

West of England Local Enterprise Partnership

Board meeting – Wednesday 18 January 2023

Climate & Ecological Strategy and Action Plan – progress update & opportunity for review

Purpose of the report

1. To update the LEP Board on the West of England Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan (CESAP) and support a discussion on progress. The CESAP can be accessed [here](#).
2. The discussion will cover:
 - A summary of the CESAP & progress since its release in April 22
 - Focus on Green Jobs and Skills
 - A forward look to consider opportunities to strengthen the CESAP

Recommendation

The LEP Board note progress, contribute to the revision of the CESAP and consider where members may be able to support delivery of the plan.

Background

3. The CESAP has been in place since April 2022. It sets out an ambitious approach to tackling the climate and ecological emergencies that have been recognised by the region. Now that we are nine months on from the adoption of the plan, officers are assessing progress, undertaking a review of the document and proposing revisions for the next iteration of both the Strategy and Action Plan.
4. We have an ambitious target of bringing 23,000 green jobs to the region. There is significant activity in place which is moving us in the right direction. However, more needs to be done to scale up and join up existing activity if we are to reach this target.
5. A key challenge is creating the demand for green skills. We are well positioned as a Combined Authority to help stimulate demand while in tandem supporting business to transition to low emissions, and create the green skills pipeline required.
6. Officers have identified several challenges and opportunities in delivering the green skills actions. We would welcome the Boards insights on the following questions during the meeting:
 - What challenges are you facing relating to green skills/jobs? What do you see as the major opportunities?
 - Are there particular areas where you think stimulating demand should be prioritised?
 - Are there areas of current delivery you think should be prioritised for upscaling?
 - What opportunities are there to attract significantly higher levels of investment into the region that would enable us to operate at the required scale to achieve net zero by 2030 and realise the economic opportunities that this transition presents?

Author: Roger Hoare