

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

**Date:** 11 July 2023

**Subject:** **Monitoring Indicators**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## 1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To present the latest position on the State of the Region monitoring indicators relating to Climate and the Environment.
- 1.2. To present an updated comparison of the outturn carbon emissions with the carbon reduction pathways derived by the Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways (CERP) study.

## 2. Information

### Monitoring arrangements

- 2.1. At its meeting on the 27 March 2022, the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee agreed a new approach to monitoring and reporting. The Committee approved a set of indicators relevant to its remit and agreed to receive regular reporting against these indicators, with this topic becoming a standard item on the Committee's agenda. These are the key regional indicators that measure the outcomes that the work of the committee is seeking to improve. Indicators will be reported on by exception i.e. when fresh data becomes available for each indicator, allowing the analysis to be updated.
- 2.2. The indicators will be reported on in detail in the State of the Region 2023 report, the Combined Authority's annual stock-take of West Yorkshire's socio-economic performance. The State of the Region indicators are intended to

provide a high level, strategic picture of performance against this priority rather than a detailed examination of operational performance of specific projects.

### **The Indicators**

- 2.3 The core indicators agreed by the Committee are set out below.
- Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)
  - Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent) by sector
  - Greenhouse gas emissions intensity ratio
  - Building energy efficiency
  - Premises at risk of flooding
  - Households in fuel poverty
  - Access to greenspace
- 2.4 The following indicators have been updated with the new data since the last meeting of the Committee in March:
- Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)
  - Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent) by sector
  - Greenhouse gas emissions intensity ratio

### **Key messages**

- 2.5 The headline messages from the updated analysis of these indicators are as follows. It should be noted that this information was only released a couple of days before this paper was published, so there is still further consideration to be done on the consequences of the numbers. It should also be emphasised that the new figures relate to 2021 and do not provide a fully up to date picture.
- Total greenhouse gas emissions in West Yorkshire increased by 6% in 2021 compared with the previous year. This follows a decline in emissions in 2020 linked to the pandemic. However, 2021 emissions were 5% below their pre-pandemic 2019 level. This pattern of change is very similar to that seen at national level.
  - UK data indicate that the increase in emissions in 2021 was largely due to the COVID-19 restrictions easing and more heating use due to colder weather.
  - Emissions increased in all five West Yorkshire local authorities as it did across 96% of UK local authority areas. Emissions grew fastest in Bradford, Wakefield and Kirklees in 2021 (with an 8% increase in each case). Emissions grew by 6% in Calderdale and by 3% in Leeds.
  - Per capita emissions also increased in West Yorkshire in 2021 but remain lower than the England average at 4.4 versus 5.5 ktCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent respectively. Per capita emissions range from 3.9 ktCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in Bradford to 5.7 in Wakefield.
  - All broad sectors of the West Yorkshire economy experienced an increase in emissions in 2020-21.
  - Transport is the biggest source of emissions in West Yorkshire. There was growth of 3% in transport emissions between 2020 and 2021, leaving emissions 14% below their 2019 pre-pandemic level.

- The biggest contributors to the overall net increase in emissions in West Yorkshire were the Industry sector (+201 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e; +10%) and the Commercial sector (+138 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e; +29%).
- West Yorkshire has a slightly higher emissions intensity than the national average. Emissions intensity fell in West Yorkshire and nationally in 2020-21 as output grew faster than emissions.
- Turning to the potential future trend, [provisional data](#) indicates that, in spite of the continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, total UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions were 2.2% lower in 2022 than in 2021 following warmer weather in 2022 and higher energy costs linked to the war in Ukraine limiting energy demand.

### **Comparison with carbon reduction pathways**

- 2.6 A report to the meeting of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee on 4 October 2022 compared the outturn carbon emissions with the carbon reduction pathways derived by the [Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways \(CERP\) study](#). This analysis has been repeated with the updated data reported above.
- 2.7 The more recent figures have involved an adjustment to the 2019 (historical) emissions figures which means that the CERP pathways (which were matched to the previous 2019 figures) are now slightly out of alignment with the 2019 data. This means that comparison with carbon pathways can only be regarded as approximate.
- 2.8 The expected upturn in carbon emissions in 2021 returned carbon emissions to somewhere between the 'Baseline' (business as usual) and the three carbon reduction pathways in the CERP report but now well above the Tyndall proxy reduction pathway. All four of these lines are still close together at this early point in the series. More detailed analysis is provided in appendix 1 to this report (figure 3).
- 2.9 It is likely that, once published, data for 2022 will show a reduction in emissions in West Yorkshire compared with 2021, reflecting the UK position. But this may prove to be consistent with a reversion to the pre-pandemic baseline trend.

### **Policy Context**

- 2.9 The monitoring indicators show that in 2021, the regions carbon emissions were between the business-as-usual scenario and the three modelled reduction pathways. As it is very early in the series, it is hard to distinguish between the three pathways to confirm which pathway we are on track with.
- 2.10 It is evident that a significant challenge lies ahead, and great efforts must be made, at an accelerated pace, in order to fulfil our net-zero commitments.
- 2.11 The recent [2023 Progress Report to Parliament](#) by the Climate Change Committee highlights a concerning decline in confidence regarding the UK's

ability to achieve its goals from 2030 onward compared to the previous assessment. The report emphasises the need to prioritise speed of action over striving for perfection. In particular, urgent progress is required in the buildings sector, as the implementation of fabric energy efficiency measures has drastically declined since 2012 and is far from reaching the necessary levels to meet climate targets.

2.12 Our local ambition is set out in the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan. Please see Item 12 on the agenda for an update on the actions we are prioritising and the progress we are making towards delivery of these actions.

2.14 As the CERP was completed in 2020, the Combined Authority is looking to undertake a refresh of the study. A procurement specification for this will be drafted shortly.

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

3.1. The indicators and monitoring arrangements enable us to assess West Yorkshire's progress in tackling the climate emergency. The latest analysis shows that greenhouse gas emissions grew in 2021 (the latest data available).

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

4.1. The indicators feature several with direct implications for inclusive growth, including those relating to fuel poverty, energy efficiency and access to green space.

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

5.1. State of the Region report brings out equality and diversity implications across all indicators, where availability of data allows, for example the impact of fuel poverty on different communities.

### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

### **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 headline analysis of the indicators and the carbon reduction pathway analysis.

## **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1: Indicator report