
Report to: Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

Date: 18 July 2019

Subject: **Green Economy Panel**

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1. Purpose of this report

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

2 Information

- 2.1 The Green Economy Panel (GEP) met on 9 July 2019, with papers for this Board meeting finalised prior to that date. Therefore, this item is an outline of the agenda items due to be discussed at the GEP meeting. A verbal update on the outcomes of the meeting will be provided at this Board meeting.
- 2.2 The Panel discussed the following:
- Northern Gas Network's (NGN) Business Plan
(This item outlined NGN's next five year business plan).
 - Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)
(This item updated the Panel on the City Region's progress to develop the LIS. A presentation on the initial findings of the evidence base supporting the LIS's development was also given).
 - Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan (GBISDP)
(This item provided an update on progress towards delivering the GBISDP)
 - Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan (ESDP)
(This item provided an update on progress towards delivering the ESDP – see paragraph 2.3).
 - Major Projects Update
(This item provided an update on the progress against the Panel's major projects and programmes).

Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan

2.3 A summary of the recent ESDP work being carried is outlined below:

International and national targets

- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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

- 2.8 The Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) from 2016 sets out the ambition to 'be a resilient, zero-carbon energy economy'.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 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

- 2.11 At a local level, 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.

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.

- 2.12 Seven of the councils in the Leeds City Region (City Region) have declared climate emergencies. The Combined Authority on 27 June 2019 also declared a climate emergency.

Current activity

- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 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.
 - **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.
- 2.16 A full verbal update on the recent events and new proposed city region carbon reduction target will be provided at the meeting.
- 2.17 In addition to the awareness raising activity we are running a series of programmes and projects which will help deliver the ESDP. 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 CO₂ 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.

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.

- **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.

A full update on all of the ESDP projects being delivered will be summarised in the next GEP update to this Board.

2.18 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.

2.19 To ensure the transport sector contributes to the regional zero carbon ambition and improves local air quality the Combined Authority will establish a Zero Emission Transport Working Group. This will be made up of Green Economy Panel members and Transport Committee members. It is anticipated that this group will meet for the first time in August 2019.

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 contents of this report.

8. Background Documents

8.1 None.

9. Appendices

None.