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**Report to:** Green Economy Panel

**Date:** 18 November 2020

**Subject:** **Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways**

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress to develop the West Yorkshire Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways and the forthcoming engagement on the outputs of Tasks 2 and 3 of the study.
- 1.2 To gain agreement for an extraordinary meeting or similar of the Panel in December 2020 / January 2021 to endorse the outputs of Tasks 2 and 3 of the study.

## **2. Information**

### **Background**

- 2.1 The Combined Authority declared a climate emergency and strengthened the West Yorkshire emission reduction target in July 2019. The strengthened target commits the region to be net zero carbon by 2038 at the latest, with significant progress by 2030. The task is extremely challenging and will require significant, swift and collaborative action to decarbonise all sectors.
- 2.2 The West Yorkshire Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways (CERP) study was commissioned to demonstrate the different ways in which the climate emergency could be addressed, and the strengthened target met. It was also commissioned to provide guidance to West Yorkshire councils and businesses on the ways they could address their own climate emergency declarations and targets.
- 2.3 The CERP focusses on the transport, buildings, power, industry, and land-use and agriculture sectors. It consists of three main tasks: to develop three emission reduction pathways, to set out the timescales for decision-making

and deployment, and identify the policies and actions that need to be implemented.

### **Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways**

- 2.4 The Panel were presented with an overview of, and asked to endorse, the key findings of the Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways (Task 1) at their [7 July 2020 meeting](#).
- 2.5 In summary the key messages from Task 1 were:
- West Yorkshire could meet its emission reduction target by:
    - Achieving emissions savings of between 73 and 82 percent by 2038 through the measures that have been modelled across the three future emission reduction pathways.
    - Reducing remaining emissions (between 18 and 27 percent) through a combination of increased ambition in the deployment of certain measures and/or applying innovative emission reduction technologies.
  - Achieving the levels of emission reduction modelled will require government to provide funding support and policy change e.g. heat decarbonisation, aviation and domestic retrofit.
  - Highly ambitious leadership and policy at all levels will be needed to deliver the emission reductions identified.
- 2.6 There are interventions which are common across all three carbon emission reduction pathways. This commonality allows the region to start on a pathway towards its target and to focus, in the short-term, on delivering within these areas.
- 2.7 It is proposed that we do not commit to a specific pathway that has been modelled in the study at this stage due to the uncertainty that exists around the deployment of specific measures identified. To fully commit to a pathway, we need government to make decisions on certain issues, including the preferred route for heat decarbonisation in our homes and buildings, support for carbon capture and storage, and national policy on reducing emissions from aviation.
- 2.8 The Combined Authority Board, on the advice of this Panel, endorsed the findings of Task 1 at their [27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 meeting](#).

### **Implementation Roadmap, Policy Recommendations & Actions**

- 2.9 Work is nearing completion on the outputs of the Implementation Roadmap (Task 2) and Policy Recommendations and Actions (Task 3) of the CERP.

- 2.10 The outputs of both tasks will enable the timescales, policies and actions associated with the interventions identified in Task 1 to be understood.
- 2.11 A presentation will be provided at the meeting on the emerging outputs of Tasks 2 and 3.
- 2.12 To ensure the Panel can understand and endorse the outputs of Tasks 2 and 3 it is recommended that an extraordinary meeting or similar is convened in December 2020 / January 2021.

### **Engagement**

- 2.13 A policy survey, sector specific focus groups and one-to-one interviews have been conducted with a wide range of stakeholders to inform the development of the roadmap, policy recommendations and actions. This information has been analysed and used to inform the emerging outputs.
- 2.14 Further engagement with stakeholders on the outputs of Tasks 2 and 3 is planned over the next four months and includes one-on-one engagement with West Yorkshire councils, attendance at public meetings such as Transport Committee and LEP Board and a six week period of public consultation.
- 2.15 The purpose of this engagement is threefold:
- To raise awareness of the outputs of the roadmap, policy recommendations and actions.
  - To understand concerns, appetite and acceptance for the policies and actions put forward from a wide range of stakeholders.
  - To inform the immediate priorities for delivery in West Yorkshire.
- 2.16 Stakeholders outside of local authorities e.g. energy companies, general public, hard-to-reach groups, will be engaged on the outputs of Tasks 2 and 3 as part of the public consultation planned for Spring 2021.
- 2.17 It is vitally important that these stakeholders engage with the Combined Authority on the outputs of the CERP. Only through the collective effort of all stakeholders across the region will our target to be net-zero carbon by 2038 be achieved. Continuing and accelerating the development of the West Yorkshire Climate Coalition will be a key action in ensuring the delivery and deployment of the measures, policies and actions identified in the CERP.
- 2.18 Insights collated through this engagement will be used to inform the development of the Tackling the Climate Emergency Action Plan for West Yorkshire.

### Public consultation

- 2.19 As referenced in 2.14 above a period of public consultation is planned to gain the views of a wide range of stakeholders. The consultation is currently planned for February 2021 and will run for a period of 6 weeks.
- 2.20 A comprehensive plan for the public consultation is currently being drawn up.
- 2.21 An inclusive approach to the public consultation will be adopted, aiming to gain the views of a diverse mix of ethnicities, seldom heard groups, and businesses. Extensive stakeholder mapping has already taken place and partner councils and key stakeholders will also be asked for their support to identify key groups and promote the consultation. Engagement with different groups will be tailored to their specific interests and concerns.
- 2.22 Consultation feedback methodology and promotional opportunities will have to adhere to COVID-19 restrictions. Although face-to-face consultation is unlikely to be possible efforts will be made to engage virtually with groups. There will also be an assessment of opportunities for digitally disengaged people to provide their comments via more traditional methods such as letter, email and telephone.
- 2.23 The Combined Authority Board will be asked at their February meeting to approve the consultation materials and their use in the public consultation.
- 2.24 The Panel are asked, subject to approval from the Combined Authority, to promote the public consultation through their networks once it goes live in February.

### Next Steps

- 2.25 The next steps for the CERP include:
- Production of the draft Implementation Roadmap, Policy Recommendations and Actions (early November 2020).
  - Production of the public consultation plan (November 2020).
  - Production of public consultation collateral (November 2020 – January 2021).
  - Partner engagement through scheduled meetings (November / December 2020)
  - Combined Authority approval to proceed to public consultation (February 2021)
  - Public consultation, incorporating feedback from local authority stakeholders (Post February 2021).

## **3. Clean Growth Implications**

- 3.1 The CERP is central to ensuring that the region understands how it can decarbonise key sectors by 2038 and make significant progress by 2030.

- 3.2 Results of the study will be fed into a refreshed Tackling the Climate Emergency Action Plan and embedded across the work of the Combined Authority.
- 3.3 It is crucial that transitioning to a low carbon economy reduces inequality in West Yorkshire, it cannot be the cause of further inequality for our most excluded / deprived groups and communities. To that extent inclusive growth goals and outcomes will be included in the design of policies, actions and the deployment of specific emission reduction measures that are implemented because of the CERP.
- 3.4 Furthermore full EIAs will be completed for the policies and that have been identified as part of Task 3 of the CERP.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The study is funded through contributions from the Combined Authority, the North East Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub and York and North Yorkshire LEP.
- 4.2 Technical and policy costs associated with the study will be presented at a future meeting and will provide a high-level indication of the funding that may be required to deliver the measures and policies that have been identified.

#### **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 challenge and the likely magnitude of the policies and actions identified within the study, additional communication resources have been allocated to the public consultation to ensure it delivers maximum visibility and impact.

#### **7. External Consultees**

- 7.1 A wide range of stakeholders have been engaged and provided input into the study. These include regional organisations such as Northern Powergrid, Northern Gas Networks, West Yorkshire Councils, academia, and civic society.

#### **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1 That the Panel note and provide comments on the contents of the report.
- 8.2 That the Panel provide agreement for an extraordinary meeting / similar to be convened in December 2020 / January 2021 to review and endorse the findings of Tasks 2 and 3 of the CERP.

**9. Background Documents**

Information on the study has previously been provided to the Green Economy Panel [here](#) and the Combined Authority Board [here](#).

**10. Appendices**

None