
Report to: Green Economy Panel

Date: 22 October 2019

Subject: **Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan and Tackling the Climate Emergency**

Director(s): Alan Reiss, Director Policy, Strategy and Communications

Author(s): Noel Collings and Jacqui Warren

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan with a focus on the recent Climate Declarations and initial next steps to become a net zero-carbon Leeds City Region.

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.
- 2.2 The Panel received a full update on the ESDP at their previous meeting. This paper focusses on the recent activities surrounding the City Region declaring a Climate Emergency.

Activity - Initial phases

- 2.3 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 2030¹. 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).

¹ On 10 July a Media Call was held where the City Region announced its strengthened regional target to become a net zero-carbon City Region by 2038, with significant progress made by 2030. The event also launched the Leeds City Region Climate Change Coalition and Pledge. See [link](#).

- 2.4 The ESDP will be updated to reflect these recent changes and new strengthened target. It will be the delivery mechanism for the Combined Authority / LEPs Climate Emergency commitments. There will be some actions that need to happen in the short term, but these need to be balanced with longer term strategic thinking, planning and further research and enabling activity to ensure we can make significant progress to achieve net carbon zero by 2030.
- 2.5 To support the early phases of delivering the ESDP (and Climate Emergency), and as part of Combined Authority's planned communications on creating a net zero-carbon City Region, four sector-specific low-carbon workshops were run with stakeholders in early-summer. These workshops covered the power, buildings, industry, and transport sectors. Over 150 businesses and civic organisations attended the workshops.
- 2.6 The final report on the outputs of the workshops are attached in **Appendix 1**. A prioritisation exercise will be carried out and based on the results of a net zero-carbon pathways study. Where relevant, prioritised actions will be fed into a revised ESDP. See paragraph 2.12 for more details

Immediate opportunities

- 2.7 Eight of the nine Local Authorities across the City Region have declared climate emergencies, and some have strengthen / committed to local carbon reduction targets and the development of either council or area-wide action plans. There is great variation across the City Region in terms of targets and the level of fully developed action plans. See **Appendix 2** for a summary of the City Region's Declarations.
- 2.8 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 3** which includes a range of Combined Authority and externally supported projects and **Appendix 4** which includes Combined Authority specific projects.
- 2.9 A meeting of the Green Economy Officer Group (GEOG) 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. Initial, short term ideas included collaborating on regional housing related energy efficiency and fuel poverty programmes, zero carbon planning, procurement, zero emission fleets, decision making and carbon literacy training. This work will be explored in detail through small specific working groups. The West and North Yorkshire Business Rates Pool has also allocated £100,000 to support collaborative work to tackle the Climate Emergency.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Corporate Approach

- 2.10 In addition to this city-regional work, the Combined Authority has been developing its initial corporate approach to embedding clean growth, including reducing carbon emissions and tackling climate change. This is how the Combined Authority will play its role in helping the City Region to deliver the

ESDP and address the Climate Emergency. It is also the mechanism for delivering the Combined Authority's Corporate Plan priority to support clean growth² ([Corporate Plan 2019/20](#)). It includes a new clean growth policy and set of principles for all staff to use and a detailed action plan outlining what the organisation will do to embed clean growth into its practices and decision-making processes over the next two years. See **Appendix 5 and 6**.

- 2.11 One immediate action taken is to strengthen how clean growth and climate change impacts are considered as part of all new schemes that come through the Combined Authority and its Assurance Framework. All Combined Authority reports now require a clean growth qualitative assessment and, over the next 6-12 months, a robust quantifiable methodology for assessing all new schemes predicted carbon emissions/wider clean growth impacts will also be implemented.

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

- 2.12 There is a need to now build on the initial activity and keep momentum going to galvanise support and commence and accelerate delivery against the ambitious regional target set out in the ESDP. Some actions need to happen in the short term, whilst a range of other work is also needed to aid longer term strategic thinking and including further research to understand how to decarbonise the city region in key sectors. Therefore there are some shorter term actions partners can begin to work together on whilst the City Region also lays the foundations for longer term success by 2030.
- 2.13 **Appendix 7** is a summary of the work packages planned by the Combined Authority to assist the City Region meet its targets. Including:
- **Communications and engagement:** ensure stakeholders and the wider City Region remain aware of the work that is taking place to work towards the strengthened regional target. Immediate updates will also be provided to City Region Leaders, Directors of Development, Green Economy Panel and wider LEP Board.
 - **Evidence base – net zero-carbon pathways:** commence further work to determine the contribution the different sectors (power, buildings, industry, transport, and land use) could make towards the City Region net zero-carbon target and the interventions that should be implemented. This will set out the scale of the challenge and the key interventions per sector that will contribute to achieving the overall target. This work aims to be completed by spring 2020.
 - **Project development and delivery:**
 - Deliver existing work through the ESDP including those projects that are being developed by the Energy Accelerator (11 projects), and Energy Hub (transport emission reduction pathways; financing models for domestic energy efficiency measures) and many others across the City Region. This work is ongoing.

² Clean growth is growing the regional income whilst cutting greenhouse gases- including carbon dioxide.

- Update of City Region Energy Delivery Plan to reflect the outcomes (new actions) from the workshops (see paragraph 2.4) and from the net zero carbon pathways and commence development of a prioritised list of these actions to deliver with Coalition partners
- Once the net zero carbon pathways work has been completed and the workshops outcomes prioritised, the Energy Delivery Plan will be revised and presented to the GEP and LEP for endorsement and the Combined Authority for approval (including financial and staffing implications).
- Establish the Zero Emissions Transport Working Group and develop a programme of work that will enable transport to contribute fully to delivering the net zero-carbon target. The group comprises members from both the Transport Committee and Green Economy Panel, and met on 30 September 2019.
- **Financing and resourcing:** work has commenced to develop a Funding and Resources Plan including a review of the resources and funding needed to deliver the accelerated programme of projects within the work outlined above.
- **Local Authority support:** including the identification of joint opportunities to collaborate and work together in response to the climate emergency declarations - see paragraph 2.8.
- **Corporate Clean Growth Programme:** see 2.9 – 2.10 above.

3. Financial Implications

City Region

- 3.1 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

- 3.2 Additional resources will be needed to allow the Combined Authority to deliver its Clean Growth Programme and elements it is responsible for. Additional resource asks are being addressed through the Combined Authority's business planning process for 2020/2021.

4. Legal Implications

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

5. Staffing Implications

- 5.1 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. Additional resource asks are being identified through the Combined Authority's business planning process for 2020/2021.

6. External Consultees

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

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That the Panel notes and comments on the information provided.

8. Background Documents

Links to relevant background documents are included in the report.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1	Summary of the Towards Zero Carbon Workshops
Appendix 2	Summary of the City Region's Climate Declarations
Appendix 3	Climate change action in the Leeds City Region
Appendix 4	Current support available through the Combined Authority to help with the Climate Emergency
Appendix 5	Clean Growth Action Plan
Appendix 6	Clean Growth Action Plan - One Page Summary
Appendix 7	Summary of next steps to deliver the ESDP