

**TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD**

**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020**

**SCR NET ZERO WORK PROGRAMME**

**Purpose of Report**

To provide an overview of work being undertaken with regards to the SCR Net Zero Work Programme.

**Thematic Priority**

This report relates to the following draft Strategic Economic Plan priorities:

Driving low carbon opportunities within the economy and delivering net-zero emissions.

**Freedom of Information**

The paper will be available under the Combined Authority Publication Scheme.

**Recommendations**

The Board is asked to:

- note the Net Zero Framework work carried out to date and the planned next steps.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** In November 2019, the Sheffield City Region (SCR) Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) declared a Climate and Environmental Emergency. In January 2020, the MCA Board approved the Climate Response Framework (CRF) which broke down the challenge into five areas: Leadership, Carbon Reduction, Carbon Capture, Climate Adaptation, and Climate Economy.
- 1.2** February 2020 saw the first meeting of the NZ Partnership Board set up to oversee the further development and delivery of the CRF. The Board, Chaired by the Mayor, included representatives from each SCR local authority, Sheffield Universities, MPs, blue-light services, and other bodies.
- 1.3** In July 2020, the SCR Energy Strategy was published after approval by the MCA and LEP Boards. The Energy Strategy was informed by the work undertaken by the consultant Ricardo Energy and Environment, which established that the SCR as a whole should be aiming to become Net Zero (NZ) by 2040 with a carbon budget of 44.7 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (ie. between 2020 and 2100 only 44.7 million tonnes of carbon can be emitted in the SCR, which is the equivalent of seven years' worth of emissions at 2017-levels).

- 1.4 This report sets out the work that has been done to convert the high level commitments contained in the CRF into a detailed work programme, setting out the initiatives and projects required to help achieve the City Region's 2040 net zero target.

## 2. Net Zero Programme Development

- 2.1 At its first meeting earlier this year, the NZ Partnership Board discussed a number of key areas that should be addressed including domestic retrofit, transport decarbonisation, and the need for better data on which we could make more informed decisions. The need to communicate our intentions and 'bring people and businesses along with us' was a key discussion point.
- 2.2 To address these priorities, the consultant Urban Foresight was appointed in July to develop an integrated package of measures to deliver the CRF. They have consulted with stakeholders from across the City Region to understand the barriers to decarbonisation and the projects and programmes that they see coming forward in the short, medium, and long-term.
- 2.3 The identified long list of projects and programmes were considered against a prioritisation matrix and sorted into 'must do', 'should do', 'could do', and 'don't do' categories. Further prioritisation is being undertaken to order the projects and programmes based on what external factors exist, such as Government funding becoming available or interdependencies such as simultaneously implementing projects where they could bring about programme efficiencies or cost savings.
- 2.4 This approach and emerging findings were considered by the NZ Partnership Board at its meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The presentation given is attached at Annex 1, and some of the key points raised by the Board were:
1. Analytics – Does the City Region have the capability to carry out the analytical work required to ensure that the projects are developed and targeted correctly?
  2. SCR's added value – Where can a positive impact be made on people to help drive behaviour change? How can the value of these schemes be felt by residents?
  3. Making better use of the Universities' Research Institutes. Not all of this work will result in immediately deliverable projects, with further research required on some aspects to inform future action.
  4. Communications – A lot of this will be about behaviour change, attitudes and engagement. How do we involve young people and students who are already engaged?
- 2.5 The remaining elements of the work to development the NZ programme include a roadmap of deliverable actions, assigning those actions to stakeholders who are best placed to deliver them, and considering the resource requirement across the whole NZ Programme.
- 2.6 The Programme will be reported to the next meeting of this Board, which will have the role of overseeing the implementation of the various projects and programmes, and ensuring they link in with other MCA and LEP activities, projects and programmes where relevant.

## 3. Implications

### 3.1 Financial

Resource has been made available to fund a number of discrete areas of activity from the current year's Mayoral Capacity Fund budget. This funding stream is due to conclude at the end of the current financial year.

Delivering on the larger body of work will likely be contingent new sources of funding being identified and embedding NZ principles into investment decision making for other funding streams.

### **3.2 Legal**

None as a direct result of this report.

However, there is an opportunity to work with partners to drive forward transformational change, potentially involving partnership ventures which alongside the standard contractual requirements of delivering the NZ Programme, may present legal issues on a case by case basis.

### **3.3 Risk Management**

There are various risks to delivering the NZ Programme including:

- A lack of political will from Government and locally to embedding low carbon within all activities and investments
- A lack of resources to fund additional costs arising from raising environmental standards and new innovative ways of working.
- A lack of capacity with the MCA, local authorities and other partners and stakeholders to implement the NZ projects in a timely manner.
- Reputational risks associated with non-delivery of the Net Zero targets.
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### **3.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion**

Investment in decarbonisation of the housing stock will alleviate fuel poverty allowing residents to have more dispensable income.

## **5. Communications**

- 5.1** A full communications plan will need to be drawn up for the NZ Programme. This will ensure that a consistent message is being given to stakeholders and residents. It will also allow progress towards the NZ Programme goals to be reported

## **6. Appendices/Annexes**

- 6.1** Annex 1: Net Zero Work Programme Presentation

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: None.