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**Report to:** Green Economy Panel

**Date:** 9 July 2019

**Subject:** **Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy & Delivery Plan Update**

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1. To update the Panel on the delivery of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan, including progress in the 12 priority areas.
- 1.2. To provide initial feedback on the proposed approach to working with partners, particularly the Yorkshire West Local Nature Partnership (LNP).

## **2. Information**

- 2.1. The Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan (GBISDP) was adopted by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority in December 2018.
- 2.2. The GBISDP sets out how the ambition of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for the City Region to become a resilient, zero carbon economy underpinned by high-quality green and blue infrastructure could be achieved.
- 2.3. This report gives an update on the work which has taken place since the GBISDP was adopted and is split into two different elements:
  - Key projects and actions
  - Green and Blue Infrastructure Delivery Officer
- 2.4. An update on each element is set out below.
- 2.5. A summary of the GBISDP is set out at **Appendix 1** for reference.

### Key projects and actions

- 2.6. The GBISDP identified 12 key projects and actions. **Appendix 2** sets out a summary of current progress to deliver against these, based on the Combined

Authority's knowledge across the partnership. This is not an exhaustive list of activity and it is likely that the wider work of partners will also contribute to progressing each key project or action. A full progress update will be presented as part of the major projects update at the next Panel meeting.

- 2.7. In addition to the 12 key projects and actions, feedback from the LNP has highlighted the need to develop key success criteria for the GBISDP. Due to limited capacity across the partnership it is proposed that this work should be a priority for the Green and Blue Infrastructure Delivery Officer (see below) once in post, with the success criteria based on a robust baseline.

#### Green and Blue Infrastructure Delivery Officer

- 2.8. A key dependency of the GBISDP is the recruitment of a GBI Delivery Officer. The role would act as the central coordination point for the 12 key projects and actions identified.
- 2.9. At their November 2018 meeting the LNP advised that the accountable body for the GBI Delivery Officer should be the Combined Authority due to the organisation having overall accountability for the delivery of the GBISDP.
- 2.10. The role profile is undergoing job evaluation to determine a salary grade.
- 2.11. It is proposed that the post will be funded through contributions from partner organisations. Members of the LNP are being asked to provide an indication of whether they would be open to providing a contribution to the funding of the post.
- 2.12. A partnership agreement has been developed to cover governance and funding of the post. This is currently being considered by members of the LNP and feedback is being provided.
- 2.13. Initial comments from LNP members will be provided at the Panel meeting.

### **3. Financial implications**

- 3.1. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. However there will be financial implications in relation to the recruitment of a GBI Delivery Officer which will be addressed through future reports to the relevant organisations that are contributing to the post.

### **4. Legal implications**

- 4.1. There are no legal implications directly arising from this report. However, there will be legal implications in relation to the recruitment of a GBI Delivery Officer e.g. Partnership Agreement, which will be addressed through future reports to the relevant organisations that are contributing to the post.

### **5. Staffing implications**

- 5.1. There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report. However, there will be staffing implications in relation to the recruitment of a GBI

Delivery Officer which will be addressed through future reports to the relevant organisations that are contributing to the post.

**6. External consultees**

6.1. No external consultations have been undertaken.

**7. Recommendations**

7.1. That the Partnership note the contents of the report.

**8. Background documents**

8.1. None

**9. Appendices**

9.1. **Appendix 1** – GBISDP Executive Summary

9.2. **Appendix 2** – GBISDP Projects & Actions Progress