

**REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND MAYORAL COMBINED
AUTHORITY COMMITTEE**

DATE: 6 October 2023

**REPORT TITLE: PROGRESS REPORT ON WEST OF ENGLAND
CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

DIRECTOR: ROGER HOARE, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT

**AUTHOR: KIERAN HIGHMAN, SENIOR ENVIRONMENT
MANAGER**

Purpose of Report

- 1 To provide a 6-monthly progress update on actions for this year contained within the Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan (CESAP), following on from March '23 Committee's adoption of revised CESAP.

Recommendation

2. Committee are asked to:
 - 2.1 **Recommendation 1:** Note the Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan progress report provided as part of our commitment in our Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.
 - 2.2 **Recommendation 2:** Note the increasing likelihood that the West of England's ambitions for achieving carbon neutrality and nature in recovery by 2030 are unachievable without substantial national and international changes in approach.
 - 2.3 **Recommendation 3:** Endorse the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority developing a framework for embedding climate and nature recovery considerations throughout its current and future decision making.
 - 2.4 **Recommendation 4:** Delegate authority to approve business cases and funding applications within the Green Recovery Fund (approved by Committee in March 2023) to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Head of Environment in consultation with Unitary Authority Environment Directors. In the event of a consensus not being reached at Director level, decision making will be escalated to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in consultation with the Unitary Authority CEOs.

2.5 **Recommendation 5:** Delegate authority to approve change requests with the tolerances set out in Table 1 (as recommended by the Programme Review Board) to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Head of Environment in consultation with Unitary Authority Environment Directors. In the event of a consensus not being reached at Director level, decision making will be escalated to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in consultation with the Unitary Authority CEOs.

Reasons for recommendation

3. The reasons for the recommendations are:
 - 3.1 The Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan (CESAP) aligns with West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and Unitary Authority motions in 2018-2019 and 2020 relating to climate and ecological emergencies respectively.
 - 3.2 The Committee's adoption of last and this year's CESAP included biannual reporting, forming the primary purpose of this Committee Paper.
 - 3.3 Reporting on CESAP actions ensures the Committee continues to scrutinize West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and regional progress in addressing our declarations.
 - 3.4 The CESAP highlights the challenges of meeting 2030 ambitions for the region to be carbon neutral and for nature to be in recovery. With less than 7 years until 2030, without significant additional investment and national government action, it is increasingly very unlikely the West of England will achieve this. The Prime Minister's speech on 20 Septemberⁱ means net zero by 2030 is even less likely – delaying the ban on new petrol & diesel cars and new oil & LPG boilers to 2035.
 - 3.5 The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority currently considers climate and nature implications through its Investment Fund and wider approvals and Committee process. This is currently done via consultation with the Environment Directorate. The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is establishing a more robust approach to ensure environmental considerations are central to our development and decision making on projects, services and funding priorities. This will be informed by learning from approaches taken by the Unitary Authorities. This will complement the development of a new regional strategy that will set priorities to guide future investment, with climate and nature being one of three proposed central priorities for the region.
 - 3.6 Committee agreed in March 2023 to support expanding the GRF, with detailed GRF spending decisions on projects presented to Committee delegated to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's CEO in consultation with Unitary Authority CEOs. Delegating this spend decision further builds on the collaborative relationship between Unitary Authority and West of England Mayoral Combined Authority environment lead officers; and makes more effective use of both CEO and environment officer leads capacity and expertise.

- 3.7 West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Change Requests are considered by the Programme Review Board; with approvals over set tolerances made at Committee. All approvals below these tolerances for GRF projects are currently made by CEOs. Infrastructure Directors already approve change requests below certain tolerances for infrastructure projects. This approval would replicate this approach for GRF projects and Environment leads within the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and Unitary Authorities. These tolerances are set out in Table 1 of this report.

Voting arrangements

5. In order to be carried, a decision on this matter requires a majority of the members present and voting, such majority is to include the Metro Mayor. Each member present may cast one vote. If a vote is tied the decision is not carried. There is no casting vote.

Background / Issues for Consideration

4 Overview

- 4.1 As a region, we have all declared climate and ecological emergencies. We have set ourselves 2030 ambitions for the West of England to be net zero, and to ensure that wildlife and the natural environment are in recovery with their decline halted.
- 4.2 The Climate and Ecological Strategy & Action Plan (CESAP) sets the regional approach to meeting these ambitions. It includes short-term actions for delivery each year, and medium-term actions needed to achieve longer term 2030 ambitions. It recognises – to achieve our long-term vision and goals – we need to be collaborating across all levels of government and the wider public sector, helping to catalyse and seek funding from the private sector, and empowering our residents and communities.
- 4.3 The CESAP was first agreed in April 2022, including commitments for the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority to provide 6-monthly progress updates and an annual review of actions. The first 6-monthly update was provided to Committee on 13 September 2022, with the annual review resulting in the updated CESAP being approved at Committee in March 2023. This report provides an update on each action relating to the 2023 CESAP. A link to both the 2023 CESAP and March Committee paper are included in Background Papers at the end of this Committee Paper.
- 4.4 The actions within the CESAP, reported on within this Paper, are those the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is leading upon or involved in. We have already achieved some great successes, with much good work ongoing, with a couple of actions requiring a rethink. Appendix 1 provides an update on each action. These are split into 6 themes, with progress highlights

in the body of this Paper and detailed updates on each action with Appendix A. Key achievements include:

- Buildings & Places: Retrofit West Launch, SME/Green Business Grant support, and Innovative Housing Retrofit.
 - Transport: Portway Park & Ride opening and securing £3.6m for active travel.
 - Net Zero Energy: Expanding solar energy through Solar Together, supporting community solar and wind, and developing SME solar grant.
 - Nature Recovery: The Bee Bold Award, growing pollinator provision through Pollinator Fund and Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
 - Business & Skills: Provision of carbon surveys and launch of Green Business Grants, Skills Connect, plus Schools Summit and Bright Green Futures.
 - Climate Resilience: Regional resource in place to begin assessment of risk and opportunities.
- 4.6 We are in the process of preparing to launch a regional engagement campaign on climate and nature. Details of this are included below. The purpose of this being to accelerate achievement of the region's climate and nature objectives, and for future revisions of the CESAP and activity to better reflect the West of England's needs and opportunities.
- 4.7 Objectives for the engagement are included below. This will include addressing the systemic challenges around our ability to meet our 2030 ambitions for net zero carbon; wildlife and the natural environment in recovery; and resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Progress towards 2030 carbon neutrality and nature in recovery ambitions

- 4.8 The CESAP sets out the challenges of meeting our ambitions. The West of England is currently not on track to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 – with a forecast emissions gap of c.3,290kt of CO₂ on our current trajectory. Despite the efforts of Authorities and other key stakeholders in addressing both this and declines in nature, much greater effort and investment is needed.
- 4.9 To address this and the growing urgency to effectively respond to the climate and ecological crises, the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is strengthening the embedding of environmental considerations in all we do. This includes our work on:
- Existing work to embed climate and nature considerations into our delivery decision making. This includes it being embedded within our provision of business and skills support (details below), and embedding climate and nature considerations within our Procurement Social Value Strategy (as per our CESAP Action BS20, details of progress on this within the Appendix).
 - Establishing a robust decision-making framework to embed climate and nature into decision making. This will learn from Unitary Authorities, including South

Gloucestershire Council – who have been applying a ‘decision wheel’ since April 2023ⁱⁱ to help create better environmental outcomes.

- Development of the West of England Regional Strategy - This will place climate, nature recovery and adaptation as one of three central ambitions for the region. The regional strategy will sit above and complement the ambitions set out in the CESAP. It will acknowledge that the region is currently unlikely to meet our 2030 ambitions and commit to making renewed effort to achieve net zero and nature recovery and placing clear asks on government and our key stakeholders. To deliver the refreshed regional strategy, a series of work programmes will be put in place. This will include looking at regional investment priorities and decision-making processes to ensure that they reflect the regional priorities, including climate and nature.

4.10 Responding to the climate and ecological crises requires an international through to community action response, like the COVID pandemic. Whilst Local Authorities, including the Combined and Unitary Authorities, have direct control over c2% of emissions in the West of England – collectively we have influence over approximately a third of emissions. Influencing and addressing the other two thirds of emissions requires engagement across the West of England to accelerate action (detailed below); and action from Government in addressing systemic challenges for our region. The West of England needs the UK Government to retain existing commitments to net zero, and provide additional resources and regulation for the West of England and other local areas seeking to accelerate progress. The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority’s specific requests are detailed in our CESAP’s ‘Asks of Government’ and include:

- Build on regional retrofit successes to build a long-term retrofit strategy with appropriate funding to decarbonise heat and ensure our homes and buildings are resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Working with us and National Grid in efforts to overcome grid constraints – to accelerate connecting renewable generation in the pipeline, alleviating pressure to allow new renewable energy generation to connect, and placing local authorities and the distribution operators together at the centre of regional system planning.
- Provide sufficient powers and capacity funding to deliver and monitor the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the West of England.

4.11 The Prime Minister’s speech on 20 September announced policy changes including delaying the ban on new petrol & diesel cars and new oil & LPG boilers to 2035, which means achieving net zero by 2030 is even less likely. Since the Speech, the UK Government has also disbanded an Energy Efficiency Task Force it established 6-months previously to deliver “*a step change in the reduction of energy demand through accelerated delivery of energy efficiency*”ⁱⁱⁱ.

Green Recovery Fund (GRF)

- 4.12 The primary funding source for projects relating to the CESAP is the £60m Green Recovery Fund, made up of £36m of West of England Mayoral Combined Authority resources and £24m match funding for projects. In March 2023, Committee approved in principle the earmarking of this fund across multiple projects. A breakdown of this funding is included in Section 8 of this report.
- 4.13 The detail for spend is then developed by West of England Mayoral Combined Authority officers – either as a Business Case (for delivery projects), Feasibility and Development, or as a Change Request where an existing project is underway (such as the Pollinator Fund). Currently, Business Cases and Feasibility and Development application forms are reviewed and (where appropriate) approved by CEOs. This Paper proposes delegating this decision further to environment lead officers, building upon their collaborative relationship and making more effective use of both CEO and environment officer leads capacity and expertise. Where Directors of Environment cannot reach agreement, the matter will be referred to CEOs.
- 4.14 West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Change Requests are considered by the Programme Review Board; with approvals over tolerances made at Committee. Approvals below these tolerances for GRF projects are currently made by CEOs. Infrastructure Directors already approve change requests below these tolerances for infrastructure projects. This approval would replicate this approach for GRF projects and Environment leads within the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and Unitary Authorities. These tolerances are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Proposed delegated approval tolerances for GRF

Category	Approval	Tolerances
Cost Increases	West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Head of Environment in consultation with the Environment Directors of the constituent Councils	Cost increases of up to 10% to a ceiling of £100k (Feasibility and Development Funding) subject to funding being available and there being no impact on any other project in the programme
	West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent Councils	£3m (approved scheme funding) subject to funding being available and there being no impact on any other project in the programme
	West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Committee or Joint Committee	Cost increases above this threshold

Reductions in Match Funding	West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent Councils	Reduction in match funding up to 10% to a ceiling of £300k
Reprofiling of Spend (with no cost increase overall)	West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Head of Environment in consultation with the Environment Directors of the constituent Councils	Reprofiling of up to £100k (Feasibility and Development Funding) and £500k (approved scheme delivery funding) between financial years
	Mayoral Combined Authority Committee or Joint Committee	Reprofiling between financial years above this level
Time	West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Head of Environment in consultation with the Environment Directors of the constituent Councils	Slippage of agreed reporting milestones less than 6 months
	West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Committee or Joint Committee	Slippage of milestones of 6 months or over
Scope, Benefits and Quality	West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Head of Environment in consultation with the Environment Directors of the constituent Councils	Changes in the agreed approach to delivery, standards or quality
	West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the Chief Executives of the constituent Councils	Changes to the accountable delivery organisation
	West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Committee or Joint Committee	Changes to the fundamental scope of the scheme or over 10% change in one or more metrics of benefits

Transport

- 4.15 Critical to reducing emissions from transport is providing viable and attractive alternatives to individual cars and fossil fuels. Key successes towards this over the last 6 months have included: opening of the £5.8m Portway Park & Ride Railway Station^{iv}, the region's first railway station in 96 years; plus securing an additional £3.6m to improve walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure^v.

Buildings & Places

- 4.16 The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Retrofit West Advice service was successfully launched on 7th July, with 100 people attending the launch. The service is being delivered by Retrofit West CIC. There is free advice

provided via email and a freephone number and a website where residents can build a retrofit plan. Residents can go on to purchase a discounted whole house retrofit survey and be signposted to installers.

- 4.17 There is currently an open call for providers to deliver Retrofit West Business Support. An offer to small and micro businesses in the repair, maintenance and improvement sectors will be launched in the Autumn.
- 4.18 Three pilot projects for Innovative Housing Retrofit Scheme are due to start on site and are scheduled for completion by March 2024, testing innovative technologies and approaches in hard-to-treat social homes. An additional phase is being developed to test Modern Methods of retrofit. A Retrofit Strategic Steering Group has been set up to guide these Retrofit West and Innovation Housing Retrofit Scheme.
- 4.19 The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and other Unitary Authorities are also supporting Bristol City Council in their Pathfinder Places 'Mission Net Zero' bid^{vi}. This £5m bid seeks to resource developing several workstreams, including a West of England Climate Investment Plan. This would support identification and collation of place-based investments across the region, applying 'Local Area Energy Plan' (LAEP) methods – and create a pipeline of projects flowing from these.

Nature Recovery

- 4.20 The Metro Mayor brought together local residents, companies and community groups to award the 2023 Bee Bold Awards at Hartcliffe's Heart of BS13^{vii} to recognise businesses and community groups for their work to promote pollinators and provide habitat and opportunities for volunteering.
- 4.21 The Community Pollinator Fund has provided 55 new Grants this year^{viii}. A new category to attract a more diverse range of community organisations is being developed for our next funding round. Round 2 (£560,000) will see creation of approx. 329,405 m² of pollinator habitat. Combined with Round 1, this will see 62ha of additional pollinator habitats, double the Pollinator target of 31ha. This represents an average cost of £9,032/ha, well below other comparable schemes such as the Rewild London Fund^{ix} which is delivering at £17,000/ha. Volunteer targets have been significantly exceeded, with approximately 52,000 volunteer hours of community members practically engaged in habitat creation projects, versus 12,868 hours targeted.
- 4.22 Work is underway to prepare the West of England's new Local Nature Recovery Strategy^x (LNRS), and a survey has been launched to gain insight from local communities/stakeholders on their priorities for nature recovery. We're also engaging with farmers and landowners, and businesses, to ensure views are represented in the strategy. We're working closely with our Supporting Authorities (all four Unitary Authorities and Natural England) to ensure that LNRS is a resource that reflects local priorities and successful in channelling funding and finance that reflects those priorities.

Business & Skills

- 4.23 Work to decarbonise businesses in the region is progressing, having reopened Carbon Surveys for SMEs in February, with expanded eligibility, and launched the Green Business Grants Round 4 in June. We have also collaborated on a bid for Innovate funding to produce a Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan for industry in the region has been submitted to tackle industrial emissions.
- 4.24 The Metro Mayor announced on 12 July an extra £6.5 million in funding for local people to upskill for the green jobs of the future^{xi}. Funding is now available for Green Skills Bootcamps to support Retrofit, Organisational Sustainability and Green Transport skills in the region. Delivery of Workforce for the Future is ongoing along with the Skills Connect programme which has now been launched launching this September, and the initial pilot phase of the Green Futures Fund has been successfully delivered with all milestones achieved; with a further £300k of funding announced^{xii}. The Clean Tech and Energy pages of the Invest Bristol & Bath website are also now live.
- 4.25 The West of England's position as a UK leader in hydrogen research and development grows in strength. The Institute of Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems (IAPPS) green hydrogen production and storage facility, the first of its kind in the South West of England, is nearing completion^{xiii} following the West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority's £2.5m funding for the Hydrogen Sustainable Transport Economy Accelerator (HSTEA). Building upon this, we have joined a consortium seeking further hydrogen research funding.

Net Zero Energy

- 4.26 Solar energy is being expanded across the West of England. The first round of Solar Together West of England bulk-purchase scheme for domestic rooftop solar and optional battery delivered 950 installations. A second round has been successfully launched and is now open to resident. Customers have the option to add a battery and EV charge point. The scheme is ongoing until installations complete, due by end of summer 2024.
- 4.27 Bristol Energy Co-op have successfully engaged with 28 potential sites for community-owned solar, where projects are not viable without grant. 16 of those are being surveyed, 2 sites have successfully completed this process and have installations booked in. Work is ongoing to design an additional Rooftop Solar Grant for SMEs, delivered by the West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority, with launch expected in Autumn 2023.
- 4.28 A new, community led wind turbine was launched in June adding 4.2 megawatts of additional renewable energy capacity to the National Grid. This received a £500k European Regional Development Fund capital grant from the West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority. This project will provide a long-term income for the Lawrence Weston community to fund their Community & Climate Action Plan. Following on from this project, Bristol Energy Network is being funded to support communities to find and develop wind turbine sites

across the region. New Local Energy Scheme funding will also be open to applications for renewable projects later this year.

- 4.29 The West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority also supports Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) under the prior Local Energy Scheme for their 'Fairy Hill' solar scheme^{xiv}, and via the South West Net Zero Hub who have awarded funding to them in providing in-person energy advice. Bath and North East Somerset Council have also successfully renewed their Cooperation Agreement with BWCE to identify and research community-based energy projects^{xv}.

Climate Resilience

- 4.30 The new Climate Resilience Manager is leading the delivery of the CESAP's climate resilience actions. An early success has been the production of a regional climate pack by the Met Office which shows a range of possible changes in temperature, rainfall, and sea level rise for different global warming levels this century. This material will be tailored for different audiences in the region - focused on strategic partners, residents and organisations. The regional engagement programme (detailed below) will be our main outreach channel for high-level messaging to residents. Another key success has been joining a DEFRA pilot which will report the region's progress on adapting to climate change through engagement with the Unitary Authorities and other partners.
- 4.31 The West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority has started to engage key regional stakeholders - including the Unitary Authorities, Environment Agency, Avon & Somerset Local Resilience Forum & Bristol Water - on regional priorities, major resilience building projects (e.g., Bristol Avon Flood Strategy), and reviewing the adequacy of our regional evidence base. Building this big picture will help define stakeholder needs, establish any key gaps which need addressing. This collaboration paves the way for the co-development of a detailed work programme and regional approach to delivering a climate ready region.
- 4.32 The West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority is also working with West of England Nature Partnership and other partners to deliver organisational and regional goals – protecting and reinforcing the region's natural environment and exploring innovative ways of monitoring ecosystem health as well as ensuring that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy: 1) helps the region address climate risks e.g. flood risk & urban cooling, and 2) considers how climate change impacts affect wildlife resilience.

Regional Engagement on the Environment

- 4.33 The Climate and Nature Action Panel, chaired by Metro Mayor Dan Norris, have brought together regional political leaders and environmental stakeholders to work together to engage and support the region^{xvi}. The Panel and other key stakeholders have agreed the shared purpose of engagement *to accelerate action in the West of England in reducing emissions, adapting to climate change*

and supporting nature recovery and objectives to:

- Raise awareness of choices and gauge appetite for change – on a systemic and individual level.
 - Build upon our region’s expertise and trust, complementing the work already being done.
 - Share insights and lived experiences to shape our vision, promoting and empowering those taking action.
 - Emphasise integrated & local benefits, maximising value and opportunities.
 - Use the right stakeholders for the right audiences, in the places people visit.
 - Take collective action and shape strategy.
 - Recognition responding to these emergencies is a top regional priority.
- 4.34 Public engagement will be throughout 2024, to ensure the West of England is equipped with the information and understanding of how to make the big choices necessary to reduce emissions, prepare for climate change and protect our ecosystem. It seeks to engage residents, businesses and other organisations across the region. Central to this will be listening and learning through existing community networks. The West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority is collaborating with Unitary Authorities and key stakeholders and will continue this in defining the approach to regional engagement this calendar year – including the messaging and implications of national policy changes in the Prime Minister’s recent speech.
- 4.34 Engagement will raise awareness and gauge appetite for change, both individually and collectively; exploring recognising systemic changes needed to meet our ambitions (such as the constrained electricity grid). It will build upon and complement existing activity in our region, by listening to residents and businesses and then sharing insights to help shape climate and nature recovery action across the West of England. This will include collectively listening and learning from concerns, as well as exploring the benefits to addressing these emergencies.
- 4.35 Engagement will inform future revisions of the CESAP, and how we communicate our activity on the climate and ecological crises. This will likely include graphical representation and grouping activity into those with different levels of impact and investment, to help the public engage with our activity and inform which we prioritise as a region.

Consultation

- 5 This Committee Paper has benefited from internal consultation with officers from across the West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority and Unitary Authorities including:

- 5.1 Unitary Authorities initially via email on 18, with briefing at Climate Working Group on 23 August 2023.
- 5.2 The West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority's Corporate Leadership Team initially on 5 September 2023.
- 5.3 Unitary Authority CEOs initially on 13 September 2023; with opportunity for their and UA Officer input by 26 September 2023.

Other Options Considered

- 6 Not providing a progress update on the West of England Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan has been considered. This has been discounted on the basis that this does not meet our commitments to Committee nor the Motions we and Unitary Authorities have declared, nor provide the scrutiny, focus and oversight needed on our activity in tackling these emergencies.

Risk Management/Assessment

- 7 The Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan sets out how we plan to tackle risks associated with the climate and ecological emergencies. Full risk assessments have or will be undertaken for each action or project as they are brought forwards. A Corporate Climate Change Risk Register has been taken to Audit Committee. A link to this is provided in the Background Papers at the end of this Report; and mitigation actions have been put in place. This identifies key risks including:
 - Constrained electricity grid.
 - Sustainability / environment standards not fully integrated into infrastructure delivery.
 - Lack of public support for decarbonisation of transport.
 - Acting at pace with incomplete evidence.
 - Inadequate supply chain impacting delivery of retrofit programmes.
 - Insufficient levels of citizen support for difficult choices.
 - Decline in national and regional political support for climate change policies.
 - Lack of government action to enable our 2030 ambitions for Net Zero and Nature Recovery – including risks associated with UK Government renegading on existing emission reduction policy commitments.
 - Climate resilience work not receiving the necessary focus and resources to meet needs.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8 Public Sector Equality implications are considered as part of the individual delivery plans for each action within the CESAP. Additional focus will be given to these duties when developing and implementing our region wide climate and nature engagement work. Regardless of these legal duties it is essential that we hear from everyone in the region, and adapt our approach accordingly, to ensure we have the best chance of achieving our climate and nature objectives.

Climate Change and Nature Recovery Implications

- 9 This paper focuses on progress being made towards delivery of the West of England West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority's Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan.

Report and advice reviewed and signed off by: Roger Hoare, Head of Environment

Finance Implications, including economic impact assessment where appropriate:

- 10 The primary funding source for projects relating to the CESAP is the £60m Green Recovery Fund, made up of £36m of West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority resources and £24m match funding for projects. The table below shows a summary of allocated funds and those in the pipeline, grouped by the six key areas within the CESAP.

	GRF resources	Match Funding	Total
Allocated funds			
<i>Buildings & Places</i>	£ 9,549,906	£ 3,389,000	£12,938,906
<i>Transport</i>	£ 5,115,625	£ 592,000	£ 5,707,625
<i>Nature Recovery</i>	£ 8,595,548	£ 5,015,022	£13,610,570
<i>Net Zero Energy</i>	£ 4,290,510	£ 7,601,968	£11,892,478
<i>Business & Skills</i>	£ 15,625	£ 0	£ 15,625
<i>Climate Resilience</i>	£ 15,625	£ 0	£ 15,625
Total allocated	£27,582,839	£16,597,990	£44,180,829
Pipeline			
<i>Buildings & Places</i>	£ 3,855,991	£ 5,630,000	£ 9,485,991
<i>Transport</i>	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
<i>Nature Recovery</i>	£ 2,174,580	£ 1,800,000	£ 3,974,580
<i>Net Zero Energy</i>	£ 1,529,613	£ 0	£ 1,529,613
<i>Business & Skills</i>	£ 576,456	£ 300,000	£ 876,456
<i>Climate Resilience</i>	£ 280,521	£ 0	£ 280,521
Total pipeline	£ 8,417,161	£ 7,730,000	£16,147,161
Grand total	£36,000,000	£24,327,990	£60,327,990

Report and advice reviewed and signed off by: Selonge Russell, Head of Finance and Deputy Section 73 Officer

Legal Implications:

- 11 There are no specific legal implications within the progress update on the West of England Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan.

Initiatives will potentially need legal support and advice and these matters will be discharged on a case-by-case basis as they arise.

Report and advice reviewed and signed off by: Gareth Jones, Interim Senior Commercial Lawyer

Human Resources Implications:

- 12 There are no specific Human Resources implications arising as a direct result of this paper.

Individual initiatives will potentially have resource implications, which will be considered separately as appropriate.

Report and advice reviewed and signed off by: Alex Holly, Head of People and Assets

Land/property Implications

- 13 There are no land or property implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Report and advice reviewed and signed off by: Rachel Musson, Interim Director of Investment and Corporate Services

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – CESAP 2023 Action Tracker.XLS

West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Contact:

Report Author	Contact Details
Kieran Highman, Senior Environment Manager	kieran.highman@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

Background papers:

West of England Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan 2023:

<https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/West-of-England-Climate-and-Ecological-Strategy-and-Action-Plan-2023.pdf>

West of England Mayoral Combined Authority 17 March 2023 Committee Paper and supporting appendices on 'CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL STRATEGY AND

ACTION PLAN 2023': <https://westofengland-ca.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s6818/Climate%20and%20Ecological%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan%202023.pdf>

West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Audit Committee on 18 September 2023 were presented and reviewed the Climate Risk Register. This can be found

here under Agenda Item 10: <https://westofengland-ca.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=606&Ver=4>

Footnote references to further online sources of information:

ⁱ Central Government 'PM speech on Net Zero: 20 September 2023':

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-on-net-zero-20-september-2023>

ⁱⁱ South Gloucestershire Council's Climate and Nature Decision Wheel –

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/climate-emergency-in-south-gloucestershire/#:~:text=From%20April%202023%20we%20will,out%20how%20this%20tool%20works>

ⁱⁱⁱ Central Government 16 March 2023 'Government announces team of leading experts to boost energy efficiency' –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-team-of-leading-experts-to-boost-energy-efficiency>; with further details of taskforce including page being withdrawn and taskforce disbanded on 25 September 2023 – <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/energy-efficiency-taskforce>

^{iv} West of England Mayoral Combined Authority 31 July 2023 press release on

'Portway Park & Ride station officially opens' – <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/news/portway-park-ride-station-officially-opens/>

^v West of England Mayoral Combined Authority 31 July 2023 press release on '£3.6 million boost for cyclists secured by West of England Metro Mayor' –

<https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/news/3-6-million-boost-for-cyclists-secured-by-west-of-england-metro-mayor/>

^{vi} Bristol City Council 13 September 2023 Cabinet decision details on Mission Net Zero funding bid to Innovate Pathfinder Places Programme Phase 2:

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=1798>

vii West of England Mayoral Combined Authority 12 June 2023 press release on ‘Bee Bold Awards: Metro Mayor crowns “Pollinator Champion” competition winners’ – <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/news/bee-bold-awards-metro-mayor-crowns-pollinator-champion-competition-winners/>

viii West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Community Pollinator Fund webpage – <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/bee-and-pollinator-capital/community-pollinator-fund/>

ix Greater London Authority Rewild London Fund 2022 web page – <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/green-space-funding/rewild-london-fund-2022>

x West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Community Pollinator Fund webpage – <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/the-local-nature-recovery-strategy/>

xi West of England Mayoral Combined Authority 11 July 2023 press release on ‘Mayor holds third Jobs and Skills Summit as cost of living crisis bites’ – <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/news/mayor-holds-third-jobs-and-skills-summit-as-cost-of-living-crisis-bites/>

xii West of England Mayoral Combined Authority 11 July 2023 press release on ‘Bright Green Futures – £300k green jobs plan for West’s students announced by mayor’ – <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/news/bright-green-futures-300k-green-jobs-plan-for-wests-students-announced-by-mayor/>

xiii Institute of Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems (IAAPS) 25 July 2023 press release on ‘IMI VIVO electrolyser arrives at IAAPS’ hydrogen production and storage facility’ – <https://www.iaaps.co.uk/news-events/posts/imi-vivo-electrolyser-arrives-at-iaaps-hydrogen-production-and-storage-facility>

xiv Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE) webpage on their Fairy Hill Solar Project (Compton Dando): <https://www.bwce.coop/fairy-hill/>

xv Bath & North East Somerset Council 1 September 2023 press release on ‘Council renews agreement with community-owned renewable energy business’ – <https://newsroom.bathnes.gov.uk/news/council-renews-agreement-community-owned-renewable-energy-business>

xvi West of England Mayoral Combined Authority on Working together – climate and nature recovery action’ webpage – <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/west-of-england-regional-partners-unite-to-accelerate-climate-and-nature-recovery-action/>

Appendix 1 – CESAP 2023 Action Tracker

The following pages provide an update on each of the 105 actions the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is involved in delivery over the 2023 financial year. These are split into the six themes within the Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan (CESAP):

- Transport (T)
- Buildings and Places (BP)
- Nature Recovery (NR)
- Business & Skills (BS)
- Net Zero Energy (NZE)
- Climate Resilience (CR)

And each action assigned a number, reflecting the bulleted order within the CESAP. For instance, 'T7' relates to the seventh bullet within the transport actions contained within the CESAP.

The format of updates identifies where elements have been successfully delivered or milestones achieved – using the term '**successfully**' in bold; then identifying where work is **ongoing**, finally include details where there has been a **rethink** – including a brief explanation, such as a change to scope or forecast action completion date.