



<b>Report to:</b>	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 February 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways Refresh</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Liz Hunter, Director of Policing, Environment and Place
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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 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the refresh of the Combined Authority's Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways in order to develop a single, complete pathway to net zero by 2038 (the "Complete Pathway").
- 1.2 Members will have the opportunity to provide their views on the approach to developing the Complete Pathway and associated project outputs in order to inform the development of those deliverables.

## 2. Information

### Background

- 2.1 As discussed at the previous meeting of the Committee, the Combined Authority is currently in the process of commissioning consultancy support to update the Carbon Emissions Reductions Pathways (the "Pathways") that underpin the Climate and Environment Plan ("CEP").
- 2.2 As the CEP sets out, there are at present three Pathways setting out different emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e) reduction trajectories, and with them different plans and strategies to achieve them, namely: 'max ambition', 'high hydrogen' and 'balanced'. Each of the Pathways

modelled interventions to achieve significant emissions reductions by 2038, but acknowledged that, to reach net-zero, 'increased ambition around some measures, more speculative options or systems changes would be needed.'

- 2.3 Consequently, each Pathway sees an amount of emissions remaining in 2038; depending on the individual Pathway, the region will need to achieve an additional 17% to 25% reduction in emissions by 2038 on top of those measures currently identified.
- 2.4 Therefore, and as envisaged by the Pathways, the region is now at a juncture where a single, complete pathway needs to be developed (the "Complete Pathway") that will demonstrate how net zero can be achieved by 2038, with no 'gaps' or requirements for additional measures to reach this.
- 2.5 The Complete Pathway will comprise the core of the evidence base for the updated CEP. Other key deliverables will include an implementation roadmap to accompany the Complete Pathway (the "Complete Roadmap"), together with policy recommendations and an action plan to deliver the recommended activity to achieve the region's net zero target.

#### Appointment of contractor and input from the Committee

- 2.6 Following a successful tender exercise, a contractor (Ove Arup and Partners Limited, the "Contractor") has been appointed to produce the Complete Pathway and the other project outputs described above.
- 2.7 The Contractor has agreed to attend the Committee's meeting, in order to present its proposed approach, and to take feedback from members to incorporate into the development of the Complete Pathway and associated deliverables.

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

- 3.1 Producing the Complete Pathway will be a core element of addressing the climate emergency and meeting net-zero carbon in the region, for the reasons discussed above. It will also be a core part of the evidence base for the updated CEP.

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

- 4.1 As noted in the previous item, transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy must reduce inequality in West Yorkshire and provide opportunities for better jobs and quality of life for residents as part of the transition to net-zero carbon and sustainable economy – these ambitions will be reflected within the action plan associated with the Complete Pathway, and in turn the updated CEP.

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

- 5.1 Meeting net-zero carbon and transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy should be equitable. Consultation activities will be developed with equality and diversity as a key

consideration. Actions that support equity, participation and inclusiveness will be considered when developing the action plan flowing from the Complete Pathway, and at the point of scheme development (see earlier report on the CEP).

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 The cost of developing the Complete Pathway and other associated outputs (such as the Complete Roadmap and Action Plan) is estimated to be in the region of £130,000 inclusive of VAT. Due to the wide relevance of this work and its applicability to departments across WYCA, this project will be funded through contributions from existing departmental budgets including the Single Investment Fund.

## **7. Legal Implications**

7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

## **8. Staffing Implications**

8.1 Project managing the refresh of the CERPs, including assisting with consultation activities, will be a core responsibility of a Policy Officer in the Net Zero and Energy team. Officers in the Consultation and Engagement team will provide support for any associated consultation activities – officers are currently considering the consultation that might be needed, which will determine the level of support required.

## **9. External Consultees**

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1 That the Committee notes the contents of this report.

10.2. That the Committee provides its views on the approach to developing the Complete Pathway and associated project outputs presented by the Contractor at the meeting, in order to inform the development of those deliverables.

## **11. Background Documents**

The Combined Authority's Climate and Environment Plan 2021 to 2024.