



<b>Report to:</b>	Combined Authority
<b>Date:</b>	14 March 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>West Yorkshire Housing Strategy 2040</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Liz Hunter, Director of Policing, Environment and Place
<b>Author:</b>	Rebecca Greenwood, Head of Housing

Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## 1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 This report seeks Combined Authority approval of the draft West Yorkshire Housing Strategy 2040 (attached at **Appendix 1**).

## 2. Information

### **Background**

- 2.1. The existing West Yorkshire Combined Authority policy position was established in the Housing and Regeneration Strategy 2014, which was built on in the Leeds City Region Housing Vision 2019. Since then, there have been significant changes to the local, regional and national operating context and political settlement, including the election of the Mayor of West Yorkshire and the establishment of a Strategic Place Partnership with Homes England. These changes have created a need for a renewed, clear strategic direction to guide our housing activity at a regional level, adding value to the vital work undertaken by local authorities and our partners.
- 2.2. In addition, the Mayor and five West Yorkshire local authority leaders launched the West Yorkshire Plan 2040 in June 2023. The West Yorkshire Plan sets out the ambitions of the Combined Authority and local authorities across five missions that collectively aim to

achieve the vision for ‘a brighter West Yorkshire’. Each objective within the Housing Strategy connects to our missions set out in the West Yorkshire Plan.

- 2.3. The West Yorkshire Housing Strategy is an opportunity to present a regional trajectory to 2040 which links to and mirrors our wider focus on inclusive growth, sustainability, equality, diversity and inclusion.
- 2.4. The Housing Strategy is an evidence-led document, which draws upon extensive research and intelligence surrounding the housing related challenges and opportunities across the region. The strategy is grounded in partnership working, recognising that the objectives and outcomes can only be realised through working together.
- 2.5. The Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee have been involved in the development of the strategy from the initial stages of preparing the evidence base, through to the public consultation and providing comments on the final draft. At its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee recommended approval of the draft strategy to the Combined Authority.

### **Overview and structure**

- 2.6. The Housing Strategy sets out an overall mission statement for housing in West Yorkshire and four objectives, as well as two guiding principles, that have been agreed with partners:

*Our ambition is to create safe and inclusive places to live that meet the needs of our residents.*

*We will do this by working with our partners to deliver sustainable and affordable homes in well-connected communities where people choose to live.*

***Ensuring that West Yorkshire is a place we are proud to call home.***



- 2.7. Our work to achieve this mission will focus on the four thematic objectives centred around the key challenges that our region faces. These objectives are underpinned by two guiding

principles, **sustainability** and **equality and inclusive growth**, which will act as golden threads to connect and guide our various strands of activity. Following feedback from partners, we have spent time reviewing and simplifying our objectives to more clearly reflect the activity each will likely entail.

- 2.8. In terms of structure, each objective within the strategy document is divided into two parts. The first, **rationale**, brings together the evidence base built upon the challenges our region faces within the scope of that objective. This section is important as it aims to articulate the current baseline position across the region, which the Combined Authority and partners can then use as evidence to construct programmes, interventions and communicate with external stakeholders. The second part, **outcomes**, sets out in broad terms what we would like to achieve through our activity and that of our partners in relation to the challenges identified under the objective.
- 2.9. Appendix 1 of the Housing Strategy includes our emerging delivery plan, which sets out existing activity under each objective as well as our planned actions for the first three years of the strategy period. We also set out our asks of central government and other key stakeholders, specifying the additional resources and powers that we need in order to succeed.
- 2.10. We are also developing a suite of monitoring indicators, set out in Appendix 2, which build on the high-level indicators reported annually in the State of the Region. These will allow us to monitor progress against the outcomes proposed in the strategy. We are working with our Research and Intelligence Team to consider the most appropriate approach to monitoring and reporting, which will be presented to the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee for endorsement at a future meeting.
- 2.11. The Housing Strategy has been co-developed with partners and subject to extensive internal and external engagement over the course of its development. Senior officers and leaders within local authorities have had opportunity to review and comment on the document, and local authority officers have been heavily involved in our evidence and policy development work. Beyond this, Combined Authority officers have leveraged significant input from other public, private and third sector partners including through forums such as the West Yorkshire Housing Partnership, which brings together the region's major providers of social housing.

#### Public consultation

- 2.12. A five-week online public consultation was conducted by the Combined Authority through its YourVoice platform across November and December 2023. This resulted in 1,174 visits made to the YourVoice page.
- 2.13. We received 113 completed submissions, and results have been analysed and a full outcome report is to be published on the YourVoice platform.

- 2.14. Beyond the online public consultation, we have also made contact with seldom heard groups in the region in order to invite comments on the Housing Strategy, and to develop relationships that may enable us to focus our activity and monitor its impact on groups with protected characteristics and other minority groups. We continue to seek further engagement with seldom heard groups across West Yorkshire as we move to launch and deliver the strategy and we are working with the Combined Authorities Inclusivity Champion to broaden our engagement as much as possible.
- 2.15. The public consultation indicated significant overall support for the policy direction set out in the strategy, with the vast majority of outcomes and both guiding principles receiving levels of support in excess of 75%. Themes emerging from qualitative feedback received during the consultation reshaped some of our outcomes, for example under **Objective 2**, although there was support for additional specialist housing to support our ageing population, respondents felt that we ought to widen our focus here to also capture accommodation needed by those with physical and/or mental health conditions requiring support.

### **Next steps**

- 2.16. Subject to Combined Authority approval, the Housing Strategy will be fully designed and plans for a launch in Spring/Summer 2024 will be developed.

## **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

- 3.1. Sustainability, as one of our guiding principles, will underpin our activity under the Housing Strategy. The Housing Strategy links to and references the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan, as well as existing programmes including the Better Homes Hub, our regional retrofit programme. The strategy sets out the Combined Authority's intentions for improving the quality of new and existing housing stock, contributing to our 2038 net-zero carbon ambitions. It also sets out our response to the infrastructure and community challenges posed by the climate emergency, such as increased risks of flooding.

## **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1. Inclusive growth is identified as part of the 'Equality and Inclusive Growth' guiding principle of the strategy. The Housing Strategy aims to progress our work on inclusive growth, ensuring that as many people as possible, from all of our diverse communities, can contribute to and benefit from our interventions. We will work to monitor how the implementation of our strategy affects communities that may face multiple exclusion and disadvantage.

## **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1. The Housing Strategy is underpinned by principles of equality, diversity and inclusion. The evidence base indicates that, across all strategy areas, we must continue to work to

understand the diverse housing experiences of those with protected characteristics, as well as other marginalised and minority groups across our region.

5.2. We continue to develop our engagement with seldom heard groups across West Yorkshire to ensure the voices of diverse communities are reflected in the development and delivery of the strategy.

5.3. The Housing Strategy has been subject to a completed Stage One Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA).

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

## **7. Legal Implications**

7.1. There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

7.2. In accordance with the voting arrangements of the Combined Authority, all Combined Authority members may vote on this item with the exception of the Non-Constituent Council Combined Authority Member.

## **8. Staffing Implications**

8.1. There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

## **9. External Consultees**

9.1 Engagement with partners has been carried out throughout the process of developing the strategy with feedback incorporated at each stage. A full public consultation also took place through November-December 2023.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1. That the Combined Authority approves the West Yorkshire Housing Strategy 2040, with any final amendments delegated to the Chief Executive Officer of the Combined Authority in consultation with the Mayor.

## **11. Background Documents**

11.1. The following background documents are referred to in this report:

[Leeds City Region Housing Vision](#)

[Strategic Place Partnership with Homes England](#)

## **12. Appendices**

## Appendix 1 – West Yorkshire Housing Strategy 2040