

## **ITEM 8**

**REPORT TO: WECA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 2019**

**REPORT TITLE: ENERGY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE**

**DIRECTOR: JESS LEE, HEAD OF STRATEGY & POLICY**

**AUTHOR: HELEN EDELSTYN, SENIOR POLICY MANAGER**

### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To update the committee for information on the position regarding the development of the West of England Energy Strategy.

### **Background / Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 As members will be aware, a report seeking approval for the basis of a LEP West of England Energy Strategy was submitted to the West of England Joint Committee on 1 February 2019.
- 2.2 The 1 February Joint Committee meeting was opened but then adjourned due to the adverse weather conditions that day.
- 2.3 At their reconvened meeting on 15 February, the Joint Committee approved the report as the basis for a LEP West of England Energy Strategy.
- 2.4 In approving the report, the Joint Committee recognised that
  - The approved document is a high-level framework that will help to shape activity and guide investment priorities.
  - It offers flexibility, allowing councils and other stakeholders to deliver at a scale and pace that fits with their commitments.
  - It also provides a basis from which bids to Government can be prepared, and to other funders, for investment.
  - It has been developed in partnership with officers and CEOs from across the UAs, as well as other key stakeholders.
  - More detailed action planning and development work will begin now that agreement has been reached on the basis for a LEP West of England Strategy.

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2.5 In line with the above, now that the report has been approved, more detailed action planning and development work will be taking place. As requested, regular update reports will be brought to this committee.

**Recommendation:**

**That the report be noted.**

**Background papers:**

West of England Energy Strategy report – submitted to the West of England Joint Committee  
– 1 February 2019

**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 / Tim Milgate on 0117 332 1486; or by writing to West of England Combined Authority, 3 Rivergate, Temple Way, Bristol BS1 6ER; email: [democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)