

**Report to:** Business, Economy & Innovation Committee

**Date:** 19 October 2022

**Subject:** **Manufacturing Task Force - Delivery**

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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 the committee with an update on the work of the Mayor's Manufacturing Task Force and proposals for delivery.

## 2. Information

### Context & Background

- 2.1. The creation of a Manufacturing Task Force was part of the Mayor's "championing businesses and supporting the regional economy" pledge. It was also outlined as one of the actions in the latest iteration of the Economic Recovery Plan.
- 2.2. The Task Force was set up in November 2021 with manufacturing business leaders and representation from the four local manufacturing alliances and Make UK. Its objective was to develop a series of recommendations to improve the future resilience of the manufacturing sector. This has become even more important over the last few months as a result of the current economic climate.
- 2.3. In July 2022, the Task Force published its list of recommendations at an event held at Produmax near Bradford. The full report is attached as Appendix A for

the committee to note. The 17 recommendations are grouped under four missions which span until 2028. These are:

**Mission 1: Enabling growth through productivity and innovation.** This includes supporting businesses to adopt the likes of digital technologies to support increasing firm-level productivity and increasing the prevalence of innovation-active businesses.

**Mission 2: Manufacturing for net-zero.** This focuses on getting manufacturers net-zero ready in line with our regional net-zero carbon commitment of 2038 through the likes of measuring emissions and planning ahead for the transition to a low carbon economy.

**Mission 3: The place to be and buy from** – focusing on trade and investment. This aims to ensure that we increase the value and volume of exports from manufacturing, supporting the Global Britain agenda and increasing investment into the region.

**Mission 4: Skills for manufacturing** – focusing on increasing the skills levels in manufacturing – particularly upskilling and reskilling.

- 2.4. In addition to this, there were also three overriding recommendations which included establishing a regional manufacturing alliance, appointing a regional manufacturing champion and developing a bespoke manufacturing strategy for the region.

### **Delivering the Recommendations**

- 2.5. Over the summer, the Combined Authority has developed an initial delivery plan that outlines how we will act upon the recommendations the task force has developed. This plan in particular refers to programmes that the Combined Authority will respond to. Other recommendations may be aimed at other actors such as HM Government and associated agencies. A shortened version of this is attached as Appendix B.
- 2.6. Delivery of the task force's recommendations will run in waves, recognising that the report produced by the task force runs up until 2028. Funding for these projects will aim to be secured through the likes of the Single Investment Fund, the Shared Prosperity Fund, or other Government funding competitions or expressions of interest. Those that are being progressed under the first wave of projects at the Combined Authority are highlighted in bold in Appendix B.
- 2.7. As part of the first wave, the Combined Authority is currently progressing a number of new business support programmes through the Assurance Framework. These programmes will be delivered by officers across the Economic Services Directorate. This includes the following programmes:
- a) **Business Sustainability Programme** that will help businesses transition to the low carbon economy and support businesses to measure, plan and act to the transition to a low-carbon economy.

- b) **Innovation West Yorkshire:** a programme that will aim to increase the number of businesses engaging and involved in innovation through the likes of grant funding, challenge competitions and signposting.
  - c) **Business Productivity Programme:** a programme to support businesses improve their productivity levels through advisory services and grant funding.
  - d) **Export Support Scheme:** a programme to get more businesses exporting to international markets and introducing further trade mission and sector showcase support.
  - e) **Pilot Mayoral SME Graduate Scheme:** a programme aiming to get more graduates into priority sectors such as manufacturing and creative and cultural industries.
- 2.8. In some areas, recommendations have not yet been acted upon and will require additional work or policy thinking to inform how they will be delivered. This thinking will be developed in tandem with experts from across the region and wider industry.
- 2.9. To support delivery and oversight of the task forces' recommendations, a new Manufacturing Advisory Board will be established. This will replace the existing Leeds City Region Made Smarter Board, which specifically focused on industry 4.0. and technology adoption. This new board will have a more holistic focus on the four missions outlined in the task force's recommendations report.
- 2.10. Membership of the new Advisory Board will comprise of representatives from across the private sector, business support organisations, membership bodies and subject matter experts within the public sector.

### **Next Steps**

- 2.11. The new advisory board will be established in late Autumn 2022, with a proposed membership to be developed beforehand.
- 2.12. It is also proposed that to amplify the work of the task force, a Westminster Day is held in the Autumn or early 2023. This will provide an opportunity for the task force to showcase their recommendations to civil servants and industry bodies working across the manufacturing sphere. This could result in increased awareness of the task force's recommendations and encouraging new policy interventions to be developed on a national scale.
- 2.13. Officers are also planning to host a roundtable with regional manufacturers over the autumn to discuss the impacts the crisis in the cost of living and doing business is having on their businesses. In particular, this will focus on the latest situation with energy bills, inflation and labour market challenges.
- 2.14. The Combined Authority is also reflecting on its overall approach to business support in light of recent economic challenges relating to the crisis in the cost

of living and doing business. This is covered in separate papers to this committee.

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

- 3.1. Mission 3 of the Task Force's recommendations calls for business support to help businesses decarbonise their operations in line with the region's net-zero carbon target of 2038. A new £10 million Business Sustainability Programme is currently going through the Combined Authority's assurance framework, which, if approved, would commence delivery in 2023.

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

- 4.1. A number of the task force's recommendations seek to support the region's inclusive growth ambitions, including a focus on reskilling and/or upskilling the labour market to ensure everyone can secure work – particularly in manufacturing where digital and green skills demand will see increases over the next decade.

### **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1. Many of the programmes under the task force's delivery plan will have individual equality and diversity targets within them. In addition to this, some of the recommendations within the task forces' report are aimed at increasing the diversity of the sector's labour market profile. For instance, opportunities to explore programmes to provide opportunities to support progression in leadership opportunities for women and minorities.

### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no immediate financial implications directly arising from this report, but resource may be required in the future to deliver other interventions emerging from this programme of work.

### **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. That the committee notes the progress of delivering on the task force's recommendations report and plans for a new advisory board.

**11. Background Documents**

None

**12. Appendices**

Appendix A: Manufacturing Task Force – Recommendations Report  
Appendix B: Progress on Delivery