

HotSW LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee 11th February 2021

HotSW LEP's 10 Year Plan for Clean Growth

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- Present the HotSW LEP's Outline Plan for Clean Growth; and
- Seek early input from the Joint Scrutiny Committee on the emerging priorities.

2. Introduction

In November last year, the HotSW LEP published the Local Industrial Strategy which sets out a comprehensive plan to make the most of the distinctive opportunities within the Heart of the South West area. Core to this strategy is the commitment to develop a new approach to growth in urban, rural and peripheral areas, whereby economic growth is decoupled from emissions growth and where the proceeds are shared across people and communities.

The Local Industrial Strategy identifies a number of strategic priorities for achieving clean growth, all of which have been collated into a single clean growth plan. To ensure strategic alignment, a review of the existing local authority Climate Emergency Plans has been undertaken and additional priorities incorporated into the plan where the LEP can add value. National policies have also been drawn on such as the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan published in November 2020 and the Energy White Paper published in December 2020.

The intention is for the HotSW LEP's plan for clean growth to provide a long term framework for the LEP to work alongside its public and private sector partners and deliver a win-win-win:

- Improved productivity and prosperity;
- Inclusive growth for areas left behind; and
- Reduced emissions and increased biodiversity.

3. Outline Plan for Clean Growth

The aim of the HotSW LEP Plan for Clean Growth is to enable the economy to grow in a clean and sustainable way by delivering inclusive economic prosperity whilst protecting the environment, lowering emissions and enhancing natural capital. The plan horizon is 10 years to coincide with the strong commitment from a range of partners across the area to achieve net zero by 2030.

The plan capitalises on the three key areas identified in the Local Industrial Strategy that form the 'Dynamic Heart' of the economy, where there are significant local assets and global potential:

- Energy: Developing a critical mass of businesses operating within, or supplying to, the energy sector to create a globally recognised cluster.

- Engineering: Advancing engineering strengths in maritime and aerospace sectors to drive low carbon shipping and aviation.
- Digital: Exploiting digital expertise in environmental intelligence, geospatial data and sustainable agri-food systems.

The plan also looks to embed the commitment to net zero in everything the LEP does, such that the productivity drivers underpinning the Local Industrial Strategy also drive clean growth:

- Ideas: Test bed for innovation to address environmental challenges
- People: Skilled workforce to support clean growth
- Infrastructure: Future carbon proofed transport, housing and employment land
- Business environment: Climate conscious businesses
- Places: Sustainable urban, rural and coastal communities

The intention is also to use the plan to embrace recent lifestyle changes that have arisen due to Covid-19 and build back better by driving a low carbon recovery.

The plan identifies six priority areas to drive clean growth: Leadership, Low Carbon Energy, Green Businesses, Sustainable Communities, Decarbonised Transport, and Natural Capital. Further details on each of these themes are provided in the attached presentation.

4. Next Steps

Input from stakeholders is now being sought to ensure the priorities identified are the right ones. This outline plan will then evolve into a delivery plan with short, medium and long term opportunities identified. It is hoped that endorsement can be secured from the Joint Committee in March before final approval by the LEP Board in April 2021. In parallel, work will continue to identify funding that can deliver quick wins as well as facilitate acceleration of key strategic projects.

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2nd February 2021