
Report to: Green Economy Panel

Date: 9 April 2019

Subject: **Major Projects Update**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To give an update on the progress against the Green Economy Panel's major projects and programmes.

2 Information

Energy Accelerator

- 2.1 The Energy Accelerator (Accelerator) is a key initiative under priority three of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) which aims to create a zero carbon energy economy by 2036. It is a new innovative programme. The Energy Accelerator is a team of expert advisors that are supporting the development of low carbon projects. The Accelerator offers free support to the commercial and public sector in the following areas:

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy (new and retrofitted)
- District heat networks
- Street lighting

- 2.2 A full update on the programme was given at the last Panel meeting. The pipeline of potential projects in need of support through the Accelerator continues to be developed and four projects have been approved through the initial application stages.

Better Homes Yorkshire

- 2.3 This is a City Region wide programme delivering energy efficiency and heating improvements across the City Region's homes. The projects within the programme are progressing well and to date almost 1,390 homes have had 1,469 measures installed during 2018/19, against the target of 1,320. This brings the total number of homes improved through the programme to 4,500.

- 2.4 The number of homes expected to be improved through the programme during 2019/20 has now been agreed by the programme board as 1,200. These works will be funded through a combination of Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and partner Council funds.
- 2.5 Projects within the Growth Deal funded Tackling Fuel Poverty programme in Kirklees and the four North Yorkshire councils have completed successfully. These projects have focused on standard and hard to treat measures in over 670 homes (included in the overall Better Homes KPI figures above). Kirklees have trained and expanded their internal delivery team and are continuing to roll out the measure across further areas with similar Council housing stock.

Resource Efficiency Fund

- 2.6 The Resource Efficiency Fund (REF) offers free expert advice and business support to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them to implement energy and water efficiency and waste reduction measures.
- 2.7 Table 1 summarises the most up to date key progress indicators for the Resource Efficiency Fund.

Table 1: Progress as at 28 February 2019			
	Last Update (30/11/2018)	Current	Revised Programme Target (31/10/19)
Total Business Contacts	523	580	501
Assessments Commissioned	278	307	321
Businesses Supported	177	217	303
Businesses receiving non-financial support	154	192	200
Businesses receiving information, diagnostic and brokerage support	72	83	75
Grants Completed	95	109	133

- 2.8 Overall, businesses supported are at 92 percent of target to the end of March, and are expected to be broadly on target this quarter.

REF2

- 2.9 On 28 November 2018 the Combined Authority submitted a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Outline application to continue delivery of the REF post November 2019, across the Leeds City Region. The application was made under Priority Axis 4b: Supporting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Use in Enterprise, and includes enhancements to the existing programme and new Circular Economy (CE) support for SMEs. CE is a new approach that challenges inefficient production, returning materials

back to the economy. On 13 February 2019 the Combined Authority was invited to submit a Full application for funding, with a deadline for submission of 13 May 2019.

- 2.10 The Combined Authority, on behalf of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding (YNYER) LEP, submitted a complementary Outline application to the YNYER LEP area's ERDF PA 4b call to deliver the REF into four new areas of North Yorkshire - Richmondshire, Ryedale, Hambleton and Scarborough. If successful, the Combined Authority will act as the accountable body and delivery partner for this extended REF programme in North Yorkshire. This application was also successful and the Combined Authority was invited to submit a Full application. The deadline for this submission is 12 June 2019.

District Heat Network (DHN) Programme

- 2.11 The Programme continues to support the development of a number of active heat network projects in the City Region.
- 2.12 Since the last meeting of the Panel three projects have been successful in gaining initial approval through the Energy Accelerator. The projects are Barnsley, Bradford and Southbank, Leeds.
- 2.13 Since the last meeting of the Panel five projects have secured Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) funding. The projects are Bradford, Barnsley, Huddersfield, Southbank, Leeds and a new project in Barnsley relating to social housing and mine water heat. In the case of Barnsley, Bradford and Southbank, Leeds, the Energy Accelerator will act as match funding to the HNDU funds.
- 2.14 The Leeds PIPES construction programme is now over 82 percent complete. All the underground pipework is now installed and over-ground pipework is nearing completion. The heat sales agreement with key commercial partners are progressing well, and the Combined Authority expects to transfer a four million pound contribution from its Growth Deal to the scheme early 2019/20.

Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy and Delivery Plan

- 2.15 At the November meeting of the Yorkshire West Local Nature Partnership (LNP) partners agreed to a proposal for a resource to assist in the delivery of the GBI Delivery Plan. A draft role profile for the resource is currently with the Combined Authority's HR Team for job evaluation and conversations are ongoing with partners to secure the funding for the resource.
- 2.16 Furthermore work has begun on the development of detailed work plans for each of the 12 actions identified in the Delivery Plan. Information on these work plans will be presented to a future meeting of the Panel.

Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan (ESDP)

- 2.17 See Item 7.

North East, Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub

2.18 See item 7.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no implications associated with this paper.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no implications associated with this paper.

5. Staffing Implications

5.1 There are no implications associated with this paper.

6. External Consultees

6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That the Panel note the progress against the major projects and programmes.

8. Background Documents

8.1 None.

9. Appendices

None.