DRAFT: West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan

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Draft for 27 July CA (revised)

1. Foreword

The people of West Yorkshire are the lifeblood of its economy. That is why our regional plan for economic recovery from COVID-19 is focussed on our people. They have demonstrated throughout our immediate response to COVID-19 the resilience and sense of community that makes our region a great place to live, learn, work and do business. And now we need a recovery that delivers for them, in the short term and in the years to come.

The impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic have affected everyone in the region. It is a health crisis that is producing a further economic crisis across the UK, but that could last longer in some parts than others. It is a pandemic that also underlines inequalities in our national economy, that is having a disproportionate impact on our most disadvantaged communities and strengthens the call for desperately needed levelling-up of the North.

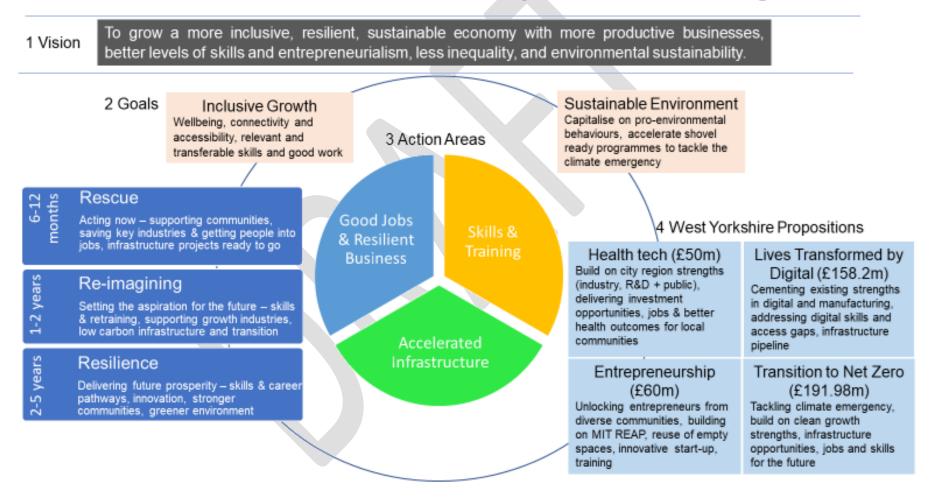
That is why, as an economic recovery board in West Yorkshire, bringing together the five West Yorkshire Leaders and LEP Chair with partners from the private sector, trade unions, public bodies and the third sector, we have set our economic recovery plan firmly around two main goals. We must deliver an inclusive recovery that reduces inequalities. And we must deliver a recovery that is environmentally sustainable, recognising that we entered COVID-19 already in a climate emergency.

To get there, we have set three priority areas of focus. Firstly, we want people to have good jobs in resilient businesses that offer opportunities for pay and progression. Secondly, we want skills and training that give people the tools they need to get those good jobs. And thirdly, we want to deliver accelerated infrastructure, that gives people access to those jobs and to improved local communities. These connect to separate plans around health, transport and in each local authority for their own communities.

We know that the full impacts of COVID-19 are still not known, and we will work together in partnership to ensure our regional and local recovery plans adapt. But we are certain whatever happens that the recovery efforts must be led locally if they are to be successful - focused on our local needs and led by local leaders who know the West Yorkshire people and its economy.

2. Plan on a Page

West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan – Plan on a Page



3. Introduction and Vision

This is an economic recovery plan for the people of West Yorkshire. It is focussed on supporting jobs for people in resilient businesses, on helping people get the skills they need to get jobs, and on the infrastructure so people can access opportunities. It is about reducing inequality and increasing inclusivity, and about creating the resilient and sustainable environment for our shared future. Both this and the linked transport recovery plan are a result of collaboration with partners committed to leading by example in promoting health, wellbeing, inclusivity and diversity, and working together to further these values by fostering our long-term regional partnerships.

The Covid-19 pandemic is a global health and economic emergency, that has affected all of us. In our collective efforts to stop the spread of the virus, businesses have been required to stop or reduce trading, travel into our cities, towns and rural areas has vastly decreased. While the full impact on the West Yorkshire economy is still unknown, the economic impact on many people and their families will be significant and, if action is not taken, potentially long term.

We have already seen large increases in unemployment and applications for Universal Credit, and a significant increase in the number of businesses that are struggling to survive despite support mechanisms locally and nationally. It is clear that this will have a lasting impact on livelihoods across our region, and substantial investment and action is required to support people and businesses to recover and to build a more sustainable, inclusive economy. We must rescue, but only so we can re-imagine a better economy from that foundation – one that builds long term resilience for our communities, that delivers good jobs and meets our net-zero carbon targets.

The West Yorkshire economic recovery plan is about setting out what is required at a regional level to deliver a successful recovery, based on our regional strengths. To support that we have outlined initial asks of Government totalling £1.11bn, emphasising a focus on our local needs and providing strong accountability led by local leaders who know the West Yorkshire people and its economy.

Integrating with local authority plans and regional transport and health plans, it recognises the specific regional challenges and opportunities to the economy that are best dealt with in partnership across West Yorkshire. It is underpinned by a West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Board, bringing together local authority leadership, public partners, trade unions and the private and third sector.

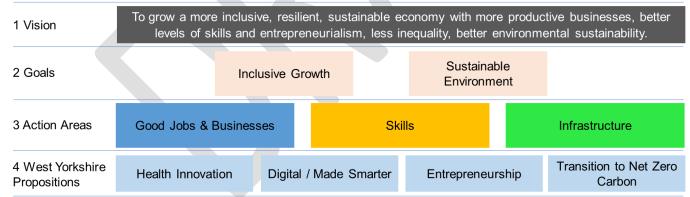
The Board's **vision** for recovery sits at the heart of this plan: To grow a more inclusive, resilient, sustainable economy with more productive businesses, better levels of skills and entrepreneurialism, less inequality, and better environmental sustainability.

- A recovery that produces resilient and thriving businesses, boosted by innovation, high skills and entrepreneurialism
- A clean growth recovery that grasps the opportunity to deliver sustainability across all our places
- A recovery that delivers inclusive growth and a decent standard of living, where good work and wellbeing allow as many as possible to contribute to, and benefit from the region's economy.

1 Plan, 2 Goals, 3 Action Areas & 4 West Yorkshire Propositions for Rescue, Re-imagining, and Resilience

We do not know everything that will be needed for our economic recovery. Our forecasts suggest the impact on the West Yorkshire economy will be between £5bn and £12bn in 2020. We are clear however on what recovery must achieve. Recovery must actively reduce inequalities and contribute to a sustainable environment. These are the goals at the heart of our vision. To achieve them, the plan focusses on what is required across three action areas: Good Jobs, Skills and Infrastructure. For each action area the plan focusses on the Must Win Battles that will unlock the vision over the rescue (short), re-imagining (medium) and resilience (long) phases of recovery.

These action areas are critical for West Yorkshire but should also apply to the whole UK. That is why in each section of this plan we outline what is required at both national and regional level, setting out specific asks of Government. However, we believe there are also distinct contributions that West Yorkshire can make to national recovery, building on our diverse communities, industry strengths and institutions. These 4 propositions – health innovation, digital, entrepreneurs and transition to net zero carbon – are our initial offer¹ to drive recovery and deliver Government's levelling up, with a collective ask of £460m. They too, are focussed on delivering our two goals of inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth.



West Yorkshire Economic Recovery Plan - 1, 2, 3, 4

¹ We know more will need to follow as the recovery develops. For example, culture must play a significant part in recovery, both within communities and through harnessing opportunities in the creative sector. However, we are awaiting detail on how national funding will be distributed to cultural institutions before developing a distinct proposal. Depending on how the economic scenarios progress, there could also be further sector-based proposals. The new PERN network with regional universities will support this.

4. The West Yorkshire economy

An **internationally significant economy** with output of £55.4 billion – bigger than 9 EU countries - 2.3 million people, 90,000 businesses and a workforce of 1.1 million alongside 7 universities, 91,000 students and 30,000 graduates. But West Yorkshire has been **underinvested in as a region**, meaning recovery begins from a more challenging position than other parts of the UK.

A highly diverse population, with 18% of people coming from BAME backgrounds (14.5% nationally).

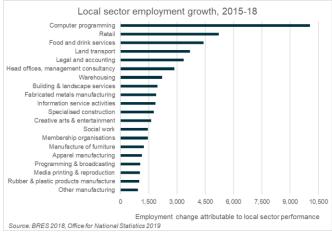
One in nine (11%) business owners/directors is from a minority background in West Yorkshire. This reflects the area's diversity but also emphasises that people from BAME backgrounds are under-represented in senior positions.

One of the **most diverse economies in the UK**, making it more resilient to sector-specific shocks but incorporating some key national **economic strengths**:

- UK's largest regional finance centre, with strengths in professional and digital services
- More manufacturing jobs than anywhere in the north (with specialisms in textiles, furniture, chemicals, machinery)
- The fastest growing digital sector in the country (e.g. computer programming), with areas of professional services (e.g. legal and management consultancy) seeing strong growth along with retail, hospitality and transport.

While the region's economy is resilient through its diversity, it also has challenges:

- Although increasing in absolute terms, productivity is persistently below national levels at around 86% of the UK average, with implications for earnings and prosperity.
- Labour market Strong recent improvement but employment rates remain below UK levels, with disadvantaged groups most at risk of being out of work.
- Jobs and wages Higher level occupations have been the main source of job growth in recent years, but 21% of jobs pay less than the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage rate and 29% of employees are not in good quality work.
- **Deprivation** More than 1 in 5 people (517,000 people) live in areas defined as being amongst the most deprived 10% in England. Relative levels of deprivation in West Yorkshire have got worse between 2015 & 2019.



5. Headline results from the Health Crisis Scenario Development work (commissioned from Experian)

Recognising the level of uncertainty associated with the pathways to recovery in the economy, a set of scenarios has been developed to quantify the nature of the impact and sensitivities under a number of different assumptions. In broad terms, three key scenarios have been modelled (the infograph below sets the UK summary of the scenario):

- Scenario 1: consistent with the main OBR forecast, assumes that the national and local economy returns broadly to pre-crisis levels of activity by the end of Q3 2020.
- Scenario 2: flexes the OBR assumptions, assuming that recovery takes longer and isn't achieved until Q3 2021.
- Scenario 3: effectively a double dip recession based on the introduction of a second period of lockdown from Q4 2020, with similar restrictions and duration.

	GDP growth	Unemployment rate	Real disposable household incomes	Employment growth	16.0 14.0	Unemployment Rate (%) (UK)
Scenario 1	2020: -9.9% 2021: +14.1%	2020: 7.3% 2021: 6.1%	2020: -4.9% 2021: +4.8%	2020: -2.6% 2021: +1.4%	12.0 10.0	
Scenario 2	2020: -15.4% 2021: +14.9%	2020: 8.3% 2021: 8.3%	2020: -5.8% 2021: +3.9%	2020: -3.7% 2021: +0.2%	8.0 6.0 4.0	
Scenario 3	2020: -22.5% 2021: -8.9%	2020: 9.5% 2021: 14.7%	2020: -7.7% 2021: -6.9%	2020: -5.0% 2021: -6.0%	2.0	2000 200 2000 2

Headline UK Results

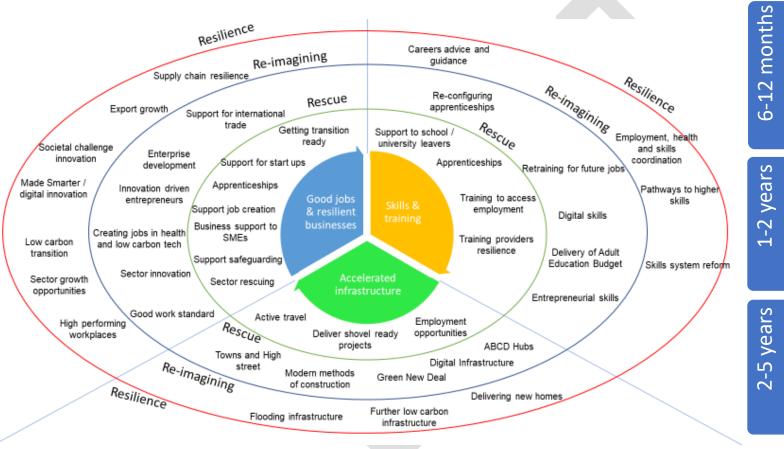
Headline West Yorkshire Results

- The contraction in the West Yorkshire economy across the 3 scenarios would be significant with total GVA contracting by:
 - **Scenario 1:** Up to £5.3 billion in 2020 (10% fall in GVA) very similar to that seen nationally.
 - **Scenario 2:** Up to £8.3 billion in 2020 (15% fall in GVA) very similar to that seen nationally.
 - Scenario 3: Up to £12.1 billion in 2020 (22% fall in GVA), and a further £3.5 billion in 2021. Again, similar to that seen nationally. The West Yorkshire economy does not recover to its pre-crisis activity levels until Q1 2024.
- The impact on employment numbers across the scenarios is greater the longer it takes for activity to recover. In broad terms the modelling work shows that:
 - Scenario 1: up to 30,000 jobs potentially lost in 2020 with the local job market returning to its pre-crisis employment level by mid-2022 (i.e. there is a lag between GVA and the feed through into jobs numbers). The contraction in employment in 2020 at 2.5% is similar to that seen nationally (2.6%).
 - Scenario 2: up to 44,000 jobs potentially lost in 2020 with the local job market returning to its pre-crisis employment level by Q1 2023. The contraction in employment in 2020 at 3.6% is similar to that seen nationally (3.7%).
 - Scenario 3: up to 58,000 jobs potentially lost in 2020 with the local job market returning to its pre-crisis employment level by Q3 2025. The contraction in employment in 2020 at 4.8% is similar to that seen nationally (5.0%).
- The modelling work also provides insights on other key labour market effects most notably the profile of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) unemployment rate. The headline results show that:
 - Scenario 1: the average annual West Yorkshire unemployment rate peaks at 8% in 2020 (higher than that seen nationally at 7.3%) with the rate recovering to its pre-crisis level in H2 2021. The higher rate is driven by the demographic composition of the West Yorkshire labour market, mainly relating to relative levels of economic inactivity.
 - Scenario 2: the average annual West Yorkshire unemployment rate peaks at 9.1% in 2020 (higher than that seen nationally at 8.3%) with the rate recovering to its pre-crisis level until mid-2023.
 - Scenario 3: the average annual West Yorkshire unemployment rate **peaks at 10% in 2020** (higher than that seen nationally at 9.5%) with the rate not recovering to its pre-crisis level until 2027 at the earliest.

- The modelling work also looks at the impact on household finances (per capita disposable household income). In broad terms this shows that:
 - **Scenario 1:** Per capita household income falls by a modest 1% in 2020, reflecting the effects of the income support provided by the government to households, and recovers quickly in 2021 to its pre-crisis level but that this does not mean that households may choose to spend in the same way.
 - **Per capita household income falls by similar values in the other scenarios** (reflecting the effects of the income support provided by the government to households) but takes longer to recover in the other scenarios (reflecting the uncertainty with any support mechanisms in these scenarios).
 - While the impact on household income is relatively modest, this does not mean that households may choose to spend in the same way, which could impact on consumer spending and on businesses.
- The detailed modelling work will provide local levels insights across all the metrics shown above and this information will be shared in further updates, but the early results show that there will be differing impacts across West Yorkshire.
 - For example, within Scenario 2 with an overall GVA impact of 15% in 2020, local impacts vary between 14.6% and 17.7%
 - Differences in local GVA and labour market effects reflect differences in industrial structure and economic participation across the West Yorkshire local authorities. Those with higher concentrations of activity in sectors such as manufacturing and Business to Consumer sectors are seeing a slightly higher impact than those with higher representation in Business to Business sectors, such as finance, ICT and professional services

6. <u>Three stages to recovery</u>

Lasting economic recovery from the potential scenarios highlighted above is going to require moving in stages. Whilst these stages may take place, at times, simultaneously, they will provide a different focus to support recovery:



Rescue

Acting now – supporting communities, saving key industries & getting people into jobs, infrastructure projects that can be delivered now

Re-imagining

Setting the aspiration for the future – skills & retraining, supporting growth industries, low carbon infrastructure and

Resilience

transition

Delivering future prosperity – skills & career pathways, innovation, stronger communities, better environment

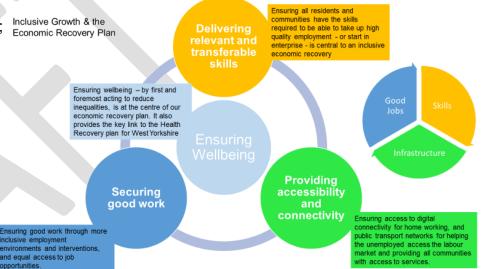
7. Reducing Inequality / Inclusive Growth

The impact of COVID-19 has demonstrated starkly the range of inequalities and injustices that permeate our region, as well as nationally and globally. We are determined that the interventions contained in this Plan make a positive impact in not just reducing, but eliminating, the unfairness individuals and communities in our region face in relation to the following Inclusive Growth goals:

- Wellbeing including good physical and mental health;
- Connectivity and Accessibility including to economic opportunities; Inclusive Growth & the Economic Recovery Plate
- Relevant and transferable skills to enable social mobility; and
- · Good work which offers sustainable, high-quality employment

Our proposed measures of success will be critical in demonstrating what impact we have had. And the fulfilment of these goals is central to the achievement of our related Inclusive Growth ambitions, such that:

- All individuals and communities in West Yorkshire are enabled to contribute to - and benefit from - our economic prosperity because: they are inspired, confident and engaged;
- All West Yorkshire employers provide good work because: they value diversity (at all levels), promote employee wellbeing, and invest in their workforce; and



• West Yorkshire is a region which delivers an inclusive economic recovery because: every person - and every community - matters equally, economic and social disparities are not just reduced but eliminated, and diversity - including of our people and communities - is a key strength of the region.

It is recognised that all sectors will play an important role in terms of delivering an inclusive economic recovery and ongoing resilience. For example, the crucial role played by the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector during the pandemic has been recognised in terms of connecting with the people and communities that have needed the most assistance. It is therefore proposed that the role of the third sector should be further enabled², to ensure (including by working with the private and public sector) that our most excluded individuals and communities benefit fully from recovery.

² Supporting the approach described by Andy Haldane in <u>The Third Sector and the Fourth Industrial Revolution</u>

8. Tackling the Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability

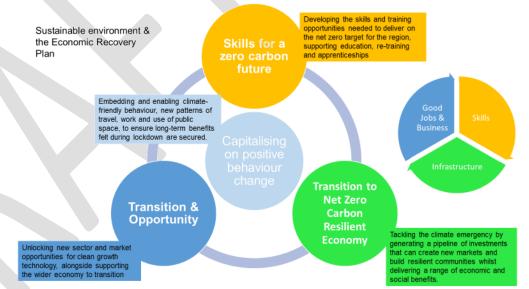
Even before COVID-19, we were facing a climate emergency. Whilst lockdown has temporarily made a significant positive contribution to reduced emissions and nature recovery, long term the impacts of Covid-19 may adversely affect achieving our net zero carbon target by 2038 with CO2 emissions (and wider emissions) not declining at a pace and scale to meet our target. Therefore, it is essential that all elements of our recovery plan make positive long-term contributions to a tackling the climate emergency and wider environmental sustainability.

As is detailed in the proposition on Transition to Net Zero Carbon Resilient Economy, the transition will unlock significant economic

benefits, new jobs, new training and upskilling opportunities and a range of new business opportunities. It will also reduce harmful emissions, help nature to recover and improve our region's longer-term climate resilience. Up to 70,000 new jobs in West Yorkshire could be created through climate investments by 2050 (LGA 2020).

Our planned measures:

- Create new business, jobs and training opportunities through accelerating a range of planned zero emission capital projects
- Development of an initial zero-carbon pipeline and funding proposition including low carbon, energy, flooding and nature recovery projects



• This pipeline will guide how to shape 1) new net zero skills programmes including a new partnership and workforce pilot 2) business support programmes including supporting over 150 businesses to decarbonise and bespoke support for industry.

These planned measures make up our Transition to Net Zero Carbon Economy proposition. This proposition is only part of the region's current and future plans to tackle the Climate Emergency. To fully achieve a net zero carbon economy by 2038 will require system level changes and billions of pounds of investment.

9. Priority Areas for Action

Priority 1: Good Jobs & Resilient Businesses

Part of the vision of the recovery plan is for a recovery that produces resilient and thriving businesses, boosted by innovation, high skills and entrepreneurialism and that takes advantage of untapped opportunities decarbonisation of our economy can offer. This will be the foundation for Good Jobs. Our Must Win Battles for this action area describe what is needed to deliver this through recovery.

To achieve this will require significant national intervention, leadership from the private sector, and working closely across West Yorkshire with local authorities, trade unions and the LEP. We must start from the industry strengths we have already in manufacturing, financial services, digital, health tech and clean tech.

Must Win Battles

Rescuing and building resilience across strategic regional sectors

Whilst parts of our economy need support to thrive, many supporting and

Headlines

- Depending on the scenario, our economy could shrink by £12bn in 2020, threatening jobs and businesses now and productivity in the long term
- In rescue, we need Government to support the safeguarding of our existing Good Jobs, and we will locally support businesses and individuals to get back to work. (Asks £60m)
- In re-imagining, we have opportunities to support new and growing strengths, and to boost entrepreneurialism in our communities (Initial asks £93m)
- In resilience, we can make jobs healthier and greener, with Government backing regional infrastructure (Initial asks £31.3m)

facilitating sectors (Retail, accommodation, transport, recreation and transport equipment) employing 262,000 people in West Yorkshire (24% of all jobs) have been hard hit by COVID-19 and must be rescued and supported to become more resilient. Depending on the scenario, this will look different across our key sectors. Without this resilience we will not be able to safeguard existing jobs or generate the numbers of new good job opportunities that will be needed in rescue or re-imagining.

Support the under and unemployed back to work

April and May 2020 saw an unprecedented 87% increase in jobless claimants in WY and 94% in LCR. In scenario 3 of our modelling there could be up to 58,000 jobs lost in 2020 with the local job market not returning to its pre-crisis employment level until Q3 2025. With job postings down by almost two-thirds, further support will be required to stimulate demand for jobs through wage incentives, particularly during the rescue phase as the CJRS and furlough support tapers. This is likely to impact young (18-24) and older people (over 50s) more. As we move into re-imagining, this focus should increasingly look to moving people into longer-term career progression pathways, offering support to access growing employment opportunities in digital and clean growth roles.

Deliver levelling up through increased productivity in good work

The region had the fastest growing digital sector in the country prior to Covid-19 (employment growth of 48% between 2015 and 2018), and previously identified strengths in health tech and food production are at the forefront of work on the recovery. Yet output per hour worked is largely unchanged since 2010 in West Yorkshire once the impact of inflation is removed, and remains about 14% lower than UK levels. Productivity remains the key long-term route to improved living standards, but must be done in a way that unlocks good work - 271,000 WY employees (29% of the total) were not in good quality work (ONS definition based on Taylor Review) before COVID-19 and response has shown just how important relationships between employers and employees can be. Recovery should encourage Good Work through more inclusive employment environments and interventions, recognising the role played by Trade Unions and other employee bodies.

Making supply chains more resilient

A third of businesses say disruption to their supplier base poses a risk to their business operating successfully as lockdown eases³. Analysis of trade flows for West Yorkshire⁴ shows that electronic and industrial machinery is a key import and export for the region, emphasising our critical importance to supply chains in industries such as automotive, even with no OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer). Medicinal and pharmaceutical products also feature in the top 10 commodities imported and exported, reflecting the area's role in the health supply chain. Coupled with recovery from COVID-19, the UK's transition to a post-Brexit independent trading status makes it more important than ever that the region has the resilient supply chains needed both for businesses and consumers to thrive.

Increasing digital & innovation driven entrepreneurialism

Entrepreneurialism has been a critical driver of economic growth out of difficult times, and West Yorkshire has the ingredients. Annually the region generates more than 10,000 start-ups. There are also more scale ups in the wider Leeds City Region than anywhere in the North (258), according to data from Beauhurst. Many of these businesses are already innovating in response to Covid-19 and includes companies in sectors identified as local strengths pre-Covid, including food & drink, health tech, digital and professional services. In a scenario where there may be higher levels of unemployment and fewer job opportunities initially, digital skills, mission led innovation and a renewed focus on pre-start and start-ups will be critical to the region new opportunities as they arise, and attracting talent into the region from elsewhere. Supporting survival beyond the first year will be a key success measure.

³ Leeds City Region / Chambers of Commerce Quarterly Economic Survey, Q2 2020

⁴ Yorkshire and the Humber trading relationships, MDST Transmodal, 2020

Must win Battles: Rescuing and building resilience across strategic regional sectors, Support the unemployed back to work, Deliver levelling up through increased productivity and good work, Making supply chains more resilient, Increasing digital & innovation driven entrepreneurialism

Rescue	Re-imagining	Resilience
Government need to focus on: Financial support to the unemployed, finance to safeguard jobs and businesses in the most affected sectors, sorting the post-Brexit trade	Government need to focus on: Providing patient capital for investment in industry and innovation, setting trade policy goals	Government need to focus on: financial incentives to support industrial transition, unlocking key long-term infrastructure projects for the North e.g. NP Rail
 relationship with the EU and other nations At West Yorkshire level we will deliver: Employment and apprenticeship brokerage & links to skills and training Re-training for people on furlough/at risk of redundancy (see skills section) Business Support and access to advice to get SMEs in the region operational safely Supply chain programmes to help businesses to access new supply chains, particularly in health Support those trading internationally as part of the city region's major role as a UK manufacturer and service provider as we prepare for new trade relationships 	 Support for retraining in sectors/occupations with growth potential (see skills section) A Good Work Standard for West Yorkshire, focussing on commitments that drive positive employment and productivity Inward investment and skills packages to support on-shore and re-shore of industry that can unlock good jobs Support to build innovation driven start 	 We will deliver (subject to funding): Support and access to finance to grow jobs and productivity in growth sectors Deliver a coordinated West Yorkshire innovation ecosystem Help businesses to develop more resilient supply chains, working to reduce carbon footprints of trade Skills brokerage service to stimulate demand from employers Support for those looking to become exporters, or to explore new opportunities beyond UK markets Mission based challenges for solving key social and environmental issues
 Stimulate innovation and investment, and support new digital ways of working Government ask: £60m to deliver employment support for 30,000 people (to 2025) £10m to support schemes for more than 9,000 business to get back operating safely, 	 up and scale-up enterprises (including social enterprises), particularly in disadvantaged communities Government ask: £48m for a wide-ranging entrepreneurial revolution, £20m Made Smarter programme, £10m for ActEarly North — health tech centre innovation, £15m for 	 Support businesses to grow back greener to maximise new business opportunities and increase good jobs. Government ask: £30m flexible strategic business investment fund to meet targeted need in growth sectors. £1.3m for green business support
productively and innovatively, safeguarding 25,000 jobs in West Yorkshire in the process	skills packages to create new jobs	Note: Given the uncertain nature of COVID recovery, we will need to add and refine as impacts become clear. We

urge Government to engage with us on this process.

Priority 2: Skills and training for people

Depending on the eventual scenario, we face the risk of a perfect storm in the labour market in the late summer – with elevated unemployment, a slow recovery in vacancies, winding up the CJRS leading to increased exits from work, a collapse in apprenticeship numbers related to overall labour market changes, and up to 800,000 young people leaving education and entering the labour market nationally. Our Must Win Battles for this area focus on making sure we have the training, re-skilling and education in place across partners in the region to be able to respond to these challenges.

Must Win Battles

Prevention of NEETs and youth unemployment

Nationally around 50% / 400,000 of education leavers aged 16-24 will

Headlines

- Depending on the scenario, we may be facing unemployment levels up to 14.7% in 2021
- In rescue, we need Government to support financial support to the unemployed and to training providers, and regionally we will focus on retraining and skills for education leavers (Asks £65m)
- In re-imagining, we will build the regional skills offer for the future labour market (Initial asks £90m)
- In resilience, we need to see implemented the recommendations of the Future Ready Skills Commission (Initial asks £300m)

be entering the labour market after summer, and youth unemployment has doubled in the last two months. Historically, unemployment has a greater negative impact for young people economically and on their wellbeing, particularly BAME communities. For example, Young British Pakistanis are 25% more likely to be NEET than their peers. Urgent action is required to prevent young people disengaging from employment, education and training ('NEET levels'), which had fallen significantly over the past few years. The impact on young people is likely to be greater if they are excluded from the labour market as competition for jobs increases. In rescue, there is an immediate need to protect apprenticeship and other training opportunities that already exist, as well as to build capacity in the system to deliver a blended approach to learning. This will help to ensure that there is intensive and targeted support available for those at risk of becoming NEETs as they leave the education system, with the aim of turning this risk into an opportunity to stimulate demand for apprenticeships and other high quality skills and training programmes.

Address inequality of access to learning

Disadvantaged / pupil premium learners in schools trail their peers by 18.1 months in attainment. Twice as many people in professional occupations undertake training as in manual occupations. Nearly a quarter of people in Yorkshire and Humber lack essential digital skills for life, with the elderly, low-skilled and those on low income highly represented in that group. The shift to online and small group learning has further highlighted the inequality of access as an issue that will worsen the divide. Significant

action will be required to support individuals to access learning through different formats and settings. This includes places of learning; community settings, buildings adapting to social distancing measures, as well as investment in the IT equipment, infrastructure and digital skills that allows equal access to blended learning.

Building a strong skills offer for the West Yorkshire labour market

The lockdown has led to a collapse in participation in traditional skills programmes, with the first college redundancies and closure of a specialist training provider both announced in the region. Nationally, the number of apprenticeship starts halved between 23 March and end of April compared with the same period of last year and many apprentices have been furloughed. Whilst hard to predict actual figures, Independent Training Providers are anticipating a 70% drop in learners from September due to reduction in employer interest, nervousness about returning to classrooms and greater competition amongst universities as domestic students defer entry and international students stay away. This could mean that many providers may not survive financially at a time when we are seeing greater devolution of adult skills funding to Mayoral Combined Authorities. Providers need support to shift towards new ways of curriculum delivery, delivering a fast response to the sharply rising demand for online and flexible learning, including for new T-Level qualifications, traineeships and apprenticeship work placement elements are completed. There is an opportunity to reverse the sharp decline of adult participation in learning as well as respond to employer training needs.

Delivering relevant and transferable skills

Ensuring all residents and communities have the Skills required to be able to take up high quality employment - or start in enterprise - is central to an inclusive economic recovery. West Yorkshire is home to great, diverse communities. During the lockdown phase these communities, and the third sector, have been at the heart of response, coming together in positive ways to support, encourage and sustain, particularly the most vulnerable. This has taken different forms in our diverse West Yorkshire communities, and because recovery will also impact communities differently, it will be important that communities - and the third sector itself - are supported to become more resilient and sustainable.

Improved skills utilisation in the workplace

Around 9% of employers demonstrate high performing workplace practices nationally, a range of practices that lead to more productive workplaces. Employers will need support to identify opportunities to increase the skills of their existing workforce to drive innovation and productivity, including diverse leadership and management so that they survive and come out of the crisis stronger and more resilient. Employers need to proactively manage job design and skills so that organisations can respond effectively to continuing challenges like automation.

Must win Battles: Prevention of NEETs and youth unemployment, Address inequality of access to learning, Building a strong skills offer for the West Yorkshire labour market, Improved skills utilisation in the workplace

Rescue	Re-imagining	Resilience
support to the unemployed, supporting job retention, financial support to the education and training sector, national job guarantee scheme, free up ESF funding in order to maximise local investment, top-up AEB for L3 and digital entitlements and offering careers	 transitions and well-being of young people & long term unemployed, capital investment We will deliver (subject to funding): Apprenticeship and work placements to stimulate individual and business demand Upskilling / re-training in emerging sectors Strategic and responsive commissioning of Adult Education Budget for 21/22 onwards, focussed on areas of unemployment need Education/careers targeting disadvantaged learners, extended to EY and primary and business demand 	Government need to focus on: skills system reform, including alignment of skills funding including NRS, NSF and SPF high quality employer led technical training including digital, increase AEB funding We will deliver (subject to funding):
 At West Yorkshire level we will deliver: Employment Brokerage to support those at risk of redundancy or unemployed Adult re-training / upskilling courses to help people retrain quickly whilst in work Coordination of Apprenticeship and work placement support for employers Careers tools for summer graduate and school leaver programmes Digital skills programme 		 Work with Government to implement the Future Ready Skills Commission recommendations Adaptive regional support for community skills and training needs Deliver entitlements and commission 'test pilots' as part of AEB strategy to ensure equal access A coordinated employment, skills and health offer for long-term unemployed Government ask: Devolve work and health programmes, adults and careers funding, £300m flexible skills fund (see also rescue)
workplace to support childcare, training, housing and transport costs Government ask— e.g. £30m for 10,000	training / upskilling and new entrants Government ask: £3m for skills utilisation pilot, £35m FE/post-16 implementation funding, £20m for careers destinations and work	
£10m for green skills partnership, £10m for digital skills partnership £15m for health and social care workforce and support for LT unemployed with complex health needs.	placements, £5m virtual careers infrastructure, £17m 3,000 Apprenticeship/work placements, £10m Enterprise Skills programmes in communities & start-up support.	Note: Given the uncertain nature of COVID recovery, we will need to add and refine as impacts become clear. We urge Government to engage with us on this process.

Priority 3: Accelerating Infrastructure and Capital Projects

Infrastructure has a critical role to play in recovery, both in unlocking economic opportunities with good jobs and skills, and in delivering longer term resilience for West Yorkshire, both for our communities and for our environment. Our Must Win Battles focus on moving quickly to deliver physical infrastructures in public realm, digital, flood risk management, transport, housing and low carbon and other supporting infrastructure. However, they also emphasise that we must ensure that this delivers for the people of our communities, and that we also retain and build the social infrastructure that makes our places environments where people want to live, work and visit.

Must Win Battles

Levelling up the City Region

Headlines

- 64% of people expect to work from home more after COVID-19
- In rescue, we need Government to take the rapid decisions needed to unlock our shovel ready capital projects, and we will support communities to utilise existing space (Asks £65m)
- In re-imagining, we can begin our work to healthier, digital and greener places, utilising our strengths in clean tech and MMC (Initial asks £88.98m)
- In resilience, we must secure the future prosperity of our communities, including through flood resilience (Initial asks £132.1)

Covid-19 has diverted attention from the levelling up agenda for the north but has now become even more acute in terms of deprived communities that already needed targeted investment to deliver resilience for the future. Public spending per head on economic affairs in Yorkshire was around 70% of UK levels in 2017/18 (£565 in Yorkshire vs. £802 in UK). This is down from 92% in 2015/16, and 81% in 2016/17. Meanwhile Gross Disposable Household Income is 81% of UK levels in West Yorkshire. Capital investment (including on transport) is needed in the north, providing confidence in a pipeline of West Yorkshire projects. But it must be done with existing communities, and address the needs of people both to have a role in the development (through design, jobs & training) and to genuinely benefit from its results (through healthier, positive and greener places).

Post Covid Ready Places

Recovery offers the opportunity to accelerate a process already begun to transform our towns and cities into successful, sustainable places. Around three quarters of businesses expect measures such as social distancing to be in place for between three and twelve months⁵. In rescue, we will need to focus on addressing social distancing requirements as opening up of the economy proceeds and confidence in safe public places needs to be rebuilt. In the longer term, analysis by Cushman & Wakefield⁶,

⁵ Leeds City Region / Chambers of Commerce Quarterly Economic Survey, Q2 2020

⁶ The Future of Workplace, Cushman & Wakefield

JLL⁷ and others suggests that whilst remote working and lower density office space will remain desirable, companies and workers will still demand spaces that promote collaboration, interaction and wellbeing. In re-imagining, therefore, Towns Fund, Future High Street and other programmes need flexibility to respond to a potential further rapid contraction of retail and commercial use in towns and cities using transitional uses to try and test what works best for different places. And in resilience, some places will need large scale interventions to create future markets, with brownfield sites (largely within urban cores) brought forward to provide a good quality affordable housing offer, alongside the social infrastructure to make good places to live.

Resilient Communities

COVID-19 has reinforced powerfully the need for holistic approaches to developing resilient, healthy, safe communities with local green space for all communities to use. 64% of people expect to work from home more in the future than prior to lockdown according to our transport survey, whilst more than a fifth (22%) of businesses expect the move to home working to be in place permanently. We need to strengthen existing places, and we can build on learning from district Streets for People pilots, and the opportunity to increase flood resilience for the communities that have faced devastating impacts in the events of 2015 and 2019. But with building opportunities also central to recovery, we need to apply this also when creating new developments, giving priority to the design of future-proof homes, including space for working/study, and homes that allow individuals to be shielded when necessary.

Accessibility and Connectivity to Communities

COVID-19 has demonstrated what a radical shift in work, transport and community activity means for our current infrastructure. In the coming weeks 49% and 62% of respondents to our transport survey said they would use the bus and train less, respectively, and 34% said they will walk more. If positive behaviours for our environment of reduced car usage, more active travel, greater home working and more local spending are to be retained in a sustainable way, then our connectivity infrastructure needs to support that. Linking closely to the work in our regional transport recovery plan, we are committed to both the short term requirements in rescue to keep communities connected, particularly to work and training opportunities, and also to long term strategic planning and an integrated approach to investment to connect communities digitally, socially and through sustainable modes of transport. To reduce inequalities, we must act specifically to tackle the fact that only 69% of properties in the 20% most deprived areas have access to Superfast Broadband and only 3% to Full Fibre.

⁷ The Future of Global Office Demand, JLL

Addressing New Challenges

Recovery offers a specific opportunity to both support the transition and meet our net zero carbon target and to stimulate jobs and skills opportunities, through addressing existing issues in our housing stock through public investment. Producing high performing energy efficient homes is an opportunity to build on the existing strengths of the region in Modern Methods of Construction, stimulating MMC home building programmes linked to training and investment in new technology. Alongside this, retro-fit energy efficiency programmes are needed for existing buildings, offering a long term solution to tackling fuel poverty in the region (fuel poverty affects more than 20% of households in 100 of our communities) and an opportunity to create high numbers of skilled jobs. Analysis by Ecuity for the Local Government Association suggests that West Yorkshire could have more green jobs than any other area by 2050 as the UK transitions to a net zero carbon economy (72,000 jobs), which we set out a route for in our proposition on Transition to Net Zero.

Must win Battles: Levelling up the City Region, Post Covid Ready Places, Resilient Communities, Accessibility and Connectivity to Communities, Addressing New Challenges			
Rescue	Re-imagining	Resilience	
Government need to focus on: rapid decision making on capital spend, facilitating regions to deliver infrastructure projects, protecting key culture assets, financial support for social infrastructure (including the third sector), support places which are adapting at pace	Government need to focus on: longer term funding programmes to deliver capital and green infrastructure pipelines, re-working the Green Book appraisal programme, devolve greater infrastructure decision making We will deliver (subject to funding)	Government need to focus on: funding future community resilience, including flood alleviation, zero carbon housing programmes to provide long term regional capital programmes, delivering major national infrastructure to the benefit of West Yorkshire	
 At West Yorkshire level we will deliver: £52m of our core plus proposition of shovel ready projects and delivery of the £67m Brownfield Housing Fund allocations – linked to protecting jobs and local job creation, supporting supply chains Provide support to help communities and businesses utilise suitable vacant space for temporary and transitional use Support for broadband access across the most deprived parts of the city region Facilitating regional social-infrastructure, including a regional social prescribing pilot Support for short-term green infrastructure initiatives, including cycling and walking Support shovel ready nature recovery and 	 Prime with deriver (outplet to funding) Develop a net zero carbon pipeline of projects (including energy efficiency, GBI), implementation plan and skills offer Utilising the rail network to rapidly deliver full fibre broadband & 5G mobile coverage in rural areas Identify and/or develop a suitable framework to stimulate and advocate MMC home building programmes Deliver inclusive urban design, building on learning from district Streets for People pilots to produce high quality places to live Join up and maximise the opportunity between infrastructure requirements and local skills and training opportunities Deliver flood schemes with Yorkshire Water. Deliver a skills capital programme 	 We will deliver (subject to funding) Accelerating delivery of Flood Risk Management schemes Ensuring a long-term future proofed housing pipeline that delivers on the needs of West Yorkshire Using the ABCD model, support capital projects to develop and maintain community hubs A West Yorkshire Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) to deliver smart city solutions for the region Rollout a 100% Digital West Yorkshire programme to support digital access and skills support 	
energy efficiency retrofit programmes		Government ask: £1m to build and operate a West Yorkshire LoRaWAN, £126.1m Flooding	
Government ask— £50m for shovel ready energy efficiency schemes, extension of Towns Fund to support places undergoing rapid change, to support and retain arts and cultural activity in places- £15m.	Government ask: £680k develop an initial pipeline of low carbon / climate investments and (£3.3m) skills programme. £80m skills capital investment programme	 Programme (2021-2027) and £5m for schemes delivered with Yorkshire Water. Note: Given the uncertain nature of COVID recovery, we will need to add and refine as impacts become clear. We urge Government to engage with us on this process. 	

10. WY Kick-start Recovery Propositions

Why West Yorkshire?

- National leadership and spending power the decisionmaking centre for national policy and c.£130bn in funding
- Industrial strength there are substantially more valueadding med-tech firms here than in any other LEP area
- Strength in innovation some of the most accessible and forward thinking routes for businesses into the NHS
- World-leading Research and Development investing £100m plus for medical technology research, 8.9% of medtech patents submitted by UK
- Strength in Data distinctive longitudinal patient population cohorts (e.g. Born in Bradford) and the unique 'Leeds Care Record'

The Ask

Levelling up: the rebalancing of public R&D spend to unlock private investment (£540m needed in Yorkshire and Humber to level up per person spending (Nesta, 2020)), starting with £35m for our Medtech Strength in Places proposal.

Act Early: initial investment to unlock a new £10m institution of people-powered, data linked population laboratories to coproduce, implement and evaluate novel early life interventions to prevent disease, improve health and reduce inequalities, including a digital skills programme for young people.

The place for healthtech & health innovation: £5m commitment to support the infrastructure needed for West Yorkshire internationally as the centre for health tech.

Why West Yorkshire?

- Unrivalled digital strengths fastest growing digital sector in the country prior to Covid-19 (employment growth of 48% between 2015 and 2018)
- Digital • Coordinated leadership - regional Made Smarter Board and Digital Board have identified key digital priorities, building on our existing assets and strengths à
 - Delivery in progress a new digital voucher scheme focused on remote working and cybersecurity for micro and smaller businesses, 100% digital pilot in Leeds, WY superfast broadband

The Ask

Transformed

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Live

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Proposition

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Made Smarter Adoption Pilot - £20m to further scale up and exploit / capitalise on opportunities particularly linked to the region's manufacturing strengths.

Digital Enterprise - £20m to scale the already successful programme delivering digital support to SMEs, including to meet demand for hardware and cybersecurity investments.

Digital skills and exclusion: £10.5m over three years to roll out the successful 100% digital pilot across West Yorkshire.

£108m digital infrastructure fund – to unlock multiple shovel ready projects - Rural Gigabit Voucher, West Yorkshire Rail Network Fibre Delivery, Extension to West Yorkshire and York Superfast Broadband, West Yorkshire Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN).

11. Summary of Transport Recovery Plan

Our approach to recovery recognises that for the people of West Yorkshire, our economic and transport recovery need to deliver against the same priorities. Therefore, alongside the economic recovery plan, at West Yorkshire level we have also developed a transport recovery plan that shares the same vision and goals.



West Yorkshire Transport Recovery Plan - 1, 2, 3, 4

Support our bus and rail passengers by restoring services, ensuring safety and reliability, integrating services, and developing sustainable funding models Licketing & Information Support new ticketing and passenger information by adapting products and payment options, enhancing live information, and improving options for under 25s

Enabling walk and cycle by providing the facilities, space and supporting measures to travel safely and confidently, involving communities to improve experience Reducing the impact of road travel by combatting transport emissions, improving road safety, supporting sustainable movement of goods and ensuring long-term resilience

12. Links to Other Plans

[placeholder pending publication by partners]

Public sector partners across West Yorkshire are working closely to ensure respective plans are aligned, complementary and not duplicative.

This section will summarise the key interactions across:

- **Health:** the health response to both this crisis and in planning for future crises is a fundamental consideration for the economic future of West Yorkshire. In addition, the crisis has highlighted and exacerbated already recognised health inequalities, often linked to economic and social inequalities, meaning partners across the region have a role in addressing for the future.
- Local Authorities: the priorities in this plan need to be appropriately addressed through both regional and local plans and interventions, which need to complement each other.



13. Measuring Success

The overall success of our approach to economic recovery will be seen through the indicators we are developing against our wider Strategic Economic Framework, for example relating to economic growth, incomes, quality of life, resident satisfaction and carbon emission.

This plan identifies the Must Win Battles in each of our priority areas for action. We will monitor progress against them through a range of indicators, aligned with our overall vision and goals.

	Economic indicators	Social indicators	Environmental indicators		
Good Jobs and Resilient Businesses					
Increased Productivity	Output per hour workedTechnology adoption, especially	Gross disposable household income	 Money saved through resource efficiency in businesses supported through REBIZ Reduction in CO2 and Emissions Intensity Ratio Reduction in energy consumption 		
Support for unemployed	Overall unemployment rate	 % of people unemployed for 6m+ % in good quality work [% of workers in insecure work] 	 Jobs in the clean growth sector % attending green skills training sessions 		
Strategic sectors	 Total employment / share of employment in relevant sectors 	 Share of employment in disadvantaged groups Diversity in strategic sectors 	 Jobs in low-carbon sectors Numbers supported through RE- BIZ/ Access Innovation 		
Supply chain resilience	Supply chain disruption risk	Local/SME procurement spend			
Entrepreneurialism	 Number of start-ups / scale-ups % of healthtech start ups 1 year survival rate & confidence 	 Diversity of start ups Number of innovations for social good, especially health innovation 	 Start-ups tackling environmental challenges / innovation 		

	Economic indicators	Social indicators	Environmental indicators
Skills			
Relevant & transferable skills	 Employment and pay gap for disadvantaged groups Working age without qualifications Skills shortages and gaps Economic activity rate Claimant unemployment count for deprived neighbourhoods 	 Access to skills development for disadvantaged groups Social mobility (attainment at KS4 by FSM eligibility and access to HE by social status) Employers engaging with schools Levels of digital exclusion 	 Access to net zero skills development for disadvantaged groups: apprenticeships, HE Jobs in the clean growth sector Attendance at green skills training
Prevention of NEETs	 Number of NEETs / post- education destinations 16-24 / 50+ unemployment 	 NEETs in disadvantaged groups 16-24 / 50+ unemployed in disadvantaged groups 	
Equal access to learning	 Participation in employment and skills programmes 	 Participation in disadvantaged groups 	
Strengthened skills offer	 Vacancies (online job postings) – level and occupational profile 	 Programme participation in demand / growth sectors 	 % with access to net zero / clean growth sector opportunities
Skills utilisation	 Prevalence of "flexible" employment modes % qualified at L4+ or degree level employed in non-graduate roles 	 Variation across disadvantaged groups 	

	Economic indicators	Social indicators	Environmental indicators
Infrastructure			•
Levelling up the City Region	 Increased government investment Increased investment in R&D 	 Earnings / GDHI per head gap to UK Other health and wellbeing metrics 	 Homes and public buildings improved with energy efficiency measures Peatland restoration Number of trees planted. Innovation in clean growth sector Reduction in CO2 and NOx Emissions Intensity Ratio Properties with reduced flood risk Priority flood schemes delivered
Post-COVID ready places	New homes completionCommercial property occupancy	 New affordable homes completed Increase in stock available for rent 	Reduction in CO2 and NOx
Resilient Communities	 % satisfaction with homeworking Number of days lost to sickness % workforce with chronic health condition 	 Household access to green space Households living in fuel poverty Physical activity levels Wellbeing metrics 	 See Levelling up metrics
Connecting communities	Number of premises connected to gigabit capable broadband.	 Jobs accessible by public transport from deprived communities Households in transport poverty Access to gigabit capable broadband in deprived areas % without basic digital skills 	 Reduction in CO2 and NOx (other air quality where relevant) Increased mode share for active / sustainable modes
Addressing new challenges	Number / share of green jobs	 % of households in fuel poverty Health and wellbeing metrics 	 Money saved through resource efficiency in businesses Reduction in CO2 and Emissions Intensity Ratio Reduction in energy consumption % of people working in the clean growth sector (new) Attendance at green skills training