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| Report to: | Climate, Energy and Environment Committee |
| Date: | 25 March 2025 |
| Subject: | West Yorkshire Public / Private Climate Partnership – Draft Action Plan (2025/26) |
| Director: | 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 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 The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of the draft 2025/26 action plan for the West Yorkshire Public / Private Climate Partnership and to seek Committee feedback on the proposed activities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the content of the report and provides feedback on the proposal activities set out in the draft action plan.

3. Information

- 3.1 The Combined Authority has set a target for West Yorkshire to be net zero carbon by 2038, 12 years ahead of the national net zero target. To achieve this goal interventions that reduce emissions will need to be delivered at a pace and scale that is unprecedented and is a significant departure from current levels of deployment.
- 3.2 As highlighted to the Committee at their [July 2024 meeting](#) the Combined Authority is testing whether forging closer relationships with the private sector via a strategic partnership can result in an increase in the pace and scale of activity in West Yorkshire.

- 3.3 The West Yorkshire Public / Private Climate Partnership (the Partnership) was established in May 2024 and is a partnership between the Combined Authority and four private sector organisations – Centrica, Daikin, SSE, and Sustainable Building Services. It is hoped that the Partnership will be one of the key mechanisms for delivering the scale of activity required to meet the net zero carbon target and the actions set out in the Climate and Environment Plan.
- 3.4 The Committee have previously raised concerns about the perception of providing an unfair advantage to the four private sector organisations that are part of the Partnership and disadvantages smaller organisations, especially those operating in West Yorkshire.
- 3.5 To overcome this risk the MOU governing the Partnership is very clear that Public Procurement Rules will be implemented where Combined Authority funding is to be used for activity that results from the Partnership. Furthermore, the Combined Authority is committed to ensuring that all opportunities, both those emanating from the Partnership and from other workstreams, will be advertised and promoted to all organisations regardless of size through the normal channels.
- 3.6 The Combined Authority will also commit to sharing information relevant to any procurement that may have been shared with the Partnership in prior conversations to ensure a level playing field for those looking to bid for commissions which the information relates.
- 3.7 It is also hoped, once resources allow, a broader forum will be established to provide the wider sector with knowledge of activity that is being undertaken by the Combined Authority on climate, energy and environment related activity.

Proposed 2025/26 Activity

- 3.8 Over the course of October and November 2024 one to one discussions took place between the Combined Authority and each private sector organisation to understand the activity that could be delivered through the Partnership in 2025/26. As a result of these conversations six common areas of focus have been identified:
- Climate finance and commercial models
 - Financial offers
 - Sustainable homes centres
 - Match-making service
 - Workshops and events
- 3.9 Further information on each of the five areas of focus, including potential activity, is set out below.

Climate Finance and Commercial Models

- 3.10 All four of the private sector partners have experience of developing their own financing mechanisms and commercial models for the delivery of net zero schemes. Both approaches are likely to be required if the region is to meet its ambition to be net zero carbon by 2038.
- 3.11 Other areas of the country are developing their own financing mechanisms and commercial models in relation to net zero. For example, the Greater London Authority (GLA) has established a £500m Green Finance Fund, and Bristol City Council have entered into a commercial partnership with private sector organisations Ameresco and Vattenfall to develop net zero schemes across the Bristol.
- 3.12 The Combined Authority has ambitions to develop its own financing mechanisms for the delivery of net zero schemes. There is also an interest in understanding the benefits of entering into a commercial partnership with one or more organisations. As such there is significant expertise and knowledge that the Combined Authority could access through the Partnership to develop its approach in these areas.
- 3.13 As part of this area of focus the private sector partners will support the Combined Authority to develop its thinking in relation to the development of a West Yorkshire Climate Fund, including the potential for providing their own finance into the Fund.

Financial Offers

- 3.14 Over the last ten years the Combined Authority has delivered several programmes of activity that has provided support to residents and businesses to help them decarbonise. For example, the Resource Efficient Business (REBiz) programme and the Business Sustainability Programme have provided grants and expertise to SMEs across the region to improve their resource and energy efficiency.
- 3.15 More recently we have seen appetite from residents of West Yorkshire to access low interest loans and participate in collective buying to upgrade their homes.
- 3.16 Two of the private sector partners have already indicated that they have live financial offers for residents. For example, Daikin have a 0% loan offer that they can offer to residents to support them with the installation of a heat pump.
- 3.17 Given the obvious interest in such financial offers from businesses and residents alike, coupled with the expertise of the private sector partners, there is an opportunity for the Combined Authority to capitalise on this interest and knowledge to develop further financial offers for businesses and residents.

- 3.18 As part of this area of focus the private sector partners will work with the Combined Authority to develop potential financial offers that could be deployed in West Yorkshire in relation to a specific technology or technologies.

Sustainable Homes Centres

- 3.19 There is currently a lack of understanding and awareness from residents on the benefits of installing low carbon technologies in their homes. This, alongside other factors such as a lack of low-cost finance, is acting as a barrier to the installation of retrofit measures at the rate required to meet the 2038 net zero carbon target.
- 3.20 There is also a lack of understanding and awareness from the supply chain about how to install low carbon technologies in residents' homes. Again, this creates a barrier to the installation of retrofit measures as it is difficult for residents where they want to install low carbon technologies to find an appropriate supplier.
- 3.21 The four private sector partners have significant experience of overcoming these issues and have all individually developed solutions that address these barriers. One approach that has been deployed successfully in other locations is locating sustainable homes centres in key locations within a region e.g. city centres.
- 3.22 The centres would provide a location where residents could find out more about specific technologies and see them working before making a commitment to installing within their homes. It is hoped that at least five sustainable homes centres will be established across the region as part of the Partnership, one in each district.

Match Making Service

- 3.23 The private sector partners have significant resources available to them to develop and deliver net zero schemes independently of the Combined Authority. However, they lack the contacts and assets in West Yorkshire to be able to develop a high number of net zero schemes.
- 3.24 The Combined Authority and its local authority partners will not be able to develop the majority of net zero schemes that will be required to meet the net zero carbon target. The expectation is the private sector will fulfil this role.
- 3.25 A key role of the Combined Authority is the facilitation of activity that leads to the delivery of specific schemes or initiatives by organisations other than itself. As part of the Partnership the Combined Authority will use its existing relationships with organisations and businesses across the region to broker no obligation conversations that explore potential net zero opportunities with the four private sector partners.

Workshops and Events

- 3.26 Achieving the regional net zero carbon target will require residents and businesses to change their behaviours to ones which are compatible with a need to reduce emissions.
- 3.27 The dissemination of information in an engaging and informative way will be key to changing behaviours and all the private sector partners have experience of running large-scale engagement and communications campaigns that aim to change residents' behaviours.
- 3.28 As part of the Partnership the private sector partners are committed to organising and leading on a variety of engagement activities that aim to increase awareness of the low carbon choices that residents can make.
- 3.29 This activity ties in closely with the establishment of Sustainable Homes Centres across the region and will supplement these with workshops and events. Indeed, Daikin have already delivered as part of the Partnership heat pump awareness events for residents and potential installers.

4. Risks and Mitigations

- 4.1 There are no risks directly arising from this report.

5. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 5.1 The Partnership is a key element of the Combined Authority response to addressing the climate emergency. If successful, the Partnership will help to accelerate the pace and scale of activity that is implemented in West Yorkshire and contribute to the delivery of the 2038 net zero carbon target.

6. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 6.1 The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) underpinning the Partnership includes provisions to ensure that all activity undertaken through the Partnership takes inclusive growth into account. The Combined Authority will encourage the four private sector partners to design schemes with inclusivity principals embedded from the beginning.

7. Equity and Diversity Implications

- 7.1 As with inclusive growth, the MOU underpinning the Partnership includes provisions to ensure that all activity undertaken through the Partnership fully considers equality and diversity issues. The Combined Authority will encourage the four private sector partners to design schemes that do not disadvantage or discriminate residents of West Yorkshire.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report as the Partnership is not underpinned by financial resources from the Combined Authority. Activity that is developed as part of the Partnership will have financial implications; however, the nature of the activity will determine whether there are financial implications for the Combined Authority. Where this is the case, an open and transparent procurement process will be undertaken to ensure value for money is being achieved.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

10. External Consultees

- 10.1 No external consultations have been undertaken in the preparation of this report.

11. Background Documents

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

12. Appendices

None