

BUSINESS, ECONOMY AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

**MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2023
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON
STREET, LEEDS, LS1 2DE**

A G E N D A

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- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**
- 3. EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**
- 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 19 OCTOBER**
(Pages 1 - 10)
- 5. CHAIR'S UPDATE**
- 6. CRISIS IN THE COST OF LIVING AND DOING BUSINESS**
Lead Director: Alan Reiss, Lead Author: Thomas Purvis
(Pages 11 - 244)
- 7. HEALTHTECH - YEAR ONE UPDATE**
Lead Director: Phil Witcherley, Lead Author: Stephanie Oliver-Beech
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- 8. WEST YORKSHIRE PLAN AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY**
Lead Director: Alan Reiss, Lead Authors: Jo Barham & Jennifer Robson

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9. INNOVATE UK WEST YORKSHIRE ACTION PLAN

Lead Director: Phil Witcherley, Lead Author: Sarah Bowes
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10. BUSINESS AND INNOVATION ACTIVITY

Lead Director: Phil Witcherley, Lead Author: Louise Allen
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11. DIGITAL UPDATE

Lead Director: Phil Witcherley, Lead Author: Marianne Hewitt
(Pages 285 - 292)

12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be 29 March 2023.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BOWM', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Managing Director
West Yorkshire Combined Authority**



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BUSINESS, ECONOMY AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2022 AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1,
WELLINGTON HOUSE, 40-50 WELLINGTON STREET, LEEDS, LS1 2DE**

Present:

Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw
Councillor Jane Scullion
Andrew Wright (Deputy Chair)
Asma Iqbal
Paul Price
Bobby Thandi
Simon Langdale
Alan Williams
Fara Butt
Mandy Ridyard
Richard Paxman
Philip Wilson
Dr Peter O'Brien (Advisory Representative)
Sue Cooke (Advisory Representative)
Sandy Needham (Advisory Representative)
Lee Viney (Advisory Representative)
Karl Oxford (Advisory Representative)

Kirklees Council
Bradford Council
Calderdale Council
LEP

Shire Beds
LEP
Paxman Coolers Ltd
Slipstream Design
Yorkshire Universities

LCR Universities
Chamber of Commerce

Innovate UK
African and Caribbean Business Ventures Ltd

In attendance:

Liz Hunter
Philip Witcherley
Sarah Bowes
Henry Rigg
Mitchell McCombe
Thomas Purvis
Jennifer Robson
Ben Kearns

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1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Firth, Cllr Mason, Cllr Byford, Amir Hussain, Simon Mellon, Palvinder Singh, Simon Wright, Deb Hetherington, Neville

Young and Martin Booth.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Andrew Wright, Sue Cooke, and Martin Stow declared that they were involved in the workstream 3 Nexus led bid innovation entrepreneur programme.

3. Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no items that required the exemption of the press and public.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12 July

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee held on 12 July 2022 be approved.

5. Chair's Update

The Chair presented his update to the Committee. He observed that:

- Brian Archer would shortly be leaving his post as Director of Economic Services to be replaced in an acting capacity by Phil Witcherley. The Chair congratulated Phil on his new role.
- In the last few weeks, the Country had a new government with Elizabeth Truss as Prime Minister. The economy had faced significant economy turbulence due to the way the mini budget had been announced by the new Chancellor, The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP. The government did not allow the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) to examine the budget as is the usual practice.
- The Chair expressed his worries about the ongoing impact of the budget. Following this, mortgage rates have been rising. 2 million households will have to renegotiate their mortgages after their fixed term rates come to an attend. He also observed that the Bank of England had to intervene in the market to prop up gilts which cost taxpayers £30 million pounds.
- On 14 October, Kwasi Kwarteng was sacked as Chancellor and replaced by The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP. The new Chancellor took immediate measures to help stabilise the situation and to calm markets.
- The Chair referenced the fact that the West Yorkshire Innovation Festival had been held from 3 to 7 October 2022 to help champion greater innovation in the region.

The Committee thanked the Chair for the update.

6. Crisis in the Cost of Living and Doing Business

The Board considered a report of the Director of Strategy, Communications and Policing which provided an update on the latest economic and business intelligence.

The Chair introduced this item. The Director of Strategy, Communications and

Policing then presented the report to the Committee. The report provided the latest economic and business intelligence with West Yorkshire, the Combined Authority's responses to the crisis, and outlined the resulting key asks of the Government.

The Director of Strategy, Communications and Policing highlighted to the Committee several macroeconomic issues that are affecting West Yorkshire and are outlined in the report:

- CPI inflation rose by 9.9% in the 12 months to August 2022, down from 10.1% in the year to July.
- Producer input prices continued to rise by more than producer output prices through August 2022.
- The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee met on 22 September 2022 and voted to increase the Bank Rate by 0.5% to 2.25%.
- On 28 September 2022, the Bank of England announced emergency measures to intervene in the gilt market following sterling's all-time low performance against the US dollar after the announcement of the Government's Growth Plan 2022.

The Combined Authority's regional data also shows the following:

- Fuel poverty in West Yorkshire was greater than the national average prior to the pandemic. Current estimates suggest that as many as 300,000 West Yorkshire households could be in fuel poverty by 1 October 2022.
- Four out of the five West Yorkshire districts have a higher share of food insecurity than the national average.
- Around 30% of households within West Yorkshire spend close to all their income on essential goods and services. The cost-of-living crisis is expected to impact women and ethnic minorities disproportionately. The Combined Authority is undertaking a number of measures to mitigate this by focusing on inclusive growth initiatives.
- Around 105,000 people in West Yorkshire use pre-payment meters, so they will pay more than the energy price cap.
- Employment levels in West Yorkshire continue to increase, although wages are not keeping pace with inflation.
- West Yorkshire has a particularly high number of energy intensive manufacturing firms, which could be impacted by rising prices, especially those operating within internationally competitive markets.

The Combined Authority is undertaking regional activity to support the issues faced above and is focused on offering immediate relief to stop more people falling into crisis in the future and additional measures aim to address medium and long-term challenges. These include:

- Progressing at pace the West Yorkshire Mayor's Cost of Living Emergency Fund
- Progressing the new Business Sustainability Program which has been designed to provide a more holistic package of support to a wider range

of businesses.

- Implementing the Bus Service Improvement Plan, including the “Mayor’s Fares” scheme to reduce the daily cap on the MCard ticket to £4.50 from £5.50 and setting the maximum single day fare to £2.
- Offering additional support to businesses such as the Combined Authority’s new Innovative Entrepreneurs Programme, Mayoral Innovation Prize, Made Smarter and the new Business Productivity Programme.
- The Combined Authority is also continuing to ask the Government to provide additional support to vulnerable households in West Yorkshire, further help to businesses, increased commitment to a netzero transition and further devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB).

Members made the following observations:

- Manufacturing businesses are facing increasing competition due to rising energy prices. Average energy costs for West Yorkshire businesses are around 34p per kilowatt whereas energy costs in some other countries are considerably lower. The increasing cost of components is also continuing to impact businesses.
- It is vital to see continued support from central government for further capital investment. At present, the Capital Investment Programme is scheduled to end next March.
- It is important that support for vulnerable households is properly targeted with a new definition of who is classified as vulnerable. For example, it appears that some organisations are losing business to people who only wish to pay via cash. As for working practices, there appears to be a tension between people wanting to come into offices to help save on energy costs and those who cannot afford the transport costs so have to work from home. Any further support needs to reflect these challenges.
- The Combined Authority needs to continue to affirm support for devolution as some government Ministers continue to be critical of devolution and its impact.

Resolved:

- i. That the Committee noted the latest intelligence around the West Yorkshire economy and the current proposed activity taking place locally and nationally and;
- ii. That the Committee approved the proposal enabling the MCA to develop a fund to support the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise sector to help people through the cost-of-living crisis, with a view to receiving further approvals at a future meeting

7. Economic Scenarios and Sector approach

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policy and Development on the progress of the economic strategy for the West Yorkshire Region and the approach to sectors

The Chair introduced the report which provides an update to the Committee on the progress of the economic strategy and the approach to sectors. This follows a paper to the LEP Board meeting on 21 September 2022 where there was agreement that an economic strategy should be developed at West Yorkshire level. He then asked the Director for Policy and Development to present the report.

The Director for Policy and Development explained that the intention of this is to:

- Produce a concise document to articulate the shared long term economic objectives of the region.
- The final economic strategy will also support the prioritisation of future funding decisions to support long term economic growth in the region.
- Officers are working actively with The Parents in Education Research Network (PERN) Academics based at the University of Leeds to produce a set of four economic scenarios which can be used to test existing and future policies against.
- Create a comprehensive vision for the West Yorkshire region (currently under the working title the West Yorkshire Plan). This plan will help tell the overall story for the region, capturing our strengths and opportunities. This will be the overarching Plan under which will sit out existing and new strategies and policies.
- As part of the economic strategy, it is proposed that the approach to sectors is reviewed. This will help the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to leverage funding, communicate more clearly with business and attract foreign direct investment.
- Two key challenges to address in this strategy are the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's ambition to create a net zero carbon economy by 2038 and ensuring measures are implemented to enable inclusive growth across the region.

Members made the following observations:

- Members welcomed the fact that health and life sciences and space and satellite comms are included in the clusters of areas being worked on in collaboration with the University of Huddersfield.
- Welcomed this approach to constructing a forward-thinking economy plan. The core design should rightly seek to demonstrate the Combined Authority's commitment to inclusive growth.
- A particularly important area is the food and drink industry which is a dynamic sector with a young workforce that should be included within the strategic element of this strategy.

Resolved: That the Committee is involved in reviewing the strategy as it evolves.

8. Pipeline Development

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policy and Development which provided an update on the Business, Economy and Innovation programme pipeline

The Chair introduced the report. The purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with an update on the progress of current and future activity on the Business, Economy and Innovation programme pipeline. He then invited the Director of Policy and Development to present the report.

The Director of Policy and Development provided a number of status updates on the following programmes, some of which are currently in the process of being implemented, and others which are in development for delivery from 2023 onwards:

- **Business West Yorkshire** – The Business Justification Case was presented to the Programme Appraisal Team meeting on 14 September 2022. Subject to some minor conditions, the programme was approved to go to the Combined Authority committee on 21 October 2022.
- **West Yorkshire Innovation Support Programme** – This is subject to the same process as outlined above.
- **Digital Transformation** – the development of this programme is being led collaboratively by the Combined Authority and Leeds City Council. It will be delivered by all West Yorkshire Local Authorities. The Strategic Assessment (SA) was assessed at the SA Prioritisation Group on 22 September 2022 and will now progress through the Assurance Framework.
- **Enterprise Programme** – This is subject to the same process as outlined above.
- **Export support** – Work is ongoing to develop an export programme which will support SMEs in the region to reach new international markets.
- **Regional Knowledge Transfers pilot** – Early discussions are taking place between the Combined Authority and Innovate UK about how further support can be offered to SMEs in the region to access Knowledge Transfers and support from Higher Education Institutions.
- **Business growth and innovation: open call for projects** – The open call for projects is being developed in close consultation with the Committee.
- **Development funding** – In 2021/22, £500k was secured from Gainshare allocation to support work aligned to the Mayoral pledges. A breakdown of how this funding is being allocated was conveyed to the Committee and is available in the report.

Members of the Committee observed that as the overall economy situation is likely to remain challenging, the Combined Authority will continue to have to aim to be more effective with less financial resources to hand. Members of the committee hoped that continued innovation could assist in ensuring this is the case.

Resolved: That the Committee noted the activity currently underway.

9. Manufacturing Task Force - Delivery

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policy and Development which provided an update on the work delivered by the Mayor's Manufacturing Taskforce.

The Chair introduced the report. The purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with an update on the next steps of the work delivered by the Mayor's Manufacturing Taskforce. He then asked the Director of Policy and Development to present the report.

The Director of Policy and Development explained that the Task Force was established in November 2021 with manufacturing business leaders and representation from the four local manufacturing alliances and Make UK, which represents manufacturing businesses across the UK. Its objective is to develop a series of recommendations to improve the future resilience of the manufacturing sector with West Yorkshire.

In July 2022, the Task Force published its list of 17 recommendations. The full list is available in the report. These are grouped under four missions which are:

- **Mission 1** – Enabling growth through productivity and innovation
- **Mission 2** – Manufacturing for net-zero
- **Mission 3** – The place to be and buy from
- **Mission 4** – Skills for manufacturing

The Director of Policy and Development clarified that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority has developed an initial delivery plan of the Task Force's recommendations that outlines how these will be acted upon. Delivery of these recommendations will run in waves, recognising that the report produced by the Task Force runs up until 2028.

The first wave of projects will be progressed under Mission 1, whose purpose is to enable growth through productivity, innovation and technology adoption. The central aim is to ensure that, by 2028, more manufacturers will be engaged in innovation and will have boosted their productivity levels. This will involve:

- The rollout of new regional productivity and innovation programmes in West Yorkshire
- Establishing a West Yorkshire Productivity Index (WYPI) to support increasing firm-level productivity
- Encouraging more businesses in West Yorkshire to use effective methods of employee engagement
- Strengthening engagement with national innovation agencies to support activity in the sector

To enable the delivery and oversight of the Task Force's recommendations, a new Manufacturing Advisory Board will be established. This will replace the

existing Leeds City Region Made Smarter Board. The membership of the new Advisory Board will comprise of representatives from across the private sector, business support organisations, membership bodies and subject matter experts within the public sector. The new board will be established in late Autumn 2022, with a proposed membership to be developed beforehand.

In order to amplify the work of the Task Force, it is proposed that a Westminster Day is held in the Autumn or early 2023 to provide an opportunity to present the recommendations of the Task Force to civil servants and industry bodies. Officers are also planning to host a roundtable with regional manufacturers over the Autumn to help evaluate the impact the Cost of Living Crisis is having on their businesses.

A key part of the Task Force's recommendations is calls for business support to help businesses decarbonise their operations in accordance with the region's net zero carbon targets. These also seek to support the region's inclusive growth ambitions by ensuring that the delivery plan will have individual equality and diversity targets included to widen opportunities for underrepresented groups.

Member of the Committee expressed a collective desire to see a greater focus on the future with skills being developed not just for now but in a forward-thinking way. While it was positive to see that productivity is a theme strongly embedded in the paper, is vital that efforts are made to help diversify the manufacturing workforce through additional apprenticeships and other educational programmes.

Resolved: That the Committee noted the progress of delivering on the Task Force's recommendations.

10. Enterprise West Yorkshire Programme Update

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Economic Services which provided an update on the delivery of the Enterprise West Yorkshire Programme.

The Chair introduced the report. He outlined that the purpose of the report was to update the Committee on progress with the delivery of the Enterprise West Yorkshire (WY) programme and to seek further input, advice and guidance from the Committee on the ongoing development and delivery of enterprise support across West Yorkshire. He then asked the Director of Economic Services to present the report.

The Director of Economic Services explained that:

- The £6 million pound Enterprise West Yorkshire programme has been in delivery since late 2021.
- The programme includes activity to promote enterprise as a viable and achievable career option to all, especially young people wishing to become involved in this sector.
- The programme is closely aligned to other enterprise support currently

available in the region, such as the ADventure high growth start-up programme, the Start-Up loans available from the Business Enterprise Fund and the information and guidance provided by West Yorkshire's commercial libraries, known as Business in the Community (BITC).

- He provided further details on the number of people and enterprises engaged and support to date by the programme, which are available in the paper.
- The digital marketing campaign for the **Exploring Enterprise** element of the programme has been running from January 2022. This programme has been developed around role models to demonstrate that 'real people' across West Yorkshire are creating and running successful businesses within this sector. This has included hosting a number of workshops and a new web platform to help engage a more diverse range of clients, such as those with disabilities and those living in some of West Yorkshire's more disadvantaged areas.
- A key component of this has been the establishment of a Women's Enterprise Network as a peer support mechanism for female-led pre-start and start-up firms.
- Five district-based **Start-Up Managers** are all now in post and are providing account-management support to start-up and early-stage firms across all sectors. Three of these are females and one is from an ethnic minority background, which is intended to help enable the implementation of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) activities under the programme. These include targets to engage a significant number of clients with protected characteristics.

The inaugural meeting of the Enterprise Support Forum will take place on 2 November 2022 which will be an opportunity to showcase all the support available to new enterprises in the region.

Furthermore, the contract for delivery of the **Innovate Entrepreneurs** element of the programme has been recently agreed. This £1.2 million scheme will be delivered by a consortium led by Nexus Ltd and the University of Leeds, with support from a wide range of partners across the university, third and private sectors. The purpose of the scheme is to work with a smaller number of entrepreneurs who can demonstrate the ambition and potential to achieve considerable business growth, while delivering wider social and/or environmental impacts for the region.

This is because all enterprises supported by the programme are encouraged to access advice and guidance from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's REBiz programme that assists firms to reduce energy use and energy costs.

Officers are also currently exploring options to establish a Seedcorn Fund that could provide early-stage finance (grant, loan or equity) to entrepreneurs to help de-risk their ventures and to provide them with some security to test-market, develop and refine their business propositions.

Members of the Committee collectively welcomed the contribution of the Investments Partnerships Programme and the aligned investment that is provided along with this.

Resolved:

- i. That the Committee noted the progress of the delivery of the Enterprise West Yorkshire (WY) programme, and;
- ii. The Committee provided further input, advice, and guidance on the ongoing development and delivery of enterprise support across West Yorkshire.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 24 January 2023.



Report to: Business, Economy and Innovation Committee

Date: 24 January 2023

Subject: **Crisis in the Cost of Living and Doing Business**

Director: Alan Reiss, Director of Strategy, Communications and Intelligence

Author: Thomas Purvis, Economic Analysis Manager

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To provide an update on:

- The latest economic and business intelligence, particularly relating to the cost of living and doing business.
- Recent Government announcement on support for businesses
- Regional activity to support businesses and households and to influence Government decisions.

2 Information

2.1 The data below is correct at time of publication.

State of the Region

2.2 In December 2022, the Combined Authority published the annual State of the Region 2022 report. State of the Region 2022 examines the region's economy, transport, environment, community safety and policing, and access to culture, sport and creativity. A separate report covering Equality, Diversity and Inclusion has also been published.

2.3 The key messages are as follows:

- Productivity is on the increase, but there remains a gap between the output per hour worked in West Yorkshire and nationally

- The labour force is becoming better qualified over time in West Yorkshire, although there is still ground to make up with the national average
- The transport and storage sector, and the accommodation and food service sector are growing faster in West Yorkshire than they are at the national level
- West Yorkshire's digital infrastructure is a key strength. The area outperforms the national average on key measures relating to gigabit-capable and mobile 4G coverage

2.4 The full report can be found as a link in Appendix 1.

Macroeconomy

- 2.2. Data from the ONS published in December 2022 showed that CPI inflation has risen by 10.7% in the year to November 2022, a slight reduction from 11.1% in October 2021. Whilst the rate of inflation has fallen, it is important to note that this means that prices are still rising, but at a slower rate than before. The key dampening factor on inflation to November 2022 was transport costs, which, is now at 7.6% compared with a peak of 15.2% in June 2022. This fall is driven by two key factors: fuel prices increasing at a slower rate than they were previously over the past 12 months, and the price of second-hand cars falling sharply in the last month.
- 2.3. However, there are still a number of significant cost pressures, causing a considerable threat for households. Food and non-alcoholic beverage prices have risen by 16.5% in the last 12 months, which is the highest rate since September 1977. In addition to this, further notable rises are on the horizon for households, such as the Energy Price Guarantee increasing average household energy bills by 16.7% in April. Cornwall Insight are forecasting the energy price cap to be around £2,800 per year for the second half of 2023, which undercuts the Energy Price Guarantee offered by Government by £200. This is largely due to falling gas futures, which reduces the cost of energy in the long-term. This will take time to feed through to consumers for a number of reasons, including the fact that the country has a reserve quantity of energy that has been purchased at current higher rates that must be used before the cheaper gas can be bought.
- 2.4. As a result, and in order to bring inflation back down to its 2% target, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted by a margin of 6-3 in favour of increasing the Bank Rate by 50 base points to 3.5%. Two members preferred to maintain Bank Rate at 3%, and one member preferred to increase Bank Rate by 0.75 percentage points, to 3.75%. The Bank of England have also published their Financial Stability Report, which shows UK households and business finances are under growing pressure. Fixed rate mortgage rates are rising sharply, and with the loan to value ratio making little to no difference to rates offered. This is likely to persist in the medium to long term. By the end of 2025, 70% of mortgages will have experienced an increase in monthly payments, with over half of these increases being by more than £100.

- 2.5. GDP data for the UK was published on 22 December 2022, which shows that GDP fell by 0.3% in quarter 3 of 2022. This is largely driven by the production sector, which fell by 2.5% in the quarter, compared with the service sector's modest increase in output of 0.1%. The real level of GDP is now estimated to be 0.8% below pre-pandemic levels, and is likely to contract further throughout 2023 whilst the economy remains in a recession. This was the worst performance of any G7 country over the quarter, and economic forecasters are also predicting that the UK will have the deepest, most prolonged recession of any G7 country over the next 12 to 18 months. The Office of Budget Responsibility and the Bank of England also see this recession lasting at least the whole of 2023, and possibly into the first two quarters of 2024.
- 2.6. Outputs from the Census 2021 have been released, including data on travel to work and the labour market. It is important to consider that the Census was conducted in March 2021, when there were restrictions on travel and guidance to work from home where possible to limit the spread of Coronavirus. That being said, 1.1 million West Yorkshire residents (59.3%) were economically active at the time of the census, meaning that they were either in employment or actively seeking employment. Wholesale and retail trade, and manufacturing make up a greater proportion of West Yorkshire employment than the England average.
- 2.7. In December 2022, it was announced that the Spring Statement will be held on 15 March 2023, and will be accompanied by economic forecasts by the Office of Budget Responsibility. The Combined Authority intends to make a submission to the Spring Budget in order to inform Government decisions.

Businesses

- 2.8. On 9 January 2023, the Government announced the Energy Bill Discount Scheme, which will support eligible non-domestic properties with the rising cost of energy. This will replace the Energy Bill Relief Scheme that has been in place since September 2022, and will end on 31 March 2023.
- 2.9. The Energy Bill Discount Scheme will work by offering businesses and public sector organisations discounted prices for wholesale gas and electricity. This support will run from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, with the level of support capped at £5.5 billion in order to protect the taxpayer from volatile energy markets. Whilst all businesses will receive some form of discount, there are additional discounts for those operating in Energy and Trade Intensive Industries. A list of these industries can be found in Appendix 2.
- 2.10. This scheme represents a reduction in overall support by about 66%. Smaller businesses that do not operate in Energy and Trade Intensive Industries will receive the least support, which is likely to mean that the culture and night time economies are likely to be particularly exposed to high energy costs. This leaves these industries in a precarious position given that many households are currently reducing discretionary spending where possible. Furthermore, public sector bodies and those in the third sector will be eligible for the more general level of support.

- 2.11. Data from Fame shows that there are 2,973 businesses in West Yorkshire that fall into the Energy and Trade Intensive Industries, 2.0% of all businesses within the region. This is greater than the 1.4% of businesses across England as a whole, reflecting West Yorkshire's relative strength in manufacturing. However, this support still falls short of what would be required based on previous analysis by the Combined Authority, which shows that up to 8,000 West Yorkshire businesses are at an enhanced risk of high energy bills.
- 2.12. The gap between those identified in previous analysis and those who will receive the enhanced support is driven by the difference in definitions used. Our previous analysis identified firms who were either trade intensive or energy intensive, whereas the enhanced support offered will be only available to those who meet the criteria of being both energy intensive and trade intensive.

Households

- 2.13. The End Fuel Poverty Coalition have provided updated estimates of the numbers of households in fuel poverty, in both November 2022 and April 2023, when both the Energy Price Guarantee will rise to £3,000, and the £400 Energy Bill Relief Scheme will be withdrawn. This will essentially mean an overnight annual increase of £900 per year for average household energy bills. The End Fuel Poverty Coalition data suggests that 7 million households in England are currently in fuel poverty, and that will rise to 8.6 million households in April. For West Yorkshire, this means that 39% of households are currently in fuel poverty (compared with 29% nationally), and this will rise to 48% in April - or almost one in two (compared with 36% nationally).
- 2.14. Data from the ONS shows that median pay in West Yorkshire rose by 7.3% in the year to November 2022, broadly in line with the UK average of 7.1%. Whilst this is a faster rise than in previous years, the impact of inflation means that real wages have actually fallen in the same time period, meaning that employees now have lower spending power than they did in December 2021. The rise in West Yorkshire is also lower than the levels of increase seen in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands (both 8.3%).
- 2.15. West Yorkshire has also seen the number of pay-rolled employees rise by 2.0% in the 12 months to November 2022, with over 1,014,000 people now in pay-rolled employment within the region. This growth fails to keep pace with the UK average (2.5%).

Regional response

- 2.16. At the October meeting the Combined Authority approved a package of support to help with the cost of living crisis. Progress on delivery is as follows:
- 2.17. **Support for businesses with energy efficiency** is progressing through the launch of an emergency grants package which will provide grant support of up to £5,000 at 50% of project costs for small businesses (less than 50 employees) to implement energy efficiency measures. Procurement of a delivery partner has been undertaken and the CA launched the scheme on 8

December. The support is open to all sectors and will run until the end of March 2023. At time of publication, over 200 eligible businesses have submitted an expression of interest. A broader net zero and climate readiness support programme has been agreed for launch in April 2023.

- 2.18. **Mayoral Combined Authority emergency support for vulnerable communities.** It is estimated that 1 in 5 of our region's 2.3m residents are spending nearly all of their available income on essential things, including energy and food. Prices have generally continued to rise rapidly, placing further economic pressure on our most vulnerable communities. **A new £3m Mayor's Cost of Living fund** was agreed by the Combined Authority in October to directly respond to the cost of living crisis. Via Local Authority partners, the fund is enabling local voluntary and community organisations to directly help those who are being failed by the labour market, in terms of access to good, well-paid work, in particular those in workless households and those experiencing in-work poverty.
- 2.19. The fund is being used to help more households and individuals in these financially vulnerable communities pay for essential things during the cost of living crisis. This could include food and warmth, and to receive support such as on mental health and debt, the absence of which would present immediate and complex barriers to connecting into economic opportunity, increasing risk of economic exclusion and longer term economic scarring. The CA has signed funding agreements with each Local Authority, initial grant payments have been made and delivery has begun.
- 2.20. **Employment West Yorkshire** (name TBC) will be delivered by Local Authorities and will support 7,700 people towards and within work. The universal service will provide bespoke support to individuals across West Yorkshire to gain employment support advice and support for re-training, upskilling, and secure or progress in employment. The service will ensure continuity from Employment Hubs which have supported over 10,000 people over the last few years, and will commence from April 2023. It will also include two new pilots to develop pathways to support individuals gain valuable digital skills and into sustainable 'green' jobs in most areas of West Yorkshire.
- 2.21. This service will complement and signpost to existing skills and employment support offers, for example: **Skills Connect** – adult skills training with 30 courses available online either for individuals to sign up to, or to register their interest. The courses are across a number of sectors including health and care sector, digital and construction, and **Employment West Yorkshire** a £6m programme including pre-start up support 'Exploring Enterprise' workshops for support individuals options to start up in business.
- 2.22. The **Combined Authority and the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership Board** have issued a **joint statement and action plan** to support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of people across West Yorkshire. The priorities focus on:

- Reducing costs to households and providing support to employees in financial hardship
- Supporting voluntary and community sector organisations to help people and communities
- Ensuring mental health and suicide prevention services are providing the appropriate support
- Working together to proactively respond to the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

Asks of Government

- 2.23. In early October, and therefore prior to the announcement of the EBRs replacement scheme, the CA submitted views to Government as part of the Energy Price Cap review. The letter which was sent to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy from the Mayor and LEP Chair is attached as Appendix 3 of this report.
- 2.24. The following are the asks of Government included in the letter, which the new scheme falls well short of addressing:
- Commit to supporting energy-intensive and enhanced risk businesses, the hospitality sector and wider supply chain businesses post-March 2023 with the EBRs. Many investment decisions are not being undertaken due to difficulty in forecasting energy and input costs. Businesses want reassurance during their longer-term business planning.
 - Deliver a more structured approach to the delivery of energy efficiency and low carbon heating for businesses backed by funding. This could be through new tax incentive schemes that support businesses to make energy efficiency improvements. The Review of the EBRs Terms of Reference states business should “identify measures that protect themselves from the impact of high energy costs”. The CA would welcome further support from Government to help businesses identify these measures and further support locally funded schemes.
 - Progress plans around investing in energy generation as outlined in the UK Energy Security Strategy. This could include plans to ramp up solar photovoltaics, wind power and developing commercially viable hydrogen generation. The Autumn budget introduced a new temporary 45% levy on electricity producers from 1 January 2023. Experts have warned that the introduction of the new levy in the UK could curb investment in new renewable energy projects. Introducing a windfall tax on renewable energy generation profits sends muddled signals to investors at a time when the government wants to see a step change of investment in low carbon generation (Ronan Lambe, Pinsent Masons).
- 2.25. Furthermore, prior to the Autumn Statement the Mayor sent a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which is attached as Appendix 4 of this report. The letter called for the following:

- Help for businesses to bring down their energy bills through a reconsideration of the six-month cap on energy prices and more support for energy efficiency measures.
- Delivery of long-promised investment in the North, including Northern Powerhouse Rail in full with a new station in Bradford.
- Assurance of the Government's continued commitment to building a mass transit system in West Yorkshire, and funding to make it happen.
- More devolved funding to Mayors to end bidding contests for pots of money such as the recent Levelling Up Fund.
- A fair and long-term funding deal for local councils including adult social care and children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Greater commitment from the Government on net zero along with the devolved powers and funding needed to make real progress.
- Investment in low-carbon energy to bring down household bills and reduce emissions.
- Proper funding for local police and the criminal justice system to reduce the backlog of cases in our courts.

2.26. As noted above, the Mayoral Combined Authority proposes to make a further submission to Government in advance of the Spring Budget, including about the need for further support for businesses to help with the cost of energy.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 Fuel use increases over the Winter due to colder temperatures. West Yorkshire homes are less likely to have an EPC rating of C+, meaning that the region is more likely to need to use energy for heating. Analysis by the Resolution Foundation suggests it costs 58% more to heat a home rated as EPC D or lower, than it does C or above.
- 3.2 The grant programme for businesses to support with energy efficiency measures will help to reduce energy consumption, and hence reduce carbon emissions, as well as reducing businesses' energy bills.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 There are currently a myriad of issues within the economy that disproportionately affect those towards the bottom end of the income distribution, and as a result, have a greater impact on West Yorkshire than the national average. Many of these are interlinked, for instance, West Yorkshire households are relatively less energy efficient, which in turn requires people in West Yorkshire to use more energy. There is currently an energy crisis, with very high unit costs on both gas and electricity, meaning that many people cannot afford to adequately heat their homes. As West Yorkshire has gone into this crisis in a worse position than the national average, this crisis is having a greater impact at the regional level, especially amongst those already worse off in the region.
- 4.2. A report from the New Economics Foundation shows that, across the UK, over 40% of people will be unable to afford a decent standard of living by the next

general election in 2024. This includes 50% of working families with children, and rises to 85% of lone parents and 85% of working-age households in which somebody has a disability. The current crisis is therefore having a pronounced effect on single-parent families and those with disabilities.

- 4.3. The Energy Bill Discount Scheme is likely to leave the night time economy and culture sectors relatively more exposed to high energy costs at a time when households are reducing spending in these sectors.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 A recent survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics showed that 89% of adults in Great Britain report concerns over the increase in the cost of living. Within this group, 57% have stated that they are spending less on non-essentials, 51% are trying to reduce their energy consumption at home, and 42% are cutting back on non-essential journeys. 23% are using their savings to cover the increased costs, whilst 13% have stated that they are using more credit than usual. Disabled people are more likely to have reduced their spending on food and essentials, than non-disabled people (42%, compared with 31%). Over 70% of the poorest people have already started to cut spending on food and other essentials. The survey also highlights that older people, particularly those aged between 55 and 74, have already started to reduce their energy consumption. The previous iteration of the survey highlighted that women and Asian people were in a particularly precarious position, relative to the national average.
- 5.2 The cap also remains on unit costs, so those who use more energy will pay more than the £3,000 average. This will disproportionately affect the elderly, the unemployed and those living in energy-inefficient homes. Analysis shows that one in four UK homes will face energy bills of over £4,000 in 2022/23.
- 5.3 In August the World Economic Forum reported that the cost-of-living crisis is expected to hit women hardest.

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. That the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee

- notes the evidence presented within this report, and considers it as part of the decision-making process;
- considers what additional asks should be made of Government in order to help support businesses with rising energy costs.

11. Background Documents

11.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

12.1 Appendix 1 – State of the Region 2022: [Executive Summary](#) and [Full Report](#)

12.2 Appendix 2 – List of sectors eligible for the Energy and Trade Intensive Industries scheme: [Full list](#)

12.3 Appendix 3 – Letter from the Chair of the LEP and the Mayor of West Yorkshire to Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

12.4 Appendix 4 – Letter from the Mayor of West Yorkshire to Jeremy Hunt, Chancellor of the Exchequer

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State of the Region

Review 2022

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Key messages

1. Driving economic growth and innovation to enable good jobs

2. Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all

3. Empowering our communities, towns and cities to thrive

4. Championing culture, sport and creativity

5. Building a sustainable, nature-rich and carbon neutral region

6. Creating an accessible, clean and customer-focused transport system

7. Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing





Background and context

State of the Region 2022 is the second annual review of the performance of West Yorkshire against key socio-economic and environmental indicators. It provides a stocktake using indicators mapped against seven key priorities outlined below.

Due to the timeliness of the official statistics available at West Yorkshire level, much of the picture we present is coloured by the influence of the coronavirus pandemic. Where possible, supplementary evidence is used to show how the situation has developed since restrictions have been lifted. The global, national and local economies remain in a state of continuing flux due to the ongoing legacy of the pandemic and the emergence of new challenges, including the acute cost of living crisis facing the UK, which is partly attributable to the economic fall-out from the invasion of Ukraine.

Please visit our website to see the full State of the Region report, the accompanying Equality, Diversity and Inclusion report and our State of the Region interactive dashboard.

westyorks-ca.gov.uk/growing-the-economy/state-of-the-region-report-2022/



Key messages

- West Yorkshire's **economic output** fell during the pandemic but it is likely that it has largely recovered since then.
- **Productivity** is on the increase, but there remains a gap between the output per hour worked in West Yorkshire and nationally.
- **Employment** in West Yorkshire is on the rise, and the diversity of people in work is improving. The employment rate gaps for ethnicity and disability are narrowing.
- The **labour force** is becoming better qualified over time in West Yorkshire, although there is still ground to make up with the national average.
- West Yorkshire's **digital infrastructure** is a key strength. The area outperforms the national average on key measures relating to gigabit-capable and mobile 4G coverage.
- The exceptional circumstances of 2020 saw a pronounced fall in **greenhouse gas emissions** in West Yorkshire, driven to a large extent by a fall in transport emissions, but this is not expected to be sustained.
- Shifts in mode share towards active **travel** and away from car use appear to have been accelerated by the pandemic. However overall West Yorkshire has strong reliance on the car, and the ability of the public transport system to connect disadvantaged communities to opportunity has reduced.
- The coronavirus has had a significant impact on key **policing** indicators in West Yorkshire. Neighbourhood crime, knife crime and the number of persons reported as missing remain below pre-pandemic levels.
- Indicators relating to the capacity and performance of West Yorkshire's policing show a positive picture. For example, police officer numbers continue on an upward trend.



Driving economic growth and innovation to enable good jobs

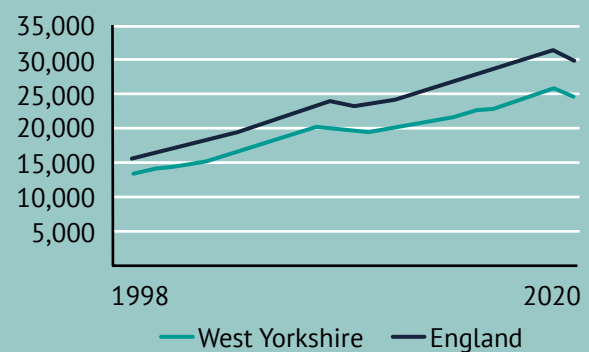
A common feature of the analysis of indicators sitting under this priority is the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. In a number of cases the latest available data for West Yorkshire relates to the main pandemic period. National data shows that the UK economy rebounded during 2021 and early 2022 and it is clear that many other aspects have changed since the pandemic, although they are not all captured by the data available at local level.

West Yorkshire's economic growth rate, in terms of gross value added (GVA) has been slightly below the national average in recent years, even taking into account the slightly less severe impact of the pandemic on West Yorkshire's economic output levels in 2020 relative to the national benchmark. Performance on GVA per head reflects the above pattern.

Economic output (GVA) per head

GVA per head (balanced)
at current basic prices

Source: ONS, Sub-regional GVA data



Output per head of population fell both locally and nationally in 2020 (the latest data available) as a result of the pandemic. The latest West Yorkshire figure is 18% lower than the national average, a gap that has remained fairly constant since 2013.



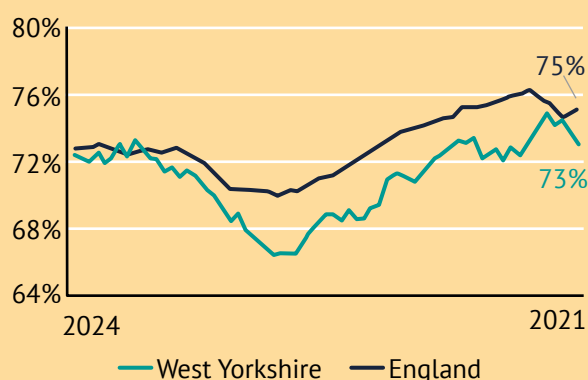


West Yorkshire was performing fairly strongly on employment before the pandemic, in terms of employment levels and the proportion of the working age population in employment. However, coronavirus has served to reverse this progress, also widening the gap with the national average against these measures.

Employment rate

Employment rate for all aged 16-64

Source: ONS, APS



West Yorkshire's employment rate fell during the pandemic, widening the gap with the national average.

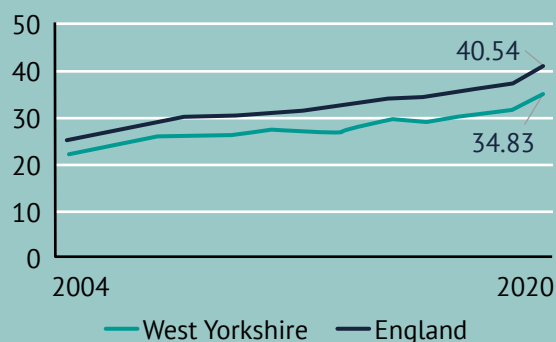
Productivity increased in 2020

Productivity increased in 2020, according to the latest available figures, but this represents a short-term compositional effect arising out of the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on low productivity sectors within the economy. The relative position of West Yorkshire on productivity remains unchanged due to structural factors in the local economy, reflecting the wider situation across much of the country outside the south and east of England.

Productivity

Current price unsmoothed GVA per hour worked

Source: ONS, Sub-regional productivity data



Productivity increased sharply for both West Yorkshire and nationally during 2020, as low productivity sectors were hardest hit by restrictions. However, the relative position of West Yorkshire on productivity has not improved in recent years.

The most prosperous areas of the country have a strong business base. West Yorkshire has fewer private sector businesses per head of population than the national average, but its business base has grown slightly faster than the national average in recent years (2015-2021), driven by expansion in sectors like transport and storage and accommodation and food services.

The region's underperformance on productivity can be traced to a number of underlying factors. The proportion of local businesses engaged in innovative activities has fallen slightly over time, whilst the value of exports forms a relatively small part of West Yorkshire's economy.

Trade, in particular, has been hard hit by the pandemic with the region's exports of both goods and services sharply down in 2020. The region's continuing skills deficit (considered below) is a further contributing factor.

A key objective of levelling-up is to reduce disparities in household income

A key objective of levelling-up is to reduce disparities in household income. Gross disposable household income in West Yorkshire is 79% of the national average and the gap is steadily widening over time. This demonstrates the need to increase productivity in the region.

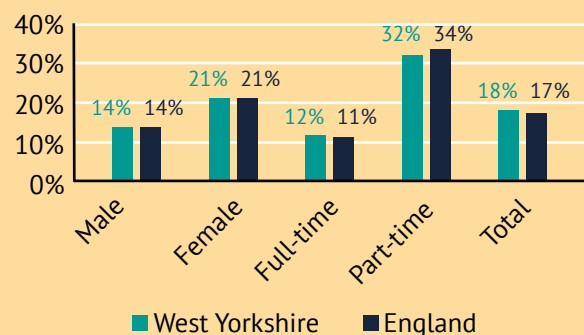
More positively, West Yorkshire is making progress on low pay. The proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage in West Yorkshire fell between 2020 and 2021 and is close to the national average. This partly reflects changes to the government's National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage.

However, when hours worked and contractual status are taken into account, as well as pay, the quality of work available is below the national average across much of West Yorkshire.

Jobs paying below Real Living Wage

Jobs paying below Real Living Wage by gender and status

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2020



The proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage has fallen in West Yorkshire and is now on a par with the national average. Women and part-time workers are more likely to be paid below the Real Living Wage.



Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all

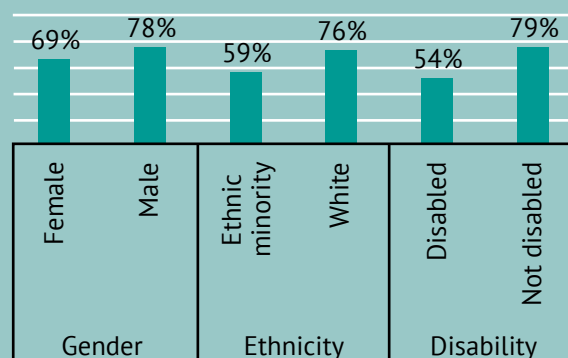
West Yorkshire's workforce is becoming more diverse. The employment rate gaps for people from ethnic minorities and for disabled people are narrowing over time, although the ethnic minority employment rate gap remains wider than nationally.



Employment rate gap for equalities groups

Employment rate for all aged 16-64

Source: ONS, APS



Members of some groups are much less likely to be in employment. There are signs that the employment rate gap is narrowing for disabled people and people from ethnic minorities.

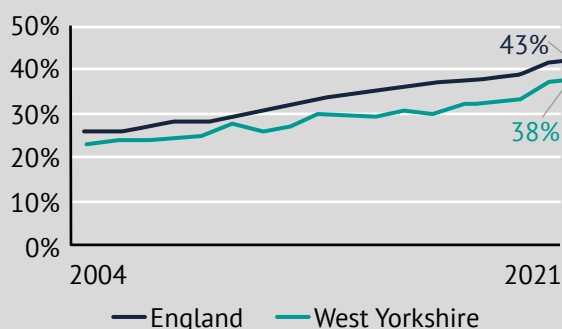


West Yorkshire's workforce is also becoming more skilled. The share of people in the working age population who are highly qualified is on an upward trend, although progress was very modest in 2021 and a substantial gap remains with the national average. Performance against this indicator is highly variable at local authority level, with Wakefield lagging well below the West Yorkshire average.

People qualified at Level 4 and above

% of people aged 16-64 qualified at Level 4 or above

Source: ONS, APS



The proportion of people qualified at this level remained unchanged in 2021 but the underlying trend is an improving one. A significant gap with the national average remains.

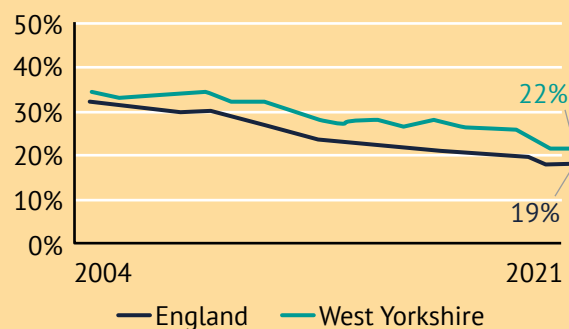
Apprenticeships are a relatively strong element of education and training in West Yorkshire

Conversely, there is an underlying downward trend in the proportion of people who have no qualifications or are limited to low level qualifications, although there was again little progress in 2021 against this measure and there is a continuing gap with the national average.

People with no / low qualifications

% of people aged 16-64 qualified below Level 2 or with no qualifications

Source: ONS, APS



The proportion of people with no / low qualifications was largely unchanged in 2021, following a sharp fall in 2020 that narrowed the gap with the national average.

Apprenticeships are a relatively strong element of education and training in West Yorkshire, with a high ratio of apprenticeship starts to employment. However, figures for the latest full academic year of 2020/21 show that starts are almost a quarter below pre-pandemic levels. There are also issues around equality and diversity. For example, although females account for a majority of apprentices, they are narrowly concentrated in particular subject areas, most notably health, public services and care.

Digital skills are a key requirement for employment

Digital skills are a key requirement for employment and are increasingly necessary for individuals to operate effectively within society. The latest figures show that a quarter of adults in Yorkshire and the Humber lack essential digital skills for life while two-fifths of people in employment do not have essential digital skills for work.

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) face an increased likelihood of unemployment, low wages, or low-quality work later on in life. The proportion of young people who are NEET in West Yorkshire fell between 2020/21 and 2021/22 but remains slightly above the national average, at just over 1-in-20 of the cohort, with significant variations at local authority level.





Empowering our communities, towns and cities to thrive

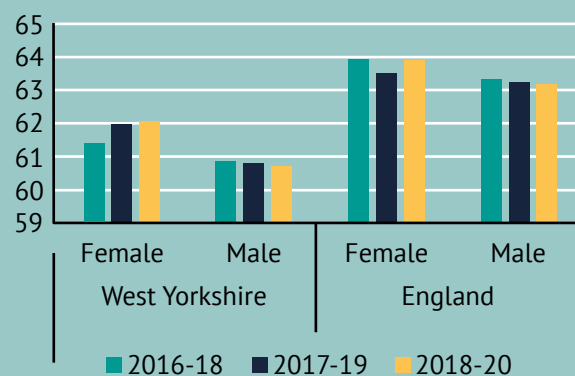
Healthy life expectancy (an important measure of socio-economic as well as health inequality) in West Yorkshire is below the national average for both males and females. According to the latest data overall life expectancy for males fell during the 2018-20 period as a result of the pandemic. There is also inequality of overall life expectancy within West Yorkshire, between the most deprived and least deprived areas.



Healthy life expectancy

Healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth.
Estimates in years

Source: Health state life expectancy, ONS



Healthy life expectancy in West Yorkshire is below the national average for both males and females. Healthy life expectancy for males fell during the 2018-20 period as a result of the pandemic. In addition, inequality in overall life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived neighbourhoods within the five West Yorkshire local authorities ranges from 8 to 10 years for females and 9 to 11 years for males.

The pandemic had a substantial effect on housing in West Yorkshire, with continuing ramifications for housing supply, affordability and rental prices.

The number of net additional dwellings fell substantially in West Yorkshire during the pandemic. According to the latest data for 2020/21 housing supply is a third lower than in 2018/19.

Fuel poverty is more widespread in West Yorkshire than nationally

Housing affordability worsened in 2021 as prices grew more quickly than earnings. The impact on West Yorkshire was less marked than nationally and housing remains relatively affordable locally, although the affordability ratio takes no account of the quality of housing stock. There are signs that the housing market is now cooling.

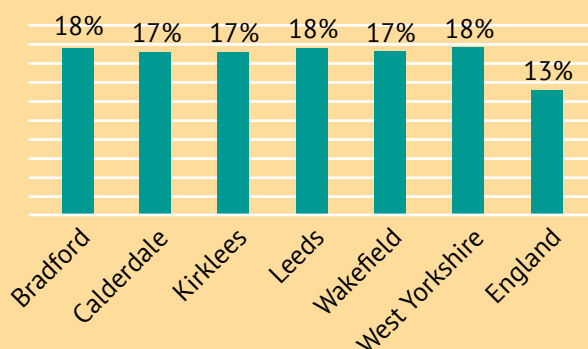
Rented housing costs in West Yorkshire are lower than nationally, except in Leeds. However, more timely national data point to a sharp increase in these costs during 2022.

The latest available data for 2020 show that around 176,000 households in West Yorkshire (18% of all households) are in fuel poverty, a prevalence that is above the national average (13%). This shows that West Yorkshire is poorly positioned to cope with the current energy price crisis. There is clear evidence that the proportion of households in fuel poverty is growing rapidly.

Fuel poverty

Proportion of households in fuel poverty, 2020

Source: Fuel poverty detailed tables, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022

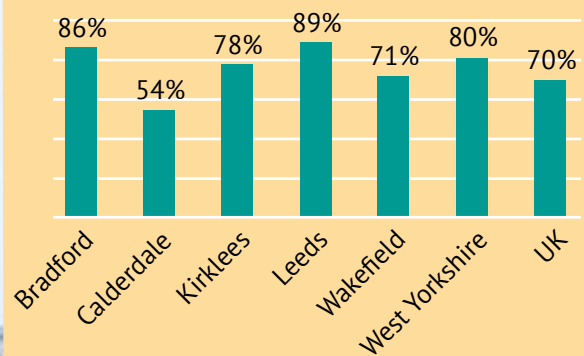


Around 176,000 households in West Yorkshire (18% of all households) are in fuel poverty - above the national average (13%). This shows that West Yorkshire is relatively poorly positioned to cope with the current energy price crisis. Forecasts suggest that 30% of households could be in fuel poverty this winter despite the government's price freeze plan.

Gigabit-capable internet coverage

% of properties with gigabit-capable internet coverage

Source: ThinkBroadband



Around 80% of West Yorkshire premises are covered by gigabit-capable internet connections, well ahead of the national average.

Almost 9-out-of-10 premises have mobile 4G coverage, which is again above the national average.



Championing culture, sport and creativity

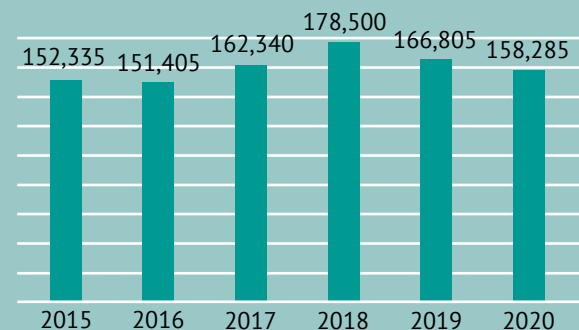
Employment in the culture, sport and creative sector in West Yorkshire is a substantial part of the West Yorkshire economy, accounting for 15% of all employment. It is smaller than nationally in proportionate terms, although it is strongly represented in Leeds. Culture, sport and creative activities were exposed to the coronavirus restrictions, resulting in a fall in employment in 2020. There was also a decline in employment for these activities at national level in 2020.

Additional indicators are currently being consulted on as part of the Culture, Heritage and Sport Framework and will be incorporated into future iterations of State of the Region.

Employment in cultural, sport and creativity activities

Trend in employment in cultural, sport and creative activities, West Yorkshire

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey



Cultural, sport and creative activities represent a substantial part of the West Yorkshire economy but employment in this area fell over the two consecutive years of 2019 and 2020.



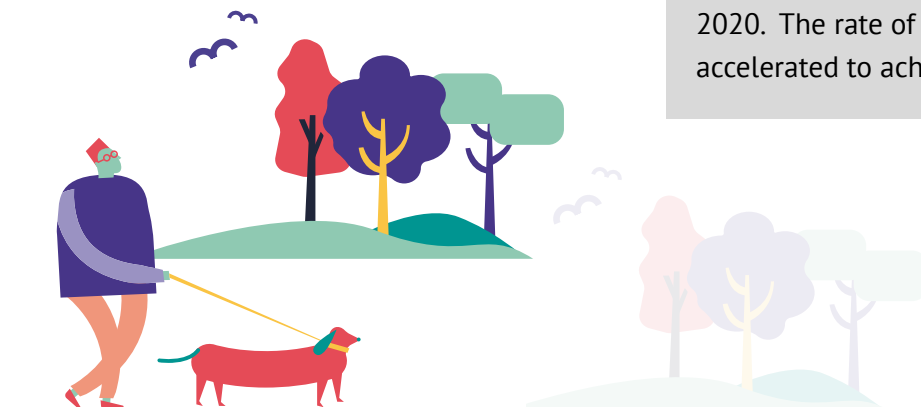


Building a sustainable, nature-rich and carbon neutral region

West Yorkshire has declared a climate emergency and is committed to becoming a net zero carbon economy by 2038 and to making significant progress against this challenge by 2030.

The latest data indicate that greenhouse gas end-user emissions in West Yorkshire stand at around 10.6 Mt CO₂ equivalent. This equates to 4.5 tonnes per capita, below the national average of 5.1 tonnes.

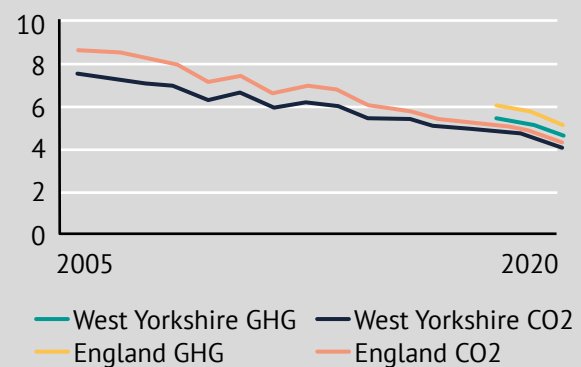
The pandemic resulted in a sharp fall in emissions in 2020 (the latest data available). There was a reduction of 12% in West Yorkshire and a 10% fall nationally. To put this into context the annual average fall in the previous decade in West Yorkshire was only 3%.



Greenhouse gas emissions

Per capita greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions (tonnes CO₂ equivalent per head)

Source: UK local authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2020, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022



Per capita emissions of carbon dioxide and of wider greenhouse gases in West Yorkshire are below the national average and are on a downward trend, which was accelerated by the pandemic in 2020. The rate of reduction needs to be accelerated to achieve net zero by 2038.

The main contributor to the fall in West Yorkshire's emissions in 2020 was a substantial reduction in transport emissions – this sector accounted for 54% of the total decrease in emissions with a year-on-year decline of 17%. This was primarily due to a fall in road transport. The industry, commercial and public sectors also saw double-digit falls, whilst the domestic sector fell by only 4%.

Such were the unique circumstances that prevailed in 2020 when emissions fell that it is possible that emissions will see a net increase in the data for 2021 when it is published.

Greenhouse gas emissions intensity measures the level of emissions per unit of gross value added (GVA) and can be used to examine the relationship between economic growth and emissions. The emissions intensity of the West Yorkshire economy, in terms of CO₂ emissions (kt) per £ million of GVA, is slightly above the national average and is higher than most of the comparator areas. The region's emissions intensity continues to fall, however, with a bigger decrease in 2020 than that seen nationally.

The transport sector was the main source of emissions reductions in 2020

Improving the energy efficiency of properties is an important lever for reducing emissions but is also crucial for helping households to manage their energy costs. West Yorkshire underperforms in terms of the proportion of its dwellings with an energy efficiency rating of C or above on their Energy Performance Certificate (ratings run from A to G with A being the most energy efficient, G being the least efficient). Thirty-four per cent of

dwellings in West Yorkshire meet the threshold compared with a national average of 40%.

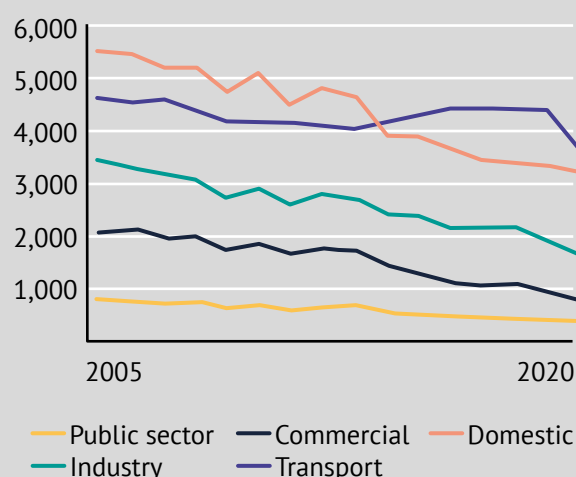
Providing local people with access to nature is vital to health and quality of life. Currently, around two-fifths of West Yorkshire's population have easy access to local natural greenspace.

Flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence as a result of climate change. Around 3% of residential properties in West Yorkshire fall within a flood zone, rising to more than 6% in Calderdale. A significant proportion of neighbourhoods in Bradford and Calderdale are acutely vulnerable to the effects of flooding.

Greenhouse gas emissions by sector

Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent) by selected sector for West Yorkshire

Source: UK local authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2020, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022



The transport sector was the main source of emissions reductions in 2020, linked to the impact of the pandemic.



Creating an accessible, clean and customer-focused transport system

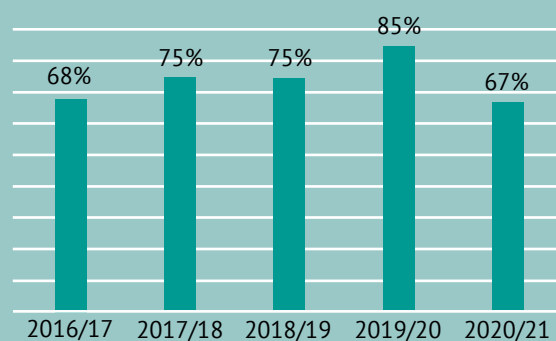
A key purpose of an effective transport system is to connect people from all communities to employment opportunities. The pandemic has presented a major challenge to this aim. West Yorkshire's access inequality ratio worsened substantially during 2020, as the number of jobs accessible by the bus network from deprived neighbourhoods fell relative to those accessible by private car. This is attributable to a reduction in services as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, when only essential travel was supported; but it also illustrates the barriers to travel faced by certain groups.



Access inequality ratio


Access inequality ratio (employment)¹

Source: Combined Authority analysis



Inequality of access to employment from the most deprived areas in West Yorkshire increased substantially in 2020/21, as a result of the pandemic, when only essential travel was supported. This illustrates the impact of reduced bus services on the disadvantaged.

¹This is the ratio of number of jobs accessible in 30 minutes using frequent bus network from most deprived areas in West Yorkshire, to the number of jobs accessible by car in 30 minutes from same areas, during the morning peak.



West Yorkshire has an ambition to reduce reliance on private car journeys

West Yorkshire has an ambition to reduce reliance on private car journeys and substantially grow the number of trips made using sustainable transport. Almost two-thirds of trips in West Yorkshire are made by car. The bus plays a vital role for those who lack access to a car, but its share of trips is also falling over time, a trend intensified by the pandemic; although bus plays a more important part in the transport mix in West Yorkshire than nationally.

Satisfaction with local public transport in West Yorkshire is high

The transport system must play its part in creating clean, safe, healthy places for communities and businesses. Ensuring the safety of all users of our streets and highway network is essential to this as well as enabling people to feel confident to walk or cycle more. The number of killed or seriously injured casualties arising from traffic accidents is on a downward trend in West Yorkshire and this trend was reinforced by the reduction in road traffic associated with the pandemic, as casualties fell by more than a fifth between 2019 and 2020.

Better planning and management of West Yorkshire's transport networks is essential and smart ticketing products like Metro's MCard contribute to this. Following a sharp reduction during the pandemic there was a modest recovery in trips made using the MCard in 2021, with a total of 10m trips recorded. The pandemic seems to have accelerated a shift to digital channels for the purchase of MCard trips, as 70% of travel tickets were bought through the MCard mobile app rather than traditional outlets during 2021.

Satisfaction with transport infrastructure, is a key measure of performance and of public perceptions. Satisfaction with highway infrastructure remains relatively low, at 5.8 (out of 10), the same score as in 2020/21. Satisfaction with the provision of cycling routes and facilities as well as with most elements of road surface and pavement maintenance has worsened.

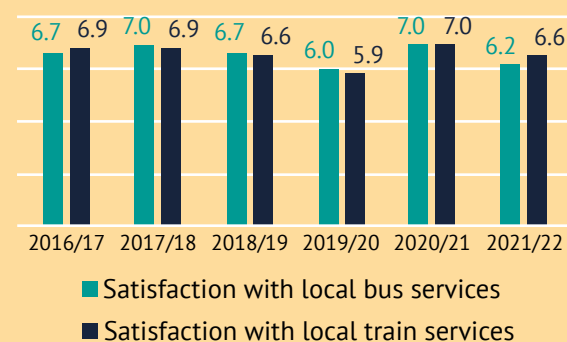
Satisfaction with local public transport in West Yorkshire is high, when compared with other aspects of the transport system. However, the average satisfaction rating for public transport fell in 2021/22 when compared with the previous year, although it remains higher than in 2019/20.

It is uncertain what patterns of travel will emerge over time following the pandemic, particularly around the potential for a sustained shift to home working. Usage of public transport, including bus and rail, remains below pre-crisis levels with no certainty that it will recover. There is an opportunity to support a shift away from carbon-intensive travel to sustainable modes as the economy recovers and grows, to meet the challenge of becoming a net-zero carbon city region by 2038.

Satisfaction with public transport

Satisfaction with bus and rail services in the region

Source: Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey



Satisfaction with public transport fell in 2021/22, although it remains higher than in 2019/20.



Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing

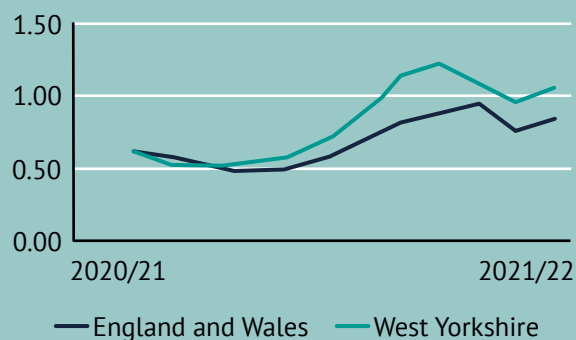
The coronavirus has had a significant impact on key policing indicators in West Yorkshire. Neighbourhood crime, knife crime and the number of persons reported as missing remain below pre-pandemic levels.



Serious violence

Knife crime per 1,000 population

Source: Annual Data Return from West Yorkshire Police



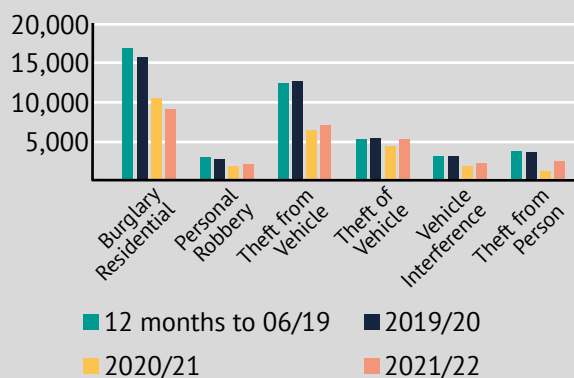
Knife crime increased in 2021/22 compared with the previous year but remains below pre-pandemic levels.



Neighbourhood crime

Neighbourhood crime in West Yorkshire

Source: Annual Data Return from West Yorkshire Police



Neighbourhood crime fell across the board during the pandemic and remains below the level recorded in 2019.

Indicators relating to the capacity and performance of West Yorkshire's policing show a positive picture.

The number of positive outcomes in respect of rape and serious sexual offences increased in 2021/22, although the outcome rate was marginally down on the previous year.

West Yorkshire's Liaison and Diversion Service (L&D) supports people who come into contact with the criminal justice system and have mental health, learning disability, substance misuse or other vulnerabilities. During 2021/22 there were 5,272 adult referrals and 2,290 referrals of young people into the service, an increase of 14% in total referrals on the previous year.

Police officer numbers continue on an upward trend

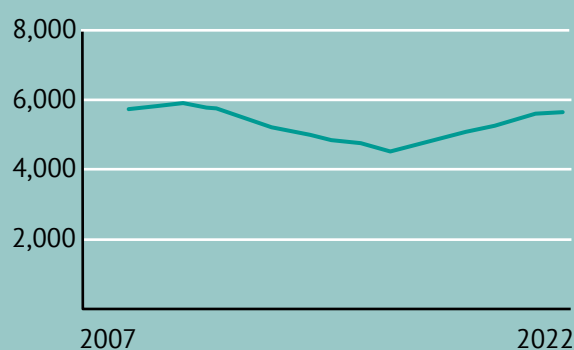
Police officer numbers continue on an upward trend. The most recent figures for March 2022 show an increase of 1,179 officers since March 2016, bringing the total in West Yorkshire to 5,680, a net increase of 26% for that period.

West Yorkshire Police's call handling performance (time taken to answer 999 calls to the police) has been consistently high since monitoring was introduced last year.

Police Officer numbers

Count of full-time equivalent Police Officers

Source: Home Office

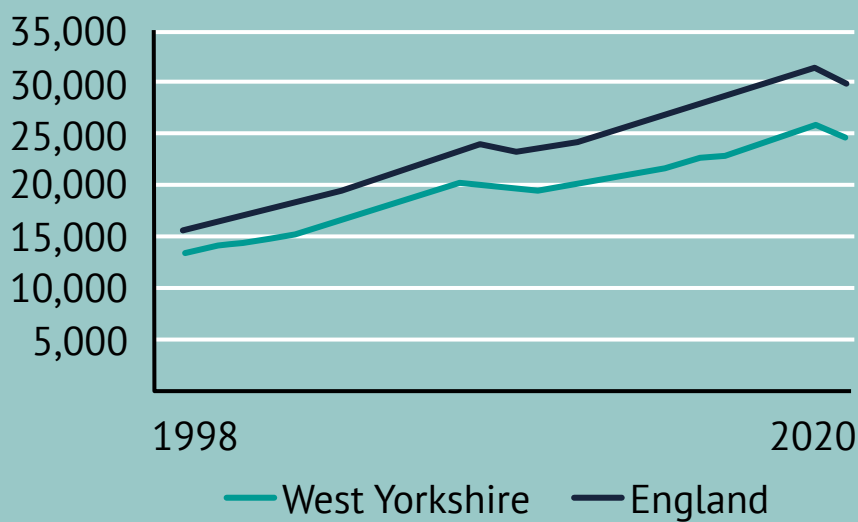


Officer numbers in West Yorkshire are on an upward trend. The most recent figures for March 2022 show an increase of 1,179 officers since March 2016, bringing the total in West Yorkshire to 5,680, a net increase of 26% for that period.

Economic output (GVA) per head

GVA per head (balanced)
at current basic prices

Source: ONS, Sub-regional GVA data

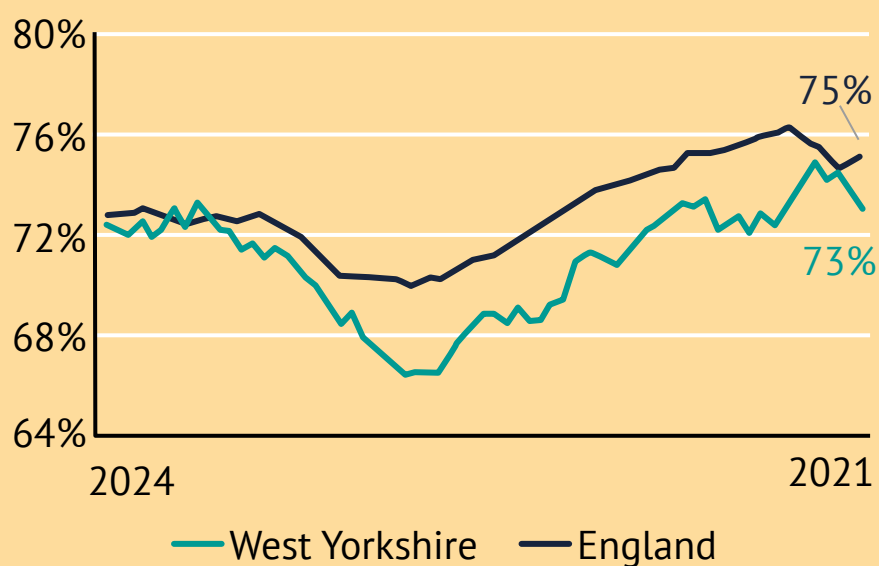


Output per head of population fell both locally and nationally in 2020 (the latest data available) as a result of the pandemic. The latest West Yorkshire figure is 18% lower than the national average, a gap that has remained fairly constant since 2013.

Employment rate

Employment rate for all aged 16-64

Source: ONS, APS

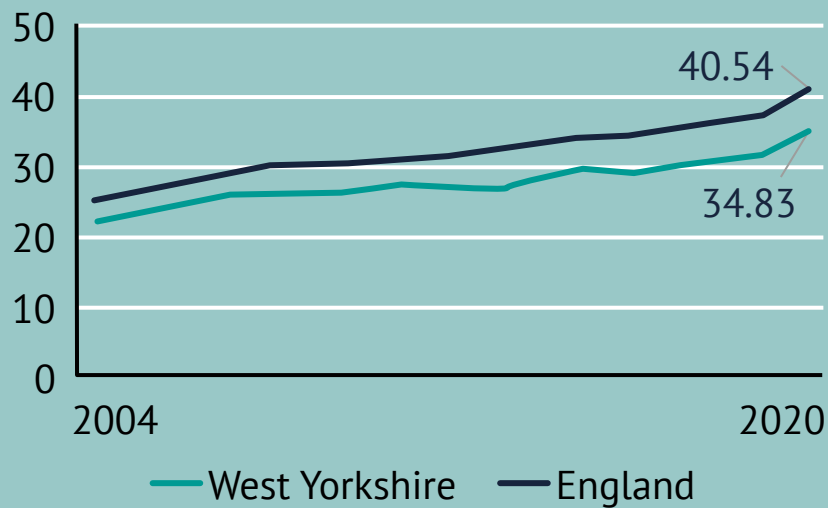


West Yorkshire's employment rate fell during the pandemic, widening the gap with the national average.

Productivity

Current price unsmoothed GVA
per hour worked

Source: ONS, Sub-regional productivity data

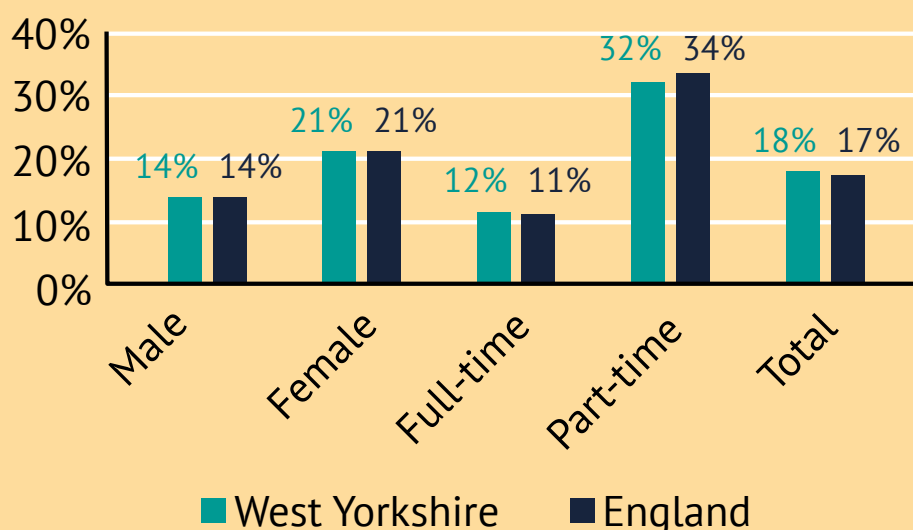


Productivity increased sharply for both West Yorkshire and nationally during 2020, as low productivity sectors were hardest hit by restrictions. However, the relative position of West Yorkshire on productivity has not improved in recent years.

Jobs paying below Real Living Wage

Jobs paying below Real Living Wage by gender and status

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2020

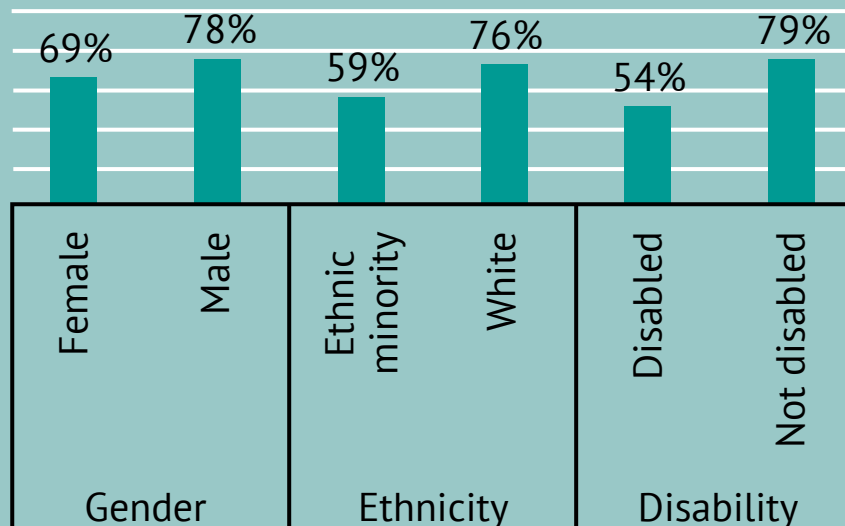


The proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage has fallen in West Yorkshire and is now on a par with the national average. Women and part-time workers are more likely to be paid below the Real Living Wage.

Employment rate gap for equalities groups

Employment rate for all aged 16-64

Source: ONS, APS

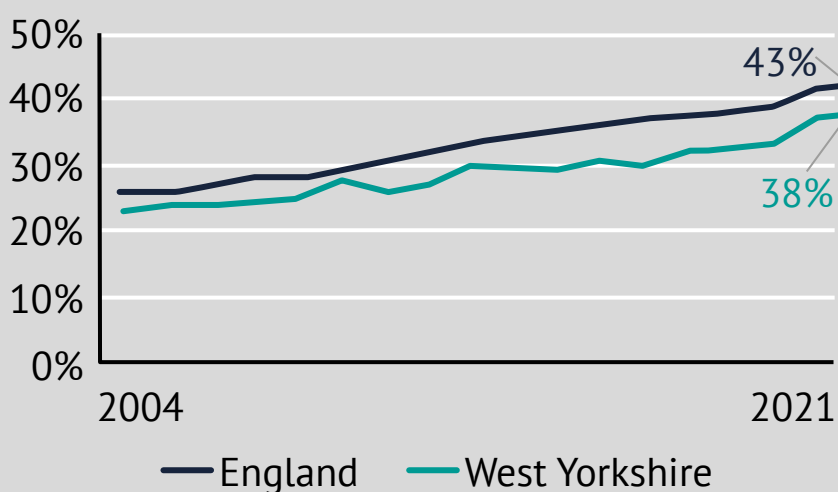


Members of some groups are much less likely to be in employment. There are signs that the employment rate gap is narrowing for disabled people and people from ethnic minorities.

People qualified at Level 4 and above

% of people aged 16-64 qualified at Level 4 or above

Source: ONS, APS

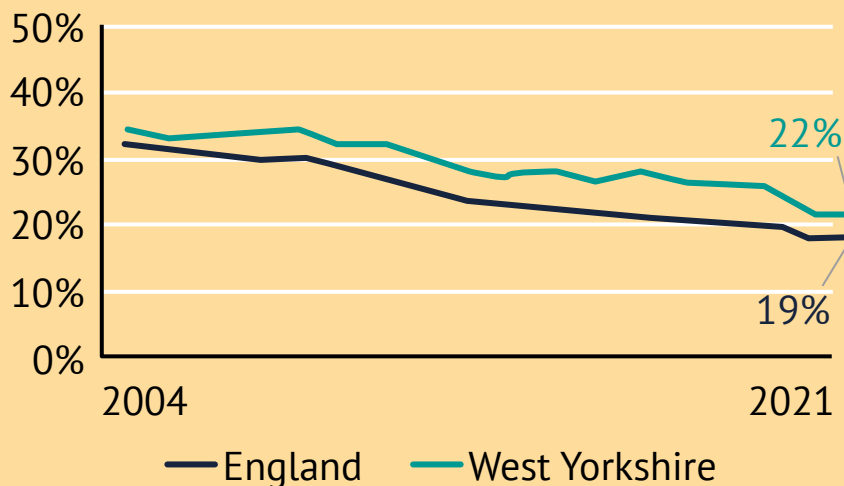


The proportion of people qualified at this level remained unchanged in 2021 but the underlying trend is an improving one. A significant gap with the national average remains.

People with no / low qualifications

% of people aged 16-64 qualified below Level 2 or with no qualifications

Source: ONS, APS



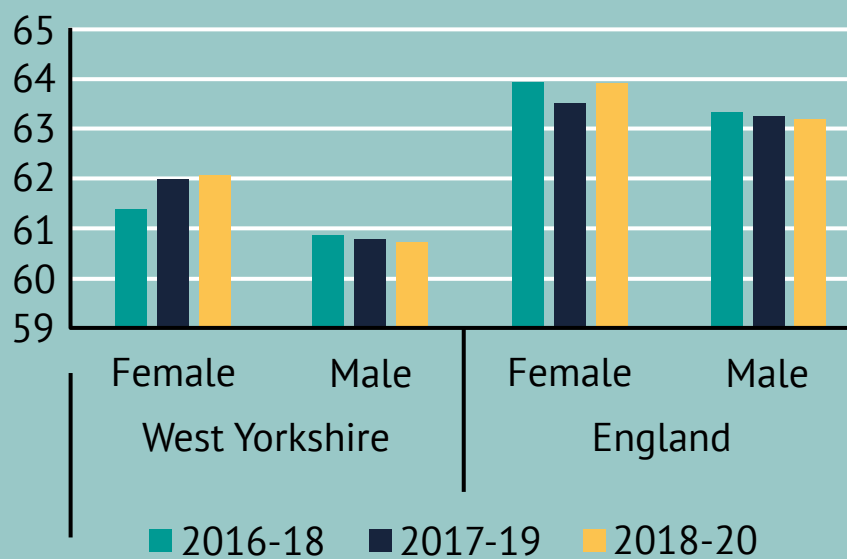
The proportion of people with no / low qualifications was largely unchanged in 2021, following a sharp fall in 2020 that narrowed the gap with the national average.

Healthy life expectancy

Healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth.

Estimates in years

Source: Health state life expectancy, ONS

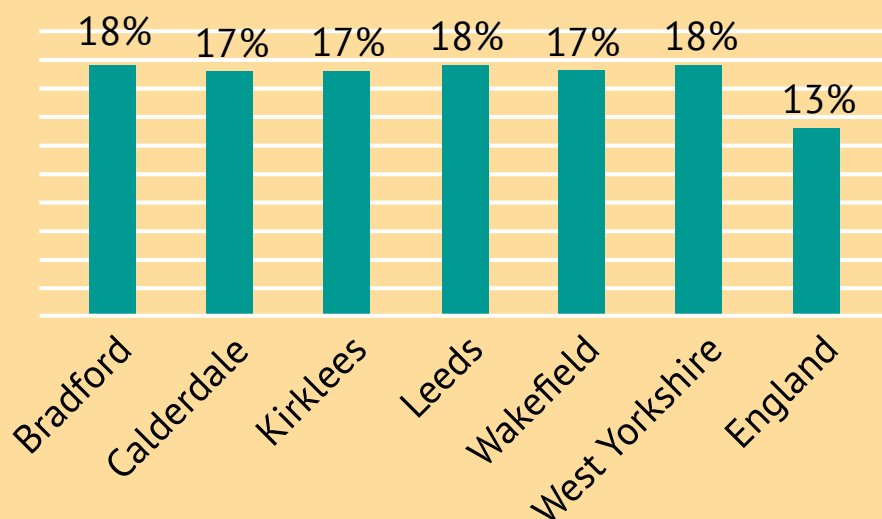


Healthy life expectancy in West Yorkshire is below the national average for both males and females. Healthy life expectancy for males fell during the 2018-20 period as a result of the pandemic. In addition, inequality in overall life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived neighbourhoods within the five West Yorkshire local authorities ranges from 8 to 10 years for females and 9 to 11 years for males.

Fuel poverty

Proportion of households in fuel poverty, 2020

Source: Fuel poverty detailed tables, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022

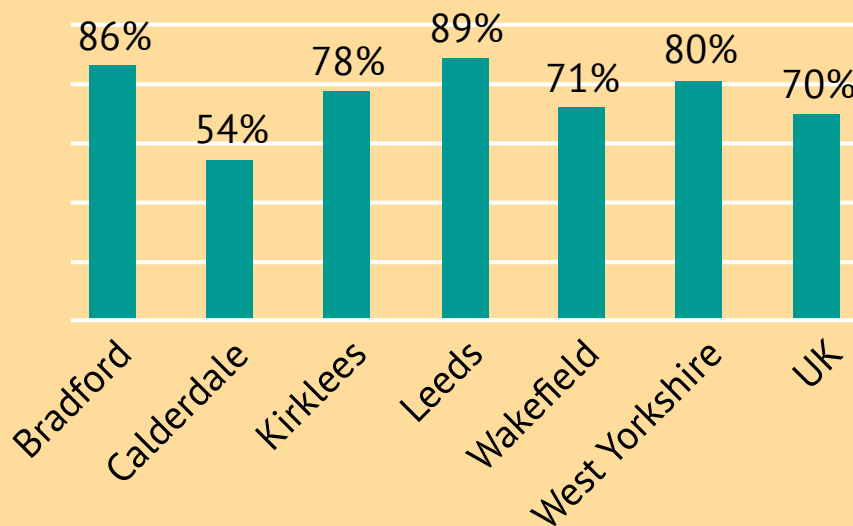


Around 176,000 households in West Yorkshire (18% of all households) are in fuel poverty - above the national average (13%). This shows that West Yorkshire is relatively poorly positioned to cope with the current energy price crisis. Forecasts suggest that 30% of households could be in fuel poverty this winter despite the government's price freeze plan.

Gigabit-capable internet coverage

% of properties with gigabit-capable internet coverage

Source: ThinkBroadband

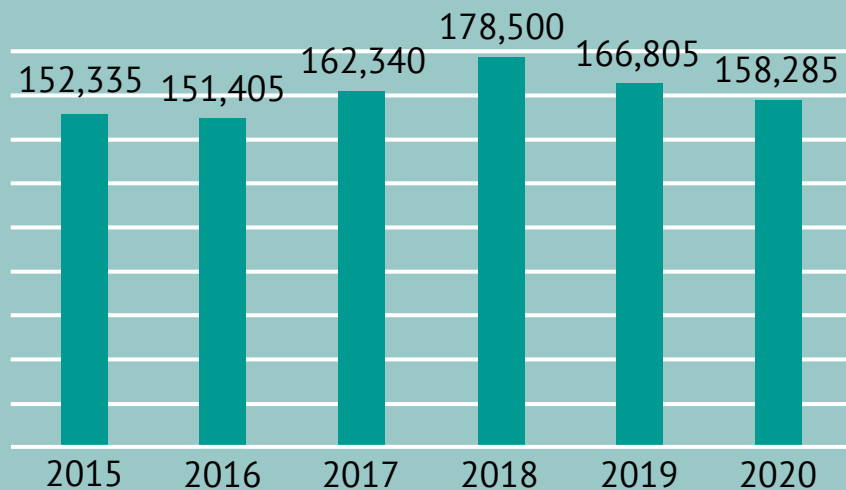


Around 80% of West Yorkshire premises are covered by gigabit-capable internet connections, well ahead of the national average.

Employment in cultural, sport and creativity activities

Trend in employment in cultural, sport and creative activities, West Yorkshire

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey

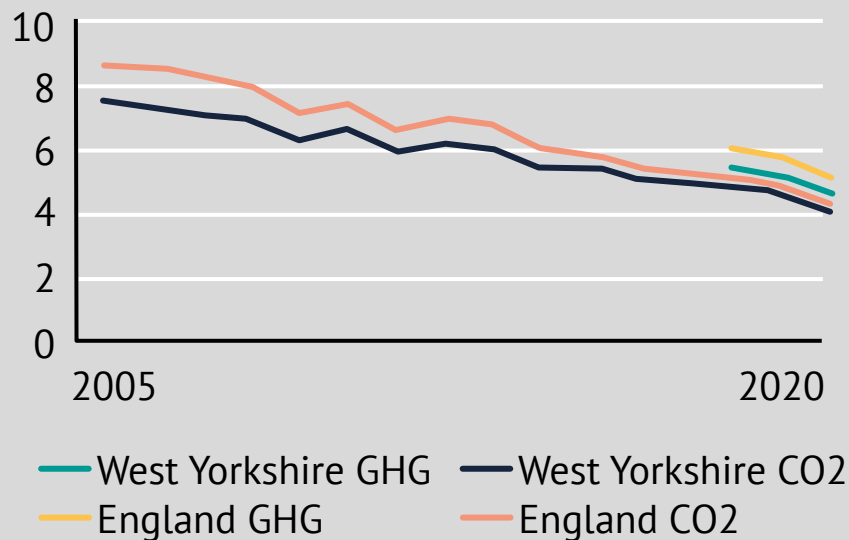


Cultural, sport and creative activities represent a substantial part of the West Yorkshire economy but employment in this area fell over the two consecutive years of 2019 and 2020.

Greenhouse gas emissions

Per capita greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions (tonnes CO₂ equivalent per head)

Source: UK local authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2020, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022

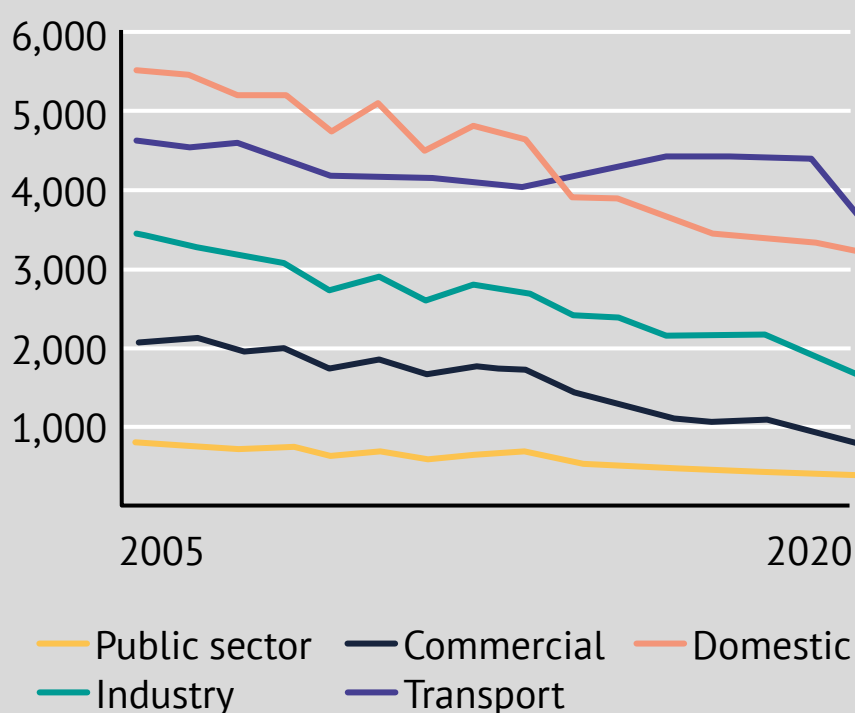


Per capita emissions of carbon dioxide and of wider greenhouse gases in West Yorkshire are below the national average and are on a downward trend, which was accelerated by the pandemic in 2020. The rate of reduction needs to be accelerated to achieve net zero by 2038.

Greenhouse gas emissions by sector

Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent) by selected sector for West Yorkshire

Source: UK local authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2020, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022

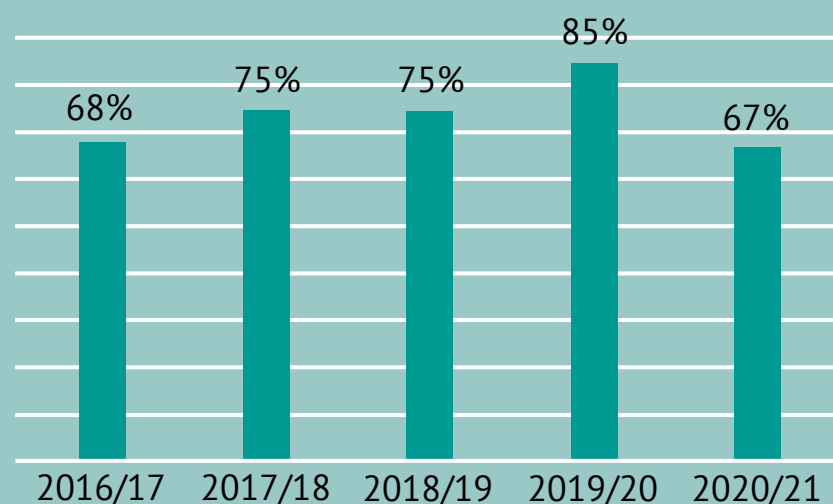


The transport sector was the main source of emissions reductions in 2020, linked to the impact of the pandemic.

Access inequality ratio

Access inequality ratio (employment)¹

Source: Combined Authority analysis



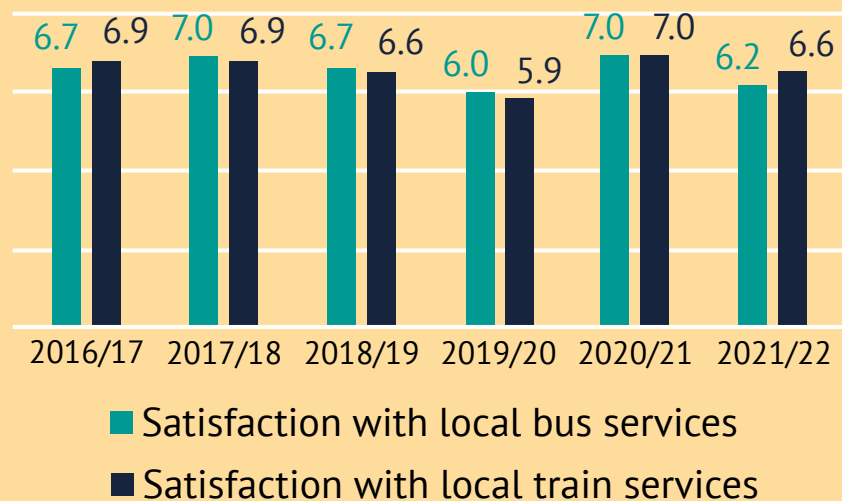
Inequality of access to employment from the most deprived areas in West Yorkshire increased substantially in 2020/21, as a result of the pandemic, when only essential travel was supported. This illustrates the impact of reduced bus services on the disadvantaged.

¹This is the ratio of number of jobs accessible in 30 minutes using frequent bus network from most deprived areas in West Yorkshire, to the number of jobs accessible by car in 30 minutes from same areas, during the morning peak.

Satisfaction with public transport

Satisfaction with bus and rail services in the region

Source: Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey

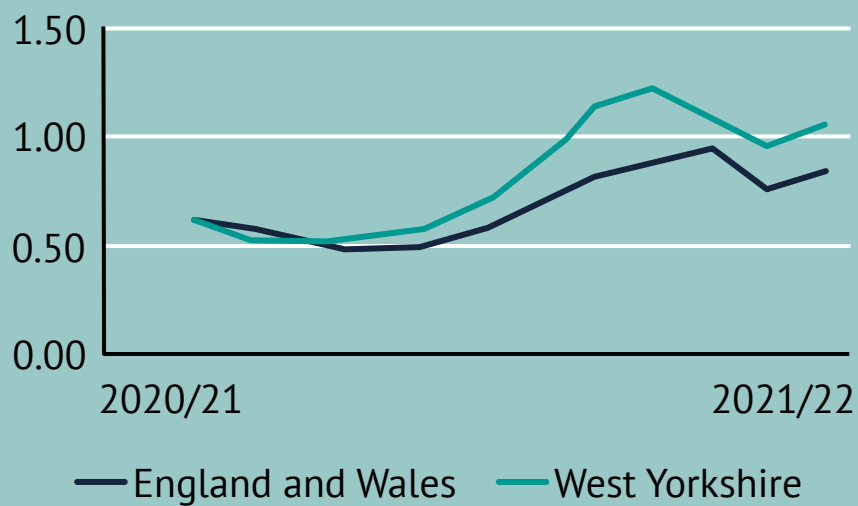


Satisfaction with public transport fell in 2021/22, although it remains higher than in 2019/20.

Serious violence

Knife crime per 1,000 population

*Source: Annual Data Return from
West Yorkshire Police*

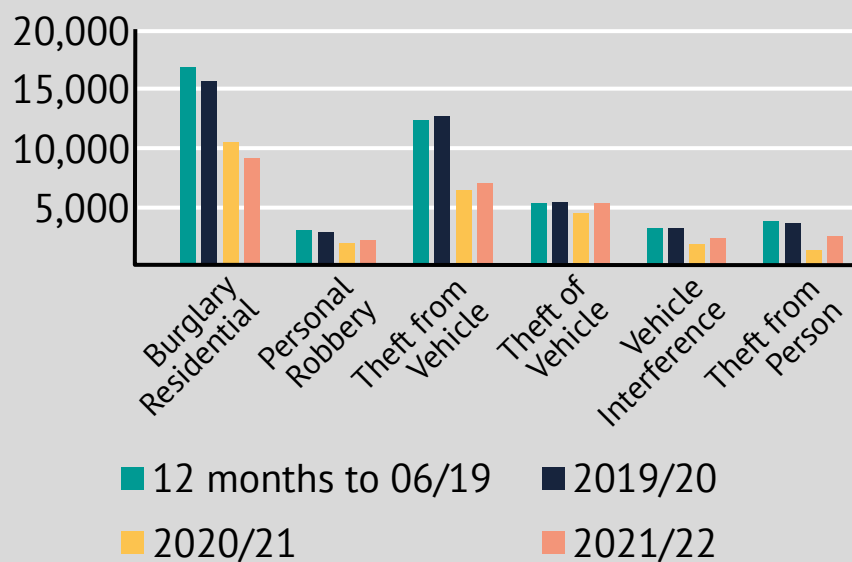


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Neighbourhood crime

Neighbourhood crime in West Yorkshire

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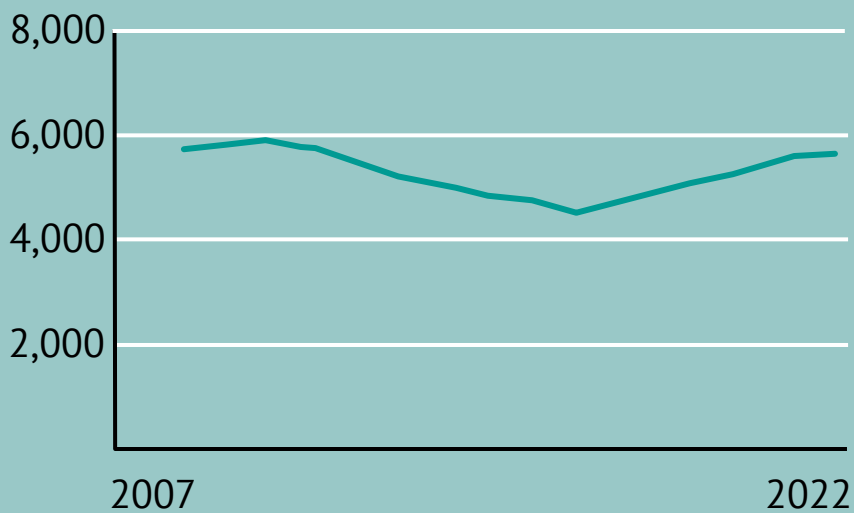


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Police Officer numbers

Count of full-time equivalent Police Officers

Source: Home Office



Officer numbers in West Yorkshire are on an upward trend. The most recent figures for March 2022 show an increase of 1,179 officers since March 2016, bringing the total in West Yorkshire to 5,680, a net increase of 26% for that period.

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**West
Yorkshire**
60 Combined
Authority



Tracy Brabin
Mayor
of West Yorkshire

State of the Region

Review 2022

Executive Summary

Background and Context

State of the Region 2022 is the second annual review of the performance of West Yorkshire against key socio-economic and environmental indicators. It provides a stocktake using indicators mapped against seven key priorities outlined below.

Due to the limited timeliness of the official statistics available at West Yorkshire level, much of the picture we present is coloured by the influence of the coronavirus pandemic. Where possible, supplementary evidence is used to show how the situation has developed since restrictions have been lifted. The global, national and local economies remain in a state of continuing flux due to the ongoing legacy of the pandemic and the emergence of new challenges, including the acute cost of living crisis facing the UK, which is partly attributable to the economic fall-out from the invasion of Ukraine.

Key Messages

- West Yorkshire's economic output fell during the pandemic but it is likely that it has largely recovered since then.
- Productivity is on the increase, but there remains a gap between the output per hour worked in West Yorkshire and nationally.
- Employment in West Yorkshire is on the rise, and the diversity of people in work is improving. The employment rate gaps for ethnicity and disability are narrowing.
- The labour force is becoming better qualified over time in West Yorkshire, although there is still ground to make up with the national average.
- West Yorkshire's digital infrastructure is a key strength. The area outperforms the national average on key measures relating to gigabit-capable and mobile 4G coverage.
- The exceptional circumstances of 2020 saw a pronounced fall in greenhouse gas emissions in West Yorkshire, driven to a large extent by a fall in transport emissions, but this is not expected to be sustained.
- Shifts in mode share towards active travel and away from car use appear to have been accelerated by the pandemic. However overall West Yorkshire has strong reliance on the car, and the ability of the public transport system to connect disadvantaged communities to opportunity has reduced.
- The coronavirus has had a significant impact on key policing indicators in West Yorkshire. Neighbourhood crime, knife crime and the number of persons reported as missing remain below pre-pandemic levels.
- Indicators relating to the capacity and performance of West Yorkshire's policing show a positive picture. For example, police officer numbers continue to increase.

Driving economic growth and innovation to enable good jobs

A common feature of the analysis of indicators sitting under this priority is the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. In a number of cases the latest available data for West Yorkshire relates to the main pandemic period. National data shows that the UK economy rebounded

during 2021 and early 2022 and it is clear that many other aspects have changed since the pandemic, although they are not all captured by the data available at local level.

West Yorkshire's economic growth rate, in terms of gross value added (GVA) has been slightly below the national average in recent years, even taking into account the slightly less severe impact of the pandemic on West Yorkshire's economic output levels in 2020 relative to the national benchmark. Performance on GVA per head reflects the above pattern.

West Yorkshire was performing fairly strongly on employment before the pandemic, in terms of employment levels and the proportion of the working age population in employment. Coronavirus negatively impacted on this progress, also widening the gap with the national average against these measures. More recently there has been a degree of recovery against this indicator.

Productivity increased in 2020, according to the latest available figures, but this represents a short-term compositional effect arising out of the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on low productivity sectors within the economy. The relative position of West Yorkshire on productivity remains unchanged due to structural factors in the local economy, reflecting the wider position across much of the country outside the south and east of England.

The most prosperous areas of the country have a strong business base. West Yorkshire has fewer private sector businesses per head of population than the national average, but its business base has grown slightly faster than the national average in recent years (2015-2021), driven by expansion in sectors like transport and storage and accommodation and food services.

The region's underperformance on productivity can be traced to a number of underlying factors. The proportion of local businesses engaged in innovative activities has fallen slightly over time, whilst the value of exports forms a relatively small part of West Yorkshire's economy.

Trade, in particular, has been hard hit by the pandemic with the region's exports of both goods and services sharply down in 2020. The region's continuing skills deficit (considered below) is a further contributing factor.

A key objective of levelling-up is to reduce disparities in household income. Gross disposable household income in West Yorkshire is 79% of the national average and the gap is steadily widening over time. This demonstrates the need to increase productivity in the region.

More positively, West Yorkshire is making progress on low pay. The proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage in West Yorkshire fell between 2020 and 2021 and is close to the national average. This partly reflects changes to the government's National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage.

However, when hours worked and contractual status are taken into account, as well as pay, the quality of work available is below the national average across much of West Yorkshire.

Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all

West Yorkshire's workforce is becoming more diverse. The employment rate gaps for people from ethnic minorities and for disabled people are narrowing over time, although the ethnic minority employment rate gap remains wider than nationally.

West Yorkshire's workforce is also becoming more skilled. The share of people in the working age population who are highly qualified is on an upward trend, although progress was very modest in 2021 and a substantial gap remains with the national average. Performance against this indicator is highly variable at local authority level, with Wakefield lagging well below the West Yorkshire average.

Conversely, there is an underlying downward trend in the proportion of people who have no qualifications or are limited to low level qualifications, although there was again little progress in 2021 against this measure and there is a continuing gap with the national average.

Apprenticeships are a relatively strong element of education and training in West Yorkshire, with a high ratio of apprenticeship starts to employment. However, figures for the latest full academic year of 2020/21 show that starts are almost a quarter below pre-pandemic levels. There are also issues around equality and diversity. For example, although females account for a majority of apprentices, they are narrowly concentrated in particular subject areas, most notably health, public services and care.

Digital skills a key requirement for employment and are increasingly necessary for individuals to operate effectively within society. The latest figures show that a quarter of adults in Yorkshire and the Humber lack essential digital skills for life but two-fifths of people in employment do not have essential digital skills for work.

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) face an increased likelihood of unemployment, low wages, or low-quality work later on in life. The proportion of young people who are NEET in West Yorkshire fell between 2020/21 and 2021/22 but remains slightly above the national average, at just over 1-in-20 of the cohort, with significant variations at local authority level.

Empowering our communities, towns and cities to thrive

Healthy life expectancy (an important measure of socio-economic as well as health inequality) in West Yorkshire is below the national average for both males and females. According to the latest data healthy life expectancy for males fell during the 2018-20 period as a result of the pandemic. There is also inequality of overall life expectancy within West Yorkshire, between the most deprived and least deprived areas.

The pandemic had a substantial effect on housing in West Yorkshire, with continuing ramifications for housing supply, affordability and rental prices.

The number of net additional dwellings fell substantially in West Yorkshire during the pandemic. According to the latest data for 2020/21 housing supply is a third lower than in 2018/19.

Housing affordability worsened in 2021 as prices grew more quickly than earnings. The impact on West Yorkshire was less marked than nationally and housing remains relatively affordable locally, although the affordability ratio takes no account of the quality of housing stock. There are signs that the housing market is now cooling.

Rented housing costs in West Yorkshire are lower than nationally, except in Leeds. However, more timely national data point to a sharp increase in these costs during 2022.

The latest available data for 2020 show that round 176,000 households in West Yorkshire (18% of all households) are in fuel poverty, a prevalence that is above the national average (13%). This shows that West Yorkshire is poorly positioned to cope with the current energy

price crisis. There is clear evidence that the proportion of households in fuel poverty is growing rapidly.

Around 80% of West Yorkshire premises are covered by gigabit-capable internet connections, well ahead of the national average.

Almost 9-out-of-10 premises have mobile 4G coverage, which is again above the national average.

Championing culture, sport and creativity

Employment in the culture, sport and creative sector in West Yorkshire is a substantial part of the West Yorkshire economy, accounting for 15% of all employment. It is smaller than nationally in proportionate terms, although it is well represented in Leeds. Culture, sport and creative activities were exposed to the coronavirus restrictions, resulting in a fall in employment in 2020.

Additional indicators are currently being consulted on as part of the Culture, Heritage and Sport Framework and will be incorporated into future iterations of State of the Region.

Building a sustainable, nature-rich and carbon neutral region

West Yorkshire has declared a climate emergency and is committed to becoming a net zero carbon economy by 2038 and to making significant progress against this challenge by 2030.

The latest data indicate that greenhouse gas end-user **emissions** in West Yorkshire stand at around 10.6 Mt CO₂ equivalent. This equates to 4.5 tonnes per capita, below the national average of 5.1 tonnes.

The pandemic resulted in a sharp fall in emissions in 2020 (the latest data available). There was a reduction of 12% in West Yorkshire and a 10% fall nationally. To put this into context the annual average fall in the previous decade in West Yorkshire was only 3%.

The main contributor to the fall in West Yorkshire's emissions in 2020 was a substantial reduction in transport emissions – this sector accounted for 54% of the total decrease in emissions with a year-on-year decline of 17%. This was primarily due to a fall in road transport. The industry, commercial and public sectors also saw double-digit falls, whilst the domestic sector fell by only 4%.

Such were the unique circumstances that prevailed in 2020 when emissions fell that it is possible that emissions will see a net increase in the data for 2021 when it is published.

Greenhouse gas **emissions intensity** measures the level of emissions per unit of gross value added (GVA) and can be used to examine the relationship between economic growth and emissions. The emissions intensity of the West Yorkshire economy, in terms of CO₂ emissions (kt) per £m of GVA, is slightly above the national average and is higher than most of the comparator areas. The region's emissions intensity continues to fall, however, with a bigger decrease in 2020 than that seen nationally.

Improving the **energy efficiency** of properties is an important lever for reducing emissions but is also crucial for helping households to manage their energy costs. West Yorkshire underperforms in terms of the proportion of its dwellings with an energy efficiency rating of C or above on their Energy Performance Certificate (ratings run from A to G with A being the most energy efficient, G being the least efficient). Thirty-four per cent of dwellings in West Yorkshire meet the threshold compared with a national average of 40%.

Providing local people with access to nature is vital to health and quality of life. Currently, a two-fifths of West Yorkshire's population have easy access to local **natural greenspace**.

Flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence as a result of climate change. Around 4% of residential properties in West Yorkshire fall within a flood zone, rising to more than 6% in Calderdale. A significant proportion of neighbourhoods in Bradford and Calderdale are acutely vulnerable to the effects of flooding.

Creating an accessible, clean and customer-focused transport system

A key purpose of an effective transport system is to connect people from all communities to employment opportunities. The pandemic has presented a major challenge to this aim. West Yorkshire's access inequality ratio worsened substantially during 2020, as the number of jobs accessible by the bus network from deprived neighbourhoods fell relative to those accessible by private car. This is attributable to a reduction in services as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, when only essential travel was supported; but it also illustrates the barriers to travel faced by certain groups.

West Yorkshire has an ambition to reduce **reliance on private car journeys** and substantially grow the number of trips made using sustainable transport. Almost two-thirds of trips in West Yorkshire are made by car. The bus plays a vital role for those who lack access to a car, but its share of trips is also falling over time, a trend intensified by the pandemic; although bus plays a more important part in the transport mix in West Yorkshire than nationally.

The transport system must play its part in creating clean, safe, healthy places for communities and businesses. Ensuring the safety of all users of our streets and highway network is essential to this as well as enabling people to feel confident to walk or cycle more. The number of killed or seriously injured casualties arising from traffic accidents is on a downward trend in West Yorkshire and this trend was reinforced by the reduction in road traffic associated with the pandemic, as casualties fell by more than a fifth between 2019 and 2020.

Better planning and management of West Yorkshire's transport networks is essential and smart ticketing products like Metro's **MCard** contribute to this. Following a sharp reduction during the pandemic there was a modest recovery in trips made using the MCard in 2021, with a total of 10m trips recorded. The pandemic seems to have accelerated a shift to digital channels for the purchase of MCard trips, as 70% of travel tickets were bought through the MCard mobile app rather than traditional outlets during 2021.

Satisfaction with transport infrastructure, is a key measure of performance and of public perceptions. Satisfaction with highway infrastructure remains relatively low, at 5.8 (out of 10), the same score as in 2020/21. However, satisfaction with the provision of cycling routes and facilities as well as with most elements of road surface and pavement maintenance has worsened.

Satisfaction with local public transport in West Yorkshire is high, when compared with other aspects of the transport system. However, the average satisfaction rating for public transport fell in 2021/22 when compared with the previous year, although it remains higher than in 2019/20.

It is uncertain what patterns of travel will emerge over time following the pandemic, particularly around the potential for a sustained shift to home working. Usage of public transport, including bus and rail, remains below pre-crisis levels with no certainty that it will

recover. There is an opportunity to consolidate the changes in travel choices seen under lockdown and support a shift away from carbon-intensive travel to sustainable modes as the economy recovers and grows, to meet the challenge of becoming a net-zero carbon city region by 2038.

Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing

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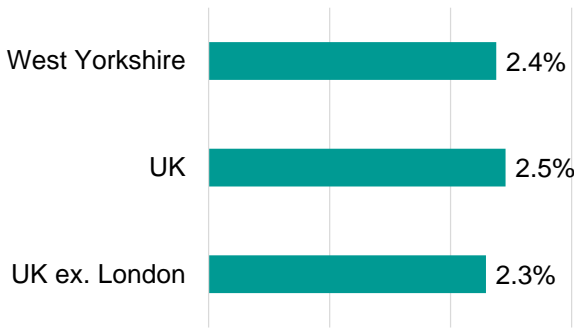
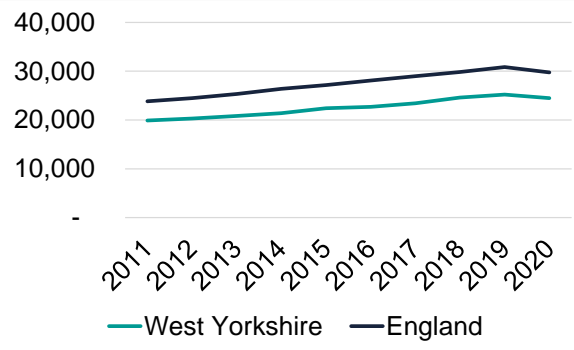
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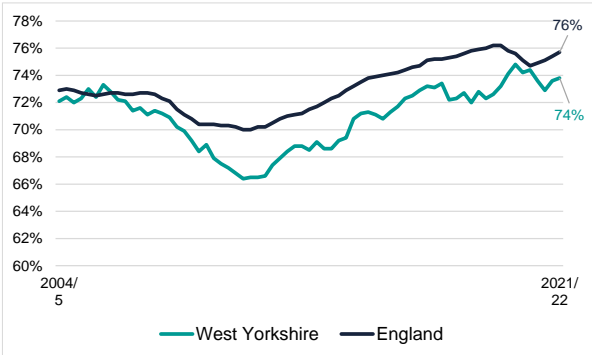
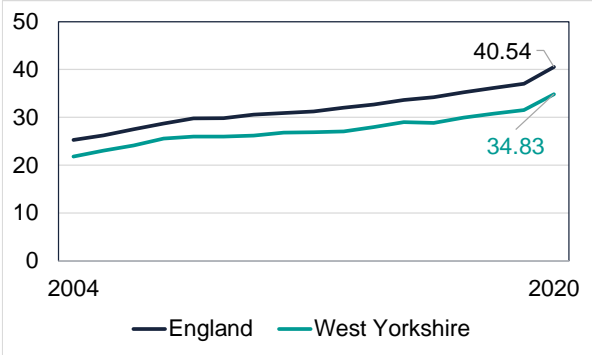
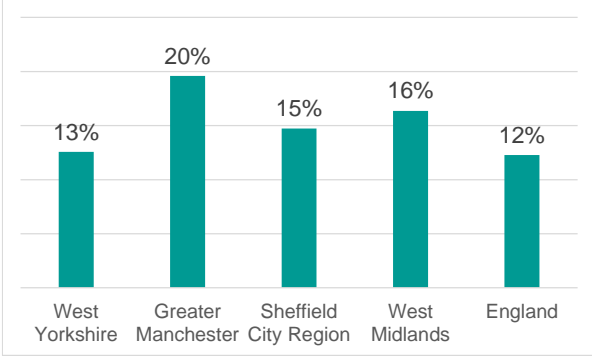
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West Yorkshire Police's call handling performance (time taken to answer 999 calls to the police) has been consistently high since monitoring was introduced last year.

Summary of performance against the indicators

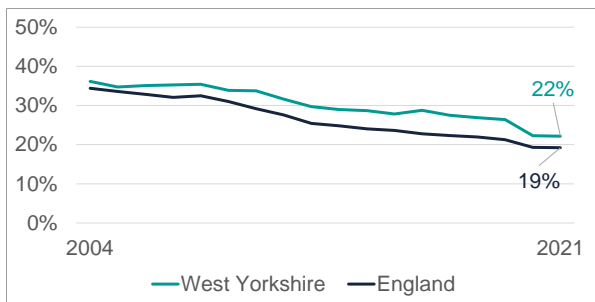

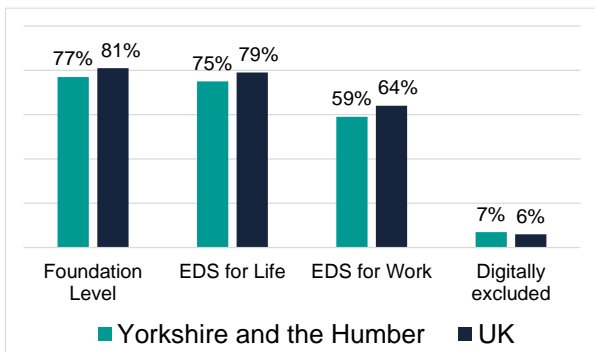
Indicator	Headline chart	Comment																																	
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<p>Economic output (GVA)</p> <p><i>GVA (balanced) at current basic prices - annual growth rate (%), 2015-20</i></p> <p>Source: ONS, Sub-regional GVA data</p>	 <table><thead><tr><th>Region</th><th>Annual growth rate (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>West Yorkshire</td><td>2.4%</td></tr><tr><td>UK</td><td>2.5%</td></tr><tr><td>UK ex. London</td><td>2.3%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Region	Annual growth rate (%)	West Yorkshire	2.4%	UK	2.5%	UK ex. London	2.3%	<p>Between 2015 and 2020 West Yorkshire’s economy grew at a rate slightly below the UK average but above the UK average excluding London. Average growth rates across the UK were tempered by a sharp fall in 2020 linked to the pandemic.</p>																									
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<p>Economic output (GVA) per head</p> <p><i>GVA per head (balanced) at current basic prices</i></p> <p>Source: ONS, Sub-regional GVA data</p>	 <table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>West Yorkshire</th><th>England</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2011</td><td>20,000</td><td>24,000</td></tr><tr><td>2012</td><td>20,500</td><td>25,000</td></tr><tr><td>2013</td><td>21,000</td><td>26,000</td></tr><tr><td>2014</td><td>21,500</td><td>27,000</td></tr><tr><td>2015</td><td>22,000</td><td>28,000</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>22,500</td><td>29,000</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>23,000</td><td>30,000</td></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>24,000</td><td>31,000</td></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>25,000</td><td>32,000</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>24,000</td><td>30,000</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	West Yorkshire	England	2011	20,000	24,000	2012	20,500	25,000	2013	21,000	26,000	2014	21,500	27,000	2015	22,000	28,000	2016	22,500	29,000	2017	23,000	30,000	2018	24,000	31,000	2019	25,000	32,000	2020	24,000	30,000	<p>Output per head of population fell both locally and nationally in 2020 (the latest data available) as a result of the pandemic. The latest West Yorkshire figure is 18% lower than the national average, a gap that has remained fairly constant since 2013.</p>
Year	West Yorkshire	England																																	
2011	20,000	24,000																																	
2012	20,500	25,000																																	
2013	21,000	26,000																																	
2014	21,500	27,000																																	
2015	22,000	28,000																																	
2016	22,500	29,000																																	
2017	23,000	30,000																																	
2018	24,000	31,000																																	
2019	25,000	32,000																																	
2020	24,000	30,000																																	

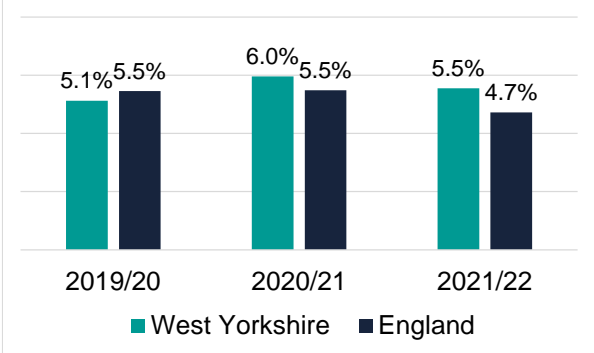
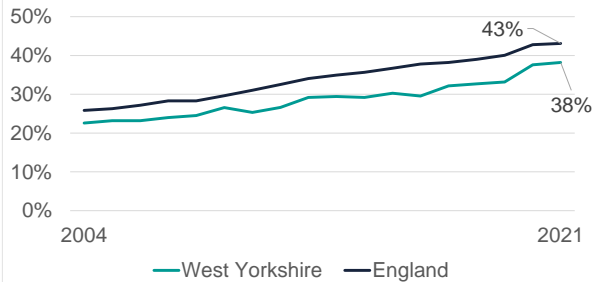
Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Employment rate <i>Employment rate for all aged 16-64</i> Source: ONS APS (July to June periods)		West Yorkshire's employment rate fell during the pandemic, widening the gap with the national average but has seen a degree of recovery more recently.
Productivity <i>Current price unsmoothed GVA per hour worked</i> Source: ONS, Sub-regional productivity data		Productivity increased sharply for both West Yorkshire and nationally during 2020, as low productivity sectors were hardest hit by restrictions. However, the relative position of West Yorkshire on productivity has not improved in recent years.
Private sector businesses <i>% change in count of private sector businesses, 2015-21</i> Source: ONS, Business activity, size and location, 2021		The number of private sector businesses in West Yorkshire is growing at a slightly faster rate than the national average but slower than comparator areas. The level of business density is relatively low in West Yorkshire.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment														
Innovation <i>Proportion of West Yorkshire businesses engaged in innovation activities</i> Source: Leeds City Region Business Survey (NB: data not collected in 2018 and 2021)	<table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Proportion (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2017</td><td>71%</td></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>(not collected)</td></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>67%</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>69%</td></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>(not collected)</td></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>64%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Proportion (%)	2017	71%	2018	(not collected)	2019	67%	2020	69%	2021	(not collected)	2022	64%	The proportion of businesses engaging in innovation activity fell in 2022 compared with previous years. This is probably linked to the pandemic, but other evidence suggests a long-standing West Yorkshire deficit in innovation activity.
Year	Proportion (%)															
2017	71%															
2018	(not collected)															
2019	67%															
2020	69%															
2021	(not collected)															
2022	64%															
International trade <i>Service exports per £m of GVA</i> Source: ONS, International exports of services from subnational areas of the UK (NB: Goods exports covered in main report)	<table><thead><tr><th>Area</th><th>2019 (£m)</th><th>2020 (£m)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>West Yorkshire</td><td>~115,000</td><td>~100,000</td></tr><tr><td>UK</td><td>~155,000</td><td>~150,000</td></tr></tbody></table>	Area	2019 (£m)	2020 (£m)	West Yorkshire	~115,000	~100,000	UK	~155,000	~150,000	Exports of goods and services fell sharply in 2020 due to the pandemic. Service exports have overtaken exports of goods in their importance to the West Yorkshire economy.					
Area	2019 (£m)	2020 (£m)														
West Yorkshire	~115,000	~100,000														
UK	~155,000	~150,000														

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment																		
Gross disposable household income (GDHI) <i>Gross disposable household income per head (£) at current basic prices</i> Source: Regional Accounts, ONS	<table><thead><tr><th>Region</th><th>2009</th><th>2019</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>West Yorkshire</td><td>13,700</td><td>17,347</td></tr><tr><td>England</td><td>16,636</td><td>21,978</td></tr></tbody></table>	Region	2009	2019	West Yorkshire	13,700	17,347	England	16,636	21,978	West Yorkshire's gap with the national average on household income continued to widen according to the latest data, growing by 2.0% in West Yorkshire between 2018 to 2019 but by 2.5% at national level. Since the publication of the most recent GDHI data, rising inflation driven by increasing energy costs, has impacted on real household incomes.									
Region	2009	2019																		
West Yorkshire	13,700	17,347																		
England	16,636	21,978																		
Jobs paying below Real Living Wage <i>% of jobs paying below Real Living Wage by gender and status</i> Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2021	<table><thead><tr><th>Category</th><th>West Yorkshire</th><th>England</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Male</td><td>14%</td><td>14%</td></tr><tr><td>Female</td><td>21%</td><td>21%</td></tr><tr><td>Full-time</td><td>12%</td><td>11%</td></tr><tr><td>Part-time</td><td>32%</td><td>34%</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>18%</td><td>17%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Category	West Yorkshire	England	Male	14%	14%	Female	21%	21%	Full-time	12%	11%	Part-time	32%	34%	Total	18%	17%	The proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage has fallen in West Yorkshire and is now on a par with the national average. Women and part-time workers are more likely to be paid below the Real Living Wage.
Category	West Yorkshire	England																		
Male	14%	14%																		
Female	21%	21%																		
Full-time	12%	11%																		
Part-time	32%	34%																		
Total	18%	17%																		
Quality work <i>Proportion of residents who are employees in quality work</i> Source: Job quality in the UK, ONS, 2018	<table><thead><tr><th>Local Authority</th><th>Proportion (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Bradford</td><td>66%</td></tr><tr><td>Calderdale</td><td>68%</td></tr><tr><td>Kirklees</td><td>69%</td></tr><tr><td>Leeds</td><td>77%</td></tr><tr><td>Wakefield</td><td>66%</td></tr><tr><td>England</td><td>72%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Local Authority	Proportion (%)	Bradford	66%	Calderdale	68%	Kirklees	69%	Leeds	77%	Wakefield	66%	England	72%	All local authorities in West Yorkshire except Leeds have a relatively low proportion of people in jobs that offer quality work, based on a composite measure that takes into account pay, working hours and contractual status.				
Local Authority	Proportion (%)																			
Bradford	66%																			
Calderdale	68%																			
Kirklees	69%																			
Leeds	77%																			
Wakefield	66%																			
England	72%																			

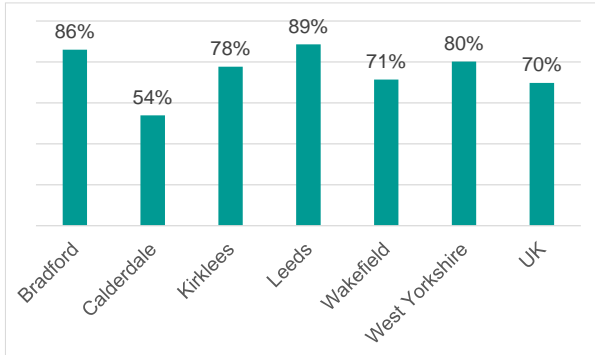
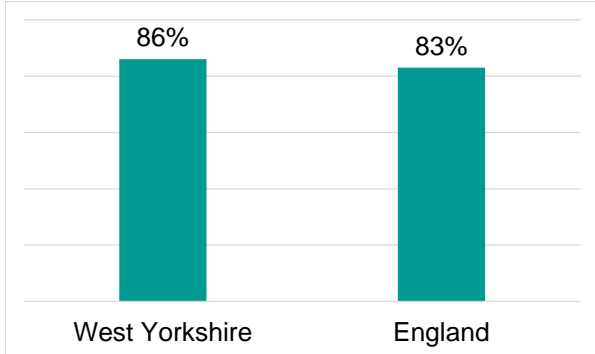
Indicator	Headline chart	Comment																		
Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all																				
Employment rate gap for disadvantaged groups <i>Employment rate for all aged 16-64, West Yorkshire</i> Source: ONS APS	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Group</th> <th>Employment Rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Gender</td> <td>Female</td> <td>69%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>78%</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Ethnicity</td> <td>Ethnic minority</td> <td>59%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>76%</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Disability</td> <td>Disabled</td> <td>54%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not disabled</td> <td>79%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Group	Employment Rate	Gender	Female	69%	Male	78%	Ethnicity	Ethnic minority	59%	White	76%	Disability	Disabled	54%	Not disabled	79%	Members of some groups are much less likely to be in employment. There are signs that the employment rate gap is narrowing for disabled people and people from ethnic minorities.
Category	Group	Employment Rate																		
Gender	Female	69%																		
	Male	78%																		
Ethnicity	Ethnic minority	59%																		
	White	76%																		
Disability	Disabled	54%																		
	Not disabled	79%																		
Unemployment rate <i>Unemployment rate for all aged 16+</i> Source: ONS APS model-based estimates of unemployment	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>West Yorkshire</th> <th>England</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>~5.5%</td> <td>~5.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>~9.5%</td> <td>~8.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>~5.5%</td> <td>~5.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>4.9%</td> <td>4.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	West Yorkshire	England	2006	~5.5%	~5.5%	2010	~9.5%	~8.0%	2015	~5.5%	~5.0%	2021	4.9%	4.5%	West Yorkshire's official unemployment rate is similar to the national average. The impact of the pandemic on this measure was modest.			
Year	West Yorkshire	England																		
2006	~5.5%	~5.5%																		
2010	~9.5%	~8.0%																		
2015	~5.5%	~5.0%																		
2021	4.9%	4.5%																		

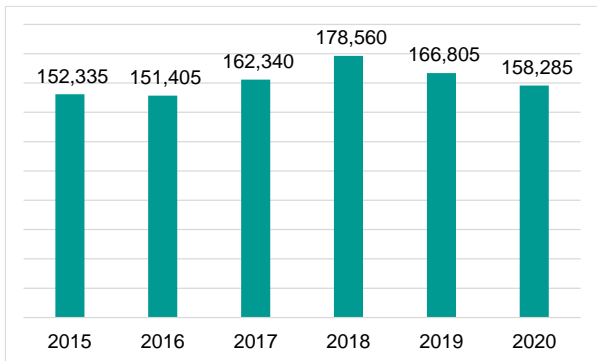
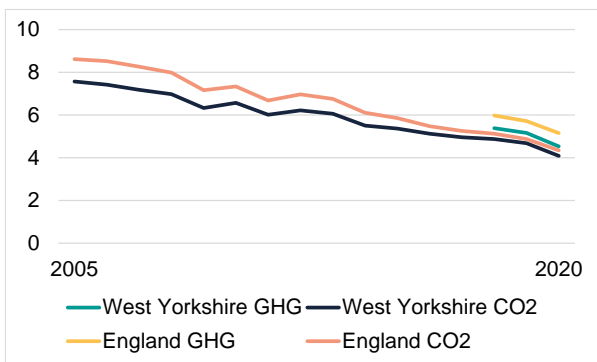
Indicator	Headline chart	Comment																
<p>People with no / low qualifications</p> <p><i>% of people aged 16-64 qualified below level 2 or with no qualifications</i></p> <p>Source: ONS APS</p>	 <table><caption>Percentage of people aged 16-64 with no or low qualifications</caption><tr><th>Year</th><th>West Yorkshire</th><th>England</th></tr><tr><td>2004</td><td>~35%</td><td>~34%</td></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>22%</td><td>19%</td></tr></table>	Year	West Yorkshire	England	2004	~35%	~34%	2021	22%	19%	<p>The proportion of people with no / low qualifications was largely unchanged in 2021, following a sharp fall in 2020 that narrowed the gap with the national average.</p>							
Year	West Yorkshire	England																
2004	~35%	~34%																
2021	22%	19%																
<p>Apprenticeships</p> <p><i>Ratio of apprenticeship starts to people in employment, 2020/21 academic year</i></p> <p>Source: Department for Education, ONS APS</p>	 <table><caption>Ratio of apprenticeship starts to people in employment, 2020/21 academic year</caption><tr><th>Region</th><th>Ratio</th></tr><tr><td>Bradford</td><td>13.8</td></tr><tr><td>Calderdale</td><td>14.3</td></tr><tr><td>Kirklees</td><td>13.5</td></tr><tr><td>Leeds</td><td>13.3</td></tr><tr><td>Wakefield</td><td>14.6</td></tr><tr><td>West Yorkshire</td><td>13.7</td></tr><tr><td>England</td><td>12.3</td></tr></table>	Region	Ratio	Bradford	13.8	Calderdale	14.3	Kirklees	13.5	Leeds	13.3	Wakefield	14.6	West Yorkshire	13.7	England	12.3	<p>West Yorkshire has more apprenticeships relative to its employment base than the national average but the number of starts in 2020/21 academic year was nearly a quarter down on pre-pandemic levels.</p>
Region	Ratio																	
Bradford	13.8																	
Calderdale	14.3																	
Kirklees	13.5																	
Leeds	13.3																	
Wakefield	14.6																	
West Yorkshire	13.7																	
England	12.3																	
<p>People without basic digital skills</p> <p><i>Essential digital skills (EDS) – key indicators</i></p> <p>Source: Lloyds Bank, UK Consumer Digital Index, 2021</p>	 <table><caption>Essential digital skills (EDS) – key indicators</caption><tr><th>Indicator</th><th>Yorkshire and the Humber</th><th>UK</th></tr><tr><td>Foundation Level</td><td>77%</td><td>81%</td></tr><tr><td>EDS for Life</td><td>75%</td><td>79%</td></tr><tr><td>EDS for Work</td><td>59%</td><td>64%</td></tr><tr><td>Digitally excluded</td><td>7%</td><td>6%</td></tr></table>	Indicator	Yorkshire and the Humber	UK	Foundation Level	77%	81%	EDS for Life	75%	79%	EDS for Work	59%	64%	Digitally excluded	7%	6%	<p>Although most people have essential digital skills for life, nearly a quarter of adults do not. More than two-fifths of people lack the full range of essential digital skills for work.</p>	
Indicator	Yorkshire and the Humber	UK																
Foundation Level	77%	81%																
EDS for Life	75%	79%																
EDS for Work	59%	64%																
Digitally excluded	7%	6%																

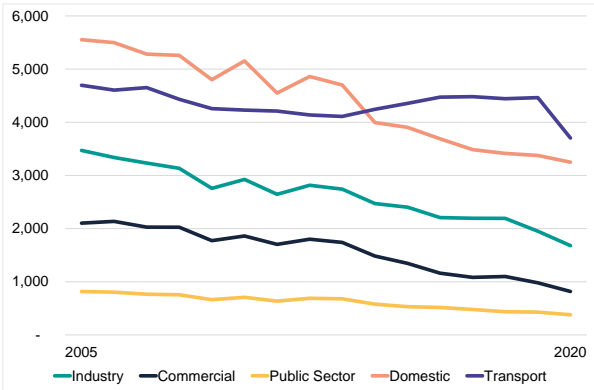
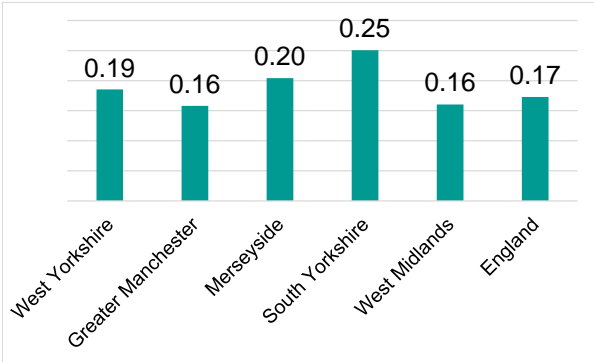
Indicator	Headline chart	Comment												
<p>NEETs</p> <p><i>Number and proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known</i></p> <p>Source: NEET and participation local authority figures, Department for Education, 2022</p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>West Yorkshire</th> <th>England</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>5.1%</td> <td>5.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>6.0%</td> <td>5.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>5.5%</td> <td>4.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	West Yorkshire	England	2019/20	5.1%	5.5%	2020/21	6.0%	5.5%	2021/22	5.5%	4.7%	<p>The proportion of young people who are NEET fell in the last year in West Yorkshire but remains above the national average.</p>
Period	West Yorkshire	England												
2019/20	5.1%	5.5%												
2020/21	6.0%	5.5%												
2021/22	5.5%	4.7%												
<p>People qualified at Level 4 and above</p> <p><i>% of people aged 16-64 whose highest qualification is at Level 4 or above</i></p> <p>Source: ONS APS</p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>West Yorkshire</th> <th>England</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>~23%</td> <td>~26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>38%</td> <td>43%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	West Yorkshire	England	2004	~23%	~26%	2021	38%	43%	<p>The proportion of people qualified at this level remained largely unchanged in 2021 but the underlying trend is an improving one. A significant gap with the national average remains.</p>			
Year	West Yorkshire	England												
2004	~23%	~26%												
2021	38%	43%												

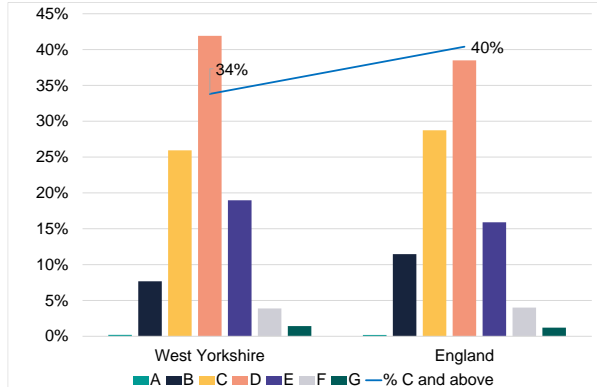
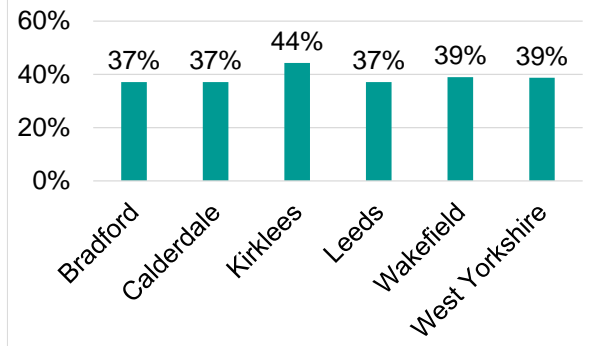
Indicator	Headline chart	Comment																																	
Empowering our communities, towns and cities to thrive																																			
<div>Healthy Life expectancy</div> <div>Healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth - estimates in years</div> <div>Source: Health state life expectancy, ONS</div>	<div><table><thead><tr><th>Region</th><th>Gender</th><th>2016-18</th><th>2017-19</th><th>2018-20</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td rowspan="2">West Yorkshire</td><td>Female</td><td>61.5</td><td>62.0</td><td>62.0</td></tr><tr><td>Male</td><td>60.8</td><td>60.8</td><td>60.8</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">England</td><td>Female</td><td>63.8</td><td>63.5</td><td>63.8</td></tr><tr><td>Male</td><td>63.2</td><td>63.0</td><td>63.0</td></tr></tbody></table></div>	Region	Gender	2016-18	2017-19	2018-20	West Yorkshire	Female	61.5	62.0	62.0	Male	60.8	60.8	60.8	England	Female	63.8	63.5	63.8	Male	63.2	63.0	63.0	Healthy life expectancy in West Yorkshire is below the national average for both males and females.										
Region	Gender	2016-18	2017-19	2018-20																															
West Yorkshire	Female	61.5	62.0	62.0																															
	Male	60.8	60.8	60.8																															
England	Female	63.8	63.5	63.8																															
	Male	63.2	63.0	63.0																															
<div>Net additional dwellings</div> <div>Net additional dwellings per 1,000 population</div> <div>Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities</div>	<div><table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>West Yorkshire</th><th>England</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2011-12</td><td>2.2</td><td>2.5</td></tr><tr><td>2012-13</td><td>1.8</td><td>2.2</td></tr><tr><td>2013-14</td><td>2.2</td><td>2.5</td></tr><tr><td>2014-15</td><td>2.5</td><td>3.2</td></tr><tr><td>2015-16</td><td>2.8</td><td>3.5</td></tr><tr><td>2016-17</td><td>3.2</td><td>3.8</td></tr><tr><td>2017-18</td><td>3.2</td><td>3.8</td></tr><tr><td>2018-19</td><td>4.0</td><td>4.2</td></tr><tr><td>2019-20</td><td>4.0</td><td>4.2</td></tr><tr><td>2020-21</td><td>2.5</td><td>3.8</td></tr></tbody></table></div>	Year	West Yorkshire	England	2011-12	2.2	2.5	2012-13	1.8	2.2	2013-14	2.2	2.5	2014-15	2.5	3.2	2015-16	2.8	3.5	2016-17	3.2	3.8	2017-18	3.2	3.8	2018-19	4.0	4.2	2019-20	4.0	4.2	2020-21	2.5	3.8	West Yorkshire has seen two successive years of decline in net additional dwellings linked to the pandemic.
Year	West Yorkshire	England																																	
2011-12	2.2	2.5																																	
2012-13	1.8	2.2																																	
2013-14	2.2	2.5																																	
2014-15	2.5	3.2																																	
2015-16	2.8	3.5																																	
2016-17	3.2	3.8																																	
2017-18	3.2	3.8																																	
2018-19	4.0	4.2																																	
2019-20	4.0	4.2																																	
2020-21	2.5	3.8																																	

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment																
<p>Housing affordability</p> <p><i>Affordability of House Prices – ratio of median house price to median annual wage (residence-based) at local authority level in 2021</i></p> <p>Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2021, ONS, 2022</p>	<table><thead><tr><th>Local Authority</th><th>Ratio</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Bradford</td><td>5.42</td></tr><tr><td>Calderdale</td><td>5.81</td></tr><tr><td>Kirklees</td><td>6.26</td></tr><tr><td>Leeds</td><td>7.06</td></tr><tr><td>Wakefield</td><td>6.01</td></tr><tr><td>England</td><td>9.05</td></tr></tbody></table>	Local Authority	Ratio	Bradford	5.42	Calderdale	5.81	Kirklees	6.26	Leeds	7.06	Wakefield	6.01	England	9.05	<p>Housing in West Yorkshire is relatively affordable in comparison with the national average, but affordability worsened in 2021 as prices grew much more quickly than earnings</p>		
Local Authority	Ratio																	
Bradford	5.42																	
Calderdale	5.81																	
Kirklees	6.26																	
Leeds	7.06																	
Wakefield	6.01																	
England	9.05																	
<p>Rented housing costs</p> <p><i>Median monthly rental prices for private sector two-bedroom properties, 2021/22</i></p> <p>Private rental market summary statistics in England, ONS, 2022</p>	<table><thead><tr><th>Local Authority</th><th>Price (£)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Bradford</td><td>550</td></tr><tr><td>Calderdale</td><td>525</td></tr><tr><td>Kirklees</td><td>525</td></tr><tr><td>Leeds</td><td>775</td></tr><tr><td>Wakefield</td><td>575</td></tr><tr><td>West Yorkshire</td><td>600</td></tr><tr><td>England</td><td>769</td></tr></tbody></table>	Local Authority	Price (£)	Bradford	550	Calderdale	525	Kirklees	525	Leeds	775	Wakefield	575	West Yorkshire	600	England	769	<p>Median private rents are below the national average in all local authorities except Leeds. National evidence shows that rental prices have increased markedly during 2022.</p>
Local Authority	Price (£)																	
Bradford	550																	
Calderdale	525																	
Kirklees	525																	
Leeds	775																	
Wakefield	575																	
West Yorkshire	600																	
England	769																	
<p>Fuel poverty</p> <p><i>Proportion of households in fuel poverty, 2020</i></p> <p>Source: Fuel poverty detailed tables, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022</p>	<table><thead><tr><th>Local Authority</th><th>Proportion (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Bradford</td><td>18%</td></tr><tr><td>Calderdale</td><td>17%</td></tr><tr><td>Kirklees</td><td>17%</td></tr><tr><td>Leeds</td><td>18%</td></tr><tr><td>Wakefield</td><td>17%</td></tr><tr><td>West Yorkshire</td><td>18%</td></tr><tr><td>England</td><td>13%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Local Authority	Proportion (%)	Bradford	18%	Calderdale	17%	Kirklees	17%	Leeds	18%	Wakefield	17%	West Yorkshire	18%	England	13%	<p>Around 176,000 households in West Yorkshire (18% of all households) are in fuel poverty - above the national average (13%). This shows that West Yorkshire is relatively poorly positioned to cope with the current energy price crisis. Forecasts suggest that around 30% of households could be in fuel poverty this winter despite the government’s price freeze plan.</p>
Local Authority	Proportion (%)																	
Bradford	18%																	
Calderdale	17%																	
Kirklees	17%																	
Leeds	18%																	
Wakefield	17%																	
West Yorkshire	18%																	
England	13%																	

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment																
<p>Gigabit-capable internet coverage</p> <p><i>% of properties with gigabit-capable internet coverage</i></p> <p>Source: ThinkBroadband</p>	 <table><tr><th>Region</th><th>Coverage (%)</th></tr><tr><td>Bradford</td><td>86%</td></tr><tr><td>Calderdale</td><td>54%</td></tr><tr><td>Kirklees</td><td>78%</td></tr><tr><td>Leeds</td><td>89%</td></tr><tr><td>Wakefield</td><td>71%</td></tr><tr><td>West Yorkshire</td><td>80%</td></tr><tr><td>UK</td><td>70%</td></tr></table>	Region	Coverage (%)	Bradford	86%	Calderdale	54%	Kirklees	78%	Leeds	89%	Wakefield	71%	West Yorkshire	80%	UK	70%	<p>80% of properties in West Yorkshire have gigabit-capable internet coverage, 10 percentage points higher than the national average. This includes 47% of properties that have full-fibre coverage.</p>
Region	Coverage (%)																	
Bradford	86%																	
Calderdale	54%																	
Kirklees	78%																	
Leeds	89%																	
Wakefield	71%																	
West Yorkshire	80%																	
UK	70%																	
<p>Mobile coverage</p> <p><i>4G premises (indoor) coverage from all providers, January 2022</i></p> <p>Source: Ofcom Connected Nations Spring Report 2022</p>	 <table><tr><th>Region</th><th>Coverage (%)</th></tr><tr><td>West Yorkshire</td><td>86%</td></tr><tr><td>England</td><td>83%</td></tr></table>	Region	Coverage (%)	West Yorkshire	86%	England	83%	<p>4G coverage is growing in West Yorkshire and exceeds the national average.</p>										
Region	Coverage (%)																	
West Yorkshire	86%																	
England	83%																	

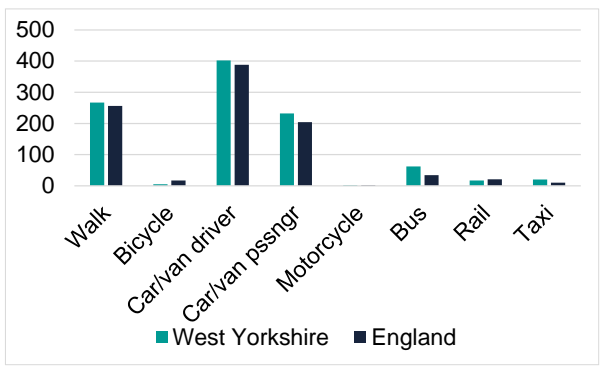
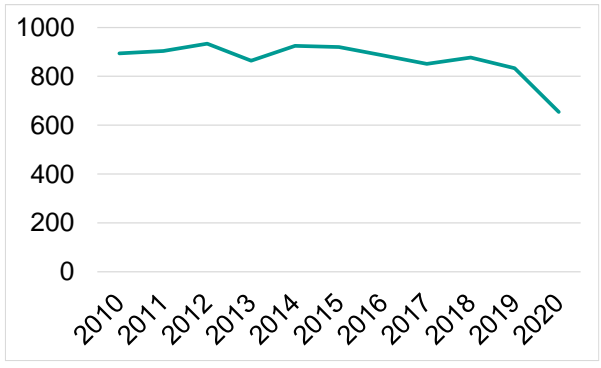
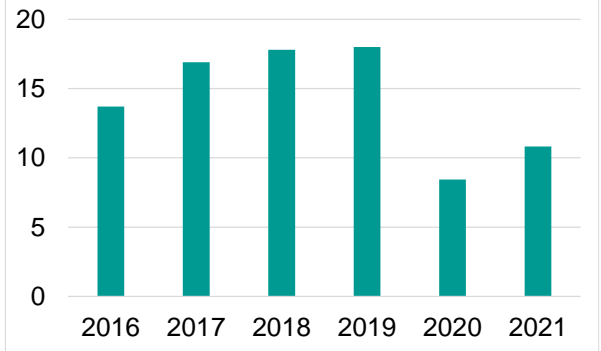
Indicator	Headline chart	Comment															
Championing culture, sport and creativity																	
<p>Employment in cultural, sport and creative activities</p> <p><i>Trend in employment in cultural, sport and creative activities, West Yorkshire</i></p> <p>Source: Business Register and Employment Survey</p>	 <table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Employment</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2015</td><td>152,335</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>151,405</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>162,340</td></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>178,560</td></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>166,805</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>158,285</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Employment	2015	152,335	2016	151,405	2017	162,340	2018	178,560	2019	166,805	2020	158,285	<p>Cultural, sport and creative activities represent a substantial part of the West Yorkshire economy but employment in this area fell over the two consecutive years of 2019 and 2020. This was at least partly due to the pandemic.</p>	
Year	Employment																
2015	152,335																
2016	151,405																
2017	162,340																
2018	178,560																
2019	166,805																
2020	158,285																
Building a sustainable, nature-rich and carbon neutral region																	
<p>Greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p><i>Per capita greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions (tonnes CO2 equivalent per head)</i></p> <p>Source: UK local authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2020, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022</p>	 <table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>West Yorkshire GHG</th><th>West Yorkshire CO2</th><th>England GHG</th><th>England CO2</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2005</td><td>~7.5</td><td>~7.5</td><td>~8.5</td><td>~8.5</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>~4.5</td><td>~4.5</td><td>~5.5</td><td>~5.5</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	West Yorkshire GHG	West Yorkshire CO2	England GHG	England CO2	2005	~7.5	~7.5	~8.5	~8.5	2020	~4.5	~4.5	~5.5	~5.5	<p>Per capita emissions of carbon dioxide and of wider greenhouse gases in West Yorkshire are below the national average and are on a downward trend, which was accelerated by the pandemic in 2020. Sustained reductions are needed to achieve net zero by 2038.</p>
Year	West Yorkshire GHG	West Yorkshire CO2	England GHG	England CO2													
2005	~7.5	~7.5	~8.5	~8.5													
2020	~4.5	~4.5	~5.5	~5.5													

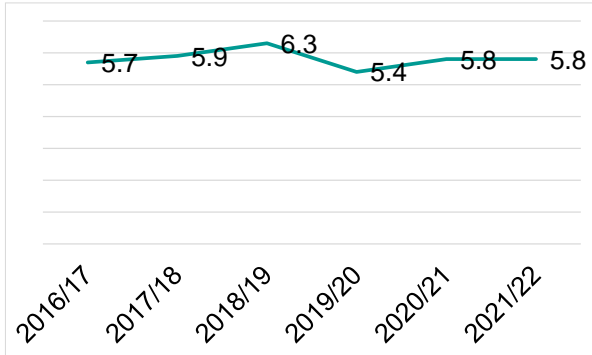
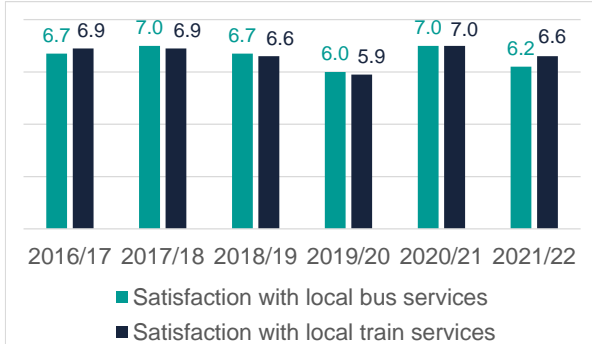
Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
<p>Greenhouse gas emissions by sector</p> <p><i>Greenhouse gas emissions (ktCO₂ equivalent) by selected sector for West Yorkshire</i></p> <p>Source: UK local authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2020, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022</p>	 <p>The chart displays five data series representing different sectors: Industry, Commercial, Public Sector, Domestic, and Transport. The Y-axis ranges from 0 to 6,000 ktCO₂ equivalent. The X-axis shows the years from 2005 to 2020. The Domestic sector (orange) consistently has the highest emissions, starting around 5,500 in 2005 and ending around 3,300 in 2020. The Transport sector (purple) shows a significant decrease from approximately 4,800 in 2005 to 3,700 in 2020. The Industry sector (teal) starts at about 3,500 and ends at 1,800. The Commercial sector (dark blue) starts at 2,100 and ends at 1,000. The Public Sector (yellow) has the lowest emissions, starting at 800 and ending at 500.</p>	<p>The transport sector was the main source of emissions reductions in 2020, linked to the impact of the pandemic.</p>
<p>Emissions intensity</p> <p><i>Emissions intensity ratio, 2020 - the level of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of gross value added (GVA)</i></p> <p>Source: UK local authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2020, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2022; Regional gross value added (balanced) by industry: all ITL regions, ONS, 2022</p>	 <p>The bar chart shows the emissions intensity ratio for six regions. The Y-axis represents the ratio, with values ranging from 0.16 to 0.25. The X-axis lists the regions: West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Midlands, and England. South Yorkshire has the highest ratio at 0.25, followed by Merseyside at 0.20. West Yorkshire has a ratio of 0.19, Greater Manchester 0.16, West Midlands 0.16, and England 0.17.</p>	<p>The emissions intensity (ratio of emissions to economic output) is in steady decline in West Yorkshire but is higher than the national average. The gap narrowed slightly in 2020 but this was an exceptional year due to the pandemic.</p>

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment																											
<p>Building energy efficiency</p> <p><i>Energy Performance Certification rating by local authority</i></p> <p>Source: Energy Performance Certificate data, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities</p>	 <table><caption>Energy Performance Certification rating by local authority</caption><thead><tr><th>Rating</th><th>West Yorkshire</th><th>England</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>A</td><td>0%</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>8%</td><td>12%</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>26%</td><td>29%</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>42%</td><td>38%</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>19%</td><td>16%</td></tr><tr><td>F</td><td>4%</td><td>4%</td></tr><tr><td>G</td><td>1%</td><td>1%</td></tr><tr><td>% C and above</td><td>34%</td><td>40%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Rating	West Yorkshire	England	A	0%	0%	B	8%	12%	C	26%	29%	D	42%	38%	E	19%	16%	F	4%	4%	G	1%	1%	% C and above	34%	40%	<p>West Yorkshire dwellings are less likely to have an energy efficiency rating of C or above compared to the national average (34% versus 40%).</p>
Rating	West Yorkshire	England																											
A	0%	0%																											
B	8%	12%																											
C	26%	29%																											
D	42%	38%																											
E	19%	16%																											
F	4%	4%																											
G	1%	1%																											
% C and above	34%	40%																											
<p>Access to green space</p> <p><i>Proportion of population with easy access to local natural greenspace</i></p> <p>Source: Natural England 2021, ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates</p>	 <table><caption>Proportion of population with easy access to local natural greenspace</caption><thead><tr><th>Local Authority</th><th>Proportion</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Bradford</td><td>37%</td></tr><tr><td>Calderdale</td><td>37%</td></tr><tr><td>Kirklees</td><td>44%</td></tr><tr><td>Leeds</td><td>37%</td></tr><tr><td>Wakefield</td><td>39%</td></tr><tr><td>West Yorkshire</td><td>39%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Local Authority	Proportion	Bradford	37%	Calderdale	37%	Kirklees	44%	Leeds	37%	Wakefield	39%	West Yorkshire	39%	<p>Around two-fifths of West Yorkshire's population have easy access to local natural greenspace.</p>													
Local Authority	Proportion																												
Bradford	37%																												
Calderdale	37%																												
Kirklees	44%																												
Leeds	37%																												
Wakefield	39%																												
West Yorkshire	39%																												

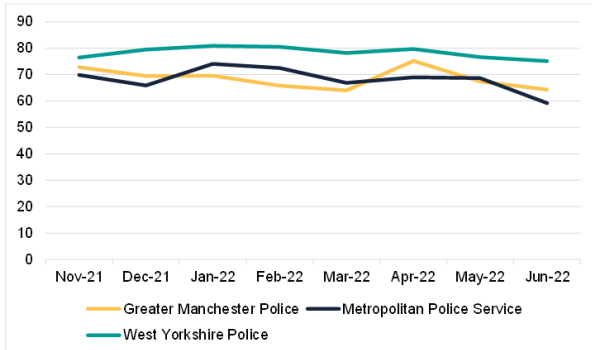
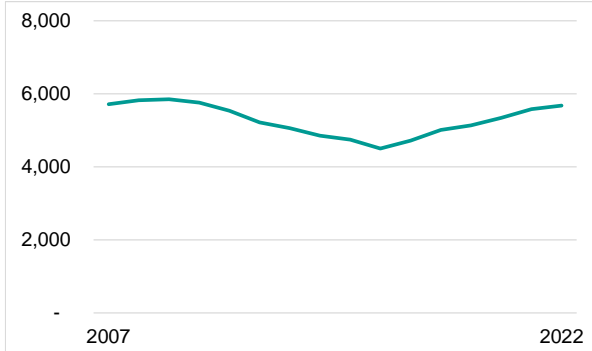
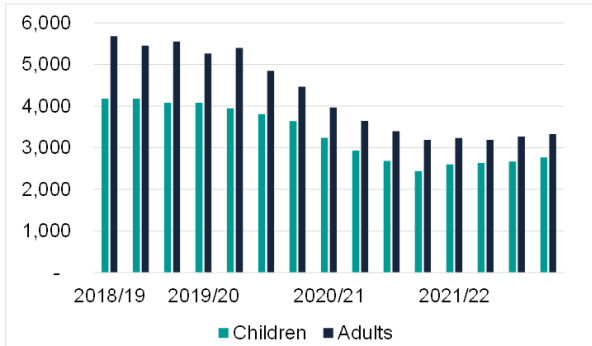
Indicator	Headline chart	Comment														
<p>Premises at risk of flooding</p> <p><i>Proportion of residential properties in flood zones</i></p> <p>Source: Environment Agency 2021, ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates</p>	<table><thead><tr><th>Area</th><th>Proportion of residential properties in flood zones</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Bradford</td><td>2.0%</td></tr><tr><td>Calderdale</td><td>5.9%</td></tr><tr><td>Kirklees</td><td>3.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Leeds</td><td>3.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Wakefield</td><td>3.3%</td></tr><tr><td>West Yorkshire</td><td>3.4%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Area	Proportion of residential properties in flood zones	Bradford	2.0%	Calderdale	5.9%	Kirklees	3.5%	Leeds	3.7%	Wakefield	3.3%	West Yorkshire	3.4%	<p>Around 3% of residential properties in West Yorkshire fall within a flood zone, rising to 6% in Calderdale. Flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence as a result of climate change.</p>
Area	Proportion of residential properties in flood zones															
Bradford	2.0%															
Calderdale	5.9%															
Kirklees	3.5%															
Leeds	3.7%															
Wakefield	3.3%															
West Yorkshire	3.4%															
Creating an accessible, clean and customer-focused transport system																
<p>Access inequality ratio</p> <p><i>Access inequality ratio (employment)¹</i></p> <p>Source: Combined Authority analysis</p>	<table><thead><tr><th>Period</th><th>Access inequality ratio (employment)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2016/17</td><td>68%</td></tr><tr><td>2017/18</td><td>75%</td></tr><tr><td>2018/19</td><td>75%</td></tr><tr><td>2019/20</td><td>85%</td></tr><tr><td>2020/21</td><td>67%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Period	Access inequality ratio (employment)	2016/17	68%	2017/18	75%	2018/19	75%	2019/20	85%	2020/21	67%	<p>Inequality of access to employment from the most deprived areas in West Yorkshire increased substantially in 2020/21, as a result of the pandemic, when only essential travel was supported.</p>		
Period	Access inequality ratio (employment)															
2016/17	68%															
2017/18	75%															
2018/19	75%															
2019/20	85%															
2020/21	67%															

¹ This is the ratio of number of jobs accessible in 30 minutes using frequent bus network from most deprived areas in West Yorkshire, to the number of jobs accessible by car in 30 minutes from same areas, during the morning peak

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment																											
West Yorkshire mode share <i>Average trips per person and year by mode (2017/19 average)</i> National Travel Survey, Department for Transport, 2020	 <table><caption>West Yorkshire mode share (Estimated data)</caption><thead><tr><th>Mode</th><th>West Yorkshire</th><th>England</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Walk</td><td>260</td><td>240</td></tr><tr><td>Bicycle</td><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Car/van driver</td><td>400</td><td>380</td></tr><tr><td>Car/van pssngr</td><td>220</td><td>200</td></tr><tr><td>Motorcycle</td><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Bus</td><td>60</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Rail</td><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Taxi</td><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr></tbody></table>	Mode	West Yorkshire	England	Walk	260	240	Bicycle	10	10	Car/van driver	400	380	Car/van pssngr	220	200	Motorcycle	10	10	Bus	60	40	Rail	10	10	Taxi	10	10	Before the pandemic West Yorkshire saw a decline in trips made by car and an increase in walking but West Yorkshire is still more reliant on the car than nationally.
Mode	West Yorkshire	England																											
Walk	260	240																											
Bicycle	10	10																											
Car/van driver	400	380																											
Car/van pssngr	220	200																											
Motorcycle	10	10																											
Bus	60	40																											
Rail	10	10																											
Taxi	10	10																											
Reported road casualties <i>Killed or seriously injured casualties (KSI) in West Yorkshire</i> Source: Reported Road Casualties Annual Report, Department for Transport, 2020	 <table><caption>Reported road casualties (KSI) in West Yorkshire (Estimated data)</caption><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>KSI</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2010</td><td>900</td></tr><tr><td>2011</td><td>900</td></tr><tr><td>2012</td><td>920</td></tr><tr><td>2013</td><td>880</td></tr><tr><td>2014</td><td>920</td></tr><tr><td>2015</td><td>920</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>900</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>850</td></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>880</td></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>850</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>650</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	KSI	2010	900	2011	900	2012	920	2013	880	2014	920	2015	920	2016	900	2017	850	2018	880	2019	850	2020	650	There was sharp decline in KSI casualties in West Yorkshire in 2020 resulting from a reduction in road traffic due to the pandemic.			
Year	KSI																												
2010	900																												
2011	900																												
2012	920																												
2013	880																												
2014	920																												
2015	920																												
2016	900																												
2017	850																												
2018	880																												
2019	850																												
2020	650																												
MCard ticket transactions <i>Bus Trips made using MCard Products (millions)</i> Source: WYCA NERO Reports	 <table><caption>MCard ticket transactions (millions) (Estimated data)</caption><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Transactions (millions)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2016</td><td>13.5</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>17.0</td></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>18.0</td></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>18.0</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>8.5</td></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>10.5</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Transactions (millions)	2016	13.5	2017	17.0	2018	18.0	2019	18.0	2020	8.5	2021	10.5	Following a sharp reduction during the pandemic there was a modest recovery in trips made using the MCard in 2021 but trips remain well below 2019 levels.													
Year	Transactions (millions)																												
2016	13.5																												
2017	17.0																												
2018	18.0																												
2019	18.0																												
2020	8.5																												
2021	10.5																												

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment																					
<p>Satisfaction with highway infrastructure</p> <p><i>Public satisfaction with highway infrastructure in West Yorkshire (average score on scale of 1-10)</i></p> <p>Source: Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey</p>	 <table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Score</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2016/17</td><td>5.7</td></tr><tr><td>2017/18</td><td>5.9</td></tr><tr><td>2018/19</td><td>6.3</td></tr><tr><td>2019/20</td><td>5.4</td></tr><tr><td>2020/21</td><td>5.8</td></tr><tr><td>2021/22</td><td>5.8</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Score	2016/17	5.7	2017/18	5.9	2018/19	6.3	2019/20	5.4	2020/21	5.8	2021/22	5.8	<p>Overall satisfaction with highway infrastructure remains at the same level as 2020/21. However, satisfaction with the provision of cycling routes and facilities as well as with most elements of road surface and pavement maintenance has worsened.</p>							
Year	Score																						
2016/17	5.7																						
2017/18	5.9																						
2018/19	6.3																						
2019/20	5.4																						
2020/21	5.8																						
2021/22	5.8																						
<p>Satisfaction with public transport</p> <p><i>Satisfaction with bus and rail services in the region</i></p> <p>Source: Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey</p>	 <table><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Satisfaction with local bus services</th><th>Satisfaction with local train services</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2016/17</td><td>6.7</td><td>6.9</td></tr><tr><td>2017/18</td><td>7.0</td><td>6.9</td></tr><tr><td>2018/19</td><td>6.7</td><td>6.6</td></tr><tr><td>2019/20</td><td>6.0</td><td>5.9</td></tr><tr><td>2020/21</td><td>7.0</td><td>7.0</td></tr><tr><td>2021/22</td><td>6.2</td><td>6.6</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Satisfaction with local bus services	Satisfaction with local train services	2016/17	6.7	6.9	2017/18	7.0	6.9	2018/19	6.7	6.6	2019/20	6.0	5.9	2020/21	7.0	7.0	2021/22	6.2	6.6	<p>Satisfaction with public transport fell in 2021/22, although it remains higher than in 2019/20.</p>
Year	Satisfaction with local bus services	Satisfaction with local train services																					
2016/17	6.7	6.9																					
2017/18	7.0	6.9																					
2018/19	6.7	6.6																					
2019/20	6.0	5.9																					
2020/21	7.0	7.0																					
2021/22	6.2	6.6																					

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment
Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing		
Serious violence <i>Knife crime per 1,000 population</i> Source: Annual Data Return from West Yorkshire Police	<p>2020/11 2021/22</p> <p>— England and Wales — West Yorkshire</p>	Knife crime increased in 2021/22 compared with the previous year but remains below pre-pandemic levels.
Neighbourhood Crime <i>Neighbourhood crime in West Yorkshire</i> Source: Annual Data Return from West Yorkshire Police	<p>12 months to 06/19 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22</p>	Neighbourhood crime fell across the board during the pandemic and remains below the level recorded in 2019.

Indicator	Headline chart	Comment																																																			
<p>Time taken to answer 999 calls to the Police</p> <p><i>Percentage of 999 calls answered within target (10 seconds)</i></p> <p>Source: Police.uk</p>	 <table><caption>Percentage of 999 calls answered within target (10 seconds)</caption><thead><tr><th>Month</th><th>Greater Manchester Police</th><th>Metropolitan Police Service</th><th>West Yorkshire Police</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Nov-21</td><td>70</td><td>68</td><td>75</td></tr><tr><td>Dec-21</td><td>68</td><td>65</td><td>78</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-22</td><td>70</td><td>72</td><td>80</td></tr><tr><td>Feb-22</td><td>68</td><td>70</td><td>78</td></tr><tr><td>Mar-22</td><td>65</td><td>68</td><td>75</td></tr><tr><td>Apr-22</td><td>72</td><td>68</td><td>78</td></tr><tr><td>May-22</td><td>68</td><td>68</td><td>75</td></tr><tr><td>Jun-22</td><td>65</td><td>60</td><td>75</td></tr></tbody></table>	Month	Greater Manchester Police	Metropolitan Police Service	West Yorkshire Police	Nov-21	70	68	75	Dec-21	68	65	78	Jan-22	70	72	80	Feb-22	68	70	78	Mar-22	65	68	75	Apr-22	72	68	78	May-22	68	68	75	Jun-22	65	60	75	<p>West Yorkshire police have performed consistently well over time on call handling.</p>															
Month	Greater Manchester Police	Metropolitan Police Service	West Yorkshire Police																																																		
Nov-21	70	68	75																																																		
Dec-21	68	65	78																																																		
Jan-22	70	72	80																																																		
Feb-22	68	70	78																																																		
Mar-22	65	68	75																																																		
Apr-22	72	68	78																																																		
May-22	68	68	75																																																		
Jun-22	65	60	75																																																		
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1 Background and context

1.1 Introduction

Welcome to State of the Region 2022 – the second of our annual reviews of the performance of West Yorkshire against key socio-economic and environmental indicators.

The report provides a stocktake of where West Yorkshire currently stands, using a basket of headline indicators aligned with seven key priorities.

It is designed to be a resource for all partners across West Yorkshire but will also be useful for stakeholders from outside the region, including national government. It highlights areas of strength and positive trends in the local economy but also flags key issues and challenges that are priorities for future action.

The report aims to provide a balanced and objective view of economic performance in the region and gives insight into the difference we are making through the combined action of all partners in West Yorkshire. It does not seek to provide a review of the impact or performance of the Combined Authority, Local Enterprise Partnership or any other partner in West Yorkshire but the indicators do reflect priority areas within which the activities of partners are designed to move the dial on these indicators.

Nor does it make policy recommendations – the solutions to the problems faced by West Yorkshire are set out in the policies and strategies developed by partners in the region. Indeed, a report of this kind can only go so far in unpacking and explaining the wide range of complex issues facing the region. Nonetheless, this analysis should prove useful in prompting debate as partners seek to review their strategies in the light of the direction of travel in the economy.

The nature of the evidence relating to West Yorkshire means that there is a time lag in the picture available to us for some indicators, and this needs to be borne in mind when interpreting the analysis presented in this report. In some cases, this means that the latest data reflect the influence of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021. For example, the latest data for local greenhouse emissions is for 2020, a year in which emissions saw a unique fall due to the significant slowdown in activity linked to the pandemic. This kind of time lag also means that the latest data will not always provide a full picture of important recent developments. For example, the most recent available data relating to fuel poverty in West Yorkshire is for 2020, well before the current crisis in global energy prices became such a crucial issue. Ultimately, we are seeking to understand the underlying trends in performance in the region and the opportunities and challenges for the medium to longer term. But some current issues are of such profound importance that they cannot be overlooked and require the use of evidence beyond local statistics to provide the necessary picture, particularly where those local statistics are dated.

Medium-term prospects will also be shaped by Brexit. As well as the initial customs and border disruption the UK is currently experiencing, there will be medium- and longer-term impacts resulting from divergence from EU product standards and other regulations that will lead to restructuring in the national and local economy.

We plan to continue to update State of the Region on an annual basis, in order to track the progress that West Yorkshire is making over time.

Our interactive dashboards also provide dynamic content to show movement against the indicators in the period between annual reports and also enables the user to drill down into the more detailed data underpinning the commentary provided in this report, including cuts of the data by local authority and by demographic group (where applicable).

1.2 Overview of West Yorkshire

The work of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership covers the five West Yorkshire local authority areas of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield.



West Yorkshire occupies a strategic position within the transport networks of the North of England. The M62, M1 and the A1(M) motorways all pass through the region and there are also internal urban motorways in Bradford and Leeds. West Yorkshire is within one hour's drive of 7 million people.

West Yorkshire has a large and growing population of 2.35 million, according to the 2021 Census. This is an increase of 125,900 (6%) from 2.23 million in 2011, a similar rate of increase to the England average. West Yorkshire accounts for 43% of the population of Yorkshire and the Humber and 15% of the population of the North of England.

West Yorkshire has a relatively young population. According to the 2021 Census, 19% of its people are aged under 15 years old (vs 17% in England) and 38% are aged under 30 (vs 36% in England). Bradford has the fourth highest proportion of under-15s of all local authorities in England (at 21%).

Nonetheless, the population is ageing. The number of people aged 65 and over grew by 19% between 2011 and 2021 in West Yorkshire - three times the overall rate of population growth for the region.

West Yorkshire has an employed workforce of around 1.1 million and around 95,000 businesses. The region's economic output is worth £57.4bn, making it the third largest city region (or equivalent) economy in the UK outside London.

West Yorkshire is also the third largest city region area in terms of employment but has the largest finance and insurance sector of any of the 10 combined authority areas in England.

Covering an area of 783 square miles, West Yorkshire has a population density of 1,159 people per km², 2.7 times more densely populated than England as a whole. It is a predominantly urban area, but its rural population is significant in absolute terms; with more than 200,000 people living in rural locations, equivalent to 9% of the total population of the region. Although this overall proportion is smaller than the national average of 18% the figures vary at local authority level, ranging from 5% in Bradford and Leeds up to 17% in Wakefield. Around 9% of West Yorkshire's businesses and 6% of its employment are located in rural areas.

West Yorkshire contains five cities and major towns, including the core city of Leeds. Leeds is the main retail and office centre on the eastern side of the Pennines and is at the heart of the West Yorkshire economy. Leeds is a renowned retail destination, is home to award winning national theatre and dance companies has a world class arena and thriving independent food scene.

Bradford has the 4th highest number of manufacturing jobs of any city in the UK (after London, Birmingham and Leeds) and has a diverse population, with people from ethnic minorities making up 36% of the total population. Bradford is UK City of Culture 2025.

Centred on Huddersfield, Kirklees has a strong manufacturing base, has world leading engineering and textile businesses and is receiving multi-million-pound investment in gigabit infrastructure

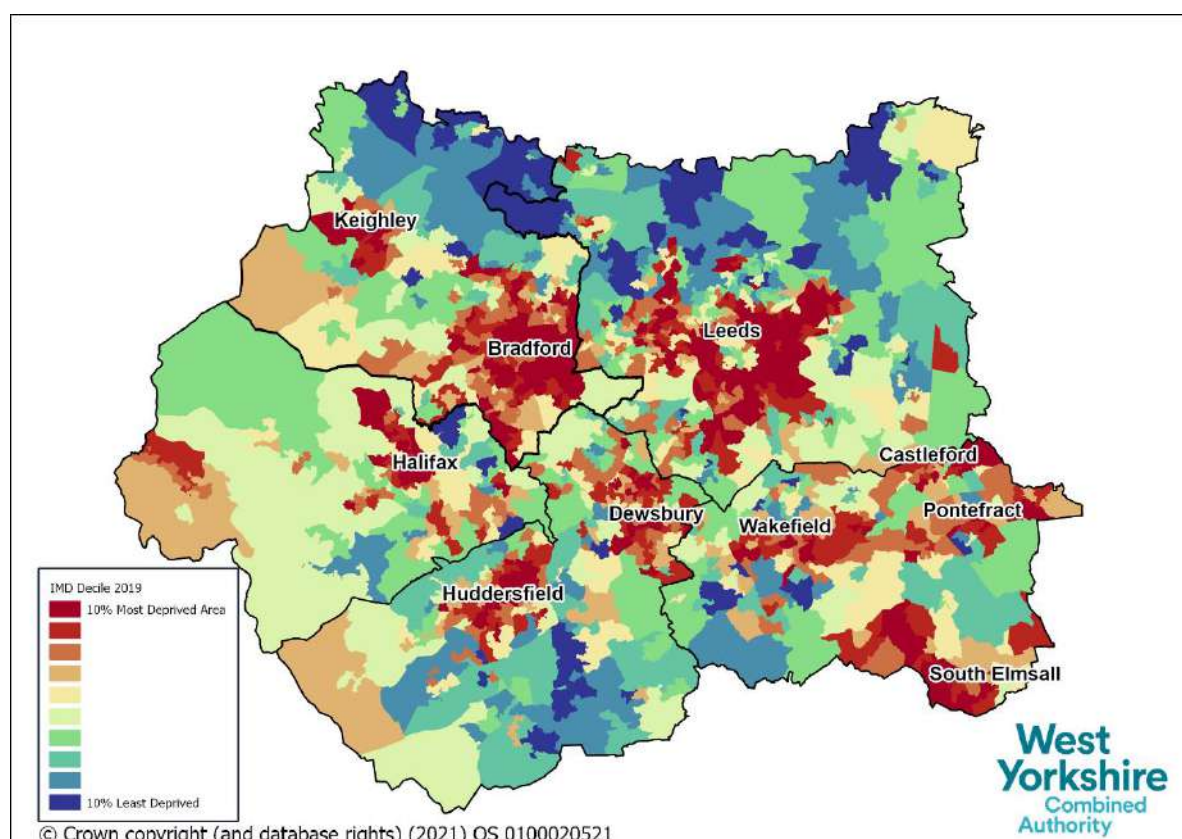
Situated between Leeds and Manchester, Calderdale is within one hour's travel of a quarter of a million businesses, eight million people and a combined economy worth around £150 billion. Calderdale has strengths in financial and professional services, and advanced manufacturing, as well as creative and digital industries, and innovation in green business.

The cathedral city of Wakefield has significant strengths in manufacturing and logistics, and benefits from being one of the United Kingdom's most accessible places by road, rail and air.

Turning to commuting flows, West Yorkshire is largely self-contained, with 90% of residents working within the area and 90% of jobs in the area being undertaken by local residents. A fifth of residents travel to a work destination outside their home district but within West Yorkshire. Nonetheless, there are substantial commuting flows in absolute terms both in and out of West Yorkshire and a net commuting inflow, overall. The most significant sources of inward commuters into West Yorkshire are Barnsley, Harrogate and Selby, followed by York and Doncaster, with Leeds being the principal destination.

More than one in five people in West Yorkshire live in areas within the 10% most deprived in England, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). This is equivalent to more than half a million people. The deprivation profile of our region has remained relatively unchanged between 2004 and 2019, reflecting the existence of pockets of persistent and long-standing deprivation. The most disadvantaged areas are clustered around town and city centres and their periphery. A key issue of concern is that residents from an ethnic minority group are roughly twice as likely as the population as a whole to live in areas of the most acute deprivation in our region, meaning that around a third of residents in the most deprived neighbourhoods are from an ethnic minority group.

Figure 1: West Yorkshire Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019



1.3 Priorities

State of the Region 2022 is structured around seven key priorities formulated by the Combined Authority and its partners (see Figure 2).

These priorities reflect the respective remits of the Combined Authority's six portfolio [committees](#) together with that of [West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Panel](#). They also reflect the Combined Authority's [corporate priorities](#) and align with investment priorities contained in the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy.

The seven priorities represent an evolution of the Strategic Economic Framework priorities used in last year's State of the Region. There has been much change to the powers, functions and governance of the Combined Authority since the SEF was adopted. The devolution deal and election of the first Mayor of WY, the pandemic and the police and crime team becoming part of the Combined Authority have led to different areas of focus and new priorities.

Figure 2: Overview of priorities

Creating an accessible, clean and customer focussed transport system	Building a sustainable, nature rich and carbon neutral region	Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all	Empowering our communities, towns and cities to thrive	Championing culture, sport and creativity	Driving economic growth and innovation to enable good jobs	Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing
--	---	---	--	---	--	---

The seven priorities are underpinned by three cross-cutting aims, as set out in more detail below.

Tackling the climate emergency

The Mayor and Combined Authority have declared a climate emergency, recognising that greenhouse gas emissions and a depleted natural environment are having a detrimental impact on the businesses and residents of West Yorkshire. The Combined Authority and its partners are targeting investment and action on reducing emissions, ensuring preparedness for the effects of a changing climate, promoting resource efficiency and supporting the natural environment.

Growing an inclusive economy

Supporting the growth of an inclusive economy is central to our ambitions for West Yorkshire and is founded on a commitment to ensure that all individuals and communities in West Yorkshire are enabled to contribute to - and benefit from - economic prosperity because they are inspired, confident and engaged. This is founded on a belief that every person - and every community - matters equally, that economic and social disparities should not just be reduced but eliminated, and that diversity - including of our people and communities - is a key strength of the region.

Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority's vision is to be a leader, recognised nationally, for our focus and commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

The Mayor's vision is for West Yorkshire to be the best place to live, to work, to learn, to start a business and to raise a family; where equality, diversity and inclusion is central to everything we do and there are no barriers to getting on and succeeding in life.

1.4 The indicators

The State of the Region indicators were originally developed to measure the progress West Yorkshire is making against the priorities and the overall vision of the Strategic Economic Framework.

These headline indicators are high level, strategic indicators that reflect key dimensions of performance in the West Yorkshire economy: the key areas where we would like to see change and improvement in order to support sustainable economic growth, improved living standards and inclusion.

To support the transition from the five SEF priorities to the current seven priorities we are in the process of bringing forward additional indicators to reflect more fully the extended and reconfigured range of priorities.

The **Local Plans** of the five West Yorkshire local authorities have a key influence on the full range of indicators, facilitating inclusive growth, regeneration, housing delivery and helping to address the climate emergency. Local Plans provide a vision for the future of each local area and a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities. They set out a spatial planning framework, seeking to manage growth in a sustainable way and to balance the overall scale, distribution and phasing of development².

² Further details are set out in the Government's [National Planning Policy Framework](#)

It has not been possible to update all of the indicators contained in last year's report.

The indicator relating to Net contribution of West Yorkshire to HM Treasury drew on analysis from Greater Manchester Combined Authority's Espresso Area Comparison Tool. This has not been updated in the interim. We intend to retain this indicator and present refreshed analysis in next year's State of the Region report, subject to data becoming available.

The analysis of quality work in West Yorkshire in last year's report was based on data supplied by the Office for National Statistics. Publication of the refreshed data has been delayed and it has not been possible to update this indicator. However, last year's analysis has been retained in the report to provide a picture of the situation using the most recent data available.

Figure 3: The headline indicators and their links to the SEF priorities

- Primary link
●● Secondary link

Indicator Title	Driving economic growth and innovation to enable good jobs	Building a sustainable, nature rich and carbon neutral region	Championing culture, sport and creativity	Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all	Empowering our communities, towns and cities to thrive	Creating an accessible, clean and customer focused transport system	Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing
Economic output (GVA)	●●●				●●		
Economic output (GVA) per head	●●●				●●		
Productivity	●●●				●●		
Gross disposable household income	●●●				●●		
Private sector businesses	●●●				●●		
Businesses engaging in innovation activity	●●●				●●		
Goods / services exports as % of GVA	●●●				●●		
Private sector businesses	●●●				●●		
Businesses engaging in innovation activity	●●●				●●		
Goods / services exports as % of GVA	●●●				●●		
GHG emissions (ktCO ₂ e) total and per capita		●●●					
GHG emissions (ktCO ₂) by sector		●●●					
Emissions intensity ratio		●●●					
Building energy efficiency		●●●					
Access to nature and green spaces (Green and Blue infrastructure)		●●●					
Premises at risk of flooding		●●●					
Cultural sector employment	●●		●●●		●●		
Employment rate	●●			●●●			
Employment rate gap for disadvantaged groups	●●			●●●			
Unemployment rate	●●			●●●			

Indicator Title	Driving economic growth and innovation to enable good jobs	Building a sustainable, nature rich and carbon neutral region	Championing culture, sport and creativity	Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all	Empowering our communities, towns and cities to thrive	Creating an accessible, clean and customer focused transport system	Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing
Jobs paying below Real Living Wage	●●			●●●			
% of employees in quality work (not updated this year)	●●			●●●			
People with no / low qualifications (% qualified below level 2)	●●			●●●			
People with higher qualifications (qualified at level 4 and above)	●●			●●●			
Apprenticeship starts	●●			●●●			
People lacking basic digital skills				●●●			
NEETs				●●●	●●●		
Health life expectancy					●●●		
Net additional dwellings (including net additional affordable)					●●●		
Housing affordability					●●●		
Rented housing costs					●●●		
Gigabit-capable internet coverage	●●				●●●		
Take-up of superfast (or above) broadband services	●●				●●●		
Mobile coverage (4G and 5G)	●●				●●●		
% of households in fuel poverty		●●			●●●		
Net contribution of West Yorkshire to HM Treasury (not updated this year)					●●●		
Access inequality ratio (employment)	●●					●●●	
West Yorkshire mode share		●●			●●	●●●	
Reported road casualties					●●	●●●	
MCard ticket transactions (bus)	●●	●●				●●●	
Satisfaction with highway infrastructure	●●				●●	●●●	
Satisfaction with bus and rail services in the region	●●	●●				●●●	
Serious violence with focus on Knife Crime					●●		●●●

Indicator Title	Driving economic growth and innovation to enable good jobs	Building a sustainable, nature rich and carbon neutral region	Championing culture, sport and creativity	Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all	Empowering our communities, towns and cities to thrive	Creating an accessible, clean and customer focused transport system	Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing
Neighbourhood Crime - including Burglary, Robbery, Vehicle Crime and Theft from Person.					● ●		● ● ●
Sentencing - specifically the outcomes for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences					● ●		● ● ●
Time taken to answer 999 calls to the Police					● ●		● ● ●
Increase in officer numbers					● ●		● ● ●
Offenders referred to drug treatment services from custody					● ●		● ● ●
Numbers of missing persons					● ●		● ● ●

1.5 Structure and content of the report

The report is structured around the seven priorities, with each of the indicators assigned to a priority, as per Figure 3.

There is a short analysis and commentary for each indicator, examining why the indicator is important, how West Yorkshire is performing against the indicator based on the latest available data and an assessment of trends / direction of travel. Additional evidence is drawn upon to provide added context and to explain the factors behind changes in performance.

To set the analysis in context, we have, where data allows, set out comparisons between West Yorkshire and the national (England) average. Comparisons are also made with selected Mayoral Combined Authority areas whose circumstances are most relevant to the experience of West Yorkshire, including Sheffield City Region, Greater Manchester City Region and West Midlands Combined Authority (CA)¹ (Greater Birmingham and Solihull is used in some instances for reasons of data availability).

¹ This is coterminous with the West Midlands Metropolitan County (ITL2 area) rather than the wider West Midlands region (ITL1).

2 Driving economic growth and innovation to enable good jobs

Key points

West Yorkshire, along with the rest of the UK, experienced a contraction of its economy in 2020 (the latest data available) due to the pandemic. It is likely that there has been a recovery since then, reflecting the return to pre-pandemic levels of output seen at national level. West Yorkshire's average growth rate between 2015-20 was slightly below the UK average.

GVA per head fell in 2020 reflecting the pandemic-related lockdown in the economy. Looking over a longer time frame, West Yorkshire's growth performance against this measure is similar to the national average but lags behind Greater Manchester, for example.

West Yorkshire's employment rate and level of employment both fell during the pandemic period. There has been a degree of recovery since then.

Despite a fall in economic output during the pandemic period, productivity increased in West Yorkshire. This reflects a temporary compositional effect as sectors with relatively low productivity performance bore the brunt of coronavirus restrictions. The underlying gap with the national average on productivity performance is largely unchanged.

West Yorkshire has a small business base compared with the national average but has seen faster net growth in its numbers of businesses in recent years, driven by sectors like transport and storage and hospitality.

The latest data show a decline in the proportion of West Yorkshire businesses undertaking innovation activity. This probably reflects the short-term impact of the pandemic but evidence of continuing low levels of R&D spend in Yorkshire and the Humber point to a structural deficit in this area for West Yorkshire.

The latest figures show that exports of goods and services were negatively impacted by the pandemic, not just in West Yorkshire but across the UK. The figures also show the importance of service exports to the West Yorkshire economy.

Gross disposable household income per head in West Yorkshire is well below the national average and the latest data shows that the gap continues to widen.

The proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage in West Yorkshire is falling over time, although the proportion of jobs affected remains slightly above the national average.

2.1 Overview of the priority

A history of lower levels of skills, infrastructure investment and innovation mean that productivity in West Yorkshire has lagged behind much of the UK as well as our European peers. Weak productivity performance is the most important constraint on regional economic growth. Raising the prosperity and real terms living standards of the region can only be achieved sustainably by increasing productivity. This involves the following range of actions:

- Support business to respond to the challenges and opportunities of Brexit
- Provide businesses with intensive support to boost productivity/innovation capacity
- Attract global investors to the region, creating jobs and boosting productivity within the regional economy

- Help businesses to increase overseas trade
- Embed the Regional Digital Framework
- Make the local skills system more responsive to economic needs.

The basket of indicators for this priority is wide ranging and focuses on economic performance and its key drivers. It includes measures relating to economic growth, productivity performance, export and innovation activity and the size of the business base.

2.2 Performance against the indicators

2.2.1 Economic output (GVA)

West Yorkshire's growth rate diverged from the national average at the time of the global financial crisis. Between 2015 and 2020 West Yorkshire's average growth rate was just below the UK figure but all parts of the UK experienced a decline in 2020 linked to the pandemic.

Gross value added (GVA) is the most commonly used measure of economic output at the local level. It is a similar measure to GDP, but with the effects of taxes and subsidies included. GVA is a measure of the increase in value of the economy through the production of goods and services in a given area and time.

It is a critical indicator of the health and performance of a local economy. It gives a measure of the prosperity and living standards of an area but needs to be considered alongside demographics and employment to provide a full understanding of economic conditions. GVA growth can be driven by an expansion of the labour force, or by increases in productivity.

In 2020, the latest year for which data are available, West Yorkshire had economic output (GVA, or gross value added) of £57.4bn. That makes it a larger economy than nine EU countries, although smaller than the Greater Manchester and West Midlands Combined Authority areas.

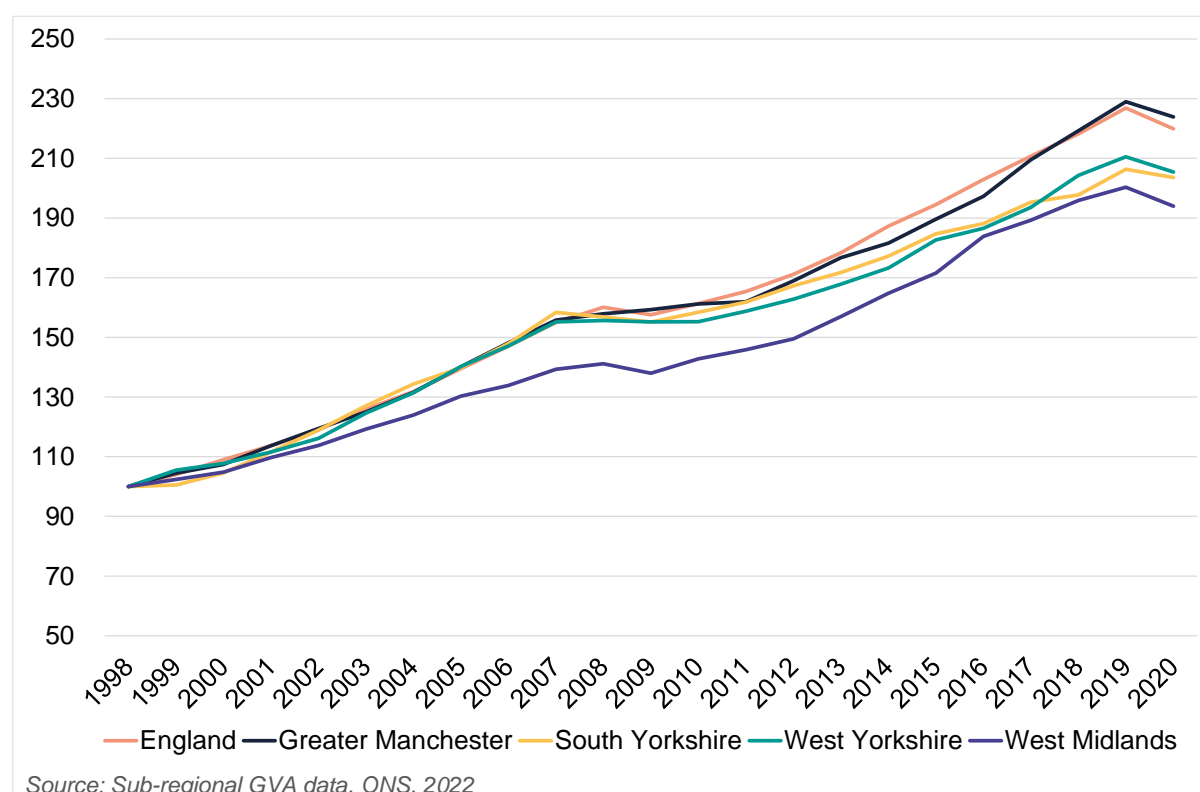
West Yorkshire's GVA growth performance was on a par with the national average between the late-1990s and the financial crisis of 2008. Since then, the paths have diverged with West Yorkshire growing more slowly. Among the comparator areas, Greater Manchester has narrowed the gap with the national average in recent years.

The coronavirus pandemic had a substantial impact on the level of economic output recorded in 2020, although West Yorkshire's GVA was impacted less severely than the England average between 2019 and 2020, falling by 2.4% in West Yorkshire compared with 3.1% across England.

National data show that, at the time of writing, the economy has recovered since 2020, returning to its pre-pandemic level in October 2021 and reaching a level 1% above this according to the latest figures¹. It seems reasonable to assume that West Yorkshire's economy has also undergone a similar recovery during this period.

¹ Office for National Statistics, [GDP monthly estimate, UK](#): June 2022 (2022)

Figure 4: Index of GVA growth (current prices) – West Yorkshire and key comparator areas



Growth between 2015 and 2020 was similar in West Yorkshire, at 2.4% per annum on average, to UK growth of 2.5%. This places West Yorkshire on a par with the growth rate of West Midlands Combined Authority, ahead of Sheffield City Region but well below the growth rate in Greater Manchester.

Locally, only Wakefield had an average growth rate higher than the UK figure between 2015 and 2020. Wakefield's growth rate (3.8%) was more than 1.5 times the UK average during this period. Among the remaining West Yorkshire local authorities, the average growth rate was just above 2% per annum, except in Bradford where it was slightly below.

Figure 5: Gross value added in current prices - average annual growth rate, 2015-20



2.2.2 Economic output (GVA) per head

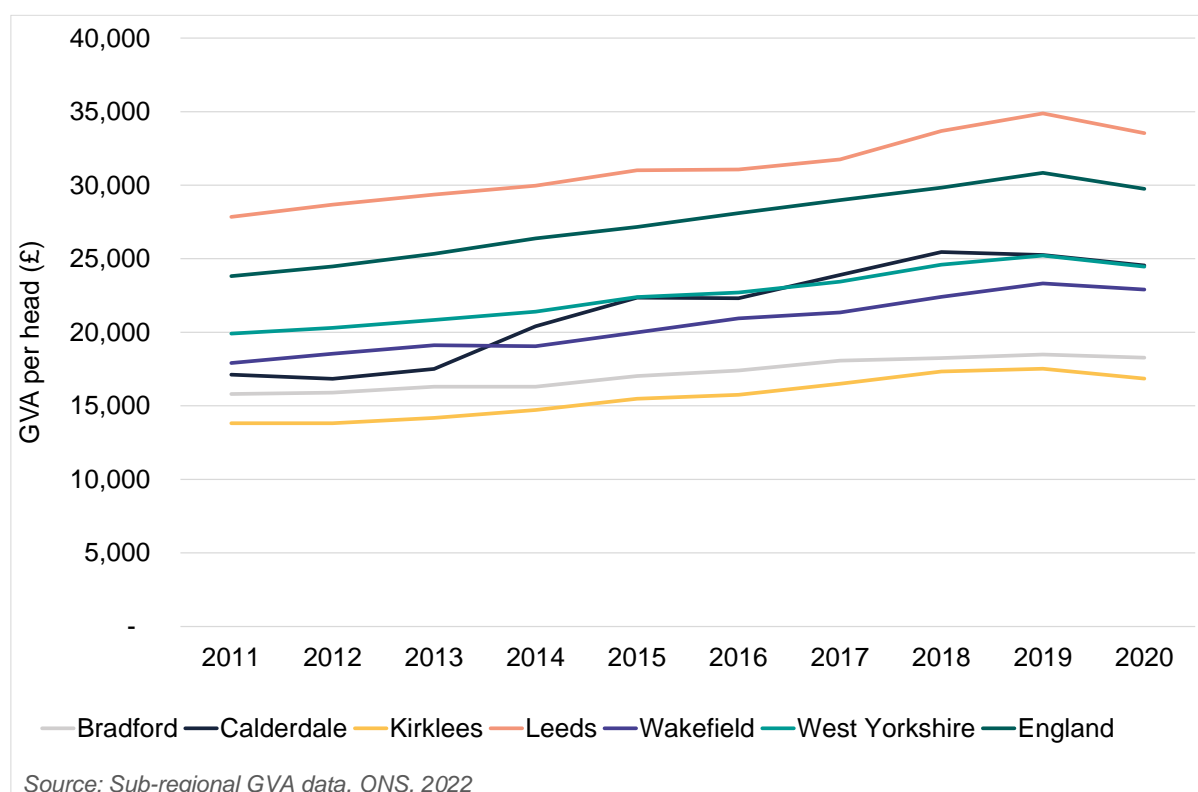
GVA per head fell in 2020 reflecting the pandemic-related lockdown in the economy. Looking over a longer time frame, West Yorkshire's growth performance against this measure is similar to the national average but lags behind Greater Manchester.

Looking at GVA per head enables better comparison between areas of different sizes and also provides a measure of an area's prosperity, by quantifying economic output per resident. However, GVA per head is not a measure of productivity –particularly as the population data will include a substantial number of people not working in the area and will not account for factors such as commuting flows and demographics.

GVA per head in West Yorkshire stood at £24,500 in 2020, which is 82% of the average for England (£29,800). With a figure of £33,500, Leeds is the only area of West Yorkshire where output per head is higher than the England average. Other areas range from £16,900 in Kirklees¹ to £24,500 in Calderdale.

The general reduction in output seen between 2019 and 2020, associated with the coronavirus pandemic, was also reflected in an across the board fall in GVA per head. In West Yorkshire there was a fall of 3% (in current prices), compared with a decline of 4% nationally. All five West Yorkshire local authorities saw a decline.

Figure 6: Gross value added (balanced) per head of population at current basic prices



Output per head in West Yorkshire increased by 9% between 2015 and 2020, which is slightly below the average for England of 10%. Whilst all comparator areas have lower output per head than the average for England, Greater Manchester is closest to the national average and has also seen the strongest growth since 2015 (14%). Sheffield City Region

¹ Kirklees GVA per head figure is distorted by high net outward commuting flows.

had the lowest growth in this group (7%), and also the lowest level of GVA per head (£19,700).

Figure 7: Gross value added (balanced) per head of population at current basic prices – West Yorkshire and comparator areas



At local authority level Wakefield experienced the fastest growth, of 15%, between 2015 and 2020, reflecting its strong output growth during this period. The rate of growth elsewhere ranged from 7% in Bradford to 10% in Calderdale.

2.2.3 Employment rate

West Yorkshire's employment rate fell during the pandemic and may not yet have fully recovered.

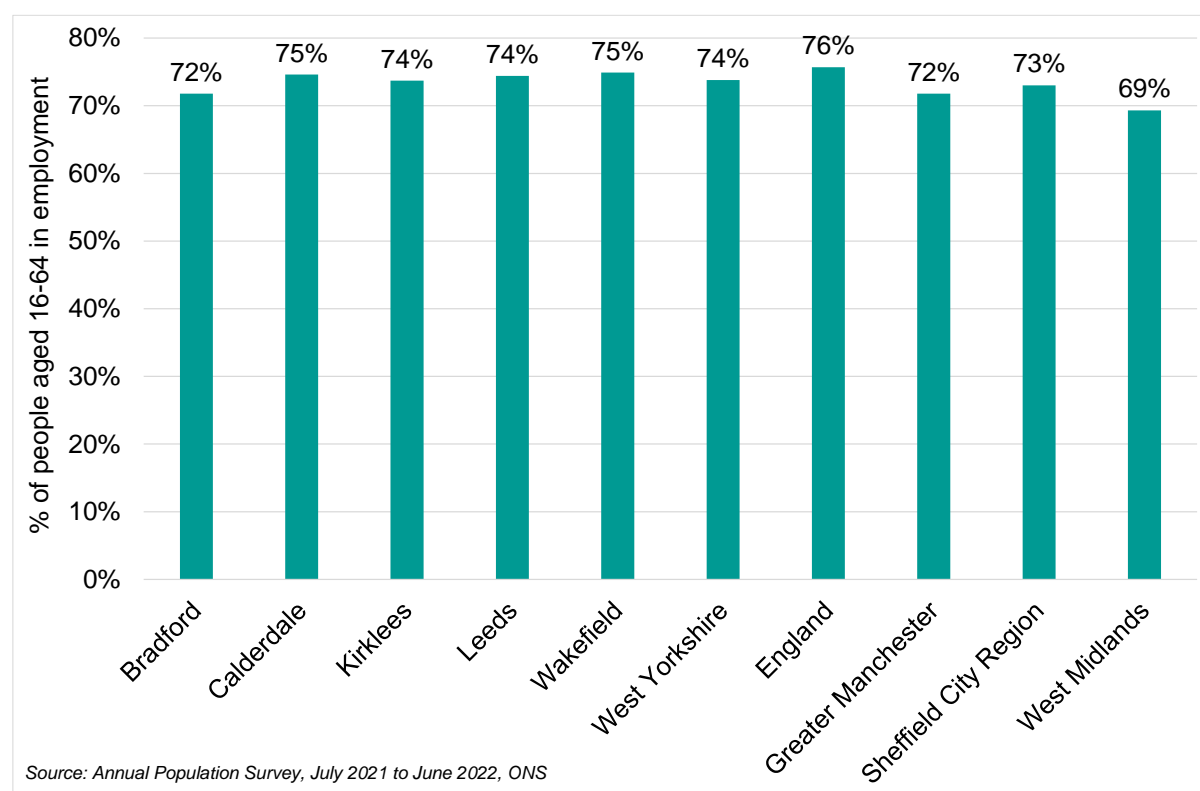
The employment rate is an important measure of the performance of the local economy because prosperity is dependent on two things: the number of people in employment and how productive those people are in their jobs. The focus here is on the first of those aspects.

It is difficult to measure the impact of COVID-19 and the subsequent recovery on employment in local economies using official data. This is because we are reliant on the Annual Population Survey, which draws on 12 months of survey data for its estimates, concealing significant changes that may be happening in the short-term.

There are 1,072,000 people in employment in West Yorkshire based on data for the July 2021 to June 2022 period. The employment rate in West Yorkshire, expressed as a proportion of the population aged 16-64, is below the national average at 74% (versus 76%). An additional 28,000 people would be in employment in West Yorkshire if the employment rate could be raised to the national average.

West Yorkshire's five local authorities have similar employment rates to the West Yorkshire average, according to the latest data. At this spatial level rates have seen a large degree of volatility in recent years, which may partly reflect the margins of error associated with the statistical estimates. Bradford's employment rate has seen a statistically significant increase in recent years, growing from 66% in 2018 to 72% in 2021.

Figure 8: Comparison of employment rates (% of population aged 16-64 in employment)



About the data

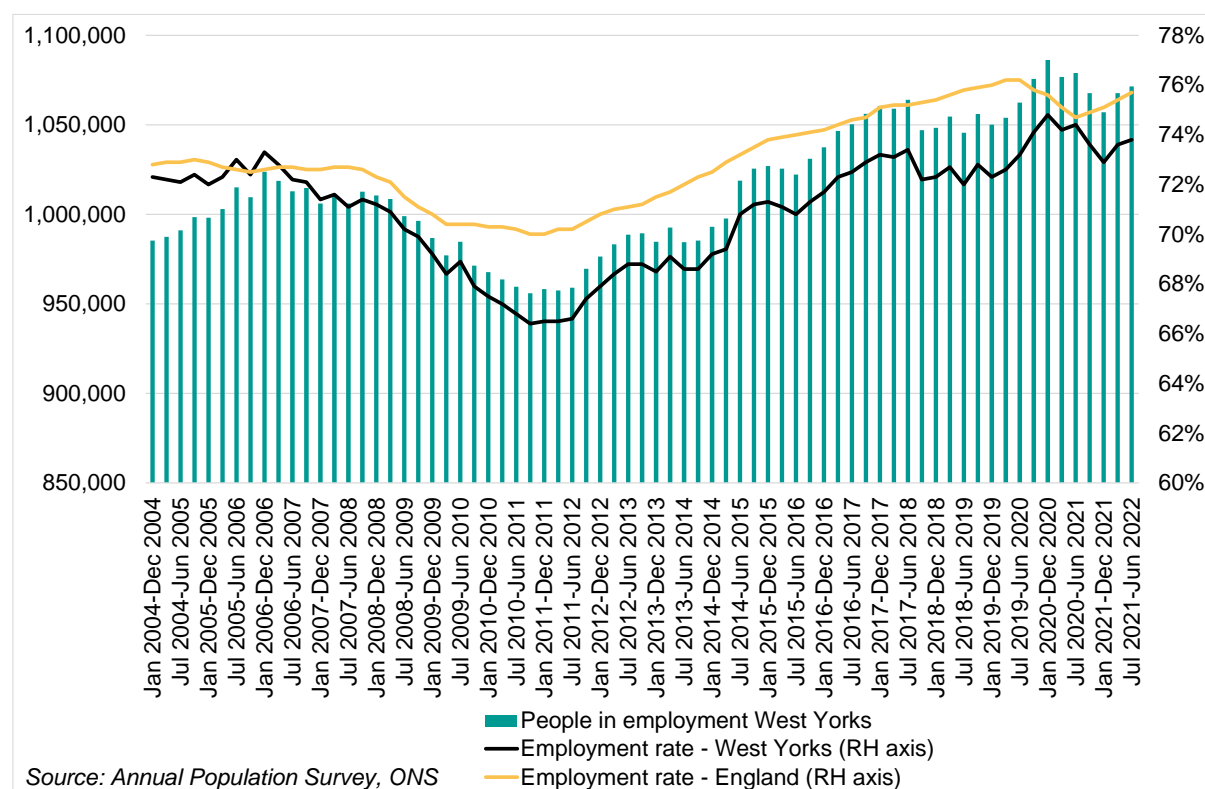
Employment rate estimates are taken from the Annual Population Survey. The Annual Population Survey is a continuous household survey covering the UK, designed to provide information on socio-economic variables at local levels. The data sets consist of 12 months of survey data and are broken down on a quarterly basis. Based on the survey, people must have done a minimum of one hour paid work in the reference week to be counted as employed.

The West Yorkshire rate has been consistently lower than the England average over the last 15 years and there was a widening of the gap following the 2008 global financial crisis. The local rate, along with the national average, has followed an upward trend since 2012, reflecting the progress of the recovery from the crisis. Between 2013/14 and 2021/22 the level of employment increased by 9% in West Yorkshire, similar to the rate of growth seen nationally, whilst the employment rate improved from 69% to 74%.

However, this incorporates a decline in the level and rate of employment during the pandemic, which has partially offset progress. According to the latest figures West Yorkshire's employment level is 15,000 off its peak, whilst its rate is 1 percentage point lower than its peak position. The employment gap with the national average (the gap between the two employment rates) has widened slightly from 1 to 2 percentage points.

The nature of the data available at local level does not provide a fully up to date picture of the local situation following the pandemic. More timely data for the national situation show that England's employment rate, although it has undergone a recovery, has not yet returned to its pre-pandemic level and this may also be the case for West Yorkshire.

Figure 9: Trend in employment rate and number of people in employment (people aged 16-64)



West Yorkshire faces challenges around strengthening the demand-side of the local economy to increase the volume of available job opportunities and addressing potential

barriers to participation in the labour market. We consider this in more detail, below, when we examine employment rates for disadvantaged groups.

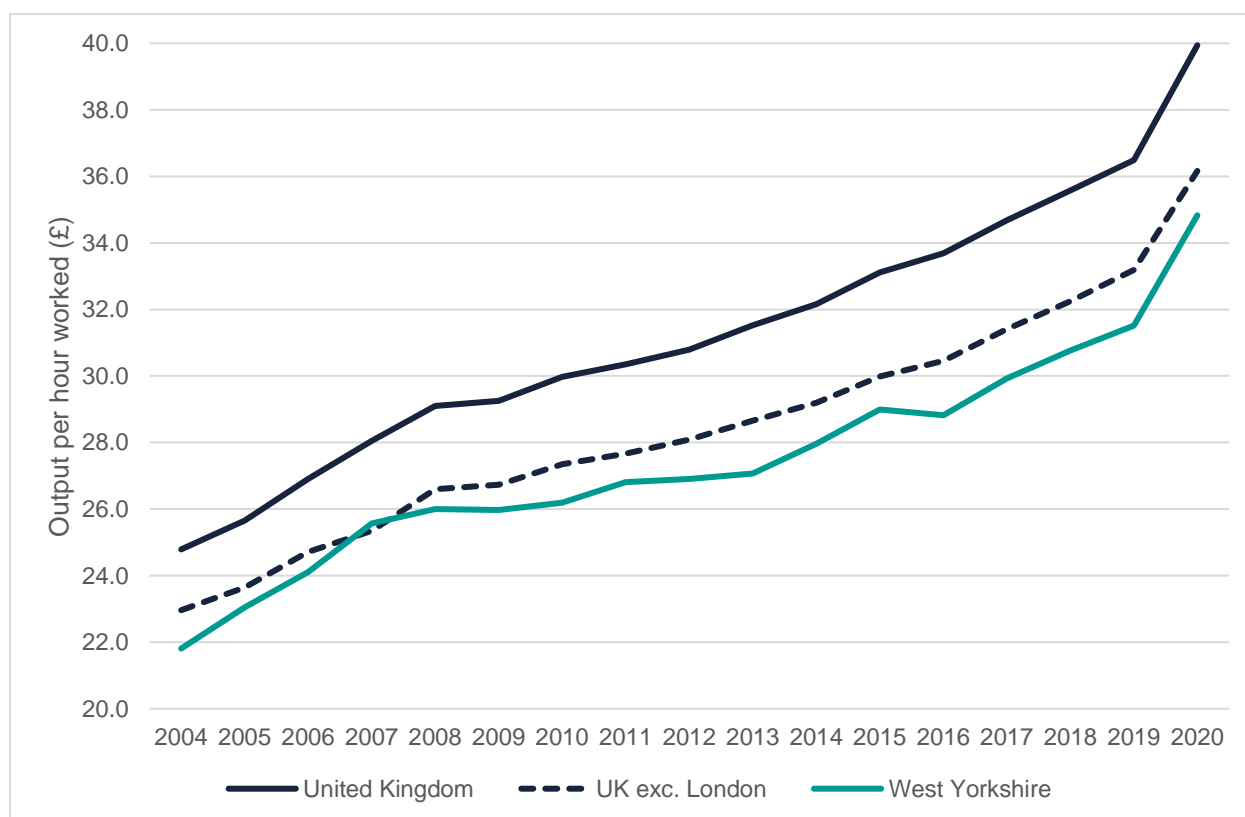
2.2.4 Productivity

Increased productivity is the main engine of local economic growth and improved living standards. During 2020 productivity increased both for West Yorkshire and at national level due to temporary compositional factors as lower productivity sectors were worse affected by the pandemic than high productivity sectors. However, underlying structural factors mean that West Yorkshire's productivity deficit persists.

Productivity refers to how efficient firms are at turning inputs, such as labour and capital, into outputs, such as goods and services. There is a direct link between productivity and living standards – higher productivity increases firms' ability to raise wages. Increased productivity also has positive impacts at the aggregate level of the economy. With greater productivity comes greater gross domestic product (GDP), which in turn brings higher tax revenues and lower government budget deficits.

Whilst UK productivity growth has remained below trend since the 2008 financial crisis, local productivity has remained markedly below national average levels, even excluding London. In 2007, the gross value added per hour worked in West Yorkshire was 91% of the UK's output per hour worked. By 2020, West Yorkshire's output per hour worked was 87% of the UK average, demonstrating a widening, rather than a narrowing, of the productivity gap. This relationship between West Yorkshire and national productivity has remained fairly constant over the past decade.

Figure 10: Unsmoothed output per hour worked, West Yorkshire and UK, 2004-2020

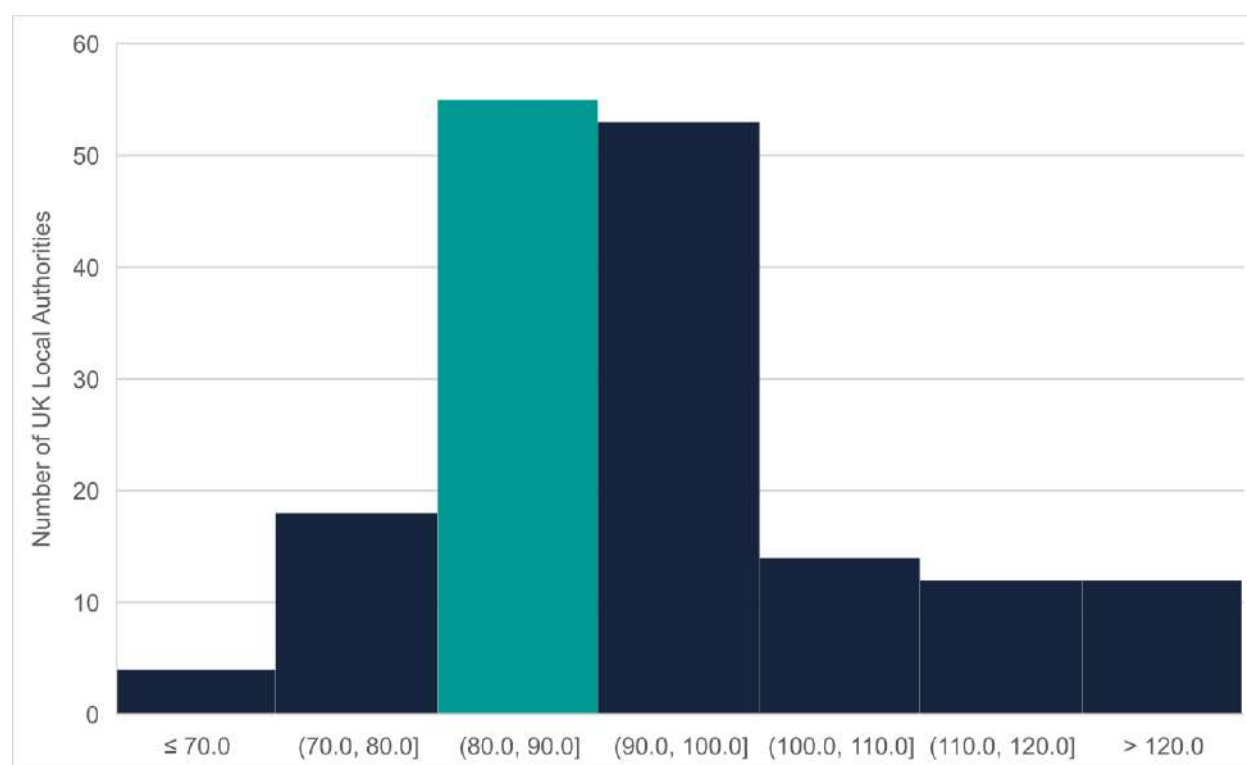


Source: Sub-regional productivity, Office for National Statistics, 2022

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the number of hours worked in West Yorkshire fell by 11.7%, in line with the UK-level reduction of 11.4%. Despite this, output per hour rose sharply in the UK and in West Yorkshire due to the distribution of economic activity

between industries during the pandemic. Relatively low productivity industries, such as accommodation and food services saw a disproportionately large reduction in hours worked, whilst relatively higher productivity sectors such as professional services were able to maintain the number of hours worked throughout the pandemic.

Figure 11: Indexed distribution of unsmoothed output per hour worked (UK=100), 2020



Source: Sub-regional productivity, Office for National Statistics, 2022

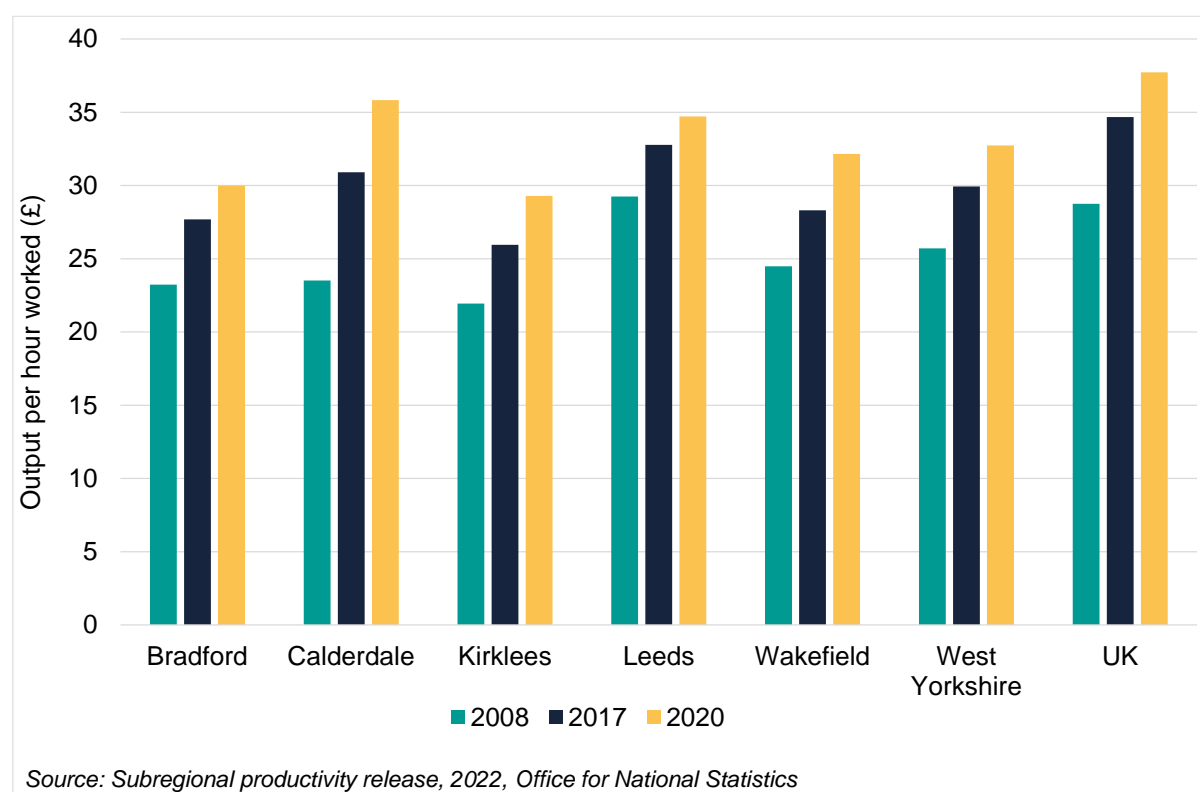
Productivity in the UK is deeply unequal across local authority areas, posing a key structural challenge. Figure 11 shows the distribution of indexed output per worker within each local authority (ITL3 region) of the UK, segmented by their level of output per hour worked as a proportion of the UK's total output per hour worked. All five local authorities within West Yorkshire produce between 80% and 90% of the UK average, with Bradford's output per hour worked representing 81.7% of the UK's level, whilst the corresponding figure for Leeds is 89.0%.

The key takeaway from this chart is that over 77% of local authorities in the UK underperform the UK average, meaning that the UK's overall productivity performance is being driven by a very small number of local authorities vastly outperforming the rest of the UK. Of the Top 10 local authorities by levels of output per hour worked, only Swindon falls outside of London and the South-East. Indeed, areas outside London with relatively high productivity are often centres of car manufacturing¹.

This configuration of the national economy demonstrates the need for Levelling Up across the regions of the UK.

¹ Office for National Statistics, [What are the regional differences in income and productivity?](#) (2021)

Figure 12: Smoothed output per hour worked, West Yorkshire local authority areas, 2008, 2017 and 2020



At the local authority level, Calderdale has the highest output per hour worked in West Yorkshire. However, Calderdale's output per hour is still £2 below the UK level, and of the 363 local authorities in the UK, 136 have a greater output per hour than Calderdale. Whilst Calderdale has an output per hour worked £1.90 higher than the median local authority, this data demonstrates the severe inequalities both within and between regions in the UK.

About the data

Local productivity data is produced by ONS, by combining the GVA data outlined above along with data on hours worked from the Annual Population and Labour Force Surveys to produce standard measures of productivity. The focus here is on labour productivity; other factors such as capital, machinery and services also contribute to productivity, but are more complex to measure at the local level.

2.2.5 Private sector businesses

West Yorkshire has fewer private sector businesses per head of population than the national average, but its business base has grown slightly faster than the national average in recent years.

The size of the private sector business base is a key measure of the health of a regional economy.

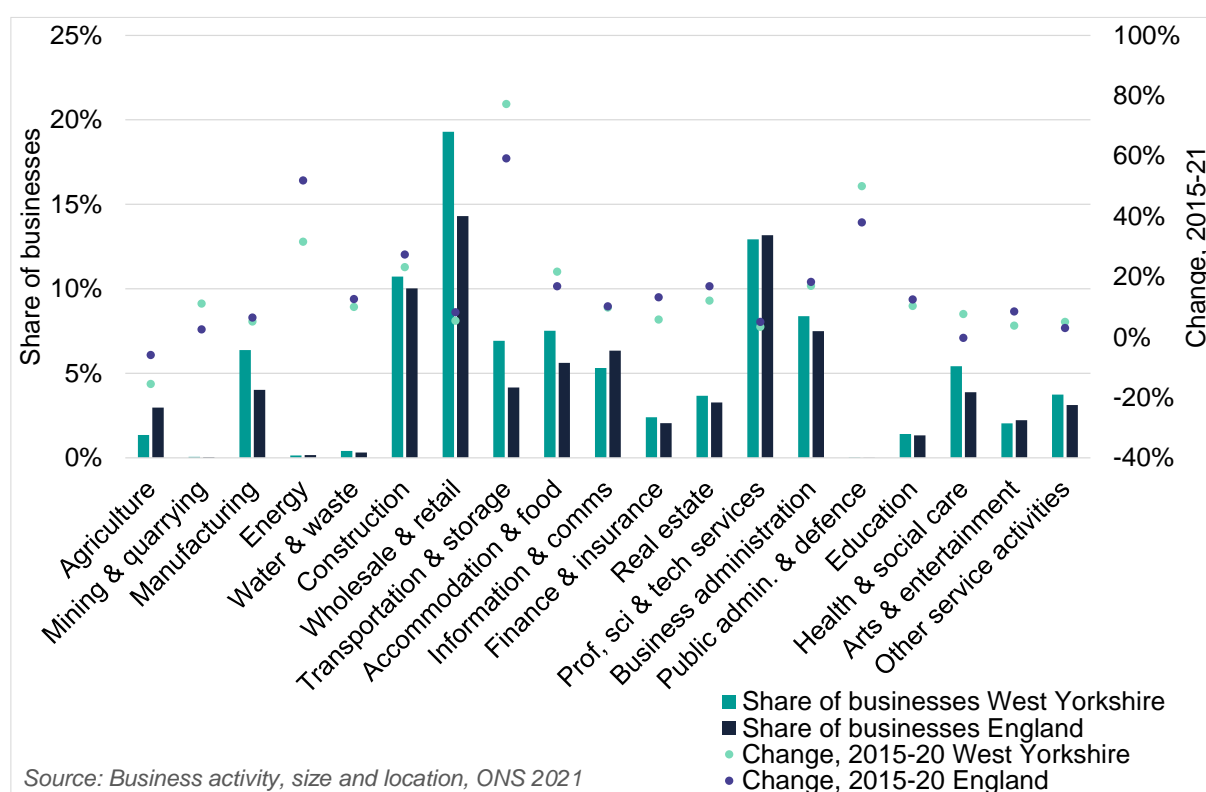
In March 2021 West Yorkshire was home to 92,800 private sector businesses¹, giving the area the third largest business base among MCAs, behind Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. Nearly all (99.6%) of local private sector businesses are small and medium sized with fewer than 250 staff. This is in line with the national average and the make-up of comparator areas.

West Yorkshire is similar to the UK in terms of its sectoral makeup but does have some notable points of difference. The share of businesses is higher locally in transport and storage (7% of businesses locally vs. 4% nationally), manufacturing (6% vs. 4%), whilst it is also higher in wholesale and retail (19% vs. 14%). Conversely, West Yorkshire has a lower share of businesses in agriculture and information and communication. This picture varies by local authority, however. All local authorities have a strong representation of manufacturing businesses, except Leeds. Transport and storage is strong in Wakefield and Leeds whilst Leeds and Calderdale feature a greater presence of professional service businesses and there is a concentration of finance businesses in Leeds.

In the past five years, West Yorkshire has seen particularly strong growth in transport and storage industries, with a net increase in the business count of 77% (compared to 59% nationally) and in accommodation and food, with growth of 22% compared with 17% across England.

¹ In this analysis businesses are equated with local units. A local unit is an individual site (for example a factory or shop) associated with an enterprise. It can also be referred to as a workplace. The total number of local units in West Yorkshire, including the public sector, is 95,500.

Figure 13: Private sector business base by sector and change, 2015-21



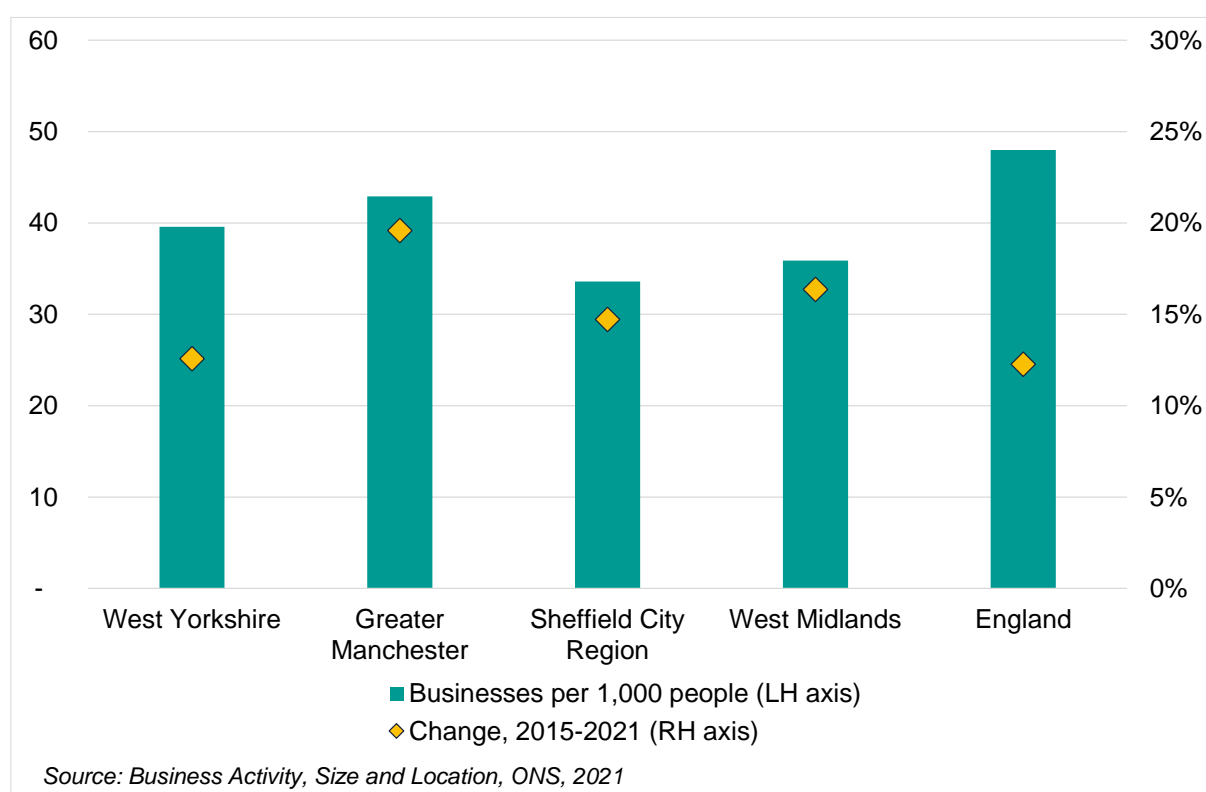
About the data

Data on local areas' business stock is drawn from the Office for National Statistics' Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). Business counts are taken from the ONS "Activity, Size and Location" release, which provides a count of businesses at a point in time. The data presented here is from a point in March 2021. Population figures are taken from the Mid-Year Population Estimates for 2020.

There were 39.6 private sector businesses per 1,000 population in West Yorkshire in March 2021, second only to Greater Manchester among comparator MCA areas. However, this is still below the average for England of 48 businesses per 1,000 people.

West Yorkshire slightly outperformed the national average with growth of 13% in the number of private sector businesses between 2015 and 2021, compared with 12% growth across England. However, the comparator areas saw stronger growth rates over this period, including Greater Manchester (+20%), Sheffield City Region (+15%) and West Midlands (+16%).

Figure 14: Private sector business density and growth in the business stock



Within West Yorkshire, Leeds has the highest private sector business density with a figure of 44.8 per 1,000 people, followed by Calderdale with a ratio of 43.5 and Kirklees with 39.6. Wakefield (34.3) and Bradford (33.8) have the lowest business densities among the five local authorities. The five authorities experienced similar rates of business growth between 2015 and 2021, ranging from 11% in Bradford to 14% in each of Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield. Calderdale was the exception with growth of 7% over the period.

In the latest year for which data are available, 2020 to 2021, there was growth in the count of businesses in West Yorkshire despite the pandemic. The annual increase was 1% or net growth of 930 in absolute terms. The national business count remained flat.

Nationwide, there are around 4.4 high growth businesses¹, per 1,000 firms². Across West Yorkshire, there are 5.1 high growth businesses, per 1,000 firms. However, the gap between local authorities is larger than the gap in business density. Leeds has the greatest ratio of high growth businesses with 6.6 per 1,000 businesses, followed by Wakefield (5.5), Kirklees (4.1), Bradford (4), and Calderdale (3.6).

¹ High growth businesses are defined as those that have experienced growth of at least 20% per year for the previous three years in employment numbers, starting with at least 10 employees.

² [High growth by district and section - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/businessandindustry/sectors/highgrowth)

2.2.6 Innovation

Sixty-four per cent of businesses in the region are engaged in innovation-related activities according to the Leeds City Region Business Survey 2022, slightly down on previous years. The most common forms of innovation are introducing new technologies and improving new or improved services. National statistics indicate that spending on research and development is lower in Yorkshire and the Humber compared to the UK.

West Yorkshire has lagged in productivity, which puts pressure on the regional economy as it means wage increases are less forthcoming. This is particularly problematic due to the ongoing cost of living crisis. Innovation is a key part of improving productivity across the region.

Boosting research and development is a key part of the Levelling Up White Paper:

“By 2030, domestic public investment in R&D outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.”

“The target for total UK R&D investment to reach 2.4% of GDP by 2027 must see every region of the UK experience an uplift in investment.”

Research and development play a key role in innovation and productivity, but it is not the only source of gains. The development of new systems to improve efficiency within a business can also play a key role in achieving productivity gains through innovative activities, for example.

The latest Leeds City Region Business Survey, carried out throughout June and July 2022, suggests that 64% of businesses in West Yorkshire had undertaken some form of innovative activity over the last three years. This is down from 69% in 2020, and 71% in 2017.

It is likely that Covid has had an impact on these figures. In some ways, Covid will have prompted innovative approaches to work, but in other areas it may have constrained cash flow, leaving less money to be used to invest in innovation.

Table 1: Results from Leeds City Region Business Survey on innovative activities among West Yorkshire businesses

Activity	% of businesses that have innovated in this area
Introduce new or significantly improved goods	19%
Introduce new or significantly improved services	38%
Introduce new or significantly improved processes for producing or supplying goods or services	32%
Introduce new technologies	38%
Participate in knowledge transfer	23%
Invest in research & development	21%
Any	64%
All	3%

Source: Leeds City Region Business Survey 2022

Whilst all high-level sectors had some businesses reporting that they had completed any of the above innovation-related activity, there were some statistically significant differences

between sectors. For example, manufacturers, and transport and storage, and businesses in the information and communication sectors were particularly high performers in innovation activities. All three sectors innovated more than businesses in construction, distribution and hotels and catering to a statistically significant level. This finding is in-line with previous versions of the Leeds City Region Business Survey.

Across local authorities, the difference in those that had completed any innovation-related activity was not statistically significant. However, there were statistically significant differences for individual activities. For example, Calderdale businesses were more likely to introduce new or significantly improved goods compared to Kirklees, Leeds, and Wakefield.

Businesses in Leeds were more likely to introduce new technologies when compared to Calderdale, Kirklees, and Wakefield. These differences can be explained in-part due to the sectoral makeup and existing comparative advantages that exist across different areas.

Although the questions used in the LCR Business Survey are similar to those used in the UK Innovation Survey, the two are not directly comparable due to the level of detail in the national survey questions, and sampling differences.

The findings of the most recent UK Innovation Survey (2021) suggests that West Yorkshire is not only lagging nationally, but also lagging in comparison to South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, and the West Midlands for 'innovation active' businesses. The survey found that 42.5% of businesses in West Yorkshire define themselves as innovation active, compared to 57.5% in South Yorkshire. This strength within South Yorkshire is likely to be driven by the success of the Advanced Manufacturing sector within the region, with the data showing that, across the broad sectors, engineering-based manufacturing firms are most likely to be innovation active (68.5%).

Despite lagging South Yorkshire on firms identifying as innovation active, R&D Tax Credit claims are higher in West Yorkshire. In total, West Yorkshire businesses made 2,920 R&D Tax Credit claims in the fiscal year 2019/20, worth £150m. In South Yorkshire, these figures were 1,430 and £60m. When controlling for business population, West Yorkshire has a higher share of businesses submitting R&D Tax Credit claims: 36.1 West Yorkshire businesses per 1,000 submitted a claim, compared to 35.2 in South Yorkshire and 35.7 across England.

The Office for National Statistics analysis on Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (GERD), for example, shows the region had the lowest investment in R&D per £1m of GVA of any English region outside London. This suggests that the level or scale of innovation taking place locally may be lower than elsewhere even if the proportion of businesses engaged is relatively high.

About the data

Local data on businesses' engagement in innovation is not readily available on a consistent basis. The Leeds City Region Business Survey provides local data on this subject, asking respondents whether they have undertaken innovation activities in the past three years.

2.2.7 International trade

The latest available data show that exports of goods and services both fell during the pandemic in 2020. Trade in services is now more valuable to West Yorkshire than trade in goods and is a more important component of the West Yorkshire economy than in comparator areas.

International trade, and particularly exporting, is an important measure as there is evidence to suggest that businesses who trade internationally tend to perform better than other businesses. Internationally trading businesses often experience higher growth and are often more productive than their domestically-focused counterparts. This is due to the former operating in markets where greater competition is present, as well as the fact that they are more likely to be exposed to ideas and innovations which helps to drive their own performance.

About the data

Subnational data on international trade is published by the Office for National Statistics, following methodologies to disaggregate national and regional trade data. For goods, this draws on data on trade from HMRC. Trade in services estimates are sourced mainly from survey data, but also a variety of administrative sources.

The UK leaving the EU and the subsequent transition period, along with the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, supply chain disruption and global recession, have caused high levels of volatility in trade performance in the past two years, including the period covered by the latest available statistics for West Yorkshire.

Goods exports

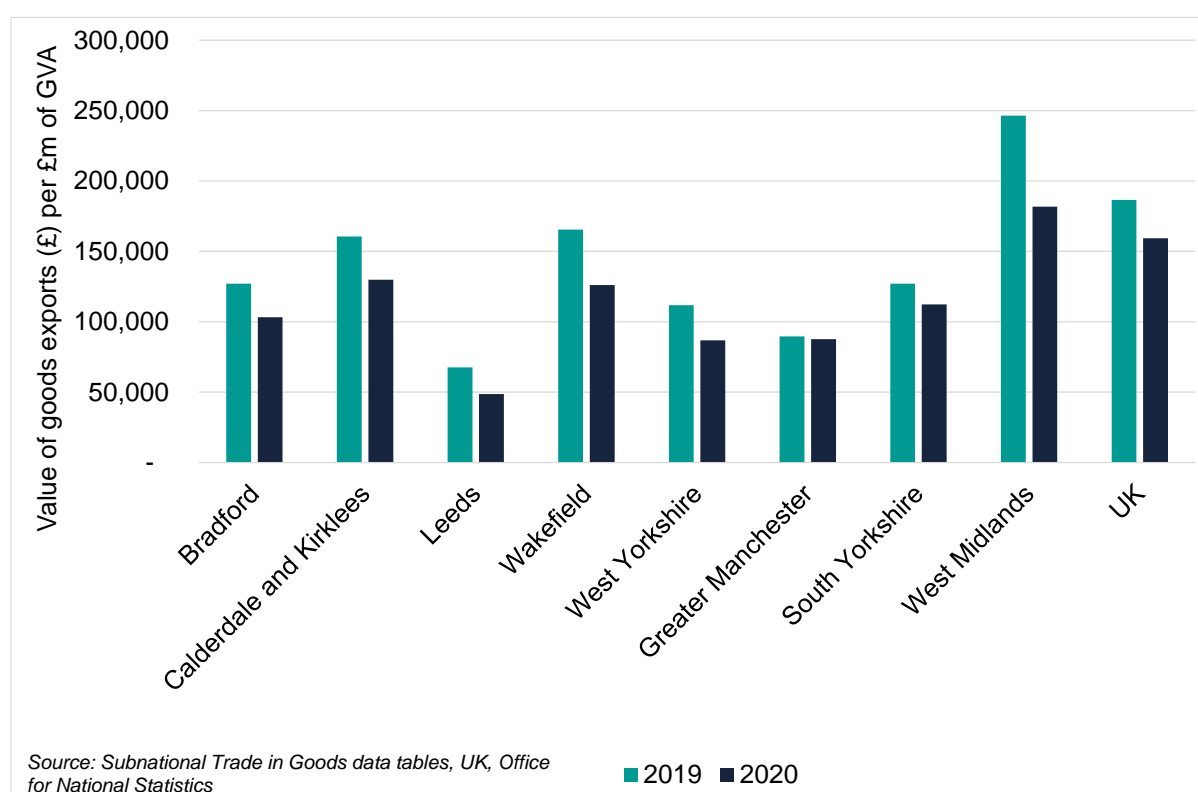
West Yorkshire exported goods worth £4.98bn in 2020, down a substantial 24% on the previous year's £6.58bn. Across the UK exports fell by 17%, whilst the impact on comparator areas was variable, ranging from a fall of 4% in Greater Manchester to a fall of 29% in the West Midlands.

At local authority level the extent of the decline ranged from 19% in Bradford to 30% in Leeds.

Looking at exports per £1 million of gross value added (GVA) shows the economic contribution exports make and enables comparison across geographies of different scale. West Yorkshire exported goods worth £87,000 for every £1m of GVA in 2020. This is similar to Greater Manchester (£88,000) but is less than South Yorkshire (£112,000) and is 45% lower than the UK figure of £159,000. With £182,000 per £1m of GVA West Midlands is the only comparator area which exports more than the UK average.

Locally, both the Calderdale/Kirklees and Wakefield areas exported goods worth similar amounts in 2020, at £130,000 and £126,000 respectively. Bradford (£103,000) was also higher than the West Yorkshire average. Conversely, Leeds exported goods worth £49,000. This clearly reflects the economic specialisms within West Yorkshire. Whilst all areas have degrees of strength in manufacturing and services, services are a greater contributor to the economy in Leeds and this is reflected in export activity.

Figure 15: Ratio of value of goods exports per £m of GVA



The ratio of goods exports to GVA fell significantly across all areas during 2020, reflecting the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. In 2019, West Yorkshire exports of goods were worth £112,000 per £1m of GVA, falling to £87,000 per £1m of GVA in 2020.

It is likely that the value of West Yorkshire's exports of goods has recovered to some extent since 2020, assuming that it has shared to some degree in the positive trend observed at UK level. Based on the latest data for quarter 2 of 2022, the value of UK exports of goods has grown by 53% since the low point in quarter 2 of 2020 and is 11% higher than in quarter 2 2018 (in current price terms)¹.

Services

In 2020, the value of service sector exports from West Yorkshire totalled £5.77bn, being greater than that of goods exports.

As noted in last year's State of the Region report, service sector exports grew strongly in West Yorkshire, prior to the pandemic. Their value increased by 54% between 2016 and 2018 compared with a national average increase of 22%. Over the same period Leeds saw an increase of 42%, with Bradford and Wakefield seeing much stronger increases (of 92% and 154% respectively).

The latest figures for 2020 can only be directly compared with 2019 but they show sharp declines in service exports in this later period, linked to the disruption to trade brought about by the pandemic. Across West Yorkshire service exports fell by 15% compared with a national average decline of 5%. Leeds and Wakefield were badly affected with reductions of

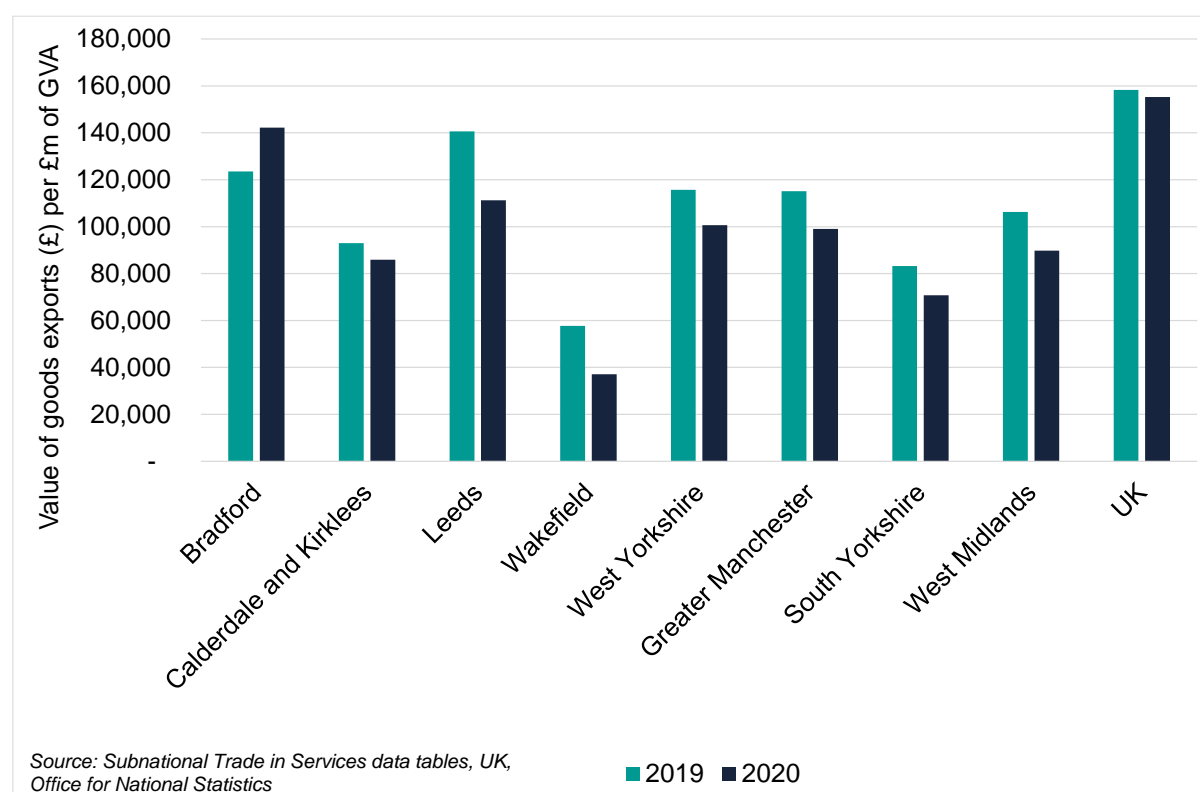
¹ Office for National Statistics, [UK Trade: June 2022](#) (2022)

23% and 36% respectively. Calderdale / Kirklees experienced a reduction in trade of 11%, whereas Bradford saw an increase of 14%.

Leeds accounts for 51% of West Yorkshire's service exports. Prior to the pandemic Leeds had the highest ratio of service exports per £1m of GVA but this picture has changed with the decrease in the value of Leeds' exports between 2019 and 2020. Bradford now has the highest figure of £142,000 per £m, followed by Leeds with £111,000. All local authorities in West Yorkshire fall below the national average of £155,000 per £1m of GVA.

Across West Yorkshire, £101,000 of services were exported per £1m of GVA in 2020—more than in any comparator area analysed here.

Figure 16: Ratio of value of services exports per £m of GVA



As with goods it is likely that the value of West Yorkshire's exports of services has recovered to some extent since 2020, based on the positive trend seen at UK level. Based on the latest data for quarter 2 of 2022, the value of UK exports of services has grown by 34% since the low point in quarter 2 of 2020 and is 10% higher than in quarter 2 2018 (in current price terms)¹.

¹ Office for National Statistics, [UK Trade: June 2022](#) (2022)

2.2.8 Gross disposable household income

GDHI per head in West Yorkshire is well below the national average and the gap continues to widen over time.

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is the amount of money that all of the individuals in the household sector have available for spending or saving after they have paid direct and indirect taxes and received any direct benefits. It is a key measure of living standards and material welfare.

We have already seen that West Yorkshire and its constituent local authorities all have levels of productivity below the national average. Analysis¹ shows that for some local areas there can be a divergence between the level of productivity and the level of incomes that people receive. Some areas have high incomes relative to their contribution to the economy in the form of productivity, whilst others are highly productive, but incomes are relatively low. In the case of the former this can reflect the effect of commuting from high income homes to work in lower income areas, with North Yorkshire being a prime example. It can also reflect higher levels of non-wage incomes that can lead to higher household incomes relative to productivity in those areas.

In the case of West Yorkshire and its local authorities both output and income are relatively low.

The level of GDHI per head in West Yorkshire was £17,347 in 2019, based on the latest figures available. This is 79% of the England average.

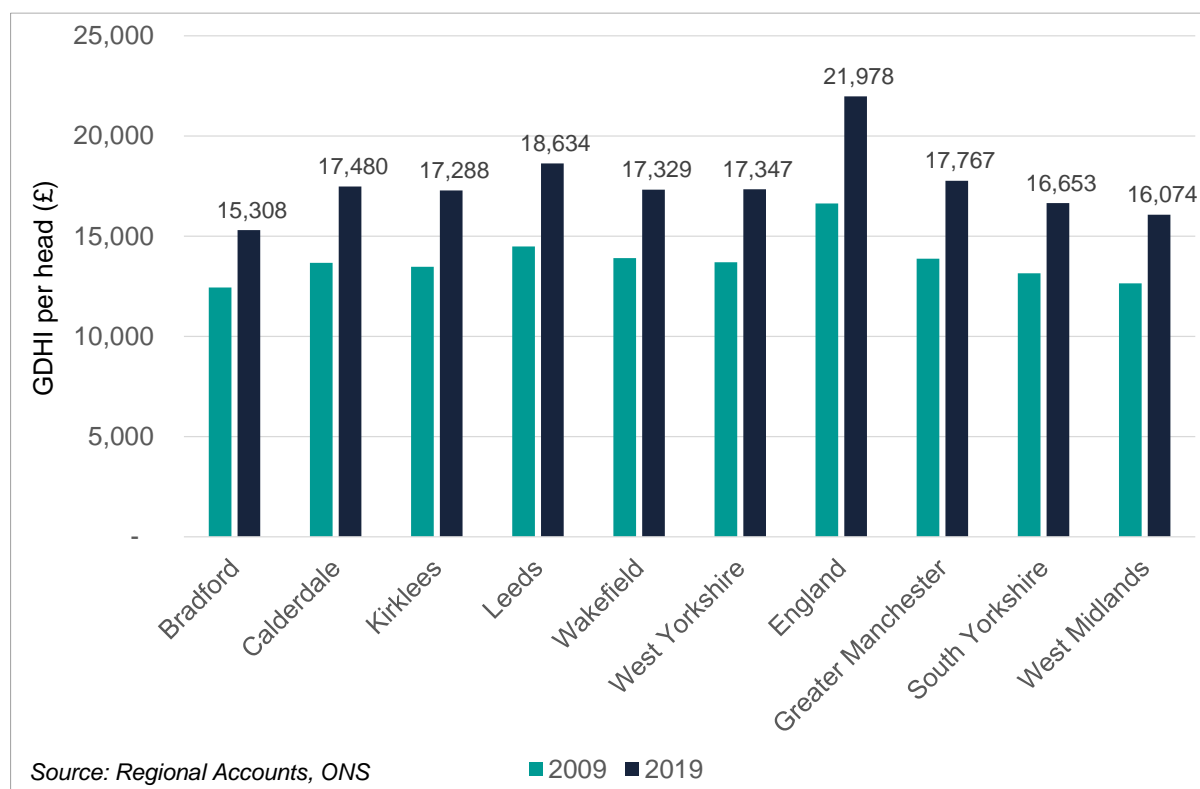
Focusing on the West Yorkshire local authorities, the current level of GDHI per head ranges from £15,308 in Bradford, only 70% of the national average, to £18,634 in Leeds, 85% of the England average. Bradford has the sixth lowest GDHI per head of any district / unitary authority in England.

The GDHI per head figure for West Yorkshire is the fourth lowest of the 34 ITL2² regions in England and is similar to that of Greater Manchester. It is somewhat higher than that of both Sheffield and the West Midlands, ranked second last and last among ITL2 regions on this measure. The highest performing areas in respect of this indicator are concentrated exclusively in London and the South East.

¹ Office for National Statistics, [What are the regional differences in income and productivity?](#) (2021)

² [International Territorial Level](#) 2 – in England these areas comprise counties or groups of counties.

Figure 17: Gross disposable household income per head (£) at current basic prices



A key challenge for West Yorkshire is to tackle the widening gap with the national average. Whereas GDHI per head grew by 27% in West Yorkshire between 2009 and 2019 it grew by 32% across England¹. The figure grew by only 23% in Bradford over this period although growth in Leeds was nearer the national average at 29%.

The most recent data available shows that between 2018 and 2019 GDHI per head grew by 2.0% in West Yorkshire but by 2.5% at national level.

The available data for West Yorkshire pre-dates the current cost of living crisis and is presented on a current price basis. The rising costs of energy, food and other essentials are cutting into the disposable income of households to a considerable degree. According to the Resolution Foundation, the typical real disposable household income at national level is projected to fall by 5% in 2022-23 and a further 6% in 2023-24. The combined reduction of 10 per cent would be the most negative two-year change in the last century at least – twice the size of the fall between 2009-10 and 2011-12 – and would equate to a £2,800 drop².

About the data

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is the amount of money that households have available for spending or saving, hence 'disposable income'. This is the money left after expenditure associated with income e.g., taxes and social contributions, property ownership and provision for future pension income. GDHI is comprised of the sum of two balances, the balances of primary and secondary incomes. The balance of primary incomes is mainly employment income, self-employment income, rental income and

¹ All figures are on a current price basis and are not therefore adjusted for inflation.

² Resolution Foundation, [In at the deep end: The living standards crisis facing the new Prime Minister](#), 2022

income from deposits and investments, less interest paid. The balance of secondary incomes is mainly income from benefits, pensions and insurance claims less income tax, council tax, pension contributions and insurance premia.

Total GDHI estimates in millions of pounds (£ million) are divided by the resident population of a region to give GDHI per head in pounds (£). Per head data take account of the entire resident population of regions, sub-regions and local areas including both the working population and the economically inactive.

2.2.9 Jobs paying below the real living wage

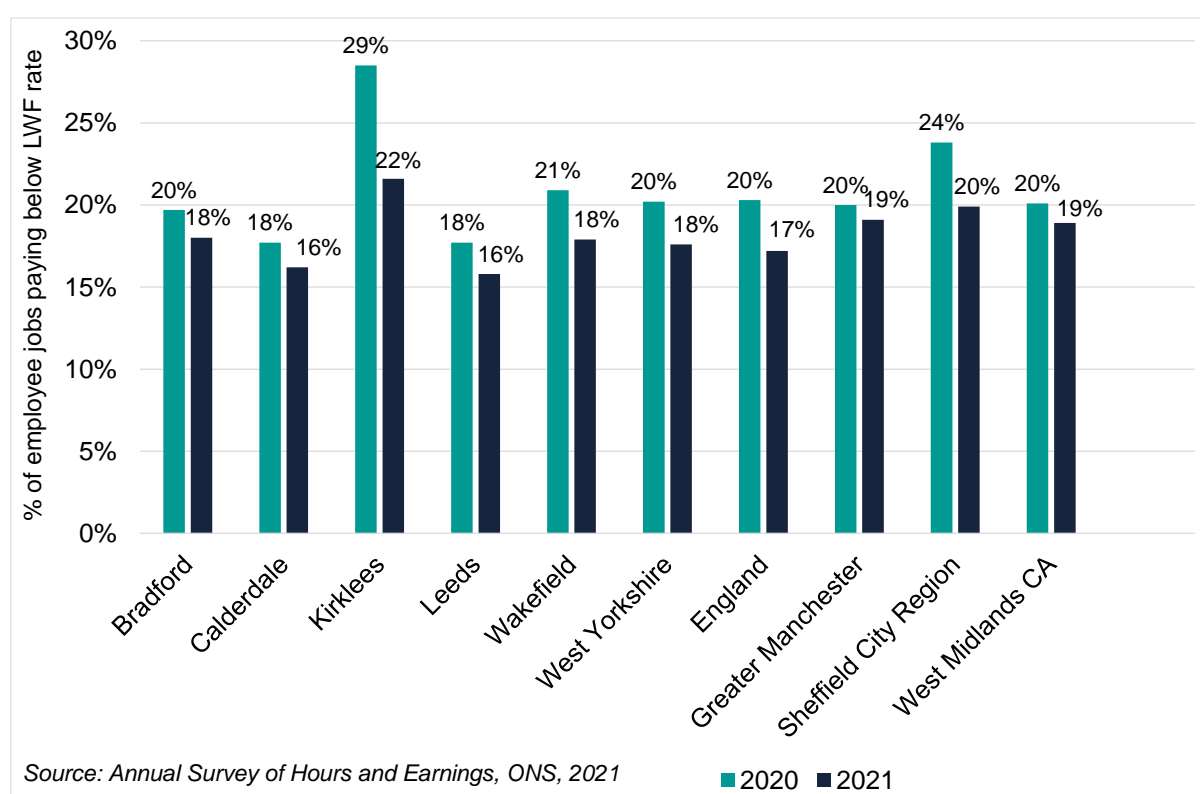
Around 170,000 jobs in West Yorkshire, or 18% of the total, pay below the Real Living Wage. The percentage increases to 32% for part-time workers. However, the proportion of jobs paying below the Real Living Wage is falling over time.

The Living Wage Foundation's Real Living Wage is independently calculated based on what people need to get by and to meet everyday needs. The value of the Real Living Wage (outside London) was £9.50 in 2021. Ensuring that jobs pay a decent wage and support an appropriate standard of living is central to the inclusive growth agenda.

The issue of low pay is a particular concern because the majority of low-paid workers remain permanently stuck in low pay or cycling in and out of higher pay.

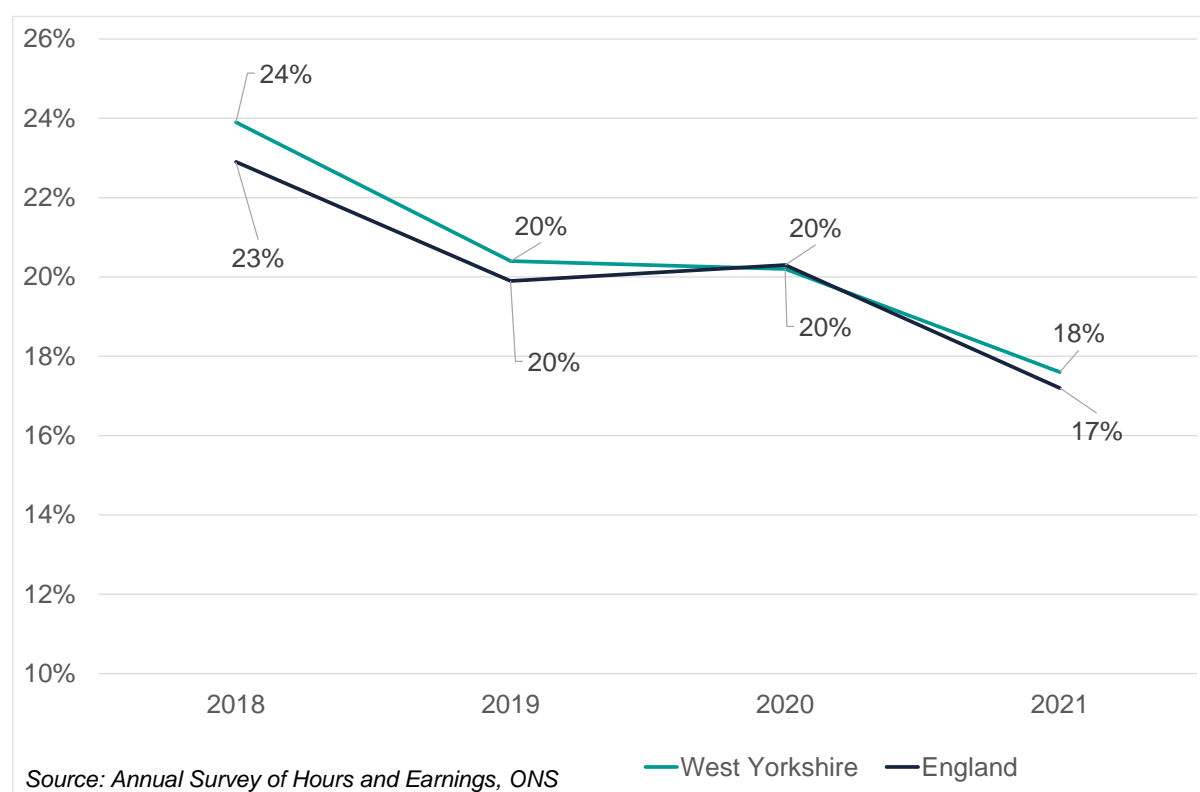
Around 170,000 employee jobs in West Yorkshire pay below the real living wage of £9.50 per hour, based on official statistics for April 2021. This is around 18% of all such jobs in the region, similar to the national average. Kirklees has a higher proportion of jobs that are low-paid on this measure – approximately 22%.

Figure 18: Proportion of all employee jobs paying below the Living Wage Foundation's real living wage rate



Turning to our comparator areas, slightly higher proportions of jobs in Greater Manchester, West Midlands CA and Sheffield City Region pay below the Real Living Wage.

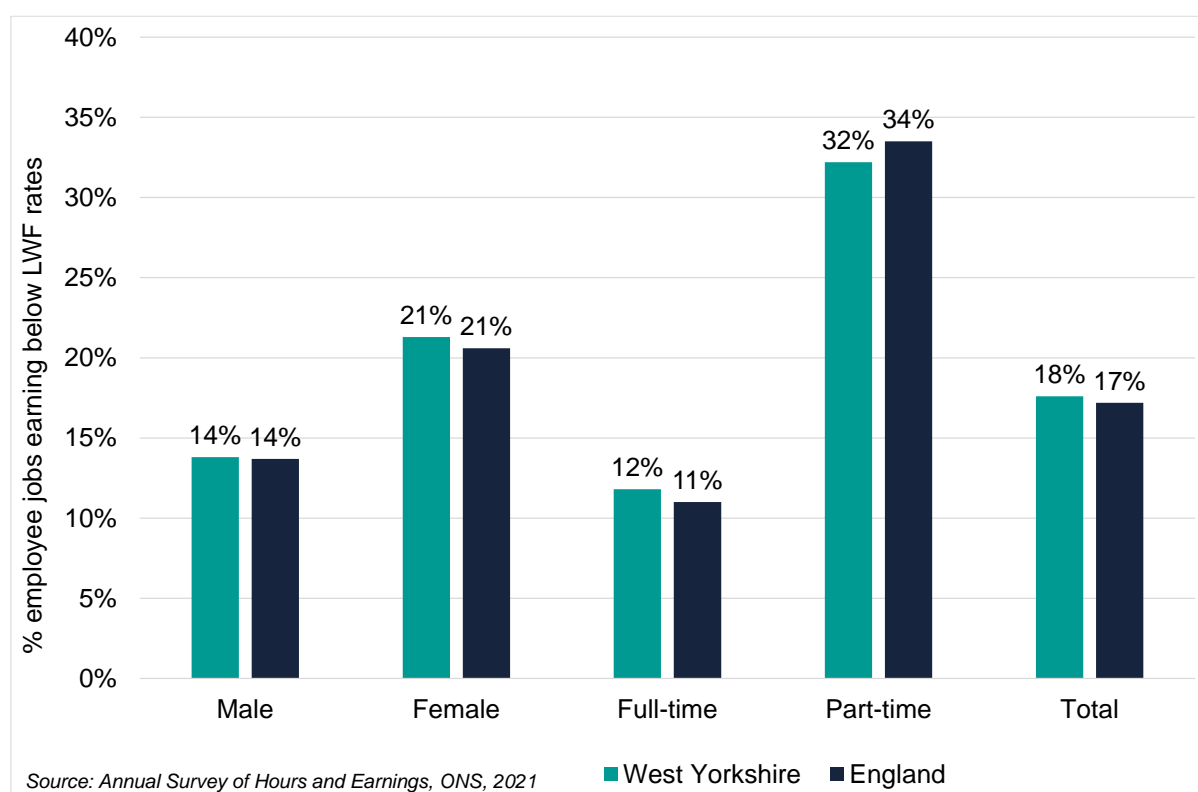
Figure 19: Trend in proportion of all employee jobs paying below the Living Wage Foundation's real living wage rate



West Yorkshire has improved against the real living wage measure in recent years, both in absolute and relative terms. The proportion of jobs paying below the real living wage in West Yorkshire fell by 6 percentage points (from 24% to 18%) between 2018 and 2021, running alongside a fall of 6 points nationally (23% to 17%).

What's driving the reduction in low pay against this measure? It coincides with recent increases in the National Minimum Wage (NMW) and National Living Wage (NLW) rates. The improvement also coincides with the additional increase in the NMW for those aged 23 and 24 years, who joined those aged 25 years and over in receiving the NLW in 2021.

Figure 20: Proportion of employee jobs paying below the Living Wage Foundation's real living wage rate by gender and status, 2021



Part-time jobs are more than twice as likely as full-time jobs to pay an hourly rate that is below the real living wage threshold. A larger proportion of jobs held by women than men also fall below the threshold, partly because they are more likely to work part-time; although male part-time jobs, which are relatively few in number, are most likely to pay below the real living wage (at 34% of male part-time jobs in West Yorkshire).

Other indicators show West Yorkshire lagging behind on pay, reflecting its productivity deficit.

Median gross weekly pay for full-time jobs in the region is £565, 92% of the national average of £613. This is a deficit in absolute terms of £48 per week.

Although the region has a significant proportion of people paid below the real living wage, there is large pay deficit at the upper end of the pay distribution. The pay level for jobs at the 20th percentile in West Yorkshire is 96% of the equivalent national figure; however, at the 90th percentile it is only 90% of the national figure. This reflects the under-representation in West Yorkshire of jobs in the highest skilled and highest paid occupations.

About the data

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is based on a 1% sample of employee jobs taken from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Pay As You Earn (PAYE) records. Information on earnings and hours is obtained from employers and ASHE does not cover the self-employed.

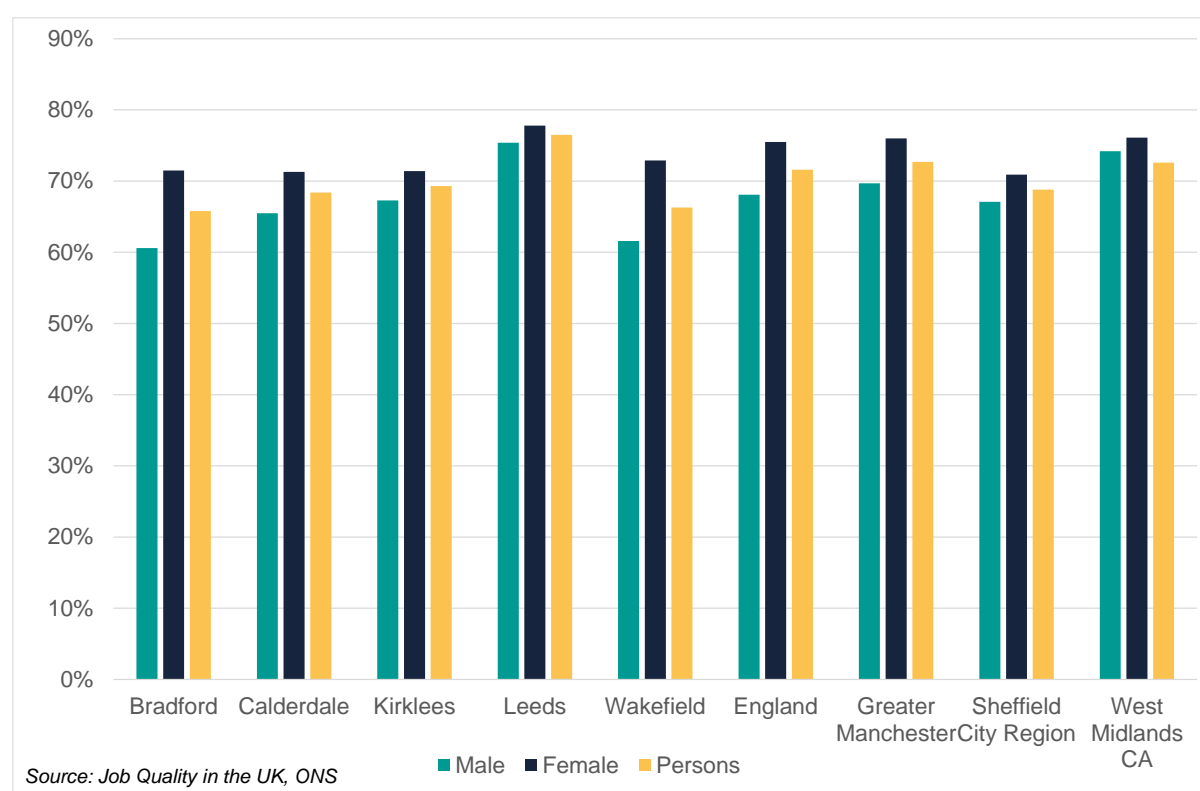
2.2.10 Quality work

All local authorities in West Yorkshire except Leeds are below the national average with regard to the proportion of jobs that offer quality work

It has not been possible to update this indicator from last year's report. The publication of the required data by the Office for National Statistics has been delayed. However, the analysis presented in last year's report has been retained below to provide a picture based on the most current data available.

This indicator provides a measure of goods jobs that extends beyond the level of pay that a job attracts. The Office for National Statistics has developed a composite measure of good work in response to recommendations in the Taylor Review of modern working practices. According to this measure, a person in quality work has all of the following characteristics: not in low pay, working satisfactory hours, and having desired contractual status.

Figure 21: Proportion of residents who are employees in quality work by sex, 2018



Around two-thirds of resident employees are in quality work across the majority of West Yorkshire districts, somewhat below the national average¹. Women are more likely to be in quality work, reflecting the fact that they are more likely to be working a satisfactory number of hours than men.

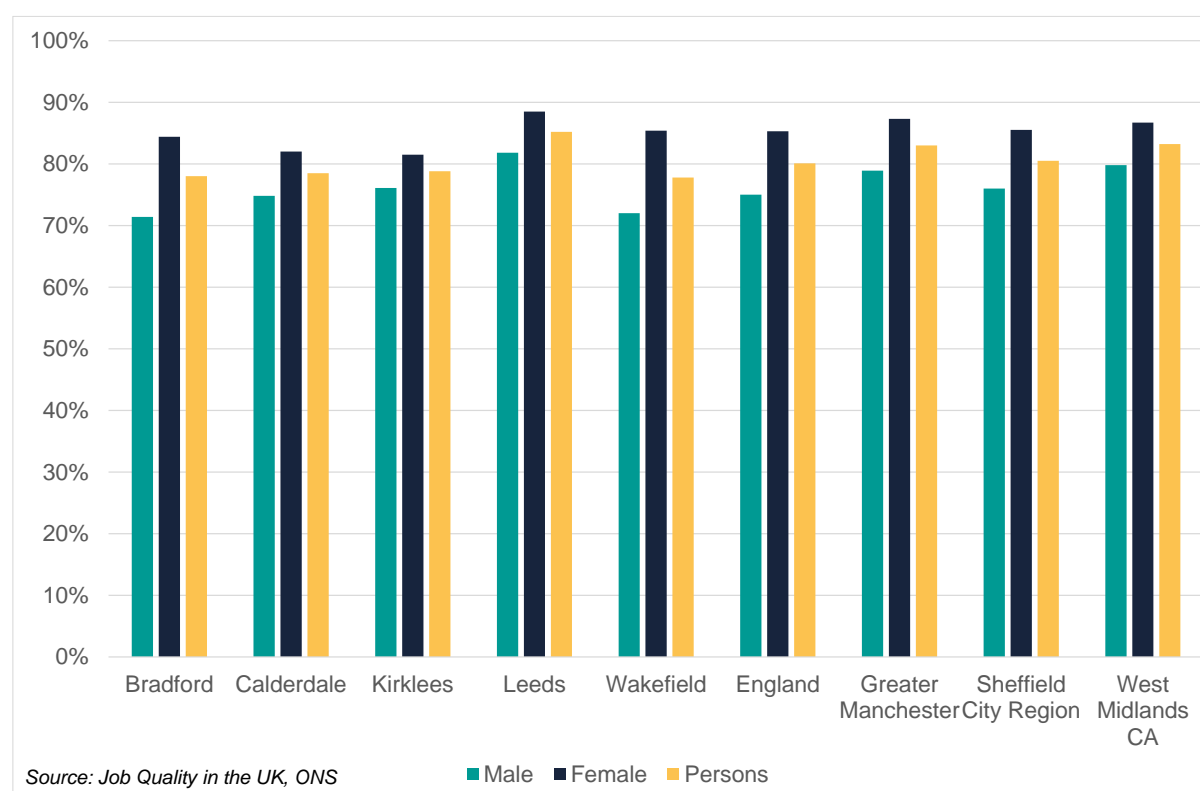
Greater Manchester and the West Midlands CA have a greater proportion of people in quality jobs than all of the West Yorkshire local authorities except Leeds.

Leeds has a considerably higher proportion of people in quality jobs than elsewhere in West Yorkshire and also outperforms the national average by 5 points. It performs consistently

¹ Figures are not available for West Yorkshire as a whole.

strongly on pay, hours and contractual status. Bradford and Wakefield have the smallest proportions of people in quality jobs in West Yorkshire.

Figure 22: Proportion of residents who are employees working satisfactory hours by sex, 2018



Turning to the components of quality work, across most of the West Yorkshire local authorities close to four in five employees work “satisfactory hours”, meaning they work 48 hours or fewer but do not consider themselves underemployed. Men are consistently less likely than women to be working satisfactory hours, due to longer hours of paid work, reflecting shift patterns. It should be noted that women shoulder the responsibility of “unpaid work”, however, undertaking an estimated average of 10 hours more unpaid work than men (26 hours compared with 16 hours)¹. The larger degree of unpaid work and desire for more flexible hours mean female employees are less likely to be in paid employment working above the 48-hour threshold, which is the principal cause of employees working unsatisfactory hours.

Almost all employees (ranging from 97% in Bradford to 99% in Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds) have a “desired contract”. This means they either have a permanent contract or non-permanent contract for a reason other than “could not find a permanent job”.

Using two-thirds of the UK median hourly pay as a measure for low pay, more than nine out of 10 employees in each of the West Yorkshire local authorities were not in low pay.

About the data

This section is based on an analysis of job quality conducted by ONS using the Annual Population Survey². This analysis looks at employee jobs on a resident basis that provide:

¹ Office for National Statistics, [Women shoulder the responsibility of 'unpaid work' \(2016\)](#)

² Office for National Statistics, [Job quality indicators in the UK – hours, pay and contracts: 2018 \(2019\)](#)

- Good hours: employees working 48 or fewer hours a week and not wishing to work more hours in their current role or look for an additional job or a replacement job that offers more hours
- A desired contract type: employees either in a permanent contract or who did not accept a non-permanent contract because they could not find a permanent one
- A position not in low pay: employees who are earning above two-thirds of the hourly median pay at UK level.

3 Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all

Key points

Women, people from ethnic minorities, disabled people and older people all have relatively low employment rates. People from ethnic minorities are much less likely to be in employment in West Yorkshire than nationally.

West Yorkshire's unemployment rate remains similar to the national average and has risen slightly as a result of the pandemic. Participation in the labour force has fallen substantially with an increase in economic inactivity among working age people. However, there is some evidence that the ethnicity and disability employment rate gaps are narrowing in West Yorkshire.

The proportion of people with no qualifications or low-level qualifications remained largely unchanged during 2021 following recent improvements. More than a fifth of the working age population fall into this category, well above the national average.

The proportion of people with higher level qualifications (level 4 and above) was also unchanged in 2021, following significant progress against this measure in 2020. West Yorkshire would have 70,000 additional high qualified people if it could eliminate the gap with the national average.

The number of apprenticeship opportunities available remains well below pre-pandemic levels according to data for the most recent full academic year. Diversity issues within apprenticeships need to be tackled and access for the disadvantaged needs to be improved.

A quarter of adults in Yorkshire and the Humber lack essential digital skills for life but two-fifths of people in employment do not have essential digital skills for work.

The proportion of young people who are NEET in West Yorkshire fell between 2020/21 and 2021/22 but remains slightly above the national average, with variations at local authority level.

3.1 Overview of the priority

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has set out its priorities for employment and skills for 2021-2025 in its Employment and Skills Framework.

The Combined Authority's Vision is for West Yorkshire to be a world-leading region where investment in skills, training and education, and support from employers go hand in hand to create a diverse, inclusive, and highly skilled workforce with good jobs, leading to sustained improvements in the quality of life for all.

We want West Yorkshire to be a place where:

- There are no barriers to people taking up, progressing and succeeding in learning and work, and where they are supported into good employment

- Employers recognise the value of a diverse workforce and invest in their talent to develop the skills that will improve productivity and support progression in the workplace
- Individuals value lifelong learning and are able to make decisions about their development, informed by quality, relevant careers information based on the reality on the ground
- World class teaching and training provides flexible learning opportunities that align to the strategic needs of the regional economy.

The West Yorkshire Digital Skills Plan sets out a vision to create an inclusive society and thriving economy through the growth of digital skills for all. The Combined Authority will embed the Digital Skills Plan (and work of the Local Digital Skills Partnership) to address higher level Skills for the tech sector, digital skills for all businesses, the needs of the future workforce, digital upskilling, digital education and social digital inclusion.

3.2 Performance against the indicators

3.2.1 Employment rate gap for disadvantaged groups

Some groups have relatively low employment rates, although there are signs that the employment rate gap is narrowing both for disabled people and people from ethnic minorities. The ethnicity employment rate gap is much wider in West Yorkshire than nationally.

West Yorkshire's overall level of employment and employment rate have both grown steadily in recent years. However, from an inclusion perspective it is important to understand the extent to which members of different groups participate in employment.

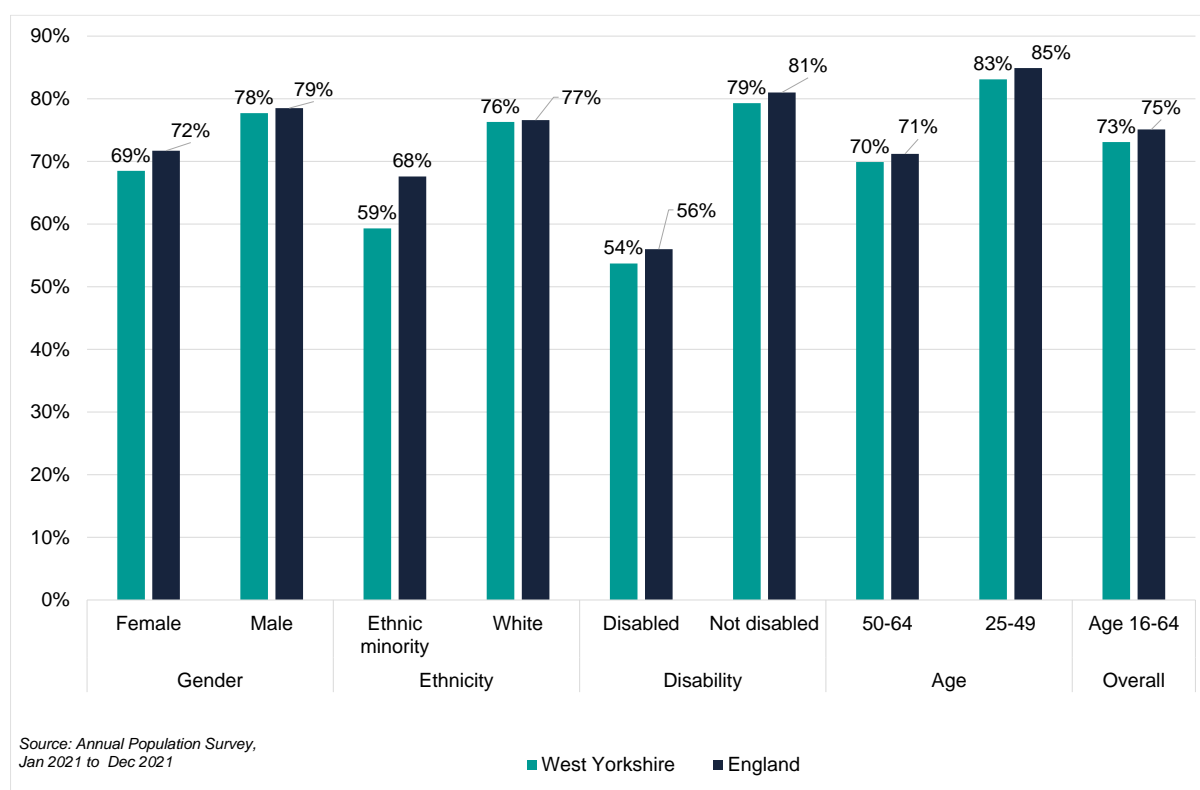
There is a range of groups who are disadvantaged in the labour market. This is reflected in relatively low employment rates. Women, people from ethnic minorities, disabled people and older people are less likely to be in employment than the wider population¹. The picture in West Yorkshire broadly reflects the national pattern.

Only 54% of disabled people and 59% of people from ethnic minorities are in a job in West Yorkshire, according to the latest data. This compares with an overall rate of 73% for the working age population.

The largest employment rate gaps are for disabled people (26 percentage points lower than for people who are not disabled) and people from an ethnic minority (17-point gap with people who classify themselves as white). However, females face a gap of 9 points with males and older people aged 50-64 a gap of 13 points with people aged 25-49.

¹ This is not the full range of groups known to be disadvantaged in the labour market but measurement issues at local level preclude analysis of these additional groups.

Figure 23: Employment rate by group



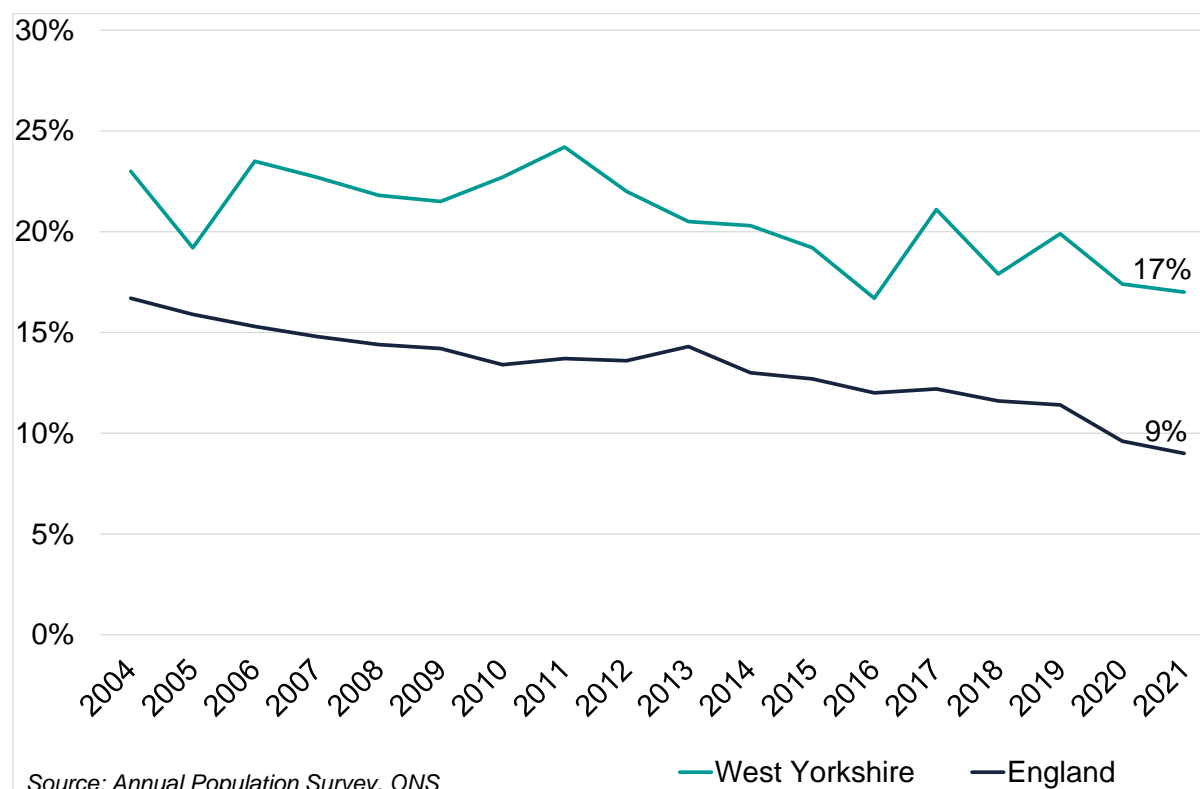
The latest data show that West Yorkshire performs similarly or slightly below the national average on employment rates for all disadvantaged groups.

Employment rates vary by different ethnic groups. National data show that the lowest rate is for the combined Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic group, at around 10 points lower than the overall rate for people from ethnic minorities (58% versus 68%). This helps to explain the low ethnic minority employment rate in West Yorkshire since this group accounts for more than 40% of the ethnic minority population of West Yorkshire, compared with around a fifth nationally.

There has been a narrowing over time of the employment rate gap between people from the White group and people from all ethnic minority groups combined¹. In West Yorkshire, this gap fell from 22 points in 2012 to 17 points in 2021.

¹ Gov.uk [Ethnicity facts and figures](#) (2021)

Figure 24: Ethnicity employment rate gap (percentage point gap between employment rate of people of working age from an ethnic minority versus employment rate of white people of working age)



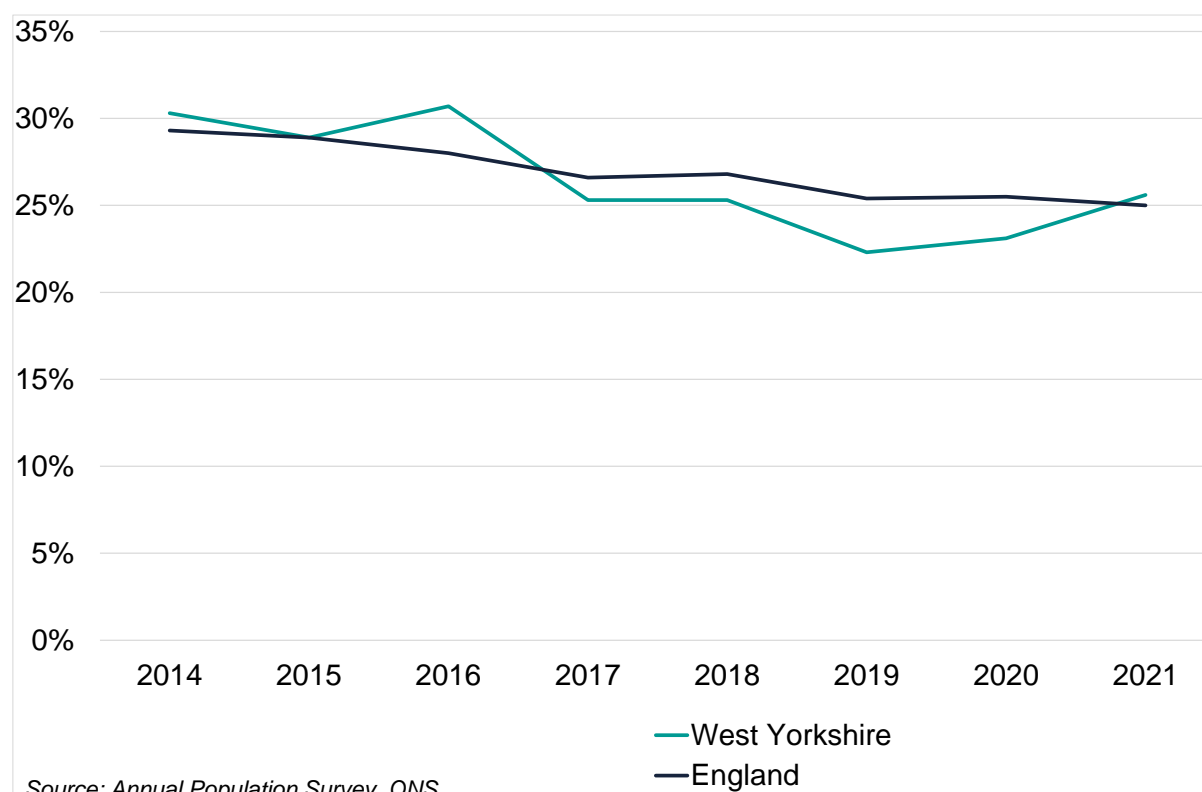
In spite of this downward trend, West Yorkshire's ethnicity employment rate gap has remained consistently wider than nationally.

At national level, the number of disabled people in employment has increased over recent years. This is due to growth in the size of the disabled population and increases in the overall employment rate, as well as a narrowing of the employment rate gap for this group¹. A similar improvement has been seen in West Yorkshire with the level of employment among disabled people increasing from 130,000 to 191,000 between 2014 and 2020, although there was a slight fall between 2020 and 2021 that coincided with the pandemic. The employment rate gap² reduced from 30 percentage points to 23 percentage points between 2014 and 2020 before widening to 26 points during 2021.

¹ Department for Work and Pensions, [The Employment of Disabled People: Data to 2019](#) (2020)

² The disability employment rate gap is

Figure 25: Disability employment rate gap (percentage point gap between employment rate of disabled people of working age versus employment rate of non-disabled people of working age)



3.2.2 Unemployment

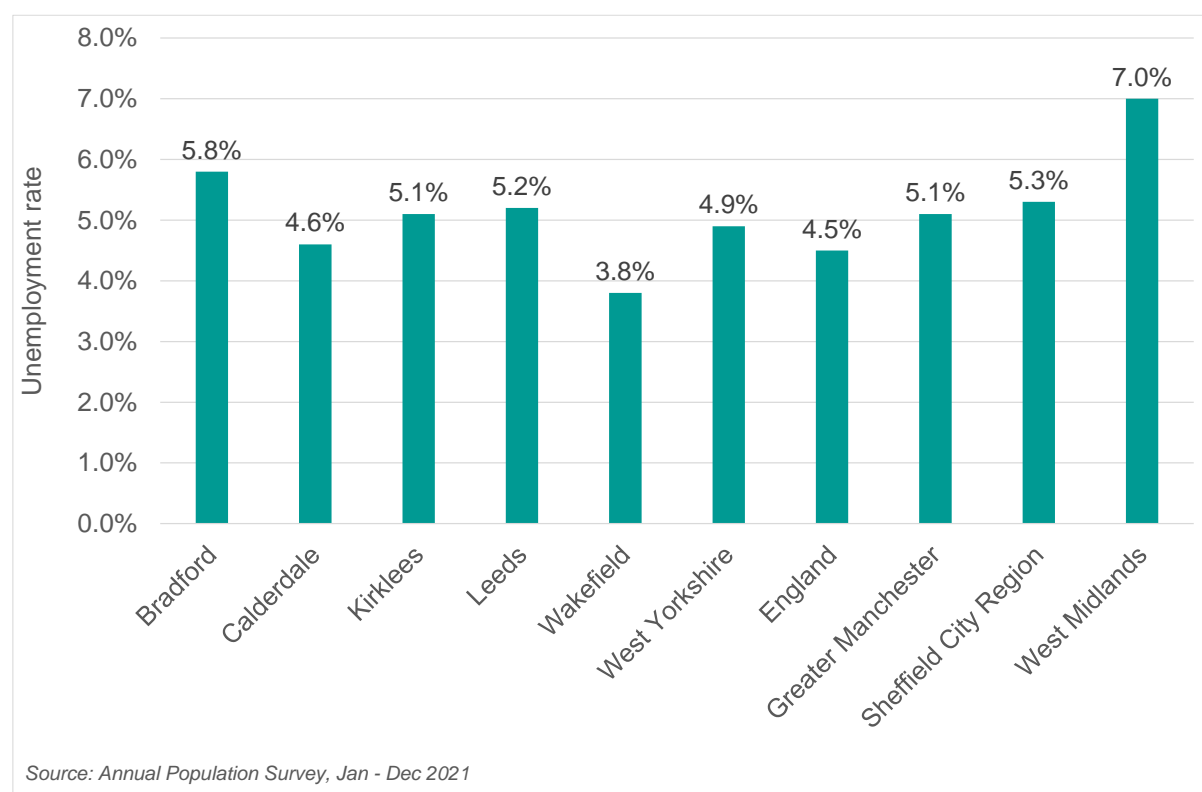
West Yorkshire's unemployment rate remains similar to the national average and has risen slightly as a result of the pandemic.

Connecting people to jobs is one of the most important ways of promoting inclusive growth. When people are unemployed their ability to contribute to growth and share in its benefits is curtailed.

Under the definition used here unemployed people are out of work and are actively seeking and available for employment. In West Yorkshire, 57,000 people were unemployed according to the latest data; this represents 4.9% of the economically active population of working age in the area. West Yorkshire's unemployment rate is similar to the national average, although Bradford's rate is well above this at around 5.8% and Wakefield's lower at less than 4%.

West Yorkshire's unemployment rate is lower than that of all three comparator MCAs and is substantially lower than the West Midlands figure.

Figure 26: Unemployment rate - % of economically active population aged 16+



The level of unemployment in West Yorkshire fell by 55% or 57,000 between 2011 and 2018, faster than the rate of decline seen nationally of 45%. The unemployment rate more than halved over the same period, from around 10% to around 4%.

This progress has been partially offset by an increase in unemployment associated with the pandemic. Between 2020 and 2021 the number of people unemployed increased slightly, by 5%, in West Yorkshire

Figure 27: Trend in level and rate of unemployment



It is important to note that not all jobless people are unemployed according to the above definition. There are a further 54,000 people in West Yorkshire who are economically inactive who would like a job. These are people who do not have a job but would like one, even though they are not actively seeking work currently and / or are not available to start work in the immediate future.

National evidence shows that participation in the labour force has fallen by around 1m as a result of the pandemic, and this has particularly affected older people and people with health issues¹. Although local level data are not timely enough to capture this trend it seems certain that economic activity has fallen significantly within West Yorkshire.

About the data

The unemployment data used here is taken from the Annual Population Survey. This is a continuous household survey covering the UK, designed to provide information on socio-economic variables at local level. The data sets consist of 12 months of survey data and is broken down on a quarterly basis. At local authority level official unemployment figures are based on model-based estimates. The model-based estimate improves on the APS estimate by borrowing strength from the claimant count.

The survey uses the international definition of unemployment specified by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This ILO definition defines unemployed people as being:

- without a job, have been actively seeking work in the past four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks
- out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks.

¹ Institute for Employment Studies, [Labour Market Statistics, July 2022](#) (2022)

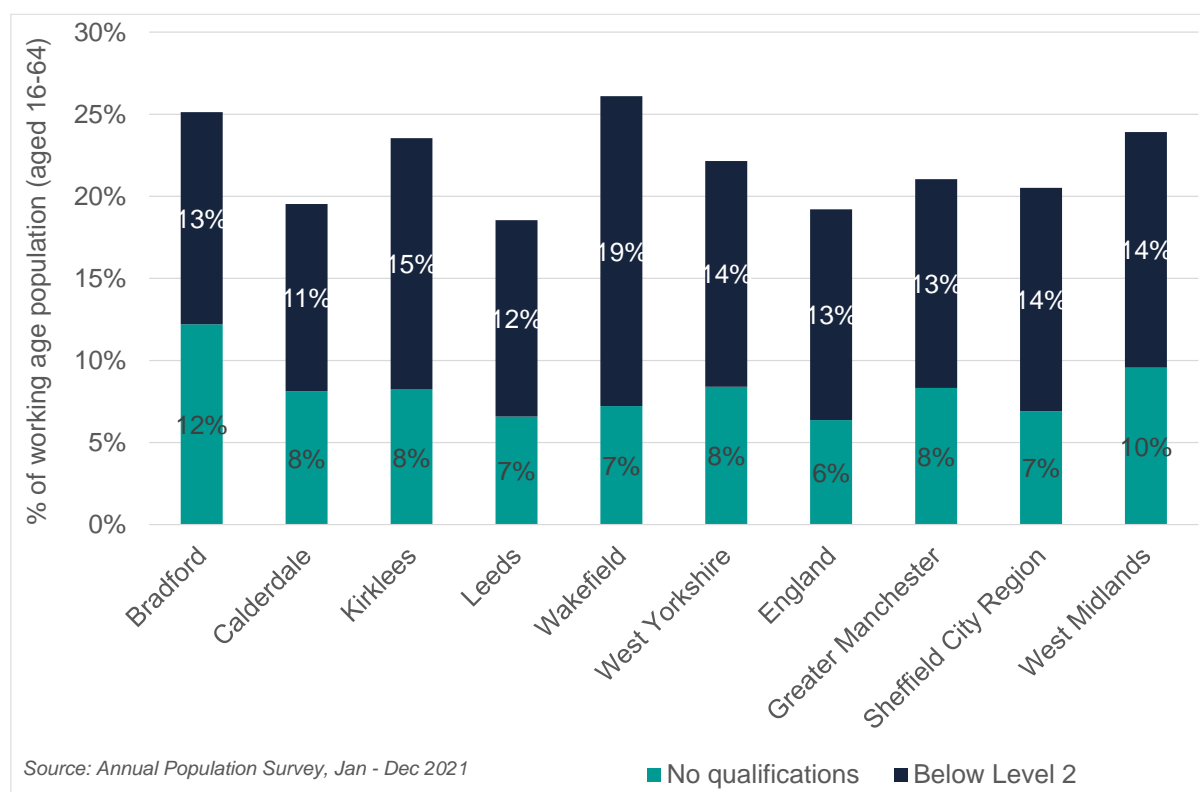
3.2.3 People with no / low qualifications (qualified below level 2)

More than one-in-five (22%) of people in West Yorkshire have no qualifications or are qualified to a low level. There has been an improving trend against this measure in recent years but there was little change in 2021.

A lack of skills and qualifications is a major barrier to getting a job and progressing within employment. Attainment at level 2 is often regarded as the threshold for basic employability. And a lack of basic qualifications can be a barrier to meeting the entry requirements for an apprenticeship, a technical course or for many jobs. This is illustrated by the fact that the employment rate for people with no formal qualifications in West Yorkshire, at 44%, is barely half that of people qualified at level 4 and above, at 85%.

Twenty-two per cent of the working age population of West Yorkshire has no or low qualifications. In absolute terms, this equates to 121,000 people (8%) with no formal qualifications and 199,000 people (14%) whose highest qualification is below level 2.

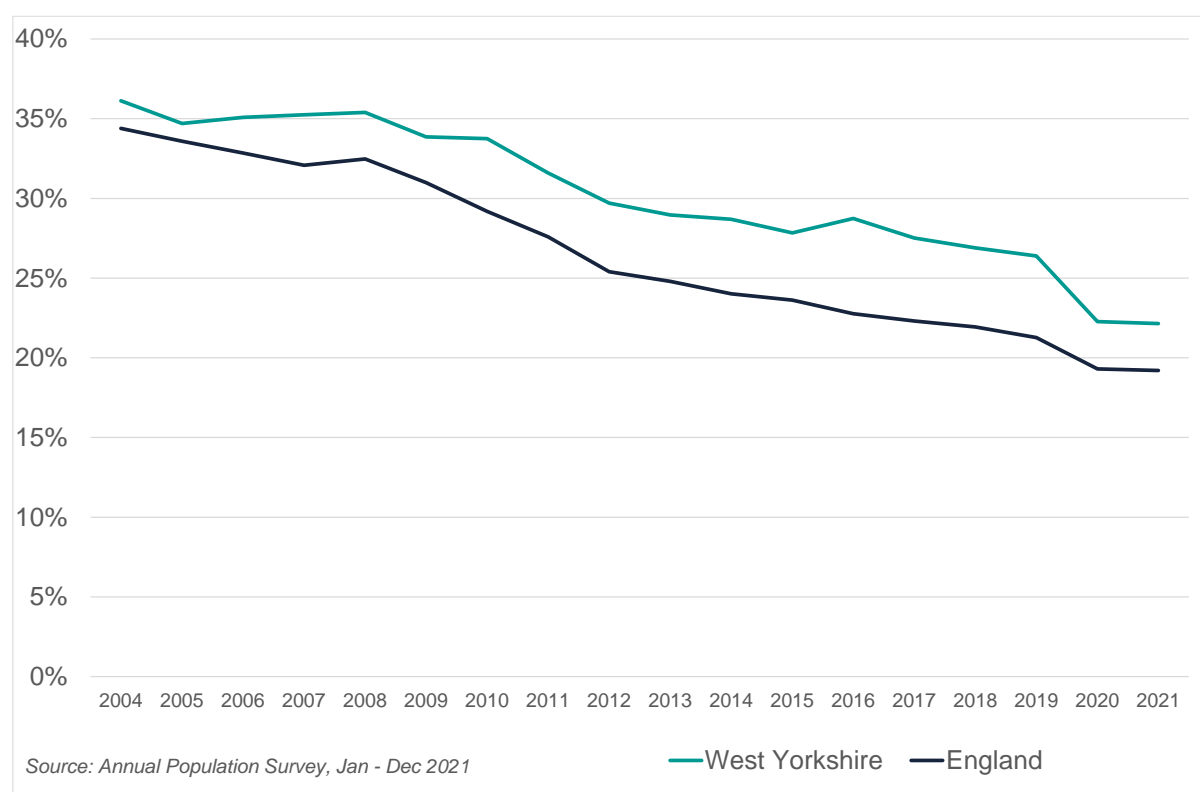
Figure 28: Proportion of working age population with no qualifications / qualified below Level 2



The proportion of people with no / low qualifications rises to around a quarter of the population of Bradford and of Wakefield. The equivalent proportion nationally is only 19%. Both Sheffield City Region and Greater Manchester have similar proportions of people with no / low qualifications to West Yorkshire, although West Midlands CA's is higher at 24%.

Following a marked improvement in performance in 2020, the position of West Yorkshire remained static in 2021, reflecting that of the national average.

Figure 29: Trend in proportion of working age population with no qualifications / qualified below Level 2



Although West Yorkshire's continuing deficit against this measure is partly due to the qualification profile of adults already in the labour force, data¹ relating to the qualifications of young people at age 19 suggests that new entrants also contribute to the poor performance. Young people in West Yorkshire are less likely to have achieved a level 2 qualification by the age of 19 than their national counterparts. The proportion is 78%, 4 points lower than the England average of 82%. Two local authorities (Calderdale and Kirklees) match the national average but in Bradford only 74% achieve level 2 by the age of 19, 7 points behind the national average.

About the data

Level 2 qualifications are equivalent to GCSEs at grades 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 or grades A*, A, B, C.² The qualifications held by individuals are measured using the Annual Population Survey, a continuous household survey covering the UK designed to provide information on socio-economic variables at local levels.

¹ Department for Education, [Level 2 and 3 attainment by young people](#) (2022)

² See *What Qualifications Levels Mean* for a full breakdown [What qualification levels mean: England, Wales and Northern Ireland - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

3.2.4 Apprenticeships

Take-up of apprenticeships in West Yorkshire is strong relative to other areas but there has been a negative effect on starts resulting from COVID-19. Apprenticeships need to be made more inclusive.

Apprenticeships are crucial to inclusive growth because they can serve as a ladder for social mobility. They can support employability and enable individuals to gain skills in a non-academic context. They can also upskill and reskill workers, giving a second chance to those already in employment. People from less privileged backgrounds who complete an apprenticeship get a bigger boost in their earnings than other learners. This is particularly true at intermediate level – the first step on the apprenticeship journey¹.

Apprenticeships are also important to boosting productivity, by enabling employers to grow their own skills to meet business priorities and to put innovative ideas into practice.

For an area like West Yorkshire where manufacturing forms a key part of the local economy, apprenticeships are especially important, since they offer an established route into this sector.

The take-up of apprenticeships in West Yorkshire is relatively strong. With 14,528 apprenticeship starts during the 2020/21 academic year, there were around 13.7 apprenticeship starts per 1,000 people in employment, somewhat above the national average of 12.3.

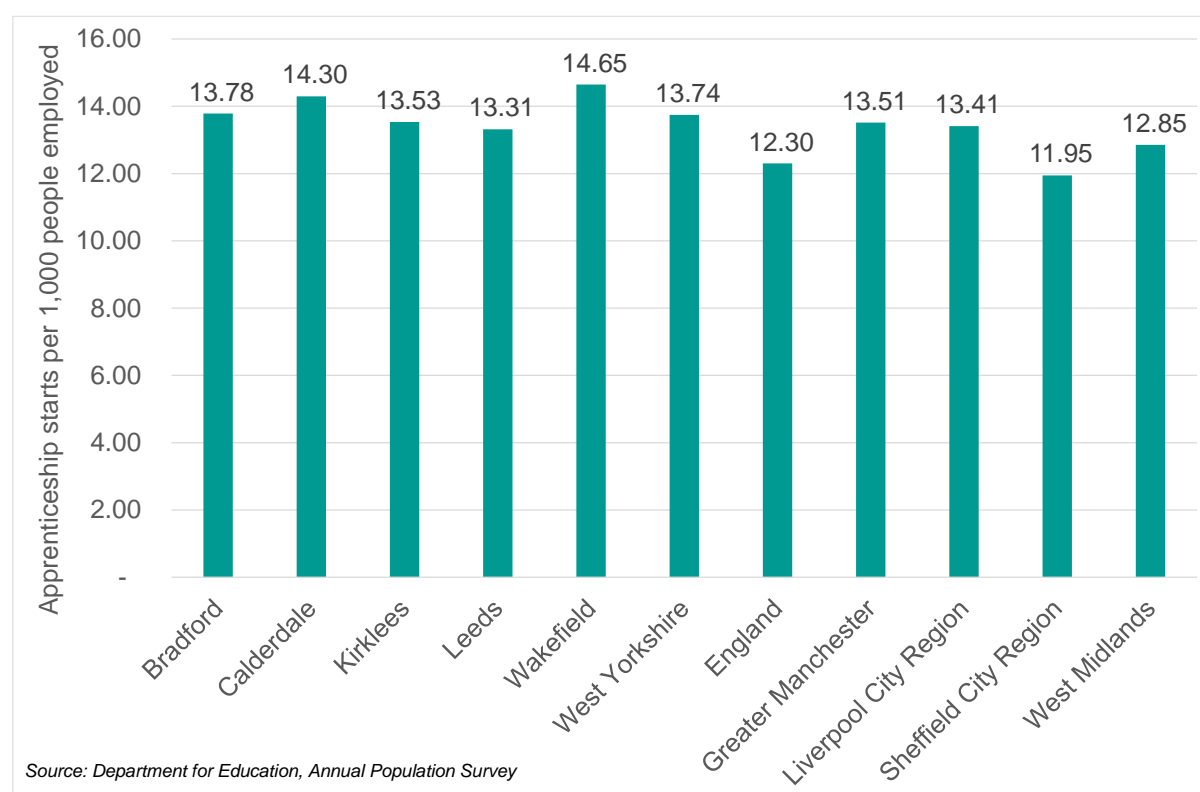
In Calderdale and Wakefield, the ratio is higher than the West Yorkshire average; but it is slightly lower in Leeds, reflecting its local industry structure. West Yorkshire's ratio of apprentices to employment is broadly in line with the comparator MCAs and somewhat higher than Sheffield City Region and West Midlands.

About the data

Apprenticeship start figures reflect the number of apprenticeships that began during a given time period, in this case academic year. In a small number of cases individuals may start more than one apprenticeship during an academic year. The apprenticeship data in this analysis is based on data return from apprenticeship training, collected via the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The ILR is an administrative data collection system designed primarily for operational use in order to fund training providers for learners in FE and on apprenticeship programmes.

¹ Social Mobility Commission [Apprenticeships and social mobility: Fulfilling potential](#) (2020)

Figure 30: Ratio of apprenticeship starts (2020/21) to 1,000 people in employment

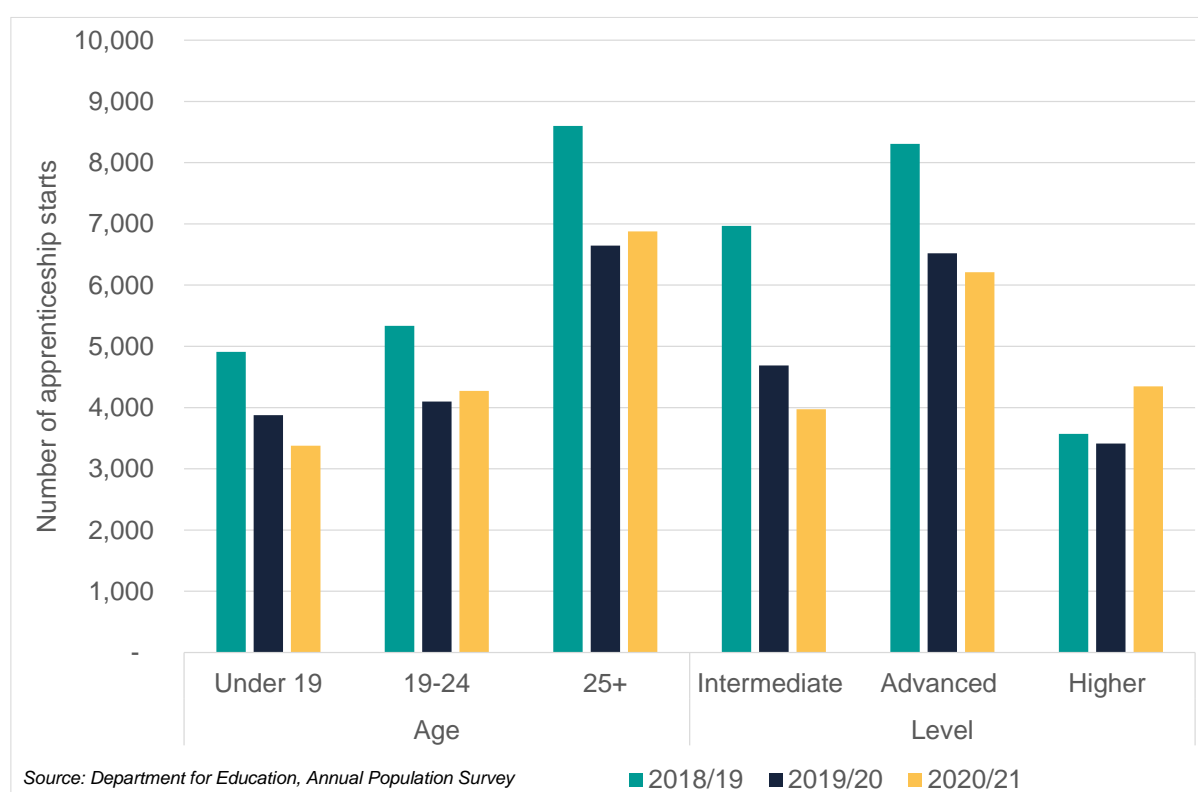


The entry rate into apprenticeships for young people is higher in West Yorkshire than nationally after both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5¹.

However, the number of apprenticeship starts in West Yorkshire has fallen significantly as a result of COVID-19 and this follows previous reductions linked to the recent apprenticeship policy reforms. Compared with 2018/19 (pre-pandemic), total starts were 23% lower in 2020/21 in the region and 18% lower nationally. There has been a particularly sharp fall in intermediate apprenticeships, which declined by 43% compared with 2018/19.

¹ West Yorkshire Combined Authority, [Labour Market Report](#) (2021)

Figure 31: Trend in apprenticeship starts by age and level, West Yorkshire



Higher apprenticeships have grown rapidly in West Yorkshire and across the country and form an increasingly important route into higher skilled employment in occupations like accountancy and nursing. Thirty per cent of apprenticeship starts in West Yorkshire are for higher apprentices, similar to the national average of 31% and broadly in line with the comparator MCAs. However, West Yorkshire is well below Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (39%) and Greater London (34%).

In view of its importance as a mechanism for social mobility and inclusion, it is crucial that apprenticeships are as diverse as possible. However, there are a number of key issues to consider in this regard¹:

- Female participation in apprenticeships is strongly concentrated in certain subjects such as health and care and is under-represented in some areas that offer strong pay and career prospects, like engineering, construction and digital.
- Take-up of apprenticeships among people from ethnic minority backgrounds is relatively low among under-19s.
- Take-up of apprenticeships by young people has fallen sharply in recent years. Coupled with this, opportunities at intermediate level have also seen a significant reduction.
- Disadvantaged pupils eligible for free school meals are less likely to take up an apprenticeship than other pupils.

These issues are considered in more detail in the accompanying equality, diversity and inclusion report.

¹ *ibid*

3.2.5 Basic digital skills

Although most people have essential digital skills for life, a quarter of adults do not. More than two-fifths of people lack the full range of essential digital skills for work.

Along with access to digital infrastructure, inspiring people about the benefits of the internet and ensuring organisations are creating accessible services, digital skills are vital to tech adoption.

Digital technologies provide an important lifeline and became even more important during the pandemic. They enable people to connect with family and friends and to organise their life better. People who are engaged digitally tend to feel more part of the community and are better able to manage their physical and mental well-being¹.

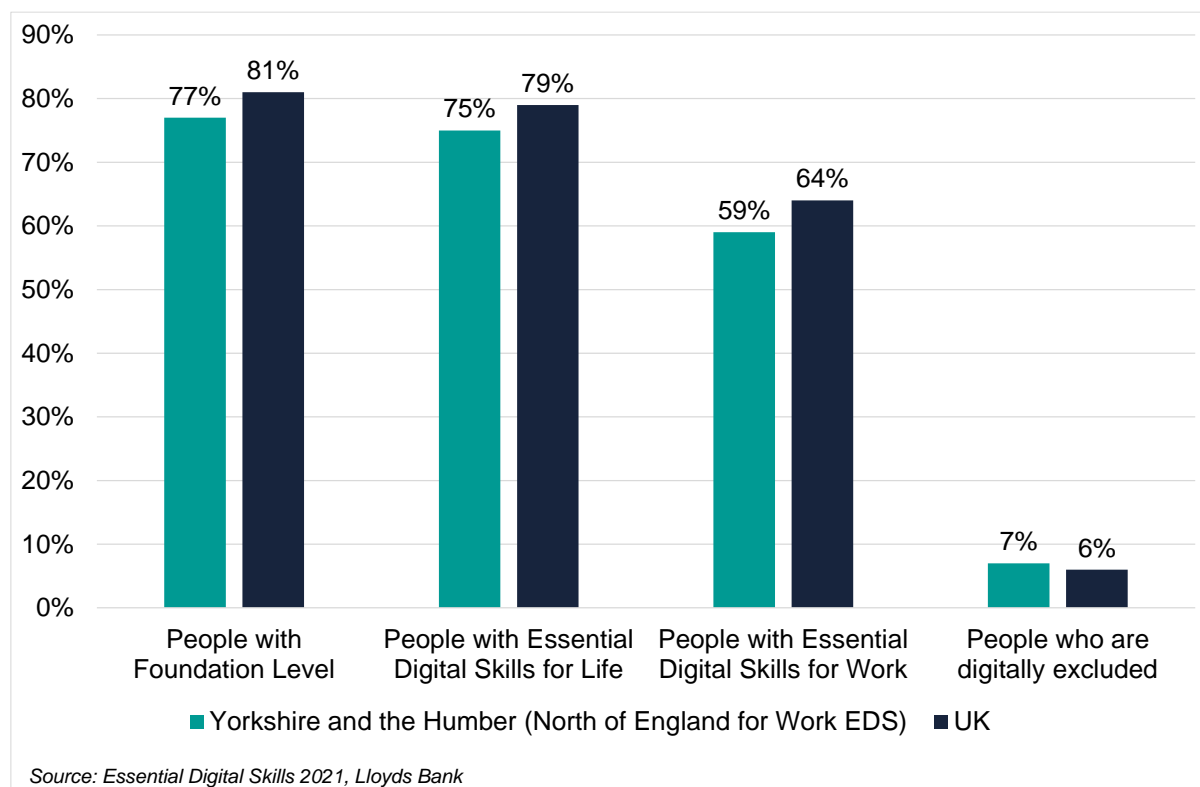
With people staying at home during the health crisis, technology has become a necessity for keeping connected, working remotely and supporting home schooling.

People who are not digitally engaged face genuine disadvantages. For example, they are more likely to be paying higher households bills for essentials such as utilities.

Digital exclusion is most widespread among older people, who are also susceptible to isolation within the community. It also disproportionately affects people with an impairment, people on low incomes and benefit claimants.

In a workplace context, digital skills are increasingly necessary in applying for a job and with the majority of jobs now requiring digital skills are vital to people's wider job prospects.

Figure 32: Digital skills – proportion of people aged 18+ who have each skill level



¹ Lloyds Bank, [Essential Digital Skills UK](#) (2021)

Foundation digital skills relate to the ability to perform the basic tasks that enable an individual to get online by themselves. This includes tasks like connecting a device to a Wi-Fi network, finding and opening applications on a device and opening an Internet browser to find and use websites. Although 77% of adults can perform these tasks this still leaves almost a quarter who are unable to do so.

People who have the Foundation skill are counted as having essential digital skills for life if they can do at least one digital task in each of five skills categories, including communicating (e.g. set up an email account), transacting (e.g. make online payments), problem solving (e.g. use internet to find information to solve problems), handling information and content (e.g. manage content using files and folders) and being safe and legal online (e.g. avoid suspicious links in emails etc).

Three quarters of adults (75%) have essential digital skills for life, although again this leaves a quarter of people who lack this level of capability. Although the proportion is unchanged on the previous year, 54% of people in Yorkshire and The Humber believe their digital skills have improved in the last year.

Members of the workforce are required to have both the foundation and life skills before qualifying for the essential digital skills for work. Then, they must be able to do at least one task in each of the five skills by themselves in a work environment. Again, the skill areas relate to communicating, transacting, problem solving, handling information and content and being safe and legal online.

Despite a significant improvement between 2020 and 2021, more than two-fifths (41%) of the workforce lack essential digital skills for work in the North of England, somewhat higher than the UK average of 36%. This means that 16% of the workforce have foundation and life skills but not work skills.

There is evidence to show that employees' lack of digital skills impacts on business performance. West Yorkshire employers flag basic digital skills as one of the key areas in which their staff lack the proficiency that is needed to meet business objectives¹.

About the data

Lloyds Bank in partnership with Ipsos MORI conduct an annual study tracking year-on-year changes in digital skills and assessing the range of online tasks that people in the UK are able to perform. This is based on a survey of over 4,100 people, nationally representative of 18+ in the UK which is used to measure the UK's level of essential digital skills and track its progress.

¹ West Yorkshire Combined Authority, [Labour Market Report 2021](#), p133

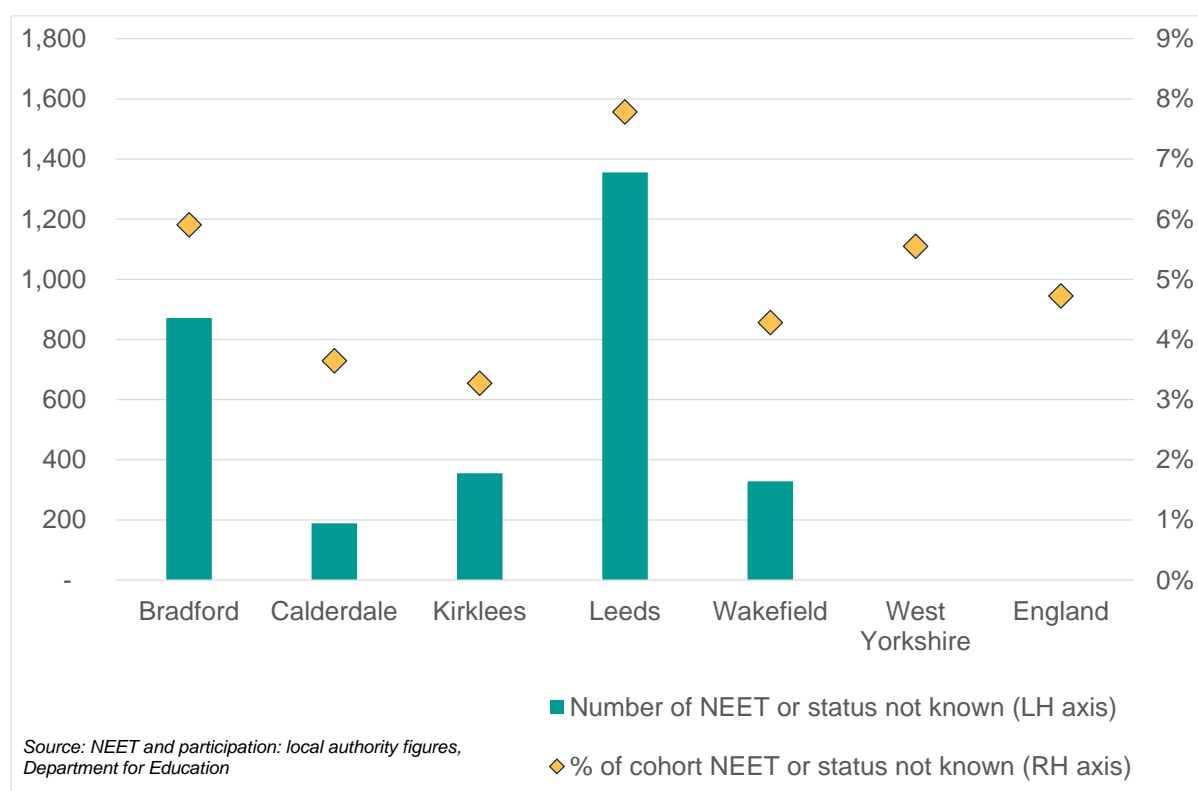
3.2.6 NEETs

The proportion of young people who are NEET in West Yorkshire fell between 2021 and 2022 but remains slightly above the national average, with variations at local authority level.

Young people who become NEET (not in education, employment or training) face an increased likelihood of unemployment, low wages, or low-quality work later on in life. Being NEET can also have an impact on involvement in crime, as well as a detrimental effect on physical and mental health, particularly when time spent NEET is at a younger age or lasts for longer¹. Local authorities have a duty to track young people's activity to identify those not participating and support them to do so.

Based on the latest published figures, there was an average of 3,100 young people aged 16 and 17 who were NEET or whose status was not known in West Yorkshire during the months of December 2021 to February 2022. This equates to around 5.5% of all 16- and 17-year-olds known to their respective local authorities, which is slightly above the England average of 4.7%.

Figure 33: Number and proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known (average of December 2021, January 2022 and February 2022)



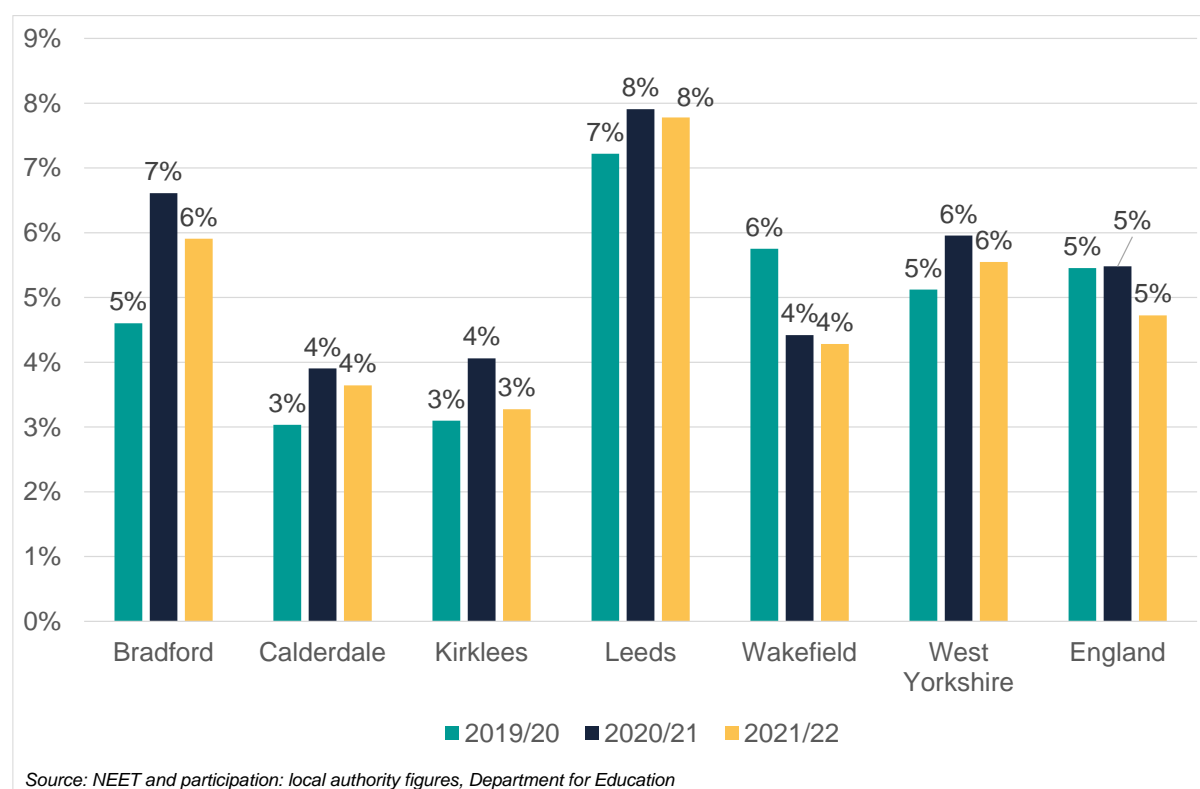
The prevalence of NEETs varies across West Yorkshire local authorities, with some below the national average and some well above. Around 3% to 4% of 16- and 17-year-olds in each of Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield are NEET or not known, with the proportion increasing to around 6% in Bradford. The proportion is highest in Leeds at nearly 8%.

¹ Public Health England, [Local action on health inequalities: Reducing the number of young people not in employment, education or training \(NEET\)](#) (2014)

The number and proportion of young people NEET and not known in West Yorkshire fell in 2021/22, following an increase in the previous year. The number decreased by 120 or 4%, whilst the proportion of the cohort fell by a marginal 0.4 percentage points, from 6.0% to 5.5% (figures appear inconsistent due to rounding). Three out of five local authorities shared in the reduction, including an 18% fall in the number in Kirklees, a fall of 9% in Bradford and a small reduction of 2% in Calderdale. Leeds saw a 4% increase, whilst Wakefield remained static.

Nationally, there was a bigger fall in the number of young people NEET and not known in 2021/22, of 12%.

Figure 34: Trend in proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known



Young people from an ethnic minority group are, in general, less likely to become NEET in West Yorkshire. Around 5% of young people from an ethnic minority were NEET or not known as of December 2020, compared with 6% of white young people. Asian / Asian British and Black / Black British groups both had rates below the overall average, although the proportion of mixed-race young people who were NEET or not known was above average at 8%.

9% of young people with special education needs and disability (SEND)¹ and 9% of young people in receipt of SEN support² were NEET or not known as of December 2020 compared with 6% of the overall cohort.

¹ A child or young person has special educational needs and disabilities if they have a learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support.

² Support given in school or college, such as speech therapy.

About the data

Local authorities have a duty to track young people's activity to identify those not participating and support them to do so. Statutory guidance that underpins this duty directs local authorities to collect information to identify young people who are not participating, or who are at risk of not doing so, and to target their resources on those who need them most. Information about a young person's activity is recorded on each authority's client database with data collated centrally by the Department for Education.

3.2.7 People qualified at level 4 and above

West Yorkshire underperforms on the proportion of its population qualified to a higher level and there was no narrowing of the gap with the national average during 2021, although the underlying trend is upwards.

One of the key challenges facing West Yorkshire is a deficit in its skills base relative to other parts of the UK. This is closely associated with its underperformance on productivity and innovation. For example, according to one study, higher skill levels among London's workforce explain about two-thirds of the productivity gap between the capital and the rest of the country¹.

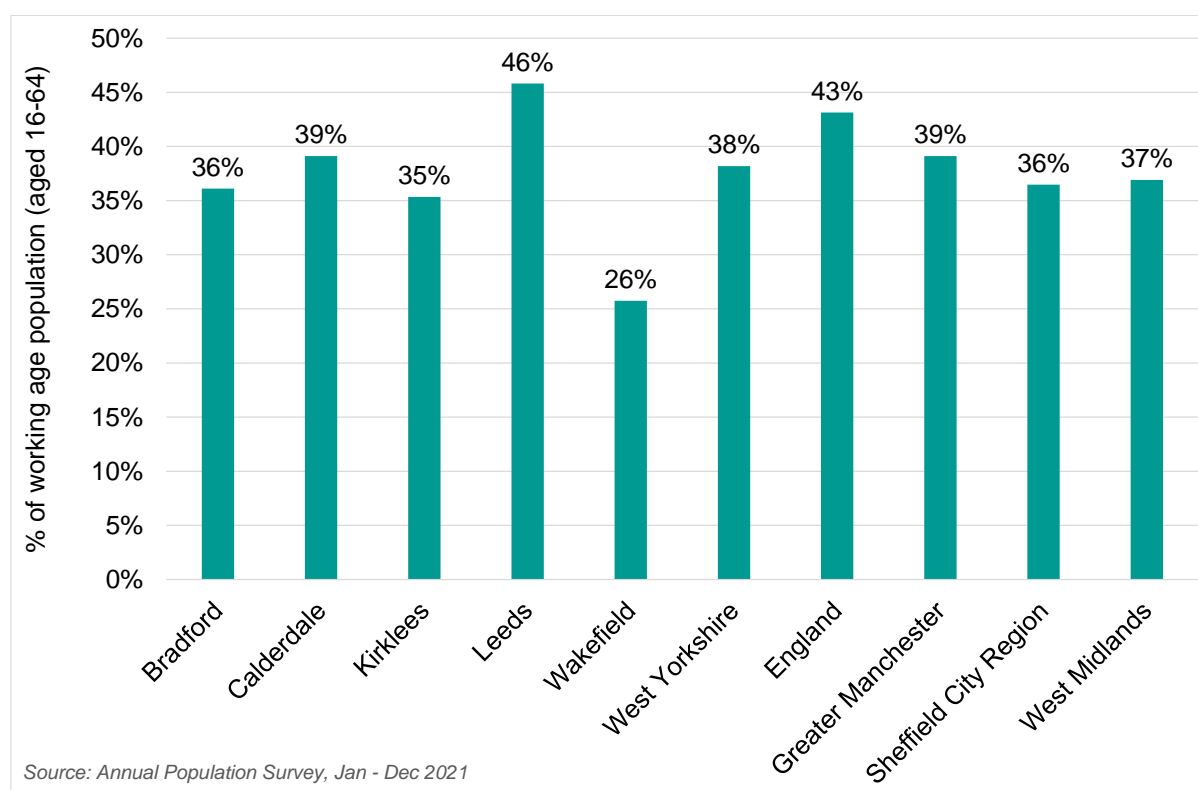
Even before COVID-19, it was clear that the world of work in 2030 was going to look considerably different to today. Tasks, roles and entire jobs were set to transform, as technology rapidly changes work and drives up demand for new and higher skills.

The availability of people with higher level qualifications at Level 4 and above is a key area of under-performance for the region. With 38% of its population qualified to this level, West Yorkshire is five points below the national average of 43%. In absolute terms this equates to 71,000 fewer people qualified at Level 4 and above in the region than would be the case if West Yorkshire matched the national average.

West Yorkshire performance against this measure is similar to the comparator City Regions – slightly below Greater Manchester but higher than Sheffield City Region and the West Midlands Combined Authority.

¹ Industrial Strategy Council, [UK Skills Mismatch in 2030](#) (2020)

Figure 35: Proportion of working age population qualified at Level 4 and above



The proportion of the working age population qualified to degree level (level 6) and above in West Yorkshire is lower than the national average at 33% and 37% respectively. Around 6% hold a higher education qualification below degree level, similar to the England average of 7%.

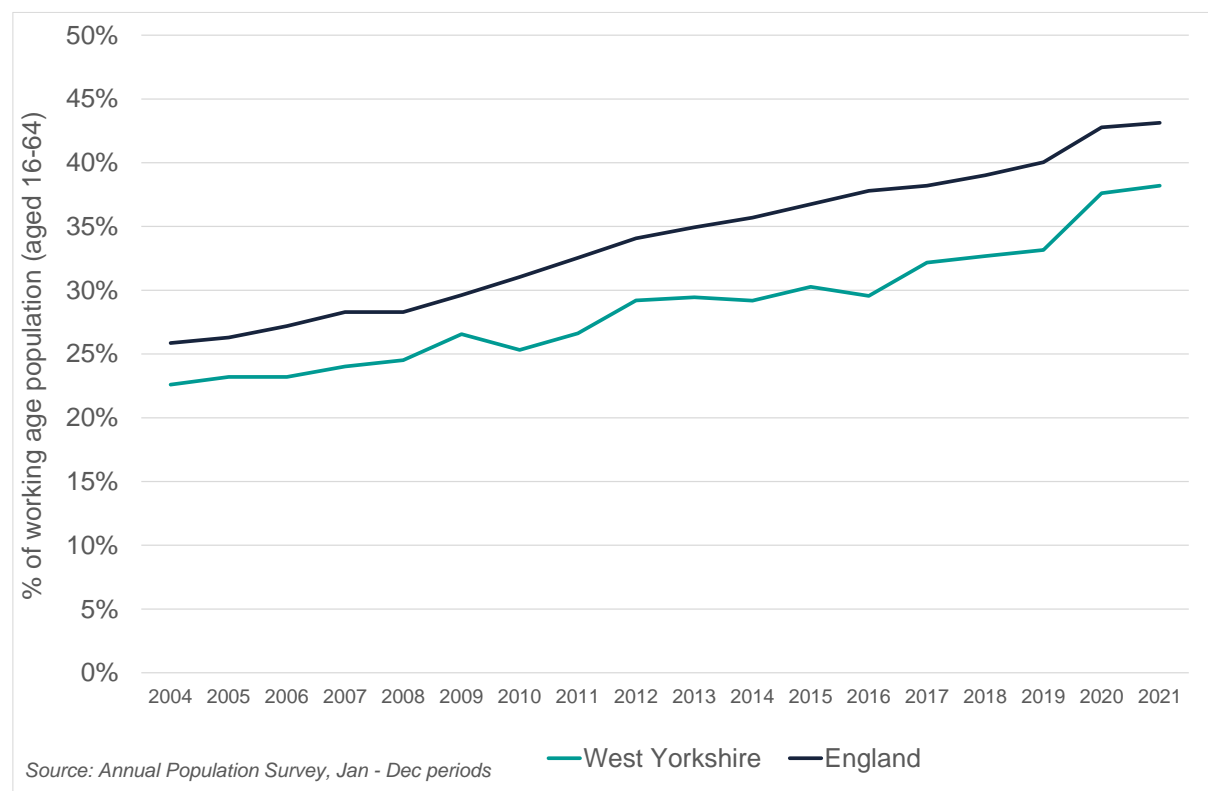
The proportion of people qualified at level 4 and above in West Yorkshire has followed a sustained upward trend over the last decade. A sharp increase of five percentage points in 2020 narrowed the gap with the national average, but there has been little change seen in 2021, either for West Yorkshire or at national level. The proportion qualified at this level remained at 38% in West Yorkshire and the England average remained at 43%.

About the data

Level 4 and above includes all higher education qualifications, from Level 4 qualifications such as a higher national certificate (HNC), through to Level 8, which includes doctorate-level qualifications. Honours degrees are at Level 6¹. Qualifications serve as a proxy for the level of skills and knowledge held by individuals. The qualifications held by individuals are measured using the Annual Population Survey, a continuous household survey covering the UK designed to provide information on socio-economic variables at local levels.

¹ See *What Qualifications Levels Mean* for a full breakdown [What qualification levels mean: England, Wales and Northern Ireland - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-qualifications-levels-mean)

Figure 36: Trend in proportion of working age population qualified at Level 4+



4 Empowering our communities, towns and cities to thrive

Key points

Healthy life expectancy in West Yorkshire is below the national average for both males and females.

The number of net additional dwellings fell substantially in West Yorkshire during the pandemic. According to the latest data for 2020/21 housing supply is a third lower than in 2018/19.

Housing affordability worsened in 2021 as prices grew more quickly than earnings. The impact on West Yorkshire was less marked than nationally and housing remains relatively affordable locally, although the affordability ratio takes no account of the quality of housing stock.

Rented housing costs in West Yorkshire are lower than nationally, except in Leeds. However, more timely national data point to a sharp increase in these costs during 2022.

The latest available data for 2020 show that round 176,000 households in West Yorkshire (18% of all households) are in fuel poverty, a prevalence that is above the national average (13%). This shows that West Yorkshire is poorly positioned to cope with the current energy price crisis. There is clear evidence that the proportion of households in fuel poverty is growing rapidly.

Around 80% of West Yorkshire premises are covered by gigabit-capable internet connections, well ahead of the national average.

Almost 9-out-of-10 premises have mobile 4G coverage, which is again above the national average.

4.1 Overview of the priority

The Combined Authority's aim is to work with its partners to develop well-connected neighbourhoods which support inclusive growth with good quality homes in places where people want to live.

This involves enabling housing growth and supporting our places to maximise their potential through effective place making that will leverage private sector investment. This approach recognises that people are not bound by geographies when choosing where they want to live, incorporating other factors such as transport, access to jobs, education and community.

Local partners invest in priority projects delivered in our Spatial Priority Areas, urban centres and growth zones through the West Yorkshire Strategic Housing Pipeline which meets the needs of our communities.

The Combined Authority is committed to building strong strategic relationships with Homes England, Housing Associations and private developers with greater investment in housing which delivers well designed homes and neighbourhoods, a good quality choice across tenures and greater use of modern methods of construction.

The Combined Authority is also working with partners to build a world-class digital infrastructure, which supports innovation in the region and promotes its global competitiveness.

4.2 Performance against the indicators

4.2.1 Healthy life expectancy

Healthy life expectancy (at birth) for both women and men in West Yorkshire is significantly lower than the England average. Inequality in overall life expectancy (the difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas) in Leeds is significantly worse than the England average.

Healthy Life expectancy is a measure of the average number of years a person can expect to live in good health (rather than with a disability or in poor health), based on contemporary mortality rates and prevalence of self-reported good health. For a particular area and time period, it is an estimate of the average number of years a new-born baby would live in good health if he or she experienced the age-specific mortality rates and prevalence of good health for that area and time period throughout his or her life. Overall life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are important measures of mortality and morbidity, and inequality in life expectancy is a key high-level health inequalities outcome, which is core to the aims of the Department of Health. There is also a significant divergence in life expectancy by socio economic group¹, making it an important indicator of inclusion.

Both female and male healthy life expectancy at birth in West Yorkshire is statistically significantly lower than the England average and has been since this indicator has been routinely published. The latest figure for healthy life expectancy (2018/2020, a 3-year average) for a girl and boy born in West Yorkshire was 62.0 and 60.7 years respectively, lower than the England average of 63.9 and 63.1 years respectively.

At local authority level within West Yorkshire, there is some variation in healthy life expectancy. For women, healthy life expectancy is significantly lower than the England average in Wakefield (56.7 years) and Kirklees (61.2 years), whilst for men this is true all West Yorkshire districts apart from Kirklees.

¹ Longevity Science Panel, [Life Expectancy: Past and Future Variations by Socio-economic Group in England and Wales](#) (2018)

Figure 37: Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth (2018-2020)

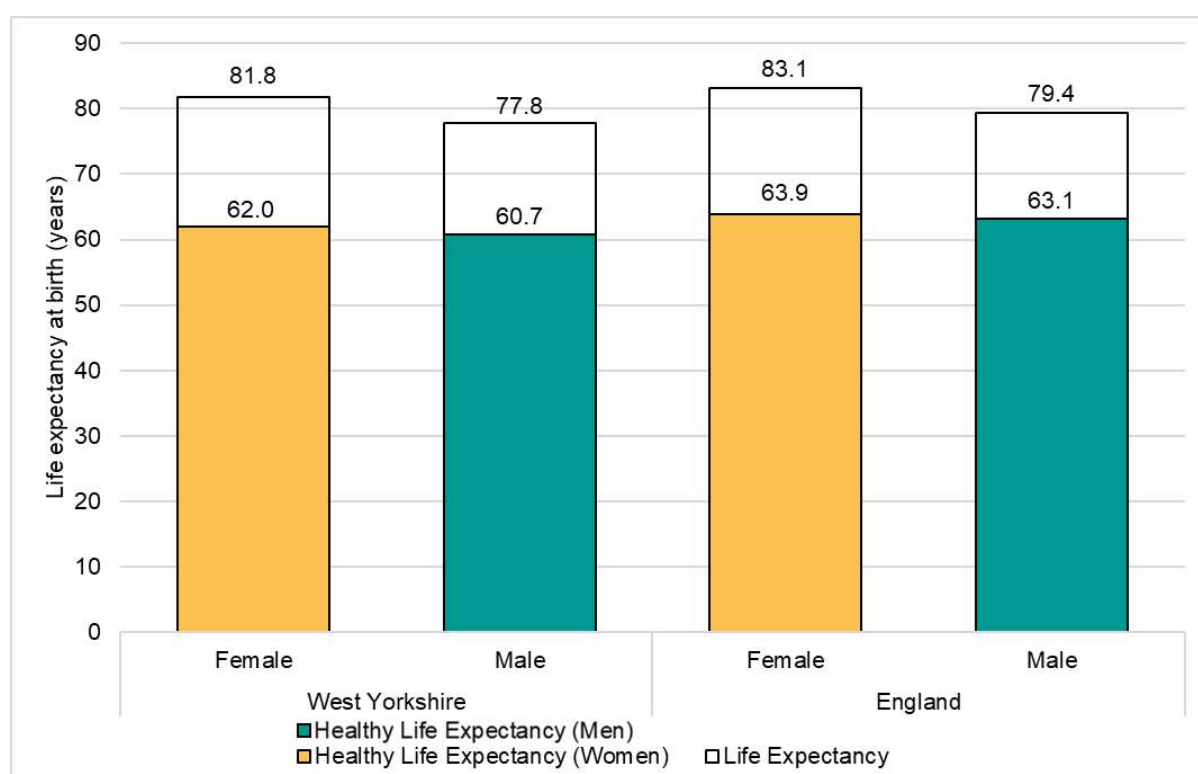
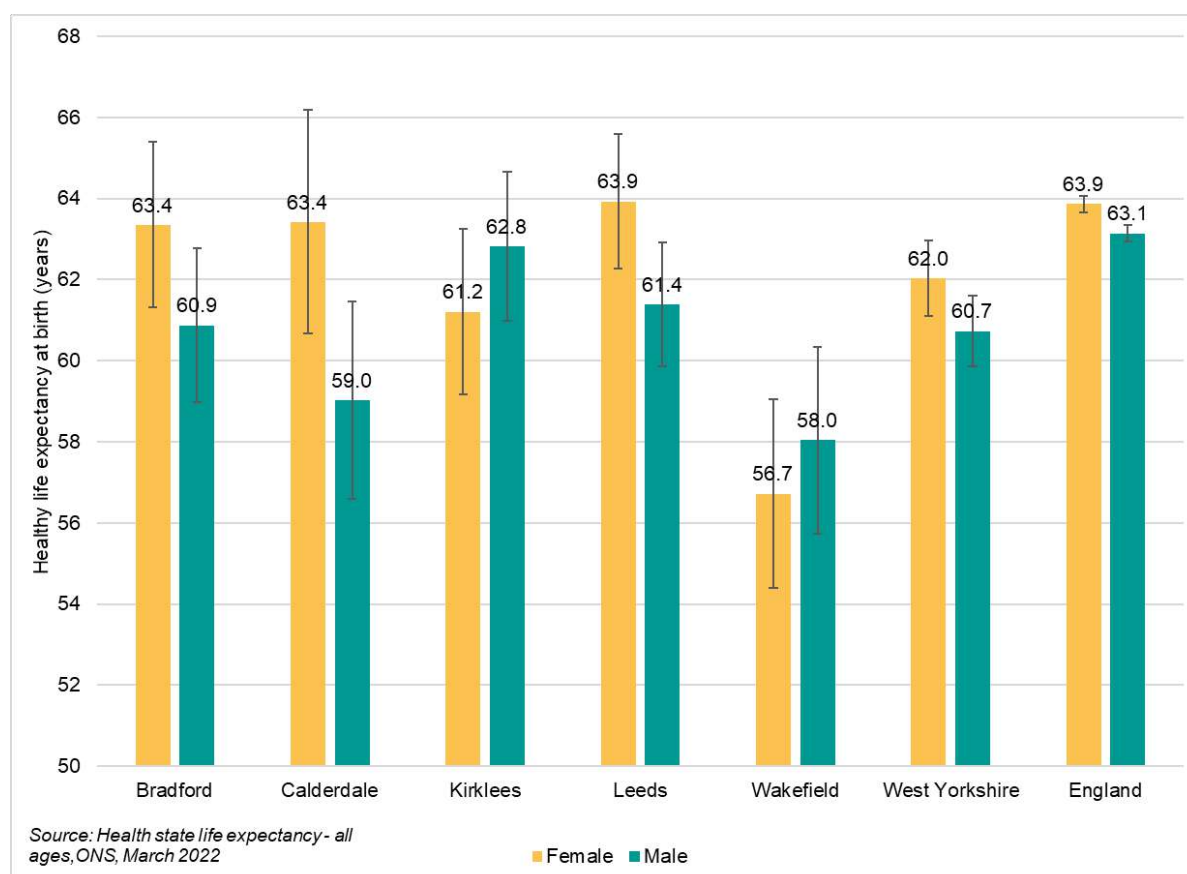


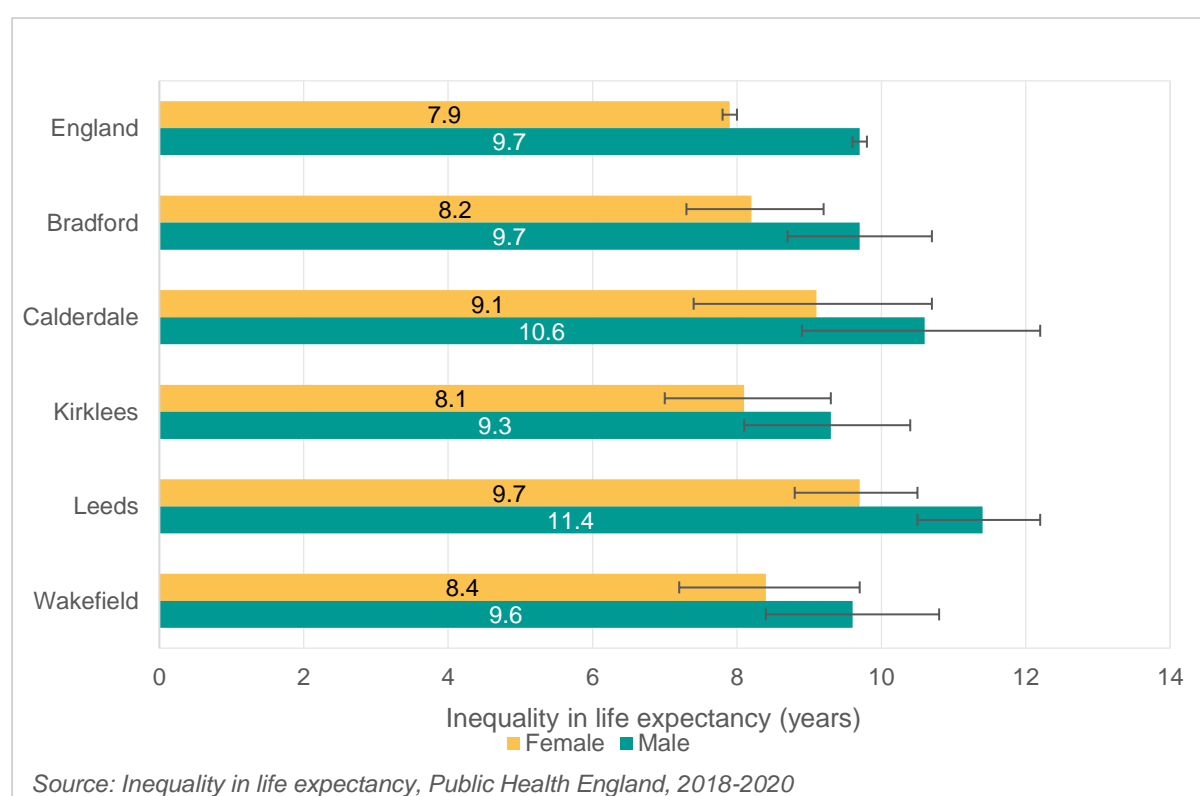
Figure 38: Healthy life expectancy at birth (2018-2020), West Yorkshire Districts vs England



Inequality in life expectancy, or the slope index of inequality (SII) is a measure of the social gradient in life expectancy, i.e., how much life expectancy varies with deprivation. It takes account of health inequalities across the whole range of deprivation within each area and summarises this in a single number, the SII. The greater the value of the SII, the greater the average difference in life expectancy between the least deprived and most deprived neighbourhoods within a given area.

The latest SII data (2018-2020) shows that within West Yorkshire, Leeds is the only area that has a statistically significantly larger (steeper) SII of life expectancy for both women and men compared to the England average. This means that the disparity between life expectancy in the most and least deprived neighbourhoods is more severe than the England average. In practical terms, it means that on average a boy or girl born in an area of Leeds that falls within the most deprived (worst 10%) neighbourhoods in England will live 11.4 or 9.7 years (girls and boys respectively) fewer than a boy or girl born in area of Leeds that falls within the least deprived (best 10%) neighbourhoods.

Figure 39: Inequality in life expectancy at birth (2018-2020)



About the data

Healthy life expectancy is a measure of the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health based on contemporary mortality rates and prevalence of self-reported good health. The prevalence of good health is derived from responses to a survey question on general health within the Annual Population Survey. For a particular area and time period, it is an estimate of the average number of years a new-born baby would live in good general health if he or she experienced the age-specific mortality rates and prevalence of good health for that area and time period throughout his or her life. Figures are calculated from deaths from all causes, mid-year population estimates, and self-reported general health status, based on data aggregated over a 3-year period. Figures reflect the prevalence of good health and mortality among those living in an area

in each time period, rather than what will be experienced throughout life among those born in the area. The figures are not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area could actually expect to live in good general health, both because the health prevalence and mortality rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

4.2.2 Net additional dwellings

A substantial number of net additional dwellings are being delivered each year in West Yorkshire, adding to the region's housing stock. However, in 2020/21 West Yorkshire saw a second consecutive annual fall against this measure, with net additional dwellings 35% lower than pre-pandemic.

The Combined Authority is committed to supporting well-connected neighbourhoods with good quality homes, in places where people want to live. This involves improving the supply of homes through the West Yorkshire Strategic Housing Pipeline.

'Net additional dwellings' is the primary and most comprehensive measure of housing supply.

In 2020/21, a total of 5,983 net additional dwellings were delivered across West Yorkshire. This represents a decrease over previous years. Overall, the cumulative losses to housing stock across the region stood at 837.

About the data

Net additional dwelling statistics track changes in the size of the dwelling stock due to new builds, flat conversion, change of use and demolition. The figures used here are taken from the [Live Tables on Housing Supply](#), produced by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The population estimates are taken from the Office for National Statistics annual population estimates.

Over the previous 10 years net housing completions reached a low of 3,889 in 2012/13 following the crash of 2008. Subsequently, net housing completions increased year on year, up to 9,261 in 2018/19.

All local authorities in West Yorkshire registered a broad upward trend in their annual figures for net additional dwellings over this period, except Calderdale.

In the last two years, however, all local authorities in West Yorkshire underwent a substantial decline in net additional dwellings. In the two-year period between 2018/19 and 2020/21 Bradford saw the biggest fall of 68% (down by 48% in 2020/21 alone) with big falls in Calderdale (-53%), Wakefield (-42%) and Kirklees (-34%). The decline in Leeds was much smaller at -14%.

Across West Yorkshire the figure for 2020/21 was 21% lower than in 2019/20 and 35% lower than in 2018/19. The respective falls at national level were less pronounced at 11% and 10% respectively. West Yorkshire's count of net additional dwellings is at its lowest level since 2014/15 but is still 54% above the figure recorded in 2012/13.

Table 2: Net additional dwellings by local authority

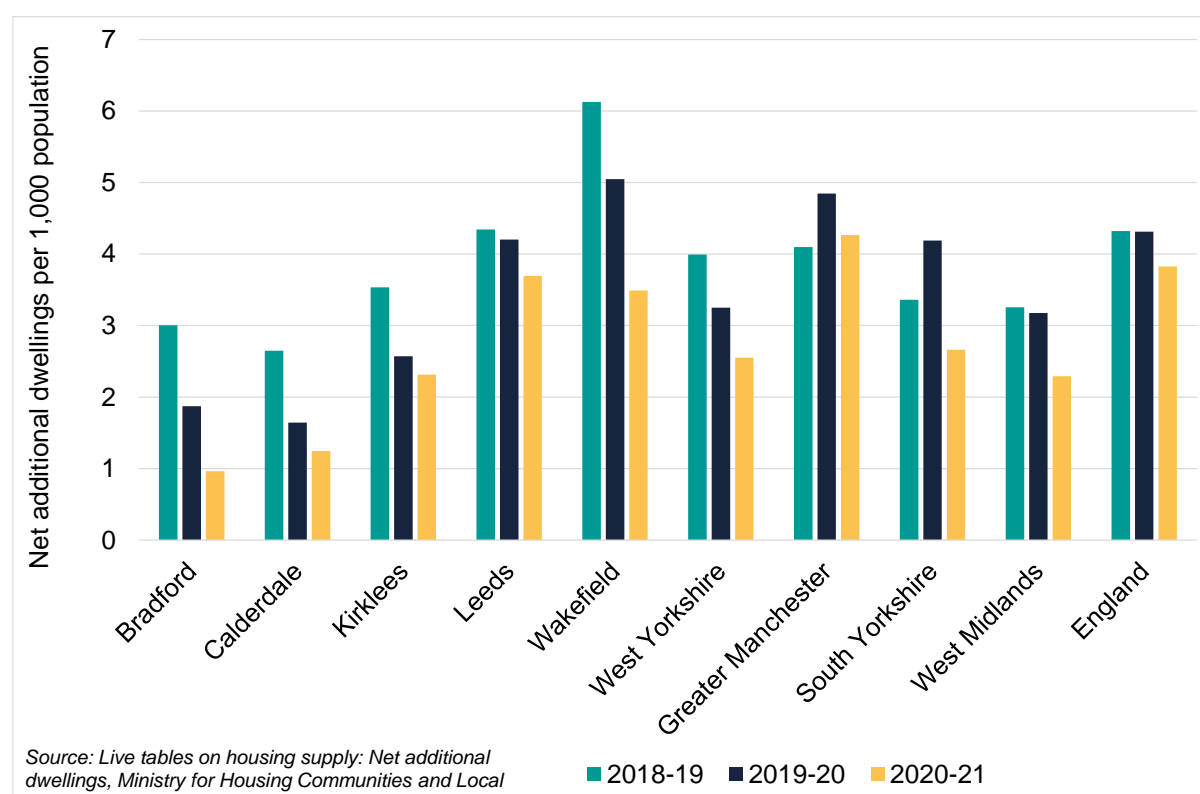
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Bradford	733	721	874	1,134	907	1,488	1,621	1,614	1,010	522
Calderdale	372	495	327	564	329	376	294	556	347	263
Kirklees	940	581	1,036	521	1,134	983	1,330	1,550	1,131	1,021
Leeds	1,931	1,558	2,229	1,979	2,474	2,824	2,283	3,427	3,333	2,950
Wakefield	852	534	806	1,132	1,921	1,816	1,759	2,114	1,758	1,227
West Yorkshire	4,828	3,889	5,272	5,330	6,765	7,487	7,287	9,261	7,579	5,983

Source: Live tables on housing supply: net additional dwellings, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The ratio of net additional dwellings per 1,000 population provides an insight into the relative performance of areas in terms of housing supply.

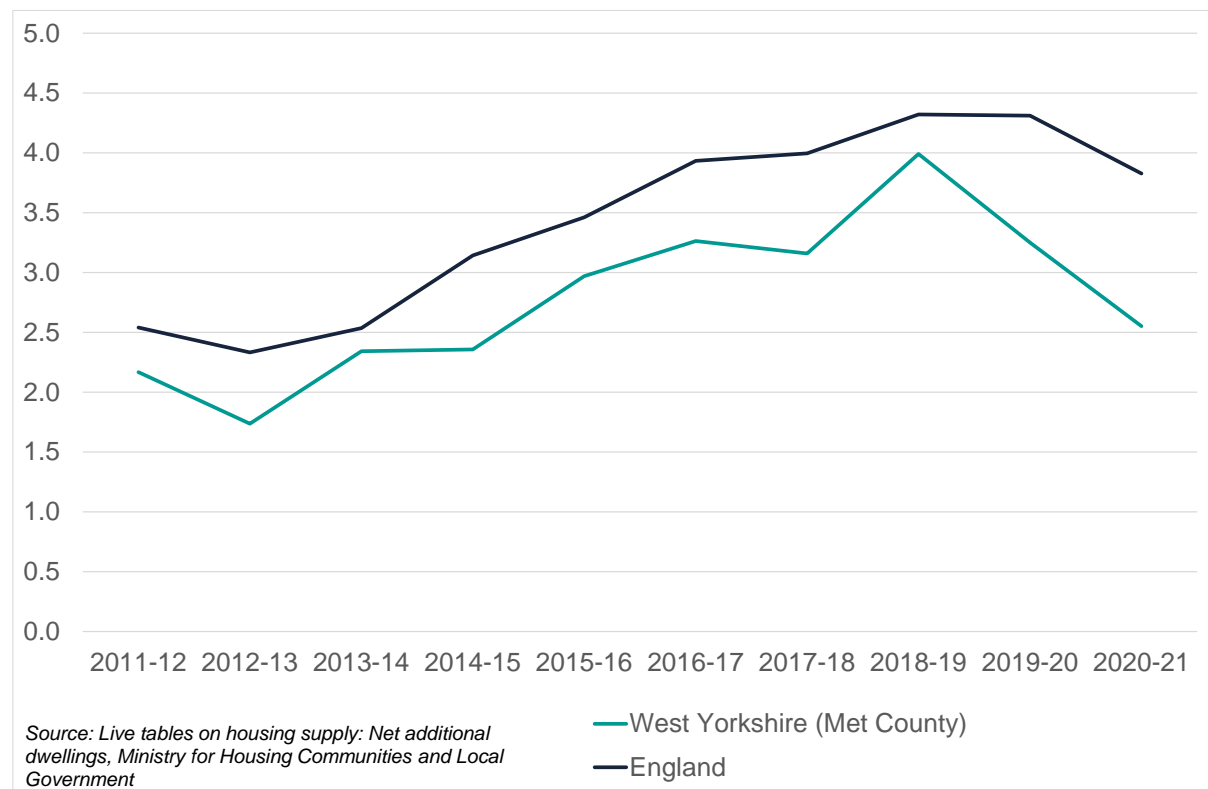
Within West Yorkshire Wakefield and Leeds have recorded the highest level of net additional dwellings per 1,000 residents in recent years. Wakefield outperformed the national average in 2018/19 and 2019/20 but fell well below the average in 2020/21. Leeds' performance has stayed close to the national average on this measure over the last three years.

Figure 40: Net additional dwellings per 1,000 population



Looking at a longer time series, West Yorkshire has consistently delivered fewer net additional dwellings per 1,000 population since 2011/12.

Figure 41: Trend in net additional dwellings per 1,000 population



4.2.3 Housing affordability

Housing in West Yorkshire is relatively affordable in comparison with the national average, based on a simple price / wage affordability ratio. Housing affordability worsened in 2021 as prices grew much more quickly than earnings. It should be noted that the affordability ratio takes no account of the quality and condition of local housing stock and disguises issues of affordability faced by particular groups, such as households in poverty.

Housing is an important contributor to both economic activity and quality of life. For the former, a sufficient supply of appropriate, affordable housing is essential for enabling people to access employment opportunities and other services they require. The cost and quality of housing can also directly affect quality of life –for most people it is the single biggest expense, particularly for those on lower incomes. Poor quality housing can also affect health and wellbeing.

It should be noted that some of the most affordable housing can also be of the poorest quality, such as pre-1919 terraces in some urban areas, including in West Yorkshire. However, the necessary data are not available to allow us to produce quality-adjusted analysis of the affordability of local housing.

About the data

House price data in the UK is robust with the ONS collating and presenting data on sales, volumes and prices broken down to Lower Super Output Area level. Because of this we can give a detailed picture of the real estate market in the local area.

Housing affordability is taken as a ratio between median house price and the median gross annual earnings of the same area. This measure does not provide a complete picture on how accessible the housing market is to individuals, and the Combined Authority has undertaken more detailed analysis to explore these issues¹. But the measure used here does give an indication of how easily people in the local area could afford to buy there.

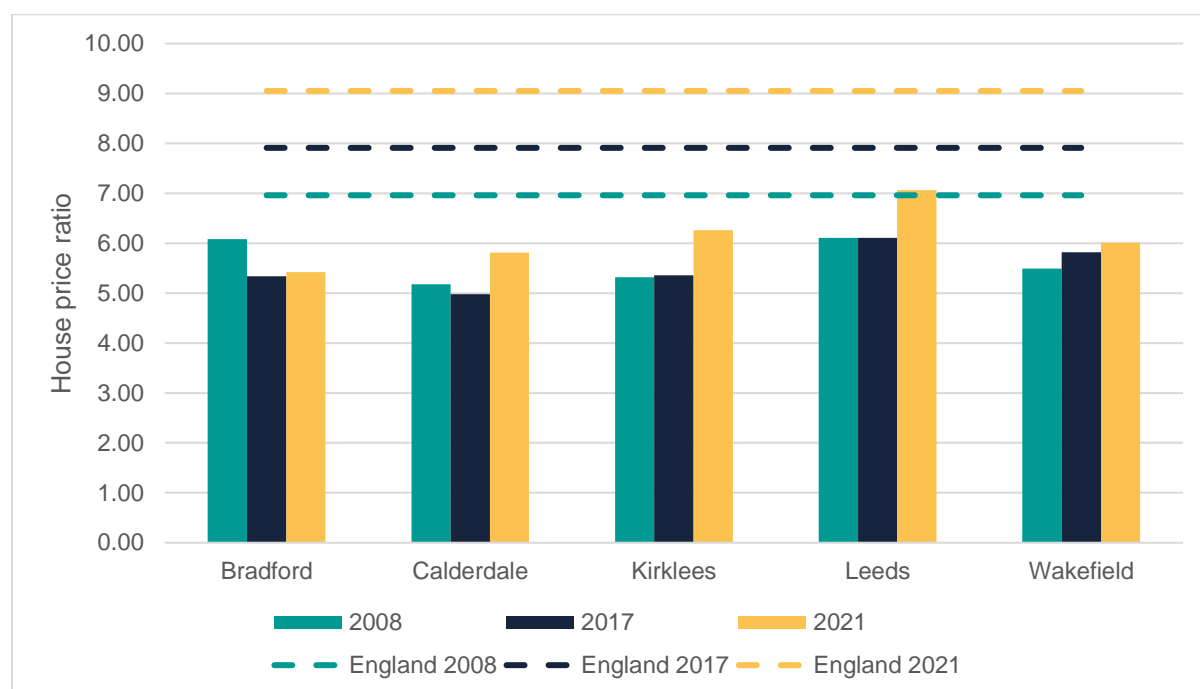
The latest data² shows that the median house price in West Yorkshire was £180,000 in the year ending December 2021, well below the England median house price of £280,000.

The house price affordability ratio in England has risen consistently since 2008, with the average house costing 6.96 times median wages in 2008, to 7.91 times mean wages in 2017, and now costing 9.05 times median wages in 2021. On average, houses have continued to become less affordable across England since 2018.

¹ Sheffield Hallam University Centre for Regional Economic & Social Research, Leeds City Region Housing Affordability and Need Study, 2020

² Office for National Statistics, [House price statistics for small areas in England and Wales: year ending December 2021](#) (2022)

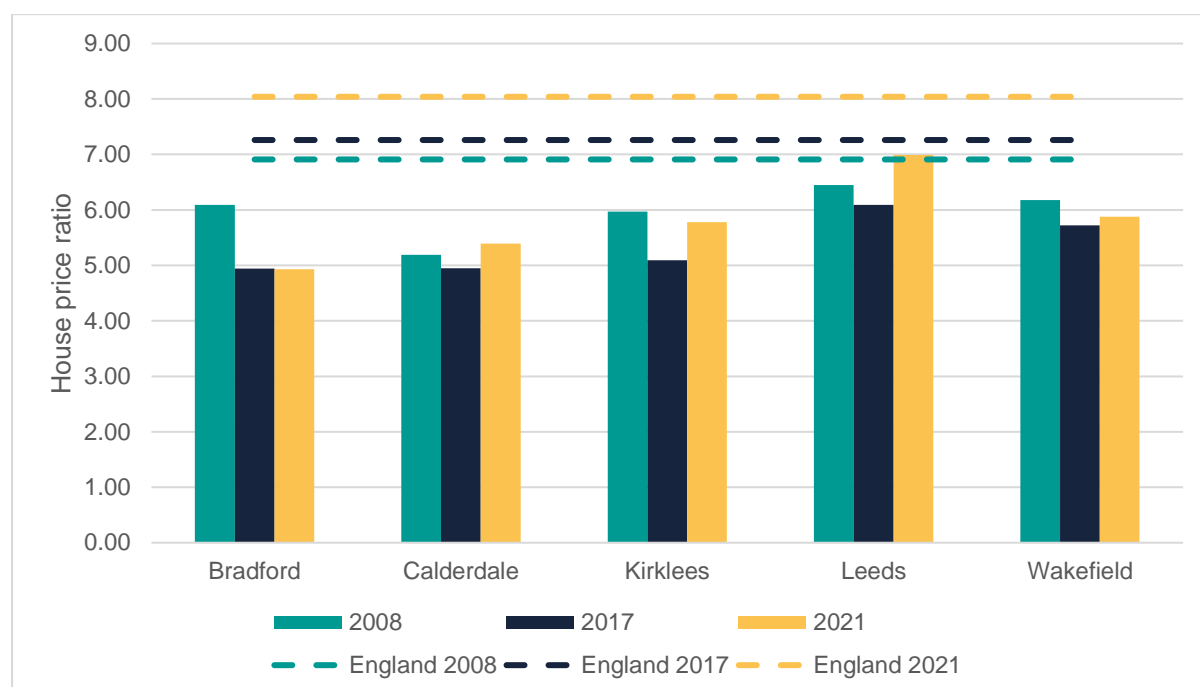
Figure 42: Affordability of house prices 2008, 2017 and 2021 – ratio of median house price to median gross annual earnings (residence-based), West Yorkshire local authorities



Source: *Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2021*, ONS

In contrast, housing in West Yorkshire has remained affordable relative to the national average over this period. Between 2008 and 2017, housing affordability remained static across the region, and improved in Bradford. House prices were more affordable in all West Yorkshire local authorities (except Leeds) in 2021 than they were in England in 2008.

Figure 43: Lower quartile house price affordability 2008, 2017 and 2021 – ratio of lower quartile house price to lower quartile gross annual earnings (residence-based), West Yorkshire local authorities

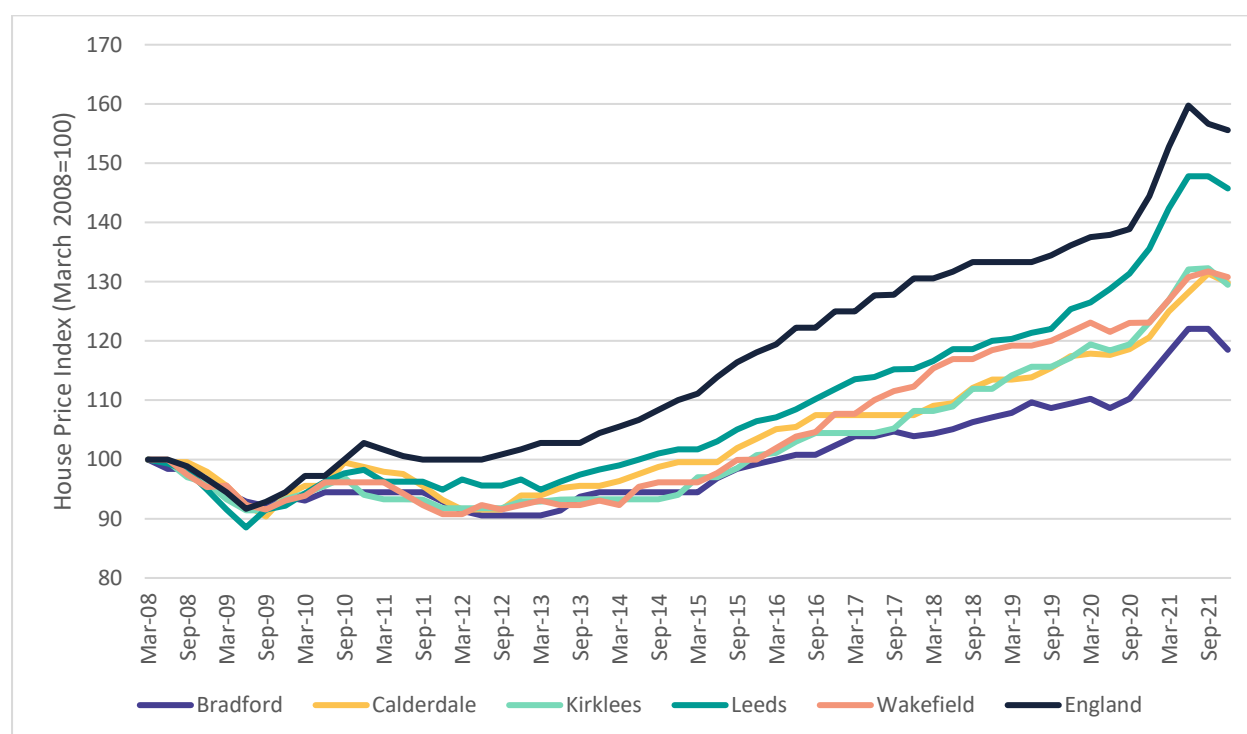


Source: *Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2021*, ONS

The ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile annual wages follows a similar pattern to average housing affordability, in that the housing affordability ratio in England for those on lower wages rose between 2008 and 2017, and again between 2017 and 2021. Lower quartile house prices were 6.91 times lower quartile annual wages in 2008, and are now at 8.04 in 2021, representing a worsening in housing affordability for those on lower earnings.

The picture in West Yorkshire is slightly different, with lower quartile house prices being more affordable in 2021 for those on lower wages in Bradford, Kirklees and Wakefield than was the case in 2008. Whilst house price affordability has worsened for those on low wages in Calderdale, the current ratio of 5.39 times lower quartile wages remains much lower than even the 2008 national figure. In Leeds, the lower quartile house price affordability ratio is 7.06 times lower quartile earnings in 2021, making lower quartile housing more affordable in Leeds in 2021 than was the case nationally in 2017. West Yorkshire remains a more affordable place to live across the income distribution than the national average.

Figure 44: Median house price in West Yorkshire local authorities, March 2008 – December 2021



Source: House price statistics for small areas, ONS, 2022

A long-term analysis of median house prices across West Yorkshire shows that, following the financial crisis of 2008, it took over 7 years for house prices to recover to March 2008 levels in most areas of West Yorkshire. Whilst Calderdale and Leeds experienced relatively quicker recoveries in house prices, albeit below the national average, it took until March 2016 for all five authorities of West Yorkshire to return to pre-crisis price levels, by which time the median house price in England was 20% higher than in March 2008.

The more recent data shows the spike in median house prices during the pandemic, as individuals increased savings, meaning that a greater pool of potential house buyers were competing for a limited supply of housing. Another component was that, during the lockdowns, people placed a higher value on gardens or extra space within the house. Coupled with the topical issue of unsafe cladding on apartment buildings, this further increased the demand for housing from people living in apartments.

Housing affordability worsened at national level in the year to September 2021 as prices increased by 14% whilst median wages fell by 1%¹. Prices also grew strongly in West Yorkshire, with increases ranging from 7% in Wakefield to 13% in Leeds, alongside increases of 10% in Bradford and 9% in both Calderdale and Kirklees. Affordability worsened in West Yorkshire as wages generally grew much more slowly, by 2% or less across three of the five local authorities and falling by 3% in Calderdale. Wakefield was an outlier with growth in median earnings of 8%.

Since mid-2021, the latest data shows that house prices are cooling.

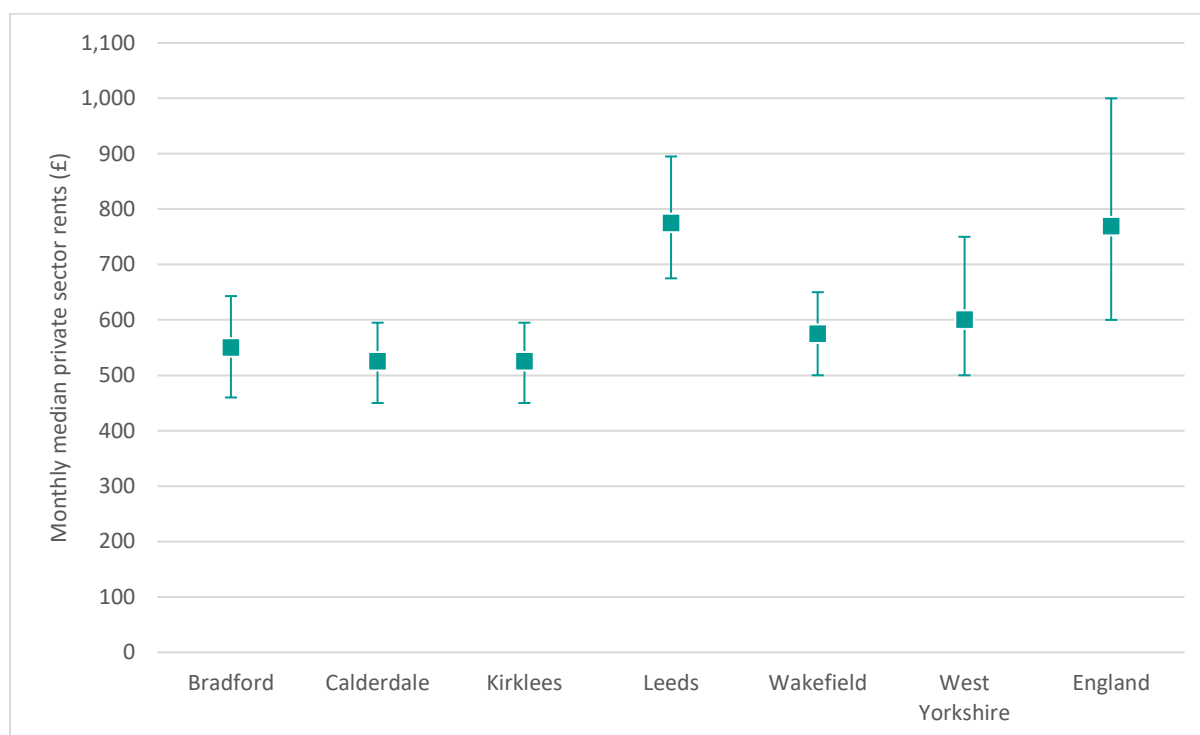
¹ Office for National Statistics, [Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2021](#), 2022

4.2.4 Rented housing costs

The median private monthly rent for two-bedroom properties in West Yorkshire is 80% of the national figure. Median rents are below the national average in all five local authorities except Leeds. More timely national data indicates that rental prices are currently increasing at a rapid rate.

The cost of private housing rental prices is a key indicator of how the cost of living is changing with potential implications for households living in poverty.

Figure 45: Median private sector two-bedroom monthly rents in 2021/22, West Yorkshire local authorities



Source: Private rental sector market statistics, Valuation Office Agency

Median private sector rents for two-bedroom properties were slightly higher in Leeds than in England for 2021/22, at £775 in Leeds compared with £769 nationally. This represents a closing of the gap between Leeds and England, with Leeds currently being £6 per month more expensive than England, compared with £25 more expensive last year. However, median rents for a two-bedroom dwelling have increased considerably, from £725 in 2020/21 to £775 in 2021/22. The error bars on the above chart show the upper and lower quartile rents, which have a much wider range in England than in Leeds.

Median rents are considerably lower in the other local authorities of West Yorkshire, ranging from £525 in Calderdale and Kirklees to £575 in Wakefield. At the West Yorkshire level, median rents are £600 per month, 78% of the national figure.

ONS do not publish a time series for the Private Rental Market Statistics upon which the above analysis is based. However, data from the Index of Private Housing Rental Prices¹, shows that private rental prices paid by tenants in the UK increased by 3.0% in the 12 months to June 2022, representing the largest annual growth rate since this series began in January

¹ Office for National Statistics, [Index of Private Housing Rental Prices, UK: July 2022](#) (2022)

2016. A range of evidence shows that high demand from prospective tenants is driving up rents.

About the data

The data presented is the median monthly rent for two-bedroom properties between April 2021 and March 2022. Two-bedroom properties are used as a benchmark to take account of the differing composition of housing stock across areas. The data is published by the Office for National Statistics and is calculated using data from the Valuation Office Agency and Office for National Statistics. The data also comes with the lower and upper quartile of rents which can give good insight into the range of different rents available in a local authority. This data looks at properties rated from private landlords, as opposed to local authority and housing association rents.

4.2.5 Fuel poverty

The latest available official data for 2020 show that round 176,000 households in West Yorkshire (18% of all households) were in fuel poverty, a prevalence that was above the national average (13%). This shows that West Yorkshire is relatively poorly positioned to cope with the current energy price crisis.

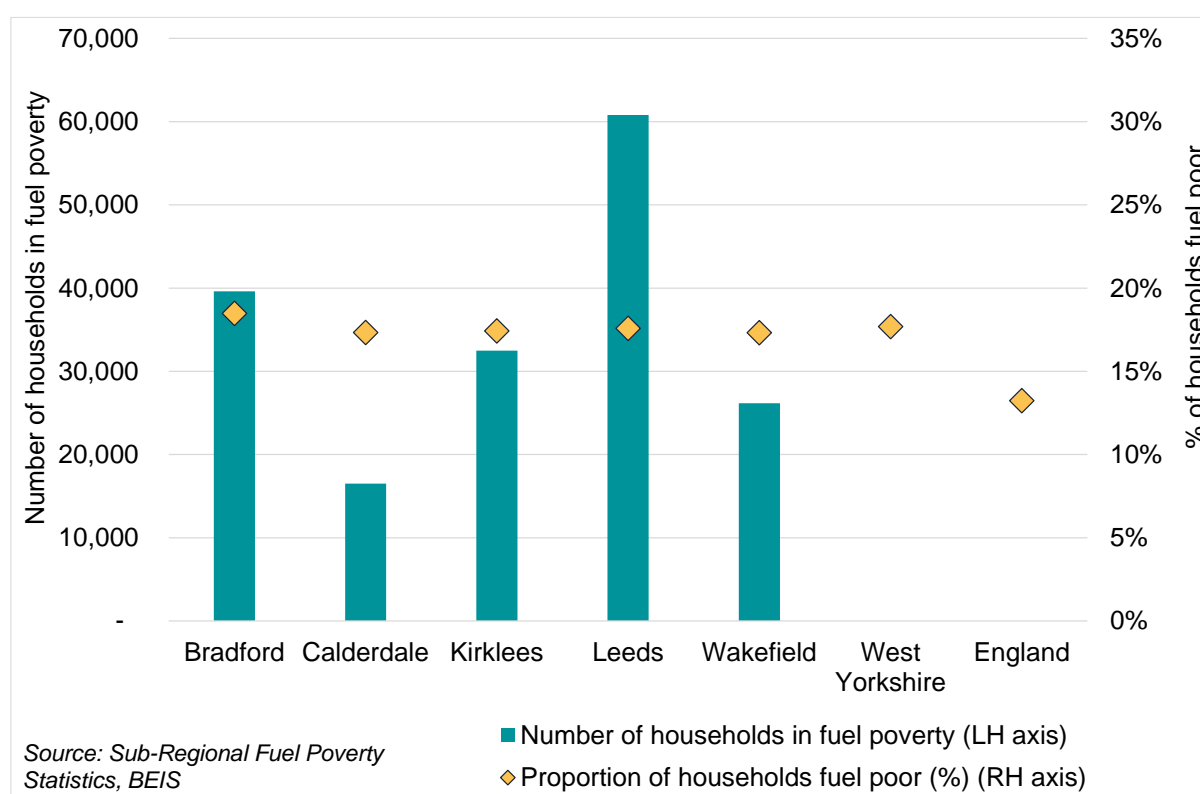
Fuel poverty is the problem faced by households living on a low income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost. As well as providing a measure of deprivation, in terms of low incomes relative to an essential element of living costs, the prevalence of fuel poverty points to an issue that can be alleviated through investment in energy efficiency measures. These measures are an important contributor to reducing emissions and tackling the climate emergency.

Fuel poverty has become a much more pressing issue in recent months. A key determinant of the extent of fuel poverty is the level of fuel prices and these have increased in an unprecedented manner since the economy re-opened following the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Prices are expected to see further large increases in the near future. According to one [industry analyst](#), the typical domestic customer is likely to pay £3,200 a year from October 2022, then £3,400 a year from January 2023. The typical bill at present is about £2,000 a year, after the last price cap increase in April 2022. This is already £600 more than the average bill was in October 2021.

The most recent data available is for 2020 – it does not capture the current situation in terms of fuel prices. However, it does show that West Yorkshire already faced a significant fuel poverty challenge prior to recent developments in energy markets.

Around 176,000 households in West Yorkshire were in fuel poverty in 2020, equivalent to 18% of total households in the region. The prevalence of fuel poverty in West Yorkshire is higher than the national average of 13% and also higher than in Greater Manchester (15%) but slightly lower than in Sheffield City Region (18%) and West Midlands CA (19%).

Figure 46: Number and proportion of households in fuel poverty, 2020



Bradford and Leeds have the highest prevalence of fuel poverty in West Yorkshire, each with 18% of its households classed as fuel poor. The presence of fuel poverty is very similar across the remaining three local authorities in the region, affecting approximately 17% of households in each case.

The government's switch to a new fuel poverty metric in 2021 (see "About the data", below) means that consistent time series data are only available for 2019 and 2020. Between 2019 and 2020 the estimated number of households in fuel poverty grew by about 7,000, an increase in prevalence of one percentage point, from 17% to 18%.

A household's fuel poverty status depends on the interaction of three key drivers:

- Energy efficiency - as households become more energy efficient, they have lower required energy costs (see section 6.2.5)
- Energy prices
- Incomes.

Dwelling characteristics also influence the likelihood of a household being in fuel poverty. For example, age, size and main fuel type used have an influence. Household characteristics also play a part and, for example, ethnic minority households and households with an unemployed head are more likely to be in fuel poverty.

According to estimates by the Resolution Foundation, families in energy-inefficient homes will face monthly gas bills £231 higher than those living in equivalent homes that already meet the Government's efficiency target (EPC C). Over the 2022-23 winter period, this penalty adds up to £849, an average of £141 a month.

According to one [forecast](#), from the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, 29% of households in Yorkshire and the Humber could be in fuel poverty this winter despite the government's price

freeze plan¹. In some neighbourhoods (including parts of West Yorkshire) almost every home could fall into fuel poverty.

About the data

As announced in the government's fuel poverty strategy 2021, fuel poverty in England is now measured using the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator.

Under the LILEE indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if:

- They are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below*
- When they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the official poverty line.*

Fuel poverty is measured based on required energy bills rather than actual spending. This ensures that those households who have low energy bills simply because they actively limit their use of energy at home, for example, by not heating their home, are not overlooked.

4.2.6 Gigabit capable internet coverage

West Yorkshire has overtaken the national average in terms of gigabit-capable internet coverage and outperforms the national average with regard to full-fibre coverage.

Delivering fast and reliable broadband is vital to the economic performance of West Yorkshire and supports the Combined Authority's strategic objective of delivering inclusive growth by removing barriers to education, training and employment opportunities.

Digital connectivity has the potential to improve the accessibility of training and employment opportunities by improving access to digital resources and remote learning for students and enabling people who spend a large amount of time at home to adopt more flexible working practices or start up a business at home. Improved digital connectivity also increases the range of occupations which can be carried out at home. As well as professional roles, this could include lower skilled occupations such as call centre operators, which may be suited to people who have spent a long time outside the labour market.

Broadband Technologies

Superfast broadband (SFBB), defined as download speeds above 30 Mbps, has traditionally provided enough bandwidth for home Internet use. However, increases in content streaming and working from home, and especially teleconferencing, have created a need for ever increasing bandwidth speeds.

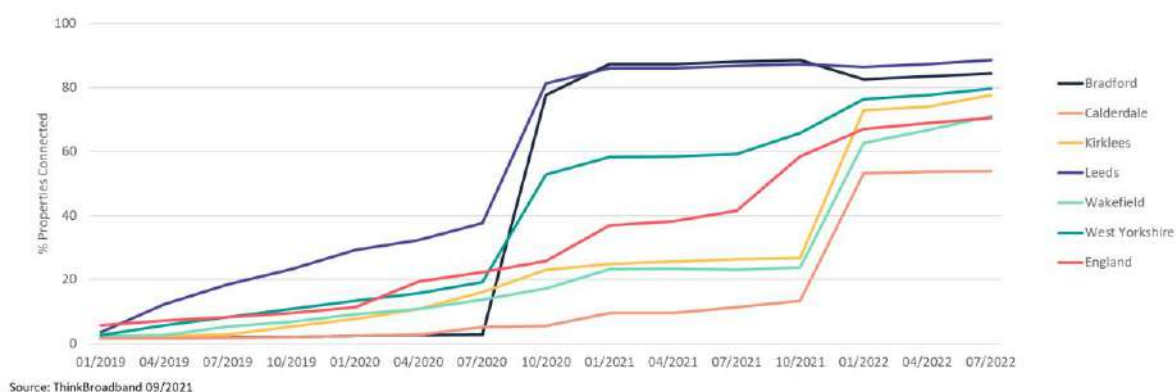
Full Fibre Internet provides download speeds up to 900 Mbps, thirty times faster than SFBB. Whereas SFBB uses fibre optic cable to link to local cabinets and then copper cabling to link to properties, Full Fibre runs fibre optic cables directly to properties.

In addition to Full Fibre broadband similar connection speeds can also be provided through other technologies, such as Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification (DOCSIS), a provision of high bandwidth data transfer through existing cable television infrastructure, and through 5G.

Building Digital UK, part of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS), is supporting the Government's Project Gigabit plan to connect all properties to gigabit capable connections (1 Gbps or 1,000Mbps) through a combination of high-speed broadband and 5G technology. Gigabit broadband is being rolled out across England rapidly –from 10% households in 2019 to almost 70% in 2022. In 2020 the Combined Authority secured £9.11M from Building Digital UK to deploy SFBB and Full Fibre to 1,7000 businesses and 5,000 homes in rural areas over the next two years.

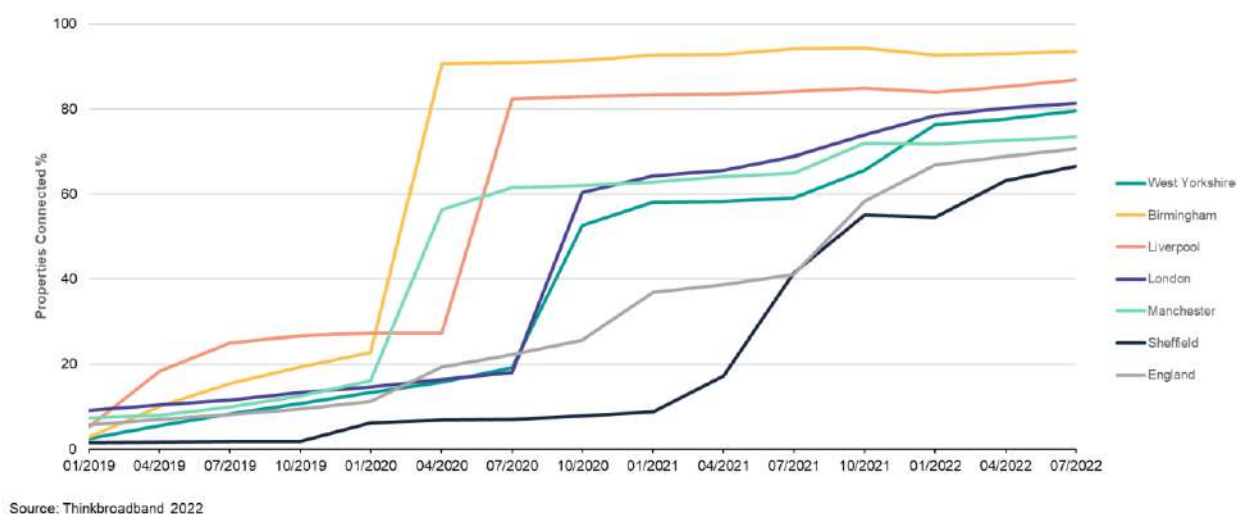
At the start of 2019, the proportion of residential and commercial properties connected to gigabit-capable home Internet in West Yorkshire was less than half the coverage in England. However, as a result of the Superfast West Yorkshire and York roll out programme, West Yorkshire connections have increased to 80%, while coverage in England has only increased to 70%.

Figure 47: West Yorkshire Gigabit-capable internet coverage



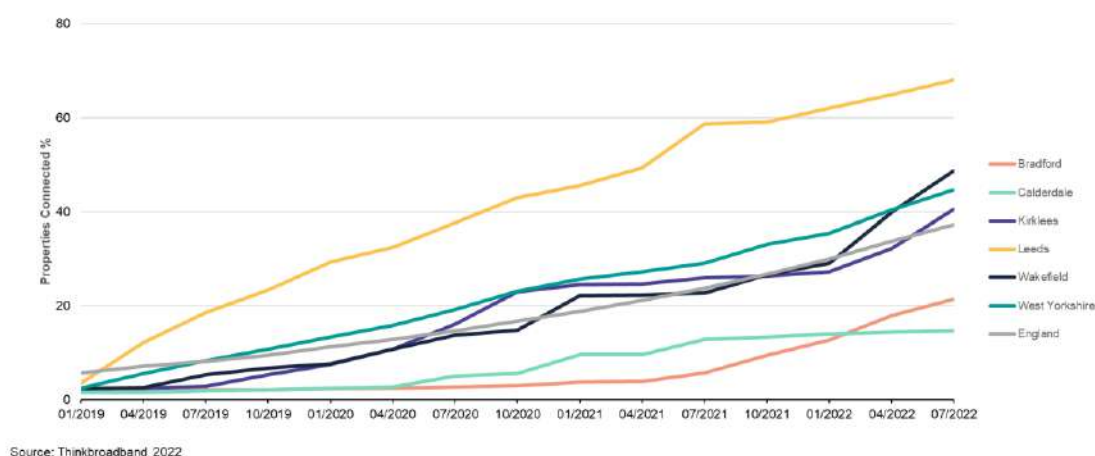
Bradford and Leeds have the highest proportion of properties connected to full fibre, with 84% and 89% of properties connected respectively, exceeding the connection levels of comparator metropolitan areas including Sheffield (66%), Manchester (73%) and the London region (81%).

Figure 48: Gigabit-capable Internet Connections by Metropolitan Areas



At the start of 2019, the proportion of residential and commercial properties connected to Full Fibre in West Yorkshire was less than half the coverage level in England. However, because of the Superfast West Yorkshire and York (SWYY) roll out programme, by the end of 2019 local coverage had exceeded the levels for England and since then has outperformed the national average.

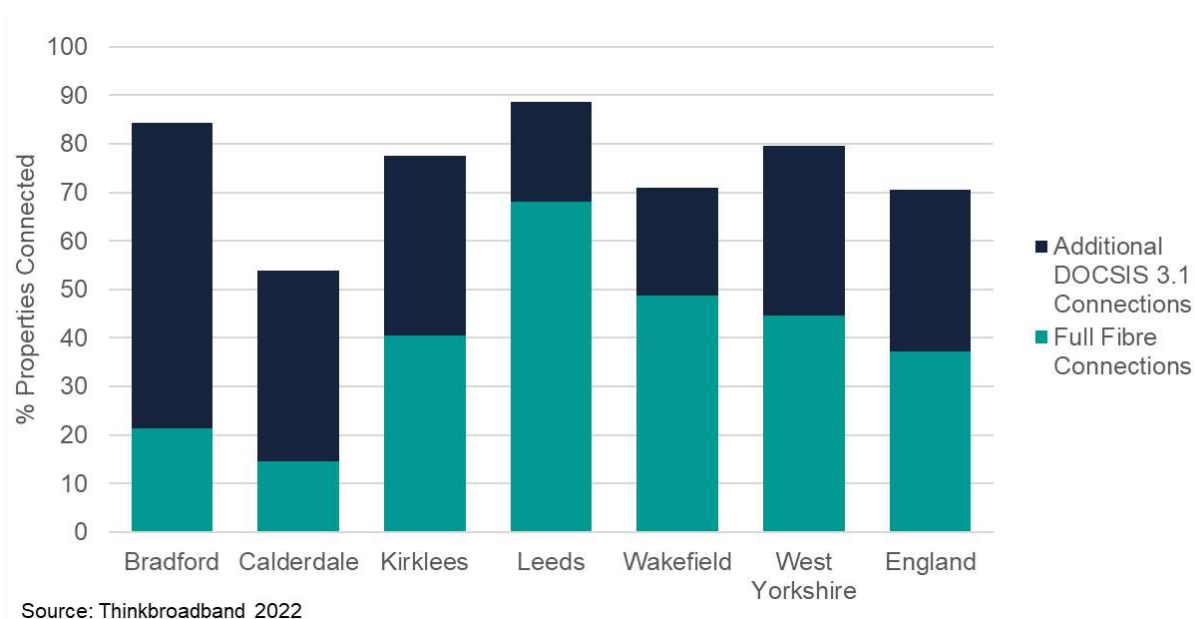
Figure 49: Residential and commercial properties connected to Full Fibre broadband



Leeds has the highest proportion of properties connected to Full Fibre with 68% of properties connected, exceeding the connection levels of comparator metropolitan areas including Sheffield (46%), Manchester (35%) and Birmingham (47%) and the London region (44%).

Despite this, connectivity remains low in Calderdale, a district with large rural areas and challenging geography, where installing infrastructure is prohibitively expensive.

Figure 50: West Yorkshire Gigabit-capable Internet connections by type



While the proportion of properties connected to full fibre in West Yorkshire exceeds the coverage level for England, it falls behind that of other metropolitan areas such as Birmingham and Liverpool.

Table 3: Broadband Connections by Type

	Superfast Access ≥30 Mbps	Gigabit DOCSIS 3.1 or FTTP	Full Fibre
Birmingham	98	94	47
Liverpool	98	87	47
London	98	82	44
Manchester	96	73	36
West Yorkshire	98	80	45
England	98	71	37

Source: ThinkBroadband 2022

4.2.7 Mobile coverage (4G and 5G)

4G coverage in West Yorkshire is above the national average but usage is relatively low.

Current 4G networks provide download speeds up to 10 Mbps, with maximum speeds up to 40 Mbps, matching SFBB speeds. Mobile data is an increasingly important part of our daily lives, from people checking news, emails and social media while out and about to utilities companies using it to provide gigabit-capable internet in isolated and hard to reach communities where traditional broadband solutions are not viable.

Future 5G technologies will provide average download speeds of 150-200 Mbps and peak speeds of over 1 gigabyte per second. A robust 5G mobile Internet network will play a transformative role in the future development of the region. As well as supporting local business and services development and providing internet coverage for large sites such as warehouses and hospitals, 5G will enable gigabit-capable Internet connections. The technology will also connect rural or isolated dwellings and provide the bandwidth necessary for autonomous vehicles and other mobility as a service transport solutions.

West Yorkshire has historically had better 4G coverage than the rest of the country, with 79% of properties in the region having indoor 4G coverage from all network providers since June 2017, a time at which only 68% of properties in England had this level of coverage.

Coverage in West Yorkshire has since risen to 86% of all properties, with the gap in coverage compared to the rest of England decreasing to two percentage points.

West Yorkshire's 4G coverage outperforms the England average by 3 percentage points, based on the measure presented in the table below. Eighty-six per cent of premises are covered compared with the England average of 83%. Leeds has the highest coverage with a figure of 90% and Kirklees has the lowest, at 81%, but this is still only 2 points below the national average.

Table 4: Mobile broadband coverage

Area	4G Premises (Indoor) Coverage from All Providers January 2022
Bradford	85%
Calderdale	88%
Kirklees	81%
Leeds	90%
Wakefield	82%
West Yorkshire Average	86%
England	83%

Source: Ofcom Connected Nations Spring Report 2022

While the volume of mobile data downloaded continues to increase as coverage expands and banking, ticketing and email apps become a part of daily life, download volumes in West Yorkshire are below the level for England.

5G Connectivity

5G transmitters are providing coverage in all five West Yorkshire district centres, as well as in Dewsbury, Mirfield, Morley and Pontefract. However, the detailed information about the extent of coverage is not publicly available. This will be a key indicator for the future.

5 Championing culture, sport and creativity

Summary

Employment in the culture, sport and creative sector in West Yorkshire is a substantial part of the West Yorkshire economy, accounting for 15% of all employment. It is smaller than nationally in proportionate terms, although it is well represented in Leeds. Culture, sport and creative activities were exposed to the coronavirus restrictions, resulting in a fall in employment in 2020.

At the time of writing additional indicators were being consulted on as part of the Culture, Heritage and Sport Framework and will be incorporated into future iterations of State of the Region.

5.1 Overview of the priority

Culture, heritage and sport are at the heart of the Mayor's vision for a just, fair and lasting economic recovery. The Mayor has established a Culture, heritage and sport Committee to provide strategic oversight for this important work to support the creative and cultural sectors of West Yorkshire.

Engagement in cultural activities transforms the lives of individuals, communities and place, playing a key role in delivering a stronger economy and more inclusive communities. That is why the creative and cultural industries are central to the region's strategy for economic recovery.

The Combined Authority's Culture, Heritage and Sport Framework is currently under development and is our plan to grow and sustain culture, heritage and sport in the region.

The draft framework is arranged into four themes, which form the focus for investment and activity in Culture, Heritage and Sport. They are:

- People - Everyone in West Yorkshire can enjoy culture, heritage and sport
- Place - West Yorkshire is a creative, sustainable and vibrant region with culture, heritage and sport at its heart
- Skills - You can build a great career in culture, heritage or sport in West Yorkshire
- Business - West Yorkshire is the place to grow your creative business.

Additional indicators will be developed for this priority once the framework has been finalised.

5.2 Performance against the indicators

5.2.1 Employment in cultural, sport and creative activities

Employment in the culture, sport and creative sector in West Yorkshire is a substantial part of the West Yorkshire economy, accounting for 15% of all employment. It is smaller than nationally in proportionate terms, although it is strongly represented in Leeds. Culture, sport and creative activities were exposed to the coronavirus restrictions, resulting in a fall in employment in 2020.

The culture, sport and creative sectors are not traditional industries in the context of the National Accounts and published statistics. However, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has developed standard definitions¹ of the sectors for which it has responsibility, which are used as the basis for the following analysis. These sectors are:

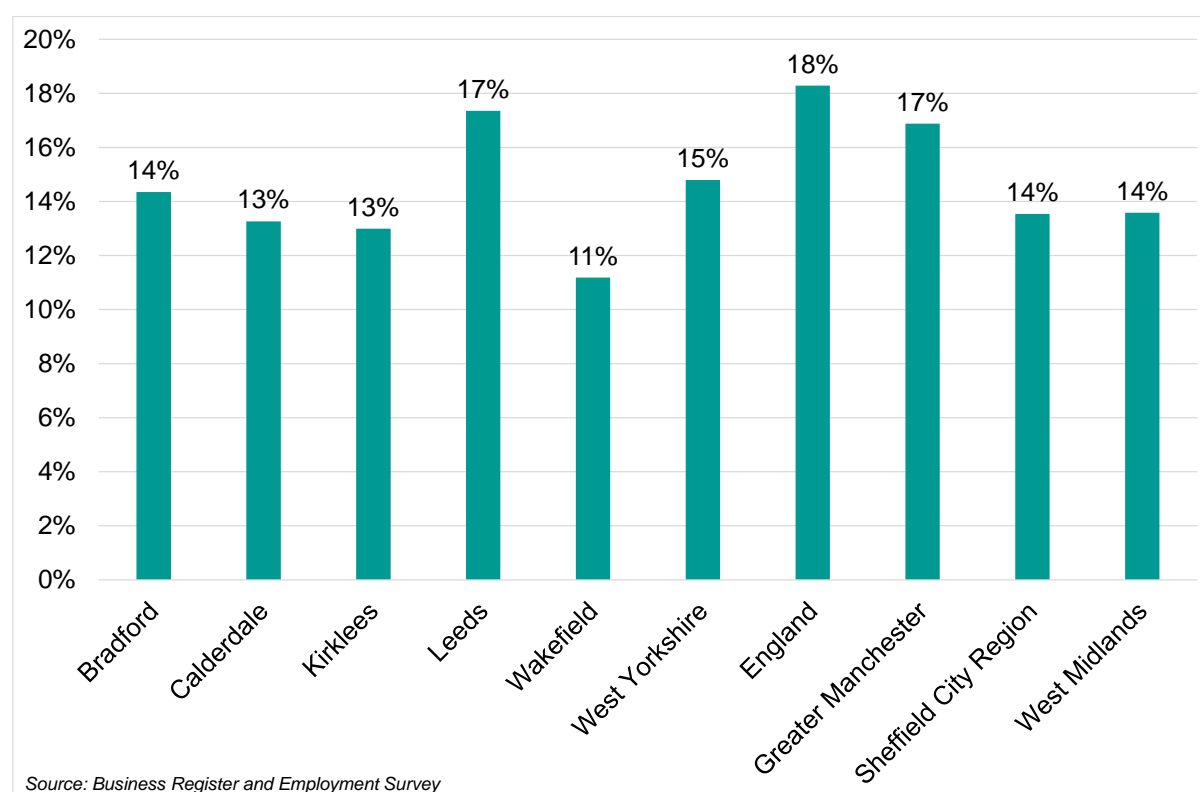
- Creative Industries
- Cultural Sector
- Digital Sector
- Gambling
- Sport
- Telecoms
- Tourism.

The tourism sector includes hospitality activities, elements of transport and travel agency activities. The sport sector includes operation of sports facilities and sports clubs.

Around 15% of employment in West Yorkshire is in the culture, sport and creative sector based on this definition, equivalent to 158,000 jobs. The prevalence of employment in these activities varies by local authority within West Yorkshire; it is highest in Leeds, with similar figures for the remaining authorities, except Wakefield, which is somewhat lower than the West Yorkshire average.

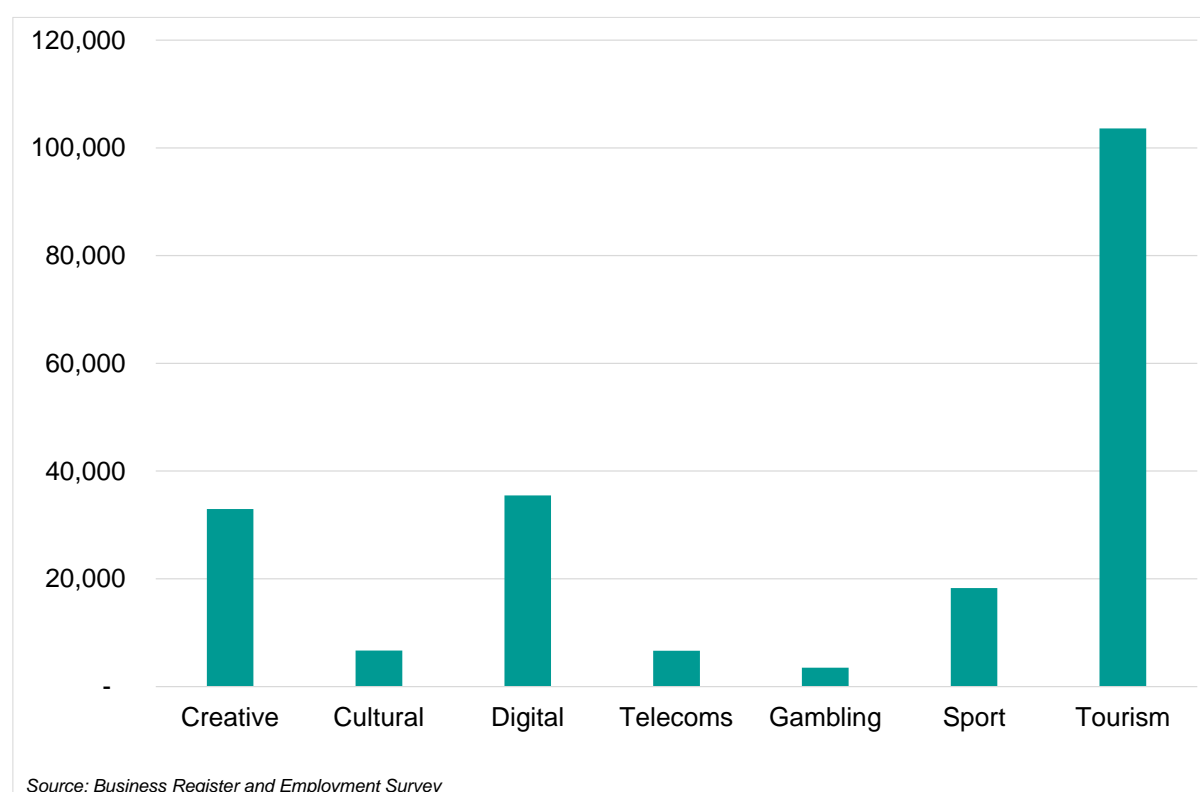
¹ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports, [DCMS Sector Economic Estimates Methodology](#) (2021)

Figure 51: Employment in cultural, sport and creative activities as a proportion of total employment, 2020



Cultural employment in West Yorkshire is below the national average in proportionate terms. It is also lower than in Greater Manchester but slightly higher than in the comparator areas of Sheffield City Region and West Midlands CA.

Figure 52: Employment by DCMS sector¹, West Yorkshire, 2020

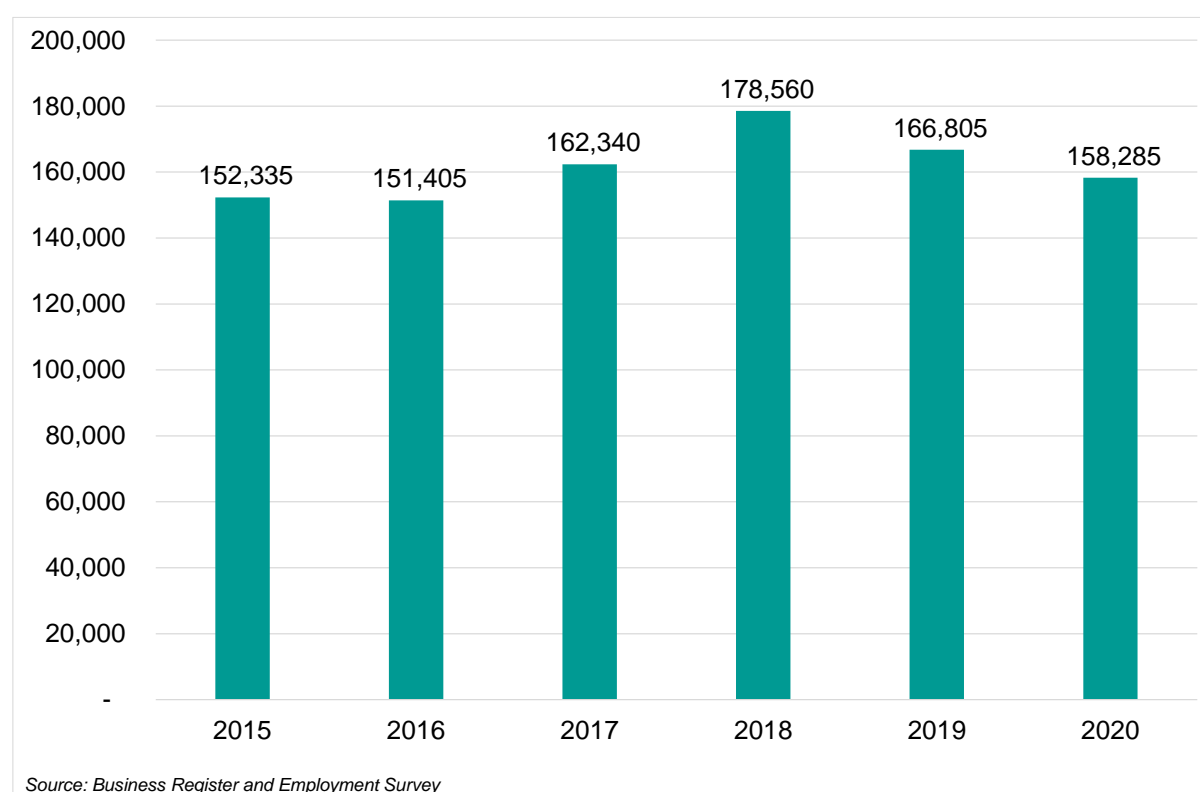


The sector with the biggest employment within this category is tourism, followed by digital and creative.

Employment in culture, sport and creative was on an upward trend in the period to 2018 but declined in both 2019 and 2020. The latest employment figure for 2020 was 11% lower than at its peak in 2018.

¹ It should be noted that there is a degree of overlap between the DCMS sectors, reflecting the development of individual sector definitions in isolation as new sectors have fallen within the department's remit. The figures for these individual sectors do not sum to the total figure for employment in the DCMS sectors cited above.

Figure 53: Trend in employment in culture, sport and creative activities



Employment in these activities also fell at national level between 2019 and 2020, by 5%.

About the data

The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is the official source of employee and employment estimates by detailed geography and industry. The survey collects employment information from businesses across the whole of the UK economy for each site that they operate. BRES includes self-employed workers (within the employment estimates) as long as they are registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) or Pay as You Earn (PAYE) schemes.

6 Building a sustainable, nature-rich and carbon neutral region

Key points

West Yorkshire has committed to becoming a net zero carbon economy by 2038.

There was a sharp fall in greenhouse gas emissions between 2019 and 2020 in West Yorkshire of 12% - four times the annual average rate of reduction in the previous decade. This reflects the impact of the pandemic and future data is expected to show an increase in emissions.

The bulk of the reduction in West Yorkshire's emissions was due to a fall in transport emissions of 17% in one year, accounting for more than half of the overall net decrease.

The greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the West Yorkshire economy, in terms of CO₂ equivalent emissions (kt) per £m of GVA, is above the national average. The region's emissions intensity continues to fall with a bigger decrease in 2020 than that seen nationally.

West Yorkshire dwellings with an Energy Performance Certificate are less likely to have an energy efficiency rating of C or above compared to the national average (34% versus 40%). Poor energy efficiency has a major bearing on a household's susceptibility to fuel poverty as well as contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

6.1 Overview of the priority

In June 2019, a [climate emergency was declared](#) for West Yorkshire and we are now prioritising our commitment to clean growth and our ambition to become a net zero carbon economy by 2038, with significant progress by 2030. The increasing severity of flooding in West Yorkshire, demonstrates that climate change poses a very real threat to the economy and the livelihoods of many in our region.

The mayor's [Climate and Environment Plan](#) sets out how West Yorkshire can become a place where everyone can enjoy the economic, health and environmental benefits of a net zero carbon economy by 2038. It sets out the actions that will be taken across a range of themes.

The headline indicators for this priority focus on West Yorkshire's performance on carbon emissions, the region's exposure to flooding, progress on energy efficiency and residents' access to green and blue infrastructure.

Several of these indicators are relevant to additional priorities beyond tackling the climate emergency. For example, progress on building energy efficiency supports inclusive growth by reducing living costs and can contribute to the alleviation of poverty. More generally, deprived communities have a greater exposure to the impact of climate change resulting from CO₂ emissions, in the form of flooding, for example.

6.2 Performance against the indicators

6.2.1 Greenhouse¹ gas emissions

There was a sharp fall in greenhouse gas emissions between 2019 and 2020 in West Yorkshire of 12% - four times the annual average rate of reduction in the previous decade. This reflects the impact of the pandemic and is not expected to be fully sustained into 2021.

In June 2019 a climate emergency was declared for West Yorkshire. The Combined Authority and its partners are placing increased emphasis on a commitment to clean growth and the stated ambition is for the region to become a net zero carbon economy by 2038.

The central indicator of progress is the region's level of greenhouse gas (including carbon dioxide) emissions. As of 2020, the latest year for which data are available, West Yorkshire emitted 10,629 kt CO₂ equivalent. This equates to 4.5 tonnes per capita, slightly below the national average of 5.1 tonnes.

Total emissions data for the wider range of greenhouse gases is only available for the 2018 to 2020 period. These show the impact of the pandemic on emissions in 2020. Between 2019 and 2020 emissions in West Yorkshire fell by 12% compared with a reduction of 10% nationally. In Wakefield there was a decline of 16%. The Combined Authority comparator areas also saw reductions of between 9% and 10%.

Carbon dioxide emissions, which form the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions, are in long-term decline, having fallen by 41% in West Yorkshire between 2005 and 2020, a somewhat slower rate of decrease than the 44% seen nationally. Carbon dioxide emissions fell by 12% between 2019 and 2020 in West Yorkshire, compared with an average annual rate of decline in the previous decade of 3%. This shows the scale of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The large reduction in emissions seen in 2020 is not sustainable. More timely UK figures show that territorial greenhouse gas emissions were 4.7% higher than 2020, although they were still 5.2% lower than 2019².

The main driver of the decrease in UK greenhouse emissions is a change in the fuel mix for electricity generation, with a decrease in the use of coal and gas and more use of renewables. In West Yorkshire, electricity generation through renewables increased by 95% between 2014 and 2020³.

The Baseline Scenario set out in the West Yorkshire Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways study, which reflects the likely outcome with current policies, projects a reduction of only 32% in emissions between 2020 and 2038, due to a lack of strong incentives for consumers and businesses to switch to low carbon heat, transport and other practices⁴.

By local authority, Leeds has the highest level of emissions, reflecting the size of its economy. In per capita terms the figures range from 3.8 tonnes in Bradford to 5.2 tonnes in

¹ The analysis presented here is based on data relating to emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O), but not fluorinated gases.

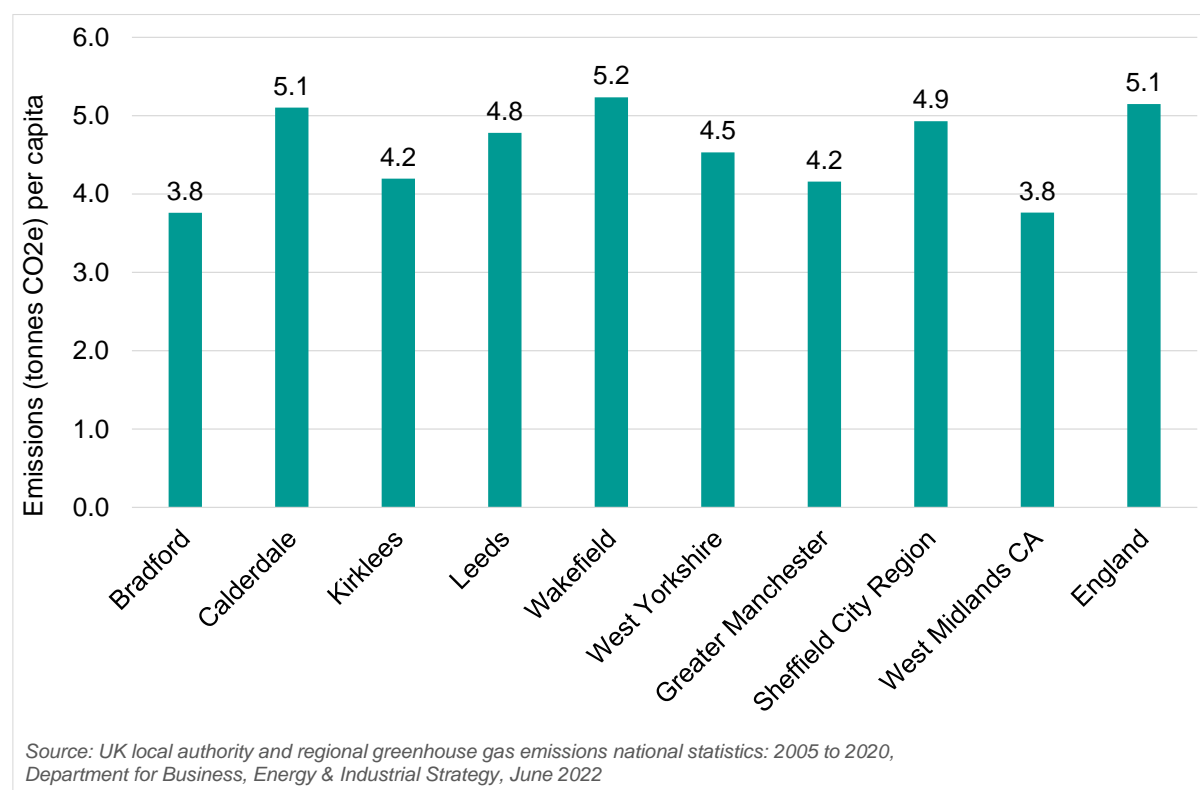
² Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, [Provisional UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics 2021](#) (2022)

³³ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, [Regional Renewable Statistics](#) (2021)

⁴ West Yorkshire Combined Authority, [West Yorkshire Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways](#), 2020

Wakefield. Leeds and Calderdale are both close to 5 tonnes per capita, whereas in Kirklees emissions stand at 4.2 tonnes per capita.

Figure 54: Per capita greenhouse gas emissions



Per capita emissions in West Yorkshire as a whole, are slightly lower than those in Sheffield City Region and England, but higher than those in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands CA area.

About the data

The source of the data is the UK National Statistics publication 'UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics' from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (published annually). This provides the latest estimates of territorial greenhouse gas (CO₂ equivalent) emissions for local authority areas for 2005-2020. The statistics show estimated emissions allocated on an "end-user" basis where emissions are distributed according to the point of energy consumption (or point of emission if not energy related). Except for the energy industry, emissions from the production of goods are assigned to where the production takes place. Therefore, emissions from the production of goods which are exported will be included, and emissions from the production of goods which are imported are excluded.

Performance against emissions reduction pathways

The Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways (CERP) study provides a baseline forecast (the likely levels of greenhouse gas emissions if no new action to reduce them is taken) and three possible scenarios to decarbonise the economy by 2038. The three scenarios are:

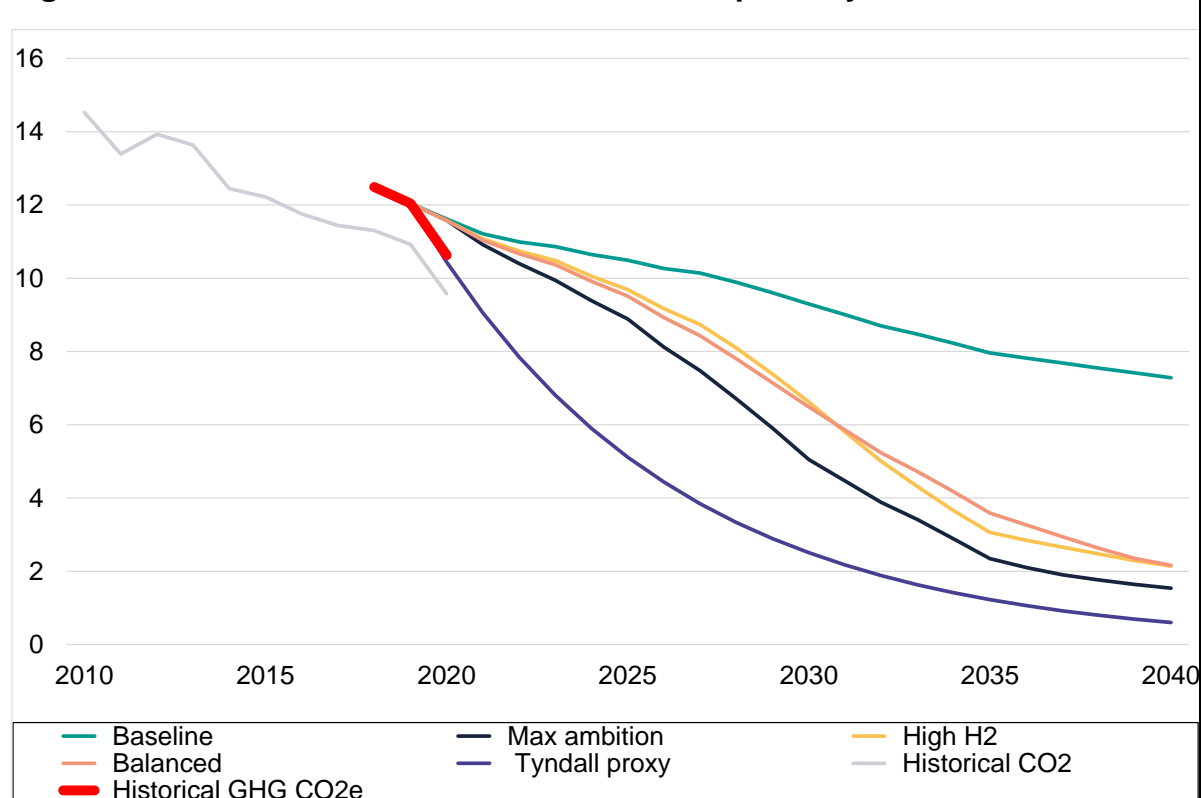
- Max Ambition – This assumes significant electrification of heat, transport and industry supported by enabling technologies such as demand-side response and energy storage. This also includes significant increases in low carbon power generation with accelerated negative emission technologies and ambitious forest planting rates.
- High Hydrogen (High H2) - Promotes large-scale hydrogen use and carbon capture and storage roll-out. The existing gas network is repurposed for hydrogen, enabling significant hydrogen use in buildings, heating, industry, power and transport. This is supported accelerated forest planting and bioenergy production.
- Balanced – Encompasses a balanced mix of technology across all sectors with contributions from hydrogen, electrification, bioenergy, carbon capture and storage, and decentralised energy production.

Carbon budgets, which are consistent with both the CERP scenario pathways and the statistics published by the government, have been developed by the Combined Authority. These give the total amount of greenhouse gases (in carbon dioxide equivalent terms) which can be emitted while staying within the CERP carbon reduction pathways. These carbon budgets can therefore be used for monitoring progress against the CERP pathways.

The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research provides a carbon budget tool on its website which automatically generates a carbon budget report for any local authority or collection of local authorities. This suggests what the implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement are for the relevant local authority in terms of reductions of carbon dioxide emissions only.

Figure 55 shows the three CERP carbon reduction pathways, together with the CERP (business as usual) Baseline. The Tyndall proxy line shown is the result of simply reducing emissions by 13.3% per year from 2019 (as suggested in the Tyndall Centre carbon budget report). The carbon dioxide equivalent figures are shown for 2018-2020 (these are all the years for which these figures are currently available). Historical carbon dioxide emissions for 2010-2020 are shown for comparison.

Figure 55: West Yorkshire emissions reduction pathways



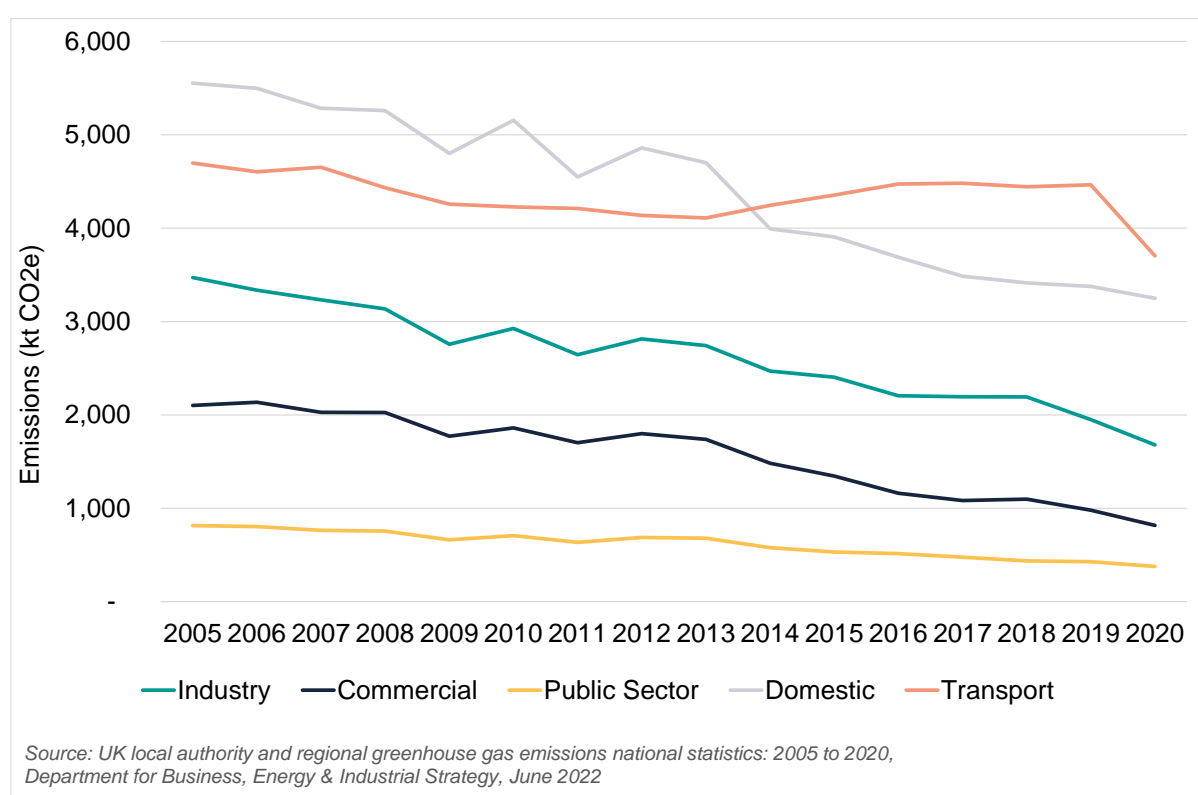
It is clear that 2020 was an unusual year due to the impact of the pandemic. The effect of the downturn in carbon emissions in 2020 is that carbon budgets dipped below all three of the CERP carbon reduction pathways, however the reduction was not quite enough to achieve the Tyndall proxy reduction pathway (the 2019 to 2020 reduction was slightly less than 13.3%).

6.2.2 Greenhouse gas emissions by sector

The biggest driver of the fall in emissions in 2020 was the transport sector.

Emissions from all main sectors of end users (domestic, industry, commercial, public sector and transport) have fallen over the period from 2005 to 2020 in West Yorkshire. The rates of decline for this period for industry (-52%), commercial (-61%), public sector (-54%) and domestic (-41%) all far exceeded the rate for transport (-21%). As a result, transport is now the largest sector by emissions in West Yorkshire, accounting for 35% of the total. This is likely to be because the bulk of the reduction between 2005 and 2019 was driven by the significant decarbonisation of electricity generation, which has comparatively little impact on transport, as this largely remains fossil fuel powered.

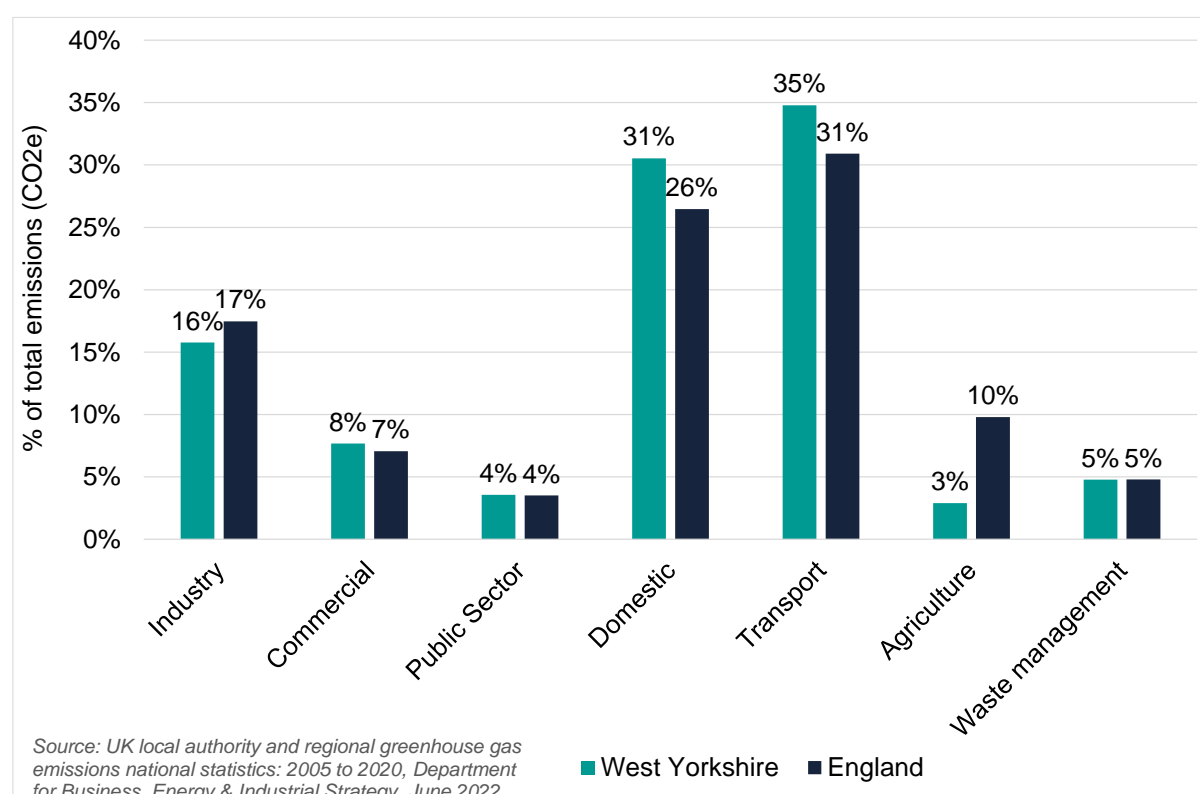
Figure 56: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions by selected sectors, West Yorkshire



All broad sectors saw substantial reductions in emissions between 2019 and 2020, mainly because of the pandemic. Transport emissions fell by 17% in a single year and since this is the biggest source of emissions in West Yorkshire this equated to 54% of the total decline for 2019/20.

In West Yorkshire, 16% of CO₂e emissions were attributed to the industrial sector in 2020, 8% to the commercial sector, 4% to the public sector, 35% to transport and 31% to the domestic sector. Compared with the national average, emissions in West Yorkshire are weighted towards the domestic sector and transport, with industry and agriculture accounting for smaller proportions. West Yorkshire's lower emissions from industry and agriculture

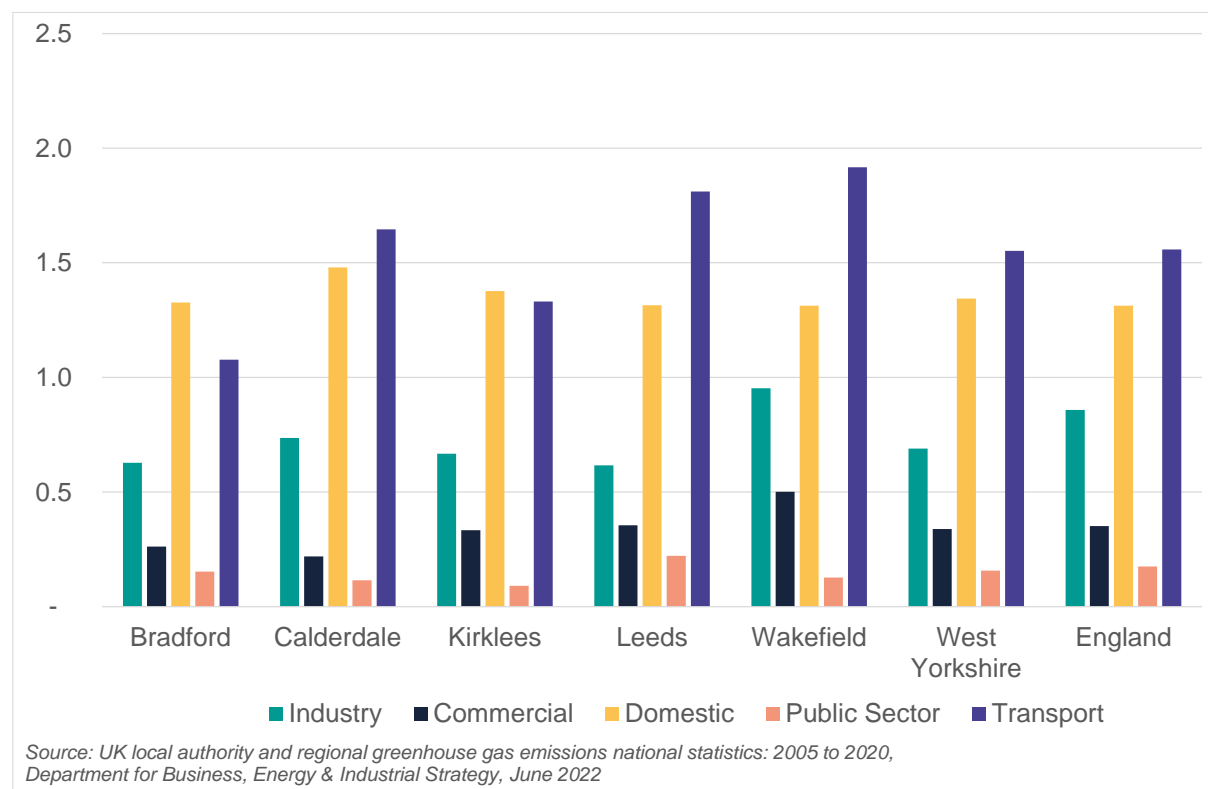
Figure 57: Profile of greenhouse gas emissions by sector, 2020



Per capita domestic emissions are at a fairly similar level across the West Yorkshire local authorities. This is also the case for industry and commercial, except for Wakefield, where emissions from industry are much higher, reflecting emissions from industrial gas and industrial electricity. Per capita transport emissions vary widely and are highest in Wakefield and Leeds, followed by Calderdale. They are lower in Kirklees and particularly in Bradford.

Road transport is the main contributor to overall transport emissions. Although vehicle efficiency improved during this period, this was probably offset by changes in demand and road mileage.

Figure 58: Per capita emissions by selected sector, 2020



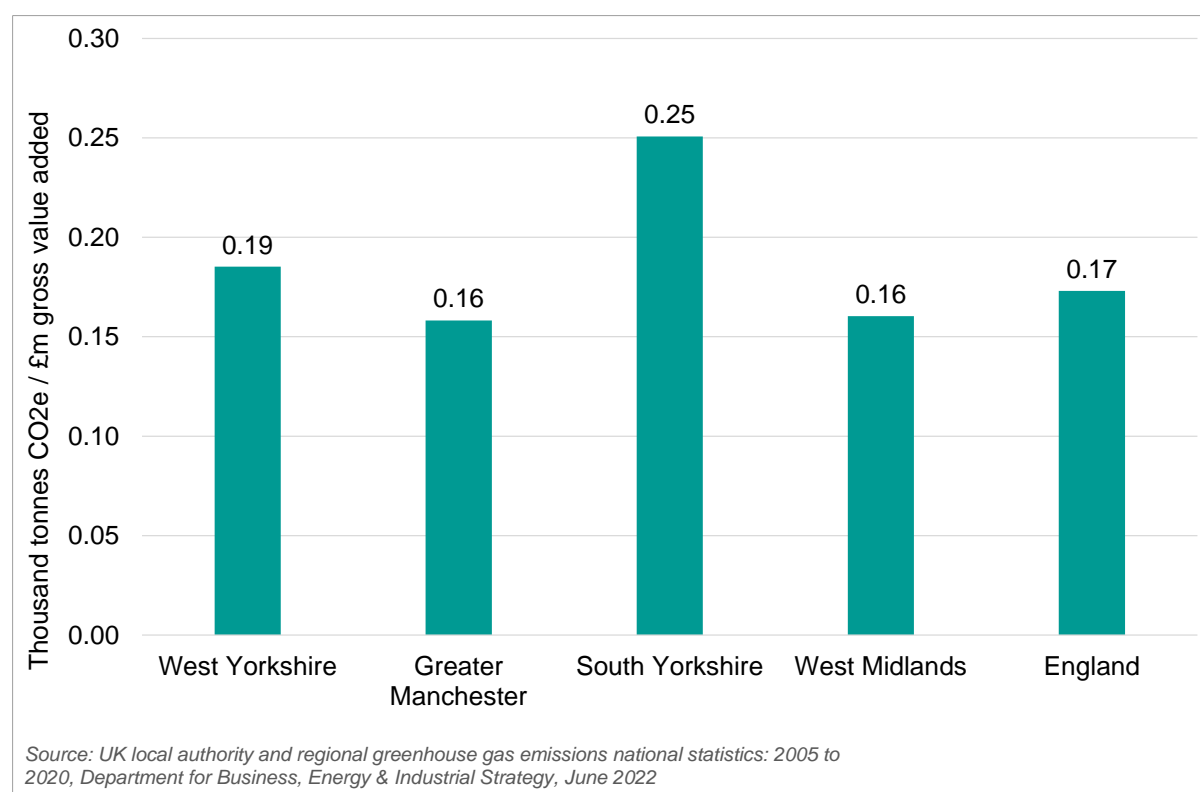
6.2.3 Emissions intensity ratio

The greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the West Yorkshire economy, in terms of CO₂ equivalent emissions (kt) per £m of GVA, is above the national average and above some of the comparator areas. The region's emissions intensity continues to fall with a bigger decrease in 2020 than that seen nationally.

Greenhouse gas emissions intensity measures the level of emissions per unit of gross value added (GVA) and can be used to examine the relationship between economic growth and emissions. It is an important measure because a reduction in emissions intensity may indicate a shift towards a greener and more sustainable economy. This could be through industries becoming more efficient in their processes and emitting less per unit of GVA. At the same time, it may also reflect changes to the structure of the economy, for example, a change from manufacturing to services, which produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

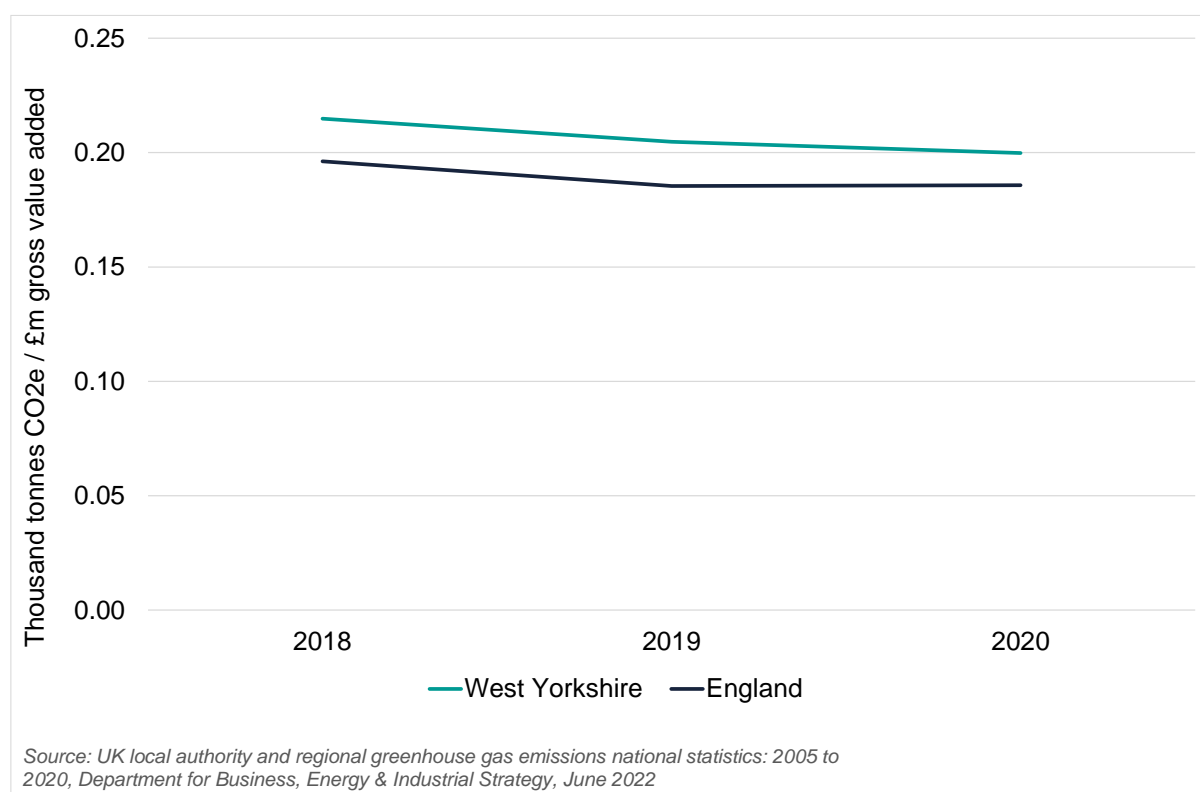
There are wide local variations in emissions intensity, mainly because of the economy and geography of different local areas.

Figure 59: Greenhouse gas emissions intensity, 2020



In 2020, greenhouse gas emissions intensity for West Yorkshire was around 0.19 thousand tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per £ million of GVA. This is slightly above the national average of 0.17 and above the comparator areas, except South Yorkshire. The latter has a particularly high intensity possibly because of the concentration of energy-intensive industries such as steel in the area.

Figure 60: Trend in greenhouse gas emissions intensity¹



Greenhouse gas emissions data are only available for the 2018 to 2020 period. They show that emissions intensity fell by 7% in West Yorkshire compared with 5% at national level.

A longer time series of data is available for carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon dioxide emissions intensity for West Yorkshire fell by 46% between 2005 and 2020. There was a faster rate of reduction at national level of 51% over the same period. The region's emissions intensity was similar to the national average in 2005 but a gap has opened up since then, although this seems to have slightly narrowed in 2020, reflecting the position for the wider range of greenhouse gases.

In the absence of detailed figures for industry sector emissions at local level, it is difficult to assess the relative contributions of changing industry structure and increased efficiency to the reduced emissions intensity in West Yorkshire. As noted above, UK data shows a marked reduction in emissions intensity in the energy supply sector, due to the switch from fossil fuels to renewables but there were also reductions in intensity in the manufacturing and transport sectors².

About the data

Emissions intensity is calculated by dividing the level of greenhouse gas emissions in thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by gross value added (GVA) in £m. GVA is the difference between output and intermediate consumption, that is, the difference between the value of goods and services produced (output) and the cost of raw materials and other inputs which are used up in production (intermediate consumption). The GVA

¹ The data presented in this figure do not exactly correspond to those contained in Figure 59 since the GVA data used are chained volume measures in 2019 money, in order to adjust for inflation; whereas the analysis contained in Figure 59 is based on GVA in current price values for 2020.

² Office for National Statistics, [Greenhouse gas emissions intensity, UK: 2020 provisional estimates](#) (2021)

data used in the denominator are in current prices for Figure 59 and in chained volume measures, in constant prices, with 2019 as the base year¹, for Figure 60.

¹ Office for National Statistics, [Regional gross value added \(balanced\) by industry: all ITL regions \(2021\)](#)

6.2.4 Access to green space

Almost 40% of West Yorkshire's population have easy access to local natural green space.

Green and blue Infrastructure is the green space and water environment essential to the quality of our lives and ecosystem. It is referred to as 'infrastructure' as it is as important as other types of infrastructure such as roads, schools and hospitals¹.

The Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy aims to ensure that everybody in West Yorkshire is within easy reach of an outstanding and well used network of green and blue infrastructure that reduces flood risks and supports health, the economy, the environment and a superb quality of life by providing local people with access to nature. There are a range of priorities for action, including planting and managing more trees and woodlands, building green and blue infrastructure into physical development and housing and integrating green and blue infrastructure within the transport routes that link our towns, cities and rural areas.

Natural England has developed an Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard ([ANGSt](#))², which has been used as a basis for our indicators. The headline indicator we have selected for access to green space is:

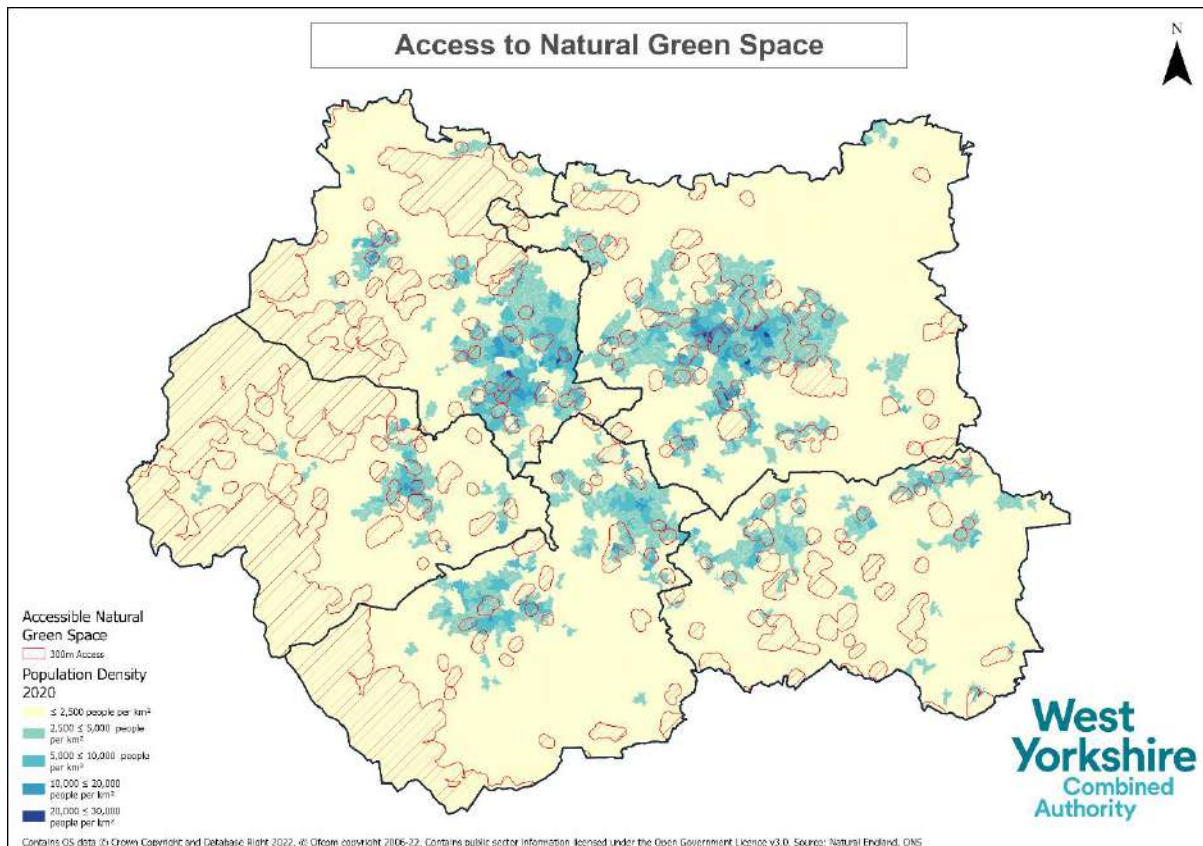
Proportion of the population who have access to local greenspace; that is, they live within 300m (As the crow flies) of an area of accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size.

Figure 61: Access to natural greenspace in West Yorkshire



¹ Green infrastructure is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework as “a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities”. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (2019)

² “‘Nature Nearby’ Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance”, Natural England, March 2010



Currently, around **39%** of West Yorkshire residents have local natural greenspace within easy access (2021 baseline) –5-to-10-minute walking distance depending on walking speed.

Within the region, there is some variation between local authorities: in Kirklees the proportion is somewhat higher, at 44%; but the remaining area are similar ranging from 37% to 39%. A series of sub-indicators have been developed based on the ANGSt thresholds, to show the proportion of the population that have access to larger areas of accessible natural greenspace.

Table 5: Access to natural greenspace in West Yorkshire

Greenspace Type	Wider Neighbourhood; Parks and Public Gardens	District; Country Parks and Accessible Woodland	Sub-Regional; Access Land and Largest Nature Reserves
Distance	2km	5km	10km
Size	20ha	100ha	500ha
Bradford	63%	56%	92%
Calderdale	82%	93%	90%
Kirklees	39%	52%	44%
Leeds	76%	68%	76%
Wakefield	65%	69%	6%
West Yorkshire	65%	64%	65%

Wider neighbourhood - proportion of the population who are within 2km of an accessible 20-hectare site, such as parks and public gardens.

Almost two thirds (65%) of West Yorkshire's population have this kind of access. There is wide variation at local authority level, however, with the proportion ranging from 39% in Kirklees to 82% in Calderdale and 76% in Leeds. Bradford and Wakefield are both close to the West Yorkshire average with figures of 63% and 65% respectively.

District - proportion of the population who are within 5 km of a 100-hectare site e.g., country parks, access land, accessible woodland

This indicator gives a proxy for a 20-minute cycle journey. Sixty-four per cent of West Yorkshire's population fall within the catchment of this kind of site, based on these criteria, ranging from 52% in Kirklees to 93% in Calderdale.

Sub regional - proportion of the population who are within 10km of a 500-hectare site e.g., access land, accessible woodland, and the largest nature reserves

This indicator provides a proxy for a 40-minute cycle journey. The proportion of residents who have this level of access is very similar to the previous two indicators at 65%. Around nine out of 10 residents in Bradford and Calderdale are within 10km of a 50-hectare site. At the other extreme only 6% of Wakefield residents fall within the catchment area for this type of site.

About the data

The analysis uses Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard thresholds for distance and size but also filters on "naturalness" score, only including sites with a score of 1 or 2, such as parks and gardens, woodland, country parks and national parks. Playing fields, tennis courts, allotments and golf courses are excluded. Natural England's methodology measured distance from LSOA population weighted centroids through the OS Highways road and footpath network to polygons defined as green space in OS MasterMap. The proportion of residents with access to green space is based on ONS 2018 mid-year population estimates.

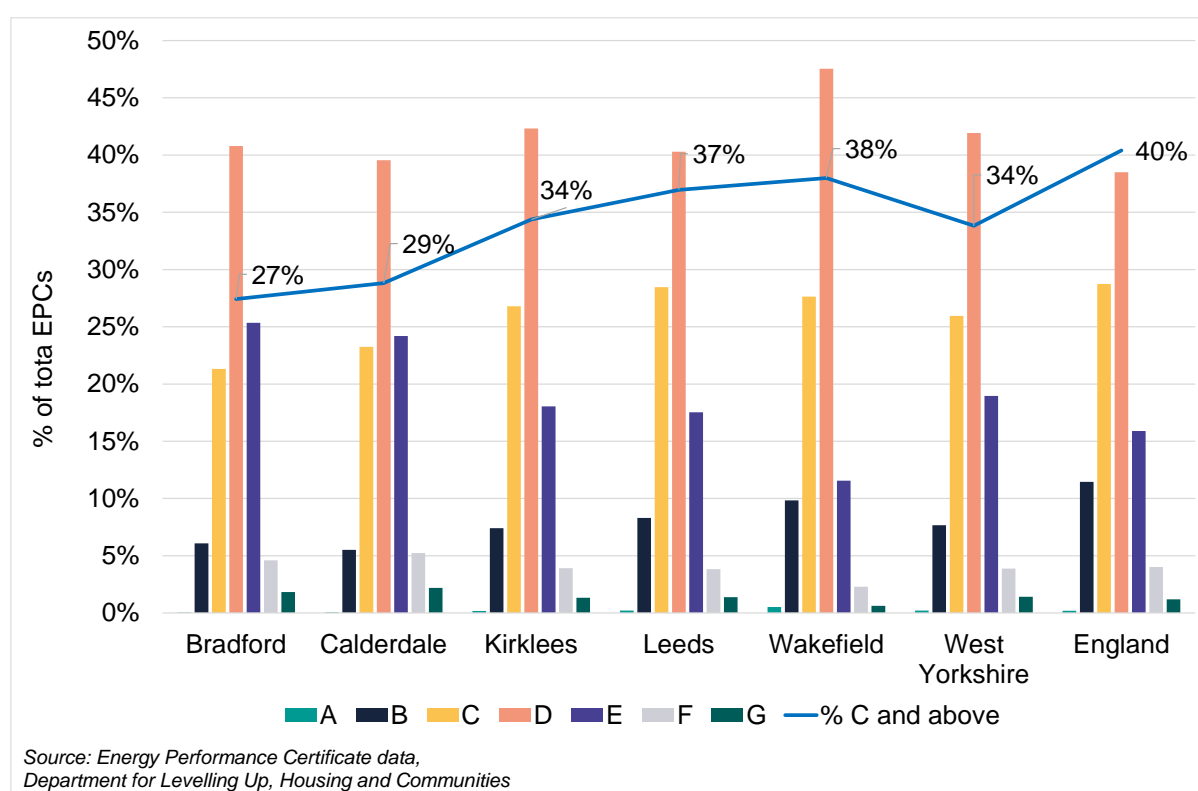
6.2.5 Building energy efficiency

West Yorkshire dwellings with an Energy Performance Certificate are less likely to have an energy efficiency rating of C or above compared to the national average (34% versus 40%). There are also wide variations against this measure at local authority level.

Buildings are responsible for almost 40% of the UK's energy consumption and carbon emissions. Improving the energy efficiency of properties is an important lever for reducing emissions but also for helping households to manage their living costs.

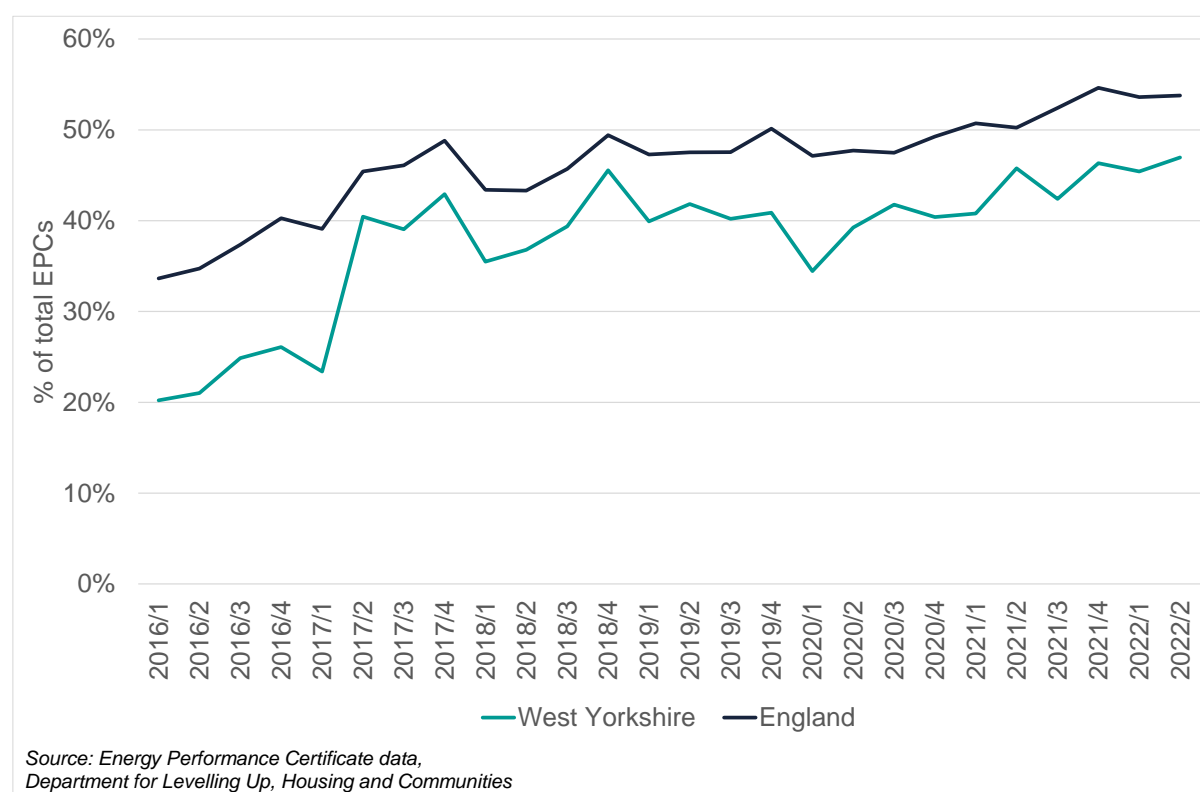
Energy Performance Certificates are needed any time a property is sold, built or rented. They contain information about a property's energy use and typical energy cost as well as recommendations on how to reduce energy and save money. Normally they have a rating between A (Most efficient) to G (Least efficient).

Figure 62: Profile of Energy Performance Certificates by local authority and Energy Efficiency Rating, as of Quarter 2 2022



A key headline measure is the proportion of dwellings with a rating of C or above. In West Yorkshire 34% of all dwellings with an EPC fall into category, somewhat lower than the national average of 40%. Leeds and Wakefield have the highest proportions of dwellings that meet this threshold, but the figures are much lower for Bradford (27%) and Calderdale (29%).

Figure 63: Trend in proportion of Energy Performance Certificates with Energy Efficiency Rating of C and above based on each quarter's EPC lodgements



In the latest quarter, April to June 2022, 16,400 domestic EPCs were lodged on the Register in West Yorkshire, a small increase of 0.6% on the same quarter of 2021. Forty-seven per cent of properties in the region were given an energy efficiency rating of C or above based on the lodgements for this latest quarter, compared with 54% nationally.

The proportion of EPCs lodged with an energy efficiency rating of C or above in West Yorkshire has increased over time but has remained consistently below the national figure.

About the data

These statistics are based on information from Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) lodged on the Energy Performance for Buildings Certificates Register for England and Wales. The purpose of an EPC is to show prospective tenants or buyers the energy efficiency of the property. The requirement for EPCs was introduced in phases and fully implemented for domestic properties by autumn 2008. EPCs are valid for 10 years.

6.2.6 Premises at risk of flooding

Around 3% of residential properties in West Yorkshire fall within a flood zone, rising to 6% in Calderdale. Many neighbourhoods in Bradford and Calderdale are acutely vulnerable to the effects of flooding. Flooding is likely to become a more frequent occurrence as a result of climate change.

Rivers, reservoirs and canals are defining features of West Yorkshire's landscape, enhancing our living environment with places for exercise and leisure and providing habitat for fish, birds and mammals. A consequence of this however is that some residents live in areas prone to flooding, either Defra Flood Zone 3, areas with properties facing a risk of flooding once every hundred years or Flood Zone 2, where properties face a risk of flooding once every 1,000 years. The frequency of flooding in these areas is likely to increase as a result of climate change.

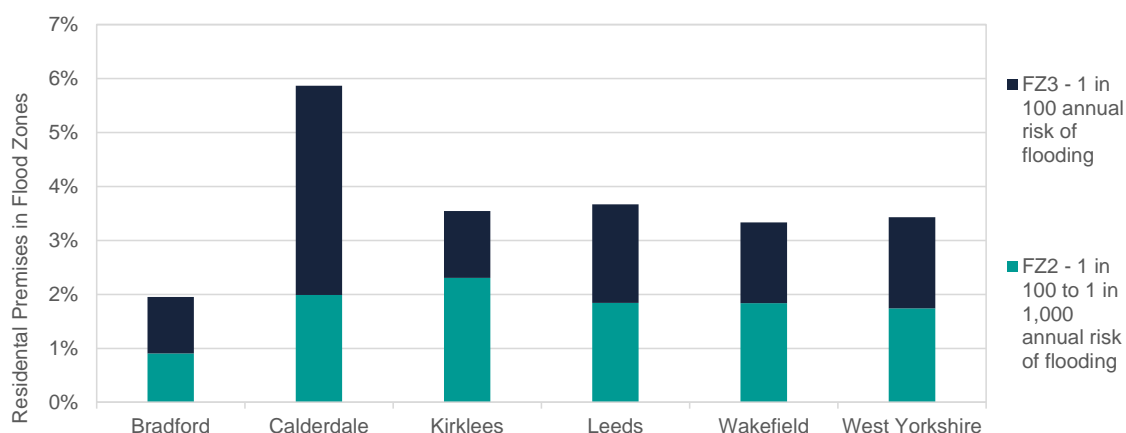
Recent events, such as the Boxing Day Floods of 2015 highlighted the risk that flooding presents to residential and commercial properties in West Yorkshire, with this event alone flooding 3,260 homes and 1,686 businesses, and the economic cost of £227 million and £36.8m worth of damage to local infrastructure¹.

The ongoing flood risk reinforces the economic, social and environmental arguments for securing capital investment to allow our communities to be more resilient and avoid both the human suffering and economic cost that comes with these events.

The Combined Authority is currently working with partners to update its ambitious pipeline of 30 additional flood alleviation schemes for the next six-year funding period from 2021/22. The plan requires £120 million of government investment and will safeguard approximately 3,400 homes, 2,500 businesses and 4,600 existing jobs, equating to c.£246 million in Gross Value Added per annum.

Over 17,400 West Yorkshire residential properties are located in Flood Zone 3 areas and at risk of flooding once every hundred years, with an additional 18,000 located in Flood Zone 2, which is at risk of flooding once every 100 to 1,000 years. Together this accounts for 3.4% of West Yorkshire residential properties.

Figure 64: Proportion of residential properties in flood zones

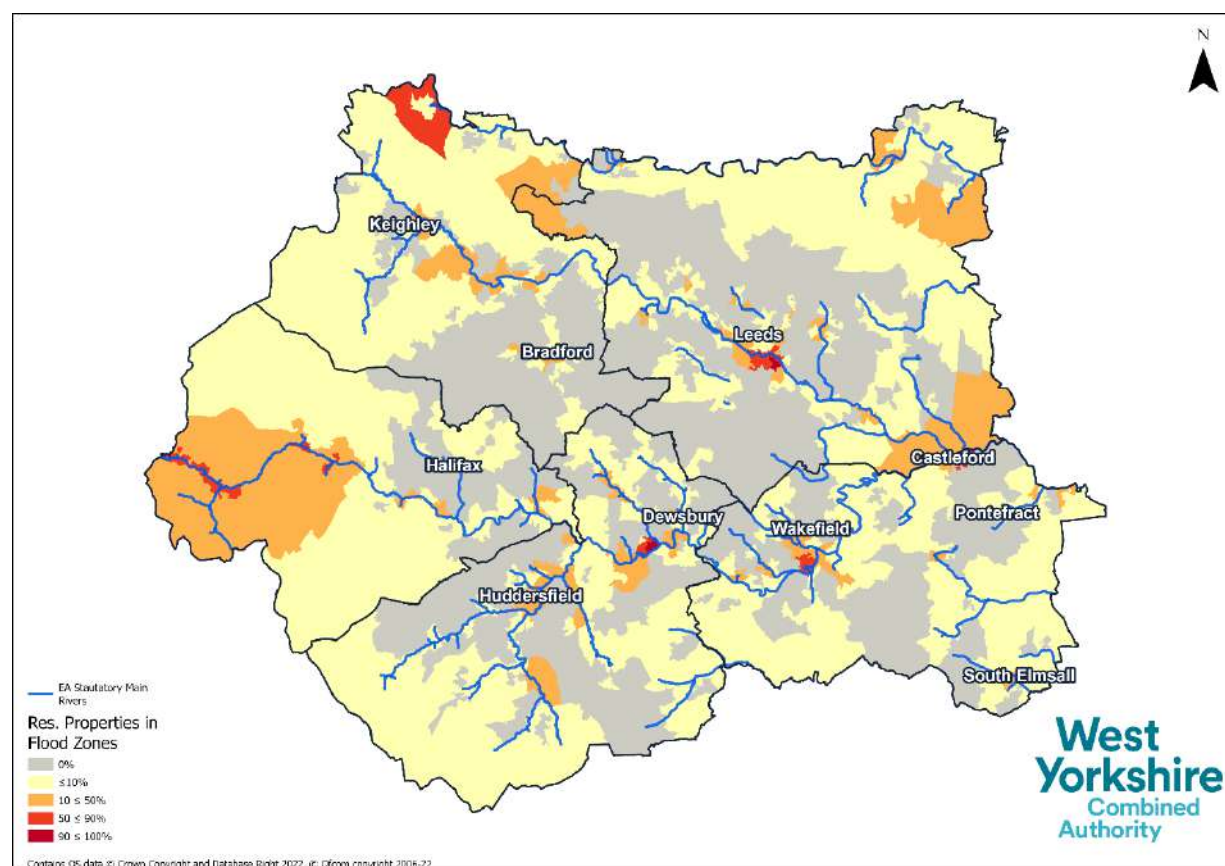


Source: Ordnance Survey 2021, Environment Agency 2021

¹ West Yorkshire Combined Authority, [Leeds City Region Flood Review Report](#) (2016)

Calderdale has the highest proportion of residential properties lying within flood zones at nearly 6% of the total.

Figure 65: West Yorkshire residential properties in flood zones



There are also longer-term effects on businesses and districts that will impact on them financially and economically. These include rising insurance costs, a negative impact on long-term investment decisions and the possibility of relocating as part of a risk mitigation strategy.

Around 20,000 commercial properties fall within flood zones in West Yorkshire. Calderdale has the highest proportion of commercial properties at risk of flooding, with 11% at risk of flooding once every hundred years and an additional 10% at risk of flooding once every thousand years.

Figure 66: Commercial properties in flood zones

District	Commercial Properties in Flood Zone 3: 1 in 100 Annual Risk of Flooding	Commercial Properties in Flood Zone 2: 1 in 1,000 Annual Risk of Flooding	Total Flood Zone Commercial Properties
Bradford	4.8%	4.10%	8.93%
Calderdale	11.4%	9.72%	21.14%
Kirklees	11.7%	11.83%	23.50%
Leeds	5.9%	4.02%	9.92%
Wakefield	6.3%	7.16%	13.50%
West Yorkshire	7.2%	6.25%	13.49%

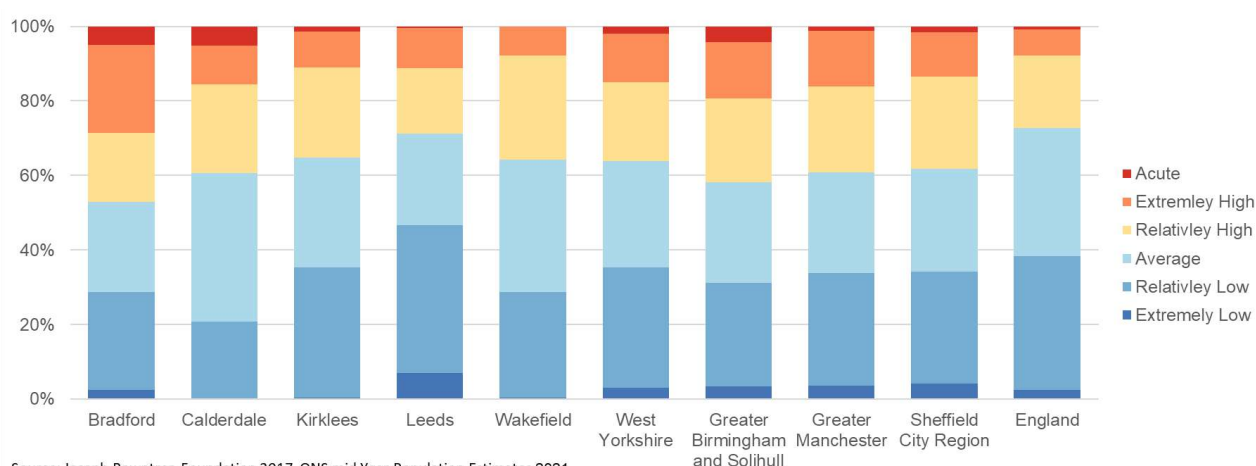
Source: Defra, Royal Mail

Community Flood Vulnerability Index

The Joseph Rowntree Flood Vulnerability Index measures how socially vulnerable residents of a neighbourhood are should flooding occur, quantifying their ability to prepare, respond and recover to flooding. Vulnerability is calculated according to proximity to flood zones, their physical wellbeing and their ability to access and understand pre and post flooding support.

The proportion of socially vulnerable neighbourhoods at extreme or acute risk of flooding in West Yorkshire is below that in England but matches that of other LEPs. This analysis does however highlight how vulnerability varies across West Yorkshire, with significant proportions of neighbourhoods in Bradford and Calderdale acutely vulnerable and 40% of all Calderdale neighbourhoods at an extremely high risk.

Figure 67: Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Index



Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2017, ONS mid Year Population Estimates 2021

7 Creating an accessible, clean and customer focused transport system

Key points

West Yorkshire's access inequality ratio has worsened substantially, as the number of jobs accessible by the bus network from deprived neighbourhoods fell relative to those accessible by private car. This is attributable to a reduction in services in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, when only essential travel was supported; but it also illustrates the barriers to travel faced by certain groups.

Almost two-thirds of trips in West Yorkshire are made by car but more timely national data suggest that the car's share of total trips is likely to have fallen during the pandemic, whilst walking increased its share. The bus plays a vital role for those who lack access to a car, but its share of trips is also falling over time, a trend intensified by the pandemic, although bus plays a more important part in the transport mix in West Yorkshire than nationally.

The number of killed or seriously injured casualties arising from traffic accidents is on a downward trend in West Yorkshire and this trend was reinforced by the reduction in road traffic associated with the pandemic, as casualties fell by more than a fifth between 2019 and 2020.

Following a sharp reduction during the pandemic there was a modest recovery in trips made using the MCard in 2021, with a total of 10m trips recorded. The pandemic seems to have accelerated a shift to digital channels for the purchase of MCard trips.

Satisfaction with highway infrastructure remains relatively low, at 5.8 (out of 10), the same score as in 2020/21. However, satisfaction with the provision of cycling routes and facilities as well as with most elements of road surface and pavement maintenance has worsened

Satisfaction with local public transport in West Yorkshire is high, when compared with other aspects of the transport system. However, the average satisfaction rating for public transport fell in 2021/22 when compared with the previous year, although it remains higher than in 2019/20.

7.1 Overview of the priority

West Yorkshire's transport network is under increasing pressure and the region's diverse geography presents challenges in balancing transport priorities and funding.

Investment in transport has not kept pace with economic and population growth, resulting in congestion on roads and overcrowding on public transport. Private vehicles still make up a significant proportion of journeys in the region, contributing to serious public health and environmental challenges.

The six headline indicators selected for this priority are key measures of progress towards a more effective and efficient transport infrastructure for West Yorkshire.

However, performance against these indicators also provides an insight into the important contribution of transport to our other priorities. For example, enabling people from deprived communities to access employment opportunities via public transport contributes to inclusive growth, while achieving shifts in mode share towards public transport and active travel and away from private cars is key to reducing carbon emissions from the transport sector.

More detailed analysis of West Yorkshire's transport performance and its indicators is contained in the Combined Authority's [State of Transport](#) report.

7.2 Performance against the indicators

7.2.1 Access inequality ratio (employment)

Inequality of access to employment from the most deprived areas in West Yorkshire worsened substantially in 2020/21. This is attributable to a reduction in services in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, when only essential travel was supported; but it also illustrates the barriers to travel faced by certain groups.

People travel to participate in society; however, their capacity to access opportunity may vary greatly, depending on a number of factors, such as their physical ability, the range of transport modes available to them, the speed of these modes, the connectivity of the network or the affordability of the options available to name just a few.

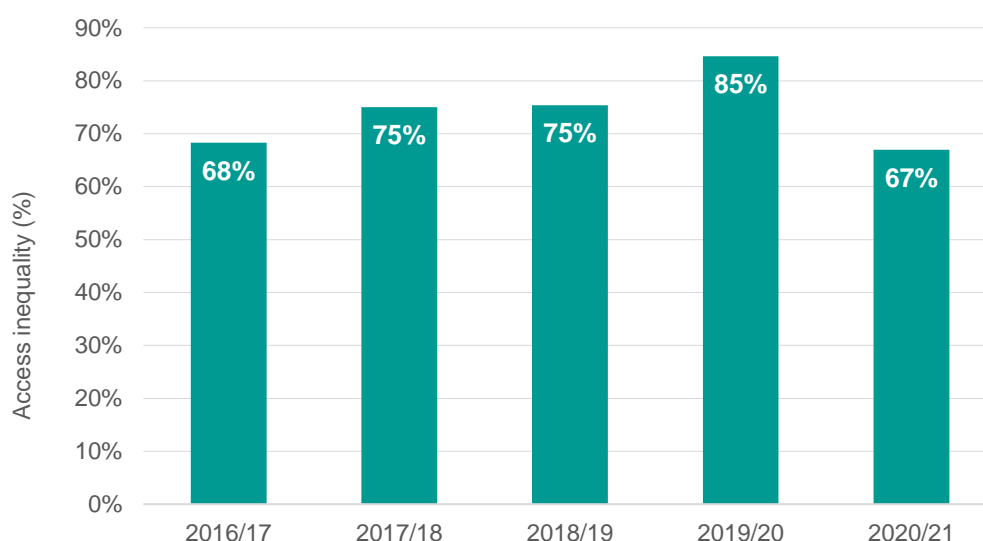
Car drivers are the least mobility-constrained and have higher levels of access to opportunity; individuals from low-income households, on the other hand, are more constrained by affordability issues and are less likely to own a car. In 2020, 35% of households in the lowest income quintile did not have access to a car, compared with 21% across all income levels. Those in the lowest income quintile also made 78% more bus trips than the average across all income levels¹, a bigger relative difference than the previous year, precisely during a time when public transport usage was discouraged in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Improving public transport options for those with no access to a car, is therefore a way to tackle inequality, by making it easier for everyone to access services and activities, including employment.

To capture transport aspects of access inequality, we have defined an 'access inequality ratio'. This is defined as the ratio (expressed as a percentage), of the number of jobs accessible in 30 minutes using the frequent bus network² and the number of jobs accessible by car in 30 minutes, from areas within the 10% most deprived in West Yorkshire, during the morning peak. The rationale is that all else remaining equal, by improving accessibility by public transport (whether this is by improving its frequency, connectivity or speed), the number of opportunities available to those with no access to a car is also improved, thereby reducing access inequality.

¹ Source: National Travel Survey 2019, DfT, 2020

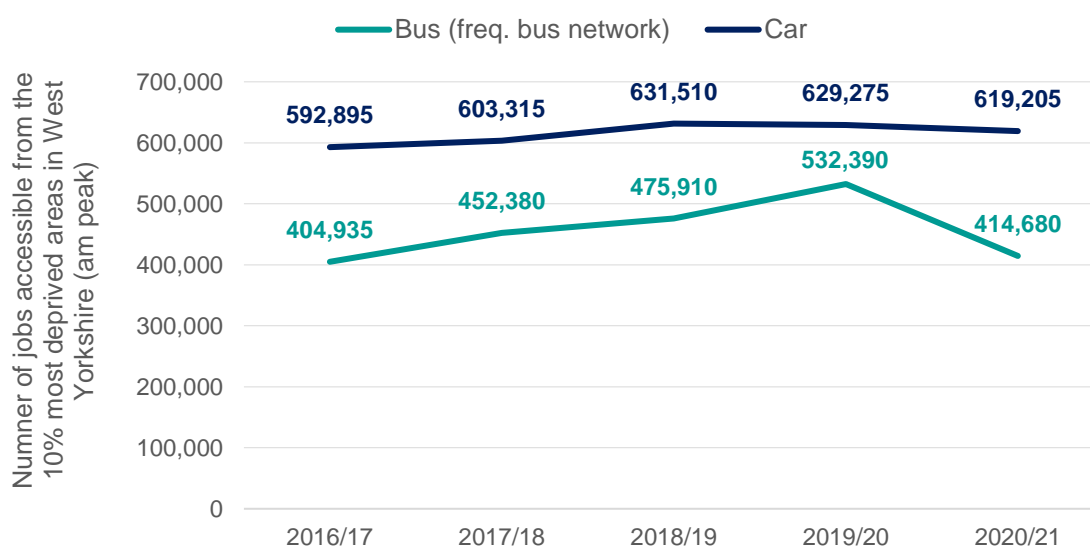
² The frequent bus network is defined as routes with a frequency of four buses per hour or better.

Figure 68: Access inequality (employment) – Proportion of jobs in major employment centres accessible within 30 min by bus in the morning peak, relative to jobs accessible by car



Following a peak in 2019, the value of the indicator in 2020 was 67%, the lowest since we started to monitor it. This is explained by the fact that during a great part of 2020, emergency timetables with a reduced number of services were run in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 69: Morning peak access to major employment centres by the frequent bus network, from the 10% most deprived areas in West Yorkshire, vs car accessibility



It has to be noted that this indicator captures only some of the *physical* components of access to employment; there are other factors that impact the range of employments that are available to low income groups; amongst them, the affordability of public transport itself, or the nature of employment, which results in a 'skill mismatch' for those with lower qualifications; this is because higher-skilled jobs are typically based in city centres or main transport corridors in cities, well served by public transport, whereas low-skilled jobs are

increasingly dispersed outside city centres and are often difficult to reach by residents in low-income areas¹. This is exacerbated by the fact that a number of low-skilled jobs in occupations such as distribution, warehousing, hospitality, retail and cleaning often require unconventional working hours, at times where public transport is infrequent or just not available.

About the data

Data for this indicator is calculated using accessibility software. This software allows the calculation of travel time and distance between origin and destination points for different modes of transport, based on the origin and destination location relative to the road network, link speeds and public transport timetables. As with any model, a number of assumptions are made:

- *Origin points: these are the centroids (population weighted) of the areas falling within the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in West Yorkshire i.e., travel time from the whole area is assumed to be the same as from its centroid.*
- *Employment centres are defined as those areas with 1,500 employees or more, as per the Business Register and Employment Survey for the corresponding year. As before, travel time to all jobs in an area is assumed to be the same as that to its centroid.*
- *The departure time for bus trips is 07:30 am, which we compare with journey times for car.*
- *The catchment areas are defined based on the minimum travel time from the set of locations taken as origin. This means it will not be possible to reach the selected destination in the maximum travel time (in this case 30 minutes) from all the origins; or in other words, contours reflect the destination that is fastest to access.*
- *The calculations do not consider the effect of congestion i.e., car travel time is modelled as per the speed limit of links; bus travel time is based on published timetables.*
- *We are calculating bus accessibility using the frequent bus network. This means that only bus services with a frequency of 4 buses per hour or more are considered in the analysis. The maximum distance from an origin to the first stop is 600 m. The maximum interchange distance is 400m. Walk speed is 4.8 km/h.*

¹ See, for example Crisp, R. et Al, 2018, [Tackling transport-related barriers in low income neighbourhoods](#), Joseph Rowntree Foundation

7.2.2 Mode share

West Yorkshire residents make more trips per head than the England average but travel fewer miles. Most of these trips are made by car, although its share had started to decline before the pandemic, in parallel with a substantial increase in walking. Bus usage is declining, but more bus trips per head are made in West Yorkshire than nationally¹.

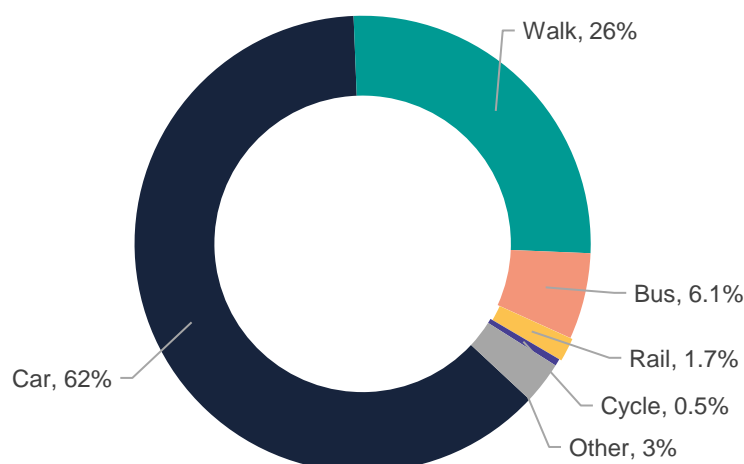
Mode share is an indicator of not only people's travel habits, but of how the way we travel adapts to economic, technological, and social changes. Travel demand is relevant not only for the design of infrastructure and transport policies, but for other important policy areas, such as inclusive growth –as it reflects access to opportunity for all groups, including those with no access to a car– and tackling the climate emergency –as we must ensure necessary mobility does not impact negatively on the environment and the health of our residents.

In the 3-year period ending 2019 (the last time this indicator was available for West Yorkshire):

- 62% of trips by West Yorkshire residents were made by private car (either as a driver or a passenger), a higher proportion than the England average for the same period (55%). The private car was also the predominant mode of travel in terms of distance, accounting for 77% of the distance travelled by West Yorkshire residents, slightly less than the England average (78%).
- Walking accounted for 26% of all the trips made by West Yorkshire residents, being the mode with the highest share growth in recent years (4 percent points since 2016); however, the share of walking is still lower than the England average (32%).
- 6% of trips by West Yorkshire residents were made by bus, a higher proportion than the England average (3.4%). However, the bus share has continued to decline in recent years, resulting in a loss of approximately a percentage point per decade. The bus accounted for 5.4% of the distance travelled by West Yorkshire residents, compared to 3.3% in England.
- Rail accounted for 1.7% of the trips made by West Yorkshire residents, and 8.7% of the distance (compared to 2.2% and 9.2%, respectively, for England).
- Cycle trips represented 0.5% of all trips by West Yorkshire residents, which was less than a third of cycle share in England for the same period.

¹ Based on 2019 data (See *About the data box*)

Figure 70: Share of trips by mode, West Yorkshire, 2017/19 (3-year rolling average)



Source: National Travel Survey (bespoke West Yorkshire), DfT (2020)

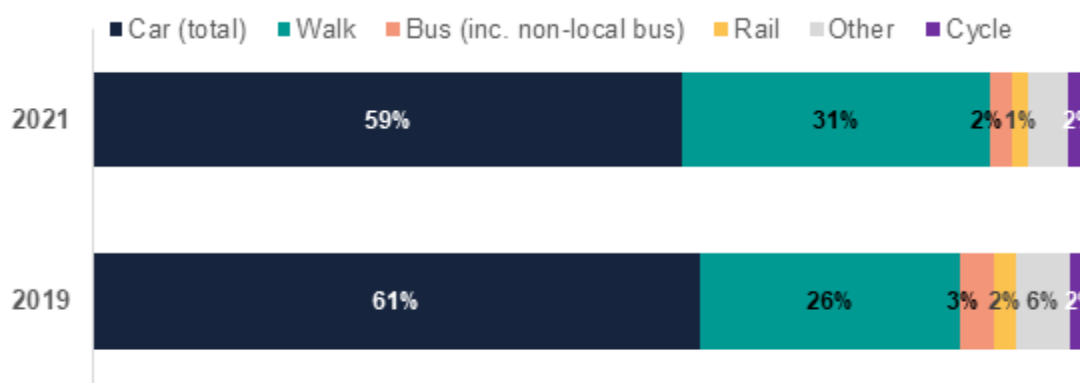
The data analysed suggest that the trend of fewer trips and distance travelled seen in England has started later in West Yorkshire than in other areas of the country. Although the higher trip rates in West Yorkshire is partly compensated for by shorter distances travelled, there is also a higher dependence on the car for shorter distances than in other areas, with its negative effects for the environment and health of West Yorkshire's residents.

The above figures also show that the bus, an essential mode to meet the travel needs of those with no access to a car, continues to be the most accessible form of public transport. Reversing bus decline is vital to sustainable transport priorities, especially considering the risk that a bounce back of the car during the recovery from the pandemic can pose to the progress made to date.

The disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on National Travel Survey data collection means bespoke data for West Yorkshire is not available after 2019. However, figures for England (see Figure 71) serve to illustrate how changes in travel patterns after the pandemic have been reflected in the mix of modes. In 2021, the share of the private car was 2 percentage points lower than pre-pandemic, and walking increased its share by 5

percentage points. Both bus **and** rail lost 1 percentage point of their share each, relative to 2019.

Figure 71: Share of trips by mode, England, 2019 and 2021

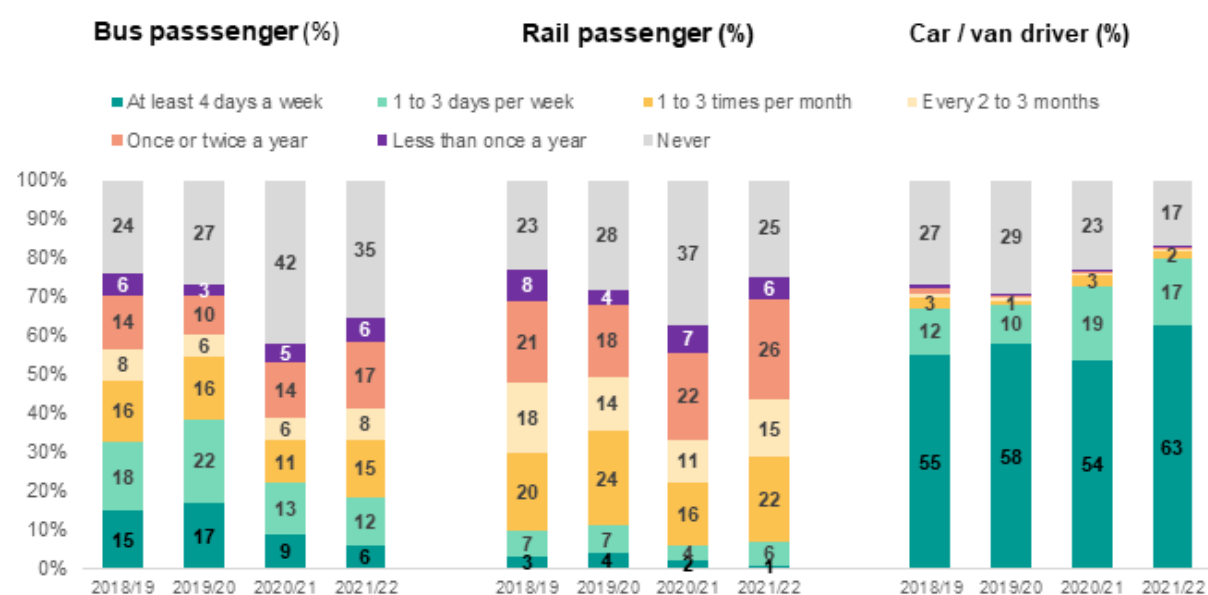


Source: National Travel Survey 2021, DfT (2022)

Indicators from the Residents Perceptions of Transport Survey suggest that while general travel activity has been increasing year-on-year, public transport usage is still below pre-pandemic. Analysis of modal usage in recent years shows that:

- The proportions of West Yorkshire residents travelling at least monthly by car, taxi, train as well as walking have increased from the previous year, but cycling has reduced from 14% to 11%
- Those using a bus at least monthly remains lower than the two years before the COVID-19 pandemic (33%) with 18% of West Yorkshire residents catching a bus at least weekly.
- The proportion of West Yorkshire residents using the train at least monthly has increased from 22% to 29% in the latest year, close to the 2018/19 proportion of 30% but lower than 2019/20. Seven per cent of West Yorkshire residents travel by train at least weekly.

Figure 72: Share of trips by mode, England, 2019 and 2021



Source: Residents perceptions of Transport Survey, West Yorkshire Combined Authority (2022)

About the data

Mode share data is taken from the National Travel Survey. This survey is designed to be representative of England's population and therefore, it has limitations when analysing lower-level geographies e.g., 3 years of data combined are necessary to obtain a robust sample size for West Yorkshire, therefore the use of a 3-year rolling average for this indicator.

The disruption in the survey introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic means that although national figures for 2020 are available, the minimum sample size was not achieved for West Yorkshire, and therefore the latest value of this indicator does not capture the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

7.2.3 Killed or seriously injured casualties (KSI)

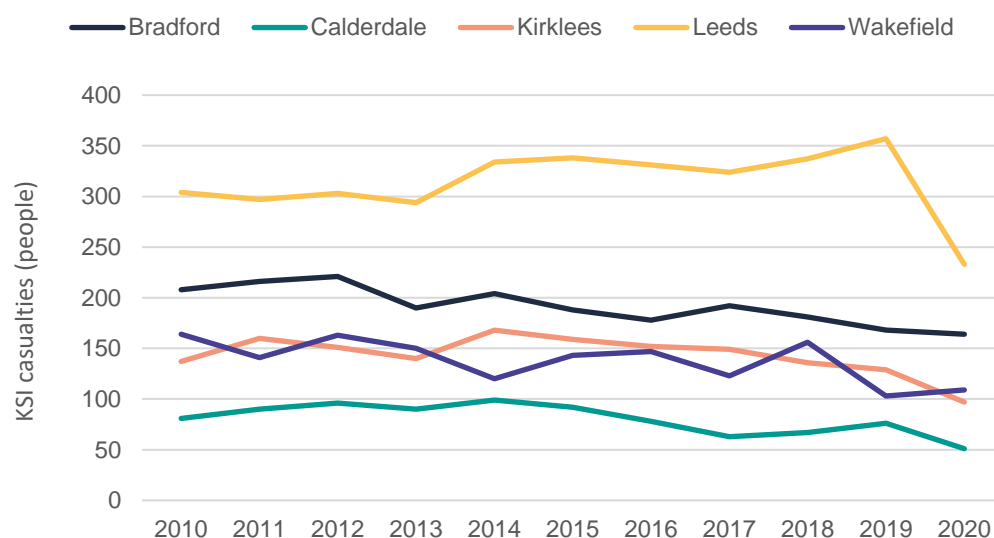
Absolute counts of KSI casualties in West Yorkshire show a declining trend in recent years (27% reduction since 2010¹). KSI casualties fell by 21% between 2019 and 2020, a decrease largely attributable to the lower road traffic as a result of the restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, Wakefield saw an increase in KSI casualties in 2021.

A key focus of our transport investment is to create clean, safe, healthy places for communities and businesses. Ensuring the safety of all users of our streets and highway network and reducing the risk of being killed or seriously injured on our roads is essential to meet these objectives, and for people to feel confident to walk and cycle more. There is also an important inclusion dimension, since people who live in more deprived areas are at greater risk than those living in affluent areas. Reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads is therefore crucial to our priorities of delivering 21st century transport systems, enabling inclusion and boosting productivity.

There were 654 KSI casualties in West Yorkshire in 2020, a reduction of 21% from 2019. This is in line with the 20% reduction seen in England during this period, largely attributable to the reduction in road traffic seen during 2020 as a result of the travel restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, not all districts have seen a similar decrease in their KSI casualty statistics; in Leeds and Calderdale we saw reductions of 35% and 33% respectively, higher than the national average, whereas in Wakefield there was an increase of 6% from the previous year.

Figure 73: KSI by West Yorkshire district and year, 2011-2020



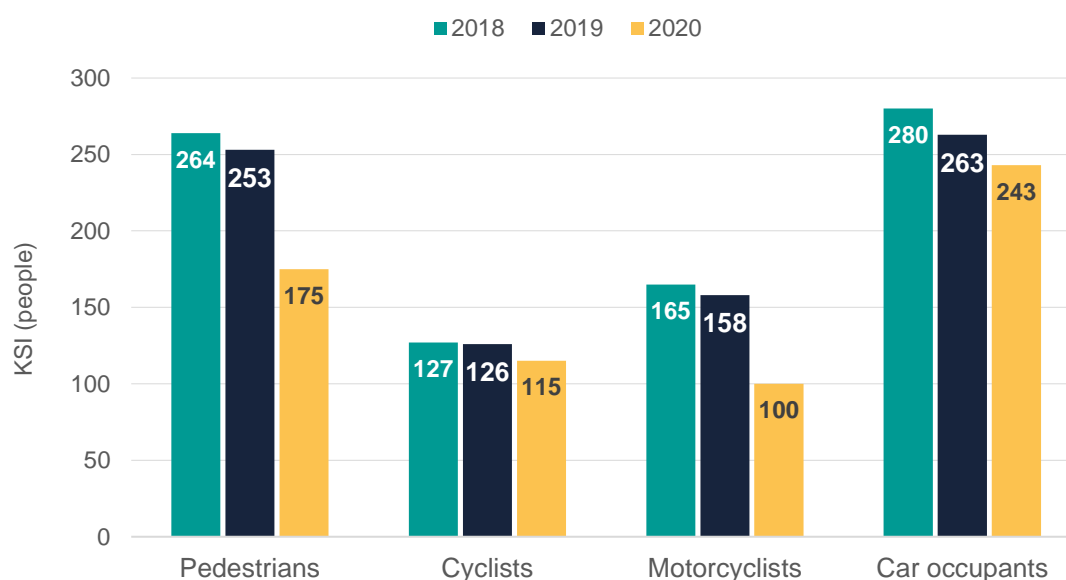
Source: Reported fatal casualties by country, region and local authority, Great Britain, 2010 - 2020. DfT, 2021.

The reduction in KSI casualties between 2019 and 2020 varied by user type. It was larger for motorcyclists (37% reduction) and pedestrians (31% reduction), whereas there was a smaller reduction for pedal cyclists (11% reduction) and car occupants (8% reduction). The fall in pedestrian KSI casualties is notable, considering the reported increases in walking during the pandemic, and may be due to the general reduction in motorised traffic.

Pedestrians, motorcyclists and cyclists continue to be the most vulnerable group, accounting for 60% of total KSI casualties in 2020, compared to 32% of car occupants.

In 2020 there was also a 25% increase in other vehicle occupants KSI casualties, which may be linked to the growth in the number of vehicles classified in this group (e.g., scooters).

Figure 74: West Yorkshire KSI casualties by user type



Source: Reported Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) (unadjusted) casualties by country, region, local authority and road user type, Great Britain, 2020. DfT (2021)

About the data

Casualty data for West Yorkshire and partner districts have been taken from the Reported Road Casualties Great Britain, annual report: 2020, which provides the number of personal injury road traffic accidents in Great Britain that were reported by the police using the STATS19 reporting system. It also includes the number of people killed or injured in these accidents and which road user group they were in.

7.2.4 MCard Ticket Transactions (bus)

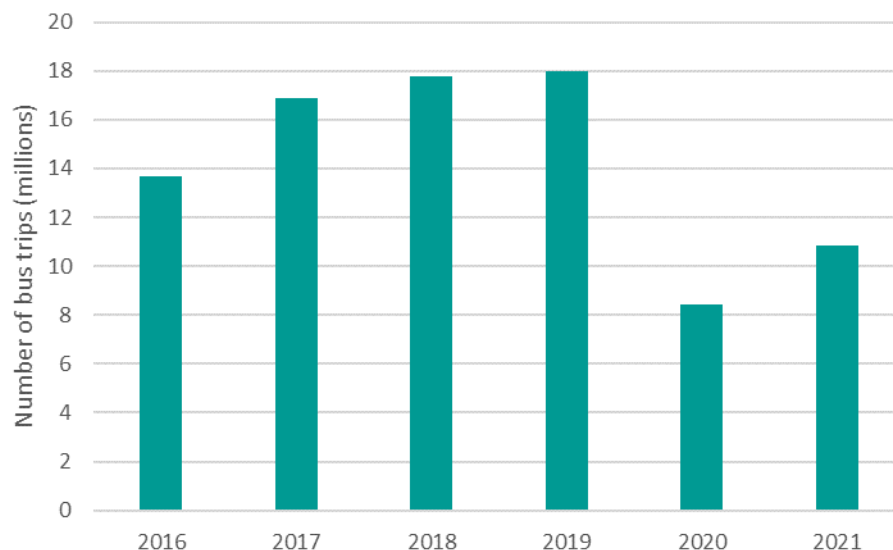
Following a sharp reduction during the pandemic there was a modest recovery in trips made using the MCard in 2021. The pandemic seems to have accelerated a shift to digital channels for the purchase of MCard trips.

MCard is the multi-operator, multi-mode travel smartcard for West Yorkshire. The number of trips made using MCard products is an important measure of the take-up of smart ticketing technology which is part of efforts to plan and manage transport network more effectively to transform the affordability, ease, and experience of passengers.

Before 2020 the number of trips made on buses using MCard products increased year on year from 2017 onwards, during a time when overall trips on buses decreased in West Yorkshire.

The number of MCard trips fell by 53% between 2019 and 2020 due to the impact of the pandemic. There was a recovery in 2021, with trips growing by 28% year-on-year but the annual number of trips remained 40% below its 2019 level.

Figure 75: Bus Trips made using MCard Products



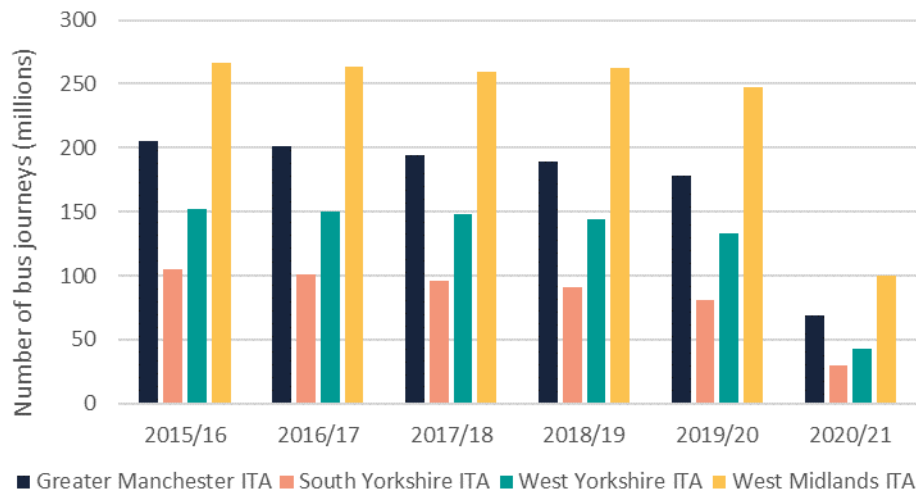
Source: WYCA NERO Reports and MCard Mobile App

About the data

The data includes all bus trips made using MCard products (West Yorkshire Ticketing Company Limited Prepaid tickets) recorded in the data management and reporting system, NERO, and in the MCard Mobile App.

The total number of trips made on buses was falling steadily within West Yorkshire and other metropolitan areas before the impact of Covid-19 which caused a large reduction in bus journeys.

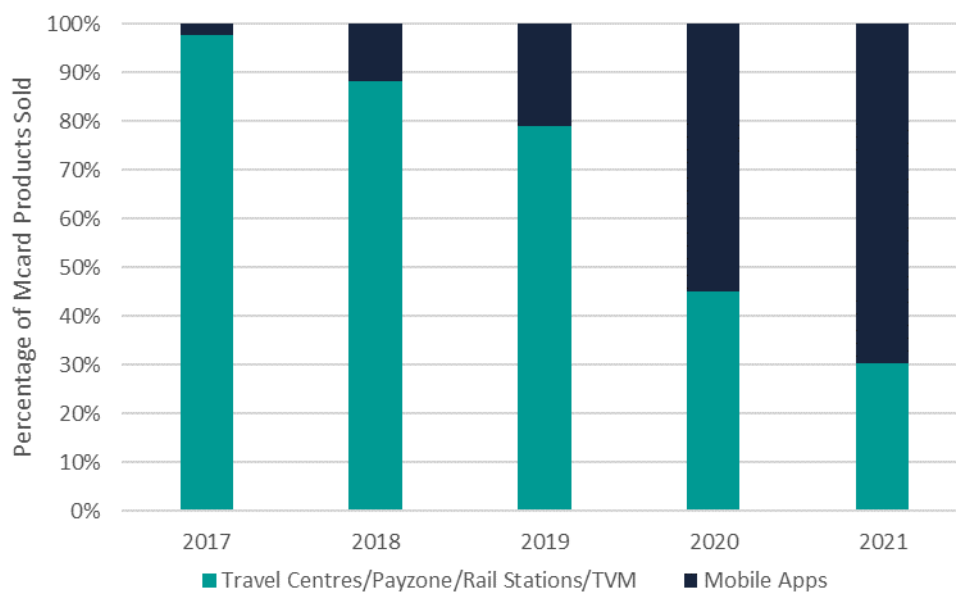
Figure 76: Trend in bus usage



Source: DoT Annual Bus Statistics

West Yorkshire has launched two mobile apps since 2017 increasing the percentage of products bought this way to 70% in 2021. Changes in product choice owing to changes in travel patterns may have impacted on MCard use. The move towards contactless purchase methods may have been accelerated by Covid-19.

Figure 77: Percentage of MCard products purchased through digital channels



Source: WYCA Dream Reports

7.2.5 Satisfaction with highway infrastructure

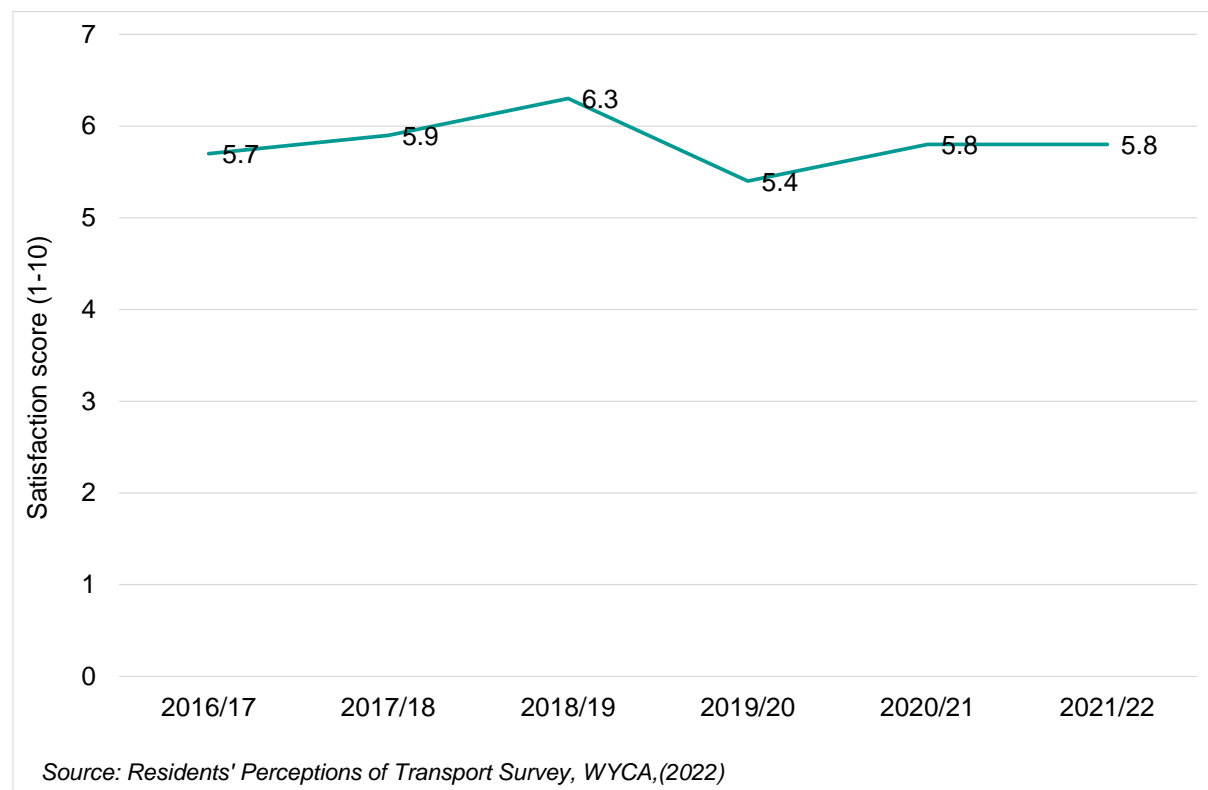
Satisfaction with highway infrastructure remains at 5.8 (out of 10), the same score as in 2020/21. However, satisfaction with the provision of cycling routes and facilities as well as with most elements of road surface and pavement maintenance has worsened.

Highway infrastructure is an essential public asset. It allows access to services and opportunities and the movement of goods. Well maintained streets and roads are safer and more comfortable for walkers, riders and passengers. They are also part of the visual landscape and contribute to create a sense of place.

In order to achieve our ambition to make best use of our infrastructure, we must ensure our assets are fit for purpose and managed in a safe, sustainable and cost-effective way, so that they are resilient into the future. One of the indicators used to measure progress towards this objective is public satisfaction, reflecting the impact that highway assets have on people's daily activities.

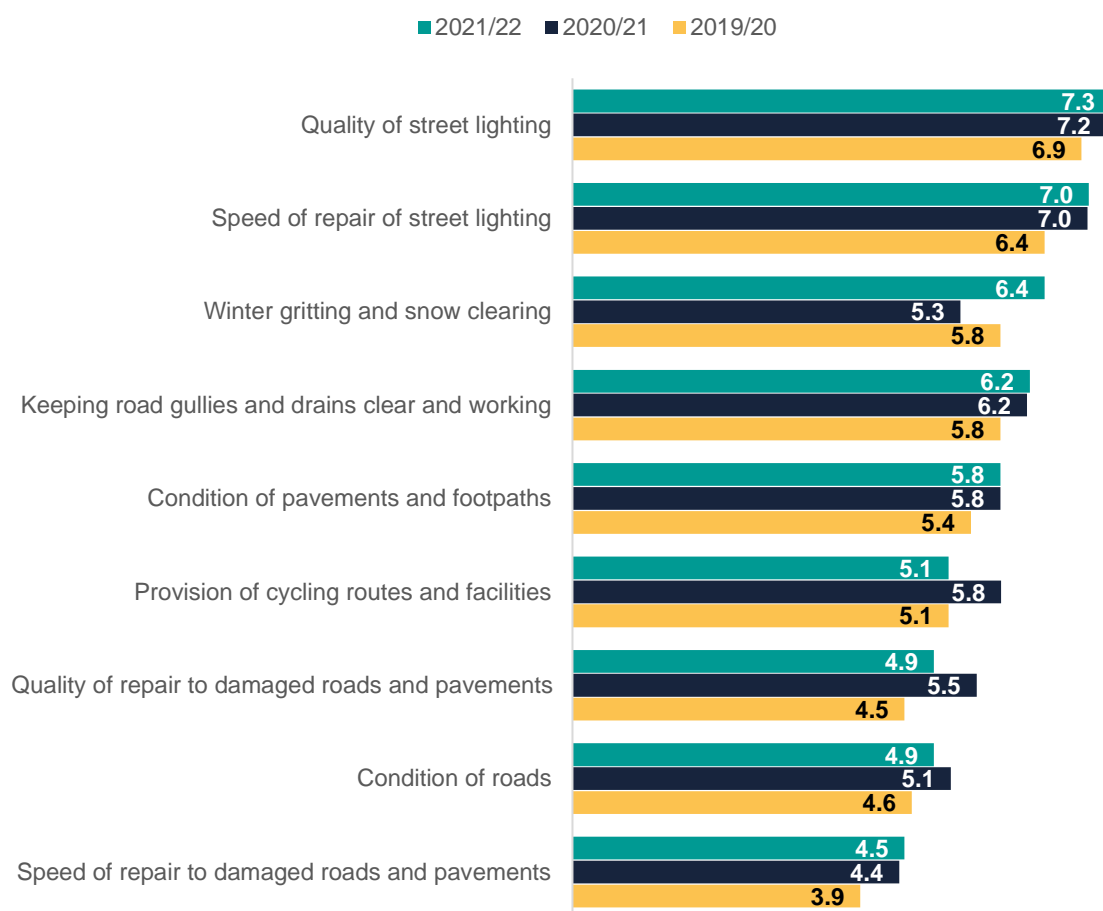
Historically, satisfaction with highway infrastructure has been low. In 2021/22, it was 5.8 (out of 10), the same as the previous year.

Figure 78: Satisfaction with highway infrastructure 2016/17 to 2021/22



Despite the composite indicator having the same value as in 2020/21, satisfaction with individual elements has changed. It is notable the drop in satisfaction with cycle routes and facilities (-0.7 points), particularly considering the reported increase in cycling after the Covid-19 pandemic. Most aspects related with road and pavement maintenance, which typically are also the ones with the lowest satisfaction, also received a lower rating than in 2020/21. Expectations in relation to these aspects is high, as shown by the high importance attributed to them by residents (see Figure 80). High standards of asset maintenance continue to be essential for the safety and efficiency of our networks, and more needs to be done to ensure that residents also perceive it.

Figure 79: Change in scores for components of the highway infrastructure satisfaction (1-10), 2019/20 to 2021/22

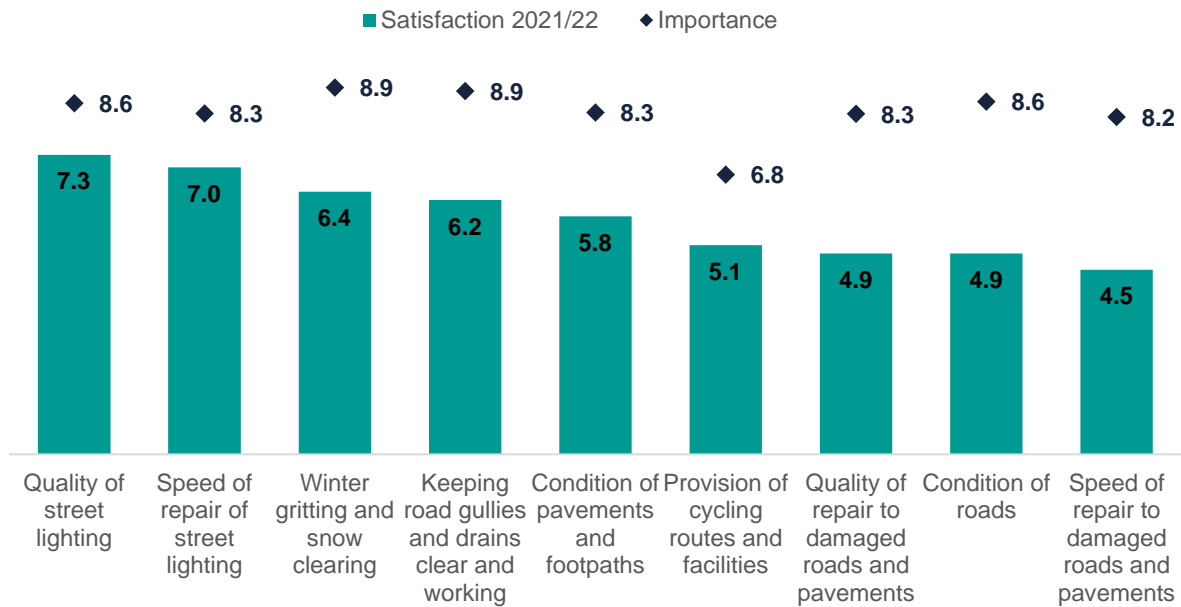


Source: West Yorkshire Residents Perceptions of Transport Survey, WYCA (2022)

About the data

Satisfaction with different elements of asset maintenance is collected through the Residents' Perceptions of Transport Survey, a survey of perceptions of transport infrastructure, information and services conducted annually by the Combined Authority. The final score for satisfaction with highway infrastructure is obtained by weighting the individual scores for the different elements of highway maintenance, based on their relative importance to respondents.

Figure 80: Importance and satisfaction with the elements included in the indicator: satisfaction with highway infrastructure (Score 1-10)



Source: West Yorkshire Residents Perceptions of Transport Survey, WYCA (2022)

7.2.6 Satisfaction with public transport

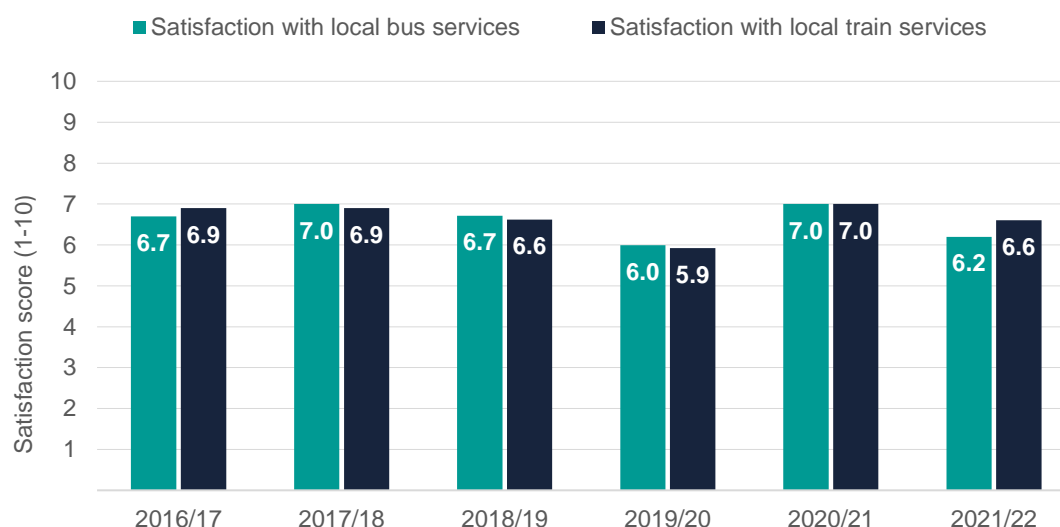
Satisfaction with public transport fell in 2021/22, although it remains higher than in 2019/20.

Public transport is one of the five themes of the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040. The Strategy states the Combined Authority's aim to "transform the performance, image and experience of public transport to make it an attractive choice for all". We have selected satisfaction with public transport as an indicator of the extent to which this objective is being realised, and which aspects might potentially require further attention.

Satisfaction with local public transport in West Yorkshire is relatively high, when compared with other transport items. In 2021/22, the satisfaction scores (out of 10) for bus and rail services in West Yorkshire were 6.2 and 6.6, respectively.

The fact that we have seen the maximum satisfaction to date in 2020/21 continues to be surprising. Although there seems to be certain volatility in the results of satisfaction surveys year on year, the COVID-19 pandemic and the focus that society put on the importance of public services may have influenced the response to this question. As we return to life without restrictions, and public transport usage slowly grows, satisfaction scores also return to levels in line with those observed in previous years; we observe some improvement from 2019/20, particularly for rail, but satisfaction is still below the 2016/17 baseline.

Figure 81: Satisfaction with local bus and train services



About the data

Satisfaction with local bus and rail services is obtained from the West Yorkshire Residents Perceptions of Transport Survey. This is a survey conducted annually by the Combined Authority, aimed at measuring public perceptions of aspects of transport infrastructure and passenger transport provision in West Yorkshire. The last wave of the survey, corresponding to the period 2021/22, was undertaken between the months of January and February 2022, and is based on a sample of 1,200 respondents.

8 Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing

Key points

Knife crime increased in 2021/22 compared with the previous year but remains below pre-pandemic levels in West Yorkshire

Neighbourhood crime fell during the pandemic and remains below the level recorded in 2019.

West Yorkshire achieves high numbers of charge/summons for a range of offences when compared to other Metropolitan Forces and Forces nationally.

West Yorkshire police have performed consistently well over time on emergency call handling.

Officer numbers in West Yorkshire have increased by 26% between 2016 and 2022.

There was a 14% increase in referrals to the West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion service in 2021/22

The restrictions on movement linked to the pandemic led to a substantial reduction in the number of persons reported as missing and the latest figures remain well below pre-pandemic levels.

8.1 Overview of the priority

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 as modified by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2021 sets out the requirement for the Mayor to issue a Police and Crime Plan within the first year of office.

The objectives of the Police and Crime Plan and the actions that underpin them are informed by:

- A comprehensive understanding of local needs and resources
- Based on local performance data
- Officer, staff and stakeholder consultation
- Financial information, amongst other resources.

The West Yorkshire police and crime plan was launched in March 2022 and the priorities in the plan are backed by a compendium of measures. These measures are reported on a quarterly basis in the Performance Monitoring report which is presented to the West Yorkshire Police and Crime panel.

The range of measures presented in this report have been chosen to indicate the progress for each of priorities in the plan and to convey the current position of the Mayoral Pledges for Policing and Crime which are:

- To recruit 750 more frontline police officers and staff to reduce crime and
- To put keeping women and girls safe at the heart of the policing plan.

The national context also has to be considered when looking at the priorities for West Yorkshire. After a period on non-interference the current government have started to put in place central measures which hold the police to account.

This started with the Serious Violence Strategy in April 2018, which led to the formation of the 18 Violence Reduction Units (VRU) and the monies that came with it were aligned to a series of common measures which were agreed to track the progress of the units.

On 6th May 2021 the government laid before parliament the Elected Local Policing Bodies Specified Information order 2021. This requires that the Police and Crime Commissioners (including Mayors with policing) publish certain information to allow the public to hold them to account, including what contribution their force is making to improve the outcomes from the National Crime and Policing Measures.

The following indicators track outcomes for both the VRU and the National Crime and Policing Measures as well as the Mayoral pledges and priorities.

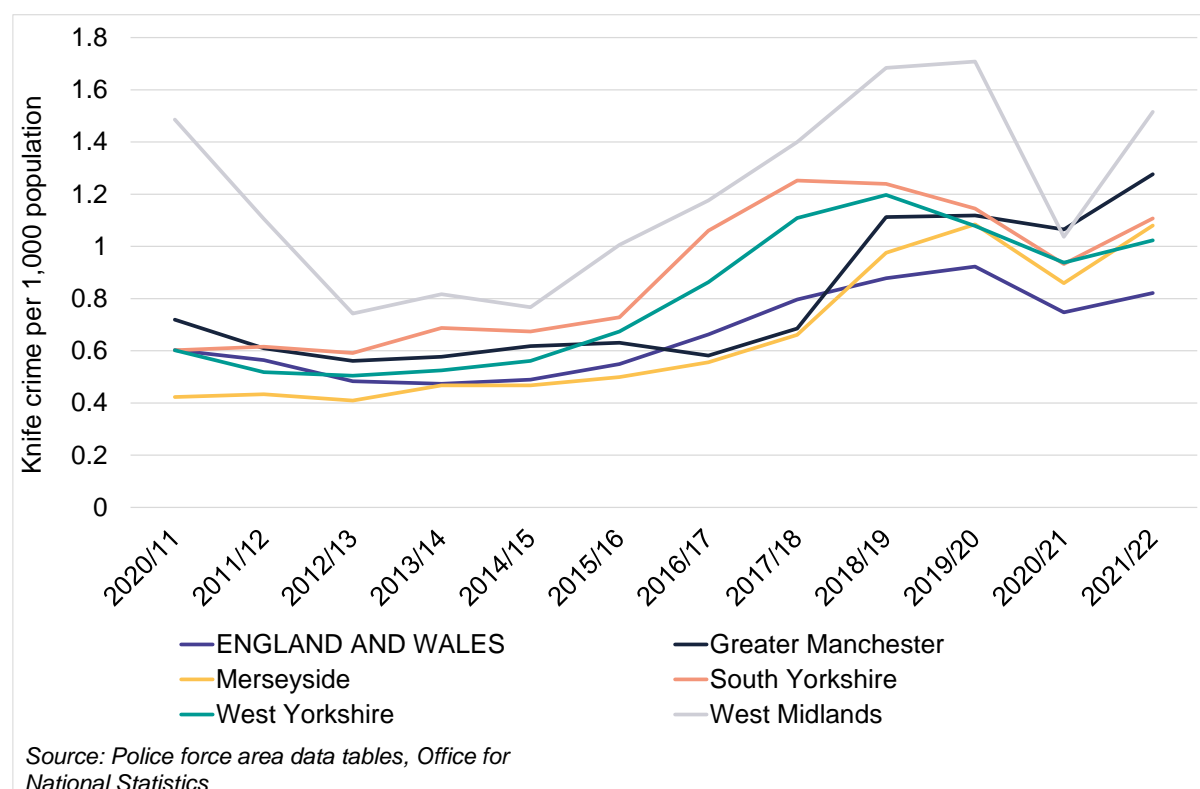
8.2 Performance against the indicators

8.2.1 Serious violence

Knife crime increased in 2021/22 compared with the previous year but remains below pre-pandemic levels in West Yorkshire

This indicator focuses specifically on knife crime as a measure of serious violence. The data matches with the Office for National Statistics release of Knife Crime data and includes a range of offences which link to serious violence including assault with injury and robbery.

Figure 82: Knife crime per 1,000 population



Knife crime increased between 2014 and 2019 across many areas of England and Wales, and this prompted the start of Violence Reduction Units in 18 forces (of which West Yorkshire was one). Knife Crime did then drop during the pandemic, although it is still not back to 2019 levels.

One thing to note is that currently 37 forces supply data based on a new methodology (the National Data Quality Improvement Service methodology) for identifying whether an offence included a knife or sharp instrument or not. On implementation of this methodology all forces saw an increase in the number of offences that fell into this category. All of the areas highlighted in the graph have implemented this methodology, so the data is comparable, but until all forces use the methodology, the comparison with the England and Wales average is not equivalent.

8.2.2 Neighbourhood Crime

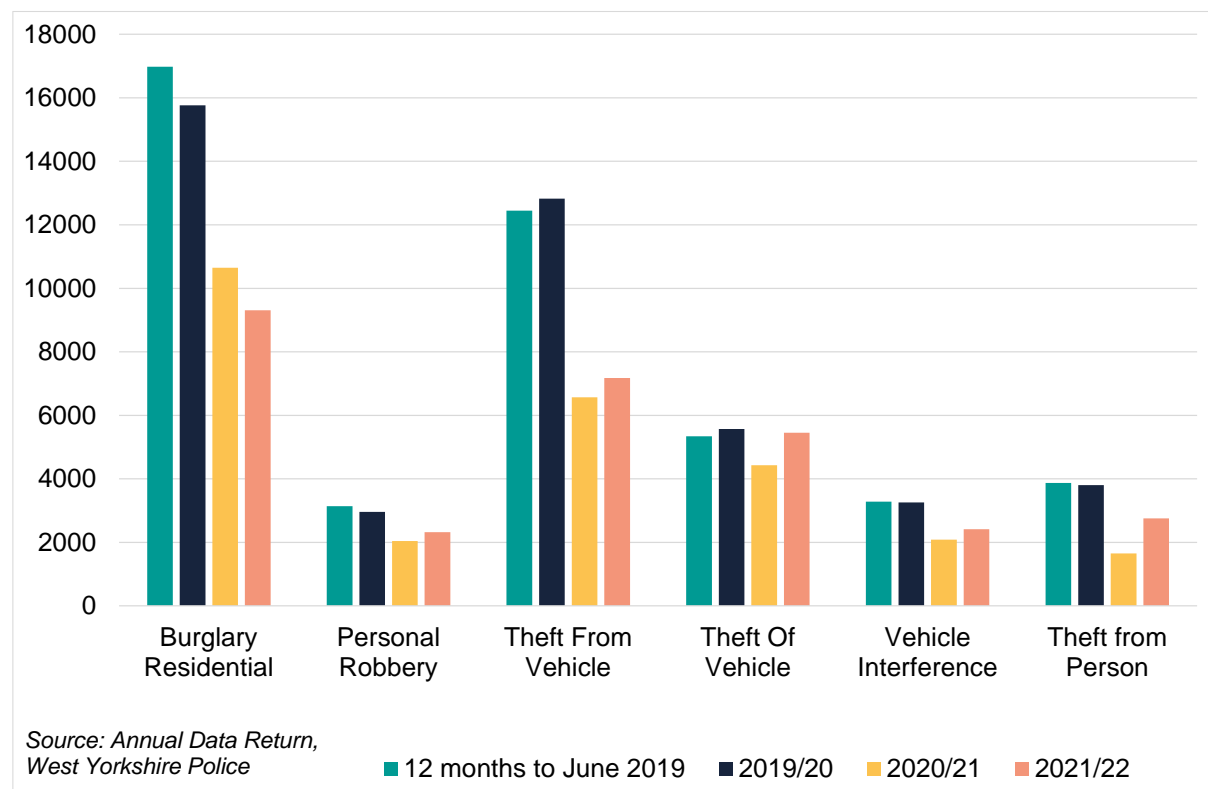
Neighbourhood crime fell during the pandemic and remains below the level recorded in 2019.

Neighbourhood crime was a term coined by the National Policing Measures to highlight those offences which blight neighbourhoods across the country. It covers Burglary, Robbery, Vehicle Crime and Theft from Person. In order to track progress, the government set a baseline of 12 months to June 2019.

This measure of Neighbourhood Crime is covered in the indicators for the Police and Crime plan and is scrutinised on a quarterly basis

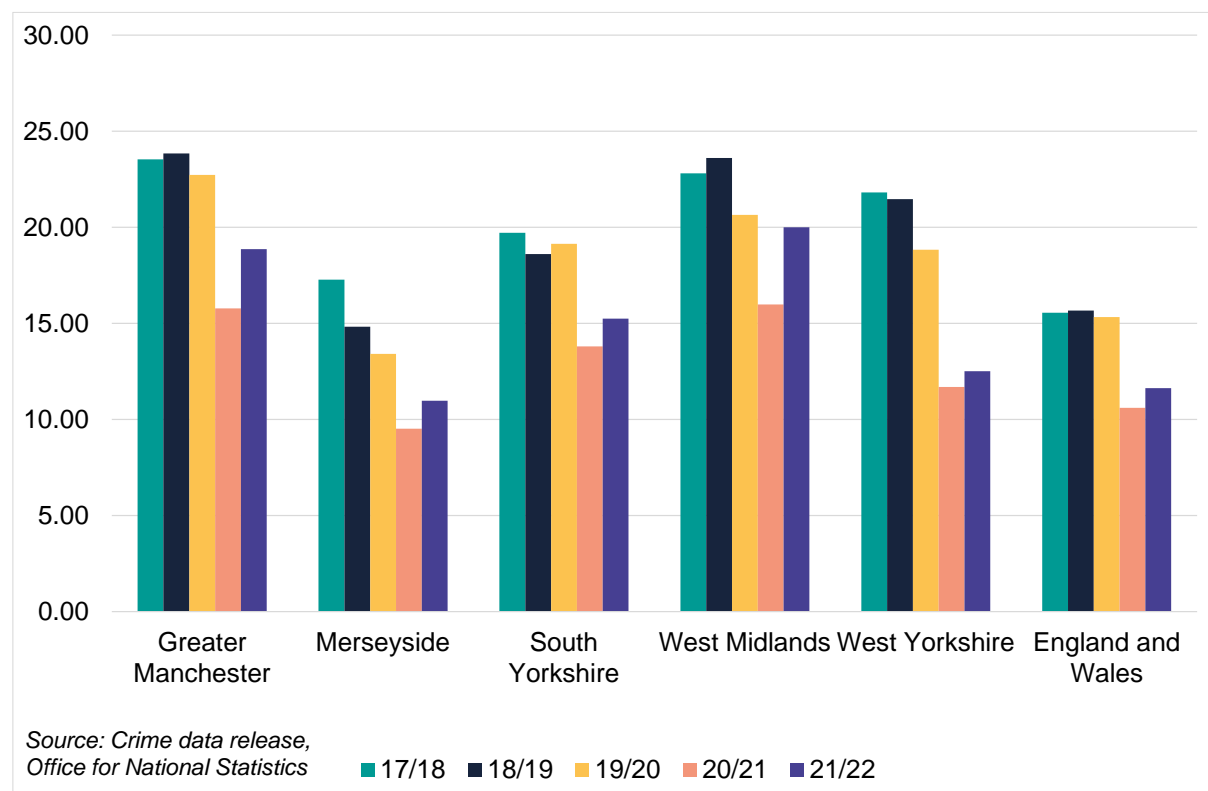
For West Yorkshire, these crime types saw a drop in the pandemic, and have not yet risen back to 2019 levels.

Figure 83: Neighbourhood crime in West Yorkshire



This picture is similar for other areas in the country with a drop during the pandemic and then a slight rise since.

Figure 84: Total neighbourhood crime per 1,000 of population



8.2.3 Positive Outcomes for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences

West Yorkshire achieves high numbers of charge/summons for a range of offences when compared to other Metropolitan Forces and Forces nationally

Positive outcomes are seen as a way of monitoring progress in this area. A positive outcome is counted when the police procure a charge/summons or out of court disposal for the suspect in the case. For more information on outcomes please see [Crime outcomes in England and Wales: Technical Annex - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1092650/prc-outcomes-open-data-mar2022-tables-210722-v2.ods).

These measures speak to the Safety of Women and Girls which is at the heart of the police and crime plan. As part of the national Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences are highlighted as offence types which disproportionately affect Women and Girls.

Comparing the overall numbers for these crime types would not give a true picture of what is happening in an area. It is known that these are underreported offence types so increases could be seen as either more offences happening or more victims having the confidence to report the offences, and vice versa if there are decreases.

Rape Outcomes	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield	W Yorks
Recorded crime April 2021 to March 2022	913	331	689	1282	449	3664
Outcome Rate (1-8)	6.1%	13.3%	14.9%	5.2%	6.0%	8.1%
Outcome Rate (1-8) full year 2020/21	7.1%	9.2%	15.2%	4.7%	8.4%	8.2%
Change from previous year	-1.0%	4.1%	-0.3%	0.5%	-2.4%	-0.1%
Vol. change (1-8) 2021/22 from 2020/21	-2	6	19	22	-4	41

Source: Police recorded crime and outcomes open data tables, Home Office

The above table shows that although the positive outcome rate (outcomes 1-8 compared to recorded crime) has fallen slightly (-0.1%) there has actually been an increase of 41 offences with a positive outcome.

Serious Sexual Offences	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield	W Yorks
Recorded crime April 2021 to March 2022	1915	720	1382	2710	1080	7807
Outcome Rate (1-8)	6.5%	10.8%	11.4%	6.5%	5.8%	7.7%
Outcome Rate (1-8) full year 2020/21	8.6%	11.1%	13.6%	7.8%	9.4%	9.6%
Change from previous year	-2.1%	-0.3%	-2.2%	-1.3%	-3.6%	-1.9%
Vol. change (1-8) 2021/22 from 2020/21	-9	3	14	19	-12	16

Source: Police recorded crime and outcomes open data tables, Home Office

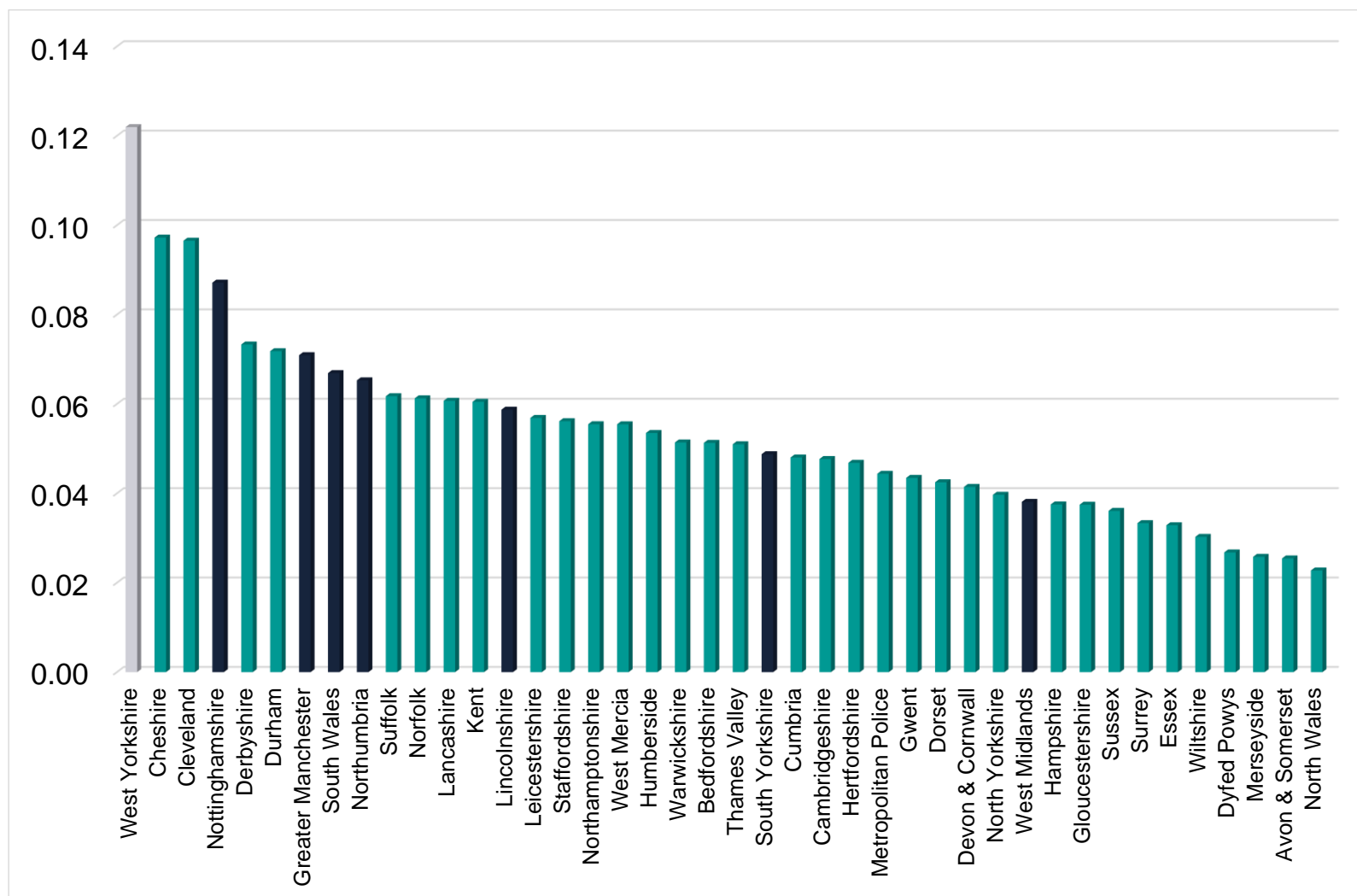
Similarly for Serious Sexual offences, the outcome rate has fallen slightly but there have been 16 more offences with a positive outcome

The charts below report the actual number of Charge/Summons achieved by each Force nationally and in the context of the local population. West Yorkshire are reported as achieving high numbers of charge/summons for a range of offences when compared to other Metropolitan Forces and all Forces nationally.

Source https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1092650/prc-outcomes-open-data-mar2022-tables-210722-v2.ods

Figure 85: Rape – charges per 10,000 of population

224



8.2.4 Time taken to answer 999 calls to the Police

West Yorkshire police have performed consistently well over time on call handling.

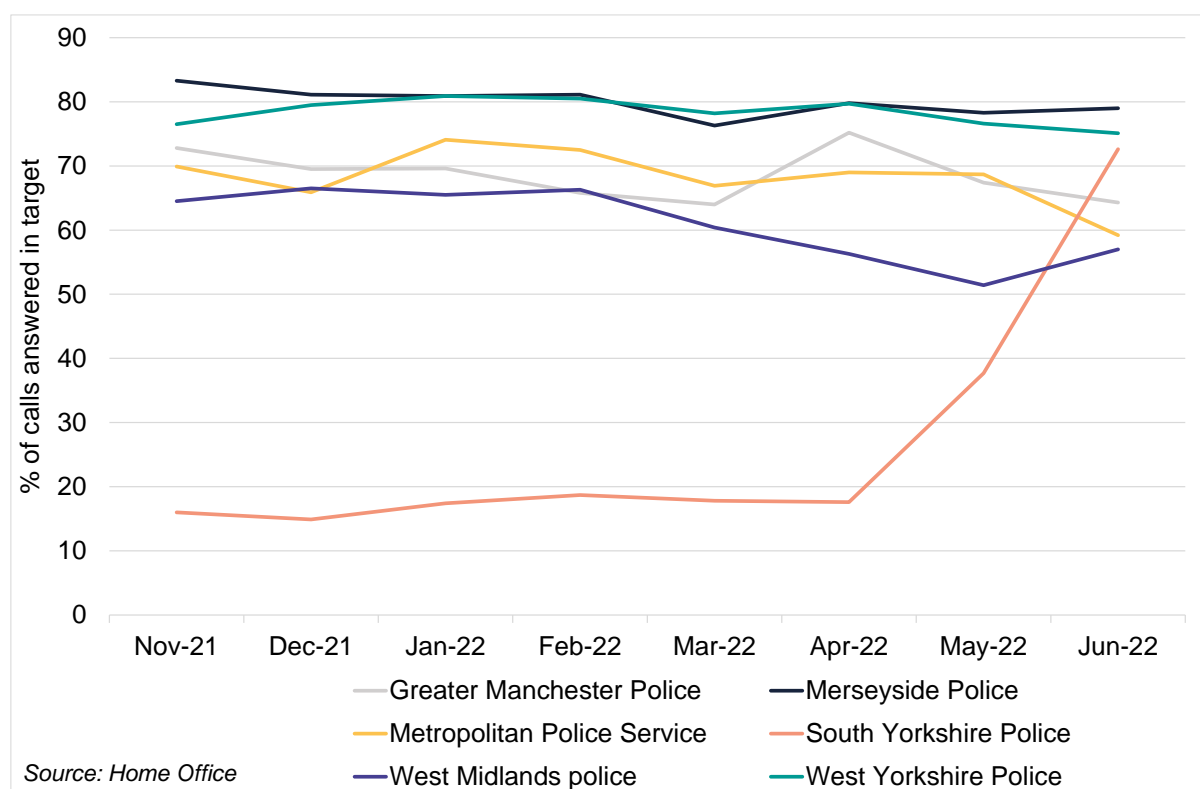
In October 2021 the government sent out its strategic approach in the 'Beating Crime' plan. One of the measures from this plan was to develop league tables for answering calls and ensuring that the public know how responsive their local force is when they call them for help.

In May 2022 the first datasets for 999 calls were published on Police.uk. This new national dataset gives the opportunity to compare the current performance of West Yorkshire Police to other force areas.

To this put into context, in the latest 12 months online contacts account for 15% of all contacts into the Force whilst 101 contacts now account for just 49% whilst 999s have **increased to 32%**. In comparison for 2016/17 just 5% of contacts were made online whilst 101 calls accounted for over 60% of all contacts.

For the 999 data set, the main target is to answer the calls in under 10 seconds – the data is only available from November 2021 – but is supplied monthly and the most recent is up to June 22.

Figure 86: Percentage of 999 calls answered within target (10 seconds)



The above statistics also contains answer times including transfer times from BT, which can be 4-6 seconds and can vary across Forces. This makes the 10 second answer time hard to hit with some of the time already used up before the call lands in force.

Some areas have been able to work with BT to understand and rectify where it appears the force are not hitting the target, but this is due to circumstances out of their control – the difference for South Yorkshire in the chart is a clear example of this.

There are other factors which can also impact on this target. Forces are in a buddy system with other areas so calls are directly transferred over to adjoining areas if there is a sudden influx due to a large incident. These calls will then show as a miss for the new force.

For West Yorkshire the call handling has been consistent over the period monitored and it is a subject of immense pride that West Yorkshire Police have not dropped one 999 calls in 5 years.

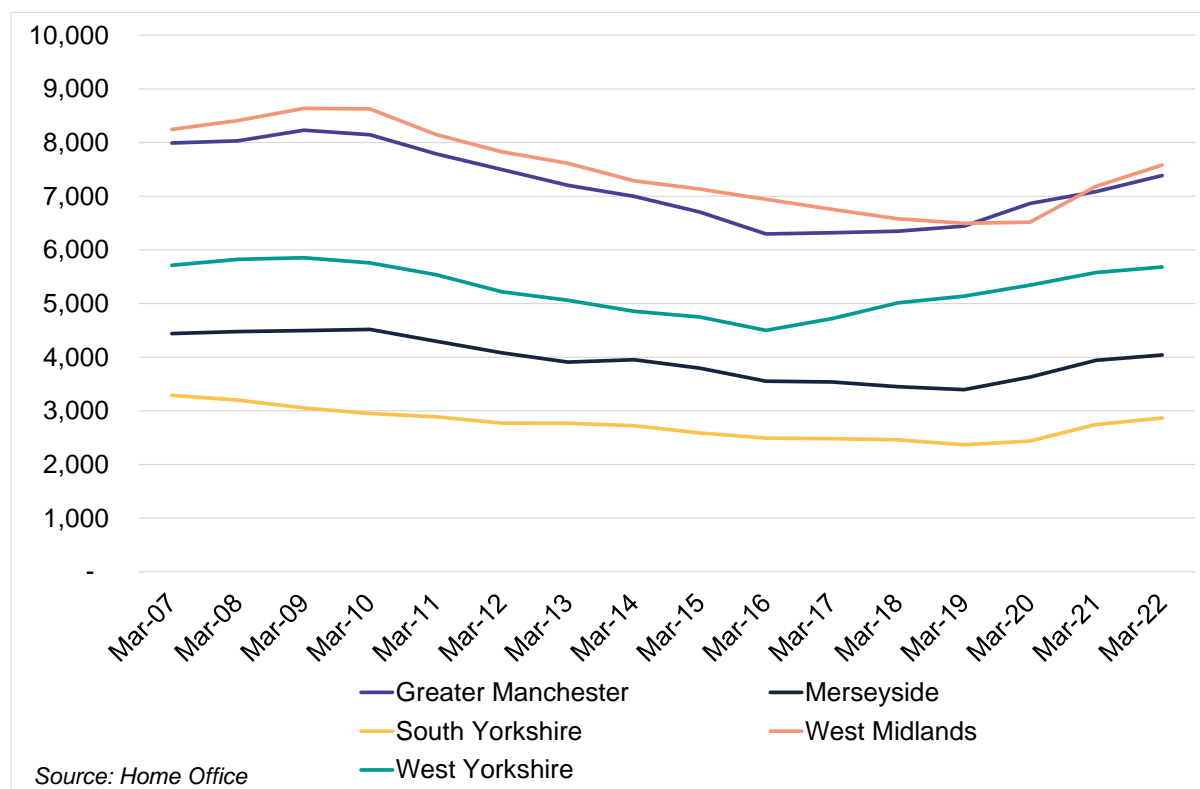
8.2.5 Police Officer numbers

Officer numbers in West Yorkshire are on an upward trend.

The increase in officer numbers is a pledge of the Mayor and also part of the government's election promise to recruit 20,000 officers across the country.

Data is released on the Gov.uk website with a count of officers both headcount and full-time equivalents (FTE).

Figure 87: Count of full-time equivalent Police Officers by force



The reduction in the number of Police Officers due to austerity is clearly seen in the above chart and between March 2009 and March 2016 West Yorkshire lost 1,353 FTE officers.

The most recent figures for March 2022 show an increase of 1,179 officers since March 2016, bringing the total in West Yorkshire to 5,680, a net increase of 26%.

The latest workforce statistics indicate that 37.7% of Police Officers and 57.8% of Police Staff are female whilst analysis of employees ages identifies that the workforce is much younger than it has been historically and this is particularly true of Police Officers.

8.2.6 Offenders referred to drug treatment services from custody

There was a 14% increase in referrals to the West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion service in 2021/22

One of the priorities from the Police and Crime plan is 'Responding to Multiple and Complex Needs'. Substance Misuse is widely agreed to be part of the toxic trio in Safeguarding (along with mental health and Domestic Abuse), so this measure looks at ensuring that those users who come to the attention of the Police are referred to relevant agencies to help.

The NHS has commissioned the Liaison and Diversion Service (L&D) which looks to identify people who have mental health, learning disability, substance misuse or other vulnerabilities when they first come into contact with the criminal justice system as suspects, defendants or offenders.

The service can then support people through the early stages of criminal system pathway, refer them for appropriate health or social care or enable them to be diverted away from the criminal justice system into a more appropriate setting, if required.

L&D services aim to improve overall health outcomes for people and to support people in the reduction of re-offending. It also aims to identify vulnerabilities in people earlier on which reduces the likelihood that people will reach a crisis-point and helps to ensure the right support can be put in place from the start.

The following are the statistics from the West Yorkshire L&D service. These are updated quarterly and are shared as part of the Police and crime plan performance monitoring report.

Table 6: Referrals to West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion Service

Adults	West Yorks	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield
Referrals into L&D service 2021-22	5,272	1,118	705	786	1637	1,026
Formal pathway referrals made by L&D into support services	2,539	433	447	258	897	504
Other pathway contacts (e.g., already in service, liaison with support services, no formal referral)	1,977	339	320	239	577	502

Young People	West Yorks	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield
Referrals into L&D service 2021 -22	2,290	469	649	276	583	313
Formal pathway referrals made by L&D into support services	828	26	241	75	159	327
Other pathway contacts (e.g., already in service, liaison with support services, no formal referral)	318	38	34	75	42	129

Source: West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion Service

The above represents a 14% increase in referrals into the L&D service in comparison to the previous year.

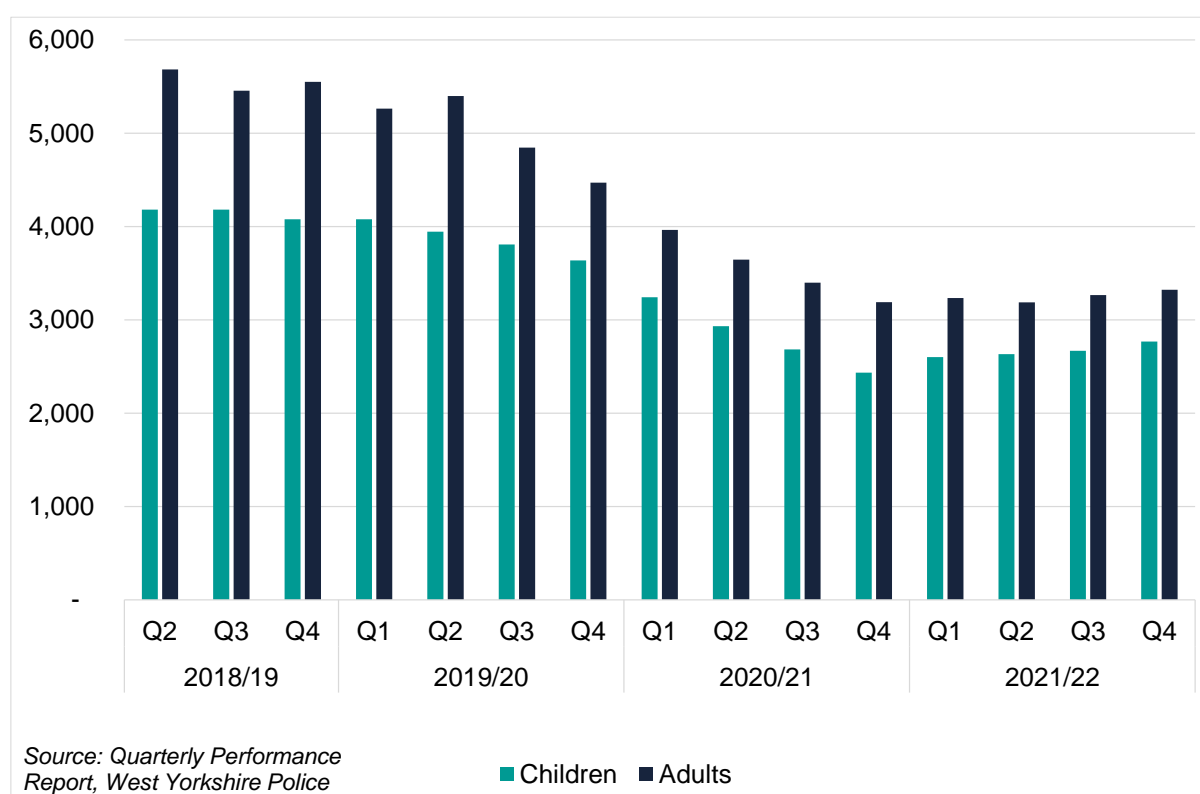
8.2.7 Numbers of missing persons

The restrictions on movement linked to the pandemic led to a substantial reduction in the number of persons reported as missing and the latest figures remain well below pre-pandemic levels

Numbers of missing persons are collated by West Yorkshire Police and shared with the Policing and Crime office on a quarterly basis in their Quarterly Performance Report. The data is then shared with the Police and Crime panel. The data is split down between adults and children by quarter to give an indication of the trends.

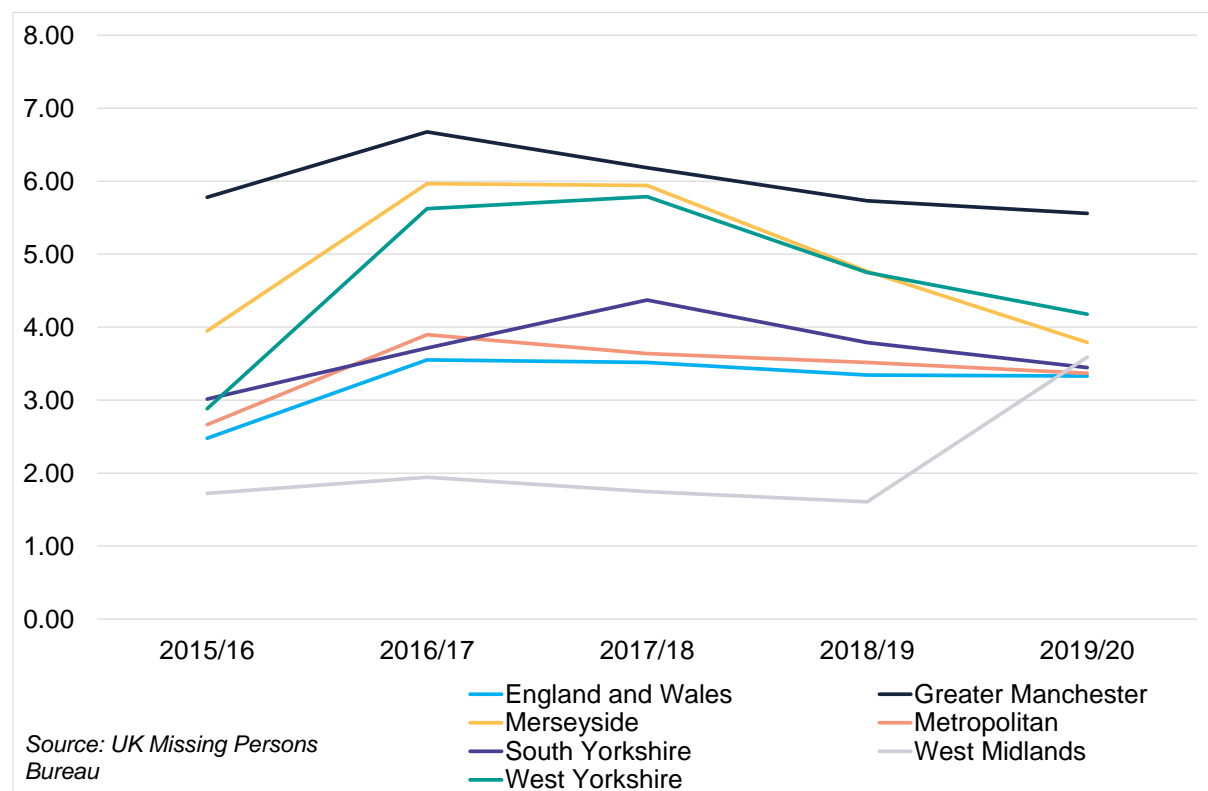
The below looks at missing persons across West Yorkshire as a whole and is split between Adults and Children. Omitted from these statistics are those where an age is not recorded.

Figure 88: Missing persons



Nationally, the numbers of missing persons are collated by the UK Missing Persons Bureau. Currently the most recent statistics on the website are up to March 2020. The below is a comparison (by 1,000 population) for missing person incidents since 2015/16.

Figure 89: Missing incidents per 1,000 population



The most recent report on the UK Missing Persons Bureau website is for 2020/21 and this report also shows the striking impact of COVID-19 on missing behaviour. Almost all forces saw a significant decrease in the number of individuals reported as missing during this period as restrictions on movement were introduced. In 2020/21 there were 17.8% fewer missing related calls in England and Wales compared with forces supplying data the previous year.

9 Conclusions

Due to the lack of timeliness of the latest available data the picture presented by our indicators is heavily coloured by the impact of the pandemic. We do not have a clear view of how the situation has changed since the lifting of restrictions, although more timely national data indicates that there has been recovery in respect of some indicators. This itself may soon be superseded as the UK economy stands on the edge of a potential downturn resulting from the current cost of living crisis.

Driving economic growth and innovation to enable good jobs

Regarding economic fundamentals, the latest data for West Yorkshire show that the economy contracted during 2020, employment fell (based on annual average data for 2021) whilst productivity increased during 2020, due to a short-term effect of the pandemic.

More timely national data shows that the economy has since returned to its pre-pandemic size while employment has recovered, although not yet to its pre-coronavirus position. Meanwhile, productivity performance exceeds its 2019 level and is being driven by productivity growth within industries rather than reallocation of activity between industries as seen during the pandemic. West Yorkshire is likely to have shared in this recovery, although the extent of this is not fully clear.

However, the underlying disparities between West Yorkshire and the national average relating to some of these fundamental indicators remains. A key exception is the size of the private sector business base, which has grown slightly faster than nationally in West Yorkshire.

West Yorkshire's exports of both goods and services were particularly hard hit by the pandemic in 2020. The extent to which the value of exports may have recovered since then is unclear but trade performance will play an important role in improving the region's prospects for productivity growth.

There is no evidence that innovation is becoming more prevalent among West Yorkshire firms.

There is still much progress to be made on addressing the disparity in the standard of living for West Yorkshire residents, which is central to the levelling up agenda. There has been a continuing widening of the gap between the level of household income per head in West Yorkshire compared with the national average.

Pay is a central measure of job quality as well as living standards. The proportion of jobs that pay below the Real Living Wage fell in West Yorkshire between 2020 and 2021, coming close to parity with the national average. Although a positive development, this largely reflects enhancements to the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rather than an improvement in the performance of the local economy.

Enabling a diverse, skilled workforce and accessible learning for all

West Yorkshire's workforce is becoming more diverse. The employment rate gaps facing disabled people and people from ethnic minorities are reducing over time, although West Yorkshire has a larger ethnic minority employment rate gap than nationally.

There are clear trends that show that West Yorkshire is becoming better qualified over time, although progress was limited in 2021 in terms of the extent of growth in the proportion of people with higher qualifications and the decline in those lacking qualifications or qualified to

the lowest level. To set this into context better qualified areas are also improving their position over time and West Yorkshire must respond to the challenge to compete for investment and address the productivity gap with such areas.

The significant proportions of people who lack digital skills for life and for the workplace presents a major challenge for social inclusion and for productivity.

Apprenticeships are a relatively strong feature of West Yorkshire's skills system and present a key mechanism for promoting social mobility. It is a concern that the level of participation on apprenticeships is still down on pre-pandemic levels. Apprenticeships continue to face specific diversity issues, such as gender segregation based on subject area.

Tackling exclusion in the form of young people who are NEET remains a key priority. Although numbers have fallen in the last year, NEET prevalence is still above the national average.

The fall-out of the current cost of living crisis is a key concern with regard to this priority, since progress on promoting diversity and tackling inequality has typically been stymied during past downturns.

Empowering our communities, towns and cities to thrive

West Yorkshire's relatively low healthy life expectancy and the inequality of life expectancy within the region reflect the socio-economic challenges that the area faces.

The growing cost of living crisis will present added challenges. West Yorkshire already has a higher prevalence of fuel poverty than nationally and this is expected to grow substantially despite government support.

Other challenges relating to housing have intensified due to the pandemic.

Although housing is relatively affordable in West Yorkshire compared with nationally, house prices spiked during 2021 and the evidence suggests that rental prices have increased sharply during 2022.

At the same time the supply of housing was negatively affected by the health crisis with two successive annual falls in net additional dwellings.

Digital Infrastructure underpins the digital, cultural and social infrastructures to develop places where people want to live, work and visit. Digital networks provide the enabling infrastructure that drives economic growth and productivity. West Yorkshire outperforms the national average on key measures in this area relating to gigabit-capable and mobile 4G coverage.

Building a sustainable, nature-rich and carbon neutral region

The exceptional circumstances of 2020 saw a pronounced fall in greenhouse gas emissions in West Yorkshire, driven to a large extent by a fall in transport emissions. Based on more timely national data, it seems certain that this reduction will not be sustained in the data for 2021 due to the re-opening of the economy and the shift towards previous patterns of travel behaviour.

Creating an accessible, clean and customer focused transport system

Shifts in mode share towards active travel and away from car use appear to have been accelerated by the pandemic. However, overall West Yorkshire has strong reliance on the

car and this needs to be addressed to enable progress towards our net zero commitment and offer the potential for a more efficient and reliable road network.

However, the pandemic also prompted a reduction in public transport availability and use, impacting on the ability of the transport system to connect people from deprived communities to jobs via the bus network. It is not clear whether levels of accessibility have fully recovered since then.

Transport-related greenhouse gas emissions fell markedly as a result of the pandemic, following a period during which they remained at a stable level. Since this was due to high exceptional circumstances, we can expect to see a net increase on 2020 emissions levels as new data becomes available. West Yorkshire still has a strong reliance on the car for travel and radical changes in behaviour are required to make sustained reductions in transport emissions at the scale required to achieve net zero.

Supporting community safety and accountable, proactive policing

The latest figures show the continuing influence of the health crisis on key policing indicators. Neighbourhood crime, knife crime and the number of persons reported as missing remain below pre-pandemic levels. The challenge will be to make sustained progress in the medium to longer term.

Although currently showing as positive, recent trends show an unprecedented increase in 999 calls and there is an increasing complexity of crime and demand. The nature of crime is changing with increases in online crime and criminal use of technology posing challenges for digital investigative capacity and capability.

Demands around safeguarding are increasing with historic complex crimes draining police resources and the investigative capacity and capability stretched in line with the gap in detective capacity seen nationwide. This could hinder progress in increasing positive outcomes.

This is all framed by the national challenges to legitimacy in policing and runs alongside financial challenges with the requirement to make significant savings against the backdrop of increasing costs.

To keep track on these and more of the Police and Crime Plan measures, see the Performance Monitoring Reports (previously called Delivery Quarterly) on the website <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/holding-the-chief-constable-to-account/>, for detailed reports on other policing and crime topics please see the Community Outcomes Meeting Reports [here](#).

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**West
Yorkshire**
234 Combined
Authority

 **Tracy Brabin
Mayor**
of West Yorkshire

List of sectors eligible for the Energy and Trade Intensive Industries ("ETII") scheme

Firms with primary operations in the sectors listed below will be eligible for support under the ETII scheme. Further detail on eligibility and the application process will be published in due course.

The ETII sectors were identified via the EBRIS review as those meeting certain thresholds for energy and trade intensity, in addition to sectors currently included in existing Energy Compensation and Exemption schemes. Energy intensity was based on electricity and gas consumption as a % of a sector's GVA using ONS data. Trade intensity was based on goods trade using ONS data. To qualify as an ETII sector, the sector had to be above the 80th percentile for energy intensity (i.e., fall in the top 20% of sectors by energy intensity across the UK), and the 60th percentile for trade intensity (i.e., fall in the top 40% of sectors by trade intensity across the UK). The ETII scheme is subject to consideration of state aid rules.

We will publish further information on the ETII scheme by the end of March 2023, including guidance for firms that believe their operations are not correctly classified by Standard Industry Classification (SIC) code.

Sectors were defined under the SIC hierarchy. A more detailed description of each SIC code, including inclusions and exclusions, is available here [Link to definitions of SICs e.g. https://onsdigital.github.io/dp-classification-tools/standard-industrial-classification/ONS_SIC_hierarchy_view.html]

SIC Code	Description
05.10	Mining of hard coal
06.10	Extraction of crude petroleum
08.11	Quarrying of ornamental and building stone, limestone, gypsum, chalk and slate
08.12	Operation of gravel and sand pits; mining of clays and kaolin
08.99	Other mining and quarrying n.e.c.
10.11	Processing and preserving of meat
10.12	Processing and preserving of poultry meat
10.20	Processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and molluscs
10.41	Manufacture of oils and fats
10.42	Manufacture of margarine and similar edible fats
10.51	Operation of dairies and cheese making
10.61	Manufacture of grain mill products
10.62	Manufacture of starches and starch products
10.71	Manufacture of bread; manufacture of fresh pastry goods and cakes
10.81	Manufacture of sugar
10.82	Manufacture of cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery
10.85	Manufacture of prepared meals and dishes
10.86	Manufacture of homogenised food preparations and dietetic food
10.89	Manufacture of other food products n.e.c.
10.91	Manufacture of prepared feeds for farm animals
11.02	Manufacture of wine from grape
11.03	Manufacture of cider and other fruit wines
11.05	Manufacture of beer
11.06	Manufacture of malt
13.10	Preparation and spinning of textile fibres

SIC Code	Description
13.20	Weaving of textiles
13.30	Finishing of textiles
13.91	Manufacture of knitted and crocheted fabrics
13.92	Manufacture of made-up textile articles, except apparel
13.93	Manufacture of carpets and rugs
13.94	Manufacture of cordage, rope, twine and netting
13.95	Manufacture of non-wovens and articles made from non-wovens, except apparel
13.96	Manufacture of other technical and industrial textiles
13.99	Manufacture of other textiles n.e.c.
14.11	Manufacture of leather clothes
14.12	Manufacture of workwear
14.19	Manufacture of other wearing apparel and accessories
14.31	Manufacture of knitted and crocheted hosiery
14.39	Manufacture of other knitted and crocheted apparel
15.11	Tanning and dressing of leather; dressing and dyeing of fur
15.12	Manufacture of luggage, handbags and the like, saddlery and harness
16.10	Sawmilling and planing of wood
16.21	Manufacture of veneer sheets and wood-based panels
16.22	Manufacture of assembled parquet floors
16.29	Manufacture of other products of wood; manufacture of articles of cork, straw and plaiting materials
17.11	Manufacture of pulp
17.12	Manufacture of paper and paperboard
17.21	Manufacture of corrugated paper and paperboard and of containers of paper and paperboard
17.22	Manufacture of household and sanitary goods and of toilet requisites
17.23	Manufacture of paper stationery
17.24	Manufacture of wallpaper
17.29	Manufacture of other articles of paper and paperboard
19.10	Manufacture of coke oven products
19.20	Manufacture of refined petroleum products
20.11	Manufacture of industrial gases
20.12	Manufacture of dyes and pigments
20.13	Manufacture of other inorganic basic chemicals
20.14	Manufacture of other organic basic chemicals
20.15	Manufacture of fertilisers and nitrogen compounds
20.16	Manufacture of plastics in primary forms
20.17	Manufacture of synthetic rubber in primary forms
20.20	Manufacture of pesticides and other agrochemical products
20.41	Manufacture of soap and detergents, cleaning and polishing preparations
20.60	Manufacture of man-made fibres

SIC Code	Description
22.11	Manufacture of rubber tyres and tubes; retreading and rebuilding of rubber tyres
22.19	Manufacture of other rubber products
22.21	Manufacture of plastic plates, sheets, tubes and profiles
22.22	Manufacture of plastic packing goods
22.23	Manufacture of builders' ware of plastic
22.29	Manufacture of other plastic products
23.11	Manufacture of flat glass
23.12	Shaping and processing of flat glass
23.13	Manufacture of hollow glass
23.14	Manufacture of glass fibres
23.19	Manufacture and processing of other glass, including technical glassware
23.20	Manufacture of refractory products
23.31	Manufacture of ceramic tiles and flags
23.32	Manufacture of bricks, tiles and construction products, in baked clay
23.41	Manufacture of ceramic household and ornamental articles
23.42	Manufacture of ceramic sanitary fixtures
23.43	Manufacture of ceramic insulators and insulating fittings
23.44	Manufacture of other technical ceramic products
23.49	Manufacture of other ceramic products
23.51	Manufacture of cement
23.52	Manufacture of lime and plaster
23.61	Manufacture of concrete products for construction purposes
23.62	Manufacture of plaster products for construction purposes
23.63	Manufacture of ready-mixed concrete
23.64	Manufacture of mortars
23.65	Manufacture of fibre cement
23.69	Manufacture of other articles of concrete, plaster and cement
23.70	Cutting, shaping and finishing of stone
23.91	Production of abrasive products
23.99	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products n.e.c.
24.10	Manufacture of basic iron and steel and of ferro-alloys
24.20	Manufacture of tubes, pipes, hollow profiles and related fittings, of steel
24.31	Cold drawing of bars
24.32	Cold rolling of narrow strip
24.33	Cold forming or folding
24.34	Cold drawing of wire
24.41	Precious metals production
24.42	Aluminium production
24.43	Lead, zinc and tin production
24.44	Copper production

SIC Code	Description
24.45	Other non-ferrous metal production
24.46	Processing of nuclear fuel
24.51	Casting of iron
24.52	Casting of steel
24.53	Casting of light metals
24.54	Casting of other non-ferrous metals
25.92	Manufacture of light metal packaging
26.11	Manufacture of electronic components
26.52	Manufacture of watches and clocks
27.20	Manufacture of batteries and accumulators
27.32	Manufacture of other electronic and electric wires and cables
27.51	Manufacture of electric domestic appliances
28.91	Manufacture of machinery for metallurgy
91.01	Library and archive activities
91.02	Museum activities
91.03	Operation of historical sites and buildings and similar visitor attractions
91.04	Botanical and zoological gardens and nature reserve activities

Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire
Mark Roberts, Chair of Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership
West Yorkshire Combined Authority
40-50 Wellington Street
Leeds
LS1 2DE

[via email]

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Monday, 31 October 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Crisis in the Cost of Living and Doing Business

We would like to welcome you to your new role as Secretary of State. Our country is facing unprecedented economic challenges. Living standards are falling, businesses are at risk and public sector organisations are facing difficult decisions on their budgets. It is crucial that the Government continues to support businesses, the public sector and livelihoods to get through the ongoing energy crisis.

Our region is home to over 2.3 million people and 90,000 businesses – with strong employment levels in manufacturing, retail, and the public sector and third sector. As we know you will appreciate, the last two years has brought with them increased volatility and uncertainty for all sectors, culminating over the last few months in soaring energy prices and out of control inflation.

We want to outline to you the problems that businesses and the public sector in West Yorkshire are facing, particularly in light of potential cliff-edge support on energy bills:

- **We estimate that around 1,751 businesses within West Yorkshire are classed as energy intensive.** These businesses employ around 57,000 individuals and have an estimated combined turnover of £8 billion. They are predominantly within the manufacturing sector and are facing increased competition from international markets where energy bills and inflation are lower than the UK. Many of them also have local supply chains meaning that the impact will be considerably wider. Produmax Ltd, an aerospace engineering company based in West Yorkshire, are an example of a company at an enhanced risk of rising energy bills – they do not meet the energy intensity threshold but operate in internationally competitive markets. They currently export 70% of their output to major aerospace original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), but currently face an energy unit cost of 34p per kWh, whilst their competitors in the USA pay just 7p per kWh. This means that, not only are they less competitive, but they must also increase their revenue by 30% just to remain viable, before factoring in the necessary wage increases to support their employees through the current cost of living crisis.
- **Public sector organisations and the police are going to face significant financial blackholes as a result of increases in energy bills and inflation.** Local Authorities within West Yorkshire have reported significantly increased energy bills. For example, Bradford Council reported energy bill increases of 118% in August 2022 and Wakefield Council reported its annual energy bill will increase from £3.3 million to £9.9 million this year, forcing it to close its headquarters temporarily to save £200,000. While we are

grateful that the Government included the public and VCSE sector in the Energy Bills Relief Scheme, support after March 2023 is crucial.

- **Businesses in West Yorkshire have outlined a number of concerns to us in our regional business survey.** This includes:
 - Many sectors in our region (like manufacturing and construction) cite a decline in demand for products and services as the biggest barrier to economic growth.
 - As a result of inflation and energy bill costs, 69% of businesses told us that the price they charge customers is expected to increase by around 5-10%.
 - 33% of businesses in our region are expecting no wage increases over the next 12 months, putting further pressure on demand.

In response to the concerns from businesses, West Yorkshire Combined Authority are supporting 87 businesses through grant support with an approval totalling nearly £1.2m and with projected savings for businesses of over £1m each year. In addition to this we have agreed an Energy Price Crisis Emergency Grant programme and will be bringing forward a Business Sustainability Programme open to all sectors.

However, in light of the unprecedented challenges outlined above by residents, businesses and the public sector, we are calling on the Government to:

- Reverse the decision to make the Energy Bills Support Scheme a six-month scheme and reinstate the two-year commitment.
- Commit to supporting energy-intensive and enhanced risk businesses, the hospitality sector and wider supply chain businesses post-March 2023 with the EBRs. Many investment decisions are not being undertaken due to difficulty in forecasting energy and input costs. Businesses want reassurance during their longer-term business planning.
- Deliver a more structured approach to the delivery of energy efficiency and low carbon heating for businesses backed by funding. This could be through new tax incentive schemes that support businesses to make energy efficiency improvements.
- A commitment to support all local authorities, the police, and wider public sector by continuing support in relation to energy bills, particularly those which host facilities with high-energy needs. In addition, further support to help improve public sector energy efficiency would be welcome (for example by calling for additional funding as part of the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme).
- Progress plans around investing in energy generation as outlined in the UK Energy Security Strategy. This could include plans to ramp up solar photovoltaics and developing commercially viable hydrogen generation.

We know that difficult decisions lie ahead for the Government. Businesses and the public sector across West Yorkshire, and indeed the country, are looking to the Government to provide help in the year ahead. Supporting households, businesses and public and third sector organisations will be crucial.

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Brabin
Mayor of West Yorkshire
West Yorkshire Combined Authority



Mark Roberts
Chair
Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership



Mayor Tracy Brabin
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Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

By email CEU.Enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk
public.enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk

15 November 2022

Dear Chancellor,

I congratulate you on retaining your appointment as Chancellor of the Exchequer. I look forward to working with you closely to deliver on levelling up and enabling West Yorkshire to reach its full potential.

I am writing ahead of the upcoming Autumn Statement, to set out key priorities to enable West Yorkshire to reach its full potential and reduce inequality. We need a plan to save our economy, protect our households and rescue our public services.

I would welcome an early conversation with you to discuss how we can work together to improve the lives of people in my region and ensure that we unlock opportunity so that we can make a full contribution to the UK economy.

In West Yorkshire we have a long track record of delivery which shows that a place-based approach to funding can have a real and long-lasting impact on local economic growth. As a result, the region is home to 81,000 businesses, and an internationally significant economy with an output of £57.3 billion.

West Yorkshire is a leading hub for financial, professional and businesses services contributing £15 billion to the UK economy. The region also has significant strengths around healthtech, advanced manufacturing and digital which will drive forward our productivity ambitions.

Small and Medium-sized enterprises are the lifeblood of the economy in West Yorkshire, and yet many are facing into a crisis in the cost of doing business. Though I

acknowledge the support you have provided, many businesses have been dealing with the impact of energy rises since October 2021. This is due to them not being subject to the energy price cap that has partially restrained increases in the domestic sector.

My asks of you as Chancellor ahead of the Autumn Statement are:

1. **Reconsideration of the six-month cap on business prices and a discussion on which sectors may be targeted/prioritised at a review point.** The government needs to take immediate action to help people tackle the crisis in the cost of doing business. I would welcome a discussion on further steps to be taken to support businesses with energy efficiency measures and bills. We can also supply rich evidence supplied by local businesses on their energy prices.
2. Provide long-promised investment in the North, especially on transport. This should include **delivering Northern Powerhouse Rail in full, with a new line from Manchester to Leeds and a vital new station in Bradford**, delivering on previous promises to ensure Bradford can reach its potential.
3. **Provide assurance of the Government's continued commitment to mass transit in West Yorkshire.** Leeds remains the largest city in Europe without a mass transit system, and while our initial allocation of £830m from this year's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement has allowed us to begin the work, our ambitious vision will require continued support over several parliamentary terms.
4. **An end to bidding contests that consume time and resources**, such as the recent Levelling Up Fund bidding round and the bureaucracy around the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Instead, devolve funding to Mayors to invest in programmes at pace that will help to grow their local economies. The right scale of devolved funding is critical; we need step change levels of investment in both our physical and social infrastructure to support a green and inclusive recovery.
5. Levelling up can only happen, and businesses can only thrive, if there is a strong foundation of public services. Local Authorities play a significant role in driving economic growth, yet core services continue to be under significant and increasing pressure, having lost nearly £15 billion of core government funding over the last decade. **Government must recognise the crucial role that councils play in growth and provide sufficient funding and certainty for councils in the long term.** This should include a long-term solution for funding adult social care and support for SEND.
6. **Increase government commitment to net zero.** West Yorkshire's asks of government in the Skidmore Review are:
 - a. National policy must provide long-term funding certainty to develop strategic approaches to decarbonisation.
 - b. Further devolved skills funding and powers to Mayoral Combined Authorities.

- c. Financial mechanisms/models to allow support homeowners to implement energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation without an upfront cost.
 - d. Introduce a comprehensive SME business efficiency programme based on the various ERDF supported local authority delivery projects.
 - e. Strengthen national policy guidance and the introduction of a legal provision for planning on climate change.
7. Work with us to turn 'net zero' into 'net gain'. We are making major investments that will accelerate the UK's progress towards zero carbon, from smart manufacturing and the export of electric vehicles to community-led retrofit and measures to decarbonise public transport and industrial emissions. These are all industries that will create jobs, grow the skills base, and improve community wellbeing. At COP27, the Prime Minister urged the world to go further and faster on the transition to renewable energy and to limit the devastating impact of the climate crisis. **Give local leaders the powers and funding necessary to develop local plans that enable co-investment with the private sector to meet our net zero target.**
8. **Accelerate the decoupling of gas from electricity prices** to enable consumers to benefit fully from cheap domestic low-carbon generation. I urge the government to commit to the 2019 manifesto pledge to invest in clean energy solutions and green infrastructure which will reduce carbon emissions and pollution, and deliver energy cost savings for business and households, not just in West Yorkshire, but across the UK.
9. **Provide proper funding to support our local police and the local criminal justice system**, in order to help address the likely increase in demand caused by the cost-of-living crisis, the impact of inflation and energy prices on our police budgets, and the backlog of cases in the criminal courts that is preventing people from obtaining swift justice.
10. **Work with us to maximise our innovation potential across our business base and seven HEIs**, including exploring opportunities to work collaboratively with your department and Innovate UK on regional opportunities to address some of our biggest challenges, including increased R&D spend in the region and any future Innovation Deals (Innovation Accelerators or beyond).

I look forward to welcoming you to West Yorkshire to meet with me and discuss how we can work collaboratively with you to deliver on our shared objectives.

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Brabin
Mayor of West Yorkshire

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Report to: Business, Economy and Innovation Committee

Date: 24 January 2023

Subject: Healthtech – Year One Update

Director: Phil Witcherley, Interim Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills and Culture

Author: Steph Oliver-Beech, Healthtech Regional Lead

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. The first [West Yorkshire Healthtech Strategy](#) was approved by the Combined Authority in February 2022, and [launched](#) during the West Yorkshire Innovation Festival in October 2022.
- 1.2. This report provides an update on activity and progress following creation of the Healthtech Regional Lead role, leading to approval of the Healthtech Strategy. It also provides an overview on key areas of focus for the coming year.

2. Background

- 2.1. Healthtech describes a broad range of products, services and solutions to improve and save lives, from prevention to diagnosis and cure. Healthtech products range from commonplace objects such as surgical masks and wheelchairs, through to non-invasive diagnostic tests like lateral flow tests, implantable devices such as heart valves and replacement joints, and to medical apps and healthcare IT systems.
- 2.2. West Yorkshire has a significant healthtech sector, with major business strengths across medical devices, diagnostics and digital health, alongside complementary research, clinical and system leadership advantages. The region is consistently identified as one of the UK's leading healthtech locations

by business number and employment. For example, 22% of all UK digital health jobs are based within the region, and it is in the top 4 LEP areas by number of digital health companies. LEP research in 2019 identified £5.2bn revenues from 330 Healthtech companies in West Yorkshire, employing c.17,000 people. Nationally, there are over 4,300 companies operating in the sector, employing c. 145,000 people and generating £30bn turnover (Office for Life Sciences, 2021)

- 2.3 By virtue of the fact that the UK is one of the top three countries in Europe for business number and direct employment in the medical technology industry, the concentration of healthtech businesses in West Yorkshire forms a cluster of national and international significance. West Yorkshire outperformed Greater Manchester, West Midlands and South Yorkshire for goods exports in the scientific/technical sector over 2019 - 2020, achieving exports of £573m (2019) and £480m (2020), second only to London and ahead of Cambridge and Peterborough in 2019. The healthtech business cluster is continually growing at start-up/spin-out stage e.g. 50+ new digital health companies located at NEXUS since opening in 2019, and is attracting larger-scale inward investment e.g. Labcorp new 100-bed clinical research facility. In addition, some of the largest providers of digital services to the NHS (e.g. TPP, EMIS) were founded and remain in the region.
- 2.4 The European market for medical devices and diagnostics was estimated at €150bn in 2021, making it the second largest market after the US. The European medical device market has been growing on average by 4.8% per year over the past 10 years. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of effective, rapidly deployed diagnostic testing, exemplified by 25% market growth in 2020 alone. Meanwhile, the global digital health market was valued at \$175.6bn in 2021, with annual growth projected at 27% to 2030, largely driven by increased tele-healthcare (Grand View Research, 2022).
- 2.5 The business base is complemented by a concentration of world-leading clinical research and academic strengths – for example, drawing in the largest share of National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) funding per head of population outside London, leading to advances in patient treatment and care locally and ultimately far beyond. Within our health and care organisations there is a high priority on research and innovation: for example, the new hospitals in Leeds will be enabled by health technology, and redevelopment of the Leeds General Infirmary site will create a global centre of excellence for healthcare technology on the doorstep of one of Europe's largest medical establishments.
- 2.6 Our region's academic institutions host numerous world-leading research centres around health and medical technology innovation, as well as providing vital training for the next generation of entrepreneurs and clinicians. Our academic institutions provide vital knowledge exchange and incubation/acceleration facilities across the region, including 3M Buckley Innovation Centre at the University of Huddersfield, the Digital Health Enterprise Zone at the University of Bradford and Nexus at the University of Leeds, with prominent healthtech community particularly around digital health,

integrated with the Propel@Y&H digital health accelerator programme for SMEs with digital health innovations, led by Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network (Y&H AHSN).

- 2.7 There is strong endorsement for innovation to improve people's health and wellbeing, and alleviate pressure on vital services, within the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership. The creation of the new Innovation Hub, in partnership with Y&H AHSN, provides a focal point for innovation and improvement at the regional system level - including a focus on digital primary care, supporting access to a wider range of technology to ultimately improve primary care. The regional position is further enhanced by the major centres of health and social care decision making (NHS England, Department of Health and Social Care) concentrated in Leeds responsible for in excess of £135bn NHS commissioning, leadership and digital advancement.

The Combined Authority's contribution to this agenda

- 2.8 Our region has an unparalleled opportunity to foster economic and societal benefit from healthtech innovation, building on the strengths outline above. The role of Healthtech Regional Lead was created using year 1 gainshare to provide a focus in the Combined Authority to drive forward the region's approach to the sector. The following have directly resulted from the formation of this post since October 2021:
- a. **Approval of the region's first Healthtech Strategy**, with strong buy-in across partners to the vision that the region will be the number one place for Healthtech entrepreneurs, innovators and industry. The strategy will deliver:
 - A well-aligned, innovation-driven healthtech ecosystem;
 - Innovation driven by regional NHS system need, and innovations adopted at scale across West Yorkshire;
 - West Yorkshire recognised as a leading place for healthtech innovation
 - b. **Partnership launch** of the Healthtech Strategy alongside the West Yorkshire Health and Care Innovation Hub, during West Yorkshire Innovation Festival, held at University of Huddersfield with a spotlight on the flagship National Health Innovation Campus (NHIC) being developed in Huddersfield which will be instrumental in training the next generation of health professionals.
 - c. **Profile of Mayor and BEIC Chair brought to healthtech sector and partnerships through involvement in flagship events** taking place in the region e.g. speeches at techUK health and social care dinner, strategy launch event, engagement and support to key partner initiatives such as Building the Leeds Way and utilising the Mayor/CA profile and convening power.
 - d. **Effective participation** in Innovate UK-funded national landscaping review into challenges for healthtech SMEs post-pandemic and post-Brexit

- in partnership with Y&H AHSN and industry body the Association of British Healthtech Industries (ABHI), held workshop with SMEs and industry stakeholders at Wellington House. Key challenges identified at regional level around funding, regulation and market access, concordant with challenges identified at the national level, and inform work to date and into 2023.
- e. Ensuring healthtech sector is **represented and integrated** in wider CA programmes e.g. listening session held with healthtech stakeholders to inform the developing Innovation West Yorkshire programme, involvement of healthtech stakeholders as UK SPF Pillar 2 call being shaped
- f. **Application submitted by CA to Innovate UK Launchpad** competition with broad partner support. Potential for £7.5m of IUK resources and support to the region's healthtech SMEs if successful. The launchpad will be informed by a regional project team brought together by the CA involving industry, higher education and clinical stakeholders. Further engagement ongoing with IUK Health Technologies division.
- g. **Healthtech Cluster broadened and now being hosted by CA**, integrating with the West Yorkshire Innovation Network and BEIC, ultimately delivering the Healthtech Strategy.
- h. Through engagement with partners we have played an influencing and supporting role in a variety of projects, **including shaping and supporting regional-level funding bids** such as the EPSRC Digital Health Hubs programme to promote knowledge and skills sharing across healthcare, academia and business, and drive innovation in digital health.
- i. Through the strength of the cluster work and the new regional healthtech strategy, the **Trade and Investment** team have been able to leverage existing networks to strengthen the regional offer, and build on an external reputation that **West Yorkshire is the strongest hub in the UK for Healthtech**. Through work alongside partners including Y&H AHSN and the Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust (LTHT), the partnership has delivered **several internationally focused delegation visits to the region**, from areas such as the Nordics, Estonia, Israel, the US, and India.
- j. The team have supported the establishment of key international bridges: signing a Memorandum of Understanding to form the Leeds-Israel Innovation Gateway in May, the signing of an MOU between LTHT and Oslo University Hospital in November, and supporting the Israeli and Estonian embassies' visits to the region.
- k. **This work has led to investment wins, with companies choosing to base themselves in the region**: for example, Y&H AHSN's international

Propel programme delivered 3 new wins for the region from the US into Nexus. This work has also supported the onboarding of 8 memberships to Nexus, 3 to the Innovation Pop Up at LTHT, and 1 to the 3M Buckley Innovation Centre at the University of Huddersfield.

Areas of focus for 2023

2.9 The Healthtech Strategy will continue to provide the overarching direction with priority work areas as follows:

- a. **Funding** – a key issue for healthtech SMEs with recent reports highlighting financial uncertainty and regulatory uncertainty as the two key issues for the sector. To help address this the Combined Authority is working with partners to attract further external funding to support our regional healthtech sector.

The launchpad application recently submitted seeks to address this issue; irrespective of the outcome of that application, we will continue to work within the funding landscape to open up opportunities at all levels, from early stage innovation funding through to private capital working with key partners.

- b. **Market access** - *“access to the domestic market is the key to internationalization.”* (ABHI landscaping review, 2023)

Working with health and care partners, through the Innovation Hub and acute trusts, we will continue to align the access routes for innovators to develop and test products – importantly that meet local health and care priorities, i.e. the ‘pull’ from the system as well as the ‘push’ from the market.

- c. **Promoting the region** remains a priority – building on the forthcoming Health and Life Sciences Showcase published by the CA with support from Y&H AHSN, we will develop a comprehensive regional healthtech narrative and online presence. This will incorporate updated data on our business base and integrate messages about partners’ key programmes and investments. We will also develop a prospectus on the market opportunity around life sciences real estate in our region, to represent the region and market the opportunities here to best effect. This prospectus will be valuable in driving a pipeline of future investments into strategic developments in the region – e.g. Leeds Innovation Arc, National Health Innovation Campus. The Trade and Investment team will continue to promote the regional strengths in Healthtech, utilising the Mayor’s platform to showcase our regional excellence, at events such as Arab Health, MIPIM, UKREiF, Medica and others in 2023.

- d. **Convening the ecosystem** – we will continue to provide a leadership role to convene partners in the healthtech ecosystem, primarily through hosting and further developing the Healthtech Cluster, connecting regional partners and supporting national stakeholders such as UKRI & Innovate UK, ABHI, techUK etc to engage in the region.

- e. **Pipeline development** – healthtech is a prime regional growth opportunity, developing transformative products and services for a growing global market. It is imperative that we nurture the long-term growth potential offered by this sector. We will do this by identifying opportunities to support and invest in regional healthtech initiatives, via appropriate funding sources including gainshare and SPF.

2.10 Outcome measures over the lifetime of the healthtech strategy include tracking:

- a. Number of healthtech SMEs supported through various partnership programmes
- b. Number of new healthtech startup companies in the region
- c. Number and value of funding bids/investments secured to support regional activity and projects over time
- d. Feedback from stakeholders across business, academic and clinical settings including Healthtech Cluster members
- e. Monitor engagements with communications programme around system innovation needs
- f. Track value of funding granted towards proof of concept / early evidence projects
- g. Monitor number of regional healthtech inward investment wins annually
- h. Track number and impact of regional marketing and comms opportunities realised

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. Many of the innovations developed by healthtech may have positive net zero implications for health system processes and services, directly reducing waste and inefficiencies e.g. increase in telemedicine reducing carbon emissions

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. It is well established that health and wealth are intrinsically linked. The innovations provided by healthtech have the potential to have a disproportionate positive impact on those who have the greatest health needs, working closely with the WY ICS.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. The outcomes of the healthtech innovations supported will have an impact across health inequality and equity – with equality, diversity and inclusion central to all partners’ approaches on healthtech. For example, helping to address disparities in diabetes care: the region has led on piloting and adoption of new home testing technology, to enable patients living with diabetes and high blood pressure to identify early signs of chronic kidney disease. This is a complication of diabetes which has traditionally been identified via a GP-administered test - clinically-critical but poorly accessed, particularly within the pandemic. The new technology is helping to identify people at risk of chronic kidney disease to receive appropriate treatment, and overcome issues around low uptake of the standard test by focusing on people living with diabetes who do not have current readings at all.

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 in respect of this specific paper, but this work takes place in a partnership landscape within which there is ongoing dialogue and engagement.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. That the BEIC notes the progress made over the first year of this sector-focused approach to innovation, and endorses the areas identified for future work including pipeline development.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.

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Report to: Business, Economy and Innovation Committee

Date: 25th January 2023

Subject: **West Yorkshire Plan and Economic Strategy**

Director: Alan Reiss, Director of Strategy, Communications and Intelligence

Author: Jo Barham, Policy Officer and Jen Robson, Policy Manager,
Economic Growth and Business Resilience

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To provide members of the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee with an overview of progress on the development of a West Yorkshire Plan and it's fit with the wider policy framework of the Combined Authority, in particular development of the Economic Approach.

2. Information

Background to the Plan

- 2.1. Work has been ongoing on the development of a West Yorkshire Plan to provide an overarching narrative for the region. The West Yorkshire Plan will provide a new framework to reflect major changes including, the devolution deal and election of the first Mayor of West Yorkshire, ongoing impact of cost of living and doing business crisis, and the new government's priorities for growth and proposals for spending cuts. The primary audience for the plan is government and regional partners, residents are a secondary audience. The purpose of the West Yorkshire Plan is to:
 - Explain who West Yorkshire is and what we want to do
 - Set the trajectory for the longer-term up to 2040

- Ensure that government and wider local and national stakeholders are clear on the priorities and ambitions of the region and how these align with the new government's plans for economic growth
- Ensure that all regional partners speak with one strong voice
- Continue to develop shared endeavour between the Combined Authority and the local authorities.

2.2. The first stage of this work has been to draft a vision and narrative. Research was undertaken to look at what other places, who have historically been better at telling their collective story than West Yorkshire, have produced. Initial ideas for the content were generated during in-depth strategic planning sessions. Building on this work a draft of the plan's narrative was completed. The draft has had input from nominated representatives from each local authority and has been shared with Chief Executives, leaders and the mayor who have provided comments. Wider engagement with key stakeholders and partners is now being undertaken with Combined Authority committees. The first draft of the vision and narrative is included in Appendix 1.

2.1 The intention of the Plan is to set targets that are aspirational and represent an ultimate ambition for the region, the plan includes draft targets currently, but these will be updated once the narrative has been agreed. State of the Region reporting will continue to provide the monitoring framework underpinning the West Yorkshire Plan and wider policies and strategies of the Combined Authority including the Economic Strategy (see below).

2.2 The West Yorkshire Plan will strengthen the existing policy framework of the Combined Authority. At present, the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) provides an overarching vision for the region and is supported by a suite of policies and strategies, this includes the Economic Strategy currently in development (see below). The vision and narrative will ultimately sit at the top of a revised and refreshed SEF with newly agreed regional priorities and targets with the collective suite of documents known as the West Yorkshire Plan.

Economic Strategy

2.3 The Economic Strategy will provide a vision for the future of the West Yorkshire Economy to support the development of investment priorities to meet these aims and objectives. The Economic Strategy will be developed in partnership with businesses, the private sector, and Local Authority partners.

2.4 The economic strategy is situated in the context of the current recession and will utilise a method of scenario planning to project potential future scenarios and use these to assess our current policies and interventions to ensure that we can mitigate against any economic risks and also take advantage of economic opportunities for the region.

2.5 Culture, heritage, and sport are a key component of our identity as a region and the vision and economic strategy and underpinned by our cultural framework. The economic opportunities linked to inclusive culture and diversity are considerable and the economic strategy aims to capitalise upon this.

2.6 A gap that the Economic Strategy is seeking to fill is our approach to sectors. We have conducted research to analyse different approaches to sectors and have developed a model to facilitate future economic growth. The model plays to the regions strengths but also provides the opportunity to work with a wider spectrum of businesses and link our interventions directly to the Mayors pledges. We want to ensure that this approach positions West Yorkshire in the best possible way to act upon economic opportunity.

2.7 Through the economic plan we intend to align the trajectory for the region discussed in the vision to economic outcomes.

2.8 We have convened a task and finish group made up of private and public sector members who are working with us to produce the plan and ensure that it reflects regional needs. This group includes Local Authority Representatives, Business Representatives such as the CBI, FSB, Chambers of Commerce, Universities, Businesses and Entrepreneurs.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

3.1. Tackling the climate emergency is one of the proposed regional priorities and will be a key driver of activity arising from this work. The economic strategy and our approach to sectors is underpinned by three driving forces 1) our commitment to Carbon Net Zero, 2) using technology (including digital) to enable innovation and productivity 3) creating a social foundation so that we protect the people of West Yorkshire. The sectoral approach also acts as a facilitator to encourage adoption of green technologies and the development of green jobs. Links will be made to ongoing workstreams on the circular economy.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1. Growing an Inclusive Economy is one of the proposed regional priorities and will be a key driver of activity arising from this work. It has been a driver for our sectoral approach which looks to facilitate the best economic outcomes for everyone in the region both in the short and longer term. The economic plan and West Yorkshire vision provide an opportunity for us to place inclusive growth at the heart of everything we do. The two documents act as a golden thread for this theme tying it in to all of the policies which sit beneath.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

5.1. Enabling Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is one of the proposed regional priorities and will be a key driver of activity arising from this work. The

economic strategy celebrates diversity as a regional strength and looks to facilitate opportunities which arise from creating the foundations of a diverse and inclusive economy.

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. The draft vision and narrative have been produced in partnership with a grouping of local authority colleagues and has been discussed by chief executives, political leaders and the mayor. Consultation is now underway with colleagues across the Combined Authority including attendance at all senior management meetings and directorate sessions. All committees will receive a presentation with request for comments along with members of the LEP Board, and the Business Communications Group. Following feedback, a further draft of the narrative will be produced for sign-off by the Combined Authority in March.
- 9.2. The concept for the economic strategy has been developed in conjunction with the BEIC Committee, LEP Board and the CA. We are now working in partnership with a task and finish group which includes private members and local authority colleagues to develop the document.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. That the Business Economy and Innovation Committee consider the draft of the vision and narrative of the plan and agree the proposed next steps, with a particular focus on:
- Content
 - What we call the collective suite of documents
 - Language used
 - Anything missing / needs to be removed

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft West Yorkshire Vision and Narrative

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DRAFT WEST YORKSHIRE: CREATING A FUTURE THAT WORKS FOR ALL OUR PLAN FOR CHANGE

Purpose (section may not be required in final version)

The West Yorkshire Plan sets out an overarching vision for the region. The narrative brings together the shared objectives that we as a region must deliver.

The purpose of the document is to:

- Set the trajectory for the longer term.
- Ensure that government and wider local, national and international stakeholders are clear on the priorities and ambitions of the region.
- Ensure that all regional partners speak with one strong voice to government.
- Develop shared endeavour between the Combined Authority and the local authorities and clarify priorities building on the ongoing partnership work.

The primary audience is regional and national partners including government. Residents are a secondary audience. A separate narrative linked to investment has been developed.

The document is designed to be modular, with different elements used for different purposes, but enabling consistent messages to be used and heard by a range of partners.

West Yorkshire 2040 Vision

To be finalised once narrative has been agreed.

West Yorkshire, the heart of the North, an engine room of ideas and creativity.

Together, we will grow a resilient, inclusive, sustainable West Yorkshire, that works for all. A place anyone can make home.

Our vision for the future is rooted in our region's extraordinary story.....

West Yorkshire Story

Understanding who we are, and the pathway forward is the key to our future success.

We're already achieving so much; at this historic moment for our region we now, finally, have powers and money to implement the things we know will make a difference. Now is our chance to continue to work together to tell our story and make our vision a reality.

Here in West Yorkshire, we are pioneers, we're determined, full of ideas and not afraid to take on challenges. Traits that put us at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution making us the manufacturing powerhouse of the world.

We embrace our industrial heritage to innovate and collaborate, paving the way for the emergence of new industries at the cutting edge of health and technology, ideas and innovations that will tackle the climate emergency and help people live fulfilled lives.

Our brilliant universities mean our region has attracted talent from around the world and international businesses have flocked to our region to pioneer methods in transportation, health, and manufacturing to answer the challenges facing the world today.

Add Infographic/map

West Yorkshire is made up of five local authority areas: Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, and Wakefield.

Add Infographic

Our region is home to over 2.3 million people, a workforce of 1.1 million, around 95,000 businesses, and an economic output larger than nine European Union countries.

We're proud to be one of the most diverse parts of the UK with people representing many ethnicities, backgrounds, and lifestyles, connecting us to communities across the world.

The diversity of our region extends to our places. The globally competitive city of Leeds, the economic centre of the Pennines sits alongside lively towns and stunning countryside. West Yorkshire boasts an array of attractions from areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Kirklees, and

world class cultural assets such as the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield, to vibrant market towns in Calderdale, and a World Heritage site in Bradford. Our countryside provides an asset for climate adaption as we tackle the Climate Emergency.

As a dynamic place to live, at the heart of the North, we attract highly skilled, knowledge-intensive businesses and workers. We celebrate our collection of cities, towns and villages, each community with its own story to tell, unique and magical.

This interconnected network of separate urban centres makes West Yorkshire genuinely distinctive. Our success is dependent on all places being supported to thrive, be recognised, championed, and celebrated.

And we're building on solid foundations. West Yorkshire has a long history of innovation and industry delivering economic success alongside social progress. Industrialists such as Sir Titus Salt had the vision and drive to support the people of our region out of poverty and into a skilled workforce. Benjamin Gott revolutionised the production of woollen cloth, investing large amounts in the cultural and civic life of Leeds, founding the City's Philosophical and Literary Society. We need to ensure that a new generation of diverse entrepreneurs continues that legacy with their ideas benefitting all communities creating a legacy of prosperity and business success.

Today, we gain strength from our success not being aligned to one or two sectors. We are blessed to have many and varied industries and businesses. This diversity means our resilient economy has weathered the economic crosswinds of the past and can drive prosperity for the future.

As a perfect representative of the UK's economy, we are poised to be a test bed of innovation and new ways of working. An idea can spark here, develop then cascaded to the rest of the country. We are perfectly positioned to be the key driver of economic growth not just in the North of England but for the whole of the UK.

Add Infographic

Key features of our economy include:

- Being a global leader in healthcare technology with six government health headquarters (including NHS Digital) and high levels of employment in the health-tech sector
- Advanced manufacturing - specialisms in textiles, furniture, and wearing apparel
- A fast-growing digital sector
- The UK's largest regional finance centre.

We have a history of ground-breaking discoveries and transformative practices. From firsts in the world of film and transportation, to the production of world-renowned video games and pioneering medical technologies such as Paxman Coolers work on cancer treatment. It was in our region that the invention of Cat's Eye technology transformed road safety across the world.

As innovators and makers, we also know culture and creativity is not just a nice to have, but a powerful driver of job creation, regeneration, skills and better wellbeing. And while we are admired across the UK and globally for our creativity, we know there's always more we can do. Towering figures across the arts have been inspired by our places, from the Brontë sisters, the Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, to David Hockney and Barbara Hepworth, from the countercultural post-punk movement to the biggest pop groups in the world. Sporting success runs through our region, from unsung pioneers such as Beryl Burton, to world-beating Olympians like Nicola Adams, the Brownlee brothers, and Kadeena Cox achieving sporting firsts. These inspirational figures show the grit and determination of folk from West Yorkshire. With their eyes on the prize, they just don't give up. We know that the world can be our stage through the festivals and sporting successes showcased here. The region will rise to the occasion again when Bradford becomes the UK's national city of culture with opportunities spanning across all our communities.

Add Infographic – our top culture and creative strengths

Add Infographic – our top innovation strengths

Ideas and innovation are our bread and butter, powering the region's success. Pioneering textile technologies during the Industrial Revolution have developed to become cutting-edge techniques using recycled and recovered plastics. Weaving technology has been adapted to make super-strength jet engine parts. Our knowledge-based clusters and expertise in medical technologies and medical equipment manufacturers are some of the best in the world

The diversity of education assets in the region attracts international talent. It was at the University of Leeds that William Bragg's revolutionary research on X-ray crystallography changed the face of modern science. Today, the Centre for Precision Technologies, Nexus and the 3M Buckley Innovation Centre build on that legacy, innovating and collaborating in energy, transport, health tech, medicines, medical devices, diagnostics, data and manufacturing.

But we won't deepen our understanding about what we're doing well or where we could improve without the data. Luckily, our region is home to a vast array of internationally recognised research such as Born in Bradford bringing new insights into childhood health while empowering young people to control their own data. The Space Hub is a respected new initiative driving new satellite and geospatial data markets, bringing new collaborations for industry opportunities.

Over time, industries have evolved, and new ways of working have developed; the challenges we've faced have been tough, but we have weathered these storms and emerged stronger. When a global pandemic hit, our businesses had the strength and resilience to adapt, bringing new approaches and innovation to weather a uniquely challenging time.

Our region continues to grow and adapt. Our historic past is woven into our present. The Piece Hall in Halifax played a pivotal role as a centre of trade for the textile mills of West Yorkshire, today it attracts new visitors to the area with its mix of independent bars, restaurants, shops, music acts and cafés. When the Grade Two listed Majestic building in the centre of Leeds was almost destroyed by a fire, it wasn't left to decay, it was rebuilt and now hosts the national headquarters of C4. The decaying mills next to the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield will now be home to one of the best recording studios and music engineer training facilities in Europe and the stunning but abandoned Templeworks building in Leeds is soon to be home to the British Library North.

As a region, working together as the West Yorkshire family, we have built new infrastructure, connected our towns and cities, attracted investment, developed land,

Add infographic

West Yorkshire is home to a cluster of seven higher education institutions hosting around 91,000 students and 30,000 graduates each year.

Along with excellent Further Education Colleges.

supported businesses to start-up, innovate and grow, brokered skills and training to power us through the tough times, ready for the exciting opportunities ahead.

Now is our opportunity to use all that knowledge to move to establish us as the go-to place for business, entrepreneurs, investors, developers and creative. To seize the opportunities to tackle the challenges we face, from the climate emergency to deprivation, fuel poverty and poor health outcomes that blight parts of our region.

As a partnership, we will lead the way, learning lessons from our industrial past to build an inclusive, fair, sustainable future. We have the knowledge, the expertise, and the will to build on these achievements, backed up by our evidence-based policy development that helped us ensure we have the right strategies in place for a brighter future.

We build on our past and celebrate our diversity to create a better future. We are home to the best and the brightest, in lockstep across the region to deliver a future-focussed West Yorkshire. The best place to live, raise a family, start a business and grow old.

A place to do well and be well.

FOLLOWING SECTIONS TO BE FINALISED ONCE NARRATIVE HAS BEEN AGREED

Regional Priorities

West Yorkshire is key to growing and re-balancing the national economy and enabling the north of England to contribute fully to, and benefit from, national economic growth and prosperity.

In West Yorkshire we are a family with a long history of collaboration borne out of our shared priorities and strong partnerships. We recognise the value of working together and the benefits this brings. We know that we can't realise our vision in isolation and will continue to work in partnership to bring our ambitious proposals to life.

Working together to deliver our vision, we share **three regional priorities** that will inform all our work:

- Growing an inclusive economy
- Enabling equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Tackling the climate emergency

These priorities represent a regional consensus on what is needed to realise the vision across key areas of public policy where collectively we have the ability, powers, and funding to act. They are core to everything we do.

Using the powers and funding at our disposal we will work collaboratively to deliver projects to support these priorities.

Our Aims

We will ensure that all people make the most of the opportunities our region has to offer. We will reflect the rich diversity of our region with equality at the forefront of our work. We will create an environment where people in deprived communities can access the skills they need to secure good work and lead healthy lives. We will ensure that housing needs are met in an affordable and sustainable way making the most of clean technologies of the future.

Productivity is above the national average

We will create the right conditions to boost the economy in our region so we can see highly skilled people working in well paid jobs, able to access opportunities in a sustainable, carbon-free future and a great quality of life. An environment where entrepreneurial activity can flourish, where it is easy for businesses to start-up, grow, innovate, trade and invest. Where integrated infrastructure attracts the investment to create jobs in well-connected places with affordable homes.

A strong transport system founded on active travel and public modes

We will develop an integrated, sustainable, transport system that connects all parts of our region, so everyone can access the places they need to live fulfilled lives. We will promote sustainable travel so that walking, cycling, and public transport are the easiest choice, where everyone can enjoy the benefits of good health, protecting the environment for future generations.

A zero-net Carbon economy by 2038

We will deliver a net-zero economy where people have the skills and opportunities to access green jobs. Where transport is sustainable, and energy efficient homes ensure fuel poverty is abolished. Where businesses and industry use the resources they need to operate efficiently reducing energy consumption and boosting regional productivity.

Culture will be available to all We will put culture at the heart of our economy where creative businesses start-up and thrive. We will make sure that whatever your background, entry to the creative sector relies on your talent alone. We will ensure everyone in West Yorkshire can make the most of our world class cultural assets and enjoy the benefits of cultural engagement.

We will continue to be happy place to live where the wellbeing of our citizens is a priority. We will ensure that where you live helps to promote good health and wellbeing, that life expectancy in West Yorkshire aligns with the national average. We want to be at the heart of global health innovation with the significant health assets and the strength of the health technology sector of our region renowned.

Our region will be one of the safest places to live and work in the UK. We will do everything in our power to make West Yorkshire the safest place to be, ensure that our

streets are safe so our communities can thrive making the most of the opportunities our region has to offer. This involves responding to a range of complex needs and supporting victims of crime.

FOLLOWING SECTIONS TO BE FINALISED ONCE NARRATIVE HAS BEEN AGREED

Draft Ambitions

Add graphs/infographics to this section

To measure success, a series of ambitions have been developed these ambitions are aspirational, representing the ultimate vision for our region:

- No child grows up in poverty
- A net-zero Carbon economy by 2038
- Productivity is highest in the north
- A strong transport system founded on active travel and public modes
- All jobs paying at least the real living wage
- Skills levels exceed the national average
- Healthy life expectancy equalling the national average
- West Yorkshire's employment rate will be the highest in the north
- Neighbourhood crime is sustainably below the national average.
- Place inc culture, heritage, tourism
- Investment in Research and Development

The annual State of the Region report, provides a suite of indicators that map to the ambitions setting out progress against our vision for 2040.

What we need to achieve our vision

Local Authorities play a significant role in driving economic growth and levelling up, yet core services continue to be under significant and increasing pressure, having lost nearly £15 billion of core government funding over the last decade. **Government must recognise the crucial role of councils play in growth and provide sufficient funding and certainty for councils in the long term.** This should include a long-term solution for funding adult social care and support for SEND. To ensure we can all work effectively to deliver our vision we require **greater certainty of secure, stable, and fair local government funding and public sector resourcing**, that enables confidence, long term planning, flexibility, and innovation.

The scale of the opportunities for our region, and the challenges we must seek to overcome will require additional funding and powers. Significant fiscal devolution would give our region greater freedom, certainty, and surety, with responsibility to ourselves and our partners to ensure our vision becomes a reality. This will empower our region to enact tailored solutions to boost productivity, tackle inequalities and drive inclusive growth. Levelling up will require systemic change, radical intervention, and significant investment to address poverty and inequality. It should aim to improve opportunities for all. This means we must:

- Have much greater cross-government engagement with West Yorkshire to shape understanding of local needs.
- Be able to deliver over the long-term and base our actions on robust evidence and clear accountability with sustained funding.

To level up West Yorkshire we need to:

- Enable disadvantaged groups and communities within the region to reach their potential and access opportunity; and
- For the region overall to increase its economic contribution (in terms of higher income, employment, and productivity) and close the gap with more prosperous regions.

Greater cross-government engagement with our region is needed to shape understanding of local needs. Further powers to delivery our vision include:

- **New powers and multi-year sustainable funding and incentives for achieving net zero and nature recovery at regional and local levels.** Without these freedoms and flexibilities local areas will find it increasingly difficult to deliver against their locally defined targets and to contribute to Government's own ambitions.
- We want government to **support an Innovation Deal** for our region that will enable us to prioritise investment in innovation that aligns to our regional challenges.
- Securing continued commitment to a West Yorkshire Mass Transit System.
- **100% Business Rate Retention** to reinvest in our town and city centres, strengthen our relationships with employers and businesses in all sectors.
- **Full devolution of all adult skills and careers funding** so people can gain the right skills needed for good quality work. We want a devolved system that can support local labour markets and accelerate inclusive growth with our local leadership accountable for ensuring investment provides for our communities.
- Greater investment in **transport** and **devolution of control of our rail stations** in partnership with Great British Railways.
- **Increase powers and funding to give greater regional control over rail** that facilitates the electrification of existing routes and progression of new rail schemes.

Our region has much to offer with abundant opportunities for growth. Through our strong partnerships we will harness our assets to realise these opportunities for the people and the places of West Yorkshire, the heart of the North and the best of all worlds.

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Report to: Business, Economy, and Innovation Committee

Date: 24 January 2023

Subject: **Innovate UK West Yorkshire Action Plan**

Director: Phil Witcherley, Interim Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills and Culture

Author: Sarah Bowes, Policy Manager – Digital and Innovation

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To seek input from the committee on the Innovate UK Action Plan for West Yorkshire, developed by Innovate UK in partnership with the region, which will lead to increased investment for businesses and additional profile for the region.

2. Information

- 2.1 As part of an increased focus on place, Innovate UK are developing regional action plans across the UK to put in place targeted activities to support local innovation.
- 2.2 Innovate UK transparency data shows that, regardless of whichever analysis you do, businesses in West Yorkshire receive fewer grants (and value of grants) per 1,000 businesses. Depending on the analysis, this gap ranges from £2.5m to £50.5m if WY had the same ratio of finance and awards as the UK average.
- 2.3 At their meeting during the West Yorkshire Innovation Festival in October 2022, the Mayor and Indro Mukerjee (CEX of Innovate UK) agreed to

reconfirm a joint commitment to working in partnership to increase business innovation investment in West Yorkshire.

- 2.4 This Action Plan will be launched at an invite only event in February 2023 at NEXUS where there will be a significant opportunity to secure increased regional and national profile a result (building on the momentum from WYIF 2022).
- 2.5 The Action Plan is owned by Innovate UK and sets out activities that they will progress to support innovation activity in West Yorkshire. Combined Authority Officers have been involved in supporting the development of this Action Plan to ensure strong and clear alignment with regional strategic ambitions as set out in the Innovation Framework. There is now the opportunity to seek further input from BEIC to ensure the action plan meets regional needs and builds on our strategic ambitions.
- 2.6 Innovate UKs Action Plan for West Yorkshire builds on existing agreements between West Yorkshire and IUK including the MoU from 2017 and [devo deal commitments from 2020](#). The new plan will support increased IUK investment into West Yorkshire businesses.
- 2.7 Key actions proposed from the plan are set out in Appendix 1

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 Increasing innovation investment in the region aligned to the Innovation Framework will have a positive impact on tackling the climate change through the development of new products, processes and services aimed at addressing net zero.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 IUK recognise the intrinsic link between innovation and skills and have committed via the action plan to supporting local activity where possible.
- 4.2 The West Yorkshire focus of driving impact through the creation of products, process and services to solve societal challenges has also been recognised by IUK as part of the Action Plan.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 EDI will be embedded throughout the Action Plan as IUK have responded to our local place-based Innovation Framework and its focus on inclusive innovation 'Innovation for Everyone'.
- 5.2 There are a number of opportunities to achieve this including through the greater promotion and reach of IUK products via the CA and LA trusted partner routes into communities, and in the design and creation of new products.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications

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. Engagement on the plan has taken place with local authority colleagues and the West Yorkshire Innovation Network.

10. Recommendations

10.1. That BEIC input into the contents of the action plan.

11. Background Documents

11.1 None.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Key actions proposed for the Plan

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Appendix 1 – Key actions proposed for the Plan

1. Strengthening Capability in Places – Investing in local strengths that are critical to building and maintaining overall UK capability

1.1 Data Sharing and Evidence

Data sharing & business intelligence: share relevant data sets, including data re. specific businesses and applications for IUK and WYCA competitions (in accordance with GDPR and subject to legal and contractual agreements), with the aim of improving targeted support.

1.2 Business Innovation

Collaboration: Continue to provide strategic input into the Business Economy and Innovation Committee via the Regional Manager. Engagement with this committee provides the key mechanism for senior level engagement into the region into local need and provides the opportunity to engage on future programme development. BEIC will regularly review progress against this Action Plan.

Cluster development: support the development of West Yorkshire's innovation clusters, acting as an integral part of the existing ecosystem, centred on established capabilities in Healthtech, Manufacturing, and future AI Solutions & Emerging Technologies.

Business capacity building: Identify, develop and deliver mechanisms and support that raises awareness, understanding and access for WYCA businesses to the full spectrum of IUK/UKRI programmes, increasing business Innovation activities and investment in West Yorkshire

1.3 Collaborative Partnerships

Providing appropriate resources to ensure the success of this partnership agreement, including exploring more collaborative working arrangements, including secondments across Innovate UK and West Yorkshire.

Build on existing good practice in the region, Innovate UK (Innovate UK Edge, Innovate UK KTN, Catapults) will become increasingly visible across the West Yorkshire Innovation Network ecosystem, via co-location and hot desking opportunities at innovation hubs across the region.

Work with West Yorkshire Innovation Network to identify appropriate local expertise that could support Innovate UK activity (supporting the ambition to ensure independent expert assessors are drawn from across the UK).

Collaborative Research & Development: increase support for industry and research organisations to improve value and impact of business-led R&D projects.

1.4 Skills and Inclusion

The future of work and innovation skills for growth: joint working (potentially also involving UK Government departments) to understand the skills requirements of employers, refocus existing provision to meet these needs, and develop cases for further investments.

Inclusive innovation: embed an inclusive approach to innovation at all levels and highlight the potential for people from all backgrounds to make a difference, plus explore opportunities to co-

create a programme to identify and solve critical local challenges, in part by applying our world class capabilities to redress major inequalities and disadvantages across our own communities.

2. Connecting National to Local – Making it easier for businesses to find the best support, whether local or national

2.1 Collaborative Partnerships

Coherence in our approaches: continue to work with West Yorkshire Combined Authority to ensure coherence while expanding our engagement with partners across West Yorkshire, including DIT, British Business Bank, and other key players.

Strategic Engagement: via the BEIC and WYIN develop regional plans and strategies that improve the connectivity between Innovate UK Edge, Innovate UK KTN, Catapults and the region. The WYIN will provide a key forum to connect local with national.

Engagement between UKRI and WY: We will facilitate and support stronger and more cohesive partnership arrangements beyond IUK to ensure the benefits of a place base approach are maximised.

2.2 Data Sharing and Evidence

Data Sharing: Finalise the Data Sharing Agreement with WYCA so that we can share the contact details of businesses who are unsuccessful in our funding competitions. This will enable West Yorkshire to offer further support to those businesses, improving their prospects in future competitions and / or helping them to find other ways to achieve their innovation goals.

2.3 Business Innovation

Communication: Work collaboratively with West Yorkshire on joint areas of comms and marketing, where that activity supports the ambitions of both parties to better enable WY businesses to access/benefit from Innovate UK/UKRI programmes/opportunities.

Promote: Work with the region specifically on the annual West Yorkshire Innovation Festival, Innovate UK and the CA will collaborate on a campaign to inspire innovation and promote opportunities to WY businesses.

Hold Innovate UK led events as part of the annual WYIF to ensure the Innovate UK offer is firmly embedded in the region.

Simplified access to innovation support: Work with the CA to explore alignment of our business facing website with the new Innovate UK innovation hub to maximise reach into West Yorkshire.

Innovation Projects Pipeline: engage with identified and future projects across the WYCA innovation pipeline as a critical friend, and provide development advice plus signposting to relevant UKRI, BEIS and wider programmes and competitions

3. Driving Local Impact – Tailored support to clusters of innovative businesses to improve local economies

Innovate UK will:

3.1 Collaborative Partnerships

Communications & events: use respective channels to amplify reach and impact regarding innovation-related news, developments, and opportunities, potentially including more national events in WYCA, where possible more slots for West Yorkshire speakers at UKRI innovation events, and more involvement for IUK and UKRI in West Yorkshire events. Ensuring diversity is represented.

Key forums to drive cluster development: Participate in key forums including (but not limited to) the West Yorkshire Innovation Network, Healthtech Cluster Network, Space Hub Yorkshire and the new Manufacturing Advisory Board, providing appropriate representation and sector expertise from across Innovate UK.

Work with local partners to support the development and growth of local clusters of both regional and national significance including delivery of the regions Healthtech Strategy via appropriate opportunities.

3.2 Skills and Inclusion

Engagement: support the Mayors innovation prize and subsequent young innovator programs

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Report to: Business, Economy and Innovation Committee

Date: 24 January 2023

Subject: **Business and Innovation Activity**

Director: Phil Witcherley, Interim Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills and Culture

Author: Louise Allen, Programme Development Lead – Business and Innovation

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To provide the Committee with an overview of the progress of current and future activity across Business and Innovation.
- 1.2. To open a discussion around the businesses that should be supported in future business support programmes.

2. Information

Current activity

Convention of the North

- 2.1 The 2023 Convention of the North will be held in Manchester on 25 January. The Convention of the North is the region's major annual gathering, bringing together business, political and civic leaders to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the North. As well as key figures from the Government and Opposition, the Convention will hear from Northern Mayors, Council Leaders, leading business people and representatives of the VCSE sector as the North shapes its agenda for 2023.

- 2.2 Discussions throughout the day include a focus on Lifesciences and Health inequality, Advanced Manufacturing, Digital, and Trade and Investment. Both Tracy Brabin and Mark Roberts are involved in sessions.

LEP Integration Plan

- 2.3 The publication of the Levelling Up White Paper in February 2022 provided clarity that for LEPs within Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) areas, the LEPs would be integrated into the MCA. Following this, in July 2022 a LEP Integration Plan (IP) for West Yorkshire was submitted to government. Confirmation that ministers had endorsed the plan was received on 20 December 2022. At the Combined Authority meeting on 2 February 2023 a paper will be considered that sets out the steps that are required to fully integrate the LEP into the Combined Authority including the governance changes required and the impact on the recruitment of the new LEP Chair and board members.

Manufacturing Task Force

- 2.4 Following the work of the Manufacturing Task Force and the subsequent recommendations report that was produced, a Manufacturing Advisory Board has been set up, with the first meeting held in December 2022.
- 2.5 The report, which was shared at the last committee meeting, included three underpinning recommendations plus 14 recommendations under four themes:
1. Enabling Growth through Innovation and Productivity
 2. Manufacturing for Net Zero
 3. The Place to Be and Buy From
 4. Skills for Manufacturing
- 2.6 The newly formed Board includes representation from businesses (some of whom were on the Task Force), education, business intermediaries and network organisations, along with the Chairs of each of the West Yorkshire Manufacturing Alliances.
- 2.7 An emerging aim of the Board is to create a unified voice for the manufacturing sector in the region. This will be explored at subsequent meetings and updates shared with this Committee.
- 2.8 The Board will identify gaps in provision and seek to identify opportunities to ensure manufacturers in the region are supported to become more resilient, grow and thrive. Several of the programmes in development / entering delivery that are set out in this paper, and previous ones considered by the Committee, have been directly influenced and informed by the priorities and ambitions set out by the Manufacturing Task Force, for example, the Business Productivity Programme and the West Yorkshire Innovation Support Programme.

Advanced Machinery Productivity Institute (AMPI)

- 2.9 The Advanced Machinery Productivity Institute (AMPI) is a new initiative led by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) and is designed to drive innovation in the UK's advanced machinery sector. In Summer 2021, AMPI was successful in receiving £22.6 million of seed funding from UKRI's *Strength in Places Fund*. The funding allocation is to be used across both the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Combined Authority areas and will run for a period of five years. The programme will focus on:
- Supporting five flagship industrial research and development projects to deliver next-generation machinery.
 - Creating nine workstreams focusing on academic research exploring advanced machinery.
 - Industry support scheme to work with businesses to solve short-term challenges and facilitate adoption of new innovation.
 - A programme of regional engagement across the manufacturing and supply chain industry.
- 2.10 Both West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, alongside NPL, have been asked to make a modest financial contribution to support an exercise to explore the most appropriate operating model for the institute. The work will also aim to identify and on-board strategic private sector partners who can make a financial contribution, with the longer-term aim of leveraging funding from central government.

Combined Authority delivery overview

- 2.11 The current offer available to new-start and existing businesses in West Yorkshire utilises a mixed delivery model via the Combined Authority's Business Support Service (the Business Growth Service), the business support functions within the region's five Local Authorities (particularly the 16 SME Growth Managers and five Start-Up Managers, funded by the Combined Authority), and several private sector providers commissioned by the Combined Authority that deliver technical advice and guidance in several areas as set out below.
- 2.12 The Combined Authority also works closely with a wide range of regional and national partners to embed their offers to businesses within the ecosystem and to refer businesses to the right support at the right time to meet business needs and opportunities. This includes Innovate UK, Department for International Trade, Chambers of Commerce and other business representative organisations (such as the Federation of Small Businesses), and universities and colleges.
- 2.13 The business support offer is continually evolving as new challenges and opportunities emerge, and as programmes and funding streams end, for example, Help to Grow Digital and ERDF.
- 2.14 Current support products from the Combined Authority and Local Authorities that can be directly accessed via the Business Support Service include:

- advice and guidance for pre-start and start-up firms (Enterprise West Yorkshire programme)
- advice, guidance and grant investment for energy efficiency and recycling/reuse (ReBiz programme and Emergency Energy Grants scheme)
- advice and guidance on strategic business planning (Strategic Business Growth programme)
- advice and guidance on developing new products, processes and services (Connecting Innovation)
- equity and debt finance (SME Investment Fund)
- advice, guidance and grant investment on improving business productivity (Business Productivity Programme)
- advice and guidance for businesses operating in the creative sectors (Creative Catalyst)
- advice, guidance and grant investment for SME manufacturers on adopting advanced digital technologies (Made Smarter in partnership with the region's four Growth Hubs).

Key Combined Authority programmes

Business Productivity Programme

- 2.15 The Business Productivity Programme (BPP) is an integrated package of advice, guidance and grant investment aimed at increasing the productivity of businesses in the region, whilst also enhancing the Combined Authority's understanding of 'what works' when supporting firms to become more productive. Although not exclusively a scheme for the manufacturing sector, it is anticipated that SME manufacturers will account for circa 70% of take-up.
- 2.16 The programme was approved by the Combined Authority in March 2022, and an initial allocation of funding was awarded to commence delivery up to the summer of 2023. The March 2022 approval recommended that the programme seeks additional investment from the Combined Authority once the position on new funding streams is clearer in late 2022 / early 2023. Additional funding would allow the BPP to be delivered over a longer period and to support a larger number of businesses to boost productivity, increase job numbers and upskill employees.

Business West Yorkshire

- 2.17 Business West Yorkshire was approved at the Combined Authority committee in October 2022. This is an evolution of the Business Growth Service and will retain Growth Managers in each district of West Yorkshire, introduce an improved gateway to business support, simplifying the landscape for SMEs, and refresh the brand, a new website, and CRM system.

West Yorkshire Innovation Support Programme

- 2.18 The West Yorkshire Innovation Support programme was also approved for delivery at the October 2022 Combined Authority committee. This programme

is an evolution of the current Connecting Innovation programme and will provide advisory support to businesses to navigate the innovation ecosystem and financial support in the form of vouchers and strategic grants to support the development of new products, processes and services. The programme will have oversight of the West Yorkshire Innovation Network and lead on the West Yorkshire Innovation Festival and Innovation Challenge Competitions.

Innovation Challenge Competitions

- 2.19 The Mayor's Innovation Prize is currently in delivery as a pilot challenge competition. The Combined Authority appointed TPX Impact Ltd to design and deliver the competition on our behalf. Applications for the project are to close on 22 January and participants will be shortlisted for a series of bootcamps to further develop their ideas.
- 2.20 The competition focuses on generating ideas that tackle the climate emergency. Applicants can submit ideas around tackling the decline of the natural environment, sustainable travel, waste reduction and energy efficiency.
- 2.21 The pilot will inform the design and development of future competitions which will be delivered under the new regional Innovation Support Programme.

West Yorkshire Innovation Festival

- 2.22 Planning is underway for this year's Innovation Festival which will be held w/c 13 November 2023. A survey has been created to gather feedback from partners who were involved in the festival on themes, messaging and suggestions for the 2023 event.
- 2.23 The survey will be circulated to the Committee and members are requested to respond with feedback.

Principles for targeted Business Support

- 2.24 With the move from ERDF funding to Gainshare and UKSPF, there is an opportunity to be more flexible around the size and type of businesses that are able to access support. ERDF restrictions mean that only Business to Business enterprises can access support and Business to Consumer enterprises are mostly ineligible. In addition, overseas-owned businesses with operations in the region have previously been unable to access some schemes of support, even if they operate autonomously from their parent companies. This has negated the region's ability to attract some re-invest projects and to realise supply chain opportunities.
- 2.25 The Committee is asked to discuss, consider and guide how support should be targeted in the new wave of business support programmes to ensure that we capitalise on this flexibility, support businesses that will deliver the most positive impact for the economy, and attract a more diverse range of businesses to the support available.

- 2.26 Below are a number of questions for this Committee to consider:
- Should there be a focus on micro businesses and those at the smaller end of the SME scale?
 - Should B2C businesses be able to access support from programmes, particularly in the light of the adverse impact of the pandemic on retail, leisure and hospitality sectors?
 - Or should displacement and additionality remain key considerations when supporting 'high street' businesses?

UKSPF: Pillar 2: Supporting Local Businesses – Open Call for Projects

- 2.27 The Committee previously endorsed the approach for £10m of UKSPF to be used for an Open Call for Projects, alongside £1.3m to provide Export Support to businesses in the region that complements and adds value to the mainstream provision available from the Department for International Trade and our two Chambers of Commerce. An open call will focus on outcomes, to ensure it is responsive to emerging business needs in West Yorkshire, seeks innovative solutions to address need, and engages with a wider group of stakeholders. This was also subsequently agreed with the West Yorkshire UKSPF Local Partnership Group.
- 2.28 To help shape the nature of the Calls a consultation event was held with key stakeholders on 14 December 2022 in which the current economic situation and emerging priorities were presented, followed by breakout groups to collect input from attendees on the most pressing gaps in the region.
- 2.29 Based on this feedback from stakeholders, three open call areas are being developed under the following themes:
1. Export (£1.3m)
 2. Alternative Business Models (£500k)
 3. Innovation/HealthTech/Digital (£10m)
- 2.30 The detail of the Calls is being developed and will be presented to the UKSPF LPG at its meeting on 1 February 2023 for endorsement, with a view to publishing the 'Invite to Bid' by the end of February 2023 to allow delivery to commence July 2023. To ensure as much resource is available for delivery, as opposed to supporting running costs, a minimum bid size has been considered with a proposal for £250k for Export and Alternative Business Models and £500k minimum for the Innovation/HealthTech/Digital open call. This will also ensure a range of stakeholders can consider this bidding opportunity than was previously available via European Funding.
- 2.31 Calls will be aligned with criteria and investment priorities of the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy.
- 2.32 This Committee is asked to note and comment on these developments.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency implications

- 3.1. All programmes being developed will support and encourage businesses to decarbonise and improve their environmental sustainability, reducing their overall carbon impact and help achieve the region's net zero ambitions.

4. Inclusive Growth implications

- 4.1. Inclusive Growth is a cross cutting theme in all programmes at each stage of policy, development, and delivery. Programmes will include targets to ensure geographical representation across the region and to reach and support underrepresented members of our business community.

5. Equality and Diversity implications

- 5.1. Each of the programmes being developed will have targets attached to ensure proactive engagement with underrepresented groups, including women, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, and people with disabilities. Work will be undertaken to ensure we are engaging with key, influential networks and that our services are proactively promoted and easily accessible to all.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1. Funding routes have been agreed for each programme and are assured through the Assurance Framework.

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. Consultation has taken place with District Officers, West Yorkshire Innovation Network and this Committee. Specific programme development activity has included consultation with other key stakeholders including businesses, universities and business intermediaries and networks.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. That the Committee notes the activity currently underway.
- 10.2. That the Committee provides feedback on the approach to more targeted business support in the new wave of programmes.
- 10.3. That the Committee supports the financial contribution of £2.5k to further the SIPF programme and industrial engagement across West Yorkshire.

11. Background documents

11.1 There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

12.1 No appendices related to this report.



Report to: Business, Economy, and Innovation Committee

Date: 24 January 2023

Subject: Digital Update

Director: Phil Witcherley, Interim Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills and Culture

Author: Marianne Hewitt, Programme Development Lead – Digital

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on recent activity relating to digital across the region and seek the Committee's views next steps.

1. Information

- 2.1 At the October LEP Board, members discussed the importance of a renewed focus on digital tech to support the region's ambitions.
- 2.2 Digital is a cross-cutting issue and has the potential to enable every person and every business in the region. People need digital skills and good quality and affordable internet access to help them get the most out of their lives. All businesses need to consider, invest in and develop their approach in a way that utilises the latest advancements and innovations. This way all of our business community can be enabled to be more productive and more likely to survive and thrive. Our region also wants to be the key location for high growth digital businesses to grow and invest in.
- 2.3 These issues span social inclusion, place making, business support, skills, and inward investment. This, therefore, does not fall under the remit of just

one committee. We need to consider how we develop all our digital work using the expertise, knowledge and connections of all committee members.

- 2.4 As a cross cutting theme across a range of committees, BEIC have a key role to input into the business facing aspects.

Refresh of the Digital Framework (West Yorkshire's Digital Blueprint)

- 2.5 The region's Digital Framework was published in 2019. Since then, the LEP's geographic remit has altered (in April 2021), moving to the five West Yorkshire districts.
- 2.6 With the change in geography coinciding with increased digital adoption by residents and businesses during COVID, it is timely to refresh the Digital Framework and create an updated Digital Blueprint.
- 2.7 By refreshing the Digital Framework, there is an opportunity to draw together all elements of digital and ensure that West Yorkshire is a 'Smart Region'.
- 2.8 A refreshed Digital Framework will update on how lives are transformed by digital technologies and will include a coherent strategy for delivery and partnership working, which may be framed into three strands:
- **Place** – infrastructure, data and connectivity
 - **People** – inclusion, skills and confidence, entrepreneurs, and advanced skills (much of which can be transferred from the Digital Skills Plan)
 - **Businesses** – clusters, transformation, inward investment, education providers (in partnership with businesses), capital.
- 2.9 To support this refresh, mapping of the digital tech sector in WY has been commissioned.

Digital Clusters Research

- 2.10 The digital mapping will:
- Map the entire West Yorkshire regional economy and provide a complete database of all businesses for future use by the Combined Authority.
 - Produce granular analysis of digital sector employment.
 - Provide additional data on digital sector businesses including private investment and engagement in collaborative R&D.
 - Produce further sector insights into digital sector Foreign Direct Investment.

- 2.11 The Clusters research will be used so that we can better understand and therefore support our digital tech ecosystem. This, in tandem with the outcomes of the LEP Deep Dive will inform the refreshed Digital Framework.
- 2.12 A session following the committee meeting will present the mapping findings.

LEP Deep Dive

- 2.13 To further support the refresh of the Digital Framework, on 12th December, The LEP Chair hosted a LEP Deep Dive session on digital for private sector members of the LEP Board and wider committees, as well as other business representatives from across the region.
- 2.14 The Deep Dive included:
- An assessment of the current state of digital in West Yorkshire. This included looking at our strengths and weaknesses, what is working and what is not, and issues that we are not capitalising on and missing out from.
 - A look ahead into the future which tried to envisage what we want digital to look like in the region.
 - A gap analysis session which was aimed at bridging the current state with the desired state.
- 2.15 Some of the key discussions from this meeting included:
- A focus on harnessing the power of technology for social good. This included discussions on the smart cities' agenda.
 - Having an increased focus on getting more SMEs adopting digital solutions for their businesses – supporting improvements to regional productivity.
 - Playing to the region's existing strengths and capitalising on emerging opportunities to grow the digital/tech sector.
 - Making a case for further resources and capacity to deliver transformational digital programmes across the region via further rounds of devolution.
 - Having a targeted and all-encompassing vision for the region that makes us the most attractive destination for tech businesses and investment.

Local Digital Partnership

- 2.16 The Local Digital Skills Partnership is in its third and final year of DCMS funding. In creating the Digital Skills Plan, the LDSP has accomplished their core targets.
- 2.17 There is an opportunity, therefore, to explore how to build on the success of the LDSP including broadening the LDSP into a 'Local Digital Partnership (LDP)'. This Partnership would act as an engagement and consultancy panel to support any activity of a refreshed Digital Framework. DCMS is supportive of this.

Launch of the Digital Skills Plan

2.18 The Local Digital Skills Partnership (LDSP), with funding from DCMS, has created the region's first Digital Skills Plan after wide consultation. The Plan was launched on the 28th November, online, with a press release and link to the publication. The Plan has been received with enthusiasm across private, public, and third sector partners across the region.

2.19 The Digital Skills Plan will inform the development of a comprehensive pipeline of digital skills projects. The Employment and Skills Committee has endorsed the prioritisation of the following:

Wave 1:

- Social Digital Inclusion - Build the capacity of community organisations to deliver digital skills and access to those who are digitally excluded
- Workforce for the Future - Attract/scale up specialist educational digital provision
- SME and Third Sector Digital Growth - Offer digital support through Business Growth Service and its successor programme and Digital Enterprise programmes

Wave 2:

- Social Digital Inclusion – Develop programmes for those who can't access support elsewhere
- SME and Third Sector Digital Growth – Ensure leadership and management training, including digital skills
- Simplifying the Digital Offer – Launch a region-wide Digital Skills Campaign to inspire excitement in digital careers and increase uptake of digital skills provision

Wave 3:

- Workforce for the future – Roll out a programme to help raise school-aged children's digital literacy
- Simplifying the Digital Offer – Seek further devolution of digital skills provision

2.20 To support the launch (led by the Employment and Skills Committee), 7 officials from DCMS visited West Yorkshire. Cllr Lewis, Chair of the Employment and Skills Committee, and Mark Roberts, LEP Chair, chaired a series of meetings with DCMS, WYCA officers, and diverse stakeholders across the region.

2.21 The sessions included a roundtable on the Tech Ecosystem and strengths and challenges of the West Yorkshire ecosystem. This included representatives from AI Tech North, British Business Bank, Mercia, Diverse & Equal, Women in Leeds Digital, Space Hub Yorkshire, Future Transformation, digital SMEs, and the Combined Authority's Growth Service.

- 2.22 A further session took place with high-profile tech businesses in the region, hosted at Cognizant's new offices. Attendees included Mphasis, Production Park, EXA, Panintelligence, Sky, SkyBet, Kirklees Local TV, Amazon Web Services, IBM, Leeds Digital Festival. This meeting considered the strengths of the tech sector in the region, and how a Local Digital Partnership might add value to existing activity. The conclusion was that a Local Digital Partnership should try not to duplicate, but instead to simplify, connect and amplify.
- 2.23 Throughout the day, DCMS officials commented that they were inspired by what our region has to offer, particularly noting our extraordinary stakeholders. It was clear throughout the day that we are a proactive and collaborative region, keen to build on the successful relationship to date with DCMS, and a fantastic place for digital.
- 2.24 One of the results of the DCMS visit was an agreement between DCMS, Cognizant, WYCA and Lloyds, to host a 'female tech leaders dinner' to coincide with International Women's Day. The aim of this is to convene role models, to open discussions on barriers and opportunities for women in tech, and to promote the session to align with the aims of the Local Digital Partnership.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 The crosscutting work on digital, covering people, places and business, will support work tackling the climate emergency. The Digital Skills Plan will support growth of digital skills and therefore movement into "better jobs" and more productive jobs within the region. This will include growth of skills across the region to enhance innovation across green sector to support climate challenges.
- 3.2 Greater adoption of digital technologies by businesses will facilitate efficiency and waste by reduction. For example: customers will be enabled to make first contact online, reducing the need to travel; paperless offices and cloud storage use less resource and energy; delivery mapping technology optimises route plans to reduce carbon emissions.
- 3.3 Digitally enabled infrastructure will accelerate progress towards clean, low-carbon, and resilient energy systems, as innovative urban planning, public services, and access are optimised. Examples may include smart streetlamps to self-cooling buildings to smart electric car chargers. The data captured by digitally enabled devices will provide diverse datasets on a wide range of topics, such as energy consumption, air quality, and traffic patterns.¹

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

¹ <https://www.iea.org/news/empowering-smart-cities-toward-net-zero-emissions>

- 4.1. Supporting West Yorkshire's digital/tech ecosystem will positively contribute to recovery from the impact of the pandemic and to mitigate the effects of the crisis in cost of living and doing business. It is proposed that the original strapline of 'lives transformed by digital tech' is adopted in the revised version to ensure the focus remain on the positive benefits to the region's citizens.
- 4.2. Delivery of the regional Digital Skills Plan will support inclusive growth across West Yorkshire. We expect to demonstrate progress, and measure take-up by underrepresented groups, through each Digital Skills intervention.
- 4.3. Digitally enabled places will accelerate progress towards accessible and inclusive spaces and transport in our region. An exemplar focus may include residents in rural areas without access to fast broadband; as of 2021, 4% of people in Yorkshire and Humber remain offline, despite the fact that West Yorkshire's full fibre and gigabit coverage are both above the national average.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 The Digital Skills Plan seeks to directly address socio-economic inequalities facing our population. Digital Inclusion is a central tenet of the plan, to be achieved through the growth/provision of digital skills and supporting the resolution of data poverty and the ongoing challenge of accessibility and connectivity.
- 5.2 Digital exclusion is a key barrier to participation in social and economic activity. A refreshed Digital Framework will help us to maximise the opportunity that integrated digital policy, people and technology can offer to improve inclusivity.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. To deliver the actions in the digital skills plan will require funding. The digital skills interventions outlined in this paper have been added to the Employment and Skills pipeline for development and as outlined in the Investment Pipeline paper.

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. Members from the following committees attended the Deep Dive on 12th December: Business, Economy and Innovation; Climate, Energy and

Environment; Employment and Skills; Place, Regeneration and Housing; and the LEP Board. A range of stakeholders including Local Authority Skills Officers, universities, college, training providers, employers and third sector have been consulted on the Digital Skills Plan's development.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. The Committee is asked to provide views on the next steps proposed in this report.

11. Background Documents

- 11.1 None.

12. Appendices

- 12.1 No appendices related to this report.

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