
Report to: Green Economy Panel

Date: 7 July 2020

Subject: **Economic Recovery Plan – Environment and Carbon Priority**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To give the Panel the opportunity to help shape and develop the emerging Economic Recovery Plan for West Yorkshire.

2 Information

Background

- 2.1 The full implications of COVID-19 on the region and its economy are still to be understood. However, it is already clear that it will have a significant long-term impact. At a city region level, work is taking place both to support the immediate response and to begin to develop what might be required in recovery.
- 2.2 Although it is too soon to define what will happen to the economy over the coming months, our response work and recovery planning to date has responded to significant evidence and intelligence gathered on a number of important issues being collected and collated in a weekly published monitoring report. Key issues raised to date include:
- Cash flow and immediate access to finance
 - Implications for employment, self-employment and the skills system
 - Lockdown issues related to output and activity
 - Supply chains and particularly the need for PPE and other medical equipment and services
 - Pressures for the transport system and on town/city centres
- 2.3 A recent [COVID-19 paper](#) that went to the LEP Board provides a full update on the response work carried out to date by the Combined Authority / LEP. This work is being overseen by a new West Yorkshire Economic Recovery

Board, which is a working group of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (CA) and brings together the region's local authority leaders with representatives from key partnerships and stakeholders. At their first meeting on 30 April 2020, the Board agreed a strategic vision for recovery with three priorities:

1. developing resilient and thriving businesses, boosted by innovation, high skills, and entrepreneurialism;
2. developing an inclusive economy that provides people with a decent standard of living;
3. promoting environmental sustainability in all parts of the region.

2.4 It will be important for all committees and this panel to contribute to this work. There is an environment and carbon workstream that will require this Panel to help shape and develop the contents.

Recovery Product Development

2.5 Although response activity will continue for some time to come, businesses and individuals are rightly looking towards what next and how the economy will recover post-COVID-19. At the City Region level, work has commenced at pace to create an economic recovery plan (see background), acknowledging that any plan will need to be updated as further information, intelligence and decision making occurs. As outlined in the annexed document, the approach for this work is focussed on a four-stage cycle:

1. Data and intelligence,
2. Scenarios,
3. Narratives
4. Products and programme.

2.6 There are current 5 streams of work. These include:

1. Business, Innovation and Trade
2. Employment & Skills
3. Inclusive Growth
4. Environment and Carbon
5. Infrastructure and Capital projects

Environment and Carbon

2.7 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 transition. Such schemes have also been found to yield more jobs and a better return on public investment (Oxford University). Work is therefore being fed into the West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Board on this and includes themes such as capitalising on green behaviours seen during lockdown, accelerating / reprioritising clean physical infrastructure such as domestic energy efficiency programmes and clean

energy generation, new training and skills programmes, green business support and avoiding incentivising carbon intensive practices.

2.8 A remote session on the emerging plan was held for the Panel on 23 June 2020 and to ensure they can shape and develop the environment and carbon elements of the Recovery Plan.

2.9 Combined Authority Officers at the meeting will provide an update on the Plan's development and give the Panel further opportunity to discuss and co-design plans.

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 The Panel to note the contents of the report and to continue to help shape and develop the emerging Economic Recovery Plan for West Yorkshire.

8. Background Documents

None.

9. Appendices

None