

## **ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT 10.00 AM ON WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2022  
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON  
STREET, LEEDS, LS1 2DE**

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There will be very limited capacity for observers of the meeting. If you would like to attend to observe the meeting in person, please email: [governanceservices@westyorks-ca.gov.uk](mailto:governanceservices@westyorks-ca.gov.uk) to request a place, clearly stating the name, date and start time of the committee and include your full name and contact details, **no later than 24 hours before the meeting begins**. Please note that the pre-booked places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis and once pre-booked capacity has been reached there will be no further public admittance to the meeting. On receipt of your request, colleagues will provide a response to you.

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## **A G E N D A**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
To note apologies for absence and confirm **the quorum of 11 members is met.**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**
- 3. POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**
- 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2021**  
(Pages 1 - 6)
- 5. NOTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2022**  
(Pages 7 - 10)
- 6. CHAIR'S COMMENTS AND UPDATE**

**7. ECONOMY SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

(Pages 11 - 26)

**8. MAYORS QUESTION TIME - TRACY BRABIN**

(Pages 27 - 30)

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Brabin', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

**Managing Director  
West Yorkshire Combined Authority**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2021 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 6/7, LEEDS CIVIC HALL**

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### **Present:**

Councillor Richard Smith (Chair)	Kirklees Council
Councillor Stephen Baines (Deputy)	Calderdale Council
Councillor Aneela Ahmed	Bradford Council
Councillor Jonathan Bentley	Leeds City Council
Councillor Kayleigh Brooks	Leeds City Council
Councillor Dawn Collins	Leeds City Council
Councillor Bob Felstead	Bradford Council
Councillor Tony Hames	Wakefield Council
Councillor Andrew Hollyer	City of York Council
Councillor Audrey Smith	Calderdale Council
Councillor Harpreet Uppal	Kirklees Council
Councillor Tony Wallis	Wakefield Council

### **In attendance:**

Brian Archer	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Khaled Berroum	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Peter Glover (Minute 8)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Ian Smyth (Minute 8)	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Zafar Iqbal, Manisha Kaushik, and Olivia Rowley.

The meeting was confirmed as quorate, with 12 members present out of 11 needed for quorum.

### **2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

### **3. Possible exclusion of the press and public**

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

### **4. Notes of the inquorate meeting held on 22 September 2021**

**Resolved:** That the notes of the inquorate meeting held on 22 September 2021 be noted and entered as public record of what was discussed.

## **5. Scrutiny and governance arrangements**

The Committee considered a report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer outlining membership changes since the last meeting and amendments to Scrutiny Standing Orders section on substitute rules to be proposed to the Combined Authority on 9 December.

The Chair welcomed new members Councillors Tony Hames and Tony Wallis, representing Wakefield Council, to the committee.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

## **6. Chair's update and comments**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Chair on his activity since the last meeting and a number of matters, including:

- The three Scrutiny Chairs have written a joint letter with Mayor Tracy Brabin to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Local Government, Michael Gove, asking him to consider lowering statutory quorum requirements for combined authority scrutiny and allowing remote or hybrid meetings.
- Meeting with Mayor Brabin 1-1 to discuss the economy scrutiny workplan and the committee's plans for the year. The Mayor outlined her own plans and expressed support for scrutiny's critical friend role. The Chair reiterated that non-partisan nature of scrutiny and his desire that it focus on outcomes and performance rather than making policy or acting as an opposition to the mayor. The committee's concerns on rural issues, housing/planning, mayoral powers and mayoral economic pledges were also discussed.

**Resolved:** That the Chair's verbal update be noted.

## **7. Economy Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22**

The Committee considered a report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer outlining the 2021/22 Work Programme which was based on the discussion held at the previous inquorate meeting and subsequent conversations with directors and heads of service.

The Chair confirmed he would like to go ahead with a workshop in February focusing on Inward Investment strategy and activity, with a focus on Channel 4 as a case study.

Members suggested that the COVID economic recovery item involve some discussion on the growth of the green sector, in particular solar and renewable energy, and difficulties in recruiting people with the right skills.

**Resolved:**

- i) That a virtual workshop focusing on Inward Investment strategy and activity, with Channel 4 bid as a case study, be arranged for mid-February 2022.
- ii) That the appended 2021/22 Work Programme be approved.

## 8. COVID Economic Recovery Plan

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Economic Services and Director of Policy & Development providing an overview of the current COVID Economic Recovery Plan, considered and approved by the Combined Authority at its last meeting, and a general update on current economic data and trends.

Discussion took place, and points were raised, around the following topics:

- **Business support schemes – advice, planning and networking:** Business Growth Managers, based in the partner councils, act as ‘business GPs’ and a first port of call for businesses to receive a diagnosis before being directed to the right place amongst a suite of support avenues. Many businesses would benefit from a level of support for long-term planning e.g. growing sustainably, finding people with the right skills etc. A peer learning and networking for businesses is currently in operation, where more experienced businesses can advise growing ones. There are other programmes which target that level of support, in advice, or finding premises/staff, rather than just funding.
- **Access to funding:** This remains one of the biggest challenges and barriers facing both new and growing businesses and existing and established businesses. Most of the schemes and programmes seek to provide funding in some capacity from smaller cash grants to larger capital loans. A lot of the COVID stop-gap schemes were delivered through LEPs and combined authorities’ business support schemes and teams. Another issue is banks, which are private entities, and began restricting credit and loan facilities at the height of the pandemic crisis. Some work was undertaken by local stakeholders, like the LEP Chair Roger Marsh to lobby banks to be more understanding. Ultimately, the newer and smaller ‘challenger’ banks saw a market opportunity to provide this funding and this caused the bigger banks to respond. There is a need to explore locally owned and managed sources of funding, to lower reliance on international banks.
- **Entrepreneurship Programme – target audience and promotion:** There is a concern that self-employment options are pushed for target delivery reasons in place of more stable and long-term employment options, which can be harder to find and attain. There are well understood ‘success factors’ to entrepreneurial routes and the programmes seeks to target people who have multiple factors, but just need support on one or two. Schools are often resistant, but for many students, the subjects they excel in might be the right to be

successful in business – with the right support and advice, no different to any other career. More success is gained convincing schools when business skills are more strongly related to taught subjects, such as maths and accounting/audit, or English literature/language to advertising/marketing.

- **Fair wages and working conditions:** Although different people have different requirements in work, and flexible (or 'gig') work might suit many, there are reports that some employers exploit self-employed status for their workers. It is difficult to identify exactly which companies are engaging in such practices, but work is underway on a 'Fair Work Charter' and fair pay promotion across the region. There is also a new focus on cooperatives, as it is a key mayoral pledge – alongside developing creative and culture sector. These are the kind of areas where mayoral soft power can be deployed and make an impact.
- **Retired workers re-entering work force:** The possibility of people who had retired early, or are fully retired, re-entering the work force to fill shortages. Data currently shows the rate of return to employment after redundancy is low. More data is required to understand exactly why, but there are reports of barriers to reemployment and discrimination against older applicants as being 'overqualified', as well as workers being pressured into early retirement. Ultimately, a recently unemployed person can also access re.boot and other programmes to help them re-enter the workforce or reskill.
- **Disadvantaged communities and inclusion:** There are two elements to inclusive approaches, targeting individuals and groups directly or targeting communities in a place-based approach. Interventions should be evidence led and the focus on inclusivity is framed in terms of economic growth as it is not considered possible to increase inclusivity in the economy without growing it. The expression 'hard to reach communities' implies certain communities are resistant to being reached rather than not being reached out to. Consultations and policy development exercises often attract organisations that are well versed in participating in them – similarly to some businesses which are fluent in the processes for accessing funding and support, compared to others. Work is underway to ensure that everyone has access to business and skills programmes/support and that economic growth benefits everyone.
- **Climate action vs economic growth:** Tension between need to grow the economy and carbon emission reduction targets E.g. in the debate on road and airport expansion. The Combined Authority's purpose is to drive economic growth and so all strategic analysis and business cases must make a case for economic growth factors. Recently, a carbon impact assessment tool to use to assess schemes has been commissioned and should be deployed in the near future – but the overall impact requires further data and analysis.

- **Growth of green jobs/skills:** The definition of green jobs is key. A definition that is too broad might suit target achievements and ‘greenwashing’ efforts but would not properly address the current deficit in green skills supply vs growing demand in the region (and country). The Combined Authority has established a ‘Green Task Force’ to determine suitable criteria for a ‘green job’ amongst other things – and could report back to a future meeting – alongside a broader ‘audit’ on the research side of the region’s skills base and requirements. The possibility of supporting reskilling people into in-demand growing green sectors, through AEB influence, is being considered i.e., mechanics upskilling to be able to repair electric vehicle engines. Electric cars are being promoted and use is increasing in both public transport and in cars and bikes, but repair capacity is not rising in proportion.
- **Region’s assets and infrastructure (in energy and supply routes):** The possibility of using the region’s natural assets in the generation of renewable energy, such as the feasibility and of using the waterways system to produce and store hydroelectric power. The potential of the Humberside Freeport to become the ‘Rotterdam’ of England could have a positive effect on West Yorkshire in supply terms, and if certain strategic infrastructure improvements are made along the route – including on waterways. Could look at what other regions with similar asset profile are planning. It was noted that any local energy policies must adhere to national government guidelines, which define the scale of different types e.g. nuclear is still defined as ‘small scale’ despite the large infrastructure requirement and cost.
- **Research, development and intelligence:** There is close work ongoing between the Combined Authority and universities, through an appointed individual, to coordinate the region’s assets and experts to help answer questions to inform policy development and services. Most recently this network is aiding in the development of the COVID economic recovery plan. In general intelligence gathering the Research & Intelligence team produces regular monitors and have begun an annual ‘state of the region’ with the goal of having a comprehensive picture of developments in economic and social data.

Members asked for additional data on number of people affected by reduction in Universal Credit / working tax credits being in work vs those not in work and the Chair reiterated his hope that the Committee focuses on the delivery and achievement of the Mayor’s Pledges.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted and the Committee’s feedback and conclusions be considered further.

## 9. Date of the next meeting – 19 January 2022

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## Notes of **Informal Consultative Meeting** of the Economy Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 19 January 2022 via Zoom

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### Item 1 – Welcome and apologies

Attendees (12): Councillors Bob Felstead, Stephen Baines, Kaleigh Brooks, Zafar Iqbal, Susan Press, Audrey Smith, Richard Smith, Harpreet Uppal, Dawn Collins, Tony Hames, Olivia Rowley, Tony Wallis

Apologies (4): Councillors Aneela Ahmed, Manisha Kaushik, Jonathan Bentley, Andrew Hollyer.

Officers: Brian Archer, Liz Hunter, Justin Wilson, Khaled Berroum, Hannah Scales

### Item 2 – Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

### Item 3 – Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

None.

### Item 4 – Minutes of Last Meeting Held on November 2021

Accepted subject to the amendment of noting the attendance for Councillors Rowley, Kaushik and Iqbal who sent their apologies at the last meeting.

### Item 5 – Chairs Comments and Updates

Members were informed of the outcomes from the Scrutiny Chair's Steering meetings held in December to discuss the year and the potential for a workshop for members to discuss how they think scrutiny has gone this year so far, any potential changes and areas the Committee would like to explore further next year. Members were reminded of the Mayor's Question Time due to take place at the next committee meeting on 9 March 2022.

### Item 6 – Rural Issues

Members received a report which provided an update on the rural context for West Yorkshire and highlight main policy challenges and delivery programmes in the region's rural areas.

Questions and discussion centred around:

- **Broadband:** Members discussed broadband viability in rural areas, how broadband needs are assessed, the thinking behind the 20% target – which was due to limited funding (£5b committed nationally by government out of £20bn needed) and the challenges with broadband provision on unadopted streets in relation to the Gigabit rollout. Members also discussed the need for businesses to be in hard-to-reach 'disconnected' areas and although business relocation was an option it was not something being advocated for strategically.
- **Tree Planting:** Members discussed what work was being done with rural communities to source land for tree planting and whether university courses on agriculture production were being promoted. It was noted that the recently published

Environment Plan related to nature which included tree planting as a major element, in particular as part of flood defence, although funding was a challenge. The Climate and Environment Plan focussed on working with farmers in order to establish their needs and gather data on their land and areas – this is a work in progress.

- **Fuel Poverty:** Members clarified which localities were accounted for in the four categories contained in Table 2 of the report, which was confirmed to be DEFRA statistics and every area had a classification. Members discussed why fuel poverty was affecting rural areas as opposed to urban areas, noting that it was generally due to proximity to the gas network and building types in rural areas usually being larger and older buildings.
- **Funding:** Members noted the continued uncertainty around funding as the Combined Authority waited to hear from government on continued growth hub funding and details of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, amongst others. The Growth Hub in particular was vital to cross-council working in business support and growth. Members also noted that the sick pay rebate had been extended for small and medium sized businesses.

### Item 7 – Housing Pledge and Powers

Members were presented with a report which outlined early work on fulfilling the Mayor's pledge on affordable housing.

Questions and discussion centred around:

- **Housing role and powers:** Despite not being a planning authority, the Combined Authority supported local authorities on strategic planning matters. The Combined Authority responded to planning applications particularly with a transport focus and gave joint advice back to government and work with our district partners on their local plans. The Combined Authority was awaiting further guidance from Government with regards to planning at a regional level.
- **Targets:** Members discussed whether the target was achievable and the Combined Authority is currently identifying how to add value through a West Yorkshire Strategy without duplicating local strategies already in place. Members also discussed the importance of clearly defining “affordable” housing.
- **Funding:** It reported that whilst the Combined Authority had secured £67 million that would help, it wouldn't be able to address all brownfield site challenges such as viability and determining land ownership. The Combined Authority hoped Government would expand this funding while work is underway by partner authorities to map out the level of available funding across WY authorities.
- **Stakeholders:** Members discussed engagement with developers, the strength of existing Section 106 agreements and whether they yielded enough alignment in areas where developers and councils often diverge, such as affordable housing and use greenbelt land. The CA has produced a ‘developers note’ and guide which sets out relevant things developers should consider in their planning applications, such as infrastructure, transport, cycle lanes and climate impact. There is also a “WY House Alliance” which seeks to improve cooperation between key players – including ensuring the CA is able to comment on transport aspects of planning applications.

## Item 8 – Covid-19 Economic Recovery

Members were provided with an update on the current economic situation in the region as a result of Covid-19 and the work of the Combined Authority and the LEP with regards to economic recovery planning and implementation.

Questions and discussion centred around:

- **Claimant count:** As stated in section 2.6 of the report the claimant count had decreased but remained higher than pre-pandemic, this was due to several elements such as the increase of the cost of living. It was noted that the claimant count was lower in West Yorkshire than it was in England.
- **Local recovery data:** Members learned that the local recovery for the most part was due to domestic demand for both goods and services increasing after lifting of Covid-19 Pandemic due to 'pent up demand' and in part due to shipping costs on imports. In terms of job retention, it was difficult to ascertain exactly where jobs had gone but it could be down to extended sick leave and some of the workforce not returning to previous jobs. Certain sectors were hit harder such as hospitality, and leisure services, which were sectors with a largely female workforce. In the Combined Authority's commissioning (such as the entrepreneurship programme) gender targets had been put in place and the first cohort was 60% female – following an increase in demand.
- **Business liquidations:** Members discussed why business liquidations had increased in recent weeks and it was explained that it was important to also look at new formation rates, there would be a number of individuals moving into more secure employment. There were a number of interventions the Combined Authority could pursue in order to support the businesses. The Business Accelerator Fund was due to start in 2023 which would hopefully be equity investment. Energy costs were difficult to mitigate but the Combined Authority does have a support programme which helps businesses reduced energy costs with an environmental audit.
- **In-work poverty statistics & inclusivity:** Members suggested in-work poverty statistics be included in future reports and discussed how the Combined Authority supported over 50s and 60s in finding work. Members were informed of the Skills Connect Programme and Employment Hub which support people get back into work.

## Item 9 – Economy Scrutiny Work Programme

The Chair reminded Members of the Workshop due to be held on Wednesday, 16 February 2022 and the Mayor's Question Time due to be held on Wednesday, 9 March 2022.

Members asked whether there would be a policy on electric vehicle chargers and the involvement of the commercial sector. It was confirmed to be a combination of both sectors, the Combined Authority had some funding for electric charging, and it was suggested that colleagues in the Delivery directorate may be able to provide further insight. It was also suggested that analysis be done on the impact of the rising energy prices and any opportunity for subsidies.

**Next meeting date – 9 March 2022, venue to be confirmed**

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**Report to:** Economy Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 9 March 2022

**Subject:** **Economy Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22**

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**Director:** Angela Taylor, Director of Corporate & Commercial Services

**Author:** Khaled Berroum, Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To note the Economy Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021/22.
- 1.2 To consider any additional agenda items, formal referrals to scrutiny, reviews, call in, and any other tasks, issues or matters the Committee resolves to undertake or consider further.

## **2. Information**

### **Scrutiny Work Programme**

- 2.1 The Work Programme outlines the work the Committee has resolved to undertake, investigate further and focus on in the current municipal year (June 2021 – June 2022) within the resources, remit and powers available to it.
- 2.2 The work programme is set at the beginning of the year and, as a live document, is considered at each meeting where it can be amended and changed as the year progresses.

### **Referrals to scrutiny**

- 2.3 Under Scrutiny Standing Order 7, any Scrutiny Member, any Combined Authority Member or any elected Member of a West Yorkshire council (or the City of York Council) may formally refer a matter to the Committee for consideration. The referral must be in writing to the Statutory Scrutiny Officer. The Committee must then consider and discuss the referral and respond to the referrer explaining whether or not it will consider the matter further and why.
- 2.4 There are no formal referrals for this committee to consider.

## **Agenda items and topics for consideration 2021/22**

- 2.5 At the first committee meeting of the year in September, members considered the Combined Authority's corporate priorities and plan alongside the Mayor's Pledges and, following further questions and discussions with senior officers, discussed a number of possible topics and items to consider further this year.
- 2.6 The resultant work programme was adopted at the previous meeting in November and is attached at **Appendix 1**. The document also includes the topics to be considered by the other two scrutiny committees so that scrutiny members are always aware of what work the other scrutiny committees are undertaking.

### **Key decisions and call in**

- 2.7 Scrutiny members may call in any decision of the Mayor, Combined Authority, a decision-making committee and any key decisions taken by an officer (with the exception of urgent decisions). Key decisions are defined as any decision incurring a financial cost or saving of £1 million or more, or a decision likely to have a significant effect on two or more wards.
- 2.8 Decision-makers have two days to publish notice of a decision, at which point scrutiny members have five working days to call in the decision, delaying its implementation, and formally requiring the decision maker to reconsider.
- 2.9 Any five scrutiny members – including at least one member from two different constituent councils (West Yorkshire) – may call-in a decision by notifying the Statutory Scrutiny Officer in writing by 4.00 pm on the fifth working day following publication of a decision notice. The relevant scrutiny committee then has 14 days to meet and scrutinise the decision and make any recommendations. Further information is set out in Scrutiny Standing Order 14.
- 2.10 The latest key decisions and forward plans of key decisions are published and available for viewing on the [key decisions section of the Combined Authority's website](#).

### **Actions for the Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

- 2.11 As outlined in Scrutiny Standing Order 17, the statutory scrutiny officer provides support to a scrutiny committee's work programme and all scrutiny members in exercising their scrutiny duties and fulfilling their objectives.

### **Changes in membership since the last meeting**

- 2.12 Since the last meeting, no changes in membership have occurred.

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

3.1 There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report.

#### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

4.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report.

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

5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

#### **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.

#### **8. Staffing Implications**

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

#### **9. External Consultees**

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

#### **10. Recommendations**

10.1 To note or amend the Scrutiny Work Programme.

#### **11. Background Documents**

None.

#### **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Joint Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22

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## Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22

### Summary of main topics (*subtopics and objectives outlined within*)

Committee	Topics	Meetings
Corporate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Partnerships and mayoral soft power</li> <li>2. Budget and business planning</li> <li>3. Overall strategic and financial decision-making</li> <li>4. Workforce and corporate systems</li> </ol>	19 November 2021 (MQT) 21 December 2021 – budget workshop 21 January 2022 11 March 2022
Transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Buses (franchising and improvement plans)</li> <li>2. Behaviour change in decarbonisation</li> <li>3. Freight (incl waterways)</li> <li>4. Road management and policy</li> <li>5. Rail reforms</li> </ol>	18 November 2021 20 January 2022 (MQT) 10 March 2022
Economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. COVID-19 recovery: growth, jobs and skills</li> <li>2. Impact of inward investment (Incl. Channel 4 &amp; culture)</li> <li>3. Rural issues</li> <li>4. Housing pledge and powers</li> </ol>	17 November 2021 19 January 2022 16 February 2022 – Inward Investment/Channel 4 workshop 9 March 2022 (MQT)
<i>All Committees</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. (Relevant) Mayors Pledges</li> <li>2. Work programme</li> </ol>	9 July 2021 – induction intro workshop

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## Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Summary:

1. Partnerships and mayoral soft power
2. Budget and business planning
3. Overall strategic and financial decision-making
4. Workforce and corporate systems

Topic	Sub-topics	Objectives	Meetings	Notes and tracking
<b>Partnerships and mayoral soft power</b>	West Yorkshire partnership	<p>Understand how well the CA works with the five authorities and York in all matters – incl. possibly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• officer liaison,</li> <li>• knowledge sharing,</li> <li>• policy development,</li> <li>• project management,</li> <li>• service delivery,</li> <li>• communications / engagement,</li> <li>• and any other cooperation</li> </ul> <p>Explore quality of current relationships between CA + councils and between councils and potential areas for improvement in joint working.</p>	All	
	External partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand what is being done to strengthen relationships with other Mayors/MCAs (on pan-northern and cross-border things) and central government (and other key stakeholders such as operators).</li> <li>• Understand what other partnership opportunities are being identified and how they are pursued.</li> </ul>	November 2021	

	Communications & Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the Mayor / CA's comms/marketing/engagement strategy to raise their profile.</li> <li>Explore how well the CA engages with elected members and the public (particularly consultation on schemes)</li> </ul>	November 2021	
<b>Budget and business planning</b>	Budget setting and business planning 2022/23	Explore the biggest pressures and risks and possible mitigations in budget setting (2022/23).	January 2022 December 2021 Workshop	
	Budget performance 2021/22	Monitor budget performance in the current financial year (2021/22).	Standing Item	
<b>Overall strategic and financial decision-making</b>	Gainshare, strategic investment framework and other spending priorities	Understand and explore how the Mayor / CA decide what to invest in – particularly Gainshare (E.g. Strategic Investment Framework.)	January 2022 December 2021 Workshop March 2022	
	Sources of funding	Understand what possible extra funding sources are available to the CA – including government funding, business rates and precepts.	January 2022 December 2021 Workshop March 2022	
	Strategic prioritisation and consistency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand how strategic priorities are determined.</li> <li>Explore how conflicts between priorities are resolved and which priorities had to be left out.</li> </ul>	January 2022 December 2021 Workshop March 2022	
	Impact and performance assessment	Understand the process and methodology of performance and impact assessment and how it is considered during decision making (E.g. carbon impacts, EDI)	January 2022 December 2021 Workshop March 2022	
	New governance and scrutiny structures	Monitor the effectiveness of the new governance and scrutiny structures	March 2022	

		established after the Mayor's election – and review as appropriate.		
<b>Workforce and corporate systems</b>	Workforce planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand how the workforce has evolved since the MCA was established – and future expectations.</li> <li>Explore current preparations and any challenges or areas of concern (such as funding, resources, and delivery capacity).</li> </ul>	March 2022	
	Recruitment, retention and apprenticeships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand how well the CA attracts, recruits, utilises and retains talent – (local talent in particular) and explore current challenges in these areas.</li> <li>Understand the current position with regards to apprenticeships within the CA.</li> </ul>	March 2022	
	Upgrade of corporate systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand plans to upgrade internal systems.</li> <li>Explore the capacity for greater harmonisation of systems across the five member authorities and CA e.g. in finance, HR, ICT and project management.</li> </ul>	January 2022	
	Cyber security and ICT resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the CA's current position re: cyber security and ICT resilience.</li> <li>Explore current risks and how the CA will evolve now the pandemic exposed increasing reliance on technology and system/information security vulnerability.</li> </ul>	March 2022	

## Transport Scrutiny Committee

Summary:

1. Buses (franchising and improvement plans)
2. Behaviour change in decarbonisation
3. Freight (incl waterways)
4. Road management and policy
5. Rail reforms

Topic	Sub-topics	Objectives	Meetings	Notes and tracking
<b>Buses</b> <i>(in parallel with behaviour changes)</i>	Bus franchising	Understand ambitions for bus franchising and the statutory process (including lessons learned from Greater Manchester)	November 2021 March 2022	
	Bus improvement plans: 1. network coverage – rural and urban 2. connectivity and integration with modes (e.g. Rail, cycling and walking) 3. reliability and frequency of services (including use of technology) 4. costs and ticketing 5. partnership working (with transport operators and councils)	Understand the current position of the bus network in WY and explore bus improvement plans – with a focus on the subtopics and connectivity with other modes of travel including rail and active travel.	November 2021 March 2022	
<b>Behaviour changes (and inclusion) in decarbonisation</b>	Research, data and general understanding	Explore current understandings in the transport sector about:	November 2021 January 2022 March 2022	

<i>(in parallel with bus improvement plans)</i>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. why people travel how they do e.g. cycling, buses, cars</li> <li>2. how habits changed over time</li> <li>3. what changes habits</li> </ol>		
	'Seldom heard groups'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the challenges faced by 'seldom heard groups' (e.g. disabled, neurodiverse) in using transport and how well they are engaged in consultations.</li> <li>• Explore if their needs are being taken adequately into account.</li> </ul>	November 2021 January 2022 March 2022	
	Youth engagement	Understand current engagement with young people and explore what more could be done to engage them on using public transport and cycling etc.	November 2021 January 2022 March 2022	
	Unlikely transport users	Understand how unlikely users of certain transport modes (e.g. buses, rail, cycling) are defined, identified, considered and engaged.	November 2021 January 2022 March 2022	
<b>Freight (incl. waterways)</b>		Understand current position on freight and explore how assets such as waterways/canals have been considered as decarbonisation and commercial/economic opportunities.	Possible workshop	
<b>Road policy and management</b>		Understand current position on roads and explore how roads and highway policy/management is harmonised and coordinated across the region and policy areas (such as connectivity with active travel) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. how it works now,</li> </ol>	January 2022	

		2. why it wasn't changed with devolution 3. how it could work in future		
<b>Rail reforms</b>		Monitor national plans and reforms in the rail sector and explore possible implications for West Yorkshire and impact on the CA's existing plans.	March 2022	

## Economy Scrutiny Committee

### Summary

1. COVID-19 recovery: growth, jobs and skills
2. Impact of inward investment (Incl. Channel 4 & culture)
3. Rural issues
4. Housing pledge and powers

Topic	Sub-topics	Objectives	Meetings	Notes and tracking
<b>COVID-19 recovery: economic growth, job creation, skills, and other opportunities</b>	Data and intelligence	Understand economic picture, what economic/social data is analysed and how it influences CA activity.	November 2021 January 2022	
	Influence and impact of CA/LEP activity – outputs, outcomes & additionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand what levers the CA has to make an impact on the economy.</li> <li>Explore return on investment and whether a) targets are being achieved and b) if this constitutes additionality.</li> </ul>	November 2021 January 2022	
	Jobs and skills strategy – short and long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand job creation strategy and explore outcomes.</li> <li>Understand how CA can help plug short term demands (such as shortages in HGV drivers, agricultural workers, service, retail, hospitality and security staff etc)</li> </ul>	November 2021 January 2022	



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore long term AEB strategy and how local labour needs and are calculated and considered.</li> </ul>		
	Local growth – strengths and assets vs weaknesses and gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand region's unique assets/opportunities and 'growth engines' and what other strengths could be developed and utilised to drive growth – particularly long term and 'future proof' sectors.</li> <li>Understand the region's economic weaknesses (e.g. productivity and innovation) what gaps there are in the current recover/growth strategy and explore possible mitigations.</li> </ul>	November 2021 January 2022	
	Other post-pandemic opportunities	Explore potential post-pandemic opportunities e.g. rise in 'entrepreneurship' as alternate 'job creation' and local 'community economies'.	November 2021 January 2022	
	Partnership working – partner councils	Understand current joint working with partner councils to avoid duplication and fit in with local strategies.	November 2021 January 2022 March 2022	
<b>Impact of inward investment</b>	Return on investment and additionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore whether targets are being met and</li> </ul>	February 2022 Workshop	

	(Channel 4 as a case study)	<p>whether there is an appropriate return on investment vs resources dedicated to supporting incoming enquiries and outgoing proactive bids.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore level of – and evidence of – additionality and whether investment makes a difference in relocations and leads to economic outputs.</li> <li>• Understand implications of possible competition between areas within WY and between MCA areas.</li> <li>• CASE STUDY: Explore if Channel 4 investment delivered promised outcomes – immediate (number of jobs created) and strategic (catalyst for growth in local creative sector).</li> </ul>		
<b>Rural issues</b>	Strategic gap	Understand how well rural-specific issues have been considered in wider strategies/plans, analysis and support services – in particular, agricultural/food business in the context of local supply chain resilience,	January 2022	

		skills shortages and business support/grants.		
	Digital connectivity	Explore current activity aiming to improve digital connectivity in rural areas.	January 2022	
<b>Housing pledge and powers</b>	Powers – current and future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand CA's current housing powers in the absence of spatial strategy and other devolution planning powers – and how CA's functions are expected to change in the future?</li> <li>• Understand how CA can enable housing development within current powers while housing remains an LA function.</li> </ul>	January 2022 March 2022	
	Delivering pledge and coordination with partner councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore steps which could be taken to ensure homes are affordable and targets are met.</li> <li>• Understand how local plans will be taken into consideration.</li> </ul>	January 2022 March 2022	

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**Report to:** Economy Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 9 March 2022

**Subject:** **Mayor's Question Time**

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**Director:** Angela Taylor, Director of Corporate & Commercial Services

**Author:** Khaled Berroum, Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

1.1 To introduce the Mayor's Question Time session.

## **2. Information**

2.1 Every year the Mayor of West Yorkshire is invited to each of the Combined Authority's scrutiny committees at least once to answer the Committee's questions on any matter related to that committee's remit.

2.2 It is an opportunity for Scrutiny Members to hold the Mayor directly to account for the policies they adopt, the money they spend, the decisions they make, the services they are delivering and the outcomes they are achieving for the people of West Yorkshire.

2.3 The session will be divided into sections, each with a topic heading, which members can ask related questions on. Every member will have the opportunity to speak and ask follow-up questions to their original question.

2.4 This session will aim to focus on the following economy-related areas, amongst others, including:

- Partnerships and delivery
- Skills and jobs
- Businesses
- Culture
- Housing

2.5 The Mayor is permitted to invite relevant senior officers of the Combined Authority – such as the Managing Director or a relevant Director – to join them at the session. This session may include the following officers:

- Director of Economic Services
- Head of Business, Innovation and Skills Policy
- Head of Place and Environment Policy

2.6 This year the Mayor's Question Times were scheduled at the following scrutiny committee meetings:

Date	Committee	Time	Location
19 November 2021	Corporate Scrutiny	10am	Civic Hall, Leeds
20 January 2022	Transport Scrutiny	10am	REMOTE – Zoom / YouTube
9 March 2022	Economy Scrutiny	10am	Wellington House, Leeds

### 3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1 There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report.

### 4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report.

### 5. Equality and Diversity Implications

5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

### 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.

### 8. Staffing Implications

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

### 9. External Consultees

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

### 10. Recommendations

10.1 To question the Mayor of West Yorkshire on matters pertaining to the remit of the Economy Scrutiny Committee.

### 11. Background Documents

None.

## **12. Appendices**

None.

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