

West of England Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee 20 September 2021

Supplementary document

An Extraordinary joint meeting of the West of England Combined Authority Committee and West of England Joint Committee is being held on 21 September. The committees will be considering reports setting out principles for a refreshed climate emergency ambition and plans for a Green Recovery Fund.

The agenda and reports for the 21 September meeting were published on 13 September and are enclosed. At the 20 September meeting, Overview and Scrutiny members will be briefed on, and invited to comment on these reports

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An extraordinary meeting of the

Joint meeting - West of England Combined Authority Committee and West of England Joint Committee

will be held on

Date: Tuesday, 21 September 2021
Time: 3.45 pm
Place: Watermore Primary School, Lower Stone Close,
Frampton Cotterell, BS36 2LE

This particular meeting will be live-streamed on the West of England Combined Authority YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/wRT1gPlg3y0>

Notice of this meeting is given to members of the West of England Combined Authority Committee as follows:

Metro Mayor Dan Norris
Councillor Kevin Guy, Leader, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council
Councillor Toby Savage, Leader, South Gloucestershire Council
Richard Bonner, Chair of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (non-voting member)

Notice of this meeting is given to members of the West of England Joint Committee as follows:

Metro Mayor Dan Norris
Councillor Kevin Guy, Leader, Bath and North East Somerset Council
Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council
Councillor Toby Savage, Leader, South Gloucestershire Council
Councillor Donald Davies, Leader, North Somerset Council
Richard Bonner, Chair of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (non-voting member)

Enquiries to:

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Tel: 07436 600313

Members of the public may:

- Observe all Combined Authority Committee meetings unless the business to be dealt with would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agendas and public reports five clear working days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect agendas, reports and minutes of Combined Authority Committees for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used to prepare public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
- Have access to a list setting out the decision-making powers the Combined Authority has delegated to their officers and the title of those officers.
- For further information about this agenda or how the authority works, please contact Democratic Services, telephone 07436 600313 or e-mail: democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

Guidance for press and public attending this meeting:

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 mean that any member of the public or press attending this meeting may take photographs, film or audio record proceedings and may report on the meeting including by use of social media (oral commentary is not permitted during the meeting as it would be disruptive). This will apply to the whole of the meeting except where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press or public. If you intend to film or audio record this meeting please contact the Democratic Services Officer named on the front of the agenda papers beforehand, so that all necessary arrangements can be made. Some of our meetings are webcast. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating areas you are consenting to being filmed, photographed or recorded. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators. An archived recording of the proceedings will also be available for viewing after the meeting. The Combined Authority may also use the images/sound recordings on its social media site or share with other organisations, such as broadcasters. To comply with the Data Protection Act 2018, we require the consent of parents or guardians before filming children or young people

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members who consider that they have an interest to declare are asked to:

- State the item number in which they have an interest,
- The nature of the interest,
- Whether the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest, non-disclosable pecuniary interest or nonpecuniary interest.

Any Member who is unsure about the above should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting in order to expedite matters at the meeting itself.

4. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC - QUESTIONS; STATEMENTS; PETITIONS

Please note: as this is an Extraordinary joint meeting of the committees, questions and statements (and any petitions) must be about the business for which this extraordinary meeting has been arranged.

WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (written procedure)

- Any member of the public can submit a maximum of two written questions in advance of this meeting.
- The deadline for the submission of questions is 5.00 pm, at least 3 clear working days ahead of a meeting. For this meeting, the deadline for questions is 5.00 pm on Wednesday 15 September.
- Questions should be addressed to the Chair of the meeting and e-mailed to democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
- Under the direction of the Chair, wherever possible, written replies to questions will be sent to questioners by the end of the working day prior to the meeting.
- Please note - under the Combined Authority's committee procedures, there is no opportunity for oral supplementary questions to be asked at committee meetings.
- The written questions and replies will be circulated to committee members in advance of the meeting and published on the Combined Authority website.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

- Any member of the public may submit a written statement (or petition) to this meeting.

2. Please note that one statement per individual is permitted.
3. Statements must be submitted in writing and received by the deadline of 12 noon on the working day before the meeting. For this meeting, the deadline for statements is 12 noon on Monday 20 September. Statements should be emailed to democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
4. Statements will be listed for the meeting in the order of receipt. All statements will be sent to committee members in advance of the meeting and published on the Combined Authority website.
5. Please note: If any member of the public wishes to attend the meeting to orally present their statement, they are asked please to notify the Combined Authority's Democratic Services team of this at the point when their statement is submitted and by 12 noon on the working day before the meeting at the very latest. Due to Covid-19 measures and the capacity limits at this meeting venue, it is very likely on this occasion to be necessary (depending on the number of statements received) to limit the number of people permitted to attend to present their statements in person; statements to be presented physically at the meeting will be listed in the order of receipt of notification. For those presenting their statements at the meeting, a maximum of 3 minutes 'speaking time' is permitted for each statement. The total time available for the public session at this meeting is 30 minutes.

Please note that this particular meeting will be live-streamed on the West of England Combined Authority You Tube channel
<https://youtu.be/wRT1gPlg3y0>

All members of the public attending to present statements are requested please to take a Covid-19 lateral flow test 24 hours before the day of the meeting.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

To receive any comments from the Chair of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership on the reports to be considered at this meeting.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE COMBINED AUTHORITY'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

To receive any comments from the Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the reports to be considered at this meeting.

7. MOTION SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE

The following motion has been submitted for consideration by the West of England Joint Committee:

Motion on Bristol Airport Expansion

Motion to be moved by Metro Mayor Dan Norris.

‘The Joint Committee recognises:

- There is a climate and biodiversity emergency.
- The West of England has ambition net zero targets for 2030.
- The proposed expansion of Bristol Airport is one of the biggest carbon decisions in the region for the coming decade.
- The pandemic has significantly reduced air travel with a 75.6% drop in passenger numbers in 2020.
- Bristol Airport’s role as an employer in the region and the need for a just transition to a greener economy that does not leave workers worse-off.
- Bristol City Council and Bath and North East Somerset Council opposition to current airport expansion and North Somerset Council's decision to refuse planning permission to expand beyond 10 million passengers a year.

The Joint Committee resolves:

- To oppose the latest plans to expand Bristol Airport.’

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9. GREEN RECOVERY FUND	Page 17 - 22

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ITEM 8

REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE AND WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 21 September 2021

REPORT TITLE: PRINCIPLES FOR A REFRESHED CLIMATE EMERGENCY AMBITION

DIRECTOR: JESS LEE, HEAD OF STRATEGY AND POLICY

AUTHOR: HELEN ILES, SENIOR POLICY MANAGER

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report provides an overview of the principles for refreshing the ambition for climate emergency and how these principles will be implemented.

Impact of Covid-19 pandemic

2 The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows:

- Providing renewed ambition for climate emergency and supporting the principles of clean and inclusive growth
- Taking action in lead up to COP26 to support businesses to decarbonise (and improve productivity)

Recommendation

Recommendation for West of England Combined Authority Committee:

- Approve the creation of an interim Environment Director, with a view to recruiting to this post on a permanent basis in the medium term.

Recommendation for West of England Joint Committee:

- Agree the principles for a revised ambition to address the climate emergency.

Background / Issues for Consideration

Context

As a Combined Authority, our adopted strategies are already focussed on delivering against our climate ambitions for the region to be net zero by 2030 and to adapt to the effects of climate change. These include:

- Local Industrial Strategy
- Spatial Development Strategy
- Joint Local Transport Plans – including Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans, approaches to Electric Vehicles and their charging infrastructure
- Green Infrastructure Strategy & Action Plan
- Tree & Woodland Strategy

However, now is the time for increased ambition to reduce emissions and protect the environment. The message is clear on a regional, national and international level, we need to take further and faster action if we are to meet our ambitions.

Climate change poses a clear and urgent challenge, affecting our future environment and prosperity of our region. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [IPCC] recommendations are clear – limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees [rather than 2 degrees] between now and 2052 will significantly reduce the effects of global warming.

The most recent report from the IPCC (August 2021) confirms that we are not on target to meet this ambition. Unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach.¹

Stabilising the climate will require strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and reaching net zero CO₂ emissions. Limiting other greenhouse gases and air pollutants, especially methane, could have benefits both for health and the climate²

Scale of challenge and Regional Targets

The scale of the challenge ahead of us to reduce emissions, protect the environment and reach carbon neutrality by 2030 is daunting. We know that:

- In 2018, the region produced 5,154kt of CO₂. This represents 4.5 tonnes of CO₂ per person, compared with 5.2 tonnes per person across the UK
- Transport and buildings are the biggest sources of emissions in the region. 26% of the region's emissions come from business and the public sector, 30% from homes and buildings, and 44% from transport.

¹ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2021/08/IPCC_WGI-AR6-Press-Release_en.pdf

² https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2021/08/IPCC_WGI-AR6-Press-Release_en.pdf

- 84% of crops and 80% of wildflowers rely on insect pollination, yet half of the nation's 27 bumble bee species are in decline and three of them have already gone extinct.

In order to meet our 2030 ambitions, we know that we will need to:

- Cut 464kt of CO₂ each year (10% of today's total) in order to reach net zero by the end of 2030.

To do this, we will need to:

- retrofit 250,000 homes and 8,000 non-residential properties by 2030 in order to meet our carbon neutral ambitions.
- Protect wildlife – including increasing pollinator habitats
- Decarbonise transport system, providing a genuine alternative to the car and improving cycling/walking.

Principles for a refreshed ambition

The ambition for the region to be carbon neutral by 2030 and the original priority action areas of the existing plan still stand. The current action plan highlights five key priority areas for the region to take action:

1. Accelerating the shift to low carbon transport
2. Improving our buildings & placemaking
3. Enabling clean smart affordable energy
4. Fostering Clean Growth & Innovation
5. Protecting, preserving & enhancing the environment

In light of new and emerging evidence, we want to take a more ambitious approach to delivering this. To help guide this new ambitious approach, we are developing a set of principles that will guide our action and help inform the decisions we make to ensure that we are reducing emissions and protecting the environment. As a combined authority and regional leader, we commit to:

- Take action now on the highest sources of emissions and where we can have most impact as a combined authority - buildings retrofit, decarbonising transport, increasing green infrastructure, working with businesses to reduce their emissions and working to increase the amount of renewable and community energy within the region.
- Make the hard decisions to cut emissions and protect the environment - we know that cutting emissions and protecting the environment will require taking hard decisions that will change the way we live and work in the region. We are not afraid to take these decisions and need our unitary authorities, residents and businesses to make the same tough decisions.
- Take a data led approach – providing metrics to fully understand the impact of actions taken and decisions made where the data is available. However, we recognise that the data to support some decisions is still in development. Where this is the case, we will not let lack of certainty be used as ground for inaction or the avoidance of risk.

- Ensure that we are adapting to the effects of climate change by protecting the natural environment and ensuring climate resilience in the built environment, infrastructure projects.
- Facilitate a just transition – working to promote the green skills and high quality jobs within a low carbon economy. Ensuring that the decisions that we take do not adversely affect specific social groups.

As a combined authority, we do not have all the levers of influence to effect change so will need our unitary authorities and key stakeholders to work together to help us deliver this ambition.

COP26

COP26 is an opportunity to demonstrate West of England's leadership and ambition to a national / global audience, in the run up to the conference in Glasgow we will

- Launch Solar Together – a programme to increase the amount of solar energy generated within the region with the aim of enabling. It targets 100,000 homes in the region and hopes to save 900 tonnes of CO2 per year.
- Work with Planet Mark and UWE to host the Carbon Zero battle bus for an audience of 150 SMEs to inspire them to decarbonise their operations and buildings
- Creating a £20m Green Recovery Fund to support ambitions on climate emergency and economic growth.
- Working with South West Energy Hub and Low Carbon Challenge Fund to increase the amount of clean energy in the region and develop case studies to show case innovation and best practice within the region.
- Supporting South West Energy Hub and Unitary Authorities for plans to host Green Zone activities and relay events held at COP26 across the region and to local communities
- taking part in University of West of England Digital Engineering Technology and Innovation net zero youth summit, aimed at engaging sixth formers and promoting how engineering can help reach net zero.

Developing a Climate and Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Combined Authority will work with regional stakeholders and the Unitary Authorities to develop a revised Climate and Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to deliver these ambitions. This plan will outline strategic objectives for each key action area and focus on specific priorities to deliver against targets. The strategic objectives will provide the long term vision of the region will transition towards net zero and adapt to the effects of climate change. The actions will be more specific and time-bound in order to better target our resources and monitor progress. The more time-specific actions will be reviewed on a regular basis and included in the regular updates to Committee on progress towards the climate emergency ambitions.

The revised Strategy and Action Plan will build on the good work in the existing one, covering the five priority action areas outlined in the original plan and including a greater focus on adaptation. It will be clearer and more definite in its language, using clear verbs and avoiding too many qualifiers.

It will also provide greater clarification on the extent to which the Combined Authority has the levers to deliver on specific action, and where they sit with others. This will help improve understanding and facilitate partnership working amongst the Combined Authority, Unitary Authorities and key partners and stakeholders.

Whilst the revised Strategy and Action Plan will provide strategic objectives and priorities, the clear focus will be on taking action and working together to create the conditions for and enable systemic transformational change across the region. Setting out a clear strategy and objectives is important, but this should not stand in the way of acting now where we know that change needs to happen.

The actions contained within the revised Plan will be produced in partnership with key stakeholders including Unitary Authorities and will build a route map for between now and 2030 to identify what needs to happen in order to realise our ambitions. This will help to ensure clarity in the roles that each partner plays and to deliver SMART goals that will support effective monitoring.

The revised Strategy and Action Plan will consider further governance methods and systems to ensure that climate and nature impact/benefit assessments are embedded in the Combined Authority decision making processes, with clear decision-making routes across disciplines through to leaders, both of which are supported by partner UA processes.

The revised Strategy and Action Plan will be developed in conjunction with the aims and ambitions of existing strategies and regional ambitions, including:

- Local Industrial Strategy
- Spatial Development Strategy
- Joint Local Transport Plans – including Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans, approaches to Electric Vehicles and their charging infrastructure
- Green Infrastructure Strategy & Action Plan
- Tree & Woodland Strategy

Realising the revised ambition

To support and inform the development of a revised Strategy and Action Plan, the Combined Authority will establish a Climate Board for the region.

The Board will initially be tasked with developing the revised Plan in line with refreshed ambition. It will also provide senior oversight and accountability on workstreams and projects related to the delivery of the Action Plan, raising the profile of climate emergency workstreams within the combined authority and across the region.

Whilst detailed terms of reference will need to be developed, over the longer term, the Board will be asked to:

- Inform, advise and support the development of regional policy and actions related to climate and ecological emergency.
- Use their industry/sector expertise to deliver projects that will reduce emissions or protect biodiversity
- Lead in behaviour change and encourage others to take action on climate change
- Support the combined authority in lobbying government for further devolution or regulation to help enable the transition to net zero
- Assist in the development of the progress reports to committee on regional progress towards the climate emergency ambitions.
- Share best practice from their sectors to reduce emissions and protect nature.
- Help to inform the delivery of the Green Recovery Fund

The Board will be chaired by the Metro Mayor and include representatives from industry leaders and others with a key role in reducing the region's emissions and supporting delivery of biodiversity objectives, as well as the regional unitary authorities. This will include partners from the community and voluntary sectors, resident and youth groups, and the business board.

Board membership will be representative of the region's population, be sufficiently diverse, and include representation spanning the five key areas of the existing Action Plan (transport, buildings, business & skills, green environment and renewable energy). Where possible, Board members will hold senior positions within their organisations or community and will be used to leading and delivering on high-profile projects. Membership of the board will be developed in consultation with our unitary authorities but suggested members could include:

- Representative from West of England Nature Partnership
- Representatives from young people/groups
- Representative from energy infrastructure
- Technical/advisory expertise
- Finance representatives
- Government agency representatives e.g DEFRA, Environment Agency
- Transport provider representative e.g FirstBus or GWR
- UA elected members with responsibility for Climate Change

The regional coverage and remit of the Board will make it unique, but it will work in conjunction with expert panels already operating within the region where appropriate.

A detailed draft Terms of Reference for the Board will be developed by officers in consultation with the Unitary Authorities and Chief Executives. The Terms of Reference will confirm the scope of the board and how it will sit alongside the existing governance structures for the Combined Authority. Given the cross-cutting nature of the climate emergency and its wide-ranging implications, the Board will support the work of both the Combined Authority and the Joint Committees and help to inform decisions taken by them on funding.

The Board and the development of the revised Plan will be driven by a new Environment Director for the region working in conjunction with the new Board, who collectively will support the Metro Mayor in driving his ambition. This role will be funded using existing funds dedicated to realising Mayoral manifesto commitments agreed at June 2021 committee. This post will initially be appointed on an interim basis, in recognition of the need to deliver at pace. Over the medium term, we will seek to make this position permanent and work in conjunction with CEOs to agree this.

The Director position will be part of the combined authority's Senior Management Team and will be tasked with working closely with the new Board to and across the combined authority and with the Unitary Authorities and key stakeholders to develop the revised Action Plan.

We will aim to launch the new Board in November 2021 with the first meeting of the being held during COP26. The Board will then have the aim of working with key stakeholders to deliver a new action plan in Spring 2021.

Consultation

3 There is no statutory consultation required in the development of these papers.

Other Options Considered

4 Not revising the ambition for the climate emergency action plan – not revising our approach and ambition for addressing the climate emergency would mean that we are unlikely to achieve our carbon neutrality ambitions. As such, we have not taken this option forward.

Risk Management/Assessment

5 A full risk assessment will be developed in alongside the revision of the Action Plan and creation of the Climate Board.

Public Sector Equality Duties

6 The public sector equality duty created under the Equality Act 2010 means that public authorities must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected

characteristic and those who do not.

- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

6.1 The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

6.2 The general equality duty therefore requires organisations to consider how they could positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations. It requires equality considerations to be reflected in the design of policies and the delivery of services, including policies, and for these issues to be kept under review.

6.3 No equality implications are anticipated as a result of this report but a full equality impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the revision of the action plan.

Finance Implications, including economic impact assessment where appropriate:

7 There are no financial implications directly attributable to this report. Drawdown of Combined Authority funding, in order to deliver ambitions as stated within the report, will require Committee approval and relevant business case development.

Funding for the proposed Director of Environment post will be sourced through the £1m that was allocated by Committee in June 2021 for additional regional recovery work.

Advice given by: Malcolm Coe – Director of Investment and Corporate Services.

Legal Implications:

8 The legislation and guidance in relation to climate emergency will need to be kept under review as the actions outlined are implemented. This will ensure that the Combined Authority is complying with its statutory obligations

Advice given by: Shahzia Daya, Director of Legal Services

Climate Change Implications

9 On 19 July 2019, the West of England Combined Authority declared a climate

emergency, recognising the huge significance of climate change and its impact on the health, safety and wellbeing of the region's residents. The Combined Authority is committed to taking climate change considerations fully into account as an integral part of its governance and decision making process.

Each report/proposal submitted for Combined Authority / Joint Committee approval is assessed in terms of the following:

Will the proposal impact positively or negatively on:

- * The emission of climate changing gases?
- * The region's resilience to the effects of climate change?
- * Consumption of non-renewable resources?
- * Pollution to land, water or air?

Particular projects will also be subject to more detailed environmental assessment/consideration as necessary as part of their detailed project-specific management arrangements

- 9.1 This report outlines an approach to increase the combined authority's ambition to address the climate emergency. Revising our climate emergency action plan will aim to increase the pace of decarbonisation within the region.

Human Resources Implications:

- 10 The report proposes the creation of an Environment Director to lead this work for the region, and given the urgency, approval is sought to initially appoint an interim with the view to recruiting to this post substantively in the medium term. This will be an open and transparent process which will follow the Combined Authority's internal HR and recruitment policies.

Any additional administration required will be resourced from within the Combined Authority's current staffing base.

Advice given by: Alex Holly, Head of People and Assets

Appendices: None.

Background papers: None.

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

Any person seeking background information relating to this item should seek the assistance of the contact officer for the meeting who is Ian Hird on 07436 600313; or by writing to West of England Combined Authority, 3 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EW; email: democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk



ITEM 9

REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE AND WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 21 September 2021

REPORT TITLE: GREEN RECOVERY FUND

DIRECTOR: JESS LEE, HEAD OF STRATEGY & POLICY

AUTHOR: HELEN ILES, SENIOR POLICY MANAGER

Purpose of Report

1 This report provides an overview of the Green Recovery Fund.

Impact of Covid-19 pandemic

2 The Combined Authority has actively reviewed its key activities and work programme to reflect changing priorities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific issues relating to the Covid-19 situation that impact on or are addressed through this report are as follows:

- Supporting clean economic growth through the creation of a Green Recovery Fund

Recommendation

Recommendation for West of England Combined Authority Committee:

- Earmark from the existing Combined Authority Investment Fund headroom £20m for a Green Recovery Fund.

Recommendation for West of England Joint Committee:

Committee are asked to

- Note the fund's objectives and framework.

Background / Issues for Consideration

Refreshing the Climate Emergency Action Plan to include a refreshed ambition will help to ensure that the reducing emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change is at the heart of our activity and the region. As a combined authority, all of our activity needs to be contributing towards these ambitions. However, we recognise that in order to fully realise our ambition, will also require additional targeted resources.

The Green Recovery Fund

The Metro Mayor was elected on a clear manifesto commitment to set up a green recovery fund with two clear objectives:

- Protect the environment and reduce carbon
- Create jobs

Therefore, we propose to use £20m of Investment Funds to create a Green Recovery Fund that will achieve these aims by reducing the region's carbon emissions while supporting a sustainable recovery from the covid-19 pandemic. This will ensure rapid progress in reducing the largest sources of emissions, while supporting the regional economy to develop the skills, businesses and innovations needed for the long-term transition.

The objectives of the fund will be to:

1. reduce the region's carbon emissions from buildings and transport, and enhance our natural habitats;
2. to raise employment in businesses providing solutions to climate transition; and
3. to develop viable and sustainable markets for housing and transport transition, by overcoming obstacles or developing innovative solutions.

Measures of success

Projects within the Fund will be measured for their delivery against these objectives, in the following ways:

1. net reduction in carbon emissions (scope 1 and 2, with no offsetting increase in scope 3), with emphasis on earlier and sustained reductions; increase in area of high quality green infrastructure; increase in biodiversity in target places
2. number of new jobs created in West of England businesses with products and services acting to reduce carbon emissions
3. sustained increase in uptake of relevant low-carbon products and services beyond the end of funding.

Fund framework

1. Projects must address issues at scale, at a regional level where common issues exist, but recognising that some problems are local in nature
2. Projects must contribute to the objectives above and the strategic measures identified. It is recognised that a wide range of potential interventions could achieve these objectives, with differing theories of change, but there must be focus on the end results.
3. Each project must contribute to all three objectives, although differing emphasis may be placed on each.
4. Proposals are to be developed in Full Business Case format by [March 2022].
5. Projects should be completed within three years [by October 2024] to reflect a medium-term response to recovery.
6. Proposals must be consistent with the region's Climate Emergency Action Plan and complement existing activity by the Combined Authority and the constituent councils.
7. The measures of success adopted by projects should reflect the measures above to ensure consistency across the fund.

Developing Projects through the Green Recovery Fund

To achieve maximum impact from Green Recovery Fund, projects will be developed in line with the five key themes included within the Climate Emergency Action Plan:

1. Accelerating the shift to low carbon transport
2. Improving our buildings & placemaking
3. Enabling clean smart affordable energy
4. Fostering Clean Growth & Innovation
5. Protecting, preserving & enhancing the environment

A suggested focus on these areas will help the region to tackle the largest sources of emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. In developing projects through the Green Recovery Fund, the Combined Authority will focus activity and action using the levers in which we have the most impact and control over.

The Green Recovery Fund will be drawn down in stages between now and October 2024 (in line with the Recovery Fund), with delegated approval granted to CEOs. Business cases will be developed in conjunction with the new Climate Board, partner Unitary Authorities and existing officer groups. Projects will be developed in conjunction with the aims and ambitions of existing strategies and regional ambitions, including:

- Local Industrial Strategy
- Spatial Development Strategy
- Joint Local Transport Plans – including Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans, approaches to Electric Vehicles and their charging infrastructure
- Green Infrastructure Strategy & Action Plan
- Tree & Woodland Strategy

Consultation

- 3 There is no statutory consultation required in the development of these papers.

Other Options Considered

- 4 Not earmarking £20m for the Green Recovery Fund – achieving our ambitions for the climate emergency will require quick action and additional activity over and above our existing work programmes. If the funds are not earmarked, this additional activity will be hard to achieve.

Risk Management/Assessment

- 5 Full risk assessments will be developed as part of the business cases developed for the Green Recovery Fund.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 6 The public sector equality duty created under the Equality Act 2010 means that public authorities must have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.1 The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:
- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
 - Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
 - Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
- 6.2 The general equality duty therefore requires organisations to consider how they could positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations. It requires equality considerations to be reflected in the design of policies and the delivery of services, including policies, and for these issues to be kept under review.
- 6.3 No equality implications are anticipated as a result of this report but a full equality impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the development of business cases.

Finance Implications, including economic impact assessment where appropriate:

- 7 The £20m indicated for the Green Recovery Fund will require Committee approval to earmark from the existing Combined Authority Investment Fund headroom. Business Cases will be developed, against the themes as detailed in above, to enable specific drawdown against this fund.

Advice given by: Malcolm Coe: Director for Investment and Corporate Services

Legal Implications:

- 8 No additional legal implications arising from the report.

Advice given by: Shahzia Daya, Director of Legal Services

Climate Change Implications

- 9 On 19 July 2019, the West of England Combined Authority declared a climate emergency, recognising the huge significance of climate change and its impact on the health, safety and wellbeing of the region's residents. The Combined Authority is committed to taking climate change considerations fully into account as an integral part of its governance and decision making process.

Each report/proposal submitted for Combined Authority / Joint Committee approval is assessed in terms of the following:

Will the proposal impact positively or negatively on:

- * The emission of climate changing gases?
- * The region's resilience to the effects of climate change?
- * Consumption of non-renewable resources?
- * Pollution to land, water or air?

Particular projects will also be subject to more detailed environmental assessment/consideration as necessary as part of their detailed project-specific management arrangements

- 9.1 This report outlines actions we will take to reduce emissions and protect the environment. Full impact assessments will be undertaken as part of the business cases for the projects aligned to the Green Recovery Fund.

Human Resources Implications:

10 There are no HR implications arising directly from this report.

Advice given by: Alex Holly, Head of People and Assets

Appendices: None

Background papers: None

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

Any person seeking background information relating to this item should seek the assistance of the contact officer for the meeting who is Ian Hird on 07436 600313; or by writing to West of England Combined Authority, 3 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EW; email: democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk