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**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 13 December 2018

**Subject:** **Planning for Growth: The Leeds City Region Connectivity Strategy**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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:	N/A

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. To note the ongoing development of the Inclusive Growth Corridor Programme which will help to shape the future connectivity pipeline across all modes of transport serving the Leeds City Region.
- 1.2. To commence a conversation with the public and stakeholders around the new 21<sup>st</sup> century connectivity and services technologies required to address the economic and transport challenges facing West Yorkshire, to complement future strategic infrastructure including HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR).
- 1.3. To recommend establishing a member working group to oversee the development of Connectivity Strategy and Mass Transit.
- 1.4. To propose that Transport Committee continue to oversee the development of the Connectivity Strategy, and that further updates be brought to the Combined Authority throughout 2019.

## **2. Information**

- 2.1. In June 2017, the Combined Authority endorsed development of the HS2 Connectivity Strategy and delegated oversight to its development to West Yorkshire Transport Committee.
- 2.2. Since this time, West Yorkshire Transport Committee have considered and supported the development of the Leeds City Region HS2 Growth Strategy and the associated Leeds City Region HS2 Connectivity Strategy throughout 2017-2018. The most recent update was provided to the 9 November 2018 Transport Committee meeting.
- 2.3. The purpose of this report is to provide the West Yorkshire Combined Authority with the latest position, following consideration by West Yorkshire Transport Committee on 9 November 2018.
- 2.4. The West Yorkshire Transport Committee report from 9 November is included in Appendix 1. In summary, the 9 November West Yorkshire Transport Committee report:
  - Develops the first tranche of Inclusive Growth Corridors (those areas with greatest economic need/opportunity), as identified in the HS2 Connectivity Strategy – and sets out the roadmap for the development of the remaining corridors;
  - Sets out how transforming connectivity in the communities of greatest economic need will help raise productivity, living standards and improve air quality, thereby helping to deliver Inclusive Growth;
  - Builds on the current investment in transport improvements across York, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees. Significant improvements are already being made through programmes including CityConnect, Connecting Leeds and the West Yorkshire-plus Transport Fund across Walking, Cycling, Bus and Rail;
  - Seeks to ‘open a conversation’ on future solutions to future capacity requirements and delivering inclusive growth - including maximising the positive impact of strategic transport investments (HS2/NPR);
  - Identifies that different modes of transport serve different needs and provide different levels of capacity. For example, Mass Transit technologies have moved forwards significantly in last decade through, new battery technologies, hydrogen propulsion and autonomous innovations are changing advance mass transit vehicle technologies;
  - Sets out that Mass Transit is likely to form a component of the overall Connectivity Strategy and subject to feedback received through the ‘conversation’, the proposed City Region Transit Network has the potential to form a key priority for delivery in the timeframe up to HS2 opening in 2033;
  - Illustrates that the analytical work undertaken to date has reflected the evidence base and is focused on connecting communities in greatest

economic need/opportunity. This is the logical and evidenced-based next step in the City Region's plans for transport investment.

- Proposes that significant further development work is commenced on the City Region Transit Network and informed by the conclusions of the forthcoming engagement.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1. There are no direct financial implications from the report, however, the pipeline outlined in the West Yorkshire Transport Committee report have high value and high cost. A funding strategy for the emerging schemes identified here is essential and will be developed as part of the next stages of development.
- 3.2. Funding approvals for the Inclusive Growth Corridor Plans were granted through the Combined Authority Assurance Process, with capital approval sought at the 5 April 2018 West Yorkshire Combined Authority meeting.

### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority is the Local Transport Authority for West Yorkshire. Individual District Authorities are the Local Highways and Planning Authorities for their area. As such, the development of this Connectivity Strategy requires a collaborative partnership and mutual support between the Combined Authority and District Authorities.
- 4.2. In June 2017, the Combined Authority delegated oversight to the development of the Connectivity Strategy to Transport Committee, however, decisions regarding the adoption of the strategy remain with the Combined Authority.
- 4.3. In April 2017, Transport Committee noted that that land already within West Yorkshire Combined Authority ownership from development of previous mass transit schemes will be retained until the new LCR HS2 Connectivity Strategy identifies that it is no longer required for this purpose. The emerging conclusions set out in this report demonstrate that this land may be required for this purpose and as such should retained subject to the conclusions of the detailed alignments which would be considered as part of the next stages of development.
- 4.4. An Integrated Sustainability Appraisal was developed for the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040. It is anticipated that this will be updated in parallel to the development of the Leeds City Region Connectivity Strategy.

### **5. Staffing Implications**

- 5.1. Development work has been undertaken within the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Transport Policy Team in partnership with partner district authorities.

## **6. External Consultees**

- 6.1. The development of this report has reflected feedback and input from district partners. It also follows feedback from the recent Transport Committee member workshop as well as individual West Yorkshire Leader / Portfolio Holder meetings.
- 6.2. Transport Committee endorsed the Connectivity Strategy report on 9 November, as have Leeds City Council Executive Board and Bradford Executive at their meetings on 21 November and 4 December respectively.

## **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1. That the Combined Authority note the ongoing development of the Inclusive Growth Corridor Programme which will help to shape the future connectivity pipeline across all modes of transport serving the Leeds City Region as set out in Item 7 report to the 9 November West Yorkshire Transport Committee meeting.
- 7.2. That the Combined Authority endorse commencement of a conversation with the public and stakeholders around the new 21<sup>st</sup> century connectivity and services technologies required to address the economic and transport challenges facing West Yorkshire, to complement future strategic infrastructure including HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR).
- 7.3. That the Combined Authority endorse establishing a member working group to oversee the development of Connectivity Strategy and Mass Transit.
- 7.4. That the Combined Authority continue to endorse the delegation of oversight of the Connectivity Strategy, including the role of Mass Transit, to Transport Committee, with further updates brought to the Combined Authority throughout 2019.

## **8. Background Documents**

9 November 2018: West Yorkshire Transport Committee – “Planning For Growth: The Leeds City Region Connectivity Strategy”: Agenda Item 7 (plus appendices):<https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=138&MId=730&Ver=4>

21 November 2018: Leeds City Council Executive Board: Leeds City Region Connectivity Strategy and Connecting Leeds Update”:  
<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/s182294/Connectivity%20Strategy%20Cover%20Report%20121118.pdf>

4 December 2018: Bradford Executive: Planning for Growth: The Leeds City Region Connectivity Strategy:  
<https://bradford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s23978/Document%20AD.pdf>

## **9. Appendices**

Appendix 1: Item 7 from the 9 November 2018 West Yorkshire Transport Committee – “Planning For Growth: The Leeds City Region Connectivity Strategy”