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

Date: 10 June 2020

Subject: **Green Economy Panel**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board with a progress report on significant areas of activity related to the Green Economy Panel (GEP) and tackling the Climate Emergency.

2 Information

GEP meeting

- 2.1 Due to the COVID-19 outbreak the GEP's planned meeting on 7th April was cancelled. An informal, virtual, meeting went ahead to ensure Panel members were up to date on the activity underway relating to tackling the Climate Emergency. This report provides a summary of this work.

Tackling the Climate Emergency: Background

- 2.2 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 is very challenging and will require coordinated action by local government, industry, business and people of all ages, and needs to be supported by significant funding and resources.
- 2.3 In line with most of the region's local authorities, the Combined Authority declared a climate emergency (27 June 2019) and, using a science-based approach, in consultation with partners, strengthened the City Region's ambition to become net-zero carbon by 2038, with significant progress made by 2030. It is proposed that we update the ESDP to create a **Climate Emergency Strategy and Delivery Plan**, incorporating the existing work of the ESDP but also reflecting this new target and additional work required to meet it. This refreshed strategy will act as the delivery mechanism to address the City Region's climate emergency

New Emission Reduction Pathways

- 2.4 Meeting this new target and challenge requires urgent collective action from across all sectors. This must be supported by a robust evidence base to ensure we can make significant progress towards achieving net-zero carbon.
- 2.5 To determine how to meet the 2038 target, the Combined Authority has commissioned a study to identify potential carbon emission reduction pathways. This will highlight the contribution different sectors need to make and the interventions that need to be implemented if the net zero target is to be achieved.
- 2.6 The study will:
- Task 1 - develop emission reduction pathways for the power, buildings, industry, transport, and land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sectors that enable Leeds City Region to meet their respective emission reduction.
 - Task 2 - Produce a fully costed implementation roadmap for the Leeds City Region and North and West Yorkshire based on the outputs of Task 1.
 - Task 3 - Produce policy recommendations and an action plan for Leeds City Region that will deliver the activity identified in the roadmap.
- 2.7 This work is underway. However, the current situation relating to COVID 19 is having a significant impact on plans to engage and consult with stakeholders on the findings of this work and on the potential preferred pathways to achieve the net zero carbon target. The planned work and emerging results will now be tested with partners between January – December 2020. Subject to resourcing, the revised stakeholder engagement plans include:
- Regular virtual 1:1s with local authorities and officer workshops
 - Various sector specific stakeholder surveys and webinars (June - September)
 - Public consultation exercise (online) + 4 x events (subject to social distancing rules) (September - December)
 - All LEP panels will also receive a paper on how they can start to consider tackling the climate emergency and consider using the findings of the pathways work to inform policy recommendations and the action plan for Leeds City Region (see item 9)
- 2.8 It is proposed that over the summer and autumn the finalised preferred pathway, or prioritised actions (if a preferred pathway cannot be identified) policy recommendation and Climate Emergency Delivery Plan are finalised with stakeholders. A paper outlining the options for endorsement by the Combined Authority will come forward early in 2021.

Other Tackling the Climate Emergency updates

- 2.9 A summary of the other major GEP projects supporting the region to tackle the climate emergency are outlined below (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Leeds City Region Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan**
 There are 39 projects within the Delivery Plan, 20 are underway or completed, the rest are on hold, pending the results of the pathways work above.
- Leeds City Region Energy Accelerator**
 The Energy Accelerator is a team of expert advisors that are supporting the development of low carbon projects. The Accelerator has been operating for 18 months and is on track to exceed its interim targets. 14 low carbon projects are receiving support, including energy efficiency retrofit projects, district heat projects and street lighting projects.
- Better Homes Yorkshire**
 Various Councils within the City Region continue to deliver locally led energy efficiency and fuel poverty programmes including Warm Homes Funded projects. The North East, Yorkshire and Humber (NEYH) Energy Hub, led by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, is supporting the Scaling up Northern Retrofit project. The purpose of the project is to develop new energy efficiency retrofit programmes in our homes, including better data on the NEYH regions' housing stock and ways to improve levels of energy efficiency. This work aims to create a detailed pipeline of projects for improving domestic energy efficiency and thermal performance in-line with regional or national targets. Over nine billion pounds has been committed in the Conservative Manifesto for improving energy efficiency in buildings. This work will allow the region's local authorities and combined authorities to be ready with a pipeline of projects to bid for this funding expected in 2021 onwards.
- Resource Efficiency Fund**
 The Resource Efficiency Fund (REF) closed on 31 December 2019. It offered free expert advice and business support to 285 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them to implement energy and water efficiency and waste reduction measures. An estimated 2,422 tCO₂ savings per annum (over 7.6 million kWh of energy savings) have been made through grant supported improvements, with estimated savings to the businesses of £663,241 per annum. The evaluation of the programme estimated that it delivered £5.34 in net GVA for every £1 of expenditure, providing "excellent value for money". RE-Biz is a new programme that started on 1 January 2020, that will build on and enhance the current Resource Efficiency Fund delivered by the Combined Authority.
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority – Tackling the Climate Emergency Action Plan**

In addition to this city-regional work, the Combined Authority developed a new corporate approach to embedding clean growth and tackling the climate emergency in September 2019. Work is now ongoing to deliver the Action Plan. One early action taken was to strengthen decision making. The Combined Authority is currently procuring consultancy support to develop a strengthened, robust, quantifiable methodology for assessing all

new schemes predicted carbon emissions. This will include a review of all existing Combined Authority capital schemes and additional resources to support the development and implementation of the new quantifiable assessments.

COVID 19

2.10 In light of COVID-19 a high-level delivery risk assessment has been carried on the schemes above. All schemes are being regularly monitored for delivery impacts.

Scheme	Description	Risk RAG
Tackling the Climate Emergency – Emission Reduction Pathways (ERP)	Task 2 and 3 are being revised to ensure some level of stakeholder engagement and consultation can take place.	Delayed
ESDP	This is to be refreshed but is dependent on the completion of ERP	Delayed
Energy Accelerator	Project Sponsors have indicated the risk of delays and potential slippage due to restricted access to restrictions on site visits. At the same time, potential Project Sponsors are exhibiting caution when deciding on committing budget to capital investments.	Delayed
Better Homes Yorkshire	No access to homes for surveys and works to be carried out. All works paused.	Delayed

RE-BIZ	No access to sites to carry out audits. Also hard to engage with businesses at the moment.	Delayed
Delivery RAG risk rating - On track – Green, Delayed – Amber, Cancelled - Red		

2.11 The GEP did discuss the opportunities that tackling the Climate Emergency can play in supporting the region’s economic recovery. When considering how to stimulate our economy, and once the pandemic is brought under control, efforts to safeguard economic stability can be supported by a range of green stimulus that will help also protect the environment and tackle the Climate Emergency. They have a strong role to play in boosting jobs and economic growth while also supporting and enabling an inclusive, healthy, clean and resilient transitions. A paper will return to the GEP’s next meeting. It is also being considered by the new Economic Recovery Board, which has identified carbon and environment as a key priority.

Clean Growth Implications

3.1 The work outlined in this report is vital to ensuring that the city region understands how it can create clean growth by decarbonising key sectors by 2038, with significant progress by 2030. It will create a roadmap and action plan for the city region to work towards and will allow the Leeds City Region Climate Coalition to be built to ensure rapid delivery.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 Given the scale of the projects identified in the ESDP, and scale of the challenge to be outlined in the results of the emissions reduction pathways study, there will be significant financial implications for the Combined Authority and stakeholders/partners. Exploring and securing funding will form a large part of the work the LCR Climate Coalition being developed.

4.2 This work will also need to be reviewed and prioritised considering COVID-19 and the economic recovery plans that are being developed.

5. Legal Implications

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

6. Staffing Implications

6.1 Given the scale of the projects identified in the ESDP, and scale of the challenge to be outlined in the results of the emissions reduction pathways study, there will be significant resourcing implications for the Combined

Authority and stakeholders/partners. Exploring and securing resources to deliver the work required will be a key task of the Leeds City Region Climate Coalition that will be developed this year.

7. External Consultees

7.1 Green Economy Panel.

8. Recommendations

8.1 That the Board notes the progress being made to tackle the Climate Emergency.

9. Background Documents

9.1 None

10. Appendices

10.1 None