

Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 4 September 2020

Subject: **Strategic Economic Framework**

Director: Alan Reiss, Director Policy, Strategy and Communications

Author: Peter Skalski

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:	N/A

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To seek adoption of the Strategic Economic Framework.

2. Information

Background

2.1 Since 2016 the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) has set out the organisation's priorities for growth and development. To reflect the growing range of policy areas that the Combined Authority operates in, changing national political and economic circumstances and the need to incorporate the future mayor's manifesto commitments in our work, an agile Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) has been developed. However, it should be noted that the SEP will continue to be used for Growth Deal programmes until this ends in March 2021.

2.2 The SEF will form the new overarching economic strategy for the region, building on the successes of the SEP. It sets out the vision for the region and our priorities for achieving this. It ensures that all LEP and Combined Authority strategies are aligned with a clear focus on meeting these priorities. It has

been designed to be flexible, able to reflect our evolving policy remit and improve our resilience during periods of change and uncertainty. It will bring together existing and subsequent strategies under a single banner, ensuring greater alignment between our strategies, priorities and vision for the region.

- 2.3 To allow for greater flexibility the SEF is not a single, published document, but brings together our various plans and strategies to form an overall strategy. It includes existing policies and will include future ones, and will be hosted on a public-facing website. Policies can be amended, added or removed from the SEF to respond to changing circumstances without having to amend or withdraw the entire suite of material. At present the SEF only contains policies and strategies previously adopted, but also collates detail on our vision and priorities, presenting the Combined Authority's and LEP's existing position in a new way.
- 2.4 In town planning the "local plan" is not actually a single document, but a series of plans, including a Core Strategy, neighbourhood plans and supplementary planning documents (amongst others) that collectively make up the Local Plan. The SEF will operate in a similar way. It will not be a single document but will bring together our various plans and strategies under a single banner.
- 2.5 At the Combined Authority which took place on 27 July 2020, the proposed process for the Single Investment Fund (SIF) was discussed, and the broad plans for the Strategic Economic Framework were outlined.. The SIF aims to give greater freedom and flexibility over how to prioritise investments. The SEF, once adopted, will be used to support the prioritisation of any investments made through the Single Investment Fund, underpinned by the MCA's Assurance Framework.

Structure of the SEF

- 2.6 The SEF has five sections: Our Vision, Our Priorities, Our Policies and Strategies, Our Partnerships, and Monitoring and Impact. The full SEF webpages, which are under construction can be accessed [here](#).
- 2.7 During its development, the SEF has often been summarised through a diagram such as the one below:



2.8 **Our Vision.** The first section sets out our high-level, long-term vision for the region and the structural challenges that the organisation aims to overcome. It sets out the strengths of the region, the challenges it faces, the purpose of the SEF, how it builds on the successes of the SEP and introduces our priorities for the region. The proposed text for this section of the SEF website is appended to this report, and comments and approval are sought from the Combined Authority (Appendix 1).

2.9 **Our Priorities.** This section focusses on our priorities for the region. These are aligned with the five corporate priorities set out in the draft Corporate Plan (February 2020). Each priority has its own webpage detailing the specific challenge the priority aims to overcome, why it has been prioritised, examples of projects that aim to meet that priority and links to relevant policies. This includes statutory policies such as the Local Transport Plan and policies with an explicit focus on one of our priorities such as the Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan. The five priorities are:

- Boosting Productivity
- Enabling Inclusive Growth
- Tackling the Climate Emergency
- Delivering 21st Century Transport
- Securing Money and Powers

The webpages for all five priorities are available to view on the SEF [website](#). The text for the webpage for the “Delivering 21st Century Transport” priority is appended to this report as an example (Appendix 2).

2.10 **Our Policies and Strategies.** This section details our specific policies and strategies. These have been collected into policy groups. Each policy group has a page that details the overall vision for the policy area, strengths and challenges relating to that area, how work in that policy area helps meet our priorities and examples of projects that are informed by these policies. The full range of policies and strategies are available to view on the SEF website. The

text for the webpage for the “Housing, Heritage and Regeneration” policy area is appended to this report as an example (Appendix 3).

- 2.11 Some policies and strategies will help meet all our priorities, others will have a narrower focus. The Local Industrial Strategy is a broad strategy that will cover ground across several priorities. The Cultural Strategy will do little to deliver 21st century transport. All policies are afforded equal weight in the SEF though. Collectively, alongside the other parts of the SEF, they form the overarching strategy for the region.
- 2.12 At present the SEF contains policies previously adopted. Policies and strategies that are currently under development around rail, active travel and business growth will be added once they are adopted by the Combined Authority.
- 2.13 **Our Partnerships.** The section reaffirms our commitment to partnership working, detailing our relationship with local authorities and the private sector. It also sets out our consultation and engagement process and our membership of bodies such as NP11 and Transport for the North. The draft text for this section of the SEF website is appended to this report (Appendix 4).
- 2.14 **Monitoring and impact.** The SEF is underpinned by a monitoring and impact section. The success of the SEF will be monitored against our progress across the five priorities using a set of headline indicators. These will be supplemented by a more extensive range of indicators covering each policy and strategy area. The indicators are intended to show how the local economy is developing and improving but also demonstrate how the work of the Combined Authority and its partners is contributing to progress. A list of the headline indicators, which are still under development, is appended to this report (Appendix 5).
- 2.15 Draft headline indicators against the five priorities are being published as part of the SEF in September 2020. Indicators against policy and strategy areas will be published at a later date. Work is ongoing to develop these. It is proposed that an annual “State of the Region” report will be issued.

Next steps

- 2.16 A series of communications activities are planned to support the launch of the SEF. Communications activity will also celebrate the successes of the SEP.
- 2.17 Once adopted the SEF will be formally reviewed every six months by the strategy team. Combined Authority officers will be responsible for updating sections to reflect changes in context or policy positions agreed by the LEP and Combined Authority. Officers are already timetabling future changes, for example the replacement of the *Green and Blue Infrastructure* and *Energy* policy pages once the “Tackling the Climate Emergency Plan” is published. Some examples of policy/strategy updates are detailed in the table below and a schedule of further updates will be brought to a future meeting.

Policy/Strategy	Expected publication
Economic Recovery Plan	September 2020
Adult Education Budget Strategy	September 2020
Employment and Skills Plan	Spring 2021
Tackling the Climate Emergency	Spring 2021
Local Transport Plan	2021 tbc

To ensure version control is maintained, each page on the SEF website will clearly state when the page was last edited and when the next scheduled review will be.

- 2.18 Future reports on policies will indicate where a change to the SEF is necessary, in order to ensure that it is kept up to date with policy positions as agreed by the Combined Authority. Any new policies or strategies or major amendments to the SEF will be brought to the Combined Authority for approval, following consideration by the appropriate advisory panel.
- 2.19 The SEF will inform the production of the Single Investment Fund strategy and updated Assurance Framework.

3. Clean Growth Implications

- 3.1 Tackling the Climate Emergency is one of the five priorities within the Strategic Economic Framework. As well as having a page dedicated to this priority with links to key strategies, every policy page sets out how it will contribute to the achievement of this objective.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 Enabling Inclusive Growth is one of the five priorities within the Strategic Economic Framework. As well as having a page dedicated to this priority with links to key strategies, every policy page sets out how it will contribute to the achievement of this objective.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

7. Staffing Implications

- 7.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

8. External Consultees

- 8.1 No external consultations have been undertaken on the overall framework. Consultations have been undertaken on the policy content as appropriate.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 That the Combined Authority:

- Endorse and adopt the concept and content of the SEF and welcome the launch of the SEF as the new overarching economic framework for the region's policies and strategies.
- Agree to the draft text setting out the vision for West Yorkshire (Appendix one), subject to comments and amendments.
- Agree that the SEP expires at the end of March 2021, and continues to be used for Growth Deal programmes until then.
- Agrees to the intention for future policies, strategies and changes to the SEF to be brought to the advisory panels, LEP Board and Combined Authority for consideration as appropriate.
- Agree that regular reviews and updates on the SEF will be brought back to the Combined Authority every six months and that future reports on policies will indicate whether a consequential change is required to the SEF.
- Notes that further detail on proposed indicators for individual policy areas will be brought to future meetings for consideration.

10. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft text for the "Vision" section of the SEF website.

Appendix 2: Example draft text for the "Delivering 21st Century Transport" priority section of the SEF website.

Appendix 3: Example: draft text for the "Housing, Heritage and Regeneration" policy area section of the SEF website.

Appendix 4: Example draft text for the "Our Partnerships" section of the SEF website.

Appendix 5: Draft headline monitoring indicators.