

**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 10 October 2019

**Subject:** **Tackling the Climate Emergency**

**Director:** Alan Reiss, Director Policy, Strategy and Communications

**Author(s):** Noel Collings and Jacqui Warren

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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

- 1.1 To seek endorsement of the Combined Authority's work to tackle the climate emergency and promote clean growth, in pursuit of the Leeds City Region becoming net zero-carbon.

## 2. Information

- 2.1 The Combined Authority approved the Leeds City Region Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan (ESDP) in December 2018. It aims to dramatically reduce the City Region's carbon emissions. It will not be easy and will require coordinated action by local government, industry, business and people of all ages. This is a programme of work that will be delivered in a phased approach, with short term projects and longer term, whole system actions.

### Initial phases

- 2.2 In line with most of the region's local authorities, the Combined Authority formally declared a climate emergency (27 June 2019) and, in consultation with partners, strengthened the city region's ambition to become net zero-carbon by 2038, with significant progress made by 2030. The ESDP will be

updated to reflect this new target and will act as the delivery mechanism to address the City Region’s climate emergency.

2.3 The scale of the task ahead must not be underestimated with a 14.5 percent reduction in emissions required year-on-year and regional emissions halving every five years (Tyndall Centre 2019). Meeting this challenge now requires collective action from across all sectors and will require us all to change the way we live. There is a need for immediate action coupled with the need for long term strategic planning and delivery. This work must be supported by a robust evidence to ensure we can make significant progress to achieve net carbon zero by 2038, and with significant progress by 2030. Table 1 outlines some of the recent work the Combined Authority has carried out:

Engagement:

Activity	Description
Sector-specific low-carbon workshops	Held 4 workshops in late June / early July and identified over 50 transformational actions that could enable the City Region to meet its net zero-carbon ambition. Attended by over 150 individuals from across the public, private and third sector.
LCR Climate Coalition & Pledge	Launched the Coalition and Pledge. The Coalition will act as a combined, powerful collective working together to create a net zero-carbon City Region.
Media call	Launched (10 July) the strengthened City Region target and Leeds City Region Climate Change Coalition and Pledge.

Recent project development support:

Activity	Description
Energy Accelerator	<p>11 low / zero carbon projects are receiving free project development support through the Energy Accelerator (including several district heat networks):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leeds PIPES (phases 2 and 3)</li> <li>• Barnsley Civic Quarter</li> <li>• Bradford City Centre</li> <li>• Halifax Town Centre</li> </ul> <p>And a range of energy efficiency projects on the public and NHS estate.</p> <p>Projects will then be installed by September 2021.</p>
Domestic Energy Efficiency Financing Models	Through the North East, Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub the Combined Authority is commissioning consultancy support to identify the financial models that will enable domestic energy efficiency activity to be scaled up and delivered at pace (city-regional scale). This will identify ways to strengthen the current

Activity	Description
	Better Homes Programme that provides energy efficiency improvement works to households in the City Region.
REF and REF2	Resource Efficiency Fund (REF) offers SMEs free hands-on business support and up to 50% capital grant funding of up to £10,000 to help them save money and resources. The scheme ends in December 2019. The Combined Authority has therefore applied for ERDF funding for create a second Resource Efficiency Programme (RE-BIZ). Subject to funding, this new programme will also include circular economy principles and practices.
H21	Continued support for the development and delivery of the H21 project, led by Northern Gas Networks
Hydrogen	Supported a £32m University of Leeds Strength in Places Hydrogen Corridor proposal

Building evidence to support achieving the zero carbon target:

Activity	Description
Carbon Abatement Pathways	The Combined Authority is commissioning consultancy support to identify a carbon emissions reduction pathway(s) that will enable the City Region to meet its net zero-carbon target by 2038 with significant progress made by 2030. This will highlight the essential actions required.
Domestic Energy Efficiency Financing Models	Through the North East, Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub commissioning consultant support to identify the financial models that will enable domestic energy efficiency activity to be scaled up and delivered at pace (city-regional scale).
Transport Emissions Reduction Pathways	Through the North East, Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub commissioning consultant support to identify the different emissions reduction pathways that the transport system could take to contribute to achieving the City Region net zero-carbon target.
Clean Growth Audit	Identify the carbon and energy intensive industries in the City Region.

#### Further immediate opportunities for District Partners

- 2.4 There is an immediate opportunity for all local authorities to align to, and work more closely with the Combined Authority to address their local climate emergencies through a range of current projects. See **Appendix 1** which includes a wider range of Combined Authority and externally supported projects and **Appendix 2** which includes Combined Authority specific projects.

- 2.5 A meeting of the Green Economy Officer Group (GEOG<sup>1</sup>) was held on 12 September to explore how all the City Region's local authorities can begin to work more closely on the Climate Emergency. Ideas to be explored will be:
- regional housing-related energy efficiency and fuel poverty programmes
  - zero carbon planning
  - procurement
  - zero emission fleets
  - decision making, and
  - Carbon literacy training.

#### West Yorkshire Combined Authority Corporate Approach to Clean Growth

- 2.6 In addition to this city-regional work, the Combined Authority has developed a new corporate approach to embedding clean growth, including reducing carbon emissions and tackling the climate emergency. It includes adopting a new clean growth policy, containing a set of principles for all staff to use, and a detailed action plan outlining what the Combined Authority will do as an organisation over the next two years. It covers the organisation's plans to reduce the direct environmental impact of how it works and behaves, as well as ensuring clean growth is embedded in proposals for projects to be delivered across the region in pursuit of corporate priorities. **See Appendices 3 (Policy), 4 (Plan on a Page) and 5 (Action Plan) for full details.**
- 2.7 Actions include:
- Refurbishing Wellington House to include the inclusion of a 25 kilowatt solar panel array, high efficiency LED lighting, daylight sensing and presence/absence controls and insulation, EV charging for two cars and aspiring to achieve an EPC rating of B for the building.
  - Saving energy and carbon emissions by the introduction of the new IT technology being deployed across the authority
  - Building on a reduction in energy consumption of 34 percent over the past +5 years, developing a Corporate Asset Management Plan (AMP) that embeds clean growth principles and explores higher standards of energy efficiency / renewable energy across the estate.
  - Adopting a new Travel Policy and guidance on how to make sustainable travel choices for business use.
  - Ensuring 100 percent of all our redundant office ICT equipment and office furniture is diverted from landfill via reuse or recycling.
  - Replacing existing cleaning products with sustainable and eco-friendly versions.
  - All printing paper to be sourced from sustainable sources and recycled

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<sup>1</sup> This is a group of officers (energy, sustainability, housing, policy officers) working on climate / green issues from across the Leeds City Regions' Local Authorities.

- Building on the recent work to strengthen how clean growth and climate change impacts are considered as part of all new schemes that come through the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework.
- We will reduce the environmental impact of our services, projects and programmes through making sustainable choices on the goods and services we procure.
- Embedding clean growth actions across our City Region services and policies.

See **Appendix 5** for the full list of actions. Many of the proposed actions will have financial implications, for example where procuring the lowest carbon impact option involves additional cost. Combined Authority officers will factor this impact into proposed business plans for future years, and Members will receive advice on costs when considering future decisions.

2.8 An immediate action the Combined Authority has taken is to ensure all decisions we make include clean growth and climate change impacts. The Combined Authority:

- has strengthened how clean growth and climate change impacts are considered as part of all new schemes that come through the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework (Decision point 1 and 2)
- now requires all reports to include clean growth implications, including climate change qualitative impact assessments/considerations
- will review decision point 2 onwards of the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework and continue to strengthen clean growth considerations, including climate change impacts
- is developing a robust quantifiable methodology for assessing all new schemes predicted carbon emissions/wider clean growth impacts. This will include a review of all existing Combined Authority schemes and additional resource to support the development and implementation of the new quantifiable assessments. This will take up to a year to implement so as an interim solution schemes seeking approval from the Combined Authority will have to include a qualitative impact assessments/considerations only.

#### Next steps to become a net zero-carbon Leeds City Region

2.9 The Combined Authority will now build on the above work. **Appendix 6** is a summary of the work to be undertaken over the next year:

- **Communications and engagement:** ensure stakeholders and the wider City Region remain aware of the work that is taking place.
- **Evidence base – net zero-carbon pathways:** determine the contribution the different sectors (power, buildings, industry, transport, and land use) will make towards achieving the net zero-carbon target and the interventions that should be implemented. This work aims to be completed by end of 2019.
- **Project development and delivery:**
  - Build the LCR Climate Coalition
  - Hold a Zero Carbon Summit

- Deliver ~ 10 ESDP projects per year
- Secure new resources to deliver prioritised new actions from the workshops (para 2.3 – see table)
- Incorporate the results of the Carbon Abatement Pathways work into the ESDP.
- The newly established Zero Emissions Transport Working Group to develop a programme of work that will enable transport to contribute fully to delivering the net zero-carbon target.

### **3. Clean Growth Implications**

- 3.1 The work outlined in this report directly relates to the clean growth agenda and allows the Combined Authority and the wider Leeds City Region to lead and accelerate clean growth. It documents the work that the Combined Authority is undertaking both corporately and with its partners across the Leeds City Region. As such the work outlined in the report above will have a positive effect on the clean growth agenda as projects will:
- reduce carbon emissions by reducing energy
  - reduce carbon emissions by generating local low / zero carbon energy
  - contribute to the delivery of a low emission transport system
  - increase the City Region’s resilience to current and future climate change
  - reduce flood risk / build climate resilience
  - integrate green and blue infrastructure

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

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

### **5. Financial Implications**

#### City Region

- 5.1 Given the scale of the projects identified in the ESDP there are likely to be financial implications for the Combined Authority and partners. Each project as it develops will be subject to a robust business case. Exploring and securing funding will also form a large part of this work.

#### Corporate Clean Growth Programme

- 5.2 There is a resource implication associated with planned work in paras 2.8-9 above and relating to strengthening how clean growth and climate change impacts are considered as part of all new schemes that come through the Combined Authority.
- 5.3 Additional resources will be needed to allow the Combined Authority to deliver its Clean Growth Programme and elements it is responsible for in the ESDP (actions as per Appendix 1, 2 and 3). These pressures will be factored in to the Combined Authority’s business planning process for 2020/2021.

## **6. Legal Implications**

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

## **7. Staffing Implications**

7.1 Additional resources will be needed to allow the Combined Authority to deliver its Clean Growth Programme and elements it is responsible for in the ESDP (see actions as per Appendix 1, 2 and 3). Additional resource asks are being addressed through the Combined Authority's business planning process for 2020/2021.

## **8. External Consultees**

8.1 The Green Economy Officer Group and Green Economy Panel have been closely involved in the development of the ESDP and recent City Region Workshops.

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 That the Combined Authority endorses the work to promote clean growth and tackle the climate emergency.

## **10. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **11. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Recent Combined Authority and Externally Supported Activity

Appendix 2 – Current Support Available Through the Combined Authority

Appendix 3 – Clean Growth Policy

Appendix 4 – Clean Growth Action Plan Summary

Appendix 5 – Clean Growth Action Plan

Appendix 6 – Next steps to delivering a net zero-carbon Leeds City Region