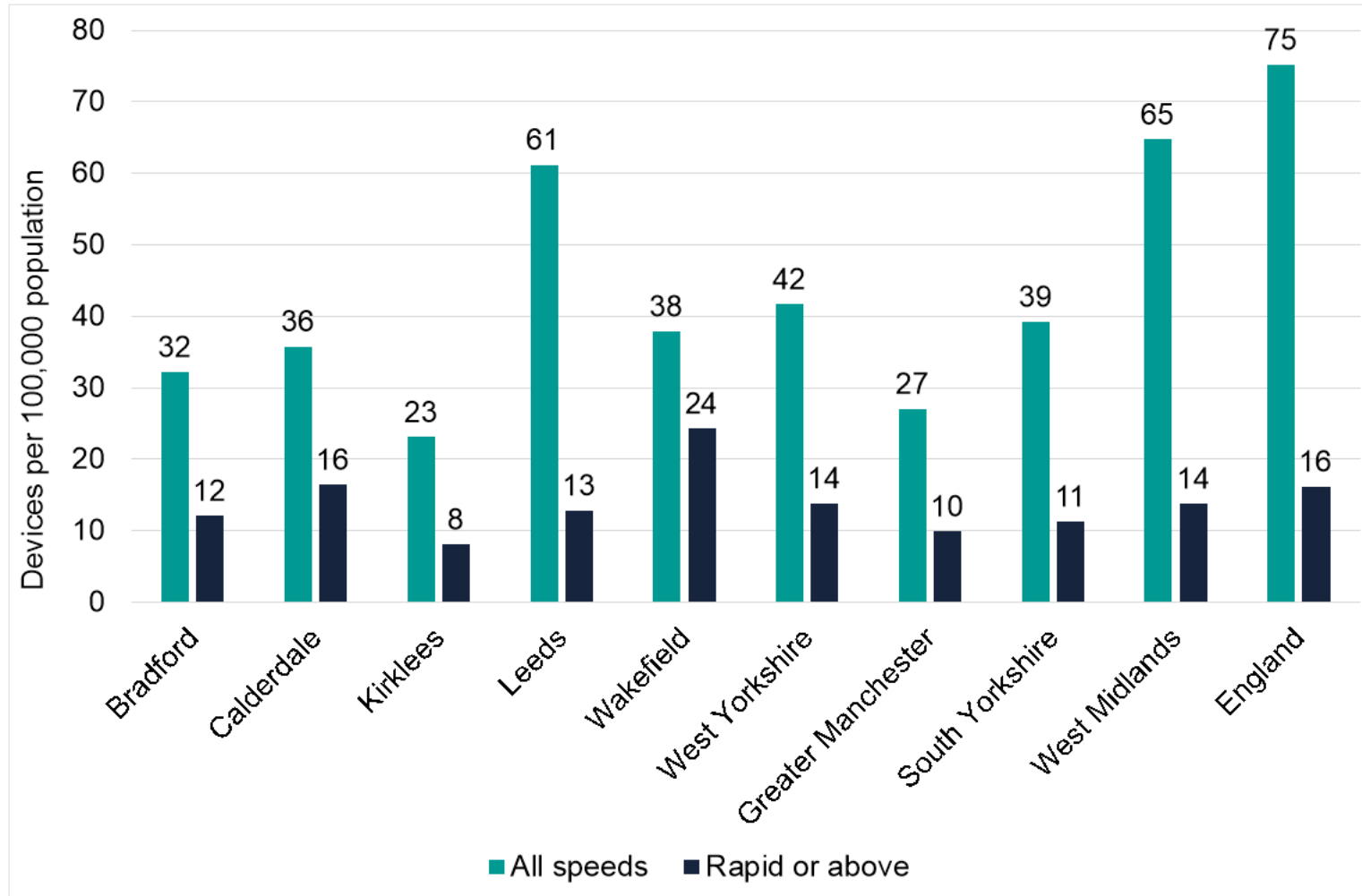
37



Source: Electric Vehicle Charging Device Statistics: October 2023, Department for Transport

# Leeds has highest prevalence of overall charging devices but Wakefield leads on rapid or above devices

Figure: Publicly-available electric vehicle charging devices per 100,000 population, July 2023



38

Source: Electric Vehicle Charging Device Statistics: July 2023, Department for Transport



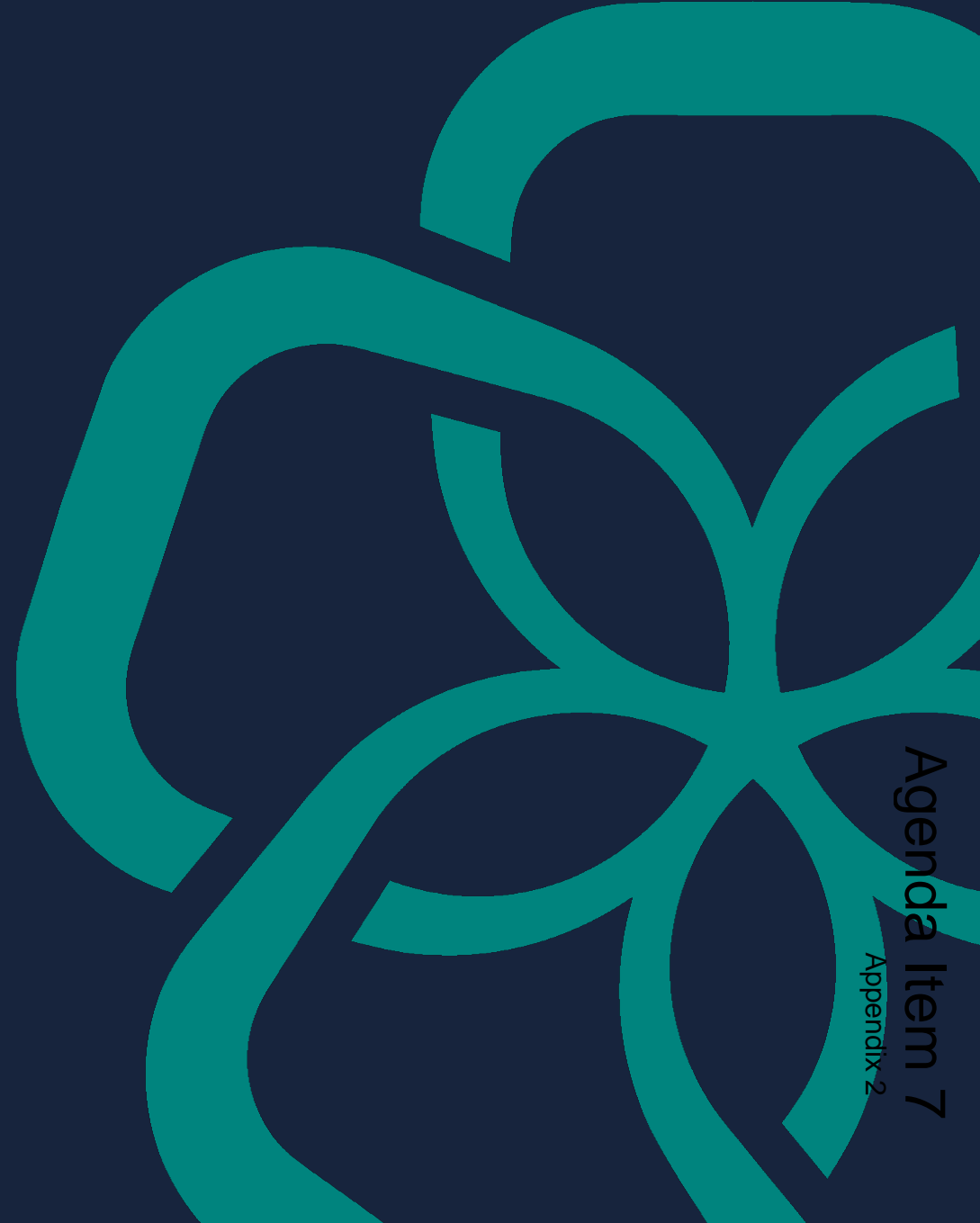
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39

# Appendix 2: Energy Performance Certificate analysis

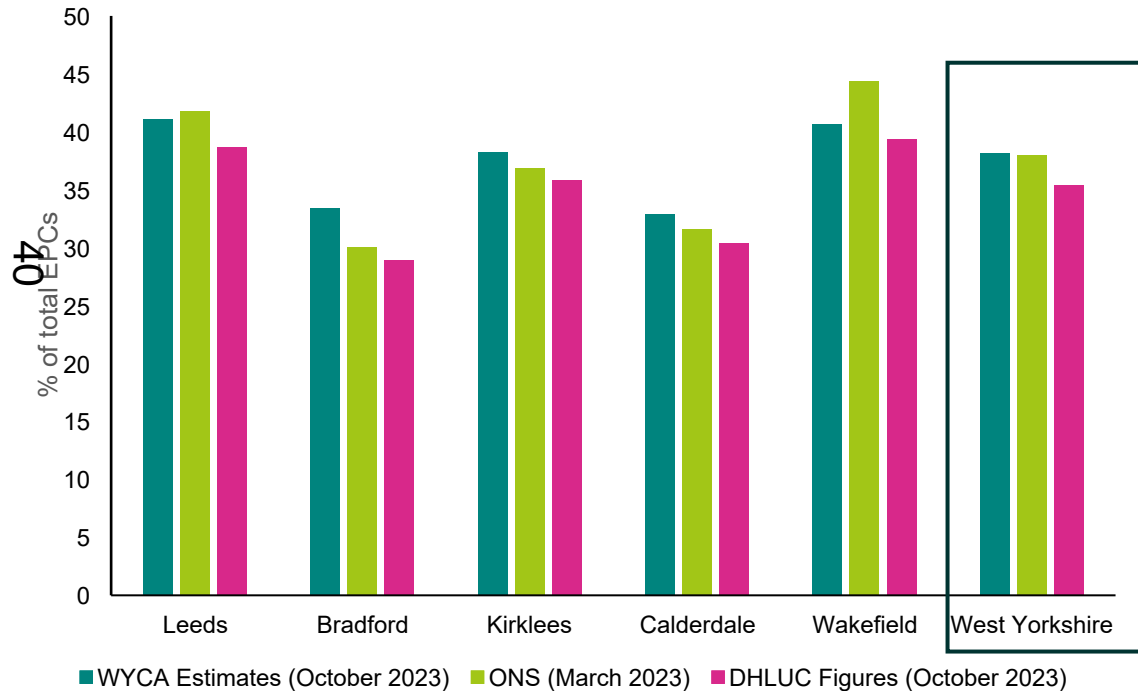
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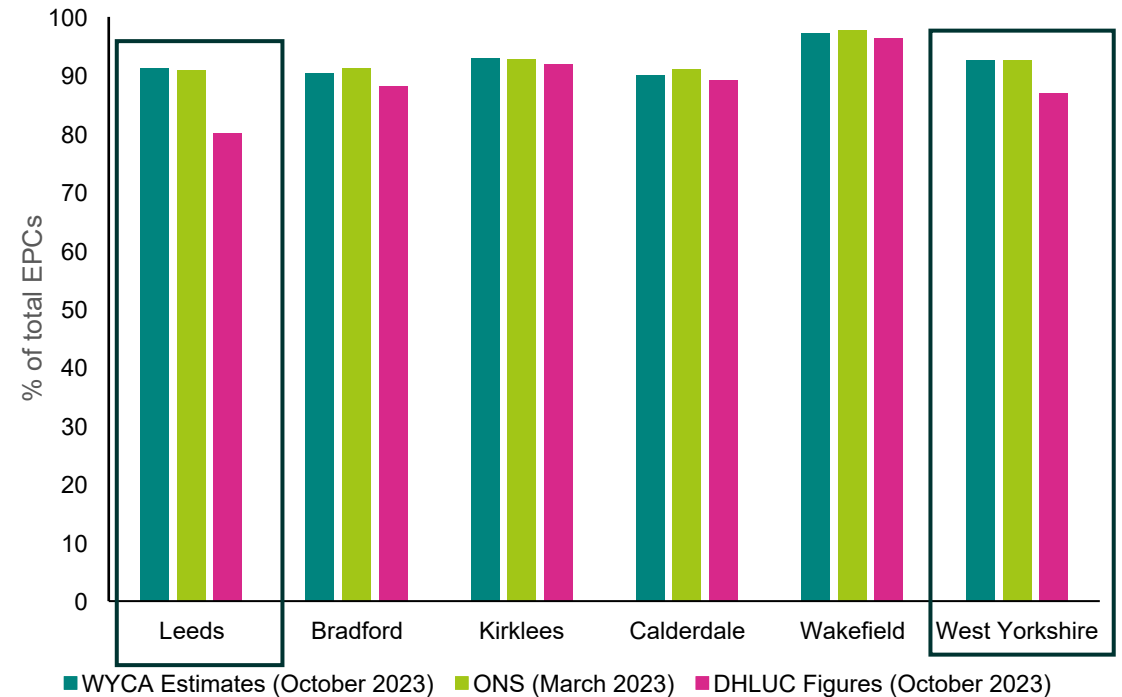
Agenda Item 7  
Appendix 2

# Cleaned data shows a higher number of dwellings with an energy efficiency rating of C or above, in line with ONS figures, and Leeds' new dwellings closer to the remaining local authorities

**Figure:** Profile of All Energy Performance Certificates with energy efficiency rating of C or above by local authority and Energy Efficiency Rating, revised estimates



**Figure:** Profile of New Energy Performance Certificates with energy efficiency rating of C or above by local authority and Energy Efficiency Rating, revised estimates

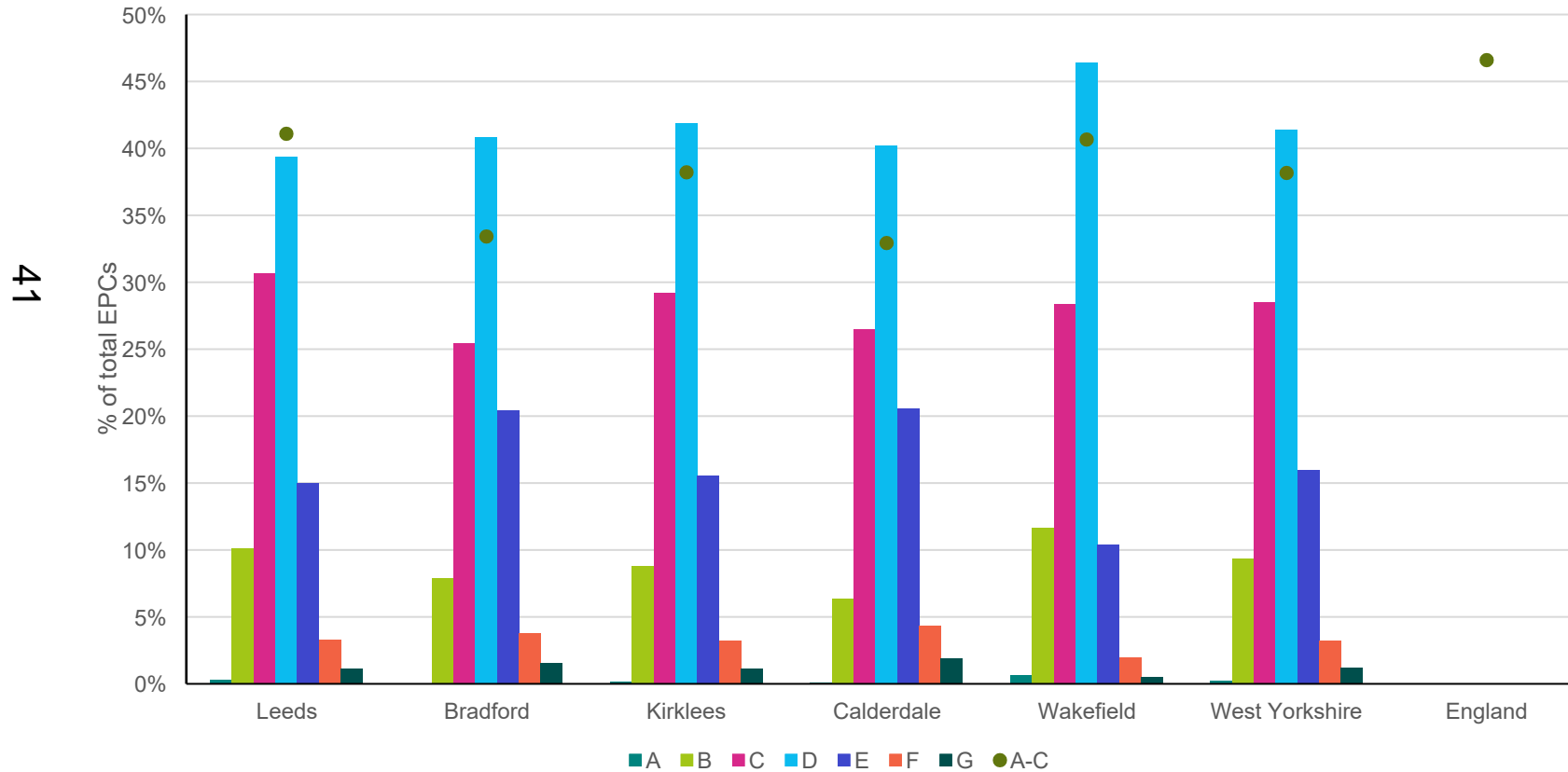


Source: Energy Performance Certificate date, Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (raw data for West Yorkshire estimates); Energy Performance Certificate date, Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Live tables for DHLUC estimates); Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, England and Wales, ONS (England's figures).

Source: Energy Performance Certificate date, Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (raw data for West Yorkshire estimates); Energy Performance Certificate date, Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Live tables for DHLUC estimates); Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, England and Wales, ONS (England's figures).

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

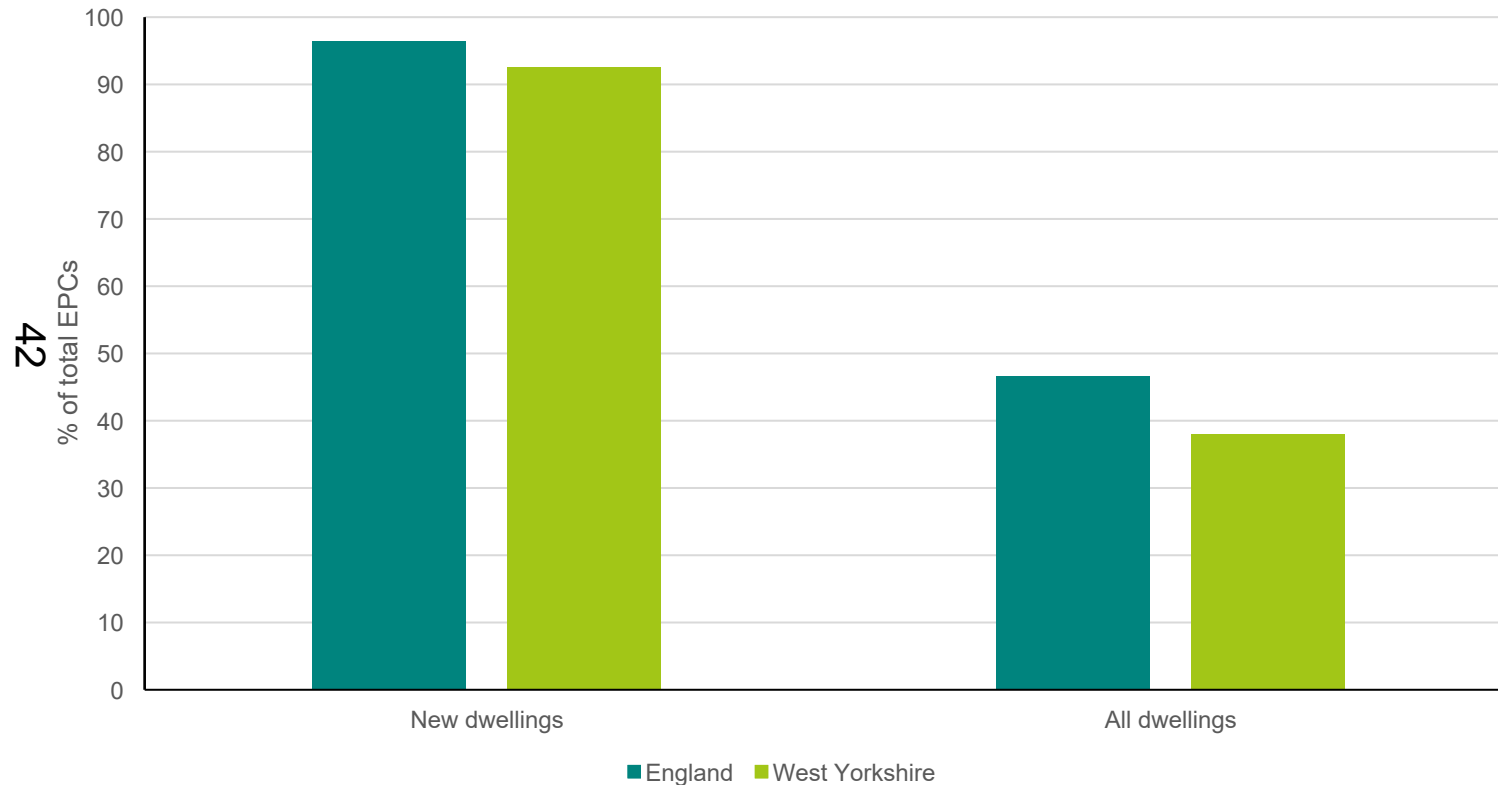
**Figure:** Profile of Energy Performance Certificates by local authority and Energy Efficiency Rating, as of October 2023 (West Yorkshire) and March 2023 (England)



Source: Energy Performance Certificate date, Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (WYCA estimates); Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, England and Wales, ONS (England's figures)

# The proportion of new EPCs with a rating of C and above in WY is above 90%, slightly below the England average

**Figure:** Profile of Energy Performance Certificates by local authority and Energy Efficiency Rating, new and existing dwellings, as of March 2023 – ONS figures



Source: Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C or above, England and Wales, ONS. All new dwellings registered over the whole decade.

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Better Homes Hub – One Stop Shop</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Liz Hunter, Director of Policing, Environment and Place
<b>Author:</b>	Nadia McPherson, Programme 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 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 One Stop Shop options assessment which has been completed by Energy Saving Trust, as part of the Better Homes Hub (BHH) programme.

## 2. Information

- 1.2. Housing is responsible for 3.4 million tonnes (around 30%) of carbon dioxide each year in West Yorkshire, the majority of which come from using fossil fuels to heat homes<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.3. The BHH is the Combined Authority's regional programme to scale-up domestic retrofit. 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'.
- 1.4. The BHH has three overarching objectives which are to:

<sup>1</sup> UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

- Objective 1: Build consensus within West Yorkshire on priorities for retrofit and energy efficiency of homes.
- Objective 2: Deliver retrofit projects in West Yorkshire that build momentum, strengthen the supply chains, and create new delivery models.
- Objective 3: 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.

### One Stop Shop (OSS)

- 1.5. A consortium led by Energy Saving Trust has been appointed as client-side support for the BHH programme. They will provide expert advice and a robust evidence-base to drive our decision making for the programme, having had experience managing energy saving retrofit schemes on behalf of the Scottish Government through [Home Energy Scotland](#).
- 1.6. One of the key projects for the client-side support consultant is to complete an options assessment, establish a preferred way forward and produce a fully costed implementation plan for a regional one stop shop information and advice service, linked to objective 3. This work builds on existing best practice and learnings from other schemes in the UK and Europe including the [Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland](#), [the French MaPrimeRénov scheme](#) and [Home Energy Scotland](#).

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>About</u></b>	<b><u>Model</u></b>	<b><u>Impact</u></b>
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	Ireland launched a major home retrofit programme in March 2023.	All-inclusive	1400 applications, 680 deep home retrofits completed. 98% include a heat pump.
MaPrimeRénov	French national one stop shop offering joined up support for owner-occupiers including online tools, assessments, retrofit management support and list of accredited installers.	All-inclusive	In 2022, 670,000 renovations including 156,000 heat pumps and 66,000 whole-house retrofits (69% in lowest income group). 90,000 jobs.
Home Energy Scotland	Advice services including specialist and in-home support, access to funding (0% interest loan and grants), digital	Facilitation / coordination	In 2020/21, total attributed lifetime savings of 71,300 tCO2 and lifetime financial benefits of £30.6 million.



	assessment and installer finder tools.		
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What is a one stop shop?

- 1.7. The purpose of the one stop shop is to provide a 'single front door' for trusted information, advice and support to all residents and landlords in the region to stimulate demand in domestic retrofit. This includes signposting residents and landlords to other services where relevant.
- 1.8. One stop shops can take many different forms and refer to different business models, as outlined in this report by Energy Cities: [How to set up a One-Stop-Shop for integrated home energy renovation](#).
- 1.9. The West Yorkshire domestic retrofit one stop shop must support the vision of the Better Homes Hub that 'Everyone in West Yorkshire can live in a warm, comfortable and low carbon home'. Therefore, it must not focus only on the able to invest market. It is expected that the one stop shop will be 'inclusive by design', in that inclusivity is considered from the outset of options development, rather than adaptations being made later for accessibility. It is also expected that the one stop shop will provide information, signposting and guidance for the domestic retrofit supply chain audience.
- 1.10. The outputs of the Energy Saving Trust work are:
  - A detailed report outlining the research, findings and requirements for a regional one stop shop.
  - A fully costed implementation plan for a regional one stop shop, including forecasted income generation and models for becoming financially self-sufficient.
  - A detailed one-year plan for delivery of the one stop shop.
  - A roadmap of key decisions which need to be agreed in order to achieve full one stop shop operation within a maximum of five years.
  - Direct input into Combined Authority business case documents, to support the decision making process.
- 1.11. Energy Saving Trust will attend the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee meeting on 13 February to provide an overview of their work.
- 1.12. The next steps are for the Combined Authority to develop and submit a full business case to secure the necessary funding to enter into phased delivery. The intention is to seek

approval for this business case at the Combined Authority meeting on 20 June 2024 and launch phase one of the one stop shop at the end of 2024.

- 1.13. The Local Energy Advice Demonstrator, to test approaches to delivering in-person energy advice to the elderly and those who do not speak English as their first language, will begin delivery in February 2024. Groundwork Yorkshire will be delivering this project on behalf of the Combined Authority.
- 1.14. The business case to establish a £1.5 million low-interest domestic retrofit loan was approved at Combined Authority on 7 December 2023. The procurement of an FCA regulated lending supplier will be completed by March and the project will be launched in May 2024.

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

- 1.15. 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.
- 1.16. The one stop shop contributes to progressing towards our target of retrofitting 680,000 homes in the region through raising awareness of the benefits of retrofitting, simplifying the retrofit process, building trust and stimulating demand.

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

- 1.17. The Combined Authority's definition of inclusive growth is enabling more people and places to contribute to and benefit from economic success.
- 1.18. In line with the BHH vision, the one stop shop will support all residents in West Yorkshire to make energy efficiency improvements to their home.
- 1.19. Retrofitted homes typically result in reduced energy bills; the average band D home could save £680 per year compared to a band C home. This saving goes up to £1,249 for band E and a staggering £1,765 for band F homes, giving considerable economic gain to those in fuel poverty<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.20. Inclusive growth will be supported through improvements to wellbeing whereby the comfort, health and affordability of household budgets improve following uptake of energy efficiency retrofit.

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

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<sup>2</sup> [The Northern Housing Monitor 2023](#)

- 1.21. Learnings from the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator project will be used to inform the development of the one stop shop and ensure that all West Yorkshire residents can access and benefit from the available information and advice.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 1.22. £200k is secured for delivery of the initial outputs from the client-side support from Energy Saving Trust.
- 1.23. The BHH programme business case was approved by Combined Authority on 22 June 2023 and secured an indicative allocation of £18.425 million.
- 1.24. In the programme business case, an indicative budget of £3 million was included for the delivery of the regional one stop shop. However, this figure will be confirmed in the Energy Saving Trust costed implementation plan.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 1.25. In establishing the one stop shop there will be a need to establish legal agreements between the delivery organisation and Combined Authority. This will be considered as part of the business case development.

## **8. Staffing Implications**

- 1.26. To ensure the delivery of the regional one stop shop, additional staffing resources will be required. These requirements will be integrated into the business case to be submitted to Combined Authority on 20 June.

## **9. External Consultees**

- 1.27. The views of Local Authority partners and key stakeholders within the Combined Authority has informed the work being completed by Energy Saving Trust.

## **10. Recommendations**

- 1.28. That the Committee notes the contents of the report.
- 1.29. That the Committee provide feedback on any existing provision of retrofit advice in their District to ensure coordination.
- 1.30. That the Committee provide their view about the way forward for the regional one stop shop.

## **11. Background Documents**

Slides from the Energy Savings Trust with draft proposals for the approach to the One Stop Shop can be accessed [here](#).

## 12. Appendices

There are no appendices.

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Better Homes Hub, Area Based Schemes</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Liz Hunter, Director of Policing, Environment and Place
<b>Author:</b>	Bella Mkrtychyan, Project Manager

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

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on the Area Based Schemes (ABS) that are being developed as part of the Better Homes Hub (BHH) Programme.

## 2. Information

- 2.1 Housing is responsible for 3.4 million tonnes (around 30%) of carbon dioxide each year in West Yorkshire, the majority of which come from using fossil fuels to heat homes.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.2 The Better Homes Hub (BHH) programme is being developed to promote, facilitate and deliver retrofit of housing across all housing tenures in West Yorkshire with a vision of “Everyone in West Yorkshire can live in a warm, comfortable and low carbon home”.
- 2.3 This includes households that rent their home from social or private landlords, have a mortgage/loan on their home, or own their own home outright and will be referred to as multi tenure, in this report.
- 2.4 The BHH is taking a strategic, joined up approach to domestic retrofit by proactively working in partnership with other private and public sector organisations. This is in

<sup>1</sup> UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

contrast to previous approaches which have been focussed on specific individuals' circumstances, particular housing tenures, or areas of the region.

- 2.5 It is essential that the Combined Authority and District Partners experiment and develop Area Based Schemes (ABS) that will deliver domestic retrofits at pace and scale, with each ABS piloting retrofit measures across an area/street to test the level of interventions that can be made to properties, understand the impact these measures will have on residents' living conditions and their energy/fuel bills, in addition to how to achieve efficiencies in delivery.
- 2.6 The ABSs bring an element of innovation by identifying and combining various funding sources to make retrofit as inclusive as possible. The schemes will provide us with tools to be able to respond to the increased community interest in retrofit that the ABSs will likely generate by creating a "ripple" effect. We will be able to direct people to the various available funding sources and to the One Stop Shop (to be launched in 2024) to provide people with support and advice on their queries about retrofitting their homes.
- 2.7 The Combined Authority is working with each District to bring forward a demonstrator scheme. This paper gives an update on Calderdale and Leeds. Discussions continue with Bradford, Kirklees and Wakefield to agree the details of a scheme that will meet the needs of the district partners and the broader BHH programme and an update will be brought to a future meeting.

### **Calderdale Area Based Scheme**

- 2.8 A Business Justification Case for the Calderdale ABS scheme was approved, with a budget of £1,086,760 at the Combined Authority meeting on 7th December 2023 and delivery is planned to start from March 2024.
- 2.9 An area for the delivery of the scheme has been identified in an area of high deprivation, in Halifax, which is composed of 30 terraced properties that could have the full Hybrid Wall Insulation (HWI) installed. This will involve Internal Wall Insulation (IWI) being made to the front of the property and External Wall Insulation (EWI) to the back.
- 2.10 There is an opportunity for this ABS to investigate how to respond to challenges around planning consent and domestic retrofit installations. These learnings will be used in the design of future retrofit activities.
- 2.11 The properties identified for this scheme are also in a qualifying Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2) postcode. HUG2 is funding for local authorities to improve the energy performance and heating systems of off-gas grid homes (i.e., no gas connection) in England. The purpose of this funding is to provide energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating to low-income households living in off-gas grid homes with low thermal efficiency, in their respective areas.

- 2.12 The HUG2 provides up to £29k - £38k for low carbon heating and insulation measures for properties. Residents will usually need to have a household income of £31,000 a year or less to qualify for HUG2.
- 2.13 If the household is eligible for HUG2 funding, Calderdale Council will apply for the funding on behalf of the resident. The role of the supplier will be to provide an assessment of energy efficiency needs and the installations required for the house to access the funding.

### **Leeds Area Based Scheme**

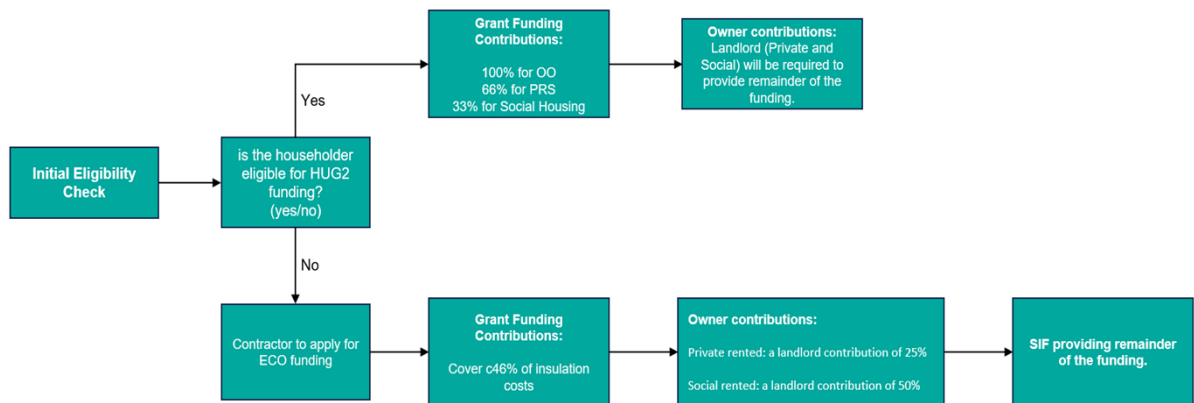
- 2.14 The Better Homes Hub team has submitted a business case through the Assurance Framework, to seek approval for £3,888,381 to deliver an area-based scheme in Leeds, which will be presented to the Combined Authority for approval in March 2024.
- 2.15 Full approval to spend £1,734,906 is being sought to deliver Part 1 of the Leeds ABS, and £50,000 of development costs is also being requested to commission a study to investigate the feasibility of introducing a low carbon technology in this pilot.
- 2.16 Leeds have an ambitious innovative retrofit scheme that is ready to be delivered in an area of high deprivation, which will:
- Undertake a comprehensive approach in insulating and decarbonising up to 100 back-to-back Victorian terraced properties in Leeds and investigate the challenges in decarbonising this property typology, which have traditionally been expensive and difficult to improve due to there being little space for measures to be installed.
  - Bring together and blend different Government funding sources into one delivery package, which will reduce the overall costs to the resident and the Combined Authority and provide learnings on how to manage different pots of funding to maximise the installation of measures and help inform how the future retrofit schemes can be financed.
  - Seek a solution to providing low carbon heating in the area by introducing a shared, networked Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) to terraced properties that are a common archetype across West Yorkshire, which together with insulation measures, will achieve a near net-zero retrofit standard.
- 2.17 Due to the potential complexity in the delivery of this pilot, this ABS will be delivered in two parts:

#### **Part One**

- Deliver a whole house “fabric first” approach to back-to-back Victorian terraces in Leeds, to reduce the energy demand, heat loss and CO2 emissions arising from each property. Measures such as external wall insulation, roof insulation, underfloor



insulation and new doors and windows, where needed, will be installed onto each property.



- Each property will be assessed to determine which of the following two funding Options - ECO or HUG2 - each household resident will be eligible for (please see **Flowchart: Process for accessing additional funding sources** below). This will help make works affordable to householders and reduce the funding required from the Combined Authority.

#### Flowchart: Process for accessing additional funding source

- Commission a detailed feasibility study which will focus on the viability, design and installation of a low carbon heating technology. This is expected to be a shared, networked Ground Source Heat Pump which, together with the whole house insulation, will achieve a near net-zero retrofit standard.

#### Part Two

- Using the findings of the feasibility study to introduce a shared low carbon technology and connect the properties that were supported in Part 1 to low carbon heat technology.
- This is dependent on the findings of the feasibility study and may involve connecting each property supported in Part One to a GSHP via a Kensa 'shoebox system' (which requires less space than Air Source Heat Pumps) and will be suitable for terraced properties.
- Funding to deliver Part 2 of the Leeds ABS will be sought when an updated BJC is submitted to seek approval for this next stage of delivery.

2.18 As this ABS will be delivered across two parts, a resident engagement plan will be developed that will outline how the timescales and scale of work that is anticipated during the delivery of this ABS will be clearly communicated to all residents.



- 2.19 Learnings from previous retrofit schemes<sup>2</sup>, delivery has shown that by starting work on Leeds Council social housing properties first will help to increase the uptake from private properties, who will see the visual improvements that will be made to properties on their properties.
- 2.20 Delivery of Part One of this ABS is expected to commence in June 2024, with installations forecasted to begin from September 2024.

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

- 3.1 West Yorkshire has the second highest level of fuel poverty in England 17% (compared with 13% nationally), and this is estimated to have increased to 30% with the current energy crisis. Therefore, the BHH programme also has a role to play in reducing residents' energy costs, their risk of fuel poverty and is part of the Combined Authority's response to the Cost of Living crisis.
- 3.2. The ABS programme will deliver retrofit measures to properties across each district, and reduce the energy demand, heat loss and CO2 emissions arising from each property.

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

- 4.1 The Combined Authority's definition of inclusive growth is enabling more people and places to contribute to and benefit from economic success.
- 4.2. Retrofitted homes typically result in reduced energy bills; the average band D home could save £680 per year compared to a band C home. This saving goes up to £1,249 for band E and £1,765 for band F homes, giving considerable economic gain to those in fuel poverty.
- 4.3. Inclusive growth will also be supported through improvements to wellbeing whereby the comfort, health and affordability of household budgets improve following uptake of energy efficiency retrofit.

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

- 5.1 The EDI ambition of the Climate & Environment Plan Wave 1 portfolio is to:

*ensure that no one is disadvantaged as a result of the transition to net zero carbon, particularly those most vulnerable in society, and appropriate support is provided to enable everyone to participate in a fair, equal, and inclusive net-zero carbon economy.*

- 5.2 Through the delivery of the area-based schemes and the range of services and support being provided by the programme, the BHH will play a role in ensuring and enhancing the region's resilience to the adverse impacts of climate on the environment, improve energy

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<sup>2</sup> In particular the the Getting Building Fund (GBF) Holbeck Phase 2 scheme

efficiency to keep homes cooler in summer and support the most vulnerable in times of extreme heat and cold weather.

- 5.3 Both of the ABS schemes are located in areas of deprivation. Retrofitting deprived households with energy efficiency measures could result in reduced energy consumption, improved thermal comfort which will have a positive impact on resident's physical and mental health and wellbeing, and provide adequate heating in the winter.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. The BHH programme business case was approved by Combined Authority on 22 June 2023 and secured an indicative allocation of £18.425 million.
- 6.2 Approval has been given, by the Combined Authority, for the Calderdale ABS to proceed into delivery. The total value of the Calderdale ABS is £1,086,760.
- 6.3 The Better Homes Hub team has submitted a business case to seek full approval for £3,888,381 to deliver an area-based scheme in Leeds (Part 1 and 2). The business case will be presented to the Combined Authority in March 2024.
- 6.4 Calderdale Council have prepared a key decision paper to propose acceptance of the Combined Authority's funding, which is being presented to the Council's Cabinet on Monday 15th January.
- 6.5 Leeds City Council will submit a decision report to Executive Board in March 2024 to confirm their participation and match funding for the project.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 In delivering the Leeds ABS, grant funding agreements will be put in place between the Combined Authority and Leeds City Council.
- 7.2 A grant funding agreement will also be in place between the Combined Authority and Calderdale Council for the Calderdale ABS.
- 7.3 The local authorities (Calderdale Council and Leeds City Council) will have legal agreements in place with the suppliers. The agreements will outline their responsibilities for addressing any queries with the residents receiving the installations, e.g., eligibility for funding, resident complaints, snagging, and future maintenance.

## **8. Staffing Implications**

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

## **9. External Consultees**

- 9.1 The BHH team are working in close partnership with each District Partner in the shaping of each ABS.

## **10. Recommendations**

- 10.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the report.

## **11. Background Documents**

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

## **12. Appendices**

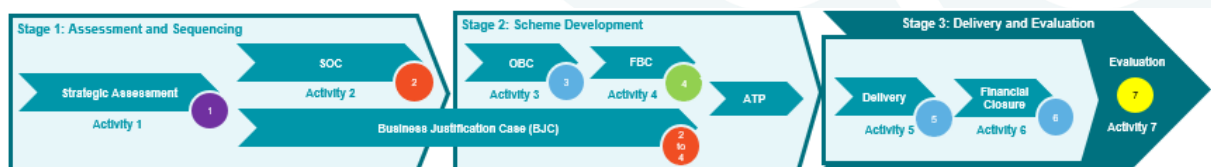
- 12.1 No appendices are included with this report

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<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Flood Risk Management Project Approvals – Investment Priority 4 – Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Liz Hunter, Director of Policing, Environment & Place
<b>Author:</b>	Craig Taylor, Head of Strategic Portfolio Office

## 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 recommendations can be found in Section 12 of this report.

## 2 Report

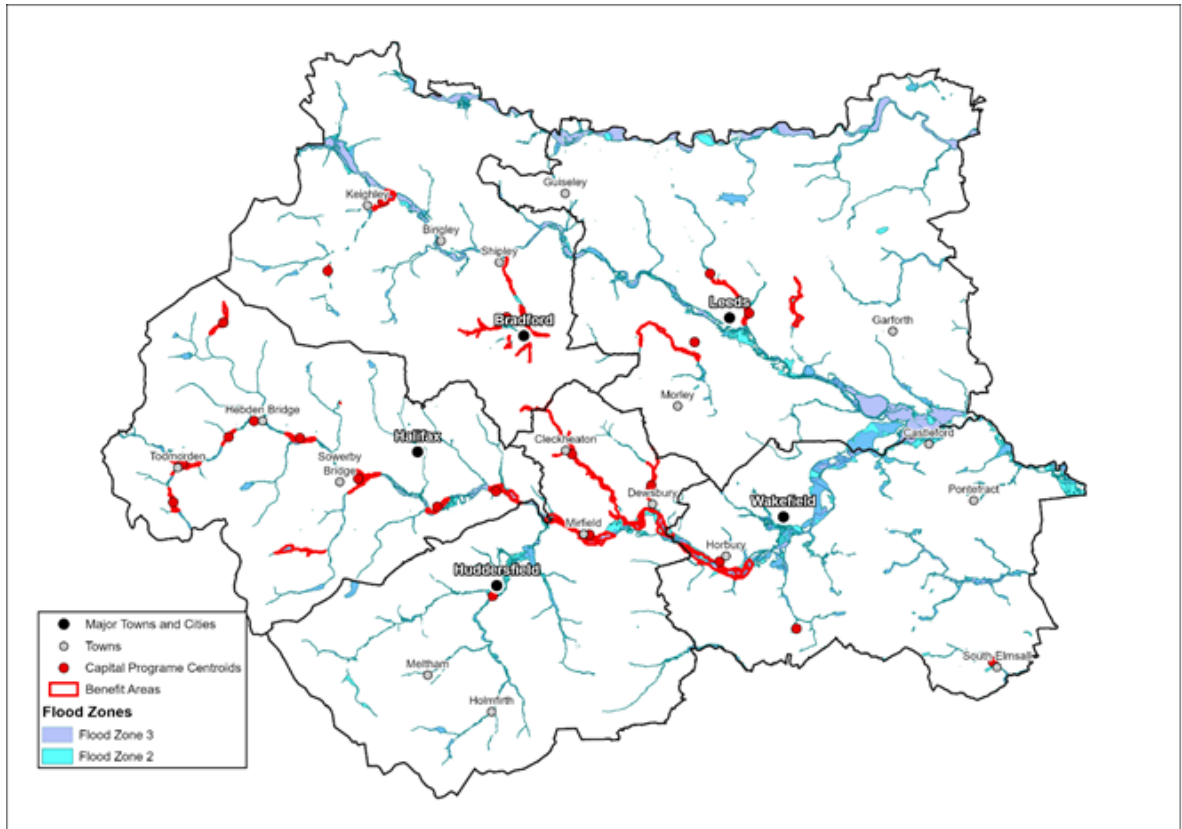
- 2.1 This report presents proposals for the progression of schemes through the Combined Authority’s assurance process in line with the Combined Authority’s Assurance Framework. Further details on the schemes summarised below can be found as part of this report.

## 3 Improving Climate Resilience – Flood Risk Management

- 3.1 Around 5.2 million properties in England (or one in six properties) are at risk of flooding. In West Yorkshire approximately 37,000 residential properties and 15,000 commercial properties fall within a flood zone. Flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence as a result of climate change. More details are in the monitoring report at item 7.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 The West Yorkshire Plan sets out five 5 missions that will drive the Combined Authority's work to transform lives and communities across the region. Mission four 'A sustainable West Yorkshire – making lives greener' outlines our actions for change that will create a sustainable, nature rich and climate ready region.
- 3.4 The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) - approved by the Combined Authority in October 2021 - is the Mayor's and Combined Authority response to tackling the climate emergency, protecting the environment, and achieving a net zero West Yorkshire.
- 3.5 Within the CEP, the following critical action areas are identified in regard to Flood Risk Management:
- CR01 Climate Ready Strategy
  - CR02 Embedding Climate Readiness
  - CR03 Flood Risk and Drainage
  - BI01 Business Sustainability Support
- 3.6 The CEP Wave 1 portfolio gained decision point 1 (strategic assessment) approval from the Combined Authority on 22 July 2022. The Flood Risk and Drainage critical action area (with a focus upon Natural Flood Management (NFM)) and Business Sustainability Support were prioritised.
- 3.7 The programme gained decision point 1 (strategic assessment) at Combined Authority on 2 February 2023. Development costs of £113,735 were also approved to secure staffing resources to expedite delivery.
- 3.8 The Capital Flood Risk Management programme then gained decision point 2 (strategic outline case) approval and approval for work to commence on the development of individual business cases, at the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee on 11 July 2023. An indicative approval for programme costs of £10,000,000 was given, £2,255,561 of which gained full approval, which, together with the £113,735 approved at decision point 1, took the total programme approval to £2,369,296.
- 3.9 The schemes recommended for approval in this paper are part of the Phase 1 of the Capital Flood Risk Management programme being delivered by the Combined Authority and therefore form part of a wider programme and strategic approach which seeks to adapt our environment and communities so that they become more resilient to future flood events.
- 3.10 The Capital Flood Risk Management Programme consists of up to 23 identified schemes that aim to enhance flood protection and climate resilience for homes and businesses across West Yorkshire. The programme will deliver new flood protection as well as the refurbishment and improvement of existing flood protection.

## Plan 1: Indicative Plan Showing Capital Flood Risk Management Programme Schemes & Potential Scheme Benefit Areas



- 3.11 Work has commenced on the design and specification of schemes and business case development with three schemes coming forward for approval within this report and a further scheme likely to be submitted for appraisal through the Assurance Framework at the beginning of June. Subject to the Committee's approval, works for the three schemes submitted to appraisal so far are due to start on site shortly.
- 3.12 The programme is being delivered alongside the Natural Flood Management programme as part of a whole river catchment-based approach to managing flood risk. The Natural Flood Management programme comprises of up to nine schemes aiming to increase flood resilience to homes and businesses by implementing approximately 3,500 natural flood management measures.

## Scheme summaries

<p><b>Albert Street Flood Alleviation Scheme</b> Huddersfield</p>	<p><u>Scheme description</u></p> <p>The scheme will install two new pipes to redirect river floodwater back into the River Holme. This will reduce the flood risk to 28 businesses on Albert Street and Queens Mill Road in Huddersfield, which were impacted by fluvial (river) flooding in February 2022.</p> <p>The scheme is to be delivered through the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation.</p> <p><u>Impact</u></p> <p>The scheme will reduce flood risk to 28 businesses on Albert Street and Queens Mill Road, which fall within the 30% most deprived neighbourhoods in England. Resilience to flooding and climate change will be improved and support the protection of investment and jobs in the area.</p> <p>The value for money assessment reflects a benefit cost ratio (BCR) of 2.3:1.</p> <p><u>Decision sought</u></p> <p>Approval to proceed through decision point 2 to 4 (business justification) and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).</p> <p>Total value of the scheme - £526,176</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding - £526,176</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought - £526,176</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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<p><b>Sheepscar Beck Refurbishment Scheme</b></p> <p>Leeds</p>	<p><u>Scheme description</u></p> <p>The scheme will reduce flood risk to 51 residential and 255 commercial properties by refurbishing key assets along Sheepscar Beck forming the existing channel, currently in poor condition. Without the works, assets will continue to deteriorate, increasing the risks of flooding to the surrounding areas.</p> <p>The scheme is to be delivered through the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 Gainshare allocation.</p> <p><u>Impact</u></p> <p>The scheme will reduce flood risk to 51 residential and 255 commercial properties near Sheepscar Beck by extending the life of the infrastructure within the beck.</p> <p>The value for money assessment reflects a benefit cost ratio (BCR) of 7.9:1 and is expected to deliver very high value for money.</p> <p><u>Decision sought</u></p> <p>Approval to proceed through decision point 4 (full business case) and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).</p> <p>Total value of the scheme - £1,563,401</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding – up to £620,104</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought – up to £620,104</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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<p><b>Brighouse Flood Alleviation Scheme</b></p> <p>Brighouse</p>	<p><b><u>Scheme description</u></b></p> <p>The scheme aims to improve flood resilience in Brighouse and the surrounding areas. It involves repairing and replacing flood defences along the River Calder, and landscaping and environmental improvements at Wellhome Park and Whinney Hill Park to reduce the risk of flooding from Clifton Beck. This landscaping will provide improved attenuation of flood waters within the parks to make best use of the existing flood plains, slowing the flow of Hoyle House Beck from entering Clifton Beck.</p> <p>The scheme will be delivered through the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation.</p> <p><b><u>Impact</u></b></p> <p>The scheme aims to reduce the risk of flooding to 55 residential and 359 non-residential properties, reduce the risk of disruption to the transport network from flooding and provide improved flood attenuation, where land is allowed to flood, within existing flood plains. This will also provide improved wildlife habitat forming part of the Biodiversity Net Gains which this scheme will deliver.</p> <p>The scheme has a benefit cost ratio (BCR) of 3.4:1 and is forecast to deliver a net reduction in carbon emissions of 10,777 tCO<sub>2</sub>e over a 50-year period.</p> <p><b><u>Decision sought</u></b></p> <p>Approval to proceed through decision point 4 (full business case) and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).</p> <p>Total value of the scheme - £30,809,000</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding - £4,499,000</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought - £4,499,000</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 – Flood Risk Management**

**Decisions made by the Combined Authority on 7 December 2024**

3.13 The following schemes have recently been assessed in line with the Combined Authority’s assurance process and approved by the Combined Authority.

3.14 The full agenda and papers for the meeting can be found on the [Combined Authority website here](#).

<p><b>Wortley Beck Re-naturalisation scheme</b></p> <p>Districts: Leeds &amp; Bradford</p>	<p>Approval to proceed through decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and decision point 4 (full business case) and for work to commence on activity 5 (delivery).</p> <p>Funding approved - £966,000</p> <p>Total value of the scheme - £1,000,000</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding - £1,000,000</p>
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**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**

4.3 There are no schemes to review at this stage.

## Projects in Stage 2: Scheme development

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Albert Street Flood Alleviation Scheme</b>
<b>Stage</b>	2 (scheme development)
<b>Decision Point</b>	2 to 4 (business justification)

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

### Background

- 4.4 This scheme is being delivered as part of Phase 1 of the Capital Flood Risk Management Programme delivered through the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation.
- 4.5 The scheme's main objective is to reduce flood risk and increase flood resilience in the local area, by improving the local drainage network, benefitting 28 businesses, and protecting up to 422 jobs.
- 4.6 The scheme will install two new pipes, additional to the existing drainage gullies, which will redirect fluvial (river) floodwater back into the River Holme further downstream. The improvements will increase the rate at which floodwater can drain away, reducing the depths of flood water more quickly, and thereby reducing the impacts of flooding on local businesses and infrastructure.
- 4.7 The scheme has been developed by Kirklees Council, as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, in collaboration with the Environment Agency. The LLFA is responsible for managing local flood risk to improve the resilience of local communities and businesses to flooding.
- 4.8 A summary of the scheme's business case and location map is included in **Appendix 1**.

### Outputs and Outcomes

- 4.9 The scheme outputs and outcomes, which are subject to further refinement and agreement, are expected to include:

- To reduce the risk of flooding to all 28 businesses on Albert Street and Queens Mill Road in Huddersfield, protecting up to 422 jobs.
- To increase the Standard of Protection from a 1:25 to 1:50 year event.
- To provide an economic benefit of £1,261,345, based on the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management (FRM) Economic Appraisal Tool used to estimate the damages avoided and model the economic benefits of the scheme.
- To increase the rate at which floodwater drains away from the area during future flood events.
- To provide a cost-efficient solution that can be delivered within short timescales and maintained as part of Kirklees Council's usual maintenance regime.
- To improve the resilience of all 28 businesses and the speed at which they are able to recover from future flood events.
- Protecting properties and infrastructure, thus reducing barriers to sustainable and further future investment in the area.
- Reducing the risk of significant job losses in an area already considered a deprived area, due to businesses moving location.
- To build resilience against the impacts of climate change, which include a rising flood risk.
- Supporting communities in an area of high deprivation.

4.10 The scheme delivers a BCR of 2.3:1 and is expected to deliver high value for money.

### **Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

4.11 The scheme will seek to respond to the climate emergency by increasing climate resilience of 28 businesses in an area of high deprivation to the risks of flooding. This will reduce the impact of climate change for local businesses and communities.

4.12 By reducing flood risk, the scheme will reduce the need for repairs or refurbishment works, and the replacement of commercial equipment, meaning a reduction in carbon emissions, waste, material production, and transport costs.

4.13 The potential impact of the scheme on carbon emissions has been assessed using the Environment Agency's Carbon Modelling Tool. This estimates a net carbon reduction arising from the delivery and operation of the scheme of 41 tCO<sub>2</sub>e over a 50-year appraisal period.

### **Inclusive Growth Implications**

4.14 The scheme inclusive growth implications include:

- Supporting as many people as possible across West Yorkshire to be able to contribute to, and benefit from, economic growth, by increasing the resilience of businesses to flood and climate change risks.
- Implementing mitigation measures that support carbon reduction, climate resilience, and the stability of infrastructures within West Yorkshire by reducing the risk and impacts of flooding on buildings, thus improving sustainable growth potential.
- Increasing the resilience of an area that is within the 30% most deprived neighbourhoods in England, and adjacent to areas within the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods (to the south of Queens Mill Road and east of Albert Street) and 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country (nearby areas such as Newsome and Lockwood).
- Supporting the delivery of the Leeds City Region 2038 net zero carbon target by reducing the potential future need for infrastructure repair and refurbishment works due to the impact of flooding, which will enable inclusive growth and the delivery of regional priorities.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 4.15 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; there will be no perceived negative impacts from the scheme.
- 4.16 The scheme will support deprived communities within a neighbourhood that falls within the 30% most deprived in England, contributing to the delivery of Kirklees Council's Inclusion and Diversity Strategy and the Combined Authority's Inclusive Growth priorities.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.17 The scheme has been developed by Kirklees Council in close collaboration with the Environment Agency who fully support the business case.
- 4.18 Early engagement has been undertaken regarding planning permission and road closures. The Planning Department is of the opinion that the scheme will be permitted, and the Road Closure Authority has so far indicated that road closures will be granted. Permits are yet to be confirmed/obtained, however.
- 4.19 Future consultation is planned which will include letter drops and social media posts to inform businesses, councillors, and the public of the progress and changes taking place. A Communications Plan will be developed by the preferred, chosen contractor and this will be written into the contract as an obligation.
- 4.20 The scheme will require approval under delegation from Kirklees Council's Service Director once funding has been secured and this is recommended as a condition of the Committee's approval today.

### **Risks**

- 4.21 The scheme risks and mitigations are:

- Risk of encountering buried services during construction of the new pipes, leading to construction delays and potential increased costs. Existing service maps have been viewed as a desktop study to identify the potential route for the new pipes. This risk will be further mitigated by the undertaking of ground penetrating radar surveys to identify the locations of any unmapped buried services so that these can be avoided during construction.
- A flood event occurring during construction leading to construction delays, damage to equipment, and additional costs. This risk will be mitigated by the development of contingency plans whereby the contractor signs up to receive local flood warnings and plans to remove equipment from the site for safe offsite storage. Temporary defences and pumping mechanisms may also be considered.
- Suppliers' costs being higher than expected, leading to a lack of affordability. To mitigate, Kirklees Council has included a 25% contingency in the request for funding from the Combined Authority. Should costs increase beyond the contingency, additional funding options will be explored, or the option to reduce scope of the scheme considered.

## Costs

- 4.22 The total scheme costs are £526,176.
- 4.23 The Combined Authority's contribution is £526,176 from the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation.
- 4.24 The estimated cost of the scheme at decision point 2 was £250,000, this has since increased to £526,176, as following further development and investigation work, the initial proposal for the scheme was considered not to be technically feasible.
- 4.25 The Combined Authority will need to enter into a funding agreement with Kirklees Council for expenditure of up to £526,176 from the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation.

## Assurance Pathway and Approval Route

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
2 -4 (business justification case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Director of Policing, Environment & Place Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	13/02/2024
5 (completion / service delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Portfolio Investment Panel Decision: Combined Authority's Director of Policing, Environment & Place	30/06/2025

## Other Key Timescales

- Construction will commence - June 2024.
- Construction will be completed - July 2025.
- Evaluation of the scheme will take place - January 2026
- Delivery closure report submitted - January 2026

## Assurance Tolerances

- 4.26 This approval is the first decision point for the scheme at committee. The assurance tolerances for the recommended approval in this report are:

Assurance tolerances
Combined Authority funding remain within +10% of those outlined in this report.
Completion/service delivery date remains within +6 months of those outlined in this report.
Outputs remain within -10% of those outlined in this report.

## Appraisal Summary

- 4.27 The scheme supports commitments to achieving climate resilience and carbon net zero, and supports the inclusive growth agenda, by increasing climate resilience and decreasing the potential impact of flooding to 28 businesses in an area of high deprivation.
- 4.28 By increasing protection for the 28 businesses, future carbon emissions associated with the repair and reconstruction of infrastructure and replacement of commercial equipment will be reduced. The forecasted benefit of carbon avoidance equates to 180tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- 4.29 The scheme will be delivered by Kirklees Council and supported by the Environment Agency, using key experience and expertise amongst partners to deliver benefits. The value for money assessment indicates a positive return on investment.
- 4.30 Prior to commencement of delivery of the scheme, an Approval to Proceed step is a recommended requirement to be added into the assurance pathway. This is to ensure that surveys have been completed to confirm the full scope of the works required to deliver the scheme successfully, and the associated costs. Further to this, planning permissions and work permits are required to be secured. Internal approval to progress the scheme is also required from the Service Director at Kirklees Council, acting under delegated authority.

## Recommendations

- 4.31 The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, subject to the conditions set by the Portfolio Investment Panel, approves that:
- (i) The Albert Street Flood Alleviation Scheme proceeds through Decision Point 2 to 4 (Business Justification) and work commences on Activity 5 (Delivery).



- (ii) Approval to the Combined Authority’s contribution of £526,176. The total scheme value is £526,176.
- (iii) The Combined Authority enters into a Funding Agreement with Kirklees Council for expenditure of up to £526,176.
- (iv) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route and tolerances outlined in this report.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Sheepscar Beck Refurbishment Scheme</b>
<b>Stage</b>	2 (scheme development)
<b>Decision Point</b>	4 (full business case)

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

## Background

- 4.32 This scheme is part of Phase 1 of the Capital Flood Risk Management Programme being delivered through the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation.
- 4.33 The scheme’s main objective is to reduce flood risk and increase flood resilience in the local area, benefitting 51 residential and 255 commercial properties, by extending the life of the infrastructure within Sheepscar Beck.
- 4.34 In the area covered by this scheme, the beck flows through a channel which consists of a series of culverts, and canal like sections.
- 4.35 Investigative work has identified that the infrastructure assets, including retaining and channels walls, which form the existing channel, are in poor condition and will continue to deteriorate if refurbishment work is not carried out.
- 4.36 Failure of the channel walls would lead to blockage within the channel and culverts and an increase in flood risk to the surrounding area. As the channel runs through Leeds City Centre a large number of properties would be at risk of flooding caused by such a blockage. Assets along this beck have failed in

previous years requiring reactive maintenance to carry out repair work and clear blockages.

- 4.37 The scheme will involve refurbishing these key assets, to improve their condition and reduce the probability of flooding being caused by their failure. This would include full refurbishment of walls and clearing the channel of built-up debris, excessive vegetation, and blockages.
- 4.38 Without the works, assets will continue to deteriorate, increasing the risks of flooding and blight to the local area resulting in negative social impacts, infrastructure damage, loss of local jobs, and wider negative economic impacts. Public safety will also be impacted through failure of assets which provide a barrier to entry into the beck. Carrying out refurbishment work will also reduce the risk and the cost of future reactive work.
- 4.39 The scheme has been developed by Leeds City Council in collaboration with the Environment Agency. Although the channel and the assets surrounding the channel are mostly owned by independent landowners, there are over 100 landowners, meaning Leeds City Council as the Local Lead Flood Authority undertake non-statutory maintenance and support coordination.
- 4.40 A summary of the scheme's business case and location map is included in **Appendix 2**.

### **Outputs and Outcomes**

- 4.41 The scheme outputs and outcomes, which are subject to further refinement and agreement, are expected to include:
- To reduce the risk of flooding to 51 residential and 255 commercial properties in the local area.
  - To produce £1,243,197 in savings in relation to potential damages on residential properties due to flooding.
  - To produce £27,123,721 in savings in relation to potential damages on non-residential properties due to flooding.
  - To deliver the equivalent economic benefit of £424,939 in terms of health-related benefits due to reduced damage to mental health of residents.
  - To reduce future maintenance costs for Leeds City Council and riparian landowners due to the ongoing deterioration of assets along the beck that are already in a poor condition.
  - To deliver economic benefits equivalent of £31,129 in savings due to a reduction in "risk to life".
  - To deliver £307,609 of savings due to a reduced need for temporary accommodation, and £2,357,353 savings in respect to emergency services.
  - To produce savings of £360,589 for recovery, repair, and clean-ups as a result of flooding.

- To produce savings of £816,956 due to reduced indirect damage to communities, and £130,886 due to reduced damage to vehicles.
- To reduce the risk of reputational damage to Leeds City Council associated with flooding caused by an asset failure.
- Enhancement of the local environment through refurbishment of existing assets through the removal of debris and silt-build up, vegetation and tree roots which improve water flows and delivery of environmental enhancements that improve habitat connectivity, so species can move between different areas more easily.
- Improving understanding among landowners about their responsibilities as riparian owners, who have responsibility the maintenance of watercourses on, next to or under their property.

4.42 The scheme delivers a BCR of 7.9:1 and is expected to achieve very high value for money.

### **Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

- 4.43 The scheme will support the Combined Authority in its challenge to tackle the climate emergency by increasing the resilience of 51 residential and 255 commercial properties to the risks of flooding.
- 4.44 The potential impact of the scheme on carbon emissions has been assessed using the Environment Agency’s Carbon Modelling Tool. This estimates a net carbon reduction arising from the delivery and operation of the scheme of 2,439 tCO<sub>2</sub>e over a 50-year appraisal period.
- 4.45 A key objective of the scheme is to build greater climate resilience in the local area; by reducing flood risk the scheme will reduce future building and infrastructure repair or refurbishment works required, and the replacement of commercial equipment, meaning a reduction in carbon emissions, waste, material production, and transport costs.

### **Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.46 The scheme inclusive growth implications include:
- The scheme will protect and improve the resilience of 51 residential and 255 commercial properties in terms of the risks and impacts of flooding at Sheepscar Beck.
  - The scheme will protect existing properties and infrastructure and reduce barriers to any further investment in the local area.
  - Investment Priority 3 of the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy is being supported by the scheme through accelerated investment that is focused on improving places and neighbourhoods, looking to create sustainable places that encourage climate resilience.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 4.47 The scheme will reduce the vulnerability of local residents and businesses to the impacts of potential flooding.
- 4.48 Reducing the risks of flooding reduces the risk of businesses suffering and jobs being lost.
- 4.49 A Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been requested as part of the conditions for the scheme set by the Portfolio Investment Panel (PIP).

### **Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.50 Leeds City Council has developed the scheme in close collaboration with the Environment Agency. The business case has already been considered as part of the Environment Agency's own assurance process and was approved.
- 4.51 The Environment Agency has provided a range of functions throughout the development of the scheme, including specialist advice on evidence and risk (modelling), fisheries, biodiversity, geomorphology, hydrology, partnerships, and strategic overview.
- 4.52 Leeds City Council will engage with the local community affected by the proposed works via the project engagement forum, local newspaper adverts, and target newsletters. A stakeholder engagement plan is included in the business case submission to detail engagement activities with the community and other key groups of stakeholders. An interpretation strategy is being developed that will provide long term information about the history of the watercourse and the refurbishment scheme.
- 4.53 Utility providers have been and will continue to be consulted as part of this scheme to ensure any effects on services will be addressed.
- 4.54 The Leeds City Council planning department has confirmed that the majority of works are permitted, and an application has been made for a minor part of the scheme. Ongoing engagement with landowners / occupiers will take place, as the scheme develops, to support the initial vegetation removal. Responsibilities regarding engagement with landowners may be delegated to the chosen construction contractor, better placed to discuss the nature of the works.

### **Risks**

- 4.55 The scheme risks and mitigations are:
- Risk of ground conditions and existing structures and obstructions causing additional work. The risk is being mitigated through additional site visits in the early stage of the project to understand all works required.
  - Risk of unknown failures to the existing walls, which require more extensive repair, than what is included in the scheme's scope. This will be mitigated by undertaking a survey to determine the work that needs to be carried out.

- Risk that the scope of the scheme and works required is uncertain at this stage, and further surveys and investigations are required to finalise scope and confirm costs of the proposed scheme. This is being set as a condition by the Portfolio Investment Panel (PIP) and is expected to be completed before the project enters Delivery.
- Risk of landowners not giving site access, mitigated by early engagement with all landowners through a land agent.
- Risk of illegal discharging into the river. This will be mitigated by the contractor identifying any risks of construction materials entering into the watercourse and putting measures in place to reduce any risks. This will be captured in Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS) developed by the contractor and then agreed with Leeds City Council.
- Progress could be delayed by adverse weather conditions. This will be mitigated by monitoring of the weather and planning construction works appropriately.

### Costs

- 4.56 The total scheme costs are £1,563,401.
- 4.57 The Combined Authority's contribution is up to £620,104 from the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation.
- 4.58 The remaining funding is £943,297 from the Environment Agency.
- 4.59 At decision point 2 the estimated total cost of the scheme was £760,000; this has since increased to £1,563,401 as a result of more detailed feasibility works undertaken to determine the scope of works required.
- 4.60 The Combined Authority will need to enter into a funding agreement with Leeds City Council for expenditure of up to £620,104 from the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 Gainshare allocation.

### Assurance Pathway and Approval Route

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
4 (full business case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Portfolio Investment Panel Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	13/02/2024
5 (delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Portfolio Investment Panel Decision: Combined Authority's Director of Policing, Environment & Place	01/07/2025

## Other Key Timescales

- The chosen contractor will be appointed - March 2024.
- Construction will start on site - April 2024.
- Construction is expected to be completed - April 2025.
- Delivery closure report submitted - October 2025.

## Assurance Tolerances

- 4.61 This approval is the first decision point for the scheme at committee. The assurance tolerances for the recommended approval in this report are:

Assurance tolerances
Combined Authority funding remains within +10% of those outlined in this report.
Completion date remains within +6 months of those outlined in this report.
Outputs remain within -10% of those outlined in this report.

## Appraisal Summary

- 4.62 The scheme is part of the wider Leeds Flood Alleviation Work Programme at Leeds City Council and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, aiming to improve flooding in Leeds through local projects.
- 4.63 It is also part of phase 1 of the Capital Flood Risk Management Programme at the Combined Authority, supporting the wider strategies and policies around environmental and economic sustainability.
- 4.64 Development of the Business Case has been supported by the Environment Agency and is included within their Coastal Erosion Risk Management Programme for reducing risk to residential properties, with investment forecast between 2021 and 2027. Match funding from the Environment Agency has been applied for and is going through the appraisal process and is awaiting approval. Final scope and costs of proposed works will be confirmed once a preferred contractor has been selected.
- 4.65 The main scheme objective to reduce flood risk to 51 homes and 255 commercial properties is clear and transparent, however further detail is under development by Leeds City Council in the format of Project Plans and supporting documents. These will be submitted through the Approval to Proceed to be assurance checked by the Portfolio Investment Panel (PIP).

## Recommendations

- 4.66 The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, subject to the conditions set by the Portfolio Investment Panel, approves that:

- (i) The Sheepscar Beck Refurbishment Scheme proceeds through Decision Point 4 (Full Business Case) and work commences on Activity 5 (Delivery).
- (ii) Approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of up to £620,104. The total scheme value is £1,563,401.
- (iii) The Combined Authority enters into a Funding Agreement with Leeds City Council for expenditure of up to £620,104.
- (iv) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route and tolerances outlined in this report.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Brighouse Flood Alleviation Scheme</b>
<b>Stage</b>	2 (scheme development)
<b>Decision Point</b>	4 (full business 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

- 4.67 The scheme is part of the West Yorkshire Capital Flood Risk Management (CFRM) programme. It will be funded through the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation.
- 4.68 The scheme aims to improve flood resilience in Brighouse and the surrounding areas by repairing and replacing existing flood defences along the River Calder and installing new landscaping and environmental enhancements, including planting, at Wellhome Park and Whinney Hill Park to mitigate the risk of flooding from Clifton Beck.
- 4.69 The objectives of the scheme are to:
- Extend the operational life of flood defences along the River Calder in Brighouse for a further 50 years.
  - Replace temporary flood defences installed following flood events in December 2015 and February 2020.

- Install new landscaping features in Wellholme Park and Whinney Hill Park to support their function as part of the flood plain from Clifton Beck.
  - Install new environmental enhancements to Clifton Beck and its upper catchment area to reduce flows.
- 4.70 The Environment Agency are nearing completion of an early works package of the scheme to deliver asset replacement and repair along a section of the River Calder. This was funded by the Environment Agency following internal approval of their outline business case in early 2023 and focused on the refurbishment of embankments damaged by tree and vegetation establishment.
- 4.71 A summary of the scheme's business case and location map is included in **Appendix 3**.

### **Outputs and Outcomes**

- 4.72 The scheme outputs and outcomes, which are subject to further refinement and agreement, are expected to include:
- Reduced flood risk to up to 55 residential and 359 non-residential properties as well as to the local highway network.
  - Increase the Standard of Protection at Clifton Beck to a 1:20 year event.
  - Create 1.56 hectares of wetland.
  - Potential wider environmental and sustainability benefits include the creation of improved wildlife habitat as well as improved community access to natural amenities.
  - The scheme has a potential cost benefit ratio of 3.4:1 based on the monetisation of a range of benefits, including the reduction in transport and utilities disruption to the local community and businesses and the creation of habitat and amenities in public parks.
  - Contribute to the delivery of wider socio-economic benefits through the regeneration and growth of the South Calderdale area centred on Brighouse.
  - Create a better place and that maximises environmental outcomes for people and wildlife.

### **Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

- 4.73 The scheme contributes to the Mayoral Pledge of tackling the climate emergency through managing flood risk and resilience and complements the Natural Flood Management Programme that is being funded as part of Investment Priority 4 (Tackling the Climate Emergency, and Environmental Sustainability).
- 4.74 The scheme supports the delivery of the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) by reducing flooding risk to residential and business properties and key economic and social infrastructure and improving the resilience of the local community and the local economy to climate change.



4.75 The potential impact of the scheme on carbon emissions has been assessed by the EA using their own Carbon Modelling Tool. This estimates a net carbon reduction arising from the delivery and operation of the scheme of 10,777 tCO<sub>2</sub>e over a 50-year appraisal period.

### **Inclusive Growth Implications**

4.76 The scheme inclusive growth implications include:

- The scheme will provide flood protection to vulnerable and deprived areas. 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.
- The scheme will also contribute towards improving individual's 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**

4.77 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.

4.78 The Environment Agency has completed an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Screening which indicates that the potential negative impact of the scheme on protected groups is low.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

4.79 Consultation and engagement on the design of the scheme was led by the Environment Agency in partnership with Calderdale Council. Further details can be found at <https://eyeoncalderdale.com/brighthouse-flood-alleviation-scheme/>. A further public consultation event is planned in early 2024.

### **Risks**

4.80 The scheme risks and mitigations are:

- Further damage or degradation to existing flood defences from storms events and high flows – mitigated by ongoing asset inspections and updates to existing surveys and structural assessments.
- Highways and access constraints for works around Phoenix Bridge and Oakhill Road – mitigated by undertaking these works simultaneously with the proposed A641 improvements led by Calderdale Council
- Delays in securing planning approval and construction of Wilkin Royd Mill culvert works causing potential delay delivery of downstream Clifton Beck works – mitigated by ongoing engagement with the local planning

authority and the use of the Environment Agency’s powers under the Water Resources Act to remove culvert restrictions.

### Costs

- 4.81 The total scheme costs are £30,809,000.
- 4.82 The Combined Authority’s contribution is £4,499,000 from the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation which has remained the same as that expected in the decision point 2 (strategic outline case) programme approval.
- 4.83 The remaining funding is £26,310,000 from Environment Agency managed funds and funding allocated to the scheme through the Calderdale Flood Partnership Board and the Yorkshire Regional Flood & Coastal Committee.
- 4.84 Subject to approval, the Combined Authority will need to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Environment Agency for expenditure of up to £4,499,000.

### Assurance Pathway and Approval Route

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
4 (full business case)	Recommendation: Combined Authority’s Director of Policing, Environment & Place Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	13/02/2024
5 (completion / service delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority’s Portfolio Investment Panel Decision: Combined Authority’s Director of Policing, Environment & Place	31/03/2026

### Other Key Timescales

- Main construction works commence - 1 March 2024
- Practical completion - 31 March 2026
- Delivery closure report submission - 31 March 2028

### Assurance Tolerances

- 4.85 This approval is the first decision point for the scheme at committee. The assurance tolerances for the recommended approval in this report are:

Assurance tolerances
Combined Authority funding remain within +10% of those outlined in this report. Completion/service delivery date remains within +6 months of those outlined in this report. Outputs remain within -10% of those outlined in this report.

## **Appraisal Summary**

- 4.86 The scheme has a strong strategic and economic case for improving the resilience of local communities in Brighouse to climate change and the significant risks of flooding from the River Calder and Clifton Beck.
- 4.87 It will deliver an increased standard of flood protection for both residential and non-residential properties and essential infrastructure in the area, new wildlife habitat and amenity space.
- 4.88 All match funding has been secured, delivery arrangements are broadly in-place (subject to planning), and advanced works are nearing completion.

## **Recommendations**

- 4.89 The Climate Energy and Environment Committee subject to the conditions set by the Portfolio Investment Panel, approves that:
- (i) The Brighouse Flood Alleviation scheme proceeds through decision point 4 (full business case) and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).
  - (ii) Approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £4,499,000 is given. The total scheme value is £30,809,000.
  - (iii) The Combined Authority enters into a Funding Agreement with the Environment Agency for expenditure of up to £4,499,000.
  - (iv) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

## **Projects in Stage 3: Delivery and Evaluation**

- 4.90 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 schemes in this report.

## **11 External consultees**

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

## **12 Recommendations (Summary)**

### **Albert Street Flood Alleviation Scheme**

12.1 The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, subject to the conditions set by the Portfolio Investment Panel, approves that:

- (i) The Albert Street Flood Alleviation Scheme proceeds through Decision Point 2 to 4 (Business Justification) and work commences on Activity 5 (Delivery).
- (ii) Approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £526,176. The total scheme value is £526,176.
- (iii) The Combined Authority enters into a Funding Agreement with Kirklees Council for expenditure of up to £526,176.
- (iv) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route and tolerances outlined in this report.

### **Sheepscar Beck Refurbishment Scheme**

12.2 The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, subject to the conditions set by the Portfolio Investment Panel, approves that:

- (i) The Sheepscar Beck Refurbishment Scheme proceeds through Decision Point 4 (Full Business Case) and work commences on Activity 5 (Delivery).
- (ii) Approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of up to £620,104. The total scheme value is £1,563,401.
- (iii) The Combined Authority enters into a Funding Agreement with Leeds City Council for expenditure of up to £620,104.

- (iv) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route and tolerances outlined in this report.

### **Brighouse Flood Alleviation Scheme**

12.3 The Climate Energy and Environment Committee subject to the conditions set by the Portfolio Investment Panel, approves that:

- (i) The Brighouse Flood Alleviation Scheme proceeds through decision point 4 (full business case) and work commences on activity 5 (delivery).
- (ii) Approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £4,499,000 is given. The total scheme value is £30,809,000.
- (iii) The Combined Authority enters into a Funding Agreement with the Environment Agency for expenditure of up to £4,499,000.
- (iv) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

## **13 Background Documents**

13.1 None as part of this report.

## **14 Appendices**

**Appendix 1** – Albert Street Flood Alleviation Scheme – Business Case Summary

**Appendix 2** - Sheepscar Beck Refurbishment Scheme – Business Case Summary

**Appendix 3** - Brighouse Flood Alleviation Scheme – Business Case Summary

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## Project Overview

Project Title	<b>Albert Street Flood Alleviation Scheme</b>
Main Funding Programme	West Yorkshire Capital Flood Risk Management Programme
Current Forecast Project cost	£526,176
Funding Applied for from the Combined Authority	£526,176
Other public sector funding amounts and sources	£0

## Scheme Description

The scheme will install two new pipes to redirect river floodwater back into the River Holme. This will reduce the flood risk to 28 businesses on Albert Street and Queens Mill Road in Huddersfield, which were impacted by fluvial (river) flooding in February 2022.

## Business Case Summary

### Strategic Case

The scheme has been developed in partnership with the Environment Agency and will improve the resilience of Albert Street and Queens Mill Road which fall within the 30% most deprived neighbourhoods in England to the impacts of flooding and climate change. The scheme will reduce the risk of flooding in the Albert Street and Queens Mill Road area, protecting infrastructure, businesses, jobs, and investment in the area.

The scheme supports the Combined Authority's transition to net zero, by improving flood resilience. This leads to a reduction in the carbon emissions related to needing to refurbish and repair buildings and replace commercial equipment following flooding.

The scheme's strategic alignment with the Combined Authority's priorities is demonstrated through the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy; Priority 3 aims to create great places and accelerated infrastructure and Priority 4 to tackle the climate emergency and environment sustainability.

The scheme will be delivered as part of phase 1 of the West Yorkshire Capital Flood Risk Management Programme.

### Economic Case

The scheme will achieve value for money by delivering against the key spending objective to increase resilience to flooding for 28 local businesses. The significant flooding event that occurred in February 2022 has highlighted demand for the scheme. The risk of flooding is only set to increase in the area due to climate change.

The scheme delivers a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 2.3:1 and is expected to deliver high value for money.

### Commercial Case

Kirklees Council will procure and appoint the contractor from a list of local contractors from its approved framework of suitable local contractors.

### Financial Case

The total scheme cost is £526,176, which will be solely funded by the Combined Authority. The scheme is to be delivered through the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation.

Kirklees Council will cover the scheme's ongoing maintenance costs.

### Management Case

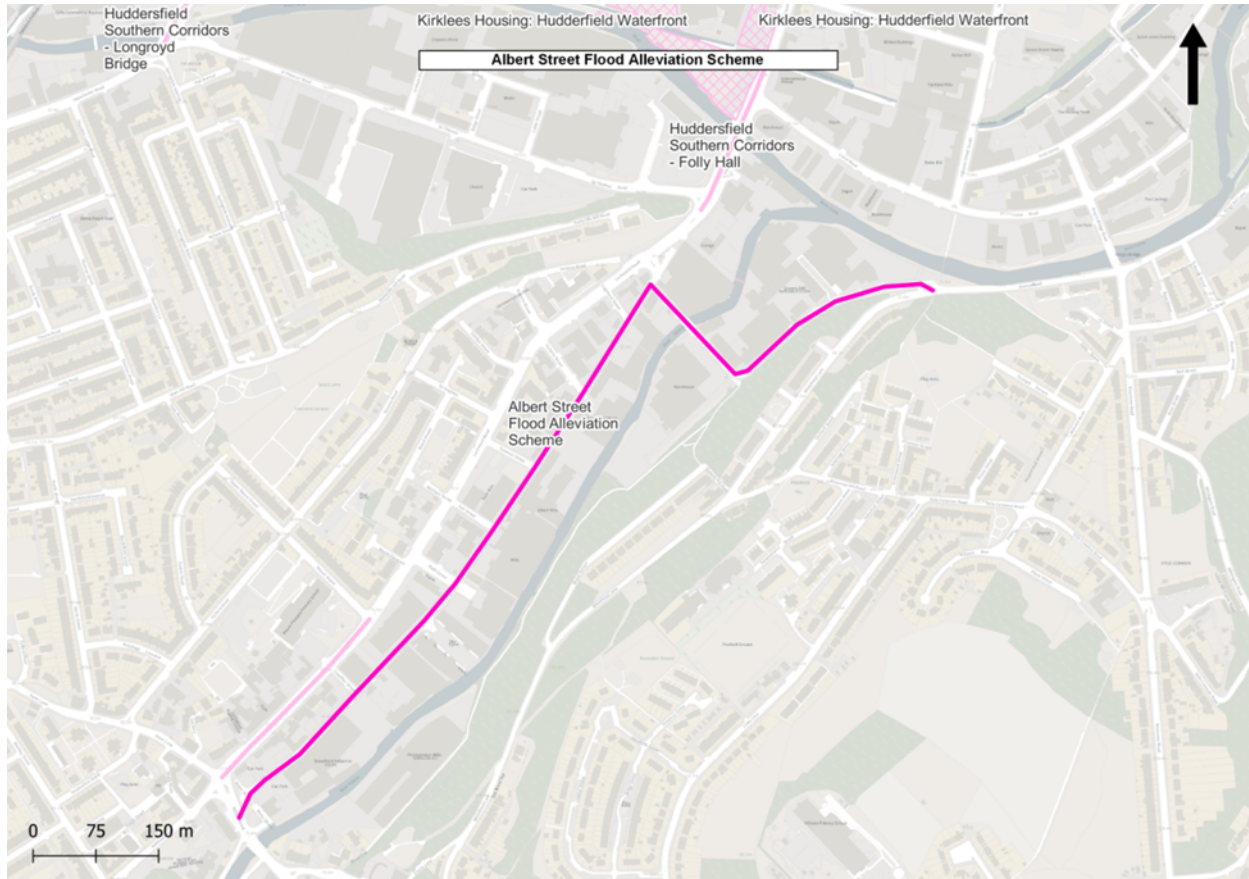
The scheme will be managed and delivered by Kirklees Council and the appointed contractor, with support from the Environment Agency.

Construction works are set to start by July 2024 and be completed by March 2025.



## Location Map

The following map shows the location of the Albert Street Flood Alleviation Scheme:



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: <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/growing-the-economy/leeds-city-region-infrastructure-map/>

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## Project Overview

Project Title	<b>Sheepscar Beck Refurbishment Scheme</b>
Main Funding Programme	West Yorkshire Capital Flood Risk Management Programme
Current Forecast Project cost	£1,563,401
Funding Applied for from the Combined Authority	£620,104
Other public sector funding amounts and sources	£943,297 – Environment Agency

## Scheme Description

The scheme will reduce flood risk to 51 homes and 255 businesses by refurbishing key infrastructure assets, including retaining and channels walls, along Sheepscar Beck, which are currently in a poor condition. Without the works, assets will continue to deteriorate, increasing the risks of flooding to the surrounding areas.

## Business Case Summary

### Strategic Case

The scheme will reduce flood risk by protecting existing properties and infrastructure and reducing barriers to further investment in the local area.

Investigative work has identified that the infrastructure assets, including retaining and channels walls, which form the existing channel, are in poor condition and will continue to deteriorate if refurbishment work is not carried out.

The scheme has been developed in collaboration with the Environment Agency and is included within the Environment Agency Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Programme for reducing flood risk to residential properties.

This scheme supports ambitions to improve environmental sustainability as set out in the West Yorkshire Plan, the Combined Authority's Corporate Plan, and pledges made by our mayor.

The scheme will also reduce the likelihood of harmful emissions being created in future, as a result of needing to refurbish and repair buildings and replace commercial equipment, because of flooding.

The scheme will be delivered as part of phase 1 of the West Yorkshire Capital Flood Risk Management Programme.

### Economic Case

The scheme aims to minimise the impact of flooding on people and property by extending the life of the infrastructure within Sheepscar Beck.

The scheme will involve refurbishing key infrastructure, including retaining and channels walls, to improve their condition and reduce the probability of flooding being caused by their failure.

The scheme delivers a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 7.9 and is expected to achieve very high value for money.

### Commercial Case

Some elements of the procurement have been undertaken already. There are still some elements to undertake and the chosen procurement frameworks for the construction works, required to deliver the scheme are yet to be confirmed.

Confirmation of procurements undertaken to date, along with detail of the chosen procurement frameworks, are required before the scheme starts delivery.

### Financial Case

The total scheme cost is £1,563,401. The Combined Authority's contribution to the scheme is £620,104 from the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation. The remaining £943,297 is funded from the Environment Agency Grant in Aid.

### Management Case

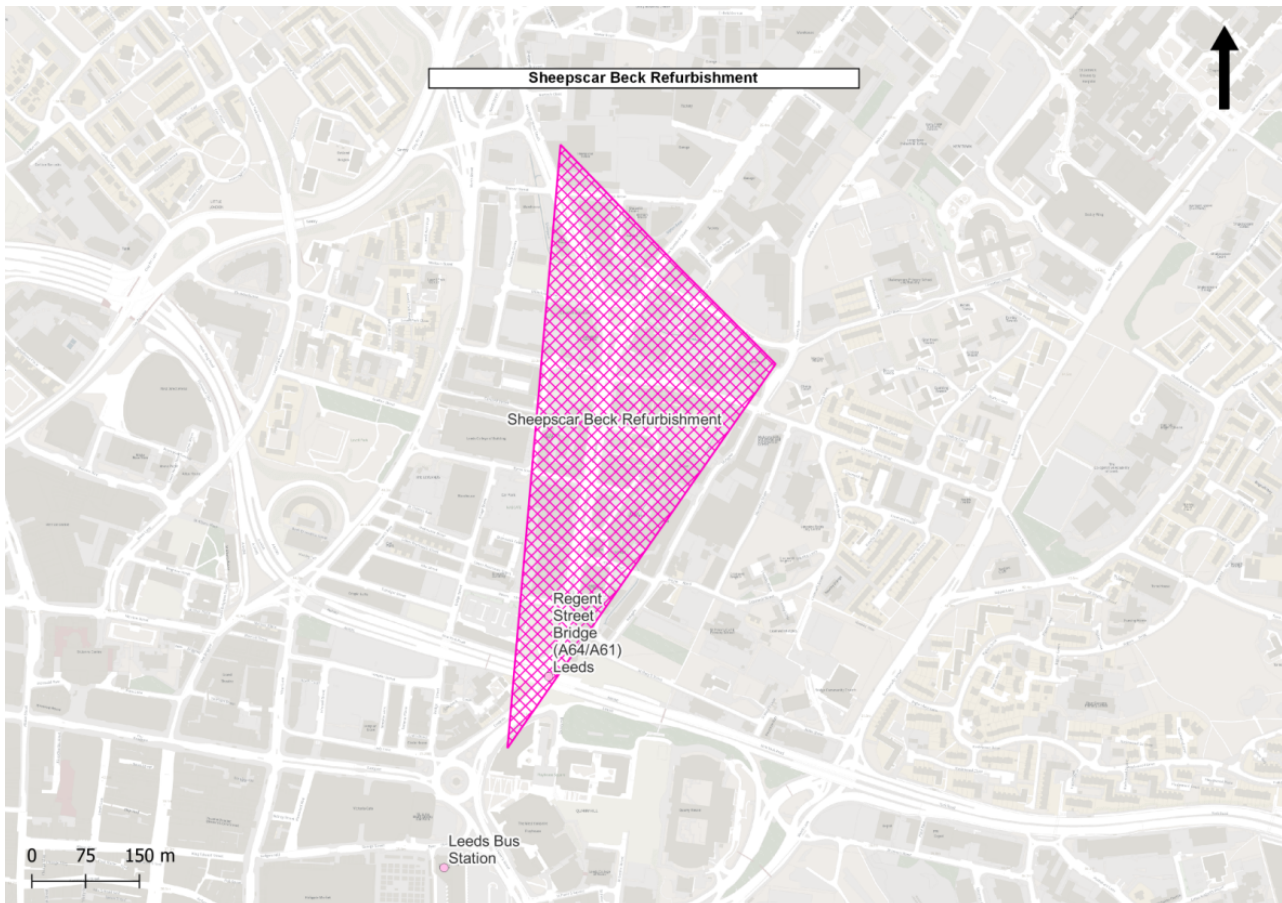
Leeds City Council will carry out all the scheme's project management.

Governance will be provided internally by the Flood Risk Management Team, and overall responsibility will fall to the Senior Responsible Owner, the Flood Risk Manager at Leeds City Council. Monthly progress meetings will be used to monitor the delivery of the project against programme timeframes and budget.

Work will start on the scheme in April 2024 and is expected to be completed April 2025.

## Location Map

The following map shows the location of the Sheepscar Beck Refurbishment Scheme:



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: <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/growing-the-economy/leeds-city-region-infrastructure-map/>

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## Project Overview

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Brighouse Flood Alleviation Scheme</b>
<b>Main Funding Programme</b>	West Yorkshire Capital Flood Risk Management (CFRM) Programme
<b>Current Forecast Project cost</b>	£30,809,000
<b>Funding Applied for from the Combined Authority</b>	£4,499,000
<b>Other public sector funding amounts and sources</b>	Total £26,310,000, comprising: £15,482,000 - Environment Agency £9,415,000 - Calderdale Flood Partnership Board £1,413,000 - Yorkshire Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

## Scheme Description

The scheme aims to improve flood resilience in Brighouse and the surrounding areas. It involves repairing and replacing flood defences along the River Calder, and landscaping and environmental improvements at Wellhome Park and Whinney Hill Park to reduce the risk of flooding from Clifton Beck. This landscaping will provide improved attenuation of flood waters within the parks to make best use of the existing flood plains, slowing the flow of Hoyle House Beck from entering Clifton Beck.

## Business Case Summary

### Strategic Case

Brighouse is at significant risk of flooding both from the River Calder and Clifton Beck, with several notable floods over the last 20 years affecting homes and other properties and disrupting the local transport network.

The scheme supports the delivery of the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy Priority 3 (Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure) by accelerating the delivery of flood risk management schemes and providing enhanced flood protection to business areas.

The scheme contributes to the Mayoral Pledge of tackling the climate emergency through managing flood risk and resilience. It also complements the Natural Flood Management Programme that is being funded as part of Investment Priority 4 (Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability).

The scheme supports the delivery of the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan by reducing flooding risk to homes and businesses and key economic and social infrastructure and improving the resilience of the local community and the local economy to climate change.

The scheme will be delivered as part of phase 1 of the West Yorkshire Capital Flood Risk Management Programme.

### Economic Case

The scheme aims to reduce the risk of flooding to 55 homes and 359 other properties, reduce the risk of disruption to the transport network from flooding, and improve 46 hectares of wildlife habitat.

The scheme will deliver environmental and sustainability benefits including improved water quality, removal of barriers to fish migration, river restoration and floodplain rehabilitation and environmental enhancements, including planting, to reduce the risk of flooding from Clifton Beck.

The scheme has a benefit cost ratio (BCR) of 1:3.4.

### Commercial Case

The scheme will be delivered through the Environment Agency's Collaborative Delivery Framework. The framework was renewed by the Environment Agency in 2023 and Arup (consultants) and BAM Nuttall (contractors) were appointed to deliver schemes across their North East 'Hub' which includes West Yorkshire.

### Financial Case

The total cost of the scheme is estimated at £30,809,000. The scheme will be funded through a number of different sources, including the Environment Agency, the Calderdale Flood Partnership Board and the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. The Combined Authority funding of £4,499,000 from the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 3 gainshare allocation, is required to complete the funding package for the capital works.

### Management Case

The development and delivery of the scheme is being managed through an Environment Agency led project board.

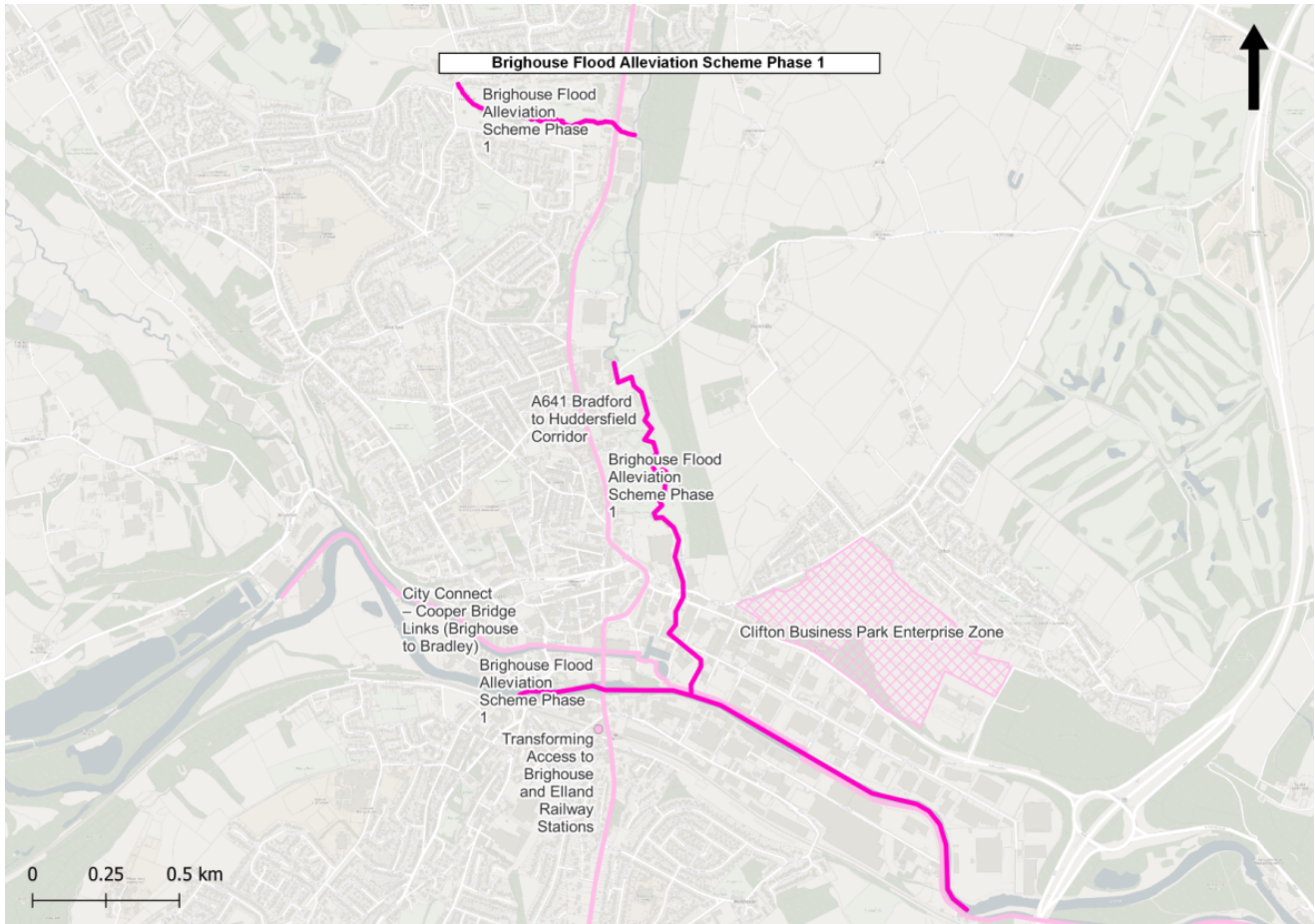
On completion of the scheme, the Environment Agency will be responsible for maintaining and managing the structural integrity of the flood banks and control structures and Calderdale Council will be responsible for the maintenance of the parks, covering grass cutting and landscaping elements.

The early works package to the River Calder started in September 2023. The main construction works are expected to start in March 2024, and finish in March 2026.



## Location Map

The following map shows the location of the Brighouse Flood Alleviation Scheme



Please note, depending on the level of scheme development, the location and scope of the schemes indicated here are indicative only.

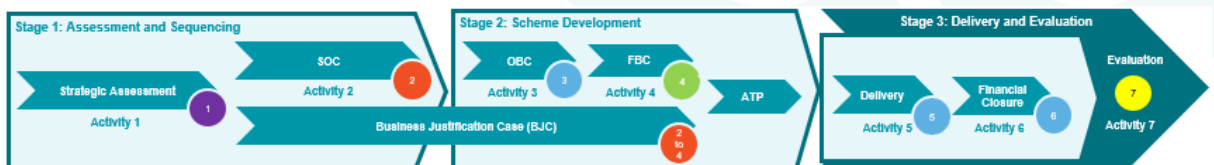
For further information on Combined Authority schemes please refer to: <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/growing-the-economy/leeds-city-region-infrastructure-map/>

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<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Better Neighbourhoods Project Approvals - Investment Priority 4 – Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Liz Hunter, Director of Policing, Environment & Place
<b>Author:</b>	Sam Turner, Policy Coordinator

## 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 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 Better Neighbourhoods

- 3.1 The Better Neighbourhoods programme was approved by the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee on the 21 March 2023, and is part of the Climate and Environment plan Wave 1 Portfolio.
- 3.2 The programme has established community grant funding schemes across the five West Yorkshire Local Authority districts and is designed to inspire behaviour change and educate at community level, whilst contributing to improved community assets and improved sense of place. The programme provides grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 for projects delivered by Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations. The funding can be used to support projects in any community-type, allowing flexibility for local authorities to award funding where they judge it may have the largest impact.

- 3.3 Approximately £1,700,000 has been made available for grant funding, from the original programme approval of £2,060,000, with an expected 32-337 projects to be supported, based on the minimum and maximum project costs and partner council funding allocations.
- 3.4 By December 2024, the programme will contribute to a transition to net-zero carbon by investing a minimum of £1,700,000 in neighbourhood-level projects which engage communities in at least one of the following themes:
- Local, clean, and flexible energy solutions
  - Healthy, affordable, and efficient buildings
  - Walking, cycling and public transport
  - Green and climate-ready nature solutions
- 3.5 The programme formally launched across the region on the 21 July 2023. This included press and social media activity across the region, with coordinated social graphics and videos provided by the Combined Authority's Design team.
- 3.6 To date, demand for funding has been high. All five partner councils have sought applications for funding, receiving a total 207 expressions of interest from local community groups seeking funding for projects which contribute to the climate and environment agenda. The risk of funding not being allocated out to community groups is therefore seen as extremely low, due to the high levels of interest in the fund.
- 3.7 The programme has been incredibly popular with Community Groups across the region, and the programme is expected to allocate all available funding early in 2024. Our local authority partners have allocated funding to projects across the full range of themes on the programme, enabling a diverse range of projects to be delivered.
- 3.8 Examples of projects that have received funding include energy efficiency improvements in community buildings such as insulation, LED lighting and air conditioning; community gardens, allotments, and tree planting; Solar PV and Battery storage installation; and the purchase of bike storage and bike maintenance workshops.
- 3.9 Through the latest round of Quarterly Reporting, local authority delivery colleagues provided an early indication of lessons learnt on the programme. These include:
- The need to request more thorough information during the expression of interest stage, to provide early support to projects ahead of full applications as this will lead to stronger applications.
  - To provide clear articulation in application guidance of the need within applications to demonstrate the linkages between objective, activities, outputs, and funding.
  - Consideration of the need for Subsidy Control advice to be undertaken earlier on in the planning process of the fund.

- To plan for the possibility of the fund being under or oversubscribed in funding rounds and ensure messaging is clear on this.
  - Providing funding to support VCSE groups with overhead costs associated with project delivery, as the lack of such funding may have put some groups off applying.
- 3.10 In November 2022, the Mayor of West Yorkshire received a letter for the England Chair of the National Lottery Community Fund, to discuss the possibility of future joint funding opportunities, building on the success of the Community Fund's work with the West Midlands Combined Authority on their 'Mayors Community Weekend'.
- 3.11 The Combined Authority subsequently had conversations with the Community Fund, around the prospect of the Community Fund providing additional funding to the Better Neighbourhoods programme, as well as the Community Fund sitting on the Better Neighbourhoods Steering Group to provide their expertise and knowledge in this area.
- 3.12 This led to a bid to the National Lottery Community Fund, for a total of £150,000. This is to match the 'top-up' pot that already exists on the programme and is the focus of the approval aspect of this paper. Confirmation of whether the bid was successful was outstanding at the time this report was written.

## Scheme summaries

<p><b>Better Neighbourhoods</b> West Yorkshire</p>	<p><b><u>Scheme description</u></b></p> <p>The Better Neighbourhoods programme works with the five West Yorkshire partner councils to provide grants to local communities, with a particular focus on those communities considered disadvantaged, to fund projects that will support the transition to net zero carbon.</p> <p>The programme is delivered through the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 4 gainshare allocation and approval is sought via this change request for an additional £150,000 of funding which has been bid for from the National Lottery Community Fund to enable the programme to fund more local projects, subject to funding confirmation.</p> <p><b><u>Impact</u></b></p> <p>The programme's wider social benefits include improving disadvantaged communities by providing funding at a community level 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.</p> <p>No benefit cost ratio (BCR) or detailed value for money assessment is available to reflect value for money at this stage in programme development.</p> <p><b><u>Decision sought</u></b></p> <p>Approval to the change request for additional funding of up to £150,000, taking the total scheme costs and Combined Authority contribution from £2,060,000 to £2,210,000.</p> <p>Total value of the programme - £2,210,000</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding - £2,210,000</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought - £150,000</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**

3.13 Since the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee meeting on 24 October 2023, no decision points or change requests relevant to the Better Neighbourhoods programme, have been assessed in line with the Combined Authority's assurance process and approved through another agreed delegation.

### **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**

4.3 There are no schemes to review at this stage.

### **Projects in Stage 2: Scheme development**

4.4 There are no schemes to review at this stage.

## Projects in Stage 3: Delivery and Evaluation

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Better Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>Stage</b>	3 (delivery and evaluation)
<b>Decision Point</b>	Change request (activity 5)

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

### Background

- 4.5 Better Neighbourhoods is a grant funding programme, which will be delivered by the five West Yorkshire partner councils.
- 4.6 Each project in the programme must demonstrate a positive impact on at least one disadvantaged community and will aim to reduce West Yorkshire's carbon emissions such as installing bicycle storage to promote sustainable travel or installing solar panels on community buildings, complementing other CEP Wave 1 schemes installing solar panels.
- 4.7 To align the programme to the Combined Authority's inclusive growth ambitions, and to support a 'just' transition to net zero, each project must demonstrate a positive impact on at least one disadvantaged community (top 10% Index of Multiple Deprivation or with protected characteristics).
- 4.8 The programme uses the term disadvantaged to describe communities that live in areas within the 10% most deprived in England, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) - equivalent to more than half a million people, 15 more than one in five people in West Yorkshire - or identify as having one or more of the nine protected characteristics.
- 4.9 The Combined Authority submitted a proposal to the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) for £150,000, to match the programme's existing top-up pot funding, which supports projects which may have missed out on the opportunity for funding from partner council allocations. This change request seeks approval for £150,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund (NCLF), subject to the funding being secured, taking the total programme costs to £2,210,000.



4.10 This additional funding will enable the programme to deliver “more of the same” i.e. more projects which fit the programme’s existing aims, using the existing processes established when the programme went into delivery. There will be no other changes to the programme as a result of this additional funding. The funding will also for the development of a strategic working relationship with the National Lottery Community Fund.

### **Outputs and Outcomes**

4.11 The overall scheme outputs, including with the additional funding, include:

- Delivery of between 35-367 projects across West Yorkshire which support the transition to net zero in communities
- At least one disadvantaged community per project is positively impacted
- Sustainable energy improvements in up to 10 community buildings.
- Contribute to the development of up to 10 energy generation projects
- Deliver up to 10 schemes which results in reported increases in public transport use, walking and cycling.
- Deliver up to 10 projects which increase community access to green space and nature.

4.12 The scheme outcomes:

- include improving disadvantaged communities by providing funding at a community level 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.

### **Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

4.13 Community buildings will be fitted with sustainable technologies to reduce natural gas consumption, reduce electricity consumption and / or improve energy efficiency. These improvements are likely to have long term impacts on reducing carbon emissions.

4.14 Sustainable travel will be promoted, through for example, bicycle storage installed within the community.

4.15 The programme will increase community knowledge on the importance of a transition to net zero, how to participate and will accelerate behaviour change.

4.16 A Stage 1 Carbon Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the previous business case approval. Carbon savings / increases have not been calculated but are expected to be included in the programme’s evaluation.

## **Inclusive Growth Implications**

4.17 The scheme inclusive growth implications include:

- The programme aims to target disadvantaged communities to overcome barriers to accessing climate resilience funds, contributing to better physical and mental health at a community level. Although projects can support any type of community, each project must demonstrate some positive impact on at least one disadvantaged community.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

4.18 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.

4.19 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) ambition of Better Neighbourhoods is to:

- Fund community-level projects which support a just transition to net zero carbon, through improved social cohesion, education, and access to appropriate support.
- Projects are identified through the programme delivery by nature of a grant making scheme, so it is not possible to accurately depict the impact each project may have. Projects delivered under Better Neighbourhoods are expected to demonstrate their impact on at least one disadvantaged community. Under this programme, the term disadvantaged is used to describe communities' that either:
  - Live in areas within the 10% most deprived in England, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). This is equivalent to more than half a million people, more than one in five people in West Yorkshire.
  - Identify as having one or more of the nine protected characteristics.

## **Consultation and Engagement**

4.20 Consultation was carried out as part of the development of the current Better Neighbourhoods programme. As the additional funding will allow more projects to be delivered, under the same programme themes and there has been no change of scope, no further consultation has taken place, in relation to this change request.

## **Risks**

4.21 The scheme risks and mitigations are:

- Increases in materials and labour costs mean there is a risk schemes may be financially limited. This is mitigated by using the latest cost estimates throughout business case development, with risk and contingency built in at a project-level, to cover unforeseen increases in costs.

- Partner councils experiencing resource and capacity issues which impact on programme delivery timeframes, and the programme being undersubscribed because communities are not engaged, do not know that grants are available or do not have the support they need to apply for grants. This will be mitigated by the partnership approaches that have been agreed with each partner council and regular task and finish group meetings. Monitoring and evaluation are also built into the programme so there is flexibility to ensure delivery is maximised.

## Costs

- 4.22 The total scheme costs are £2,210,000.
- 4.23 The Combined Authority's contribution is £2,210,000, comprising £2,060,000 from the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 4 gainshare allocation and up to £150,000 from the National Community Lottery Fund.
- 4.24 Subject to this approval, the Combined Authority will need to enter into addendums to the existing Funding Agreements with the each of the West Yorkshire partners councils, where required, for expenditure of the some of the additional £150,000, to cover any programme reporting requirements, the National Lottery Community Fund set out.

## Assurance Pathway and Approval Route

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
Change request (activity 5)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Director of Policing, Environment & Place (DoPEP) Decision: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee	13/02/2024
5 (completion / service delivery)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Portfolio Investment Panel Decision: Combined Authority's Director of Policing, Environment & Place (DoPEP)	31/12/2024

## Other Key Timescales

- Programme delivery ends - December 2024
- Project evaluation - November 2024 to March 2025
- Delivery closure report submission - March 2025

## Assurance Tolerances

4.25 The previous approvals and assurance tolerances set are outlined below:

Control area	Baseline Tolerance approved by the CA at DP 2-4	Change Request Approval	Within tolerance?
Date	21 March 2023	17 February 2024	
Total Cost	£2,060,000	£2,210,000	
CA Funding	£2,060,000	£2,210,000	N
Completion Date (DP5)	31/12/2024	31/12/2024	Y
Outputs & Benefits	As detailed within this report.	As detailed within this report.	Y

4.26 The revised assurance tolerances for the recommended approval in this report are:

Assurance tolerances
Combined Authority funding remain within +10% of those outlined in this report.
Completion/service delivery date remains within +6 months of those outlined in this report.
Outputs remain within -10% of those outlined in this report.

## Appraisal Summary

- 4.27 The programme is now launched and the grants on offer are stated to have been in high demand throughout West Yorkshire. Many of the uncertainties that were highlight at the previous appraisal at strategic outline case have now been resolved, particular in relation to the commercial case where the delivery mechanism and partner for each council was unknown. The economic case remains weaker than the other cases because the programme is still limited to qualitative outputs at this stage, preventing a benefit to cost ratio calculation and value for money position on the programme.
- 4.28 This change request is for the acceptance of a further £150,000 of additional funding for the Better Neighbourhoods Programme that has been applied for from the National Lottery Communities Fund. If the application is successful confirmation is estimated to be received in January 2024.

## Recommendations

- 4.29 The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, subject to funding confirmation, approves that:
- (i) The change request to the Better Neighbourhoods programme for additional funding of up to £150,000, taking the total programme approval

from £2,060,000 to £2,210,000, is approved. The total programme cost is £2,210,000.

- (ii) The Combined Authority enters into addendums to the existing Funding Agreements with the each of the West Yorkshire partners councils.
- (iii) That delegated authority be granted to the Combined Authority's Senior Responsible Officer (Head of Place and Environment Policy), to allocate additional funding to partner councils, where required.
- (iv) That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Place and Environment Policy and Deputy Director, Legal, Governance and Compliance Services respectively in consultation with each other to finalise the addendums to the existing Funding Agreements between the Combined Authority and the partner councils to support delivery of Better Neighbourhoods, and all other related legal documents that may be required.
- (v) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

## **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)**

### **Better Neighbourhoods**

- 12.1 The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, subject to funding confirmation, approves that:
- (i) The change request to the Better Neighbourhoods programme for additional funding of up to £150,000, taking the total programme approval from £2,060,000 to £2,210,000, is approved. The total programme cost is £2,210,000.
  - (ii) The Combined Authority enters into addendums to the existing Funding Agreements with the each of the West Yorkshire partners councils.
  - (iii) That delegated authority be granted to the Combined Authority's Senior Responsible Officer (Head of Place and Environment Policy), to allocate additional funding to partner councils, where required.
  - (iv) That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Place and Environment Policy and Deputy Director, Legal, Governance and Compliance Services respectively in consultation with each other to finalise the addendums to the existing Funding Agreements between the Combined Authority and the partner councils to support delivery of Better Neighbourhoods, and all other related legal documents that may be required.
  - (v) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

## **13 Background Documents**

13.1 None as part of this report.

## **14 Appendices**

14.1 None as part of this report.

<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Climate and Environment Plan Progress Report &amp; Refresh</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Liz Hunter, Director of Policing, Environment and Place
<b>Author:</b>	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 The purpose of this report is:

1.1.1 to update the Committee on progress in delivering on the actions set out in the Climate and Environment Plan (“CEP”) 2021 – 2024 and to seek views from Committee on the priorities for the final year of the plan’s delivery period;

1.1.2 to seek early views from Committee on the proposed scope for the update of the “CEP”.

## 2. Information

### Delivery of the actions in the CEP 2021 – 2024

2.1 The principal aim of the CEP is to facilitate delivery of the Mayor’s pledge to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2038 across West Yorkshire, with significant progress by 2030. This ambition responds to the declaration of climate and environment emergencies made by the Mayor of West Yorkshire and West Yorkshire leaders. The actions set out in the CEP are also key to promoting climate resilience, a green recovery and ensuring that the transition to net zero carbon is fair and equitable.

- 2.2 Appendix 1 provides a high-level summary of progress and detail on some of the key areas of activity across the period of the plan so far. The full list of actions can be found in the Climate Plan document. Committee's views are sought on the priorities for the final year of the plan's delivery.

#### Updating the CEP

- 2.3 The process of updating the CEP will commence shortly, and will be informed by an updated evidence base. The Combined Authority is working to update the Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways that underpin the CEP, by developing a single 'complete' pathway to net zero by 2038 (the "Complete Pathway").
- 2.4 The Complete Pathway will comprise the core of the evidence base for an updated CEP, from which an updated action plan will follow – the Committee will have the opportunity to discuss the development of the Complete Pathway in the next item on the agenda.
- 2.5 The Committee's early views are sought on the possible scope of the refreshed CEP. The following are areas for consideration:
- The relationship between the CEP and the climate plans adopted by the five local authorities in West Yorkshire is a key matter for consideration (many of these were not in place when the current plan was finalised). A key question when drafting and engaging on an updated CEP will be how the CEP dovetails with local climate plans. The Committee are invited to provide an update on their local climate plans and associated progress where relevant.
  - The approach to delivery planning and monitoring of progress and against agreed milestones. It is important that learning from implementing the current plan is applied in considering the governance and monitoring of the next plan.
  - Any other aspect of the current CEP that members feel should be changed or approached differently in the updated CEP.

#### Next steps

- 2.6. Taking the committee's feedback on the above points into account and subject to detailed design activity, a high-level plan of the steps for developing the updated CEP would be:
- finalising the draft structure, themes and approach for the updated CEP;
  - content development based on the outputs of the refreshed Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways commission and other sources of evidence as such as the Mayor's Big Climate Chat (for example);
  - public consultation;



- finalisation, adoption and publication.

2.7 Officers are currently developing a plan for delivering the updated CEP, taking into account the expiry of the period of the current CEP at the end of 2024.

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

3.1 Delivery of the current CEP and updating the CEP will drive action to tackle the climate emergency and meet net-zero carbon targets 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.

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

5.1 Meeting net-zero carbon and transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy should be equitable. Consultation activities will be developed with equality and diversity as a key consideration. Indicators that support the monitoring and evaluation of equity, participation and inclusiveness of programmes and policies resulting from the Climate and Environment Plan will be considered at the point of scheme development.

### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are likely to be cost implications associated with updating the CEP update, depending on the scale of consultation undertaken and the scope of the refreshed plan. Officers are currently working to establish the cost estimates associated with this work.

### **7. Legal Implications**

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

### **8. Staffing Implications**

8.1 There are staff in post within the Combined Authority to contribute to delivery of actions in CEP however this is a partnership plan and Local Authorities and other stakeholders / partners have a significant role to play in the plan delivery. There are staff in place within the Combined Authority to lead on the update to the CEP.

### **9. External Consultees**

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken at this stage, however as part of the CEP refresh extensive consultation will be undertaken.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1 That the Committee notes the contents of this report.

10.2. That the Committee provides its views on:

- the progress made so far on delivery of the CEP 2021-2024
- priorities for the final year of the current plan
- scope of the updated CEP, including its potential relationship with local authority climate plans.

## **11. Background Documents**

The Combined Authority's Climate and Environment Plan 2021 to 2024.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Climate and Environment Plan Progress



West  
Yorkshire  
Combined  
Authority

Tracy  
Brabin  
Mayor of  
West Yorkshire

111  
**Climate & Environment Plan  
Progress**

**To tackle the climate emergency and protect  
our environment**

February 2024



Agenda Item 12  
Appendix 1

# Context

In June 2019 a climate emergency was declared for the region and a target set for achieving net-zero carbon – by 2038, 12 years ahead of the national net-zero target.

As demonstrated by the increasing prevalence and severity of extreme weather events, climate change poses a very real threat to the economy and livelihoods of many in the region.

## Rationale for intervention:

- 1  
2 Climate change cannot be the cause of further inequality for our most excluded and deprived groups and Communities.
2. Achieving net-zero carbon provides opportunities for significant economic growth through job creation, training and upskilling, inward investment and boosting exports.
3. Without public sector intervention private finance cannot be leveraged / mobilised to achieve the regions climate ambitions (a minimum of £4.4 billion will be needed to deliver the Climate and Environment Plan).
4. Activity undertaken now with a view to the long-term will allow significant emissions reductions to be made later this decade and into the 2030s.



# Progress to date

The Climate and Environment Plan was published in 2021 and covers the period 2021-2024. It is a partnership plan and covers work with our District partners.

Our new plan will also be shaped with District partners and through engagement with other organisations who have expertise and knowledge and through wider consultation.

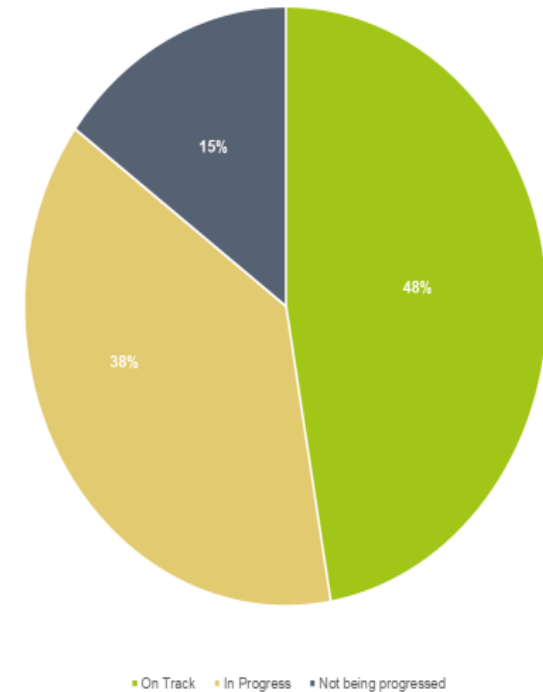
The current Plan is framed around 8 themes and 39 actions, the themes are:

- Leadership
- Cross-Cutting
- Transport
- Sustainable Homes
- Business and Industry
- Energy Generation
- Natural Environment
- Climate Ready

As we move into the final year of the delivery of the plan:

- 48% of the actions are complete or are on track to be achieved by end of 2024.
- A further 38% are in progress with significant progress expected this year now that programme development activity has concluded, and funding has been secured.
- There are some actions in the plan which we are proposing are progressed through other approaches (See Slide 11)

West Yorkshire Climate & Environment Plan - Progress



# Business Support

## What are we doing:

The Mayor's business sustainability support will help small and medium-sized businesses measure, plan and act on reducing their energy use, combating the effects of climate change, and improving flood resilience.

## Why are we doing it:

SMEs represent around half of UK business emissions. As we transition to a net zero carbon economy by 2038, we're aiming to act as a catalyst to encourage wider business action on climate and environment issues.

## What has been achieved since May 2021:

Supported 147 businesses with emergency energy grants, saving at least 495 tCO<sub>2</sub>e a year and helping to safeguard an estimated 210 jobs.

Launched the support in July at Yorkshire Sustainability Week.

Engaged with 285 businesses, with over 150 action plans prepared.

Approved 21 projects so far, generating over 1m kWh pa renewable energy and over 220 tCO<sub>2</sub>e pa carbon savings.

Flood resilience fund launch imminent.



Is your business getting ready for **net zero**?

Get help to **measure** and **reduce** your carbon emissions.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority  
Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire



“The support helped us to **save** money, **reduce** our environmental footprint and **improve** our processes.”

**Trevor Durant**  
Operations Director,  
textile manufacturer Abraham Moon & Sons

West Yorkshire Combined Authority  
Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire

# Better Homes Hub (action on residential retrofit)

## What are we doing:

Delivering projects to insulate properties and install renewable technologies (e.g. solar panels and battery storage). Building the evidence base, testing scalable multi-tenure approaches and developing innovative finance offers.

## Why are we doing it:

To ensure everyone in West Yorkshire can live in a warm, comfortable and low carbon home. Maximising the benefits to our region of national funding (SHDF) to insulate our social homes. Using local flexible funding to plug gaps where properties were ineligible. Investing in solar panels and battery storage to accelerate the transition to renewable electricity generation at scale for social homes. To develop a blueprint of retrofit delivery models that is replicable and scalable across the region.

## What has been achieved since May 2021:

SHDF Wave 1 & 2 - £39 million investment to upgrade over 3000 properties to EPC C by Sept 2025. Over 890 properties completed to date.

SHDF Booster: over £7m investment (grant and match) – 888 properties insulated to date.

Secured approval for a low-interest retrofit loan, Calderdale area-based scheme and West Yorkshire Housing Partnership solar project.

Client-side support in place through £1m contract with Energy Saving Trust.

Secured £837k from Net Zero Hub to test ways of delivering energy advice to digitally excluded groups.



# Decarbonisation of Transport

## What are we doing:

Working to 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.

## Why are we doing it:

Transport is the highest emitting sector in the region - 44% of all CO2 emitted, dominated by road transport which accounts for 89% of transport related emissions. We need to develop an integrated, affordable and sustainable transport system that connects all parts of our region so everyone can access the places they need.

## What has been achieved since May 2021:

Programme approval of Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fund

Delivery underway of Zero Emission Bus programme

Launch of Leeds City Bike scheme

Over £36m awarded to West Yorkshire for active travel schemes





# Leadership and Communication

## What are we doing:

Promoting West Yorkshire as leaders in finding regional solutions to the climate emergency.

## Why are we doing it:

People and businesses must understand what net zero carbon means and the positive impacts it can have on their finances, health and wellbeing. They need to feel empowered and have their chance to shape our net zero future.

## What has been achieved since May 2021:

Launched the Mayor's Big Climate Chat

Launched the community climate grants

Prominent roles for the WY Leaders and the Mayor at COP26, Yorkshire Sustainability Week, Yorkshire Climate Conference and UKREiiF



# Energy Generation, Supply and Flexibility

## What are we doing:

Installing solar panels on our own estate, influencing national reform of the energy system and spatially mapping the future energy system of West Yorkshire (out Local Area Energy Plans).

## Why are we doing it:

<sup>1</sup><sub>18</sub> To demonstrate leadership in addressing the climate emergency both in terms of reducing emissions from our own estate and ensuring there is a coherent and realistic plan for the energy infrastructure that will be required to meet net zero by 2038.

## What has been achieved since May 2021:

Installation of solar panels on seven bus stations generating over 175,000 kWh / annum saving 250 tCO<sub>2</sub>.

Influencing government and Ofgem on their proposals for energy system reform.



# Resilience including flood mitigation

## What are we doing:

Enhancing the flood resilience of homes, businesses and infrastructure.

## Why are we doing it:

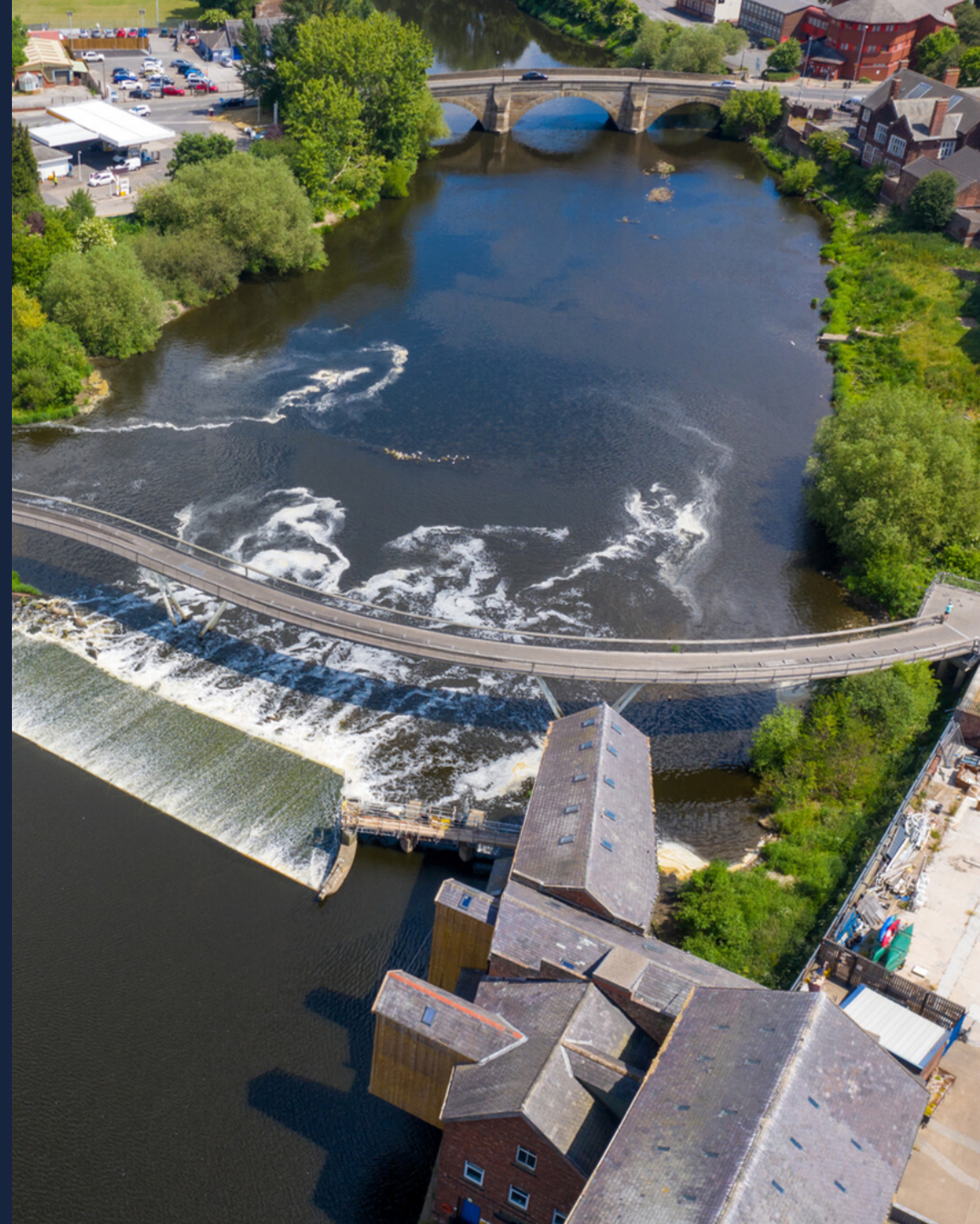
Enhancing flood resilience supports the region's ability to remain vibrant and productive in a changing climate.

## What has been achieved since May 2021:

Launch of research projects and partner engagement under the WY Flood Innovation Programme – Accelerator (WY FLIP)

Programme approval for the Capital Flood Risk Management Infrastructure and Natural Flood Management Programmes (2022/23)

Projects approved to date: Landscapes for water, Chellow Dene and Wortley Beck Natural Flood Management schemes. Brighouse, Sheepscar (Leeds) and Albert Street (Huddersfield) Flood Alleviation approvals scheduled for February 24.



# Natural Environment

## What are we doing:

We are working with partners to enhance the region's natural environment and produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

## Why are we doing it:

The LNRS will drive a more coordinated, practical and actions-focussed approach to nature recovery. Ensuring that habitats and species that are important to our region are given opportunities to grow.

## What has been achieved since May 2021:

Built a strong local partnership involving LAs, government agencies and ecological experts to deliver the LNRS

Claimed and drawn down DEFRA funding (£400k) to support local resourcing and delivery of the LNRS



# Areas to be taken forward through other plans

- Industrial decarbonisation
- Community Energy
- Farmer and Landowner Information and Support
- Land-Use data and evidence
- Green Infrastructure and Access to Health
- Regenerative Nature Recovery Schemes

All the above are part of the baselining exercise being undertaken for the Local Area Energy Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and how to take these forward will be assessed once this exercise is complete.

## West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan

2021 – 2024





West  
Yorkshire  
Combined  
Authority

Tracy  
Brabin  
Mayor of  
West Yorkshire

122

**Thank you**

[westyorks-ca.gov.uk](http://westyorks-ca.gov.uk)



<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways Refresh</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Liz Hunter, Director of Policing, Environment and Place
<b>Author:</b>	Kevin Unwin, Policy Officer

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

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the refresh of the Combined Authority’s Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways in order to develop a single, complete pathway to net zero by 2038 (the “Complete Pathway”).
- 1.2 Members will have the opportunity to provide their views on the approach to developing the Complete Pathway and associated project outputs in order to inform the development of those deliverables.

## 2. Information

### Background

- 2.1 As discussed at the previous meeting of the Committee, the Combined Authority is currently in the process of commissioning consultancy support to update the Carbon Emissions Reductions Pathways (the “Pathways”) that underpin the Climate and Environment Plan (“CEP”).
- 2.2 As the CEP sets out, there are at present three Pathways setting out different emissions (CO2e) reduction trajectories, and with them different plans and strategies to achieve them, namely: ‘max ambition’, ‘high hydrogen’ and ‘balanced’. Each of the Pathways

modelled interventions to achieve significant emissions reductions by 2038, but acknowledged that, to reach net-zero, 'increased ambition around some measures, more speculative options or systems changes would be needed.'

- 2.3 Consequently, each Pathway sees an amount of emissions remaining in 2038; depending on the individual Pathway, the region will need to achieve an additional 17% to 25% reduction in emissions by 2038 on top of those measures currently identified.
- 2.4 Therefore, and as envisaged by the Pathways, the region is now at a juncture where a single, complete pathway needs to be developed (the "Complete Pathway") that will demonstrate how net zero can be achieved by 2038, with no 'gaps' or requirements for additional measures to reach this.
- 2.5 The Complete Pathway will comprise the core of the evidence base for the updated CEP. Other key deliverables will include an implementation roadmap to accompany the Complete Pathway (the "Complete Roadmap"), together with policy recommendations and an action plan to deliver the recommended activity to achieve the region's net zero target.

#### Appointment of contractor and input from the Committee

- 2.6 Following a successful tender exercise, a contractor (Ove Arup and Partners Limited, the "Contractor") has been appointed to produce the Complete Pathway and the other project outputs described above.
- 2.7 The Contractor has agreed to attend the Committee's meeting, in order to present its proposed approach, and to take feedback from members to incorporate into the development of the Complete Pathway and associated deliverables.

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

- 3.1 Producing the Complete Pathway will be a core element of addressing the climate emergency and meeting net-zero carbon in the region, for the reasons discussed above. It will also be a core part of the evidence base for the updated CEP.

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

- 4.1 As noted in the previous item, transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy must reduce inequality in West Yorkshire and provide opportunities for better jobs and quality of life for residents as part of the transition to net-zero carbon and sustainable economy – these ambitions will be reflected within the action plan associated with the Complete Pathway, and in turn the updated CEP.

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

- 5.1 Meeting net-zero carbon and transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy should be equitable. Consultation activities will be developed with equality and diversity as a key



consideration. Actions that support equity, participation and inclusiveness will be considered when developing the action plan flowing from the Complete Pathway, and at the point of scheme development (see earlier report on the CEP).

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 The cost of developing the Complete Pathway and other associated outputs (such as the Complete Roadmap and Action Plan) is estimated to be in the region of £130,000 inclusive of VAT. Due to the wide relevance of this work and its applicability to departments across WYCA, this project will be funded through contributions from existing departmental budgets including the Single Investment Fund.

## **7. Legal Implications**

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

## **8. Staffing Implications**

8.1 Project managing the refresh of the CERPs, including assisting with consultation activities, will be a core responsibility of a Policy Officer in the Net Zero and Energy team. Officers in the Consultation and Engagement team will provide support for any associated consultation activities – officers are currently considering the consultation that might be needed, which will determine the level of support required.

## **9. External Consultees**

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1 That the Committee notes the contents of this report.

10.2. That the Committee provides its views on the approach to developing the Complete Pathway and associated project outputs presented by the Contractor at the meeting, in order to inform the development of those deliverables.

## **11. Background Documents**

The Combined Authority's Climate and Environment Plan 2021 to 2024.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Energy System Reform</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Liz Hunter, Policing, Environment & Place
<b>Author:</b>	Lara Blake, Policy Officer

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

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on Ofgem's [energy system reform](#) and the West Yorkshire Local Area Energy Plans.

## 2. Information

### Energy System Reform

- 2.1. The Great British energy system is currently undergoing significant change. As the previous system of managing predominantly centralised energy generation assets is gradually replaced by a decentralised system made up of renewables and storage, a new method of managing the energy system is required.
- 2.2. Northern Powergrid will be providing an industry insight on the reform process at the meeting, with specific reference to their role within the proposed system and how it links to Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs), a key priority for the Combined Authority.
- 2.3. Reforms to the energy system are largely being led by Ofgem, the energy regulator for Great Britain, and the Mayor has met with them to discuss these proposals. Over the course of 2023, Ofgem have undertaken widescale consultation with stakeholders on its

reform plans. Of particular interest to the Committee is the [future of local energy institutions and governance](#) consultation.

- 2.4. Their proposals focus on a framework of interacting organisations centred around Regional Energy Strategic Planners (RESPs) and central market facilitation, and whether these proposals are proportionate and adequately targeted.
- 2.5. As a result of the consultation, Ofgem have firmed up their proposals for energy system reform. Key proposals are:
  - the introduction of a Future System Operator (FSO), which will provide national coordination of the energy system.
  - the introduction of Regional Energy Strategic Planners (RESPs), which will manage energy system planning, working with distribution network operators (DNOs e.g. Northern Powergrid, which operates in the region), gas distribution networks (GDNs e.g. Northern Gas Networks), and Local Authorities.
  - the production of a Central Strategic Network Plan focussing on the transmission network (on- and off-shore, including interconnectors from other countries).
  - the production of a Strategic Spatial Energy Plan aimed at informing energy network plans.
  - the revision of the queuing system for electricity grid connections at the transmission level<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.6. Of the proposed reforms, the most important for regional and local government is the proposal to establish RESPs. Indeed, engagement on the reforms to date by the Mayor and officers from the Combined Authority has focussed on this element of the proposals.
- 2.7. The significance of the proposal to establish RESPs and their interface with Local Area Energy Planning is extremely high. Previously, there has been a disconnect between infrastructure planning that takes place at the local level and the management of the energy system at a national and pan-regional level. This has resulted in a disjointed system where developments incur expensive grid reinforcement costs or delays in implementation due to the timeframes to upgrade energy infrastructure to facilitate the infrastructure.
- 2.8. RESPs if implemented correctly should have the following benefits:
  - An ability to steer infrastructure developments to those areas of regions where the existing energy infrastructure is better able to accommodate their needs.
  - Better planning of the energy system to accommodate long-term infrastructure projects.

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<sup>1</sup> This suggested reform was enacted in late 2023 through the introduction of a new system managed by National Grid Energy System Operator (ESO). To remain on the queue for connection, projects will now be required to meet delivery milestones e.g. securing planning permission and securing land rights. If projects fail to meet these milestones, National Grid ESO has the power to remove projects from the connection queue.

- 2.9. In developing their proposals for RESPs Ofgem need to ensure that the new system allows these benefits to be realised.
- 2.10. The Mayor attended a roundtable in November 2023 with other Metro Mayors to discuss Ofgem's proposals. One key discussion point at the roundtable was the decision to split England into eight RESP regions, with the boundaries of Transport for the North being used for one region which includes West Yorkshire. On the whole, the Mayors consider that these geographical boundaries are too large for the engagement required, and asked Ofgem to reconsider this decision. Mayors also requested that more information was provided on how the governance of the RESPs would work. To date, Ofgem have not responded to these requests.
- 2.11. A verbal update will be provided on next steps at the meeting as there is clearly a role for WYCA in terms of influencing Ofgem's position on energy infrastructure and the impact this will have on the development of West Yorkshire's Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs).

#### West Yorkshire Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs)

- 2.12. The relevance of the Ofgem reform is that LAEPs are key to ensuring the electricity grid infrastructure is adequately robust and flexible to handle the energy revolution with its widescale switch from centralised fossil fuel generation to renewables generated at a local level, and the electrification of heating in homes and businesses in the coming years.
- 2.13. It is significant to note that, in West Yorkshire, overall declines in electricity usage from large industrial closures over the last 50 years have left a strong foundation in place to allow the electricity grid to reach net zero. However, to fully meet net zero, the grid will require further investment in new (or increased capacity) network as well as expenditure on customer flexibility to smooth out peaks in power flows.
- 2.14. It will also need to be able to take account of a more diverse portfolio of energy generation and storage assets. For example, Northern Powergrid is already reporting a significant increase in grid-scale battery storage (around 60% of Northern Powergrid's connection pipeline involves battery storage).
- 2.15. Widescale adoption of LAEPs around the country 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. In West Yorkshire, the LAEPs will aim to help meet the regional 2038 net-zero target.
- 2.16. Some of the data inputs, modelling assumptions and outputs from LAEPs are similar to the types of work done already by Northern Powergrid in its Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES). However, the DNO is only looking at impact on the electricity network, whereas LAEPs model potential impact on the gas sector, and have the lens of being able to incorporate local priorities and detailed project data from large organisations. Northern Powergrid are highly supportive of these programmes, in part because it too is using increased local information on large projects 'in the pipeline' to refine its DFES. A

more accurate DFES (created annually) will lead to a more accurate representation of future demand on the region's electricity network and connections services, and allows it to plan investment in the network to manage the increasing electricity demand. This should lead to reduced costs and connection lead times for strategically-important projects in the future, facilitating accelerated regional decarbonisation.

- 2.17. In terms of West Yorkshire planning for the LAEPs, a bidders' day was held on 18 July 2023 with six bilateral consultancy meetings held between 18-28 July 2023. The region's LAEP proposal was presented at the bidders' day. Questions on the day and in the following bilateral meetings informed the statement of requirements for the procurement process.
- 2.18. Procurement is ongoing with the intention of starting the 18-month contract in the coming weeks. This follows a process of business case development and approval being granted for funding to progress the project.
- 2.19. This procurement would cover the production of LAEPs for four of the five local authorities in West Yorkshire. Calderdale already started its LAEP contract in February 2023, and this work will be built into the wider West Yorkshire LAEP programme.
- 2.20. Next steps for the region include collation and analysis of datasets to enable modelling, steering group engagement to clarify the scope of the LAEPs, and stakeholder engagement at a local level to ensure the LAEPs meet each district's local, place-based requirements. Final outputs from the project include four district energy infrastructure strategies, fully-costed spatial mapping, a short- and long-term project pipeline, place-based scenarios for the districts to choose from, and a digital tool to facilitate long-term planning.

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

- 3.1 The LAEPs respond to the ambition for West Yorkshire to be net-zero carbon by 2038 and the Mayoral pledge to tackle the climate emergency.

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

- 4.1 The Combined Authority's definition of inclusive growth is enabling more people and places to contribute to and benefit from economic success. The LAEPs will facilitate a level playing field in terms of renewable energy projects and retrofitting of homes and businesses by identifying the locations with the greatest need e.g. households facing fuel poverty.

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

- 5.1 As set out under point 4, the LAEPs will encourage inclusion in terms of equality and diversity by identifying locations with a greater need for support. LAs will have a role in prioritising equality and diversity when choosing the most appropriate scenario to meet local, place-based needs.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 £510,000 has been allocated for procuring a contractor to prepare the LAEPs under the Business Justification Case.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 Non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) will be required for various core stakeholders involved in data provision for the LAEPs. These include Northern Powergrid, Northern Gas Networks, and Yorkshire Water.

## **8. Staffing Implications**

- 8.1 To ensure the delivery of this business case, staffing resources are required. These requirements have been integrated into the business case approved by the Combined Authority in December 2023.

## **9. External Consultees**

- 9.1 Consultancies were invited to attend a bidders' day to discuss the West Yorkshire LAEPs and provide input on how to improve the process. Calderdale district was consulted when planning the procurement.

## **10. Recommendations**

- 10.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the report and provides feedback, focussing on how each district and advisory organisations in particular can contribute to the LAEPs.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

None.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Green Jobs Taskforce and Skills</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Felix Kumi-Ampofo, Director Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture
<b>Author:</b>	Sonya Midgley, Employment and Skills Policy Manager

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

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an overview and update on skills activity following the publication of the Green Jobs Taskforce final recommendations and seek their views on the next stages of the green skills action plan.
- 1.2 To invite Members to attend the local launch of the report.

## 2. Information

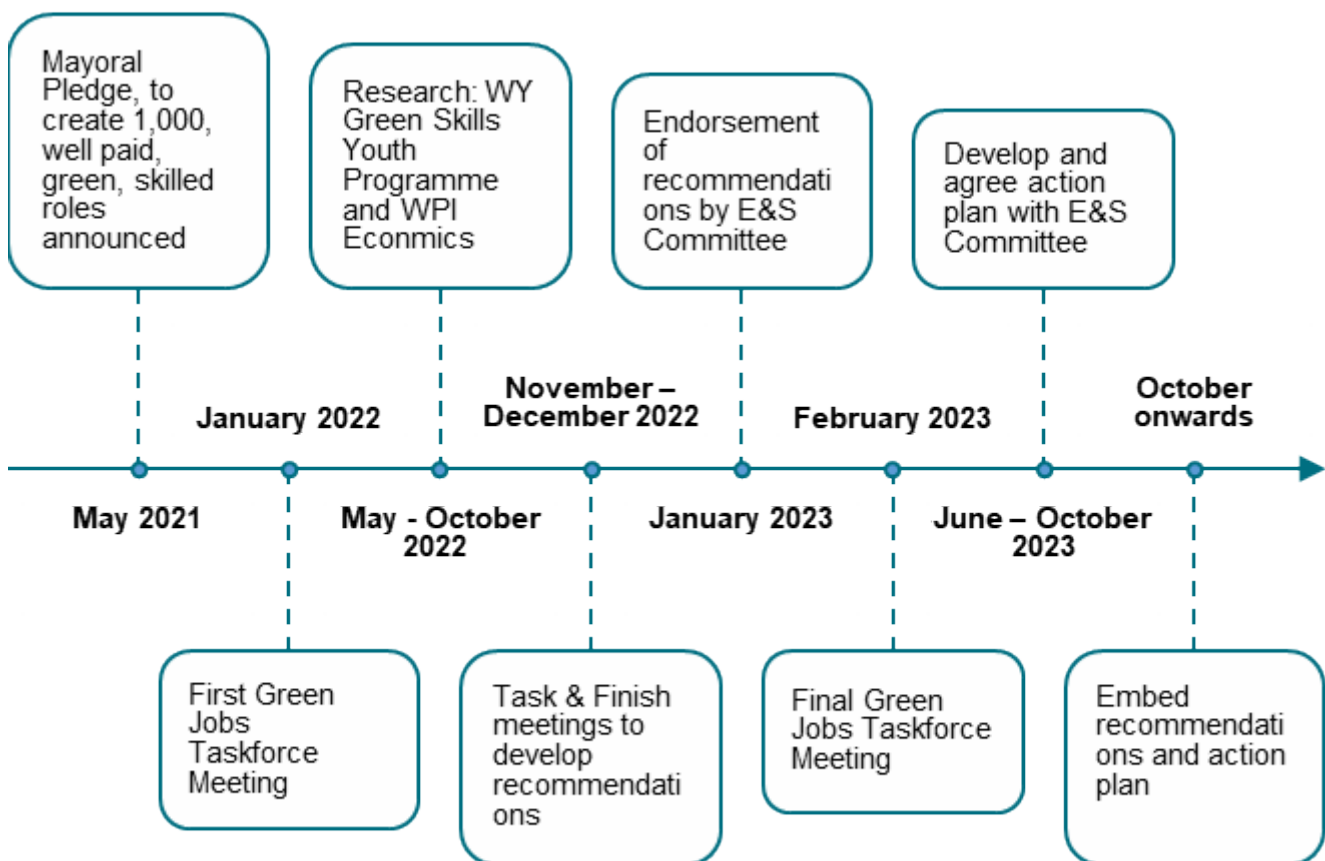
- 2.1 Members have received regular updates and provided guidance on the development of the work of the Green Jobs Taskforce and subsequent green skills action plan, including in the [Climate Pledge Update](#) paper on 24 October 2023.
- 2.2 This paper will be accompanied by a presentation at Committee and seeks to consolidate previous updates and provide a complete overview of the Green Jobs Taskforce workstream as well as the next steps (Appendix 1).

### Background

- 2.3 The Combined Authority has declared a climate emergency and has set an ambitious target for the region to be net-zero carbon by 2038, with significant progress by 2030.

2.4 In August 2021, Mayor Tracy Brabin announced early action to drive the structural changes required to transition to a net zero carbon economy and deliver inclusive, sustainable growth with the creation of a Green Jobs Taskforce. Key partners from business, education and training and the third and public sectors worked together to position the region as a leader and set out recommendations, underpinned by evidence and actions, to deliver the skills for the jobs needed to address the climate emergency.

2.5 A summary timeline of Taskforce activity can be seen below.



2.6 Based on the commissioned research as well as a number of task and finish groups with wider partners and stakeholders, the Green Jobs Taskforce created a set of ambitious recommendations and identified policy interventions for action to support businesses, individuals, educators and to maximise opportunities and minimise identified challenges of our future green economy.

2.7 Key to achieving the Taskforce's recommendations will be a package of Digital Skills, Green Skills and Skills Support for Businesses interventions approved by the [Combined Authority in June 2023](#) to support:

- Individuals – to access green careers advice and training options and job information, opportunities, and pathways.
  - Educators - support for the Further Education sector to build capacity and respond to the green skills demand.
  - Businesses - support for businesses to decarbonise via upskilling and reskilling.
- 2.8 A local celebratory event is being planned to launch the report and showcase the work of the Taskforce. West Yorkshire is the first region in the UK to create a Taskforce prioritising green jobs, skills, and training, enabling stakeholders to identify their role and to work in partnership and collaboration to achieve our ambitions for a net-zero economy. Members are invited to join the celebration event at ITV Studios on 21 February 2024 at 3.30pm. Please [complete the registration form](#), to ensure we can cater to your needs on the day.

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

- 3.1 The Green Jobs Taskforce report outlines proposed interventions that will develop the skills and employment needs of individuals and businesses in West Yorkshire to tackle the climate emergency and support the ambition to achieve net zero by 2038.

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

- 4.1 Prioritising future ready skills and supporting businesses to decarbonise and benefit from the opportunities the green economy brings are vital to achieving a fair and just transition for the region.

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

- 5.1 The final report by the Green Jobs Task Force has a specific recommendation and actions addressing specific challenges around EDI. An EqIA Stage I and II have been prepared as part of the package of support for green skills that will support delivery of the Taskforce's recommendations.

### **6. Financial Implications**

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

### **7. Legal Implications**

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

### **8. Staffing Implications**

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

## 9. External Consultees

- 9.1 Small, medium and large business organisations, Local Authority senior officers, independent training providers, colleges and universities and young people were involved in the development of the Green Jobs Taskforce report.

## 10. Recommendations

- 10.1 Members are requested to provide views on the next stages of the green skills action plan, in particular in relation to the package of support on green skills for individuals and employers.
- 10.2 To invite Members to attend the launch event of the report.

## 11. Background Documents

Climate, Energy and Environment Committee 24 October 2023: [Climate Pledge Update & Green Jobs Taskforce Report](#)

Combined Authority 22 June 2023: [Project Approvals – Investment Priority 2 – Skills and training for people](#)

## 12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Presentation on green jobs and skills



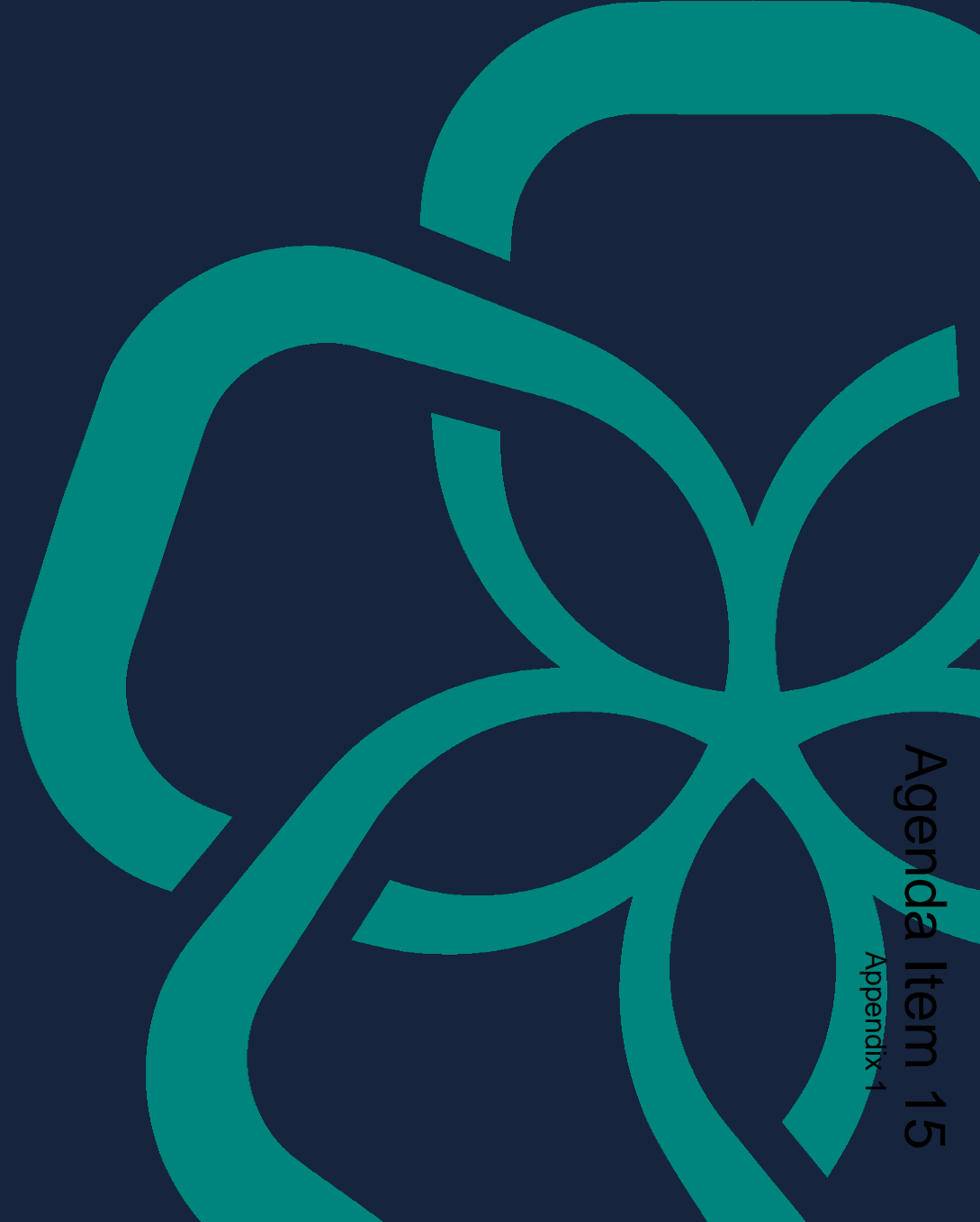
West  
Yorkshire  
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Tracy  
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Mayor of  
West Yorkshire

137

# Green Jobs and Skills

Agenda Item 15  
Appendix 1





## Inspire

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

## 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.



## 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.

# Green Jobs Taskforce

- Brought together diverse of **partners** developed deliverable **recommendations** and specific areas for action.
- Commissioned **research** to help understand the opportunity of job creation in West Yorkshire and found that under a central scenario, total <sup>139</sup>employment in the green economy is expected to double between 2020 and 2030, with net growth across all the sectoral categories
- West Yorkshire **Green Skills Youth Programme** engaged with 200 young people
- The Taskforce's final **report** was launched at the House of Lords in September

# Action Plan

## Individuals

**Give every young person access to green skills careers information advice and guidance through the Combined Authority's Go Green resources.**

Provide free training for adults to meet demand for green skills and jobs.

149

**Support the development of a sustainable regional transport network that helps to break down social mobility barriers, improve access to employment and training opportunities.**

Deliver a pilot scheme with 130 West Yorkshire primary schools that engages and inspires young people to understand green careers.

## Educators

**Establish a regional centre of excellence in environmental and sustainability training that upskills individuals and supports business leaders and their employees.**

Work with Leeds College of Building to create a regional retrofit advisory board that will engage experts, housing partners and the further education sector to work towards in creating the energy efficiency of housing and commercial buildings.

**Develop technical education qualifications with the Department for Education and the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education that address skills gaps.**

Strengthen the Green Jobs Taskforce partnership to develop a strategic response to the supply and demand issues.

## Businesses

**Support high carbon sector businesses, such as transport and housing, to give them access to skills support, training and funding.**

Create a pilot scheme to assist businesses to recruit graduates into green job vacancies.

**Work with the Government to build a stronger further education sector that delivers the green skills needed for our transitioning economy.**

Put creating new green jobs and developing skills at the heart of all new West Yorkshire Combined Authority infrastructure projects.



# Next Steps

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- Deliver a pilot scheme with primary schools that engages and inspires young people to understand green careers
- Develop and launch a co-investment approach to address green skills needs in businesses
- Work with FE to develop the capacity and capability to deliver green skills, particularly to deliver mass transit, retrofit and other major schemes

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<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Mayor's Big Climate Chat Update</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Sarah Eaton, Director of Strategy, Communications and Intelligence
<b>Author:</b>	Clare Davies, Communities, Consultation and Engagement Manager and Victoria Turton, Lead Communications and Marketing Officer

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

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an update regarding the Mayor's Big Climate Chat and the planned engagement activities.
- 1.2. To also explain the approach to engaging with children and young people as this is a key target audience for the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.

## 2. Information

- 2.1 What is the Mayor's Big Climate Chat?
- 2.2 The Mayor's Big Climate Chat launched on 16 October 2023 and is due to run until at least mid-February 2024. The end date is currently flexible, as the analysis of results is not time critical, but we will aim to complete all the face-to-face events prior to the start of the pre-election period in late March. All information is hosted on Your Voice, the Combined Authority's digital engagement website: [www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/climate](http://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/climate)

- 2.3 The Mayor's Big Climate Chat title is short to make it easier to promote but conversations will be wider than climate, with the environment and sustainability also part.
- 2.4 As the Committee is aware, the Combined Authority and its partners are working towards creating a net zero carbon region by 2038 at the latest, with significant progress by 2030. Achieving this ambition will require everyone to make fundamental changes to the way we work, live and travel. Households are responsible for around two-thirds of all harmful emissions, and therefore helping people to make positive changes will be crucial to achieving our net zero target.
- 2.5 Currently, we only have access to national data on attitudes and perceptions on climate and related issues. The Mayor's Big Climate Chat will help to provide West Yorkshire data and cost considerably less than other research options that have been explored. A survey has been developed by an internal multi-disciplinary task and finish group. The survey includes questions on a variety of themes including transport, housing, skills etc. The feedback will enable the Combined Authority to create an evidence-based behaviour change campaign as well as informing updates to the Climate and Environment Plan and other projects such as Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI).
- 2.6 As the engagement is ongoing, this report does not provide statistics or key emerging themes. At the time of writing this report (15 January 2024) we have had 579 responses to the survey. Other data collection methods (e.g. workshops and meetings) will also be used to collect qualitative feedback during early 2024.

### 3. Marketing / Promotion

- 3.1 The Mayor's Big Climate Chat was **promoted organically** up until end of December – this means utilising the CA and Mayoral owned channels. A press release was issued on November 16<sup>th</sup>, supported by a social media campaign. A toolkit was also produced for partners to enable them to promote it through their own channels (example – it was featured in Bradford Council's climate e-news). Colleagues may have also seen it on the reception screens in Wellington House.
- 3.2 We have also utilised events the Mayor has attended to promote the Chat including the **COP28 Outcome Summit** with Chris Skidmore.
- 3.3 From January 2<sup>nd</sup> onwards **paid promotion** started across Meta (Facebook and Instagram), LinkedIn, and TikTok.

Statistics available up until Jan 14<sup>th</sup>:

Meta:

- Reach: 14,451
- Impressions: 86,305
- Link clicks: 2,480
- Click through rate: 12.6

*(Stats currently unavailable for LinkedIn and TikTok due to technical issues.)*

- 3.4 Ads will be displayed across West Yorkshire at rail and bus stations, on town/city centre digital advertising boards (estimated to impact more than 3.2million people) and across local/regional radio (Greatest Hits Wakefield/ Leeds/ Bradford and Fever Fm. Combined listener reach of 254,000).
- 3.5 We'll also explore **media opportunities** for our work with young people and the in-person engagement events with the Mayor, Cllr Scullion, the Inclusivity Champion (Fatima Khan-Shah) and Mandy Ridyard (the Mayor's Business Advisor).
- 3.6 The Chat will be promoted to everyone registered on Your Voice (the CA digital engagement platform) via a bespoke newsletter in mid-January 2024. And to target our business and skills audiences, an item on the Chat will feature in our next SME newsletter.

#### 4. Activities

- 4.1 Individual elements of the Mayor's Big Climate Chat programme will include:
- A Public Attitudes and Perceptions **Survey** (live)
  - A series of informal **community conversations** will be held with the Mayor, or representatives including the Inclusivity Champion, Mayor's Business Advisor and the Chair of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, Cllr Scullion.
  - **Young people engagement**
  - Direct engagement with **climate groups** across West Yorkshire.
  - **Focus groups** – inviting people who have previously registered their interest through the Tackling Climate Emergency and Environment' page on Your Voice. We haven't yet utilised this group (over 80 people).
  - **Webinars** to reach people digitally and present our work, with the opportunity for people to ask questions and to feed in their ideas. We may also host a LEVI related webinar during this time.

#### 5. Community Conversations

- 5.1 The following meetings have been / will be arranged in early 2024:

Who	When / where	Purpose
<b>Led by the Mayor</b>		
Meeting with Young People involved in the Youth Work Unit	14 February Leeds city centre	Love your planet themed discussion

<b>Led by the Inclusivity Champion, Fatima Khan-Shah</b>		
Invitation via VCSE groups	9 February Wellington House	Open invitation to groups and their service users to come along and have broad sharing discussions– with a focus on those supporting people experiencing poverty. Broad themes/group discussions could centre on; reducing energy consumption, encouraging local food growing, improve people’s homes and insulation, access to low cost public transport, green skills and training etc.
Invitation via VCSE groups	22 February Kala Sangam, Bradford	Second session.
Women and their allies	24 January Virtual meeting	Women of West Yorkshire event. This regular network event will this time consider the climate emergency and how women can influence the change the world and West Yorkshire needs to see. The session will focus on adaptations and innovation in both home, work and travel.
<b>Councillor led meetings (Cllr Scullion or deputy)</b>		
Open invitation to groups such as: Friends of the Earth, Stop The Flow	20 February* Bankfield Museum, Halifax	Round table with climate/sustainability focused groups
Open invitation to groups such as: Leeds Parks & Green Spaces Forum, Friends of Bradford Moor Park.	28 February* Meanwood Valley Urban Farm, Leeds	Round table with parks/green spaces and nature recovery groups
<b>Business meetings</b>		
SME’s	February/early March *dates to be agreed	Online breakfast session – Discussion points could include; green skills and jobs, flood alleviation, energy costs.

\*please note that the Councillor led conversations may be subject to slight alterations depending on availability of Cllr Scullion / deputy

## 6. Young People engagement

- 6.1 We are working with the Youth Work Unit which is the strategic youth work sector development agency for the Yorkshire and Humber region that works with children and young people (mainly aged 11-18) to enable their voices and influence to be maximised locally, regionally, and nationally.
- 6.2 Many young people involved in Youth Work Unit are supported by the organisation to participate in the Regional Youth Climate Assembly, which gives them the opportunity to connect with like-minded young people passionate about climate and learn about climate interventions. We are planning to co-design activities with young people and work with them to engage with their peers. We would like young people to help us in three main areas:
- Design a survey aimed at young people as part of the Mayor's Big Climate Chat
  - Design a behaviour change campaign aimed for young people
  - Refresh of our Climate and Environment Plan (which we will be consulting on later in 2024)
- 6.3 A young people's survey will be produced by the Unit, using feedback from young people. This survey will be added to Your Voice alongside the main survey. The Youth Work Unit will also do some workshops to gain qualitative feedback. In addition, there is also an event on the 14 February involving the Mayor and the Youth Work Unit to involve young people in the climate discussions across West Yorkshire.
- 6.4 To promote the young people's survey, we are working with the young people involved to create a short video to be used on TikTok, encouraging teenagers from across West Yorkshire to complete the survey and have their voices heard.
- 6.5 The School liaison team has promoted the Mayor's Big Climate chat in the school newsletter and will share the Young People's survey with schools across West Yorkshire. There will be a window of around 1 month for schools to complete the survey (this allows time for the schools to organise their resources).
- 6.6 These interactions provide a foundation for further engagement and work with young people and schools focusing on climate and sustainability.
- 6.7 We have been asked to attend several Young People events over the coming months that we are currently working through the details.

These events include:

- Two events with links with the Youth Work Unit – a green workshop on 20 January and an Awards Ceremony with under-18 climate groups on 24 February.
- Leeds Secondary School Eco Summit 25 March 2024 - this is a school led event which potentially gives us scope to advertise the young people's climate survey (if still open). As this is during the pre-election period legal advice will need to be sought about whether officers can attend

## **7. Related Consultations**

- 7.1 A climate and environment hub has been created on Your Voice: [yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/climatehub](https://yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/climatehub). This provides details of CA led consultations with a climate and environment element and also links to relevant district council pages.
- 7.2 The hub contains information about projects such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and we will shortly be adding information about LEVI.
- 7.3 Future activity can also be hosted on this hub. The Mayor's Big Climate Chat is just the start of our engagement with local residents, businesses and key stakeholders. One option may be to carry out shorter pulse surveys on key issues coming out of the Mayor's Big Climate Chat every six months over the next few years (e.g. housing, travel, young people, flooding etc).

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

- 8.1 The Mayor's Big Climate Chat aims to understand current issues regarding this topic and identify ways that the Combined Authority can help in the future. The feedback gathered will help to shape future policies and behaviour change campaigns so will be invaluable.

## **9. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 9.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report.

## **10. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 10.1 We know that the climate and environment emergency affects some communities more than others and efforts are being made to hear from a diverse range of people from across West Yorkshire. Particular focus will be given to young people (age is a protected characteristic). An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced.

## **11. Financial Implications**

- 11.1 There is likely to be a small cost associated with organising face-to-face meetings in early 2024. This can be met from the Community Engagement Team budget.

## **12. Legal Implications**



- 12.1 Advice will be sought from the legal team regarding the pre-election period and the close date of the Chat / last date officers can attend events regarding this topic. The Communities, Consultation and Engagement Team have been asked to attend several young people related meetings, one of them is scheduled for 25 March 2024 which is likely to be in the pre-election period.

### **13. Staffing Implications**

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

### **14. External Consultees**

- 14.1 The purpose of the Mayor's Big Climate Chat is to hear from key stakeholders and the public. An extensive stakeholder list has been created.

### **15. Recommendations**

- 15.1 That committee members note this report and provide their views about the approach being taken.
- 15.2 That committee members help to promote the Mayor's Big Climate Chat.
- 15.3 That committee members attend events if interested / appropriate. Contact [yourvoice@westyorks-ca.gov.uk](mailto:yourvoice@westyorks-ca.gov.uk) for more information / arrange a discussion with an officer.
- 15.4 That a report is brought to a future meeting once the Chat has finished, and all feedback has been fully analysed.
- 15.5 That there is a future conversation about ongoing engagement beyond the Mayor's Big Climate Chat.

### **16. Background Documents**

All information regarding the Mayor's Big Climate Chat can be found here:  
[www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/climate](http://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/climate)

### **17. Appendices**

None.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Mass Transit Sustainability Strategy Update</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Luke Albanese, Director of Mass Transit
<b>Author:</b>	Stacey White, Interim Head of Mass Transit, Place and Consents

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

## 1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To update the Committee about the development of the Sustainability Strategy for West Yorkshire Mass Transit, introduced to the Committee at the October 2023 meeting and to seek endorsement of the final draft Sustainability Outcomes Framework.
- 1.2. This report also seeks agreement that the final public facing strategy document can be shared with the Committee through written representations to support the programme for public consultation for the first phase of Mass Transit.

## 2. Information

### Background

- 2.1. The Combined Authority, supported by the Environment Partner, is undertaking a review and refresh of the sustainability objectives for the Mass Transit system ready for the first phase development, building on the Mass Transit Vision 2040 and work undertaken to date.
- 2.2. West Yorkshire Mass Transit is at the Strategic Outline Business Case stage and is currently defining which corridors will form the first phase of development and identifying

the leading route options. A public consultation on Phase 1 and the route options is planned for summer 2024. It is important that the sustainability objectives for Mass Transit are defined, agreed and embedded into the project delivery as the project moves into option selection and scheme development stages. It is intended that the sustainability aspirations for Mass Transit will be consulted on in summer 2024, in the form of a public-facing Sustainability Strategy.

- 2.3. A paper was presented to the CEE committee in October 2023, which set out the methodology for developing the sustainability strategy and the emerging sustainability outcomes framework. This paper provides an update on the development of the strategy, the final outcomes framework for endorsement and an early draft of the public facing strategy for consultation in summer 2024.

#### Progress since October 2023 committee

- 2.4. The draft outcomes framework shared with the CEE in October 2023 has been subject of further consultation with the following organisations:
- District Partners (original workshop invitees)
  - Statutory Environmental and Health Bodies (e.g., Environment Agency, Historic England)
  - Delivery Partners (in particular the Business Case partner and Design Development partner)
- 2.5. Feedback received regarding the range and scope of outcomes, the ability for the project to influence them, the wording, and the prioritisation.
- 2.6. All feedback has been reviewed and addressed, and the wording of each outcome amended, in particular to ensure consistency with the Strategic Outline Business Case, the Approach to Placemaking and the EDI Strategy.
- 2.7. Following the review, the original 26 themes and 51 outcomes have been rationalised and combined with the final draft framework focussing on 20 themes, with 38 outcomes. The full sustainability outcomes framework is presented at Appendix 1.
- 2.8. In order to make sure the public-facing strategy is impactful and accessible to the public, it will focus on the highest priority outcomes that are core to the success of Mass Transit. Following the prioritisation workshops and analysis of feedback the following themes are recommended to be the priority outcomes, aligning with the messaging within the Mass Transit Vision 2040 and considering each of the pillars of sustainability (these priority themes are highlighted in green in the full framework at Appendix 1):
- *Sustainable transport* – outcomes focus on Mass Transit contribution to transformational change in travel patterns and positive integration of Mass Transit stops to adjacent spaces and active travel opportunities.

- *Carbon reduction and minimisation* – outcomes focus on minimising Greenhouse Gas emissions (including how this will be done through project delivery) and aligning Mass Transit with net zero ambitions.
- *Air Quality* - outcomes focus on role that Mass Transit can play in improving local air quality, and the design of stops to improve air quality for users.
- *Social Value, Skills and Employment* – outcomes focus on local skills and employment opportunities, supporting local businesses and voluntary enterprises and promoting high standards through construction.
- *Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion* – outcomes focus on accessible and inclusive infrastructure and contribution to fair and equitable distribution of benefits.
- *Local Development and Regeneration* – outcome focussed on supporting policy-driven regeneration and redevelopment.
- *Customer Value/Value for money* – outcome focussed on Mass Transit providing good value for money for the region and customers.

2.9. The full final sustainability outcomes framework is presented in Appendix 1.

#### Development of public facing strategy document

2.10. Building on the Mass Transit 2040 Vision document, the public facing strategy document will set out the priority outcomes and explain how Mass Transit can contribute to them.

2.11. It is proposed that the Sustainability Strategy forms part of the options consultation in summer 2024, in order to increase visibility of it with the public, to obtain feedback on the priority focus areas, and to seek input from the public and key stakeholders to inform the evidence gathering around the core areas.

2.12. The strategy document will include:

- *Overview* - why sustainability is important for Mass Transit (and how Mass Transit will contribute to sustainable transport for our Region) and the purpose of the strategy.
- *Four pillars of the strategy* – summary and introduction to themes.
- *Section for each pillar (Transport, Environment, Social, Economic)* -highlighting the priority themes and outcomes and providing narrative as to how each will be delivered.
- *Outcomes Framework* – description of wider framework and its purpose and commitment to accreditation. It is not currently proposed that the full outcomes framework will be included in the strategy, but each of the twenty themes will be woven into the narrative under the relevant pillar.

2.13. The draft strategy document is currently in development and will be shared in due course with Committee members via written submission.

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

3.1. Carbon emissions generated by transport are currently at levels that, without significant intervention and changes to processes, a net zero carbon future by 2038 will not be achievable. Road transport is the biggest contributor to roadside air pollution with cars

being the largest source of emissions. To meet the 2038 net zero target, and even with a shift to zero/low emission vehicles, analysis suggests that a reduction of total vehicle kilometres exceeding 20% is necessary, accompanied by an increase in the use of sustainable modes (walking and cycling) and public transport. Transit also has the opportunity to support improvements to air quality and contribute to carbon reduction goals by providing an attractive lower carbon, lower emission transport option. Increased capacity provided by transit will allow for additional capacity on congested corridors, which affords the opportunity to improve vehicle flows which in turn will improve air quality.

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

- 4.1. A central common theme of the Connectivity Plan, Mass Transit Vision and Approach to Placemaking as part of that, is that investment in transport accessibility will make a positive contribution to driving forward inclusive growth. Our approach to transport seeks to provide practical alternatives to the private car that will help to tackle air quality issues and help provide access to jobs and education, especially for people currently less likely to access these opportunities. Our plans particularly focus on how to support the hardest to reach communities to realise economic opportunities.

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

- 5.1. Through the Combined Authority's role in managing the delivery of the Transport Strategy, the Connectivity Plan and bidding for funding, focus will be placed on ensuring that equality and diversity needs are addressed, with a particular emphasis on improving accessibility for all.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

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

#### **7. Legal Implications**

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

#### **8. Staffing Implications**

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

#### **9. External Consultees**

- 9.1 The draft outcomes framework has been shared with all District Partners and the Statutory Environmental and Health bodies. Feedback received has been incorporated into the final framework.
- 9.2 The public facing Sustainability Strategy will be consulted on during the Options consultation for Mass Transit in summer 2024.



## **10. Recommendations**

- 10.1. That the Committee endorses the final sustainability outcomes framework for Mass Transit and priorities (see Appendix 1).
- 10.2. That the Committee endorses the direction of travel for the public facing Sustainability Strategy, and that the final Strategy document can be reviewed by the Committee through written submissions, as required to support Mass Transit first phase 'options consultation' in summer 2024, ahead of the next CEE Committee meeting.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Final draft Sustainability Outcomes Framework

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## Appendix 1 – Sustainability Objectives and Outcomes (Emerging highest priority themes shown in green)

Sustainability Pillars	Mass Transit Vision Objectives	Sustainability Themes	Sustainability Objectives and Outcomes		
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect West Yorkshire’s important places.</li> <li>• Deliver 21st Century Transport.</li> </ul>	Reliability and Capacity of Public Transport	Offer better journey times and more punctual journeys than existing public transport alternatives. Increased public transport capacity to city, town, district, and local centres.		
		Sustainable Transport	Provide an attractive alternative to private car use as part of making a contribution to transformational change in travel patterns. Mass Transit stops and interchanges are positively integrated and well connected to adjacent streets, spaces, and active travel opportunities.		
		Connected Infrastructure and Placemaking	Improved connectivity between where people live and places of work, services, and facilities.		
			Contribute to locally distinctive public realm enhancements.		
		Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help combat climate change, provide climate resilient infrastructure.</li> </ul>	Carbon Reduction and Minimisation	Integrate PAS 2080:2023 Carbon Management in Infrastructure and Buildings within project delivery. Minimise whole life GHG emissions for the project.
					Align Mass Transit with local, regional, and national net zero ambitions.
Air Quality	Contribute to an overall improvement in air quality through a reduction in private car use. Design of Mass Transit provides improved air quality for users compared to existing public transport.				
	Climate Resilience and Flood Risk			A Mass Transit system that is resilient to extreme weather under a future changed climate.	

			Infrastructure that is designed for thermal comfort for users under a future changed climate.
			Reduce flood risk across the project through sustainable drainage solutions.
		Biodiversity	Provide a net gain in biodiversity and maximise opportunities associated with the scheme for habitat restoration and connectivity.
			Maximise the provision of green and blue urban infrastructure within the scheme footprint, supporting and complementing wider green and blue infrastructure delivery within the region.
		Resources and Waste	Minimise material, energy and water use in construction and operation.
			Contribute to the ambition of zero avoidable waste and eliminate avoidable waste to landfill through construction and operation.
			Embed Circular Economy principles and business models through project delivery and operation.
Historic Environment and Townscape/Landscape	Design that is sensitive to the significance of, and seeks opportunities to improve, the setting of heritage assets and townscape/landscape character.		
Noise and Vibration	Contribute to a reduction in local noise and vibration from transportation.		
<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Support levelling up and help rebalance the economy.</li> </ul>	Social Value, Skills, and Employment	Provide local employment, apprenticeships, and training opportunities to communities through project delivery and operation.
			Supporting our regional economy through local business, small medium enterprises (SMEs), and voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSEs).
			Promote high standards and accountability through construction.
		Equity, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion	Provide fully accessible and inclusive infrastructure for all users that overcomes physical, social, and cultural barriers to accessing public transport.
			Contribute to the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits of mass transit.
		Community Engagement	Community-driven engagement reflected in project design that meets the needs of communities.
			Provide STEAM education and engagement opportunities within local communities through project delivery.
Safe by Design Infrastructure	Implement Vision Zero principles through design.		

		Health and Wellbeing	Improve health and wellbeing outcomes and contribute towards reducing health inequalities as a result of project delivery.
			Minimise wellbeing impacts to those affected by the project delivery.
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support levelling up and help rebalance the economy.</li> <li>• Support economic recovery.</li> </ul>	Local Development and Regeneration	Support policy-driven redevelopment and regeneration.
		Affordability	Ensure Mass Transit is affordable for the Region.
			Strive to make Mass Transit affordable for all users.
		Customer Value / Value for Money	Provide good value for money for the region and customers.
		Innovation, Research and Development	Implement innovation and digital solutions in project delivery to drive better outcomes, reduce costs and improve efficiencies.
			Support research and development through collaboration with regional research institutes, centres, and groups.
		Procurement and Supply Chain	Incorporate ethical and sustainable procurement throughout project delivery.
			Improve sustainability performance through collaboration with supply chain partners.

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