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**Report to:** Green Economy Panel

**Date:** 25 February 2021

**Subject:** **West Yorkshire Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways**

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

- 1.1 To introduce a presentation from Element Energy setting out the measures, policy considerations and actions that are required for West Yorkshire to reach net-zero carbon by 2038.

## **2. Information**

- 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 will also 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, and consists of three main tasks:
1. Developing three emission reduction pathways,
  2. Setting out the timescales for decision-making and deployment,
  3. Identifying the policy considerations and actions that need to be implemented.
- 2.4 The Panel were presented with an overview of the key findings of Task 1 at their [7 July 2020](#) meeting, with the outputs endorsed by the Combined

Authority at their [27 July meeting](#). A further update on progress was provided at the Panel meeting on [18 November 2020](#).

- 2.5 The findings build on the significant progress already made by the Combined Authority and its partners in tackling the climate emergency.
- 2.6 Element Energy, the Combined Authority's consultants, will be attending the meeting to present the measures, policy considerations and actions required to enable West Yorkshire to reach net-zero carbon by 2038.

### Engagement

- 2.7 Engagement on the findings of the CERP has been undertaken with West Yorkshire councils and the Combined Authority to gain an initial understanding of appetite and acceptance of the outputs, and potential concerns and gaps. Feedback has been positive and used to shape the final outputs of the CERP that will be used to engage with and gain feedback from wider stakeholders.
- 2.8 Subject to approval by the Combined Authority, engagement on the outputs with wider stakeholders, including seldom heard groups, will take place via the Your Voice platform. An animation illustrating the ambition and target for West Yorkshire will accompany the engagement process.
- 2.9 Initial engagement will take place over a seven-week period beginning on 15 March, as part of a longer-term conversation on tackling the climate emergency, including the development of the regional Climate Coalition.

### Next Steps

- 2.10 A report will be taken to the 9<sup>th</sup> March Combined Authority meeting to acknowledge the advice of independent advisors in meeting the regional emission reduction target and to approve the use of the advice in engagement with wider stakeholders.
- 2.11 Feedback received from wider stakeholder along with the outputs of the CERP will be used to inform a new Tackling the Climate Emergency Action Plan for the region, including the development of a pipeline of low carbon projects.

## **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

- 3.1 The CERP is central to ensuring that the region understands how it can decarbonise in line with its net-zero carbon by 2038 target.
- 3.2 Outputs of the CERP will be fed into a refreshed Tackling the Climate Emergency Action Plan and embedded across the work of the Combined Authority.

## **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1 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 and 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 as a result of the CERP.

## **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 The study is funded by the Combined Authority, the North East Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub and York and North Yorkshire LEP.

## **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no implications associated with this paper.

## **7. Staffing Implications**

7.1 There is a significant resource requirement to deliver against the findings of the CERP. While it is not the role of the Combined Authority to employ all the FTEs identified, there will be a need to build on the existing resources working on this agenda within the organisation.

## **8. External Consultees**

8.1 A wide range of stakeholders have been engaged and provided input into Task 1 of the CERP. To date engagement on Tasks 2 and 3 has been limited to West Yorkshire Councils and the Combined Authority.

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 That the Panel notes the advice of independent advisors on the measures, policy considerations and actions that will be needed to ensure West Yorkshire achieves its target to be net-zero carbon by 2038.

9.2 That the Panel advise the Combined Authority to approve the use of the findings of the CERP in engagement with wider stakeholders.

## **10. Background Documents**

None.

## **11. Appendices**

None.