

TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD

4th March 2021

SCR NET ZERO WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of Report

To present the SCR Net Zero Work Programme and provide an overview of work being undertaken to deliver the Work Programme activities.

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:

- i. Note the Net Zero Work Programme and the planned next steps; and
- ii. Agree for progress updates on the Work Programme activities to be reported to future meetings of the Board.

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 to achieve a Net Zero economy by 2040.
- 1.2** In February 2020, the first meeting of the NZ Partnership Board which was set up to oversee the further development and delivery of the CRF. The Board, chaired by the Mayor, includes representatives from each South Yorkshire local authority, Sheffield Universities, MPs, blue-light services, and other bodies. This was followed up in July 2020, with the publication of the SCR Energy Strategy following approval by the MCA and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which included further details a potential net zero activities.
- 1.3** 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 priority initiatives and projects required to help achieve the 2040 net zero target.

2 Proposal and Justification

Work Programme Development

- 2.1** An initial action of the NZ Partnership Board was to agree the commissioning of external support to develop an integrated package of measures to deliver the CRF. Following an open procurement process, the consultant Urban Foresight was appointed in July 2020 to help develop the package of measures.
- 2.2** The consultant engaged with a range of stakeholders from across South Yorkshire to understand the barriers to decarbonisation and to obtain their views on the projects and programmes that they consider should be progressed in the short, medium, and long-term.
- 2.3** The identified long list of projects and programmes was considered against a prioritisation matrix and sorted into ‘must do’, ‘should do’, ‘could do’, and ‘don’t do’ categories, as well as taking account of external factors such as the likelihood of Government funding becoming available or known interdependencies between projects which could achieve better outcomes quicker.
- 2.4** This approach and emerging findings were considered by the NZ Partnership Board at its meeting in October 2020. Some of the key points raised by the Board were:
- Data and data analytics – it will be important to ensure that projects are developed and targeted correctly.
 - Strategic added value – it will be important that the Partnership and the work of partners have a positive impact in helping drive behavioural change, and the projects benefit local resident.?
 - Making better use of the Universities’ Research Institutes - not all of the work will result in immediately deliverable projects, with further research required on some elements of the Programme to inform future actions.
 - Communications – Much will depend on influencing behavioural change and changing attitudes of people and businesses, and it will be important to engage young people and students.
- 2.5** A copy of the NZ Work Programme is attached as Appendix 1. Eighteen key interrelated projects are identified as the priorities to progress over the next 3 years, as set out below. As the summary below indicates, these are a mix of project design and development, and ongoing delivery and management.

Action	2021 H1	2021 H2	2022 H1	2022 H2	2023 H1	2023 H2
Action 1: Joint local authority working groups						
Action 2: South Yorkshire Net Zero project bundles						
Action 3: National Leadership: showcasing the whole of South Yorkshire via UK100 Cities						
Action 4: South Yorkshire Net Zero Programme Data						
Action 5: South Yorkshire Net Zero Communications Strategy						
Action 6: Using the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Reporting Framework						
Action 7: South Yorkshire Retrofit Programme (SYPR)						
Action 8: Shared procurement for low carbon social housing						
Action 9: Hydrogen and electric buses						
Action 10: Residential on street electric vehicle charging						
Action 11: South Yorkshire Active Travel						
Action 12: Minewater heating						
Action 13: Industrial waste heat capture for district heat networks						

Action 14: Low carbon sustainable agriculture & food						
Action 15: Grey to Green South Yorkshire						
Action 16: Tree Planting & Northern Forest						
Action 17: South Yorkshire business decarbonisation programme						
Action 18: Low carbon fuel & power cluster organisation						

	Planning, scoping, feasibility, design and implementation
	Ongoing delivery and management

2.6 The NZ Work Programme details the specific priority actions and activities that are required to progress each of these eighteen Actions. It is important to note that the NZ Work Programme is not an end point and nor is it a final document; it is designed to be a working document to shape the Programme. Projects will undoubtedly be added and removed over time in line with progress in implementation, as well as when other opportunities and funding streams arise. It also forms a basis on which the MCA will engage stakeholders to encourage greater commitment to this agenda to help deliver the outputs and outcomes.

2.7 The views of the Board are requested on the proposed focus of activities and whether any are areas of activity that the Board would particularly wish to have more detailed updates at future Board meetings.

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 on 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 Work 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 within the MCA, local authorities and other partners and stakeholders to implement the Net Zero projects in a timely manner.
- Reputational risks associated with non-delivery of the Net Zero targets.

3.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

All the activities in implementing the NZ programme will seek to ensure equality, diversity and social inclusion; for example, investment in the decarbonisation of the existing housing stock would help alleviate fuel poverty and allowing residents to have more disposable income.

5. Communications

- 5.1 A full communications plan will be drawn up for the NZ Work Programme as set out in the NZ Work Programme. This will ensure that a consistent message is given to stakeholders and residents, as well as clarifying how progress towards the NZ Programme goals will be reported.

6. Appendices/Annexes

- 6.1 Appendix 1: SCR Net Zero Work Programme

Appendix 2: Summary Presentation: SCR Net Zero Work Programme

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Blackburn
POST	Assistant Director Housing, Infrastructure & Planning
Director responsible	Mark Lynam
Organisation	Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority
Email	Mark.Lynam@sheffieldcityregion.org.uk
Telephone	0114 2203442

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.