

29 January 2021

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

TRANSPORT DECARBONISATION STUDY

Purpose

To seek approval to undertake a study to develop the evidence base for producing a transport decarbonisation Issues and Options paper, and to recommend the necessary delegations to support this work.

Summary

* The WECA Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) sets a target to be carbon neutral by 2030. For transport, the CEAP sets out aims to reduce the number of car trips, increase the uptake of low carbon vehicles, increase active travel and the uptake of public transport. These are drawn from the Joint Local Transport Plan 4 (JLTP4) adopted in March 2020.

* There is, however, an evidence gap as to what measures are required and when, in order to achieve carbon neutrality in the region by 2030. To resolve this, it is proposed to undertake a decarbonisation study.

* The proposed study is intended to provide a strong steer for producing a transport decarbonisation Issues and Options paper. It will assist in setting out a route map and in clarifying the required strategic interventions.

* It is envisaged that the study will generate a set of options, each with a proportionate contribution towards the overall 2030 commitment, so that packages of options and their combined impacts can be considered. This will provide the evidence base for decision making on which strategic interventions to progress and take forward to design, consultation and delivery. A list of potential strategic interventions is set out in Appendix One.

Impact of Covid-19 pandemic

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:

- Transport infrastructure and services play a key role in regenerating economies through job creation during construction and permanently, post scheme opening. Better transport connectivity connects communities with educational and employment opportunities.

- Investments in sustainable transport will significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions from transport, and its contribution to air pollution, while providing access to efficient and sustainable transport for all.

Recommendations

The Combined Authority Committee is asked to:

1. Approve the proposal to undertake a transport decarbonisation study.
2. Delegate authority to the WECA Director of Infrastructure in conjunction with Unitary Authority Infrastructure Directors to agree the final scope and commissioning of the transport decarbonisation study.

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