

Extract from Calderdale MBC's Cabinet response to their Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board recommendations regarding Calderdale Council and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority

5. Proposed Response to Scrutiny Findings

5.1 The proposed response to the Scrutiny findings is proposed as follows:

Table 1

1	The Council should continue to seek to work as effectively as possible within the West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	<i>WYCA informed the scrutiny review group that Calderdale Council is a good council to work with. We welcome this conclusion and will continue to work as effectively within WYCA as we can.</i>
2	Strategy and Performance Scrutiny Board should review the effectiveness of the new structure in Autumn 2018
	<i>One of the objectives of the revised Council structure was to coordinate better work on a sub-regional level. We will happily contribute to the Strategy and Performance review of the new structure.</i>
3	WYCA should re-examine its decision making structures to ensure that they are as clear and as simple as possible. It should ensure that any revised structures are made publicly available and are widely communicated
	<i>This is a recommendation to WYCA. We agree that the structures can appear complicated. WYCA has recently re-organised its Committees into a more coherent form and the new arrangements are illustrated at Appendix 1. We will assist people in Calderdale to understand better how WYCA works through the Council's website and other communication.</i>
4	WYCA should review its protocols to ensure that decision making processes become fully transparent
	<i>This is a recommendation to WYCA. Again, we will assist in this process in any way we can.</i>
5	WYCA should ensure that it is clear when Members are taking decisions and when decisions are delegated to officers
	<i>This is a recommendation to WYCA.</i>
6	WYCA should establish an effective information process and structure which will enable local Members to comment and contribute when an issue affects their ward
	<i>This is a recommendation to WYCA.</i>
7	The Chief Executive should ensure Ward Members are aware when WYCA is considering an issue that impacts particularly on their ward
	<i>We will ensure that ward members are aware of issues in their own wards that are being considered by WYCA.</i>

8	The Chief Executive should ensure that briefing arrangements are in place for all Members involved in WYCA and its Committees and Sub Committees. These arrangements should include mechanisms for Members to feedback key issues that arise from their activity in WYCA.
	<i>Briefings already take place for Calderdale members of WYCA's Transport Committee and WYCA itself principally via ongoing conversation and a monthly update meeting. We will review our briefing arrangements to ensure they are comprehensive. The decision to include a report at every Council meeting on WYCA activity will assist feeding back key issues from WYCA to all Members and to officers. We will consider whether any additional feedback arrangements are required.</i>
9	Governance and Business Committee should consider whether there are adequate arrangements to support Members who are appointed by Council to serve on external bodies
	<i>This is a recommendation to Governance and Business Committee. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services will prepare a report on support arrangements for external bodies for Governance and Business Committee to consider at a future meeting.</i>
10	Consideration of a report by the Chief Executive on WYCA activity and particular issues of concern to Calderdale should be considered as a standing item at every meeting of full Council
	<i>Council has already agreed to add this item to its agenda for every meeting. The first of these reports was prepared for the July meeting of Council.</i>
11	Members who sit on WYCA and its Committees should be encouraged to continue to work for the overall benefit of West Yorkshire within WYCA, rather than to take a parochial approach. This should be reflected in the priorities of the Council and Cabinet.
	<i>We agree that approaching our work within WYCA simply to see how much Calderdale "can get out of it" would be counter-productive. Investments in other parts of West Yorkshire can benefit Calderdale and Calderdale can contribute its skills and talents to the benefit of communities across West Yorkshire. However, we will assess all work within WYCA to be sure that it takes full account of the needs of Calderdale people.</i>
12	Cabinet should include approaches to partnership working with neighbouring areas outside West Yorkshire within its strategies and, in particular, within economic and transport strategies.
	<i>We accept this recommendation. It is consistent with our current practice.</i>
13	WYCA should identify those activities that would benefit from collaboration with neighbouring areas, in particular Greater Manchester and East Lancashire and adopt clear strategies for developing such collaboration.
	<i>We accept this recommendation. It is consistent with our current practice.</i>
14	WYCA should take the opportunity of the appointment of a Scrutiny Officer to review the effectiveness of their scrutiny arrangements
	<i>This is a recommendation to WYCA.</i>
15	Calderdale Scrutiny Boards – and Place Scrutiny Board in particular – should ensure that sufficient consideration is given to WYCA matters in their work programmes

	<i>This is a recommendation to Scrutiny Boards. Council officers will assist Scrutiny Boards whenever they wish to consider WYCA matters.</i>
16	WYCA should arrange occasionally to hold its meetings and Committee meetings in towns and cities other than Leeds
	<i>We agree with this recommendation and are willing to host WYCA meetings in Halifax Town Hall.</i>