

Report to: Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee

Date: 22 March 2022

Subject: **Green Skills and Jobs**

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

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the work of the West Yorkshire Green Jobs Taskforce.

2. Information

Create 1,000 well paid, skilled, green jobs for young people

Background

- 2.1 There are a range of estimates for the number of jobs required to support West Yorkshire's transition to a net zero economy, each in the tens of thousands.
- 2.2 Analysis by Ecuity for the Local Government Association suggests the creation of approximately 71,000 new clean growth jobs in West Yorkshire by 2050 – potentially more than any other area. The study estimates that 40,000 green jobs will be required for West Yorkshire by 2030, with the largest requirements in the alternative fuels industry sector (over 17,000 jobs).

- 2.3 Alternatively, the recent Scaling Up Better Homes Yorkshire report suggests that, in domestic retrofits alone, 30,000 jobs will be required in West Yorkshire by 2028, with 5,000 needed by 2024. The same report provides the evidence on construction trades and roles needed to deliver retrofits, yet it remains unclear where the pipeline of skilled workers will come from. Item 10 – Better Homes Hub provides an update on the work being done to develop the vision for net zero homes.
- 2.4 Despite seeing growth over time, only 2% of total job postings in West Yorkshire in the 2021 calendar year had green skills requirements. This is similar to the national average. (Source: Labour Insight.)
- 2.5 The Mayor has pledged to create 1,000 well paid, skilled, green jobs for young people, supporting progress against the Combined Authority’s commitment to a net zero carbon economy for West Yorkshire by 2038, with significant progress by 2030. The pledge also recognises the disproportionately negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth unemployment.
- 2.6 At their meeting on 24 June 2021, the Combined Authority indicatively approved £500k funding to support scheme development relating to employment and skills support for 16-30 year olds. Following recommendation from the Programme Appraisal Team, final approval for the development funding proposal was received from the Combined Authority at their meeting on 22 October 2021.

Green Jobs Taskforce

- 2.7 In August 2021, the Mayor announced the creation of a West Yorkshire Green Jobs Taskforce, which brings together experts from business, education and training, and the third and public sectors.
- 2.8 Its goal is to position West Yorkshire as a leader and set out deliverable actions underpinned by evidence to deliver the skills and jobs needed to address the climate emergency. The Taskforce’s workplan will include a review of the landscape to identify challenges and opportunities for skills and jobs in West Yorkshire in relation to the greening of the economy.
- 2.9 The Green Jobs Taskforce met for the first time in January 2022 and established a series of key themes for its twelve-month workplan:
- Create demand and support individuals to access well paid, skilled, green jobs
 - Support the identification of green credentials and adoption of ‘green skills’ in SMEs, with guidance to access provision.
 - Improve access and provision of skills for individuals starting or progressing in work, seeking work or looking to re-train.
 - Inspiration activities and young people engagement to ensure a future talent pipeline.
 - Ensure a plan for legacy skills.
 - Improve diversity of the workforce and quality of jobs across green industries.

- 2.10 Working groups are to be established to explore these key themes in further detail and to make recommendations on the actions required to deliver progress. Working groups will be made up of Taskforce members but may choose to bring in additional expertise where required.

Green Jobs Gateway

- 2.11 The Mayoral Green Jobs Gateway was also launched in August 2021, providing an online portal for employers wishing to pledge jobs to support the Mayor's pledge of 1,000 well paid, skilled, green jobs for young people.
- 2.12 Employers pledging jobs are contacted by a Business Partnership Adviser from the Skills for Growth team, who will support with employment, skills and growth needs.
- 2.13 As part of their proposed workplan, the Green Jobs Taskforce may consider the need for further development of the Mayoral Green Jobs Gateway and potential impacts.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 Addressing tackling the climate emergency through the skills and employment pipeline will be a key consideration in order to meet the ambitious next zero target by 2038, and support education skills and training organisations and businesses to achieve this. The West Yorkshire Green Jobs Taskforce will assess the strengths, risks and opportunities for our region before collectively setting out a strategic approach underpinned by deliverable actions that will contribute to the greening of the economy through skills and jobs.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 The Green Jobs Gateway was launched in August 2021 to support local employers to provide well paid, skilled, green jobs for young people in West Yorkshire, in support of the Mayor's pledge. Young people were disproportionately affected by unemployment during the pandemic. As part of its review, the Green Jobs Taskforce will also consider the development of the Gateway and the potential to maximise impact on disadvantaged or underrepresented communities.
- 4.2 As two of its key themes, the Green Jobs Taskforce will explore the need to improve diversity and quality of work in green roles, and the activities required to ensure a future talent pipeline to deliver on the greening of the economy and beyond.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 Equality and Diversity is at the forefront of the Mayoral agenda and manifesto.

5.2 Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as part of scheme development within the pipeline for the supporting employment and skills pledges to ensure that as schemes progress through Assurance Framework and that equality, diversity and inclusion is embedded. This will also ensure that engagement takes place prior to commencement of delivery and involves engagement with potential end user beneficiaries from underrepresented groups.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 At their meeting on 24 June 2021, the Combined Authority indicatively approved £500k funding to support scheme development relating to employment and skills support for 16-30 year olds. Following recommendation from the Programme Appraisal Team, final approval for the development funding proposal was received from the Combined Authority at their meeting on 22 October 2021.

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Staffing Implications

8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

9. External Consultees

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

10.1 The Committee is asked to note the establishment of the West Yorkshire Green Jobs Taskforce in support of the delivery of the Mayor's pledge to create 1,000 well paid, skilled green jobs, and is asked to comment on the progress made so far.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.