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**Report to:** Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

**Date:** 19 July 2022

**Subject:** **West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan Programme Development**

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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 Seek feedback on the initial scope of activity being prioritised against the indicative £40m Gainshare funding allocation for *Investment Priority 4: Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability*, in order to contribute towards delivery of the Climate and Environment Plan which sets out the first three years of activity required to make progress towards becoming a net zero carbon region by 2038.

## 2. Information

### Summary

- 2..1 Our Climate and Environment Plan was agreed in October 2021, it sets out our regions' response to the climate emergency and protecting our environment. The actions in the Plan are informed by research to identify the different pathways and interventions that could be implemented to meet net-zero carbon<sup>1</sup>. There are 39 actions in the Plan which are being taken forward in partnership and using multiple funding streams to maximise our impact. As part of our response the Combined Authority has made an indicative allocation of £40m gainshare funding to accelerate our activity aligned to the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (Investment Priority 4 Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability). This report seeks feedback on

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<sup>1</sup> [West Yorkshire Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways](#)

the initial scope of activity being prioritised against the indicative £40m Gainshare funding allocation. The areas prioritised include actions that we can move swiftly into a delivery phase and also includes activity that will kickstart long-term delivery where significant carbon savings can be made, such as the Better Homes Hub. The £40m gainshare is therefore part of a much bigger package of work to tackle the climate emergency and compliments programmes of work proposed on transport through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) and Zero Emission Bus Region Area Fund (ZEBRA).

### Background

- 2.2 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority declared a climate emergency in 2019 and established an emission reduction target for West Yorkshire. The target commits the region to achieving net-zero carbon by 2038.
- 2.3 To understand how West Yorkshire could achieve the target the Combined Authority commissioned [research](#) to identify the different pathways and interventions that could be implemented to meet net-zero carbon.
- 2.4 The research identified three different pathways (maximum ambition, hydrogen, balanced) that would result in an emission reduction of between 73% and 82% by 2038. To fully meet net-zero carbon the region would need to be more ambitious with behaviour change activity, technology deployment, and support for innovative solutions.
- 2.5 The pathways provided the framework on which the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) is based. The CEP was agreed by the Combined Authority in October 2021 and is focused on the actions outlined in the pathways for delivery over the short-term i.e. early 2020s. It is framed around eight themes and 39 actions and these actions are considered no-regrets as they require implementation regardless of the pathway adopted.
- 2.6 A particular pathway has not been selected at this stage due to the levels of uncertainty associated with different technologies e.g. hydrogen. The Combined Authority will continually review technology readiness and at a stage where there is greater confidence will select a pathway for the region to follow.
- 2.7 The CEP identifies the actions which West Yorkshire can influence and deliver. It does not include those actions which are the gift of government to implement e.g. phase-out of gas boilers, aviation policy.
- 2.8 The CEP aims to deliver the following outcomes, all of which contribute to the indicators set out in the State of the Region indicator set:
  - Reduction in regional emissions across all sectors.
  - Recovery and enhancement of nature and increase in biodiversity, green spaces and trees, and natural environments.
  - Increase in the number of zero carbon and environmental projects.

- Alignment with complementary jobs and skills programmes.
  - Increase in funding and resources in the net-zero carbon economy.
  - Warm, healthy, affordable, low-carbon homes.
  - Adaptation and resilience to a changing climate.
  - Improved productivity.
  - Healthier people
- 2.9 While the Combined Authority owns the CEP it is not down to the organisation alone to deliver. Delivering the CEP and meeting the net-zero carbon target will require action from all part of the economy and society in West Yorkshire.
- 2.10 The Combined Authority is showing leadership on tackling climate change through the allocated of £40m of Gainshare funding in [February 2022](#) to support the delivery of the CEP and the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy Priority 4: Tackling the Climate Emergency. It is also delivering programmes and projects such as the Net Zero Region Accelerator which support the transition to a net-zero carbon economy.
- 2.11 This Gainshare allocation complements other funding sources that are being used to address the climate emergency and progress the CEP, such as the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) and Zero Emission Bus Region Area (ZEBRA) fund to achieve transport objectives, and government funding e.g. for the production of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for West Yorkshire. Multiple proposals are also being taken forward with use of existing resource including exploring our approach to biodiversity net gain and the opportunity for hydrogen in West Yorkshire. Tackling the climate emergency objectives are being considered as part of every scheme proposal of the Combined Authority.
- 2.12 Delivering the full spectrum of actions outlined in the CEP would require funding in excess of £40m. As a result, this Committee was presented with the outputs of a prioritisation exercise of the 39 CEP actions at its [March 2022 meeting](#). The Committee approved the prioritisation of 15 of the 39 CEP actions across three development waves.
- 2.13 The remainder of this report provides an update on the seven CEP actions that were prioritised by the Committee for development in Wave 1. The Committee held a further workshop on the details of these actions ahead of this Committee meeting. The seven actions are:
- Better Homes Hub.
  - Better neighbourhoods.
  - Business sustainability.
  - Communications, engagement and marketing.
  - Flooding and drainage.
  - Green skills and training.
  - Solar PV and storage.

#### Scope of activities

- 2.14 Appendix 1 provides an overview of the scope of each of the actions contained within Wave 1. The scope has been developed in consultation with local authority partners and members of this Committee.
- 2.15 Further refinement of the scope will be undertaken as each action progresses with its project development activity (see Next Steps below).

#### Programme and project assurance

- 2.16 To ensure the CEP actions proposed for Gainshare funding meet the strategic aims of the Combined Authority and are robust from a commercial, economic, financial and management perspective they need to be carried out in accordance with the organisations' Assurance Framework.
- 2.17 Due to the need to progress CEP actions at pace it was agreed that the seven actions which comprise Wave 1 would be taken forward as one through Decision Point 1 (DP1) Strategic Assessment and Decision Point 2 (DP2) Strategic Outline Case of the Assurance Framework.
- 2.18 At the point of DP2 approval each of the seven actions will then progress through the Assurance Framework individually. This approach reflects the varying degrees of complexity associated with each action, allowing those that are at an advanced stage of development to progress more quickly rather than being delayed while the detail for other actions is developed.
- 2.19 The Wave 1 Strategic Assessment was approved for progression to DP2 by the Combined Authority's Strategic Assessment Panel (SAP) on 16 June 2022.

#### Next steps

- 2.20 Post Strategic Assessment approval by SAP work is now focussed on further project development activity for each of the seven actions to ensure DP2 Strategic Outline Case approval can be achieved at the Combined Authority in October 2022. Prior to this the Combined Authority will be asked to approve at their 21 July meeting the allocation of development funding to allow project development activities to continue to move at pace.
- 2.21 In addition, to ensure the programme is delivering a clear set of outcomes (and building on those identified in Section 2.2 above) and benefits, a monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed. This will be a key deliverable if the impact of the CEP and Gainshare allocation can be clearly articulated.
- 2.22 At the point of approval the Combined Authority will be requested to delegate future decisions in relation to Wave 1 to this Committee. This is in line with the terms of reference of this Committee as agreed at the June Combined Authority meeting.

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

- 3.1 The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan and the actions highlighted within it will all contribute to tackling the climate emergency and meeting the net-zero carbon by 2038 target. It translates the findings of the West Yorkshire Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways into the tangible actions that need to be implemented in the short-term i.e. next three years, to ensure the region is on a pathway to reaching its climate goals.

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1 Inclusive growth will be embedded across all of the Wave 1 actions to ensure local benefits can be delivered. This will be drawn out in project development activity for each action, 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. All Wave 1 actions will have EDI measures included in their design.
- 5.2 The principles of inclusivity, diversity and equality are incorporated in all policy areas, with Equality Impacts Assessments being developed at DP1 and DP2 of the Assurance Framework and for individual actions.

### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 As part of the development of the Strategic Outline Case detailed cost estimates will be produced for each of the Wave 1 actions. This activity will provide an understanding of the proportion of funding that will be required from the Gainshare allocation.
- 6.2 It will also provide an understanding of the match funding sources that will be targeted to supplement the Gainshare allocation and any development funding that will be required at DP2.

### **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report however some of the actions are likely to need legal advice as they progress through project development activity.

### **8. Staffing Implications**

- 8.1 To date existing resources have been used to oversee the development of the individual actions and ensure the correct information is included in the

Strategic Assessment and Strategic Outline Case. Additional resources will be required to ensure further project development activities can occur and there is a smooth transition into delivery. As a result of this need additional resources are a significant proportion of the development funding that is being sought for approval by the Combined Authority at their 21 July meeting.

## **9. External Consultees**

9.1 Wave 1 actions have been developed in partnership with local authority partners and other key stakeholders. Members of this Committee have also been consulted and provided feedback on the initial scope of actions.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1 That the Committee:

- Notes the content of the report.
- Provides feedback on the initial scope of the Wave 1 actions.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1. CEP Prioritisation Wave 1 - Scope