

Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 22 March 2022

Subject: **West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan Prioritisation**

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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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan and seek views on the work to prioritise delivery of the Plan's proposals based on the indicative allocation of £40m Gainshare funding identified to deliver against Investment Priority 4: Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1 The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan (2021-2024) was agreed by the Combined Authority (October 2021). The Plan is the Mayor's and Combined Authority response to tackling the climate emergency, protecting the environment and achieving a net zero West Yorkshire.
- 2.2 The Plan sets out the critical actions for the next three years to cut emissions, support nature recovery and be ready for the impacts of a changing climate. These actions will be delivered in partnership and are focussed across eight priority themes:

- **Leadership:** what the mayor and Combined Authority will do to reduce emissions from its operations and the pipeline of projects under its control.
- **Cross-cutting:** what makes sense to be considered as a strategic, rather than the individual theme or sector level, for example skills, innovation, research, and development.
- **Transport:** reduce private vehicle use, increase active travel and public transport use, and decarbonise transport.
- **Homes:** reduce emissions and the improve the energy efficiency and affordability of the region's homes.
- **Business and industry:** support and expertise that businesses need to decarbonise and flourish in the region.
- **Energy generation, supply, and flexibility:** accelerate the deployment of low carbon energy technologies, for example heat pumps, solar, smart energy solutions, including flexibility technologies such as batteries.
- **Natural environment:** focussing on reducing emissions through land-based action and measures to reverse declines in nature.
- **Climate ready:** action to ensure preparedness for the impacts of a changing climate.

Funding Position

- 2.3 It was estimated as part of the evidence base for the plan that approximately £85m of public sector resources would be required to address these 8 themes (which include 39 proposals) over the initial three-year period for the Plan.
- 2.4 The Gainshare prioritisation and allocation process approved at the [3rd February 2022 Combined Authority meeting](#) identified an indicative allocation of £40m to deliver against Investment Priority 4: Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability.

Delivery of Proposals

- 2.5 All 39 proposals in the Climate and Environment Plan need to be delivered in partnership if we are to meet our commitments on tackling the climate and environmental emergencies therefore additional funding will continue to be sought to deliver the plan in full. It is important to note that Tackling the Climate Emergency is a Cross Cutting theme of the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy so some of the proposals included in the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan will be delivered against different Investment Priorities (for example IP5: Future Transport) and through other funding routes.
- 2.6 The 39 proposals in the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan now need to be prioritised to make progress in the context of the Investment Priority 4 indicative Gainshare allocation of 40million. The availability of other

funding sources and the opportunity to leverage further investment to support delivery of the Plan is part of the prioritisation methodology proposed.

- 2.7 As part of this initial prioritisation work there is recognition that the proposals will result in a mix of delivery methods and outcomes. Some proposals may lead to capital or revenue programmes led by the public sector with others requiring a coordination or leadership role. Other proposals may be led by stakeholders within our wider partnership.

Prioritisation of Proposals

- 2.7 A two-stage process is proposed as an initial assessment of the 39 proposals.

Stage 1 Strategic Fit: A prioritisation framework has been developed to provide a high-level assessment of the 39 proposals in the plan. Stage 1 assesses each proposal's ability to support or align with the WY Investment Strategy (including Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) priorities), Mayoral pledges and Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways (CERP) co-benefits and the overarching priority of carbon emissions reduction.

Each proposal is ranked on a scale of 1-5 as follows:

- 1 = strong negative impact,
- 2 = negative/negative indirect impact,
- 3 = no impact,
- 4 = positive/indirect impact,
- 5 = strong/direct impact)

Stage 2 Deliverability: This stage considers other elements that need to be taken into account such as:

- Existing strength of pipeline
- Funding availability
- Scalability (opportunities for longer term investment and growth)
- Internal resource and skills
- Deliverability (timeframes, delivery partners and their ability to deliver)
- Co-benefits (including consideration of jobs; health and air quality; fuel poverty reduction; innovation)
- Inclusive growth, equality, diversity and inclusion

- 2.8 A full list of the 39 proposals is provided as Appendix 1 to this report.

- 2.9 **A presentation of the initial prioritisation work will accompany this item and be provided at the meeting in order to seek the Committee's views.**

Next Steps

- 2.9 West Yorkshire district partners are supporting the prioritisation process. The 39 proposals in the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan are high level and as such we do not yet have detailed costs associated with all proposals. Detailed project development work can commence following agreement on the priority proposals for the initial £40m funding allocation.

- 2.10 The project development work will be captured within a Strategic Assessment leading to a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for the £40 million programme. The SOBC will be considered by the Members of the Committee and associated approvals will also come through Committee. It is anticipated that these documents will enter the Combined Authority's Assurance Process in Summer 2022.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan's proposals align with the Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways for West and North Yorkshire. It will deliver low carbon infrastructure to enable wider decarbonisation of the economy and our communities.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 The prioritisation process aims to identify high impact projects and deliver local benefits. This will be drawn out in the business case for each project, for example the potential to deliver local carbon savings, social value, and opportunities to support local climate resilience.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 Meeting net zero carbon and 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 across the activity outlined in this report to ensure no one is adversely affected.
- 5.2. The principles of inclusivity, diversity and equality are incorporated in all policy areas, with each scheme being subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications of this report. The report refers to prioritisation work which will influence project and programme development. Any funding decisions will be made by the appropriate Committee. As the delivery programme is confirmed awareness will need to be given to risks associated with potential underspend of the £40 million allocation.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report however some of the prioritised proposals are likely to need legal advice as specific projects and programmes are developed.

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1 The pipeline development work is resourced by existing staff. At the West Yorkshire Combined Authority meeting on the 3rd February 2022 the

Combined Authority approved in principle funding allocations to each Local Authority and the Combined Authority to support capacity issues and enable pipeline development work to be undertaken against the Investment Priorities. This capacity funding will support development of all 39 proposals in the Plan in partnership with key stakeholders. Additional capacity is likely to be required to support the delivery of schemes depending on their nature.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 The governance of the Plan and the prioritisation of its proposals will be developed in partnership with local authorities (Climate, Energy and Environment Lead Officer Group and Directors).

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee provides comment on the proposed prioritisation approach and emerging outcomes.

11. Background Documents

- 11.1 [West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan.](#)

12. Appendices

Appendix 1: Full list of 39 proposals in the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan