

Mayoral Combined Authority Board

21 March 2022

Housing Retrofit

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
<i>Reason why exempt:</i>	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Policy Decision
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Yes

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

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Executive Summary

This report advises MCA Board of current progress towards the net zero target of 2040 and highlights priority areas of impact, namely Domestic, Transport, Industry and Nature. Addressed at scale, these areas would give further impetus to SYMCA led decarbonisation commitments within the region. It is recommended that Board recognise the priority areas of impact and endorse the development of interventions within these areas. This report also recommends next steps towards a Housing retrofit study, which if implemented would contribute to the reduction of emissions within the domestic sector.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

Climate change is impacting our homes and communities, our infrastructure, agriculture, water supplies, and natural environment in South Yorkshire and it will do so with increasing frequency and intensity in the years ahead. The impacts to our society and our economy will be profound. We all have a role to play and both co-operation on use of resources and collaboration at regional level will be of great benefit in addressing these challenges.

Recommendations

MCA Board are asked:

- To note progress made on delivering the net zero target and to support the development of programmes within priority areas of impact - namely Domestic, Transport, Industry and Nature - that will also directly contribute towards the Net Zero target whilst delivering additional social and/or economic benefits.
- To support the commissioning of a Housing Retrofit Study that identifies actions to be undertaken to support the delivery of housing retrofit programmes across South Yorkshire.

1. Background

- 1.1 In November 2019, the MCA declared a Climate and Environmental Emergency. In January 2020, the MCA Board approved the Climate Response Framework (CRF) which split the challenge into five areas: Leadership, Carbon Reduction, Carbon Capture, Climate Adaptation, and Climate Economy to achieve a Net Zero economy by 2040.
- 1.2 The MCA's net zero work programme is cross cutting, being delivered through all policy themes. To achieve our net zero targets, we need to continue to harness the collaborative work of all functional areas.
- 1.3 At present, MCA programmes covering transport, housing and infrastructure and the broader activities the MCA supports, can and do have a beneficial effect on the climate goals of the region, but the impacts so far are modest.
- 1.4 The information in Appendix A illustrates the contributors to South Yorkshire's carbon emissions and both the reductions that have been made since 2005 and the projected pathway to meet the net zero target. It highlights that policy gaps are evident across a number of sectors, which will require interventions at scale to achieve the reductions necessary.
- 1.5 For South Yorkshire to meet its net zero target whilst growing the economy and improving opportunity for its residents, embedding sustainability within the decision-making structures of the MCA will be key. Carbon reduction needs to be woven through the activities and plans of the MCA and recognised as both the most important challenge we face and a key opportunity for developing an inclusive economy.
- 1.6 Opportunities exist across the identified main regional contributors to reduce the region's emissions as well as to increase the ability of our natural spaces to sequester carbon.
- 1.7 Whilst a significant proportion of total emissions are outside the direct control of the MCA or constituent Local Authorities, programmes undertaken at regional level can and will drive down emissions, deliver added benefits and lay the groundwork for further reductions.
- 1.8 It is proposed that SYMCA officers examine interventions to tackle carbon emissions and deliver co-benefits for the region across the four main priority areas of:
 1. Domestic
 2. Transport
 3. Industry and Commercial sector
 4. Nature recovery

The first three areas represent our major sources of emissions, and the fourth area represents an opportunity to develop natural solutions to sequester carbon.

- 1.9 It is proposed that the first of these examinations will be centred around housing decarbonisation.
- 1.10 Local authorities are currently engaged in the delivery of retrofit schemes, these are largely dependent on central government funding and focused primarily on social housing.
- 1.11 Increasing the region's ability to deliver improvements to housing, has the potential to address performance across a range of strategic areas:
 - Reduced reliance of fossil fuel use in domestic properties
 - Reduced energy consumption in domestic properties
 - Reduction in the number of residents in fuel poverty
 - Drive growth in regional SME community to deliver retrofit works
 - Improve skills provision in "Green" solutions

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Initial pre-feasibility and evidence collection has shown there are seven areas which will need to be examined in the development of a Retrofit Feasibility study.
 - Housing stock modelling and data management
 - Independent technical assistance
 - Publicity, outreach and community engagement
 - Supply chain development and procurement
 - Piloting / showcasing
 - Skills development
 - Leverage policy and funding
- 2.2 The feasibility study will determine the scale of interventions that may be required in each of these areas. In assessing each, the following tests will be applied:
 - **Total carbon abatement:** the total potential reduction in the amount of carbon emissions from action.
 - **Enabling potential:** this is particularly relevant for supply chain development, and engagement/communication.
 - **Additionality:** that SYMCA efforts are directed most effectively.
 - **Timeliness and control:** some interventions will be delivered more easily in the short-term than others and similarly will be more in the gift of local government to lead than others.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 3.1 **Option 1: To agree further development of a South Yorkshire Retrofit Study**
This will identify actions, in the areas listed in section 2.1, to be undertaken to support the delivery of housing retrofit programmes. For each of the areas listed, the scope, cost and benefit will be identified.

3.2 **Option 1 Risks and Mitigations**

Risk – the scale of the subsequent actions resulting from the feasibility study may be greater than the available resources.

Mitigation – there will be workstreams emerging from the study that will allow a phased programme to be delivered in discreet components.

3.3 **Option 2: That the MCA determines the feasibility study is not required.**

3.4 **Option 2 Risks and Mitigations**

Option 2 is the status quo which negates the need for additional resources. This would result in a risk that South Yorkshire does not maximise retrofit decarbonisation benefits.

3.5 **Recommended Option**

Option 1

4. **Consultation on Proposal**

- 4.1 In discussions with Local Authority officers, housing retrofit has been identified as an important priority for local government to support, in order to meet net zero targets.

5. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 If approved, feasibility work will be undertaken, and findings will be reported within 12 months.
- 5.2 Periodic progress updates will be provided to the Transport and Environment Board and the Housing and Infrastructure Board.

6. **Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

- 6.1 The proposed study will be funded via the new Project Feasibility Fund. Any investment programmes that emerge from the study will be developed and assessed as prescribed by the Assurance Framework. Any resulting funding decisions will be taken by the MCA Board.

7. **Legal Implications and Advice**

- 7.1 The MCA has powers under the Housing and Regeneration Act and the Localism Act 2011 (General Power of Competence) that facilitate the proposals contained in this report. The appointment of a supplier(s) will need to comply with the Authority's Contract Procedure Rules and any appointment will be suitably contracted."

8. **Human Resources Implications and Advice**

- 8.1 N/A

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

9.1 N/A

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

10.1 This work has been identified as a priority in order to deliver on the net zero target of 2040 as approved by the MCA.

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

11.1 N/A

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

12.1 N/A

List of Appendices Included

A South Yorkshire Carbon Emissions Data

Background Papers

None