
Report to: Climate, Energy & Environment Committee

Date: 11 January 2022

Subject: **Forward Agenda 2022**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To recommend the business agenda for this Committee during 2022.

2. Information

West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan

- 2.1 The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan 2021-2024 (the Plan), published October 2021, is the Mayor's and Combined Authority's response to addressing the climate emergency and delivering mayoral pledges relating to climate, environment and the green economy. It demonstrates how the region can go further and faster than national government, reinforcing commitments to be net zero carbon by 2038 at the latest, protecting and recovering nature and transitioning to a green and sustainable economy.
- 2.2 The key purpose of the Committee is to support, enable and provide scrutiny on progress to tackle the climate emergency and moving to a net zero region. This purpose should inform the business agenda proposed for 2022.

Business Agenda for 2022

- 2.3 The eight themes of the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan provide a logical framework for the Committee’s business agenda. It is proposed that the spring, summer and autumn agendas cover:
 - 2.4 Winter 2022
 - Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund
 - Climate Adaptation & Resilience
 - Energy Network Operator Business Plans and Investments
 - 2.5 Spring 2022
 - Climate & Environment Plan – Strategic Outline Case
 - Carbon Impact Toolkit Project
 - Better Homes Hub
 - Green skills and jobs
 - 2.6 Summer 2022
 - Business Sustainability
 - Yorkshire Water Business Plan and Investments
 - Communications & Behaviour Change Programme
 - Community Renewal Fund
 - 2.7 Autumn 2022
 - Climate & Environment Plan – Outline & Full Business Cases & Update on Progress
 - Climate Ready – Flooding & Resilience
 - Nature Recovery Strategy
 - Net Zero Region Accelerator

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 The Combined Authority’s approach to tackling the climate emergency is set out in the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan (the ‘Plan’). The COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact positively supports the objectives and proposals for action in the plan, particularly through the Pact’s priorities for: science and urgency; adaptation; mitigation; finance; technology; capacity-building; loss and damage reverse; implementation.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 It is crucial that transitioning to a net zero carbon economy reduces inequality in West Yorkshire. It cannot be the cause of further inequality for our most excluded and deprived groups and communities. We also need to grasp the opportunities for better jobs and quality of life that can be achieved through the transition to a net zero carbon and sustainable economy. Inclusive growth goals and outcomes will be included in the detailed design, delivery and evaluation of the Plan.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 Transitioning to a net zero carbon economy should be equitable and not be at the expense of any groups or communities. To that extent equality and diversity implications and solutions will be cross cutting and integrated into the detailed development and delivery of the Plan.
- 5.2 The need for all people living, working and studying in West Yorkshire to be involved in the responses to tackling the climate emergency is clear, and all groups and communities need to be involved in climate decision making.
- 5.3 COP26 energised the need for peoples, local communities and civil society, including youth and children, in addressing and responding to climate change, and highlighting the urgent need for multilevel and cooperative action. We have an opportunity to build on this moment, engaging with and supporting local communities to act.
- 5.4 All delivery proposals will be subject to Equality Impact Assessments, and there will be equality and diversity dimensions to all key performance indicators and outcomes to ensure progress is being made and inequalities are not widened.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The actions identified in the Plan will need to be appropriately resourced with the right capital and revenue and investment in skills and capacity to lead these actions. Delivery will therefore require ongoing, targeted investment and an aligned financial policy and decision-making process.
- 6.2 The Mayor is committing to bring forward a Climate and Environment Fund and to securing the funding needed for the actions for the Combined Authority. The Combined Authority will work with partner local authorities to design the delivery mechanisms for this fund.
- 6.3 The finance required for the three-year Plan is £85 million of local funding and investment and nearly £600 million in grants and loans for households and businesses. Financial investment will be through a mix of sources including the Combined Authority in partnership with public and private funding. Work is ongoing to identify potential funding sources, including the Single Investment Fund. Decisions on the use of local funding will need to be taken considering no new national funding coming to local government after the Comprehensive Spending Review 2022 to support this work.
- 6.4 Achieving net zero, nature recovery and climate ready resilience will deliver substantial financial savings to the region, both at an individual and organisational levels. For example, large savings are likely to be made through fuel cost reductions that occur because of efficiency improvements across buildings and industry and the transition from petrol and diesel to electric vehicles.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1 Additional staffing will be required across the Combined Authority to deliver the Mayor's and Combined Authority's commitment to tackle the climate emergency. New capacity and capabilities from our partners and stakeholders will also be needed to deliver on this agenda.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Committee approves the proposed business agenda for the year 2022.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.