

**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 27 June 2019

**Subject:** **CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction commitments and activity**

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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:	

## 1. Purpose of this report

To provide an update on Leeds City Region CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction commitment and activity.

## 2. Information

### International and national targets

- 2.1 There are increasingly urgent calls at an international, national and local level to address the impacts of climate change and to set ambitious CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction targets.
- 2.2 The catalyst for these urgent calls was the 2016 Paris Agreement which set out the need to keep global temperature rise well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to keep the rise to 1.5°C.
- 2.3 The Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) further enhanced the need to act, setting out the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C and above.

- 2.4 In light of the Paris Agreement and IPCC Special Report, and the declaration of Climate Emergencies in Local Authorities across the country, the UK Government has recently tightened its CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction target enshrined in the Climate Change Act, now requiring the UK to be net-zero<sup>1</sup> by 2050 (as opposed to an 80 percent reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050).

#### Regional target

- 2.5 The Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) from 2016 sets out the ambition to 'be a resilient, zero-carbon energy economy'.
- 2.6 The Leeds City Region Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan (ESDP) adopted by the Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership in December 2018 provided further details on the ambition.
- 2.7 While the reductions above would allow the City Region to be aligned with the Paris Agreement it does not take into account the most recent analysis from the IPCC. The Combined Authority is reviewing a City Region target in light of this (see below for more information).

#### Local targets

- 2.8 At a local level, councils across the UK have been declaring climate emergency motions<sup>2</sup> and setting local CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction targets that are more ambitious than the UK-wide target.
- 2.9 Seven of the 10 councils in the Leeds City Region (City Region) have declared climate emergencies.

#### Current activity

- 2.10 As part of the consultation process undertaken on the Leeds City Region Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan (ESDP) (adopted December 2018), the Leeds City Region LEP Board and Combined Authority approved further work to be undertaken to establish a science-based, Paris Agreement aligned regional carbon reduction target<sup>3</sup>.
- 2.11 The Combined Authority has therefore commissioned further work on setting a regional target and the year to achieve this by, the results of which are currently being finalised.

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<sup>1</sup> Net-zero requires deep reductions in emissions, with any remaining sources offset by removals of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere (e.g. by afforestation). Net emissions, after accounting for removals, must be reduced by 100%, to zero

<sup>2</sup> Climate emergency motions vary from council to council, however they all commonly recognise the magnitude of the threat posed by climate change.

<sup>3</sup> The target will need to account for the varying commitments of the councils within the City Region, while not acting as a barrier to those councils that want to be more ambitious.

- 2.12 In addition, West Yorkshire Leaders requested that greater awareness raising activities be undertaken and include: The awareness raising activity will include:
- **Sector-specific low-carbon workshops:** exploring the transformational emission reduction activity across the power, buildings, industry and transport sectors. The workshops are scheduled the end of June / beginning of July.
  - **Profile raising:** particularly associated with the results of the workshop in July alongside those measures on which partners can work together across the regional level to tackle climate change.
- 2.13 In addition to the awareness raising activity we are running a series of programmes and projects which address CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These include:
- **Energy Accelerator:** providing project development support to low-carbon energy projects e.g. district heat networks.
  - **Corporate clean growth programme:** embedding clean growth principles including CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction into everything we do as an organisation.
  - **Resource Efficiency Fund:** providing advice and support to SMEs in the City Region to reduce their energy, water and waste consumption.
  - **Zero Emission Bus Delivery Roadmap:** setting out how a sustainable bus network could be created in West Yorkshire by 2028.
  - **Leeds City Region Connectivity Strategy:** identifying key connectivity requirements that inform future investment programmes and those of our most disadvantages and excluded communities.
  - **Clean Bus Technology Fund:** retrofitting 300 buses to the latest Euro VI emission standard.
  - **Ultra-Low Emission Taxi Scheme:** installation of 88 dedicated electric taxi charging points.

#### Future activity

- 2.14 Due to previous levels of work and commitment to tackle climate within the SEP and ESDP, the Combined Authority / LEP have not declared a Climate Emergency, but are currently seeking to review and strengthen the CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction target for the City Region (as per paragraphs 2.10 – 2.11).
- 2.15 The setting of a City Region target will need to be accompanied by an understanding of the potential ways in which it could be achieved. The abatement pathways work will build on the information contained in the ESDP and will indicate a realistic decarbonisation pathway and interventions that could achieve the region's target.
- 2.16 The outputs of the abatement pathways will be reported back to a future meeting of the Combined Authority.
- 2.17 One challenging area the Combined Authority plans to work with stakeholders on is the transport sector. Carbon emissions from this sector are predicted to

increase, therefore, the Green Economy Panel and Transport Committee are establishing a new Zero Emissions Transport Working Group.

2.18 In addition to continuing to deliver the ESDP, the following activities are also planned:

- **Regular communications activity:** promoting the City Region's work and ambitions to tackle climate change. A communications plan is currently being developed for this.
- **Stakeholder event:** planned for spring 2020 and celebrating the progress made over the last year.

### **3. Inclusive Growth Implications**

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

### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

### **5. Legal Implications**

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

### **6. Staffing Implications**

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

### **7. External Consultees**

7.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

### **8. Recommendations**

8.1 That the Combined Authority note the contents of this report.

### **9. Background Documents**

None.

### **10. Appendices**

None.