



Report to:	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
Date:	26 November 2024
Subject:	Draft Climate and Environment Plan
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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 the report does contain exempt information, what is the reason for exemption: <i>(indicate in the adjacent box the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1 – see Access to Information Rules)</i>	

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To provide an update on progress made to date in delivering the existing West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan and transitional arrangement to the next Climate and Environment Plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee notes the update.

3. Information

Context

- 3.1. In 2019 the Combined Authority, along with other public authorities, declared a climate emergency, recognising that action needed to be taken to address rising temperatures and the increasing number of severe weather events. Alongside the declaration of the climate emergency the Combined Authority also set a target for West Yorkshire to be net zero carbon by 2038.
- 3.2. To align with the climate emergency declaration and the setting of the regional target the Combined Authority published its first Climate and Environment Plan (the Plan) covering

the period 2021 to 2024. The publication of the first Plan coincided with the election of the Mayor and demonstrated how her pledge to tackle the climate emergency would be delivered.

- 3.3. The Plan was underpinned by the Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways (CERP), an evidence base that demonstrated the different pathways that the region could take to meet the net zero carbon target and the interventions that would be needed if West Yorkshire was to successfully achieve its ambition.

Progress to date

- 3.4. The expiring Plan has overseen a significant amount of activity to address the climate emergency and contribute to achieving the regional net zero carbon target. Activity is not confined to one sector but has been delivered across all eight themes of the existing Plan.
- 3.5. Notable achievements include:
- Delivery of Phase 1 of the Zero Emission Bus Programme, with new buses now operating in Leeds.
 - Launch of the West Yorkshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Framework to support collaborative chargepoint procurement and private investment in chargepoint delivery.
 - Awarded £36m of funding for West Yorkshire active travel schemes.
 - Installed solar panels on seven bus stations, generating 175k kWh per year and saving 250 tonnes of CO₂.
 - Gained approval for 16 projects within the Capital Flood Risk Infrastructure and Natural Flood Management programmes.
 - Gained approval for one-stop shop, launching in Spring 2025, and West Yorkshire Housing Partnership solar project.
 - Supported 147 small businesses with emergency energy grants, saving 495 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent a year, and safeguarding 210 jobs.
 - Launched the Mayor's Community Climate Grants, awarding funding to 81 projects.

The new Climate and Environment Plan

- 3.6. As the current Plan nears expiry development of the next Plan has accelerated. The new Plan will cover the period 2025 to 2038 but will include more detailed actions for the

period 2025 to 2028 to align with the current Mayoral term of office and will again be underpinned by the CERP (the CERP has been updated for 2024 and this time has one pathway rather than the previous three).

- 3.7. While the existing Plan is broad in its focus it is not the intention for the new Plan to be all encompassing. To do so would mean venturing into areas of activity that are outside of the Combined Authority's (and its partner local authorities') control and influence. Recognising this the audience for the new Plan has been established as the Combined Authority, local authorities, key stakeholders and investors, and Government.
- 3.8. Achieving our ambitions on net zero will require bold action and the new Plan will reflect this. It will focus on those areas such as transport and housing that the Combined Authority has influence over. This is not to say that other activity is not required to meet the net zero carbon target. All sectors and communities, including our businesses will need to play their part. It will also require a step change in how we travel, embracing modal shift, transitioning to more sustainable modes, and switching to cleaner technologies such as battery electric vehicles.
- 3.9. The proposed framework for the new Plan is set out in Figure 1 below and is set within the context of the West Yorkshire Plan (particularly Mission 4), the net zero carbon ambition and five objectives where the bulk of activity needs to occur.



Figure 1. Draft Climate & Environment Plan Framework

- 3.10. In developing the new Plan we are cognisant of existing policies and strategies, for example the West Yorkshire Housing Strategy. Wherever possible these interfaces will be reflected in the new Plan ensuring alignment, avoidance of duplication and mixed messaging.
- 3.11. Furthermore, the CERP, as our evidence base on meeting our climate aspirations, underpins the development of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and Local Growth Plan (LGP). As a shared evidence base these documents will be informed and framed in a way that ensures they contribute to the delivery of our net zero carbon ambition and tackling the climate and environmental emergencies.
- 3.12. The framework and draft activity areas for the ne Plan are being developed in partnership with West Yorkshire Local Authorities, key stakeholders and will be informed by our previous public consultation such as the Mayors Big Climate Chat.
- 3.13. The current timescale is for the Combined Authority to adopt the Plan in Spring 2025. While there is likely to be a hiatus of three and four months between the expiry of the old Plan and the new one being adopted, this does not mean activity will cease in delivering against our regional ambitions for climate and environment. In addition to the finalisation of the new Plan, activity will continue on the delivery of schemes that were established as part of the previous plan, for example the development of the One Stop Shop as part of the Home Energy West Yorkshire Programme.

4. Risks and Mitigations

- 4.1 There is a risk that in developing the framework and activity areas for the new Plan in advance of securing additional public sector funding to the scale required to reach net zero 2038 we will raise expectations amongst partners and stakeholders, this is a risk that we are required to take to drive future investment decisions.

5. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 5.1 The new Climate and Environment Plan is the primary policy document in West Yorkshire identifying the activity that the Combined Authority will lead to deliver against the regional net zero carbon target. It will be developed to be complimentary to the plans of our Local Authority partners.

6. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 6.1 The new Plan will set out the key evidence in respect of the potential impact of climate change on vulnerable groups in West Yorkshire, to ensure that inclusivity is central to our case for acting on the climate and environment emergency.
- 6.2 We know that existing inequalities can mean that certain groups are more exposed to climate hazards or can be more vulnerable to them. For example, the elderly or those with health conditions are at risk from heat exposure or poor air quality, and other factors

such as location (potentially increased exposure to flooding), low income and poor-quality housing all contribute to individuals either being more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, or having reduced capacity to adapt to it.

7. Equity and Diversity Implications

- 7.1 The new Plan will emphasise that we must deliver the economic and social benefits of acting on the climate and environment emergency in an equitable and inclusive way. The Combined Authority will ensure that Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) are carried out on all schemes that are developed out of the actions contained in the Plan.
- 7.2 An EQIA has been carried out for the new Climate and Environment Plan and has determined that all protected characteristics are affected by climate change. It also recognises that there are direct and indirect factors that increase vulnerability to the effects of climate change which are not themselves protected characteristics, such as low income, being in ill health, and being in locations exposed to the effect of climate change such as flooding.
- 7.3 The co-benefits of meeting the net zero target will be set out in the new Plan. There are expected to be significant benefits for the population of West Yorkshire, including in respect of public health, air quality, investment in green jobs, reducing fuel poverty, and nature recovery, amongst others.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report, however the evidence base underpinning the new Plan suggests the public sector contribution up to 2038 to get to net zero is in the region of £6 billion. The cost of actions and interventions will be further considered through the next phase of the Plan development.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report. Where there are legal implications stemming from the different activities included in the new Plan these will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

10. External Consultees

- 10.1 Extensive external consultation has taken place in the development of refreshed carbon pathways work and in scoping the new Plan. This ranges from local authority officers, through to key stakeholders and Committee members. Further external engagement is planned with wider stakeholders.

11. Background Documents

- 11.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.