

## Project Overview

Project Title	Better Neighbourhoods
Date of combined SOC – FBC Submission	3 January 2023
Scheme Location/Address	West Yorkshire
Applicant Organisation	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Type of Organisation	Mayoral Combined Authority
Main Funding Programme	Gainshare allocation for Investment Priority 4
Sub Funding Programme (if applicable)	N/A
Project cost stated at previous Decision Point 1	£2,000,000 - £6,000,000 (as part of wider Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) Wave 1 portfolio approval)
Development cost allocated at previous Decision Point 1	£15,000 funding awarded to the CEP (Wave 1) for a monitoring and evaluation framework, which this programme will benefit from.
Current Forecast Project cost	£2,060,000
Funding Applied for from the Combined Authority now	£2,060,000
Other public sector funding amounts and sources	£0.00
Private sector funding amounts and sources	£0.00
Percentage split of cost for all funding sources	Gainshare allocation for Investment Priority 4 100%

## Business Case Summary

### Scheme Description

The Better Neighbourhoods programme forms part of the wider Climate and Environment Plan (CEP) Wave 1 portfolio.

The programme will work with the five West Yorkshire local authority partners, to provide grants of £5,000 to £50,000, to local communities, with a particular focus on those communities considered disadvantaged, to fund projects that will support the transition to net zero carbon.

The programme will provide community level funding to educate and implement climate improvement projects. These projects will increase climate knowledge, accelerate behaviour changes, and deliver infrastructure to improve wellbeing and building efficiency, with a long-term aim of reducing carbon emissions.

Each project must demonstrate a positive impact on at least one disadvantaged community and will aim to reduce West Yorkshire's carbon emissions. Examples include installing bicycle storage to promote sustainable travel or installing solar panels on community buildings, complementing other CEP Wave 1 schemes installing solar panels.

The programme uses the term disadvantaged to describe communities that live in areas within the 10% most deprived in England, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) - equivalent to more than half a million people, more than one in five people in West Yorkshire - or identify as having one or more of the nine protected characteristics.

The scheme is to be delivered through the Combined Authority's gainshare allocation for Investment Priority 4 Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability.

### Strategic Case

West Yorkshire declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has a target to be net zero carbon by 2038 at the latest. Investment Priority 4 will deliver a range of programmes under Wave 1 of the Climate and Environment Plan, which will contribute to the achievement of the net zero carbon target. Better Neighbourhoods is one of those programmes.

More recently, the Combined Authority's 2022-23 Corporate Plan has committed to 'building a sustainable, nature rich and carbon neutral region', continuing support for the Mayor's pledge to 'tackle the climate emergency and protect our environment'.

Ensuring a transition to net zero will be at the heart of the programme, through its prioritisation of disadvantaged communities and focus on behaviour change, engagement education, and inspiration.

The programme will also include engagement with community groups to build capacity for future delivery and funding. Projects funded as part of the Better Neighbourhoods programme will contribute to Investment Priority 4 outcomes.

Better Neighbourhoods also supports the progress under Investment Priority 3: Creating Great Places and Accelerated Infrastructure, through accelerating investment focused on improving places and neighbourhoods.

### Economic Case

No benefit cost ratio (BCR) or value for money (VfM) calculations have been undertaken at this stage in programme development. The outputs and benefits of the programme will only be determined once applications for projects have been submitted and funding awarded.

### Commercial Case

There are active community organisations in West Yorkshire linked to climate activity, showing there is an interest in neighbourhood activity.

A robust procurement strategy has been developed for the programme. The Combined Authority will seek to procure one supplier for Better Neighbourhoods, to undertake evaluation at the programme level.

Funding for projects will be allocated to Local Authorities via funding agreements.

### Financial Case

The total Better Neighbourhood programme costs are £2,060,000, to be solely funded by the gainshare allocation for Investment Priority 4.

Each local authority's allocation has been determined based on population and will cover overheads associated with delivering the programme, capped at 10% of its allocation, and grant funding for projects. The Combined Authority will need to enter into a funding agreement with each local authority, for expenditure up to the allocations outlined in the table above.

Bradford	£397,324
Calderdale	£155,475
Kirklees	£310,950

Leeds	£604,624
Wakefield	£259,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,727,498</b>

The remainder of the costs, totalling £332,502 comprise, £118,348 for the Combined Authority's programme development and programme management costs, £63,800 for the evaluation, including inflation and a further £150,354 held centrally by the Combined Authority to support Local Authorities to access additional funding where demand exceeds initial district allocations. The programme steering group will oversee allocations from this pot.

### Management Case

The programme will be funded by the Combined Authority but will be delivered by the West Yorkshire Local Authorities, or in the case of Wakefield and Calderdale, by a third sector organisation.

The Combined Authority will be responsible for programme level activities for example programme level communication and marketing, evaluation and contract management and monitoring. The partner councils will have responsibility for local level activities, including local communications and marketing, the award and distribution of funding including all administration work required and the management and monitoring of the projects in line with funding requirements.

The Climate and Environment Plan Board will be responsible for ensuring the programme delivers its outputs and benefits and will provide oversight and leadership on all CEP projects/programmes.

The Better Neighbourhoods programme level steering group will comprise of senior officers from the Combined Authority and will report progress to the board.

A Task and Finish Group was created with representatives from the Combined Authority and each local authority has also been established to support programme delivery.