



Report to:	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
Date:	13 February 2024
Subject:	Monitoring Indicators
Director:	Sarah Eaton, Director of Strategy, Communications and Intelligence
Author:	Guilherme Rodrigues, Peter Glover

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 present the latest position on the State of the Region monitoring indicators relating to climate, energy and the environment.
- 1.2. To respond to comments raised at the last meeting of the Committee (24 October 2023).
- 1.3. To alert the Committee to data quality issues relating to Energy Performance Certificate statistics.

2. Information

Monitoring arrangements

- 2.1. As part of agreed monitoring arrangements, the Climate, energy and environment Committee receives regular reports against a set of State of the Region indicators relevant to its remit. These are presented as a standing item on the Committee's agenda. These indicators reflect the outcomes that the work of the committee is seeking to improve. Indicators are reported on by exception i.e. when fresh data becomes available for each indicator, allowing the analysis to be updated.

- 2.2 The indicators are reported on in detail in the latest State of the Region 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 as follows:
- Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent)
 - Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ 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 A number of additional indicators relevant to the work of the Committee were identified as part of the development of the West Yorkshire Plan, which was presented in draft to the Committee at its January 2023 meeting. These indicators are as follows:
- Deployment of electric buses
 - Deployment of electric charging infrastructure.

Key messages

- 2.5 The latest key messages for indicators for which new data has become available since the last meeting are summarised below and are also visualised in appendix 2 to this paper. Detailed analysis of the emissions-related indicators was provided in the indicator paper presented to the July Committee meeting and can be found [here](#).

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure

- 2.6. The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan sets a commitment to accelerate the deployment of electric vehicle chargepoints across the region with a focus on ensuring equity. The latest figures show that as of November 2023, there were 42,489 publicly available electric vehicle (EV) charging devices installed in England and 979 in West Yorkshire. The number of charging devices in West Yorkshire has grown rapidly, expanding by 51% in the year to October 2023 alone, although there was no change between July and October 2023, the latest quarter for which figures are available. The ratio of charging devices to population is below the national average in West Yorkshire (42 versus 75 per 100,000 population) and is improving less quickly than nationally; although West Yorkshire outperforms the England average in terms of rapid charging devices per head of population (14 versus 13).

Responses to queries from the Committee at the October 2023 meeting

- 2.7 The following section sets out responses to issues and queries relating to data and monitoring indicators raised by the Committee at the October 2023 meeting.

EPC data

- 2.8 During the discussion of building energy efficiency, the Committee noted that a significant proportion of new build dwellings in West Yorkshire were recorded as having an energy efficiency rating below C, based on data supplied by DLHUC. This was felt to be potentially anomalous and further investigation by officers showed that this apparent issue within the data is largely confined to dwellings in Leeds.
- 2.9 Exploration of individual EPC lodgement records within the full open dataset available from DLHUC, upon which the EPC statistics are based, indicates that there are significant data quality issues. Many EPC lodgement records which are classified as relating to new dwellings clearly do not relate to new dwellings. This is apparent from contradictions between the type of transaction recorded, the construction date (at least in some cases the basis for determining whether a dwelling is new) and date of lodgement. These issues are more prevalent in data originating from 2020 and earlier, with an improvement in data quality since then.
- 2.10 A further issue identified in the data is that the EPC records that underpin DLHUC's published statistics seem to contain many duplicates i.e. multiple lodgements for the same dwelling.
- 2.11 To address this issue the Combined Authority has downloaded and cleaned the DLHUC EPC data for West Yorkshire in order to calculate alternative estimates of efficiency ratings for the region and its constituent local authorities using more robust data. The revised estimates are presented in appendix 2.
- 2.12 In future, it is proposed that reporting of EPC analysis should be based on a combination of DLHUC data that has been cleaned and quality checked in-house by the Combined Authority, together with Office for National Statistics analysis of EPC data. The former approach will be used to provide an assessment of trends on a quarterly basis for West Yorkshire and the five local authorities, including for the purposes of monitoring progress against the Mayor's housing pledge. The latter dataset from ONS has been subjected to quality assurance but is much more limited in terms of the range of data it contains and is only published annually. It will be used to look at longer term annual trends and as the basis for benchmarking West Yorkshire with other areas.
- 2.13 The Combined Authority has conferred with relevant officers within the local authorities to raise awareness of this issue and has contacted DLHUC to highlight the data quality deficiencies and to explore the potential for corrective action. The Committee will be updated on any progress at future meetings.

Access to greenspace

- 2.14 At the October meeting of the Committee members raised queries regarding the Access to Greenspace indicator. It was felt to be counter-intuitive that Calderdale and Kirklees should have relatively low access to greenspace and should rank lower against this indicator than Bradford and Leeds in view of the wealth of greenspace in both of these local authority areas. A detailed explanation of this indicator is provided below which hopefully will allay these concerns. In summary the apparent anomaly arises from the specific nature of the indicator selected to measure access to greenspace, which is taken directly from the work of Natural England.
- 2.15 The headline 'access to greenspace' indicator included in the West Yorkshire State of the Region report is defined as the 'proportion of the population who have access to local greenspace; that is, they live within 300m (as the crow flies) of an area of accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size in which a sense of naturalness prevails over the sense of human made environment'.
- 2.16 The spatial data that defines the locations of natural local greenspace (including the 300m buffer) is Natural England's 'Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard' layer which is available to view on Natural England's England Green Infrastructure Mapping Database ([Green Infrastructure Map \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk)). Accessible Natural Greenspaces are these sites that meet the definitions of accessible greenspace and natural greenspace. Accessible greenspace is defined as sites that *'are available for the general public to use free of charge and without time restrictions (although some sites may be closed to the public overnight and there may be fees for parking a vehicle)*. *Accessible greenspaces are available to all, meaning that every reasonable effort is made to comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2020. Accessible Greenspaces are areas of vegetation set within a landscape or townscape, often include blue space (i.e. lakes, rivers and wetlands)*'. Natural greenspace is defined as *'places where human control and activities are not intensive so that a feeling of naturalness is allowed to predominate. Natural and semi-natural greenspace exists as a distinct typology but also as discrete areas within the majority of other greenspace typologies'*. Appendix 2 of Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework - Principles and Standards for England guide ([Green Infrastructure Standards for England Summary \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk)) provides detail summary of how they have defined these. The headline indicator in the West Yorkshire State of the Region presents this data as the share of the population who live within the 300m buffer zones applied by Natural England, with population data taken from the 2021 Census at neighbourhood level (lower super output area level).

Electric vehicle miles

- 2.17 The Committee highlighted the need for metrics of environmental impact of electric vehicles such as zero carbon or electric miles travelled. This is not currently available for West Yorkshire but the Combined Authority's transport monitoring team are currently exploring the potential to use MOT data for this purpose. MoT data is available as

anonymised open data and contains details of vehicle mileage plus fuel type. The Committee will be updated as progress is made on this work.

Air quality

- 2.18 At the October meeting during a discussion of air quality the question was raised of whether the Combined Authority monitors particulates. This is an area that is currently development. The West Yorkshire Particulate Information Improvement Project (PIIP), funded by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), has been developed in partnership with Districts, is also supported by partnerships with Leeds Beckett University and the University of Leeds. It has been designed to significantly improve knowledge and understanding of particulate matter locally, improving awareness and bridging the knowledge gap surrounding regional particulate matter data. This will provide a better understanding of which sources are having greatest impacts on our communities, enable interventions to be targeted most effectively. The project comprises four work packages which include enhancing the West Yorkshire particulate matter monitoring network, a particulate dashboard and regional air quality public information page, and research projects by university partners. Work is underway to develop the specification for the Particulate Matter Information Dashboard as well as identify research areas for our Leeds Beckett University and University of Leeds research partners.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. The State of the Region indicators provide a picture of the progress that is being made in addressing the Climate Emergency, most notably in terms of emissions reduction.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. The indicators featured in State of the Region include 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. The main State of the Region report brings out equality and diversity implications across 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

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Indicator analysis

Appendix 2 – Revised analysis of Energy Performance Certificate data