
Report to: Green Economy Panel

Date: 9 July 2019

Subject: **Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan**

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1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To give the Panel an update on the Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan.

2. Information

2.1 The Leeds City Region Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan (ESDP) was adopted by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Combined Authority) in December 2018. The ESDP 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.

2.2 This report gives an update on the work being undertaken:

- Carbon reduction targets
- Communication plans
- Other activities

International and national targets

2.3 There are increasingly urgent calls at an international, national and local level to address the impacts of climate change and to set ambitious CO₂ emission reduction targets.

2.4 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.

2.5 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.

- 2.6 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 CO₂ emission reduction target enshrined in the Climate Change Act, now requiring the UK to be net-zero¹ by 2050 (as opposed to an 80 percent reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2050).

Regional target

- 2.7 The Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) from 2016 sets out the ambition to 'be a resilient, zero-carbon energy economy'. The ESDP provided further details on the ambition.
- 2.8 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 City Region is therefore reviewing and strengthening its zero carbon target in light of this (see below for more information).

Local targets

- 2.9 Councils across the UK have been declaring climate emergency motions² and setting local CO₂ emission reduction targets that are more ambitious than the UK-wide target.
- 2.10 Currently, seven local authorities within the Leeds City Region have declared a climate emergency. On 27 June 2019 the Combined Authority also declared a climate emergency.

Strengthened regional target

- 2.11 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 target³. This work will also support the recent climate emergency declaration made by the Combined Authority.
- 2.12 The Combined Authority has therefore commissioned further work on setting a regional target and the year to achieve this by, the results of which will be presented during the meeting.
- 2.13 The setting of a target will need to be accompanied by an understanding of the potential ways in which it could be achieved. The abatement pathways work

¹ Net-zero requires deep reductions in emissions, with any remaining sources offset by removals of CO₂ from the atmosphere (e.g. by afforestation). Net emissions, after accounting for removals, must be reduced by 100%, to zero

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

³ 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.

will build on the information contained in the ESDP and will indicate a realistic decarbonisation pathway and interventions that could achieve the target.

- 2.14 The outputs of the abatement pathways will be reported back to a future meeting of the Panel.
- 2.15 To further support the zero carbon regional ambitions, the following awareness raising activity have / will be held:
- **Sector-specific low-carbon workshops:** exploring the transformational emission reduction activity across the power, buildings, industry and transport sectors. The following workshops have been held:
 - Power Sector: Tuesday 25 June
 - Buildings Sector: Wednesday 26 June
 - Industry Sector: Tuesday 2 July
 - Transport Sector: Wednesday 3 JulyAn initial update on these workshops will be provided at the meeting.
 - **Media Call:** This will launch our strengthened ambitions and be highly visual, featuring the Combined Authority, partner council leaders, LEP Board / GEP members and other key stakeholders. A verbal update on the finalised plan for this event will be provided at the meeting.

Other updates

ESDP top ten actions – Progress update

- 2.16 **Appendix 1** summarise the good progress being made to deliver the ESDP.
- 2.17 A number of projects were identified in the ESDP that are suitable for development through the City Region Energy Accelerator⁴. These include district heat networks, street lighting and public sector energy efficiency retrofit schemes.
- 2.18 To date four district heat network projects highlighted in the ESDP are being progressed through the Energy Accelerator⁵.

North East, Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub projects

- 2.19 There are a number of projects identified in the ESDP which are suitable for development through the Hub⁶.

⁴ The Energy Accelerator is a team of expert advisors that support the development of low carbon projects. The Accelerator offers free support to the commercial and public sector in energy efficiency, district heat networks and street lighting.

⁵ All projects are subject to the approval by the Energy Accelerator Board

⁶ The Hub provides capacity to LEPs and local authorities to undertake the initial stages of development for priority local and regional energy projects and programmes up to a point where investment can be secured. A collaborative and coordinated approach across multiple LEP areas is encouraged through the Hub.

2.20 Two projects outlined at the previous Panel meeting continue to be developed. It is hoped they will be submitted to the Hub Board for approval in July 2019 (subject to the Combined Authority and GEP approval). They are:

- Leeds City Region low carbon transport policy review;
- Financing mechanisms for upscaling domestic energy efficiency measures across the region;

A verbal update on these projects will be provided during the meeting.

Appendix 2 provides a summary of these proposed projects.

2.21 The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire are holding a meeting on Tuesday 3 September in Westminster on the region's Green Energy Future. Wallace Sampson, as the Chief Executive lead on energy, is attending and speaking. The event will represent an opportunity to talk to parliamentarians about the exciting opportunities for the region in this sector.

2.22 The transport sector is currently the highest carbon dioxide emitting sector in the Leeds City Region. This trend is expected to continue over the next 20 years with the transport sector forecast to account for over a third of all carbon dioxide emissions in the Leeds City Region.

2.23 To ensure the transport sector contributes to this regional ambition and improves local air quality the Combined Authority will establish a Zero Emission Transport Working Group. Panel members are asked to let Noel Collings know if they would like to be on this Group. It is anticipated that this group will meet for the first time in August 2019.

3. Financial Implications

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

4. Legal Implications

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

5. Staffing Implications

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

6. External Consultees

6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That the Panel note the contents of the report.

7.2 The Panel provide feedback on the proposed new strengthened city-region carbon reduction target.

8. Background Documents

None.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 –Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan – Project Progress

Appendix 2 – Energy Hub Proposed Projects