
Report to: Climate, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: 4 October 2022

Subject: **Climate and Environment Plan Wave 1 – Strategic Outline Case**

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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 provide the Committee with an update on progress to develop the Wave 1 programmes from the Climate and Environment Plan.
- 1.2 To gain Committee endorsement for the programmes included in Wave 1 prior to approval at the October Combined Authority meeting.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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 focussed on the interventions outlined in the pathways for delivery over the short-term i.e. early 2020s. It is framed around

eight themes and includes 39 interventions that are considered no-regrets given they require implementation regardless of the path to net-zero carbon that is being taken.

- 2.4 The CEP identifies the interventions which West Yorkshire can influence and deliver. It does not include those interventions which are the gift of government to implement e.g. phase-out of gas boilers, aviation policy.
- 2.5 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 region emissions across all sectors.
 - Recovery and enhancement of nature and increase in biodiversity, green spaces and trees, and natural environment.
 - 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 and low carbon homes.
 - Adaptation and resilience to a changing climate.
 - Improved productivity.
 - Healthier people.
- 2.6 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 target will require action from all parts of the economy and society in West Yorkshire.
- 2.7 The Combined Authority is showing leadership on tackling climate change through an indicative allocation of £40,000,000 of gainshare to support activity that aims to address the issue. It is also leading the way in delivering other climate related programmes such zero emission buses, natural flood management, and housing energy efficiency retrofit.
- 2.8 Delivering the full range of interventions outlined in the CEP would require funding in excess of £40,000,000. As a result, this Committee was presented with the outputs of a prioritisation exercise of the 39 CEP interventions at its [March 2022](#) meeting and approved the prioritisation of 15 of the 39 interventions across three development waves.
- 2.9 These 15 interventions were prioritised because of their strategic fit with the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS), Mayoral pledges, the pathways work, and the overarching priority of carbon emissions reduction. They were also prioritised according to their deliverability (existing strength of pipeline; funding availability; scalability, resource availability; co-benefits, delivery of inclusive growth and equality, diversity and inclusion).
- 2.10 A first wave of programmes has been under development since April 2022 progressing through the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework. These programmes comprise of:
 - Better Homes Hub

- Better Neighbourhoods
 - Business Sustainability
 - Communications, Engagement and Marketing
 - Flooding and Drainage
 - Green Skills and Training
 - Solar PV and Battery Storage
- 2.11 A Strategic Assessment covering the seven programmes above was considered by the Combined Authority's internal assurance in June 2022. The outcome was for the seven programmes as a collective to progress to the next stage of internal assurance and for development funding of £836,000 to be drawn down from gainshare to support further programme development activities.
- 2.12 The July 2022 informal meeting of this Committee considered the initial scope of each of the seven programmes and provided steer / input. The remainder of this report provides an overview of the final scope of activities for each programme.
- 2.13 The report also provides a timeline for progressing the programmes (both Wave 1 and 2) through the next stages of internal assurance.
- 2.14 While the Wave 1 programmes represent a significant amount of activity to address the climate emergency it is a small and complementary part of both the Combined Authority and regional response (including West Yorkshire local authorities) to addressing the issue. Achieving the regional target will require all of West Yorkshire to come together collectively to play their part in achieving its ambition to be net-zero carbon by 2038.

Better Homes Hub

- 2.15 The Better Homes Hub is a programme of activity that will enable the upscaling of domestic energy efficiency retrofits for households across West Yorkshire. It will tackle fuel poverty, reduce carbon emissions from housing and ensure homes are fit for the future.
- 2.16 The programme will establish a core team to oversee all Hub activity and provide a package of support for landlords and homeowners looking to facilitate demand for retrofit, build confidence and enabling capacity in the supply chain and partners, and demonstrate ambition to the private sector.
- 2.17 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:
- Establishing a Hub team with support of dedicated local authority officers.
 - Funding for area-based demonstrators.
 - Support services for social landlords.
 - A one-stop-shop service for homeowners.
 - A loan pilot scheme for residents to borrow additional funds to install energy saving measures.

2.18 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is between £11.4m and £12.3m.

Better Neighbourhoods

2.19 The Better Neighbourhoods programme aims to establish a grassroots community grants funding programme helping to support net-zero activity across buildings, energy, nature and climate resilience. The programme will inspire behaviour change and educate at the community level, whilst contributing to improved community assets and sense of place.

2.20 The programme is comprised of various packages which look to provide grants of up to £50,000 to community organisations and will also look to fund feasibility studies for the White Rose Forest.

2.21 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Establishing a core Better Neighbourhoods team.
- Grants for community organisations.
- Consultation with neighbourhoods facilitated by community roadshows and outreach activities.
- Targeted bid support.
- Feasibility studies for the White Rose Forest.

2.22 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is between £6.6m and £6.7m.

Business Sustainability

2.23 The Business Sustainability programme aims to provide a simplified, consistent, and impartial source of support to small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) within West Yorkshire to plan for net-zero and become climate ready.

2.24 The ambition is to provide a flexible, universal offer to businesses to help to address the 50% of carbon emissions generated by small businesses, with tailored support based on the continuous principles of: measure carbon impacts and climate readiness; plan improvements in a considered manner; and act on these plans to reduce environmental impact and become more resilient to climate breakdown.

2.25 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Flexible, expanded business support service based on measure-plan-act principles.
- Flood resilience grants for business.
- Voucher scheme to assist businesses with immediate support to respond to rising energy costs.

2.26 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is between £6.7m and £11.7m.

Communications, Engagement and Marketing

2.27 The ambition is to provide communications and marketing support for all programmes covered by Waves 1 and 2 and support local authorities with their communications and marketing activities for projects which support and align to the CEP, this will include a multi-channel behaviour campaign, complimentary to local campaigns to encourage people and businesses to lower carbon emissions and make positive changes. Market research is also part of the programme to gauge perceptions and attitudes on the climate emergency throughout West Yorkshire.

2.28 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Communications campaign supporting Wave 1 and 2 programmes.
- Market research exercise.
- Behaviour change campaigns.

2.29 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is £1.3m.

Flooding and Drainage

2.30 A programme of natural flood management schemes across West Yorkshire to be delivered by a range of partners as part of a catchment level approach to flood risk management. It will deliver outputs in terms of flood protection, carbon sequestration and biodiversity benefits.

2.31 The programme also includes support for the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme (FLIP) which will support flood risk management feasibility studies and capacity building through collaboration and shared learning.

2.32 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Delivery of nine natural flood management projects across West Yorkshire.
- Revenue support and project development funding for the West Yorkshire FLIP.

2.33 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is £6.6m.

Green Skills and Training

2.34 The programme aims to develop a platform to support individuals access green jobs and skills, provide teaching and learning resources with support for KS2 and KS3 networks, provide support for individuals and education and training providers to enhance FE curriculum across colleges and training partners.

2.35 Through the programme a business support programme will be initiated to train 200 people and support will be provided for key stakeholder groups to create green skills through internships and employment support.

2.36 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Platform for green jobs and skills.
- Teaching resources for KS2 and KS3 networks.
- Business support programme.

2.37 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is between £5.6m and £6.2m.

Solar PV and Battery Storage

2.38 This programme aims to provide support for residents, schools and public sector organisations to integrate solar and battery storage. It aims to develop over 11MW of new Solar capacity, saving over 1,750 tonnes of CO₂ annually, delivering £37 million in cash releasing benefits over 25 years leveraging in excess of £13 million in private sector investment.

2.39 Activities to be undertaken as part of the programme include:

- Investment in the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership scheme to install 1,000 to 2,000 solar and battery systems.
- Supporting 50 Solar for Schools installations.
- Launching a Solar Together group-buying scheme for West Yorkshire residents.
- Installation of 233kW of solar on eight of the Combined Authority's bus stations.
- Establishing a funding pot to support feasibility studies and business case development.
- Commissioning of studies to explore development of a finance offer for businesses and residents.

2.40 The estimated cost for activities to be undertaken by the programme is £7.9m.

Summary

2.41 The value of the Wave 1 portfolio has currently been estimated at between £46.1m and £52.7m across the seven programmes. It also includes costs related to activities required to enable programme development to occur and the impact of the portfolio to be measured.

2.42 To ensure a fully funded portfolio can be progressed additional funding will need to be secured. At present funding in addition to the indicative £40,000,000 gainshare allocation for IP4 (Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability) is being sought from the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and £500,000 from the indicative IP3 (Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure) allocation.

- 2.43 Further discussions are ongoing with internal and external stakeholders to secure the additional funding required to deliver the full range of activities covered by the portfolio.

Next Steps

- 2.44 Internal assurance is considering the detailed scope of the programmes on 28 September 2022 with a view to providing assurance approval for proposed activity and recommendations to the Combined Authority. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting on the outcome of this meeting.
- 2.45 Subject to internal assurance approval the Wave 1 portfolio will be considered by the Combined Authority at its 21 October 2022 meeting. The Combined Authority will be asked to approve the progression of the programmes contained within Wave 1 to the next stage of assurance. Drawdown of additional gainshare funding for development activities will also be sought at the meeting along with a recommendation for future decisions relating to the portfolio and its programmes be delegated to this Committee.
- 2.46 Post Combined Authority approval the following programmes, including funding approvals, will be brought to future meetings of this Committee:
- Better Neighbourhoods
 - Communications, Engagement and Marketing
 - Flooding and Drainage (three of the nine projects included in the programme)
 - Green Skills and Training
 - Solar PV and Storage (three of the four projects included in the programme)

Future Waves

- 2.47 As referenced above 15 interventions were prioritised from the CEP. Nine of these are covered by the programmes documented earlier in this report. The remaining six will be developed as part of Wave 2 and for reference these are:
- Local Area Energy Planning
 - Heat Decarbonisation
 - Community Energy
 - Shared Mobility
 - Green Infrastructure and Access for Health
 - Regenerative Nature Recovery Schemes
- 2.48 These interventions will be developed into individual programmes. Early-stage programme development will take place over the next six months with the intention of producing an initial scope and outline of activities for all six by the end of March 2023.

2.49 In parallel to early-stage programme development, discussions will take place internally to explore routes to secure additional funding to deliver the activities documented in the programmes.

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 is embedded across all of the Wave 1 actions to ensure local benefits can be delivered. This will be drawn out in programme development activity for each programme, 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 Equality Diversity and Inclusion 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 Decision Point 1 and Decision Point 2 of the Assurance Framework and for individual actions.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 As part of the development of Wave 1 detailed cost estimates have been produced for each of the programmes. The total Wave 1 value is £46.1m and £52.7m. This is in excess of the indicative £40,000,000 gainshare allocation, therefore additional funding will need to be secured to allow a fully funded portfolio to progress.

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. Additional resources will be required to ensure further project development activities can occur and there is a smooth transition into delivery.

8.2 As part of the development funding approved by the Combined Authority for Wave 1 at its 21 July 2022 meeting four posts were secured to support programme development activity. An additional four programme delivery posts are being requested as part of the development funding ask to the Combined Authority at its 21 October 2022 meeting to ensure a quick transition into delivery.

9. External Consultees

9.1 Wave 1 programmes 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 each programme.

10. Recommendations

10.1 That the Committee:

- Notes the contents of the report.
- Provide their endorsement for the programmes set out in this report.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.