

Section A: Scheme Summary

Name of Scheme:	Green Jobs Taskforce and Gateway
Location of Scheme:	West Yorkshire
Lead Organisation:	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Applicable Funding Stream(s) – Grant or Loan:	Single Investment Fund to enable progress to be made against some of the Mayor's pledges
Growth Fund Priority Area (if applicable):	Not applicable
Combined Authority approvals to date:	<p>On 24 June 2021, the Combined Authority agreed £2,600,000 in principle, from the Combined Authority's Single Investment Fund, to fund four schemes to enable progress to be made against some of the Mayor's pledges.</p> <p>As part of this, £500,000 was agreed in principle to support scheme development relating to employment and skills support for 16- to 30-year-olds, which has since become known as the Green Jobs Taskforce and Gateway scheme.</p> <p>Combined Authority also gave approval to delegate to the Finance, Resources and Corporate Committee the approval to pass through Decision Point 2 (Strategic Outline Case).</p>
Forecasted Full Approval Date (Decision Point 4):	22 October 2021
Forecasted Completion Date (Decision Point 5):	Completion date is expected to be 31 March 2024.
Total Scheme Cost for the preferred way forward (£):	£500,000
WYCA Funding (£):	£500,000
Total other public sector investment (£):	£0.00
Total other private sector investment (£):	£0.00

Is this a standalone Project?	No
Is this a Programme?	No
Is this Project part of an agreed Programme?	Yes

A.1	Scheme Description
	<p>The Green Jobs Taskforce and Gateway scheme will support the Mayor of West Yorkshire's pledge to 'create 1,000 well paid, skilled, green jobs for young people' and the region's commitments to be net zero carbon by 2038 through supporting green skills and jobs. Net-zero carbon refers to reducing the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) produced, so that it is no more than the amount removed from the atmosphere.</p> <p>The current scale, reach and provision of green skills training and green jobs including those that support 'greening of the economy' in West Yorkshire, is not currently known. Opportunities to change employers' behaviours also need to be identified and acted upon if greening of the economy is to happen. The scheme will undertake research to review and map green skills and green jobs, to establish what is currently available, future demand and identify any gaps in provision. This will give the Combined Authority a plan of actions it could take, to support achievement of the pledge and net zero carbon target and to capitalise on the opportunities and longer-term benefits from 'greening of the economy'.</p> <p>The scheme will fund two new Combined Authority posts to work with the newly convened West Yorkshire Green Jobs Taskforce, which brings together experts from education, business, third sector and the public sector, to create plan of actions to support achievement of the pledge and net zero carbon target and to capitalise on the opportunities and longer-term benefits from 'greening of the economy'. The taskforce will act as ambassadors for the scheme and provide input into the Green Jobs Gateway, a web portal launched in August 2021, where employers can pledge jobs, and support for job matching is provided by sign posting to employment and skills services.</p> <p>As part of the research phase the Combined Authority will review its own existing and future programmes to determine how they can contribute to creating green jobs and supporting green skills. The review will focus on existing programmes, for example Employment and Skills programmes and whether they could be enhanced to support adults' skills and progression towards work, alongside careers inspiration and job matching services. The review will also consider how future programme design can complement the overall target for programmes such as Net Zero Region Accelerator and how the scheme will complement the Combined Authority's strategic priorities including tackling the climate emergency. The Combined Authority will also consider how it can use the delivery of its schemes, to influence contractors to create green jobs and support green skills, through its procurement processes.</p> <p>A plan of actions will be produced, some of which will be progressed as part of this scheme, most likely where enhancements to existing programmes will address actions identified. Other actions, for example those filling gaps in current provision, will develop separate business cases, subject to funding being secured from other sources, and will progress through the assurance process individually.</p> <p>The scheme will also fund marketing and communications to promote the taskforce's work, including raising awareness of its findings to individuals and businesses.</p> <p>The scheme is seeking approval for £500,000 from the Single Investment Fund.</p>

A.2	Business Case Summary
Strategic Case	
<p>The scheme will support the mayoral pledge to ‘create 1,000 well paid, skilled, green jobs for young people’, which aligns closely with the objectives of the Combined Authority’s Employment and Skills Framework in supporting young people to gain and sustain employment. The pledge also aligns with the goals of the Inclusive Growth Framework through providing jobs which are well paid (minimum Real Living Wage) and skilled.</p> <p>The scheme supports the region’s commitments to be net zero carbon by 2038 through supporting green skills and jobs and contributes to the priorities of the Strategic Economic Framework, the Economic Recovery Plan, and the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy. The scheme also responds to recommendations in the West Yorkshire Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways and Friends of the Earth’s Emergency Plan on Green Jobs for Young People.</p> <p>The need for green jobs and green skills to support West Yorkshire’s transition to a net zero carbon economy by 2038 is significant. Action to change the behaviours of organisations in the region, needs to be accelerated so the workforce gains the skills required for a just transition through decarbonisation, which involves the creation of decent work and quality jobs.</p> <p>A lack of employer confidence and low current consumer demand means that opportunities to change behaviours need to be identified and then acted upon to support greening of the economy. Young people have also been disproportionately affected by unemployment during the COVID-19 pandemic and should be prioritised for support.</p> <p>The scale, reach and provision of training in the skills needed by employers in the green economy across West Yorkshire is not currently known. Therefore, a review of the current and future demand for green skills and green jobs, including those that support ‘greening of the economy’, is needed.</p>	
Economic Case	
<p>Skilled workers are needed to deliver against immediate and longer-term challenges if West Yorkshire is to become a net zero carbon economy by 2038. However, it is difficult to accurately estimate future demand for skills in the green economy. An analysis by Ecuity for the Local Government Association suggests the creation of approximately 71,000 new clean growth jobs in West Yorkshire – potentially more than any other area. The study estimates that 40,000 green jobs will be required for West Yorkshire by 2030. More coordinated activity is needed, with businesses and training providers, to encourage skills development and training to fulfil these roles. Young people have also been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, which has led to 16-24 years olds having the highest increase in claimant unemployment, even though this group is less likely to be eligible for benefits.</p> <p>The scheme will result in detailed mapping of the opportunities for green jobs and training in West Yorkshire, to highlight gaps in provision and identify where behaviours need to change. Without this strategic and co-ordinated approach, the Combined Authority will lack the information it needs to make informed, evidence-based investment decisions.</p>	
Commercial Case	
<p>The Combined Authority will use its own policy, development and communications and marketing services to deliver activities, but will commission work from external organisations when additional resource or specialist knowledge is needed.</p> <p>The market is able to effectively provide the research support needed, based on the experiences of delivering other schemes and will be procured through the Combined Authority’s procurement process. The Combined Authority’s commercial team will support the</p>	

project team with obtaining value for money for services and manage risk by ensuring compliance.

Financial Case

The Combined Authority agreed in principle on 24 June 2021 for four schemes to share £2,600,000 from the Single Investment Fund, to enable progress to be made against some of the Mayor's pledges. This scheme is seeking approval for £500,000 of this, to fund two new Combined Authority posts to manage the scheme, to fund research work, communications, and marketing activity and to support the work of the Green Job Taskforce.

Management Case

Programme management will be provided by the Combined Authority's Business, Innovation and Skills Policy team. The team will work closely with colleagues from across the organisation and will also work with a wide range of partners and stakeholders across the public, private and third sectors throughout development of the workplan. Strategic oversight, advice and steer will be provided by the Employment and Skills Committee.

The Combined Authority has the relevant experience and expertise to deliver a scheme of this type, gained from delivering a wide range of employment and skills schemes