

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PLACE, REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT WELLINGTON HOUSE,
WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS LS1 2DE**

Present:

Councillor Denise Jeffery (Chair)	Wakefield Council
Amir Hussain (Deputy Chair)	Architect / Professional services
Councillor Darren Byford	Wakefield Council
Ben Aspinall	Private Sector Representative
Sam Keighley	Private Sector Representative
Lisa Littlefair	Private Sector Representative
Stephen Moore	Private Sector Representative

In attendance:

Melanie Corcoran	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Thomas Newton	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Janette Woodcock	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Kate Thompson	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

11. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Denise Craghill. Councillor Helen Haydon, Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw, Councillor Cathy Scott, Councillor Jane Scullion, Tamsin Hart-Jones, Sam Keighley and Helen Lennon.

12. Declaration of Disposable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

13. Exempt Information - Possible exemption of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

14. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 July 2022

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2022 be approved.

15. Evidence Report

The Committee considered a report and verbal update on the relevant monitoring indicators and performance to support the work of the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee and was asked to note the latest updates to these indicators, and consider any decision within the context of

the indicators

At the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee meeting on 20 April 2022, it was agreed that the Research and Intelligence team would provide ongoing updates on the relevant indicators from the State of the Region report.

State of the Region 2022, due to be published in September 2022, will examine the full range of equality, diversity, and inclusion implications, building on the Women and Girls report published in 2021. The main report will be supplemented by a series of interactive dashboards, which will allow users to drill down into the available data for each indicator.

The report will assess performance against around 40 indicators linked to the seven corporate objectives of the Combined Authority. The key indicators for this committee are:

- Healthy life expectancy – healthy life expectancy at birth in West Yorkshire is below the national average
- Net additional dwellings – 2020/21 saw the lowest growth in net additional dwellings since 2014/15
- Housing affordability – house prices are more affordable in all areas of West Yorkshire, relative to the England average
- Rented housing costs – median rents for two-bed dwellings in Leeds are higher than the England average
- Gigabit capable internet coverage¹ - West Yorkshire outperforms the average with regard to gigabit capable internet coverage
- Take-up of superfast (or above) broadband services – Take up levels are greater in West Yorkshire than the UK average
- Mobile coverage (4G and 5G) – West Yorkshire's 4G coverage is above the national average
- Building energy efficiency² - West Yorkshire homes with an energy performance certificate are less likely to have an efficiency rating of C or above compared to the national average
- Households in fuel poverty – Households in West Yorkshire are more likely to be exposed to fuel poverty than the England average

It was requested that Healthy life expectancy in West Yorkshire data be shared with members.

Members expressed concerns about the escalating cost of living crisis and what can be done to raise the sense of urgency in a very clear way as this needs to be on the radar as a crisis.

To have the opportunity to understand the strengths and weakness and respond to the situation on the ground more detail is required to correctly understand the different elements. Officers said that more detail can be provided if members felt this would be helpful.

The Chair said this was a serious situation and asked that the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee be informed of the outcome of the Combined Authority meeting and what realistically can be done as people are

struggling and that for many households there is no money left after bills have been paid.

The Chair also asked that comments and discussion from the Place, Regeneration Committee be fed back to the mayor's office and Combined Authority as an urgent item.

Officers responded to say that a report to provide information about the latest economic and business intelligence within West Yorkshire, focussing primarily on the issues relating to the cost-of-living crisis across the economy and the upcoming increase in energy crisis is to be discussed at the Combined Authority meeting scheduled for 9 September 2022. The report will set out the current and upcoming work at the regional and local levels to address the crisis and will outline key asks of the government. The Combined Authority will be asked to note the latest intelligence around the West Yorkshire Economy and the current proposed activity taking place locally and nationally and the proposed next steps for action and to approve in principal proposals to help people through the cost-of-living crisis.

The Mayor is to launch a public transport scheme which will set the maximum single day bus fare to £2.00 to apply from 4 September 2022 to help with the cost of travel and assist with the cost-of-living crisis. Members commented that this was good but that in rural areas of West Yorkshire there are no buses and that a lot of work to be done.

It was questioned if the focus on energy efficiency has now risen to the top of the agenda and if more can be done on green economy. Officers said that this was a good point and that as European funding has now come to an end the ReBiz (Resource Efficiency & Circular Economy) programme will offer businesses free efficiency audits and consultancy advice, business-support and up to 40% capital grant funding. The programme can help businesses reduce energy consumption, increase environmental performance, realise carbon savings, and increase recycling and reuse activities

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the comments of the Committee and feedback be noted.

16. Project Approvals

The committee considered a report and verbal update on proposals for the progression of, and funding for three West Yorkshire Combined Authority supported projects that have been considered at stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Combined Authority's assurance process.

This report presented proposals for the progression of schemes through the Combined Authority's assurance process in line with the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework. These schemes have an indicative funding value of £186,00,000 when fully approved, of which £10,636,000 may be funded by the Combined Authority. No expenditure recommendation was sought as part of this report for the development and delivery of these schemes. Further details

on the schemes summarised below can be found as part of this report.

The assurance process is a three-stage approach with the requirement that all projects subject to minor exceptions as detailed in the Assurance Framework, will as a minimum, need to formally pass decision point 2 (strategic outline case) and 4 (full business case), with the requirement to meet the intervening activities deemed on a project-by-project basis.

A private sector member asked what information had been considered as

1. Who are the Parties (which is also relevant for identifying potential conflicts of interest).
2. Scheme location and layout plans
3. Cost Plan
4. Land Value
5. Procurement route
6. Planning risks
7. Funding

It was confirmed to the Committee that the officers do consider this information prior to bring projects forward for consideration

Resolved:

That the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee approves that

BHF Cow Green

(i) The BHF Cow Green scheme proceeds through decision point 3 (outline business case) and work commences on activity 4 (full business case).

(ii) An indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £2,100,000 is given. The indicative total scheme value is £17,000,000.

(iii) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

-

-

BHF South Huddersfield

(i) The BHF South Huddersfield scheme proceeds through decision point 3 (Outline business case) and work commences on activity 4 (full business case).

(ii) An indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £869,000 is given. The indicative total scheme value is £15,000,000.

(iii) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

BHF Leeds Village

(i) The BHF Leeds Village scheme proceeds through decision point 3 (Outline business case) and work commences on activity 4 (full business case).

(ii) An indicative approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of £7,667,000 is given. The indicative total scheme value is £154,000,000.

(iii) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the

(a) **BHF Cow Green - Calderdale**

(b) **BHF Leeds City Village**